KYRGYZSTAN

MIGRATION DATA GAP ANALYSIS
JANUARY 2024

IOM
UN MIGRATION

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TERMINOLOGY	GOVERNMENT OF KYRGYZSTAN	IOM
Migrant	A migrant is a person who is a participant in the migration process. Each migrant is a departing migrant in relation to the territory of departure and an arriving migrant in relation to the territory of arrival. (NSC KR, n.d.) Migration is the movement of individuals for various reasons from Kyrgyzstan to other states and from other states to Kyrgyzstan, as well as within the territory of Kyrgyzstan for the purpose of permanent or temporary change of residence (MoJ KR, 2000).	IOM defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is. IOM concerns itself with migrants and migration-related issues and, in agreement with relevant States, with migrants who are in need of international migration services (IOM, 2011).
Asylum seekers	A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds (1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention, ratified in 2008), (ILO, n.d.).	A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds (IOM, 2011).
Stateless person	Stateless person is a person who is not a citizen of Kyrgyzstan and doesn't have any evidencing documentation that certifies his/her citizenship of any foreign state (MoJ KR, 2000).	A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law. (United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (((adopted 28 September 1954, entered into force 6 June 1960) 360 UNTS 117) Art. 1.).
Refugee	A refugee is a person who is not a citizen of Kyrgyzstan and applies to Kyrgyzstan for recognition of himself as a refugee, who is outside the country of his nationality or place of permanent residence due to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, membership of a particular social group, as well as a fear of being persecuted in armed and interethnic conflicts and which, due to such fears, unable or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of his country (MoJ KR, 2002a).	A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country (Art. 1(A)(2), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1 A (2), 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol).
Undocumented migrant	No definition of undocumented migrant was found in the legislative or methodology documents of Kyrgyzstan.	A non-national who enters or stays in a country without the appropriate documentation. This includes, among others: a person (a) who has no legal documentation to enter a country but manages to enter clandestinely, (b) who enters or stays using fraudulent documentation, (c) who, after entering using legal documentation, has stayed beyond the time authorized or otherwise violated the terms of entry and remained without authorization (IOM, 2011).
Undocumented migrant worker	An illegal labour migrant is a foreign citizen or stateless person who violates the procedure and rules of employment established by national legislation (MoJ KR, 2006).[1]	

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1 IOM does not endorse this terminology. However, this report reports on national legislations and cites this terminology, as used by the Kyrgyz government.

TERMINOLOGY	GOVERNMENT OF KYRGYZSTAN	IOM
Trafficking in persons	The recruitment, transfer, harboring, receipt, transfer, purchase, and sale of a person or other illegal transaction with or without his consent, by means of the threat or use of force, blackmail, fraud, deception, abduction, for the purpose of exploitation or extraction other benefits (MoJ KR, 2005).	The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (IOM, 2011).
Migrant smuggling	Organization of illegal migration, illegal import and export of migrants, foreign citizens and stateless persons or provision of vehicles or false documents, residential or other premises, as well as provision of other services to citizens for illegal entry, exit, movement through the territory of Kyrgyzstan, transit through the territory of Kyrgyzstan for the purpose of obtaining or without obtaining benefits (MoJ KR, 2021a).	The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (IOM, 2011).
Immigrant	Immigrant is a person who is a foreign citizen or stateless person entering Kyrgyzstan legally for the purpose of permanent residence (MoJ KR, 1993).	From the perspective of the country of arrival, a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence." (Adapted from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 (1998) p. 10, definition of "long-term migrants". In IOM, 2019).
Emigrant	Emigrant is a citizen of Kyrgyzstan who travels outside Kyrgyzstan to the territory of another state for the purpose of permanent residence (MoJ KR, 1993).	From the perspective of the country of departure, a person who moves from his or her country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence." (Adapted from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "long-term migrants", Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 (1998) p. 18. In IOM, 2019).
Internal migrant	Internal migrant is a citizen of Kyrgyzstan who, for various reasons, has moved from one area to another within Kyrgyzstan for the purpose of permanent or temporary change of residence (MoJ KR, 2002b).	Any person who is moving or has moved within a State for the purpose of establishing a new temporary or permanent residence or because of displacement." (IOM, 2019).

IV. LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COVID-19	COVID-19 Pandemic
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
GTI	Google Trends Index
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Center
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KIHS	Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey
L2CK	Listening to the Citizens of Kyrgyzstan Survey
NBKR	National Bank of Kyrgyzstan
NSC KR	National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan
MDMM	Migration Data Mapping Methodology
MoIA KR	Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan
MoLSSM KR	Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration of Kyrgyzstan
SRS GKR	Civil Registration Department of the State Registration Service of the Government of Kyrgyzstan
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNHCR	United Nations High Comissioner for Refugees
USA	United States of America

1. SUMMARY FINDINGS

This report summarizes the key findings of the Migration Data Mapping Exercise, as explained in the methodology section below, and identifies existing and available migration data in Kyrgyzstan. The reviewed migration data includes a mapping of active and relevant government databases as well as UN Agencies and development actors in Kyrgyzstan. Specifically, the data review captured thematic areas on immigration, emigration, return migration, undocumented migration, refugees hosted in Kyrgyzstan, ref-ugees from Kyrgyzstan, internal displacement, internal migration, big data, and remittances. The report also highlights key national migration policies and stakeholders.

After reviewing existing **datasets on immigration to Kyrgyzstan**, it was found that data on the flow of immigrants is collected and reported annually by government agencies. Data on the number of immigrant flow distributed by year is available at the National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan (NSC KR) in Kyrgyz, Russian, and English. However, data breakdowns by immigrants' gender, education, place of origin, age, and employment is not available publicly but can be obtained through formal data request from NSC KR. Data on the flow of immigrants reported by NSC KR and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security, and Migration of Kyrgyzstan (MoLSSM KR) significantly differs from the data reported by NSC KR because of different defini-tions of immigrants used by different agencies. Data on the number of stock of immigrants is missing in the country but can be found on the UN DESA data platform. Further research should focus on the stock of im-migrants in the country.

The data review on the **emigration of Kyrgyz citizens to other countries** revealed that most of the em-igration outflow data is generated from administrative data. NSC KR reports on the outflow of emigrants annually on its website with data breakdowns such as emigrants by ethnicity, gender, age group, place of origin in home country, and by country of destination. These data are publicly accessible, mostly in the Rus-sian language. Diplomatic missions and consular offices of Kyrgyzstan in foreign countries are also involved in registration, data collection, and reporting on the estimated emigrants' stock. However, information on the social profile of emigrants' stock is missing. Different surveys and studies implemented by different de-velopment actors provide information on the social profile data of emigrants, but each of these studies has its own limitations. Further research should focus on the stock data of emigrants generated from adminis-trative data.

Return migration is the thematic area that lacks comprehensive data on the number of returning Kyrgyz nationals. There is currently no centralized entity that captures the full extent of return migration. Howev-er, some estimations on returnees can be found from household surveys and research carried out by gov-ernment, non-government, and international organizations with their limitations in each of these studies. Most of these surveys are conducted systematically except a few such as the Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey. In November 2022, IOM conducted the first round of its Baseline Mobility Assessment in Kyrgyzstan to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, geographic distribution of migrant workers and return migrants, reasons for migration, countries of return, and periods of migration. IOM expects to conduct a series of similar assessments in the future on a regular base. The data that comes from return migrant surveys presents estimations on the number of returnees, disaggregated by gender, education, age, country of return, place of return in home country, and type of work previous to return. Most of these data are related to COVID-19 and its effect on labour migrants and their return during the pandemic. How-ever, information on returnees and their social profile is missing for years earlier than 2019. For example, data on type of work previous to return, education of returnees, age information was not found for the years of 2018 and 2019. Further research should focus on providing a government level and shared defini-tion of returnees, and systematic data collection on returned migrants.

Data on undocumented migration comes from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan (MoIA KR), but the nature of the data is qualitative, and it presents mostly qualitative data on migrant smuggling. The comprehensive data on undocumented migrants is not available publicly, but some qualitative data can be requested from MoIA KR through formal data requests. The data from MoIA KR qualitatively presents the main routes and the main methods used for migrant smuggling and reports on separate cases where MoIA KR has investigated. The data from MoIA KR is mostly on smuggling. Another data source for undoc-umented migration is the U.S. Department of State data portal where limited data is published annually, specifically on trafficking in person. Future research should focus on the systematic data collection on un-documented migrants and their social profile.

Data on refugees hosted in Kyrgyzstan comes mainly from NSC KR and MoLSSM KR. The data is not available publicly but can be obtained from these two government agencies through formal data requests. The data on refugees hosted in Kyrgyzstan capture the number of refugees, country of origin of refugees, and age of refugees. Although there is systematic data collection on refugees, NSC KR and MoLSSM KR do not separately report on the stock of immigrants hosted in the country. UNHCR reported on the stock of refugees, however, data on refugees' education is missing. Further research shall focus on the education profile of refugees hosted in the country and the stock of refugees in the country collected by government agencies.

Data on the number of refugees from Kyrgyzstan was not found from government agencies. Data that is publicly available comes from UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder platform and it presents data on refugees from Kyrgyzstan by country of destination, age, and gender. No data was found on the education of refugees from Kyrgyzstan distributed by year (2022, 2021, 2022, 2019, and 2018). Future research should explore the education level of refugees from Kyrgyzstan and whether any government agencies record data on refugees from Kyrgyzstan.

The data source that is publicly accessible on **internal displacement in Kyrgyzstan** is the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center's (IDMC) website. The data is available in English and disaggregated by type of internally displaced persons (IDPs) (conflict/violence and disaster data) and also with data breakdowns by year, age, gender, and type of disaster. Data from the government of Kyrgyzstan, specifically from the Ministry of Emergency Situation, is not publicly accessible but can be obtained by official data request. There is also limited data on the number of IDPs from secondary sources such as from reports on specific events and cases on violence and disaster. During the data gathering and review, the following data on IDPs were not found: number of IDPs by gender for 2021 and 2020; number of IDPs by place of destination for 2022, 2021, and 2020; number of employment status by year; and, number of IDPs' flow by gender and age both for IDPs related to disaster and conflict-related IDPs. Future research should focus on these types of missing information about IDPs.

Data on internal mobility is collected systematically by the Civil Registration Department of the State Registration Service of the Government of Kyrgyzstan (SRS GKR) and reported by NSC KR annually. During the data review, the following type of administrative data on internal migrants was not found: number of internal migrants for years earlier than 1991, detailed data breakdowns of internal migrants by education, gender, age, type of work, and other detailed information. Data on the stock of internal migrants for years earlier than 2010 was also not found. Future research should focus on collecting data on education, gender, age, and type of work of internal migrants. This could be added to registration procedures.

Big Data collection and use are not systematic. Data or information on big data was not found during the review of available data sources from government, non-government, and development actors except for a few research studies that discuss migration-related big data. One research article provides a statistical rela-tionship between online queries about migration to the Russian Federation made by residents of Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan) and subsequent flows of migrants from these coun-tries to the Russian Federation. Another research examines the efficacy of using the Google Trends Index (GTI) to explain remittance patterns in Kyrgyzstan. Future research should focus on if any actions have been taken or if the Kyrgyz Government has any plans with regards to big data of migrants – data that is auto-matically generated on human mobility by users of mobile phones, social media, internet platforms, and applications, as well as via digital sensors and meters.

Data on remittances are collected and reported by the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan (NBKR) on a monthly base. The NBKR also publishes annual report on its website with a separate section on remittances. The report is available publicly and can be accessed at NBKR's website. The report is available in Kyrgyz, Rus-sian, and English. The data collected and reported by NBKR covers almost all the minimum data break-downs on remittances.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

To systematically identify data gaps relative to various types of migration in Kyrgyzstan as well as other Central Asian countries, IOM, under the EU-funded project "Mobility Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (MTM REMAP)" initiated a Migration Data Mapping exercise.

This report presents key findings of a data mapping exercise on migration and highlights key findings about who collects specific data on migrants, type of data available on immigrants, emigrants, return migrants, undocumented migrants, refugees hosted in Kyrgyzstan, refugees from Kyrgyzstan, internally displaced persons, internal migrants, and remittances.

The report also highlights key data gaps for each of these thematic areas of migration. The main data gaps include, but are not limited to, incomprehensive stock data for immigrants, missing data breakdowns for the stock of emigrants, no systematic data collection on return migrants, incomprehensive statistics on undocumented migrants, and a detailed social profile of internally displaced persons (IDPs). It is recommended that the government of Kyrgyzstan considers these gaps in improving data collection and management on migrants.

2.2 MIGRATION DATA MAPPING METHODOLOGY

The goal of this report is to systematically identify data gaps relative to various types of migration in Kyrgyzstan as well as other Central Asian countries. To achieve this ambitious undertaking IOM country teams, with the support of external consultants, IOM specialists developed a tailored methodology. The Migration Data Mapping Methodology (MDMM) developed for this report aims to systematically quantify qualitative information about migration data and get a precise understanding of data gaps as well as data availability in different contexts. At the end of the MDMM process, it should be clear what data is existing, what data is missing, and what is the road ahead in terms of migration data for policy making.

The methodology was developed by putting transparency at the forefront of the whole process. Transparency should ensure that this methodology is reproducible, implying that different researchers will obtain the same results from the analysis of this data, and replicable, meaning that different investigators applying the same methodology would observe the same results under identical conditions. We believe that transparency, reproducibility, and replicability are crucial to scientific rigor, and open research. Thanks to this approach, the MDMM can be adapted and adjusted to map data gaps in other countries and different contexts. In this section, methods and procedures will be explained in detail and in an explicit and clear manner.

First an excel file divided into 10 sections encompassing all types of migration was created. This file was then reviewed by multiple specialists, and further refined during a workshop in which feedback from different country teams working on this shared effort was incorporated. The types of migration analysed are also reflected in the structure of this report and include immigration, emigration, return migration, internal migration, undocumented migration, internal displacement, refugees from this country, refugees hosted in this country, remittances, and big data. Each of these sections has two main tables: a) data availability table and b) sources by year table.

In the data availability table, for every year between 2018 and 2023, the researcher had to indicate if data is existing and available, existing but partially available, or not available. This table is further divided between migrant stocks and flows. In terms of stocks, the researcher had to look for the stock of the population of interest (e.g. number of immigrants), and its breakdown by gender, location in host country, place of origin in home country, age, employment status, and education level. For flows, the researcher had to indicate flow size and its breakdown by gender, and country of origin. Different sections had slightly different breakdowns, but the overall approach remained the same across various types of migration.

TABLE 1: EXAMPLE OF DATA AVAILABILITY TABLE

Year	Stock	Stock by gender	Stock by location in host country	Stock by place of origin in home country	Stock by age	Stock by employment status	Stock by education level	Flows	Flows by gender	Flows by country of origin
2023										
2022										
2021										
2020										
2019										
2018										

As more than one source might be identified for each of the indicators above, a sources by year table was created. In this table, the researcher indicated all the sources that contained information about one or more of the indicators of the data availability table. This table looks very similar to a literature review table and an example of it can be found below.

TABLE 2: EXAMPLE OF SOURCES BY YEAR TABLE

Source	Authors	Institution	Title/ Name of Survey	Link to the survey	Data source (census/ quant-survey/ qual data/ admin-istrative data/ other	Frequency (how often is this carried out?)	Publicly available?	Break-downs available	Definition used	Language

The rationale behind this exercise is that of a rigorous and structured literature review process aiming at identifying migration data gaps. With the research team being spread across multiple countries, various meetings were held before commencing this exercise to have a common workflow and a shared list of defi-nitions. During these meetings we established a two-fold strategy to complete the MDMM: desk research, and member checking.

For the desk research, for each section, each researcher created a list of search terms, for example: immi-gration in Kyr-gyzstan, migration to Kyrgyzstan, labour migration to Kyrgyzstan, migrant workers in Kyrgyzstan, mobility in Kyrgyzstan. Following, this list was translated into local languages as well as Russian and was used in both: google and google scholar. For each search engine, all articles in the first 5 to 10 pages were skimmed and selected based on interest and informa-tion contained. Once relevant articles were identified, they were read in detail, downloaded, and information was com-piled in the source by year table. In es-sence, this was a six-step process: 1) develop a list of key words and translate it in relevant languages, 2) use these key words in google and google scholar to find relevant information, 3) skim all articles contained in the first 5 to 10 pages of google and google scholar and select the relevant articles, 4) read and download the relevant documents, 5) compile the source by year table, 6) compile the data availability table. In addi-tion to this approach, researchers were instructed to directly investigate relevant websites and data reposi-tories which were listed under each of the ten sections of this report.

This desk research process was further strengthened by member checking and information exchange with key stakehold-ers. Government data as well as data from international organizations might not be available to the public. However, this data might be accessible to IOM following official meetings and data requests. For this reason, the IOM team established a list of focal points at the local, national, and regional level in both government and international organizations. Stake-holders were contacted and interviewed. Missing data was requested to relevant authorities and when possible, this data was incorporated in this report.

All in all, this rigorous literature review exercise, coupled with the member checking process shed light on data availability and data gaps in Kyrgyzstan, as well as in the other countries in the region. This report high-lights the main findings for Kyrgyzstan.

2.3 LIMITATIONS

Despite the methodological approach outlined above, this methodology does come with a number of limitations. First, while the MDMM encompasses different types of migration and various migration indicators, this data gap analysis is far from being exhaustive. IOM only focused on key breakdowns and a selected group of migrant populations. Although of significant relevance, not all migration population groups or migration indicators such as drivers of migration, future migration intentions, and migrant vulnerabilities were included in this exercise due to time limitations.

Another limitation might come from the positionality of each individual Data Mapping consultant and their view on article inclusion or exclusion. With limited inclusion or exclusion rules it was up to each individual Data Mapping consultant to decide whether to include a certain source of information or not. To harmonize individual approaches, weekly meetings were held in which progress was shared, and individual literature work discussed.

Additionally, some sources might be more or less accessible than others, and despite establishing and working with a comprehensive list of search terms in different languages, some articles or datasets might have been overseen and not included in this review. Sometimes migration categories and definitions used internationally do not match national definitions or do not have translations in local languages. At the same time, there might be migration categories that are used at the country level which are difficult to translate or establish globally. IOM tried to mitigate this language related bias by triangulating IOM definitions, international definitions and national level definitions.

Finally, the temporal limit of the years 2018-2023 has the potential of missing longer-term trends or historical patterns. This limitation was attempted to be mitigated by establishing a longer timeframe for specific migration types, such as internal mobility.

3. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

3.1 IMMIGRATION

The SRS GKR is the main institute that registers and processes data on international migration. Data on immigrants comes from administrative data. When international migrants enter Kyrgyzstan, they have to register at their place of residence. Registration data is then used for immigration statistics. More specifically, individuals and legal entities providing accommodation for foreign citizens and stateless persons are required to register them with the SRS GKR within five working days (MoJ KR, 2016a). The following information is captured during this registration process: date of birth, citizenship, place in host country of registration, arrival date, and information about the host. The NSC KR publishes data on the inflow number of immigrants on its website in Kyrgyz, Russian, and English but disaggregated and detailed data breakdowns are available in Kyrgyz and Russian through formal request only. The MoLSSM KR also administers separate registration of immigrants for permanent residence and these data can be obtained from MoLSSM KR through formal data request.

As of July 1, 2020, 199,011 immigrants were reported to be present in Kyrgyzstan. Of the total immigrants, 118,555 were female immigrants (60%) and 80,456 were male immigrants (40%). The international migrant stock composed three per cent of the total population in Kyrgyzstan. The median age of the immigrants, when both sexes combined, was 43.7 years old. Overall, 109,511 (55%) immigrants are from the Russian Federation, 26,231 immigrants (13%) are from Ukraine, 12,679 (6%) are from Kazakhstan, 9,746 (5%) are from Belarus, and 41,621 (21%) are from other countries including from Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and others (UN DESA, 2020a).

In 2022, 12,444 immigrants arrived in Kyrgyzstan. The majority of these immigrants came from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries including the Russian Federation (9,124, 72%), Tajikistan (944, 8%), Kazakstan (833, 7%), Uzbekistan (455, 4%), and other CIS countries. Nine hundred ninety immigrants (8%) came from countries outside of the CIS region, including Germany (106 immigrants), South Korea (85), China (40), Italy (35), and Afghanistan (25). Immigrants who arrived in 2022 mostly went to Osh Oblast (2,782 immigrants, 22%), Chui Oblast (2,496 immigrants, 20%), Jalal-Abad (2,403 immigrants, 19%), Bishkek (2,135 immigrants, 17%), and Batken (1,174 immigrants, 9%). Of the total 12,444 immigrants, 49.5 per cent were males (6,162) and 50.5 per cent females (6,282). Data on immigrant inflow is also disaggregated by 5-year age groups. The age disaggregated data is also grouped into three categories: 1,864 (15%) under able-bodied immigrants (under 15 years old); 10,073 (81%) immigrants are able-bodied (males 16-62 years old and females between 16-57 years old); and, 507 (4%) immigrants are above able-bodied age (males above 63 years old and females above 58 years old). Most immigrants (16 years old and above) came to Kyrgyzstan for the purpose of work (6,244 immigrants, 59%), personal and family reasons (2,084, 20%), study (106, 1%), or for other reasons (2,146, 20%). Data on the education of immigrants is recorded from immigrants who are 16 years old and above. Out of this sub-group, 5,928 (56%) with secondary education, 1,893 (18%) had high professional education, 983 (9%) completed vocational professional training education, 741 (7%) with primary education, 587 (6%) with elementary, 174 (2%) had not completed high professional education, 138 (1%) with no elementary education, 130 (1%) graduates of professional lyceums, and 6 (0.1%) uneducated immigrants (NSC KR, 2023a).

The MoLSSM KR also registers and reports on the number of immigrants separately. In 2022, MoLSSM KR granted immigrant status to 208 foreign citizens (MoLSSM KR, 2023) compared to 12,444 immigrants reported by NSC KR in the same year as mentioned above. This is because different government agencies use different definitions of immigrants. The key difference between these two different datasets definitions is that NSC KR reports on the number of foreign citizens and stateless persons with temporary registration for a limited period[1] of time while MoLSSM KR reports on the number of immigrants who are granted permission to reside in the country up to five years.

Over the last 10 years, immigrant inflow fluctuated. As demonstrated in Figure 1 below, the number of immigrants arriving in Kyrgyzstan slowly decreased from 2011 through 2020. However, there is a sharp increase in the number of immigrants after 2020. Potential factors for the increase of immigrants may be explained by the increased number of immigrants from the Russian Federation after the Russian Federation declared a partial mobilization of military reservists in 2022. Six hundred thirty-seven Russian citizens emigrated to Kyrgyzstan in 2018 compared to 9,127 Russians who emigrated to Kyrgyzstan in

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1   *Citizens of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, Vietnam, Cuba, and North Korea can obtain temporary registration for up to six months. Citizens of other countries and stateless persons are issued for the duration of the visa.*

FIGURE 1: FLOW OF IMMIGRANT BY YEAR, 2011-2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
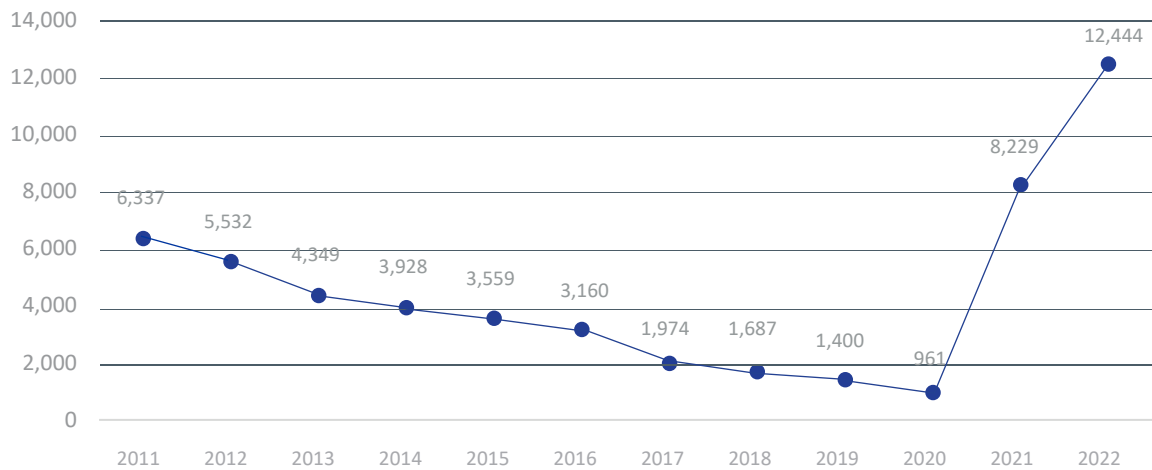
Source: NSC KR, 2023b

Data on the flow of immigrants is accessible at NSC KR's website in Kyrgyz, Russian, and in English. However, flow data on immigrants with breakdowns is not accessible publicly, but they can be obtained from NSC KR through formal request. As for the stock data of immigrants, there is no comprehensive data available. The Government of Kyrgyzstan does not separately report on stock data of immigrants. During the development of this report, the following type of stock data on immigrants were not found from government agencies: number of immigrants by gender, number of immigrants by location in Kyrgyzstan, number of immigrants by origin in home country, number of immigrants by age, number of immigrants by employment status (such as employed, unemployed, students, retired, etc.), and number of immigrants by education level. The Kyrgyz Laws or regulations that regulate migration do not define what is the stock data. Limited data on the stock of immigrants with data breakdowns by gender and age is reported by UN DESA on its website.

3.2 EMIGRATION

Most emigration data is generated from administrative data. Diplomatic missions and consular offices of Kyrgyzstan in foreign countries are responsible to register (consular registration) citizens of Kyrgyzstan in foreign countries (MoJ KR, 2019). For this, citizens of Kyrgyzstan travelling abroad for over three months are required to submit an application for consular registration within 15 days of arrival. The registration application contains personal information including nationality, location in home country, marital status, place of work and occupation or place of study in the country of arrival, place of residence in the host country, and how long the consular registration is for. Consular registration also requires a sheet of deregistration from the previous place of residence in home country. In case a citizen did not deregister from previous place of residence in home country, he/she can remotely deregister by submitting an additional application at a consular office. The SRS GKR through its local offices in Kyrgyzstan deregisters Kyrgyz citizens from places of residence if a citizen is leaving the country for three or more months. The NSC KR collects emigrant data from consular offices and the SRS GKR office and publishes data on emigrants on an annual basis on its website. The data on the outflow of emigrants is available on NSC GKR's website in Kyrgyz, Russian, and English, but disaggregated data with detailed breakdowns are available in Kyrgyz and Russian through formal request. The emigration stock data without detailed data breakdowns can be obtained from the MoLSSM KR in Russian or in Kyrgyz but the data is not publicly accessible.

As of 2022, there are 1,367,427 people from Kyrgyzstan living abroad. Of them, 88 per cent of emigrants live in the Russian Federation, four per cent in the United States of America (USA), three per cent live in Kazakhstan, two per cent in the Republic of Türkiye, and three per cent in other countries (Figure 2). There is a growing number of emigrants to the USA (20,000 emigrants in 2021 and 50,000 emigrants in 2022). Kazakhstan has always been the second largest country (after the Russian Federation) where Kyrgyz citizens used to emigrate (28,598 emigrants in 2021 and 45,000 emigrants in 2022). However, in 2022, the USA has become the second largest country of destination for Kyrgyz emigrants (MoLSSM KR, 2023). The administrative data that comes from MoLSSM KR does not include any other data breakdowns including gender, age, work, education and other details.

According to 2022 census data, the NSC KR identified that 1,094,514 people were temporarily not living in their usual place of residence. Out of the total number of migrants, 876,900 people (80.1%) migrated outside the country. Of the population who were not living in their place of the usual place of residence, 88 per cent were migrating due to work, seven per cent were away due to family reasons, four per cent due to school or study, and one per cent due to other reasons (NSC KR, 2023e).

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, 2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
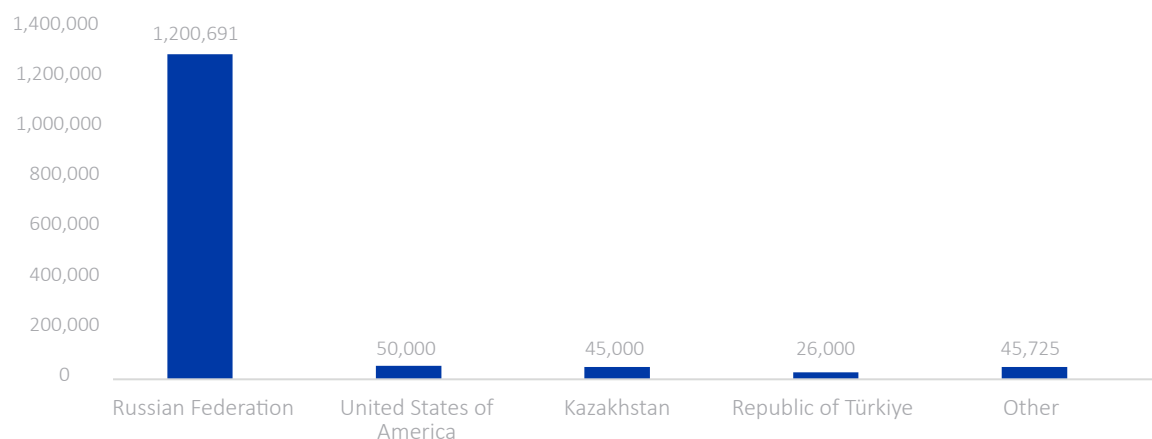
Source: MoLSSM KR, 2023.

According to UN DESA statistics, which mostly comes from projections and censuses, there are 774,377 emigrants living abroad as of 2020 (UN DESA, 2020b). Close to 80 per cent of Kyrgyz emigrants reside in the Russian Federation (around 600,000 people), followed by 10 per cent in Germany (around 77,000 people). They are mostly ethnic Germans who migrated in the 1990s, taking advantage of the German nationality law that granted citizenship to anyone with proof of German ancestry (Bossavie & Garrote-Sánchez, 2022). An additional four per cent migrated to Ukraine (around 27,000 people). As for the age of emigrants, 6.7 per cent represent emigrants under 19 years old, 37.8 per cent of emigrants are 20-39 years old, 26.7 per cent are between 40-59 years old, and 28.7 per cent of emigrants are above 60 years old. Of the total emigrants, 60 per cent are female emigrants (UN DESA, 2020).

The Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey (KIHS) reported that 251,874 emigrants lived abroad in 2018 as compared to 774,377 emigrants by UN DESA, and 715,000 emigrants reported my MoLSSM in the same year. The KIHS's underestimation of migrants is also partly explained by the fact that it only focuses on labor migration, so Kyrgyz citizens who left the country for other purposes such as education are not included. According to KIHS, 63 per cent of emigrants are with secondary-completed education, 11 per cent emigrants have secondary incomplete, another 11 per cent of emigrants have tertiary education, nine per cent of emigrants have vocational secondary, and five per cent of emigrants have primary (or less) level of education. As for the emigrants by place of origin in home country, nearly 14 per cent of emigrants are from Batken Oblast, nearly 12 per cent are from Osh Oblast, about 8 per cent are from Jalal-Abad Oblast, and about 5 per cent are from Osh city (Bossavie & Garrote-Sánchez, 2022).

TABLE 3: ESTIMATES OF KYRGYZ EMIGRANTS BY DESTINATION COUNTRIES, VARIOUS YEARS (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS AND %)

COUNTRY	WORK ABROAD (Listening to the citizens of Kyrgyzstan Survey (L2CK), 2021)		LIVE ABROAD (UN-DESA, 2019)		WORK ABROAD (KIHS, 2018)	
Total	166,695	100%	754,969	100%	251,874	100%
Russian Federation	157,360	94%	591,211	78%	242,608	96%
Germany	291	0%	77,373	10%	0	0%
Ukraine	0	0%	26,996	4%	0	0%
Tajikistan	0	0%	11,261	1%	0	0%
Kazakhstan	4,035	2%	7,036	1%	1,995	1%
The United States	195	0%	6,607	1%	0	0%
Other	4,815	3%	34,485	5%	7,271	3%

Source: Bossavie & Garrote-Sanchez, 2022

In 2022, 6,527 citizens of Kyrgyzstan traveled outside Kyrgyzstan to the territory of another country for more than three months which is classified as a permanent residence. Of this, the majority (6,198, 94.9%) emigrated to CIS countries, for example to the Russian Federation (4,573 emigrants, 70.1%), to Kazakhstan (1,422, 21.8%), to Uzbekistan (72, 1.1%), to Ukraine (45, 0.7%), to Belarus (21, 0.3%), and a few more to other CIS countries. Of the total emigrants, 329 citizens emigrated to non-CIS countries, for example, to Germany (154 emigrants, 2.4%), Republic of Türkiye (54, 0.8%), USA (44, 0.7%), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (12 emigrants, 0.2%), South Korea (10 emigrants, 0.2%), or Italy (9 emigrants, 0.1%). Of the citizens who emigrated abroad, 4,257 (65%) were able-bodied (males 16-62 years old and females between 16-57 years old), 1,360 emigrants (21%) were under the age of able-bodied (under 15 years old), and 910 emigrants (14%) were above the age of able-bodied (males above 63 years old and females above 58 years old). Regarding the gender of emigrants, 3,830 are female (59%) and 2,697 are male emigrants (41%). Overall, there is a significant decrease in the number of outflow of emigrants during the last ten years (Figure 3) (NSC KR, 2023a).

FIGURE 3: EMIGRANT FLOWS, 2011-2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
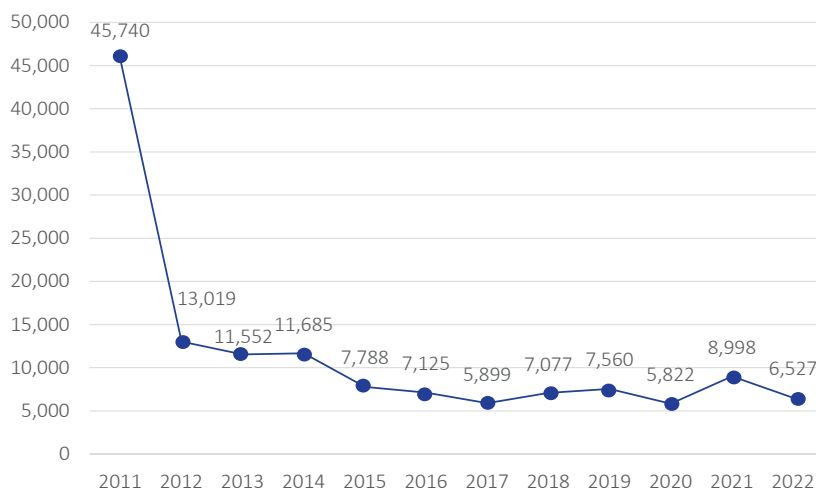
Source: NSC KR, 2023b

Different numbers of estimations on emigrants from different reporting organizations (government and non-government) demonstrate that there is a need for enhanced systematic data collection, monitoring, and evaluation throughout the migration life cycle to better understand migration dynamics. The systematic data collection, reporting, and analysis of emigration data would serve to better tailor services to migrants' needs. Reviewing of different emigrant data from different sources showed that there is a need to centralize information from different governmental bodies—which requires interagency cooperation and data sharing—and to create a unified registry of all prospective migrants, current migrants, and returnees, either at reception centers or at different points of exit or entry in the country. In addition to current registration of migrants, government agencies can also consider developing policies and regulations to register emigrants and collect data on the skills and labor market situation of Kyrgyz citizens who intend to apply for jobs overseas. This would, for example, help to better understand and provide more tailored support training programmes.

Although emigrant outflow data comes from administrative data collection with detailed data breakdowns, there is a very limited data breakdown available on emigrant stock from government agencies. For example, when reviewing emigration data from government agencies, the following data was not found: number of emigrants (stock) by place of origin in home country, age, and by education level.

Although Kyrgyz Law on external migration defines who is an emigrant, there is a need to elaborate the definition of an emigrant to differentiate between long- and short-term emigrants as well as type of emigrants by status (students, workers, for example).

3.3 RETURN MIGRATION

There is currently no centralized entity that captures the full extent of return migration. However, some estimations on returnees can be found from household surveys and research carried out by government, non-government, and international organizations with their own limitations in each of these studies. For example, the NSC KR administered a household survey in 2020 on the COVID-19 impact on households and gathered some migration-related data (NSC KR, 2020). The limitation of this study is that the target population is not returning migrants, but analyzing the overall effects of COVID-19 on households. Some data can be found in the Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey (KIHS) which collects quarterly information on the labor market in Kyrgyzstan. It also collects information on the current place and country of work of all individuals in the household. Through that survey, both migrants currently working abroad (but officially residing in Kyrgyzstan) and seasonal migrants who currently live in Kyrgyzstan but spend several months of the year abroad are included (Bossavie, Garrote-Sánchez, 2022). KIHS's limitation for this specific purpose of data analysis is that KIHS targets only labour migrants, but not all migrants.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a drastic drop in demand for migrant labor in the main destination countries. In 2020, the Russian Federation granted work visas to 190,000 Kyrgyz citizens, less than half of the work authorizations issued in 2019 (454,000). Compared to the same quarter in 2019, the Russian Federation approved 78,000 fewer work visas in the second quarter of 2020, 108,000 fewer in the third quarter, and 72,000 fewer in the fourth quarter (Bossavie, Garrote-Sánchez, 2022). The 2020 survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Kyrgyz population implemented by the NSC KR contains some information on returnees. Data indicates that five per cent of Kyrgyz households had at least one member who lost their jobs overseas and was forced to return to Kyrgyzstan because of this. This survey estimated 76,862 or more returnees returned to Kyrgyzstan due to the pandemic in 2020. At the same time, eight per cent of the Kyrgyz households reported having a member abroad who was unable to return home during the lockdowns (NSC KR, 2020). About 13 per cent of the households who used to receive remittances reported that they had at least one family member return home during the pandemic. The majority of the returned migrants (81%) were not able to find a job after returning home, the rest of the returnees found temporary work in the home country (NSC KR, 2021, WFP, 2021).

According to the IOM MTM baseline assessment and surveys among returned migrants in 2022, 34 per cent of returnees were female. The average age was 36 years old for both males and females. Most of the respondents reported being married (70%) followed by those who were single (18%) and divorced (8%). The marriage rate was slightly higher among male participants (74%) in comparison to female respondents (63%). Females were more likely to report being divorced (14%) than males (5%). For the majority of respondents (37%), the highest education achieved was upper secondary education. Another 38 per cent reported having completed tertiary education, either short-cycle (15%) or bachelor/master (25%) degrees. The reported fields of education varied, including education (19%); engineering, manufacturing, construction and architecture (15%); social sciences, journalism, administration, and law (14%); and art and humanities (12%). As for employment, prior to returning home, 30 per cent of migrants worked in community and social/personal services, 24 per cent worked in construction, 13 per cent in transportation/storage and communication, 11 per cent in wholesale and retail trade. The other remaining employment sectors include manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, healthcare, education, and others (IOM, 2022).

FIGURE 4: NUMBER OF RETURN MIGRANTS TO KYRGYZSTAN, 2000-2021 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
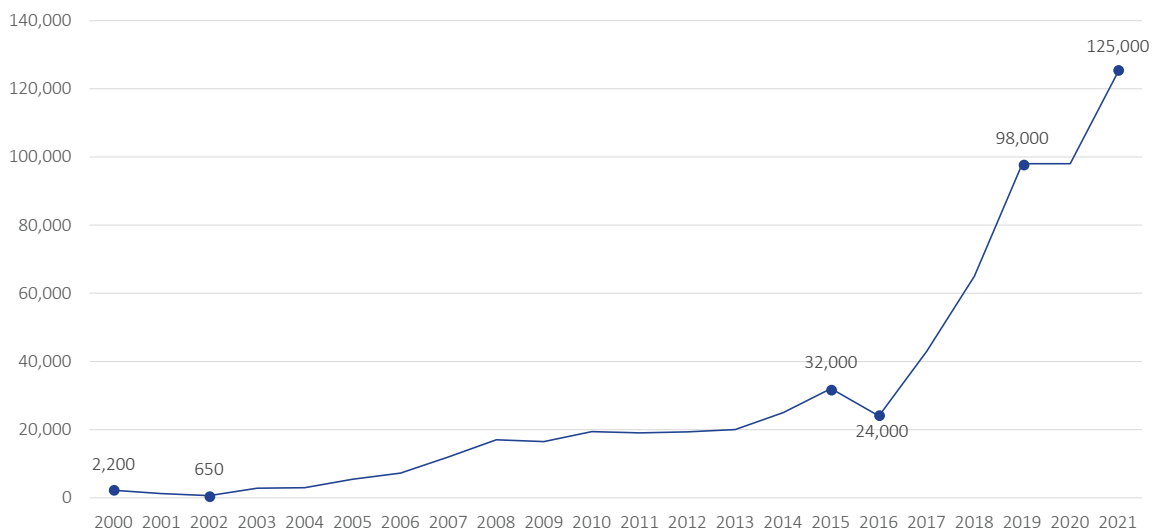
Source: Bossavie L., Garrote-Sánchez D., 2022

The Kyrgyz Government systematically reports on the number of migrants who depart Kyrgyzstan and on the number of migrants who arrive in Kyrgyzstan. However, there is no centralized system that reports separately on the returned migrants. Among the statistics data on the purpose of migrants' arrival in Kyrgyzstan, there is one category that reports on the number of migrants who arrived in their previous place of residence, which can be considered as returned migrants. However, this category of arrivals does not fully demonstrate the real situation of returnees. No definition was found in the legislative documents on return migrants. The data on migrants who returned to their previous place of residence is not disaggregated by social profile of these migrants: including, returnees by gender, country of return, by place of return in home country, returnees by type of work previous to return, and returnees by education and age. Available data comes from secondary sources such as surveys and research administered by different government and non-government organizations.

3.4 UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION

Data on undocumented migrants is limited and not accessible publicly. The scarce data that is available publicly comes from news portals and case by case reports from the MoIA KR. Some qualitative data that describes issues on undocumented migrants is also available in the trafficking in persons reports that are published annually on the U.S. Department of State data portal.

Kyrgyzstan as well as other Central Asian countries is used as a transit country for migrants who intend to migrate to Europe, Canada, and the United States of America. The majority of this category of migrants are from "risk countries" with an unstable economy and weak military-political situation such as Afghanistan, Sudan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, and others. Their routes run to Europe through the territories of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Ukraine. Few of these smuggled migrants aim to stay in Kyrgyzstan, but most of them use Kyrgyzstan as a transit country with the intention of further migration to Europe and America (MoIA KR, 2023).

The MoIA KR reported that the following key methods that undocumented migrants use Kyrgyzstan as a transit country to go to Europe include: 1) entry to Kyrgyzstan by the invitation of formally existing foreign and joint ventures and legalization of unauthorized migrants. These organizations are mainly registered in Bishkek and Osh cities; 2) entry to Kyrgyzstan as tourists and stay in the country before legalizing unauthorized migrants to further transfer to Europe; 3) entry to Kyrgyzstan as students, make fake contracts with schools, and then transfer from one university to another using fake academic certificates. One of the main methods of undocumented migration to Kyrgyzstan is that legal entities, by providing false information to the Kyrgyz government, pretended to implement investment projects and issued work visas, permissions for work for foreign citizens. The projects are mainly in the field of construction, agriculture, and mining. For example, between October 2016 and September 2017 alone, legal entities invited more than 1,200 citizens of China to Kyrgyzstan and issued visas bribing 500-1,000 USD dollars (MoIA KR, 2023).

The MoIA KR has information on irregular employment of citizens of Kyrgyzstan abroad. In 2022, MoIA KR fined seven legal companies in the amount of 385,000 Kyrgyzstani Som (KGS) (about 4,375 USD) and during January and July 2023, MoIA also revealed seven facts and fined them again in the amount of 385,000 KGS. These Kyrgyz companies, being located in Kyrgyzstan, attempted to send Kyrgyz citizens abroad for work without having official permission to do so. One of the major cases in 2022 was that MoIA arrested the director of one private company who gathered 40 citizens of Kyrgyzstan (including children among this group of people) and attempted to transport them to Europe and the USA by illegally crossing the state border and through the territory of the Republic of Moldova. This person kept these citizens in Moldova for about four to five months and repeatedly tried to transport them to the USA and Europe on cruise and cargo ships. Another major case that was revealed in 2022 was the case where a Kyrgyz citizen was arrested for her attempt to organize irregular migration. Overall, in 2022, MoIA KR revealed 62 criminal cases after victims of organization of irregular migration approached the police for help. The investigation of these cases revealed that that the total damage to victims amounted to more than 16,000,000 KGS (MoIA KR, 2023).

According to the NSC KR, in 2022, the Kyrgyz Government revealed six cases of trafficking in person. Of these cases, three cases were in Bishkek city, two cases in Chui Oblast, and one case in Jalal-Abad Oblast. Of the six cases reported, one was a sex trafficking case and five were forced labour cases (U.S. Department of State, 2022). Overall, between 2009 and 2022, the Kyrgyz Government registered 114 cases of trafficking in person. Four major locations (Figure 5) on human trafficking include Bishkek (36,32%), Chui Oblast (22,19%), Osh City (19,17%), and Osh Oblast (16,14%). Other locations where trafficking in person was registered include Jalal-Abad (9,8%), Issyk-Kul (6,5%), Batken (4,4%), and Naryn Oblast (2,2%) (NSC KR, 2023f). Data on the socio-demographic profile of victims of trafficking such as age, gender, and other breakdowns are not available or are not reported separately.

FIGURE 5: NUMBER OF REGISTERED CRIMES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY LOCATION, 2009-2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
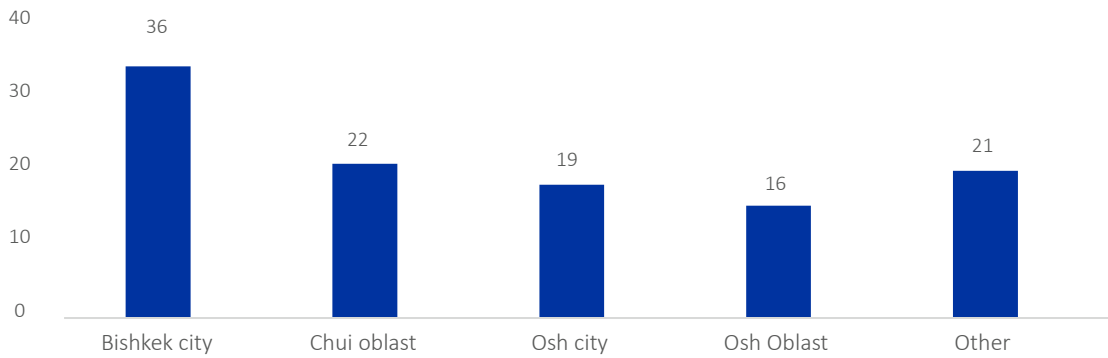
Source: NSC KR, 2023f

The number of cases reported by the U.S Department of State significantly exceeds the number of cases reported by NSC KR. For example, in 2020, NSC KR reported eight cases of crimes on human trafficking whereas U.S. Department of State reported 40 cases in 2020, including 24 sex trafficking cases and 16 forced labor cases, and eight cases in 2019, including one sex trafficking case and seven forced labor cases (U. S. Department of State, 2021).

FIGURE 6: NUMBER OF REGISTERED CRIMES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN KYRGYZSTAN, 2009-2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
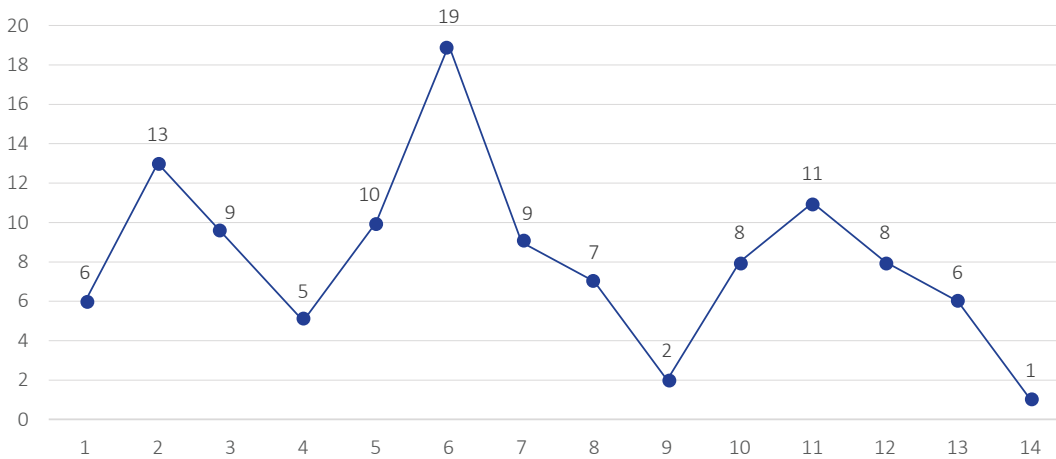
Source: NSC KR, 2023f

Data on the socio-demographic profile of undocumented migrants, both migrant smuggling and trafficking in person are not available. Also, information on main routes used for trafficking is not comprehensively reported. Publicly available data is reported only on the number of registered cases of trafficking in person at NSC KR's website in Russian. Data from MoIA KR is mainly on anecdotal evidence and qualitative data with description of main routes and methods used for smuggling, but statistics with socio-demographic profile of undocumented migrants are not reported systematically.

4. FORCED MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

4.1 REFUGEES IN KYRGYZSTAN

The MoLSSM KR is the government institution in charge of refugee issues. The MoLSSM KR registers applications for refugee status in line with the established legislations of Kyrgyzstan and the international treaties signed by the country. The MoLSSM KR maintains records of asylum seekers and refugees (MoJ KR, 2021b). The data on asylum seekers and refugees can be obtained from either MoLSSM KR or NSC KR through formal data requests. The data can be provided in Russian or in Kyrgyz language.

There is available data by UNHCR for the first half of 2023. In 2023, there were 253 refugees and 775 asylum seekers in Kyrgyzstan. According to UNHCR, there are 274 refugees and 435 asylum seekers in Kyrgyzstan as of 2022. Of the 274 refugees in the country, 113 are female refugees (41%) and 161 are male refugees (59%). The majority of refugees are between 18 and 59 years old (65%), the next larger group are 5-11 years old (13%), refugees between 12 and 17 years old comprise 11 per cent, refugees under four years old (7%), and 60 years old or older (4%). One hundred eighty-nine refugees hosted in Kyrgyzstan are from Afghanistan, 61 refugees are from the Syrian Arab Republic, 14 refugees are from Ukraine, five refugees are from Iraq, and the remaining five refugees are from Turkmenistan (UNHCR, 2023). Refugee stock data by education level is not available at this UNHCR refugee data finder platform.

TABLE 4: REFUGEES IN KYRGYZSTAN, BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2018-2023

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2018 REFUGEES	2019 REFUGEES	2020 REFUGEES	2021 REFUGEES	2022 REFUGEES	2023 REFUGEES
Afghanistan	223	227	219	213	189	181
Syrian Arab Rep.	77	86	78	75	61	49
Ukraine (UKR)	19	23	21	18	14	12
Iraq (IRQ)	5	6	6	6	5	5
Other	5	5	10	5	5	6
Total	329	347	334	317	274	253

Source: UNHCR, 2023

Note: The UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics database includes data until 30.06.2023.

TABLE 5: ASYLUM SEEKERS IN KYRGYZSTAN, BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2018-2023

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2018 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2019 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2020 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2021 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2022 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2023 ASYLUM SEEKERS
Afghanistan	42	126	46	308	322	278
Syrian Arab Rep.	14	5	8	7	11	16
Ukraine (UKR)	7	0	0	0	10	16
Iraq (IRQ)	5	5	0	0	0	0
Other	29	33	262	316	92	465
Total	97	169	316	631	435	775

Source: UNHCR, 2023

Note: The UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics database includes data until 30.06.2023.

According to the NSC KR, between 2018 and 2022, overall, 926 foreigners were granted refugee status (Figure 7); of them, 558 (60%) were male and 368 (40%) were female. In 2022 alone, the Kyrgyz Government granted refugee status to 156 foreigners, of them, 72 (46%) were Afghan refugees, 65 (42%) were Arabs, 14 (9%) were Ukrainians, and 5 (3%) were of other nations. Of the 156 refugees, 14 (9%) are under five years old, 24 (15%) are between 6 to 15 years old, 109 (70%) refugees are able-bodied refugees (males 16-62 years old and females between 16-57 years old), and 9 (6%) are above able-bodied (males 16-62 years old and females between 16-57 years old) refugees. As of the end of 2021, Kyrgyzstan hosted 178 refugees recognized by the national authorities and 142 refugees recognized by UNHCR according to its mandate. Most 'mandate refugees' have lived in the country for many years and are culturally integrated – some are married to citizens and have children born in Kyrgyzstan. However, without legal recognition as Kyrgyz citizens, they do not have access to socio-economic rights, and other basic rights (NSC KR, 2023c; MoLSSM, 2023).

FIGURE 7: REFUGEES INFLOW TO KYRGYZSTAN BY YEAR, 2018-2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
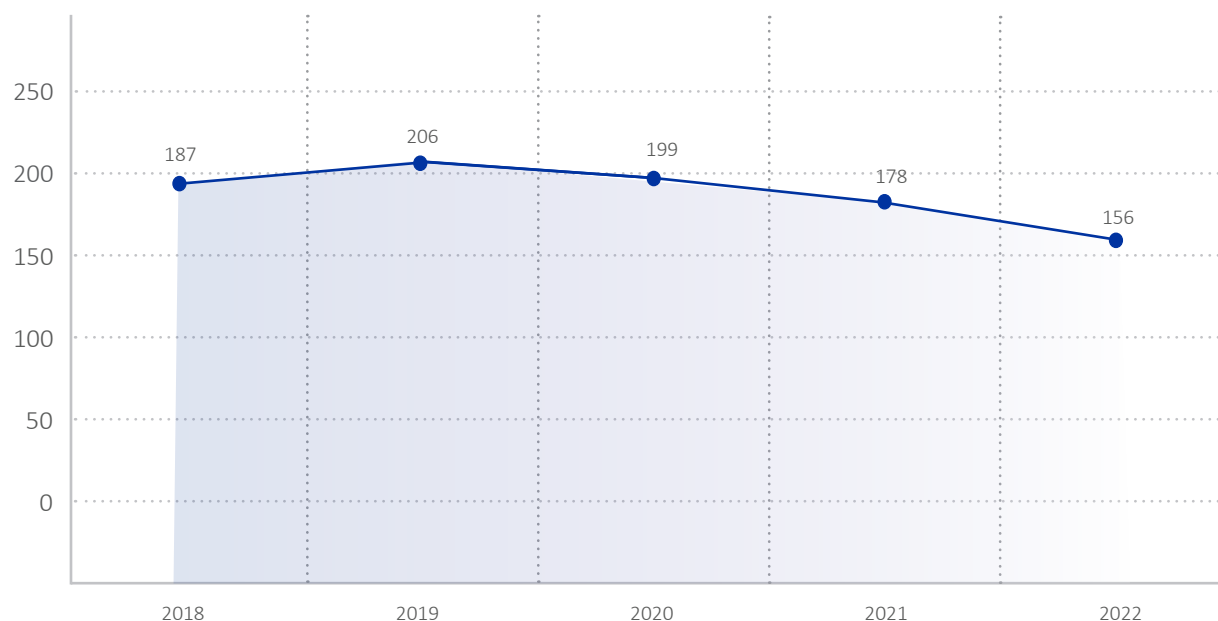
Source: NSC KR, 2023g

Data on refugees hosted in Kyrgyzstan is not available on the following type of data breakdown. Number of stock data on refugees by education level is not available. The data that comes from the Kyrgyz government (NSC KR and MoLSSM) is reported on inflow of refugees by year but stock data is not reported separately. The data on refugees of the Kyrgyz government is also not available publicly and these data can be obtained through formal data request.

4.2 REFUGEES FROM KYRGYZSTAN

The NSC KR does not track and report on the number of refugees from Kyrgyzstan. Likewise, other government agencies such as MoLSSM who are engaged in migration work also do not collect and report data on refugees from Kyrgyzstan. There is no systematic administrative data collection on refugees from the country and data is not available publicly. For this report, the data on refugees from Kyrgyzstan have been obtained from the Refugee Data Finder Platform of the UNHCR (UNHCR, 2023).

As of the end of 2022, there were 3,297 Kyrgyz citizens with refugee status in foreign countries, including Spain (20 refugees), Ukraine (17 refugees), Canada (8 refugees), and Mexico (8 refugees). Of those who received refugee status, 45 per cent are females. As for the age of refugees, 0.4 per cent are under 4 years old, 1.1 per cent are between 5-11 years old, 1 per cent of refugees are between 12-17 years old and 9.5 per cent are between 18-59 years old, 38 per cent of the refugees age data is not known. As for the asylum seekers, there were six citizens of Kyrgyzstan in Canada with an asylum seeker status. As of end of 2022, there were 4,412 people from Kyrgyzstan with an asylum seeker status around the world (Table 7).

TABLE 6: REFUGEES FROM KYRGYZSTAN BY COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION, 2018-2023 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	2018 REFUGEES	2019 REFUGEES	2020 REFUGEES	2021 REFUGEES	2022 REFUGEES	2023 REFUGEES
France (FRA)	309	312	314	526	534	535
Canada (CAN)	71	68	64	70	8	8
Republic of Türkiye (TUR)	175	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium (BEL)	64	66	65	70	87	81
Other	2,624	2,517	2,440	2,396	2,623	2,710
Total	2,934	2,963	2,883	3,035	3,297	3,334

Source: UNHCR, 2023

Note: The UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics database includes data until 30.06.2023.

TABLE 7: ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM KYRGYZSTAN BY COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION, 2018-2023 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	2018 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2019 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2020 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2021 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2022 ASYLUM SEEKERS	2023 ASYLUM SEEKERS
France (FRA)	12	9	10	30	26	38
Canada (CAN)	15	16	0	5	6	18
Republic of Türkiye (TUR)	93	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium (BEL)	30	5	35	40	45	40
Other	2,571	2,563	2,650	2,710	4,335	5,473
Total	2,721	2,593	2,695	2,785	4,412	5,569

Source: UNHCR, 2023

Note: The UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics database includes data until 30.06.2023.

Between 2018 and 2023, 2,530 (17%) Kyrgyz citizens obtained refugee status in France, 289 (2%) citizens with refugee status in Canada, 175 (1%) refugees in the Republic of Türkiye, 130 (7%) refugees in Belgium, and 14,626 (14%) refugees in other countries including the Russian Federation (79%), Spain (0.5%), Ukraine (0.5%), United Kingdom (1.47%), Mexico (0.2%), and Argentina (0.2%) (Figure 8).

FIGURE 8: REFUGEES FROM KYRGYZSTAN BY DESTINATION COUNTRY, 2018- JUNE 2023 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
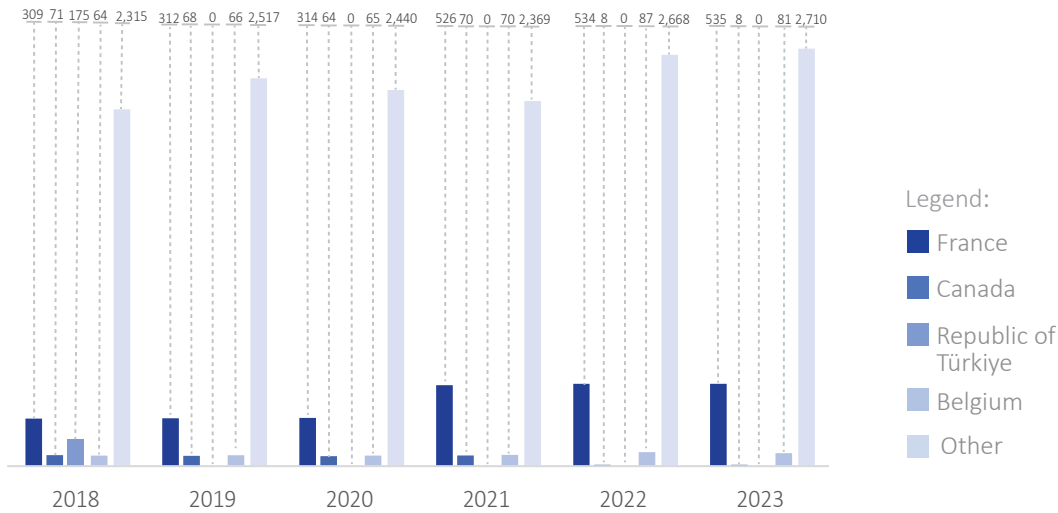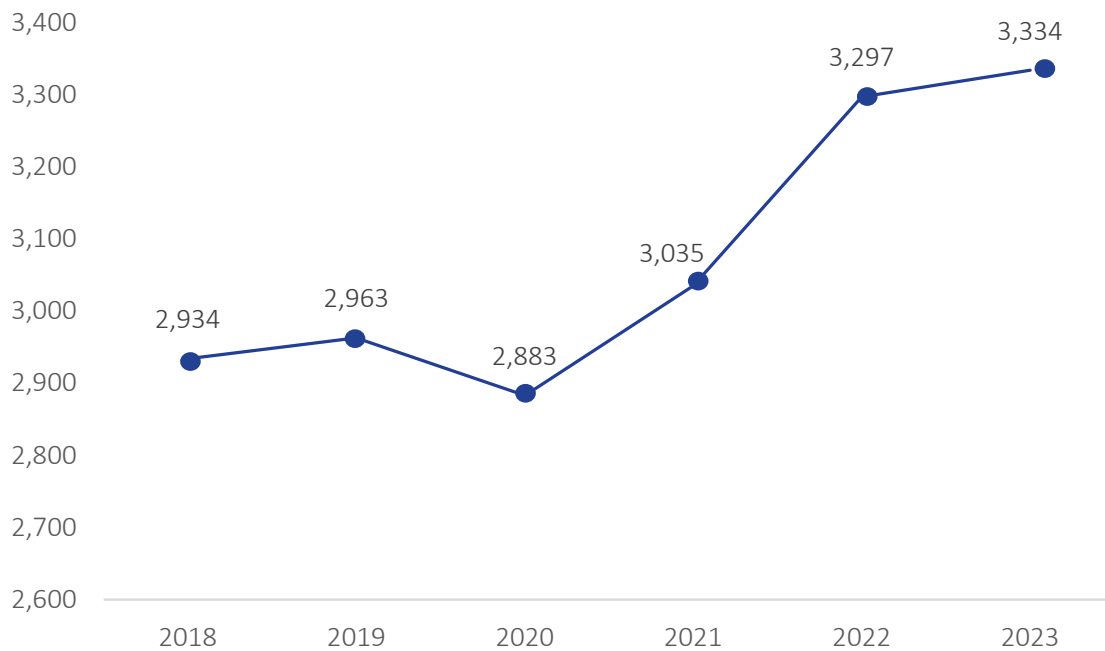

Source: UNHCR, 2023

Note: The UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics database includes data until 30.06.2023.

Two thousand nine hundred thirty-four Kyrgyz citizens (16%) obtained refugee status in foreign countries in 2018, 2,963 refugees (16%) in 2019, 2,883 (16%) in 2020, 3,035 (16%) in 2021, and 3,297 (18%) refugees in 2022, and 3,334 (18%) until end of June 2023) (Figure 9).

FIGURE 9: REFUGEES FROM KYRGYZSTAN BY YEAR, 2018-2023 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)

Source: UNHCR, 2023

Note: The UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics database includes data until 30.06.2023.

No data was found on the outflow of refugees from Kyrgyzstan neither from UNHCR data sources nor from Kyrgyz government institutions such as MoLSSM KR and NSC KR. Data on the number of refugees from Kyrgyzstan is not available by education by year (2022, 2021, 2022, 2019, and 2018). Kyrgyz government, including the MoLSSM and NSC KR, does not record data on refugees from Kyrgyzstan. The only data source that was found during this data mapping exercise was the UNHCR data finder platform which is publicly accessible. The available data is presented in English. Data on the outflow of refugees is not available.

4.3 INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN KYRGYZSTAN

Data on internal displacement in Kyrgyzstan is publicly available at the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center's (IDMC) website. The data is available in English, disaggregated by type of IDPs (conflict/violence and disaster data) and also with data breakdowns by year, age, gender, and by type of disasters. Data from the government of Kyrgyzstan, specifically from the Ministry of Emergency Situation, is not publicly available, but can be obtained by official data request. There is also limited data on the number of IDPs from non-governmental sources.

According to IDMC, as of the end of 2022, 4,003 inhabitants were internally displaced due to conflict reasons. Of them, 1,964 were males (49%) and 2,039 were female (51%). Among the internally displaced people, 474 were under 4 years old (12%), 659 people were between 5-11 years old (16%), 243 were between 12-14 years old (6%), 634 people were between 15-24 years old (16%), 1,807 people were between 25-64 years old (45%), and 186 people were above 65 years old (5%). The IDMC's total number of IDPs represents the total number of IDPs in a given location at a specific point in time. It could be understood as the total number of people living in a situation of displacement as of the end of the reporting period. As for the disaster-related IDPs stock, as of the end of 2022, 4 people were internally displaced. Of them, 2 people were under 24 years old and the other 2 were between 24 to 64 years old. During the data mapping, no other IDP stock data breakdowns were found, including IDP's education and employment status (IDMC, 2023).

In 2022, overall, 166,329 inhabitants in Kyrgyzstan were displaced due to Kyrgyz-Tajik border clashes. IDP's data on internal displacements correspond to the estimated number of internal displacements over a given period of time (reporting year) (Figure 10). Figures may include individuals who have been displaced more than once (IDMC, 2023). Internally displaced people were temporarily displaced from conflict areas in Batken Oblast to other safer places in Batken as well as to other locations such as Osh and Bishkek. There is no comprehensive data how many IDP s were displaced to which locations. But, according to the Batken branch of the Red Crescent, more than 18,000 citizens were evacuated, including 2,581 people were displaced to Boz-Adyr village, 2,740 people to Suluktu town, 9,870 people to Kadamjay town, and 3,334 people to Gaz, Sogment, Charbak, Kyshtut and Tayan villages (Red Crescent, 2022).

FIGURE 10: IDPS FLOWS BY YEAR, 2018-2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
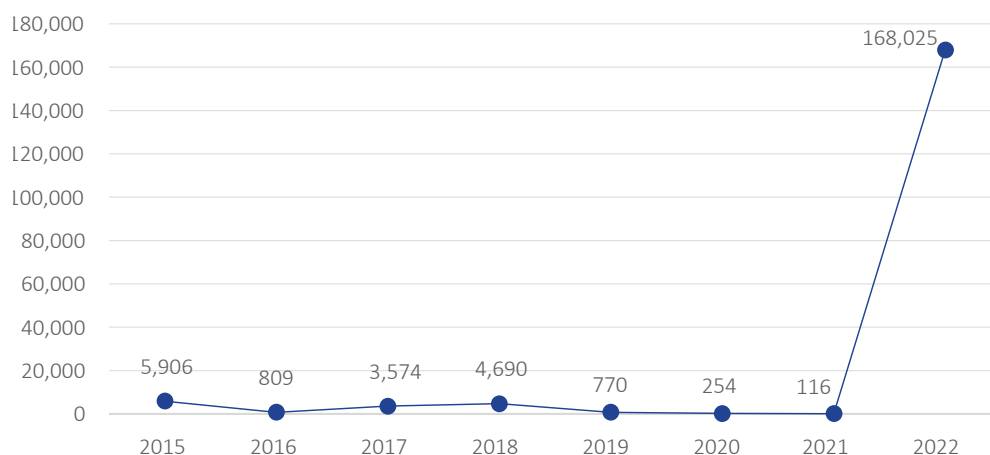
Source: IDMC, 2023

In 2022, 1,696 people were displaced due to disaster. Of them, 1,078 inhabitants were displaced in Chui, Naryn, Talas, Jalal-Abad, and Osh regions due to landslides (wet mass movement) that occurred on May 5, 2022. Another case was on May 4, 2022, when 588 people were displaced in Suzak district due to flood. On May 3, 2022, 22 people were displaced in Alay district in Osh Oblast due to a flood. In March 2022, 8 people were displaced in Jalal-Abad oblast due to flood and landslide. Overall, 16,822 people were displaced between 2018 and 2022. Of them, 6,891 people were displaced due to weather-related hazards (flood, landslide/wet mass movement), and 9,931 people were displaced due to geophysical hazards (earthquake) (IDMC, 2023). No other data breakdowns were found during the data mapping, including IDP flows by age and gender.

During the data gathering and review, the following data on IDPs were not found. Number of IDPs by gender for 2021 and 2020. Number of IDPs by place of destination for 2022, 2021, and 2020. Number of employment status by year. And number of IDPs flow by gender and age for both IDPs related to disaster and conflict related IDPs . No IDP data is publicly available from the Kyrgyz Government. To improve the data collection and reporting, Kyrgyz Government can consider to make the data available publicly in several languages, including in Kyrgyz, Russian, and in English.

5. INTERNAL MOBILITY

Data on internal mobility is mostly captured at the administrative level. The Civil Registration Department of the SRS GKR carries out registration of civil registration at local government offices. There are information kiosks at local post offices of *aiyl aimaks* (village administration offices) to provide public services, including registrar of acts of civil status[2], registration of arrivals, and departure of population. The State Institute "Infocom" under the SRS GKR provides the NSC KR with an electronic population migration database. No later than the 25th day after the monthly reporting period, the Civil Registry Office Department at the SRS GKR submits a report in electronic form to the Main Computer Center of the NSC KR. Based on this data, the Main Computer Center develops all the necessary tables for the annual report and transmits them to the NSC KR Central Office.

According to 2022 census data, the NSC KR identified that 1,094,514 people were temporarily not living in their usual place of residence. Out of the total number of migrants, 876,900 people (80.1%) migrated outside the country and 217,600 people (19.9%) migrated within the country (NSC KR, 2023e). The study of internal migrants conducted by the consulting firm M-Vector for IOM in 2022 reports that 18 per cent of the Kyrgyz citizens are internal migrants (nearly every 5th citizen). Of the internal migrants who participated in the study, 75.6 per cent do not have official registration at their place of residence. Fifteen per cent of internal migrants have lived without registration for more than 10 years in their current place of residence. Of the internal migrants, 37.9 per cent of internal migrants have secondary education, every third (29.6%) has higher education (university), 20.4 per cent have secondary specialized education, 8.4 per cent have incomplete higher education, and 3.7 per cent incomplete secondary education. More than half of the internal migrants are female (56%). As for the age category of internal migrants, 36 per cent are between 25-34 years old, 28 per cent are between 18-24 years old, 23 per cent are 35-49, and 13 per cent are above 50 years old. The majority (64.6%) of internal migrants are married. According to the study, 54.6 per cent of the internal migrants who participated in the study have two children of their own, in rare cases three children. Around one-fifth of internal migrants are not married, about 6 per cent are divorced, and 2.8 per cent are widows/widowers. The key economic sectors that internal migrants are employed in include trade (21%), medical and educational services (20%), sewing production (10%), and construction (10%). Remaining sectors of work include industrial services, transport, catering, government, and others (IOM, 2023).

The Civil Registry Department under the SRS KR registered 31,941 citizens migrating within the country crossing inter-oblast territories and 14,942 people migrating within their oblast in 2022. The data reports that most of the internal migrants have been moved from rural locations to major cities such as Bishkek and Osh. Of the internally migration population, more than two-thirds or 68 per cent are female migrants (Figure 11). Key reasons for internal migration are due to work (39%), returning to the previous place of residence (19%), personal and family circumstances (8%), and studying (2%). Other migration reasons compose 32% (NSC KR, 2023a).

Bishkek remains the major location as an internal migrant destination followed by Chui Oblast. Major internal places of origin/sending regions are Jalal-Abad and Naryn Oblasts (Figure 12). Taking into account that the most likely motives for both external and internal migration are acquisition of a profession and job search, it's noted that large cities with a developed educational network and an extensive labour market are becoming natural poles of attraction of migration flow (NSC KR, 2023a).

FIGURE 11: INTERNAL MIGRANTS COMPOSITION BY GENDER, 2022 (%)

32%

68%
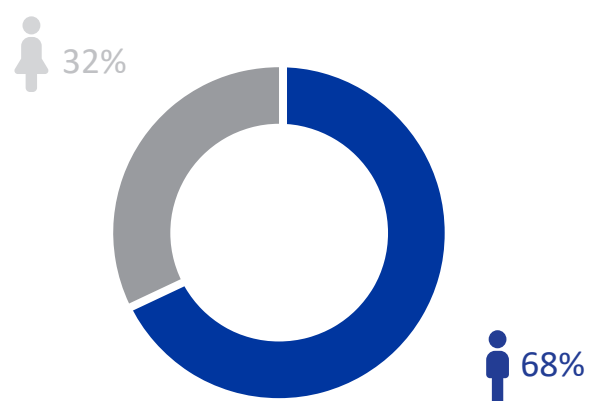
Source: NSC KR, 2023a

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2   *Acts of civil status - legally formalized circumstances that individualize a person and with which the emergence and termination of his rights and obligations are associated (Kyrgyz Law, 2020 about the Acts of Civil Status (http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/112094).*

FIGURE 12: INTERNAL MIGRANTS BY LOCATION, 2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
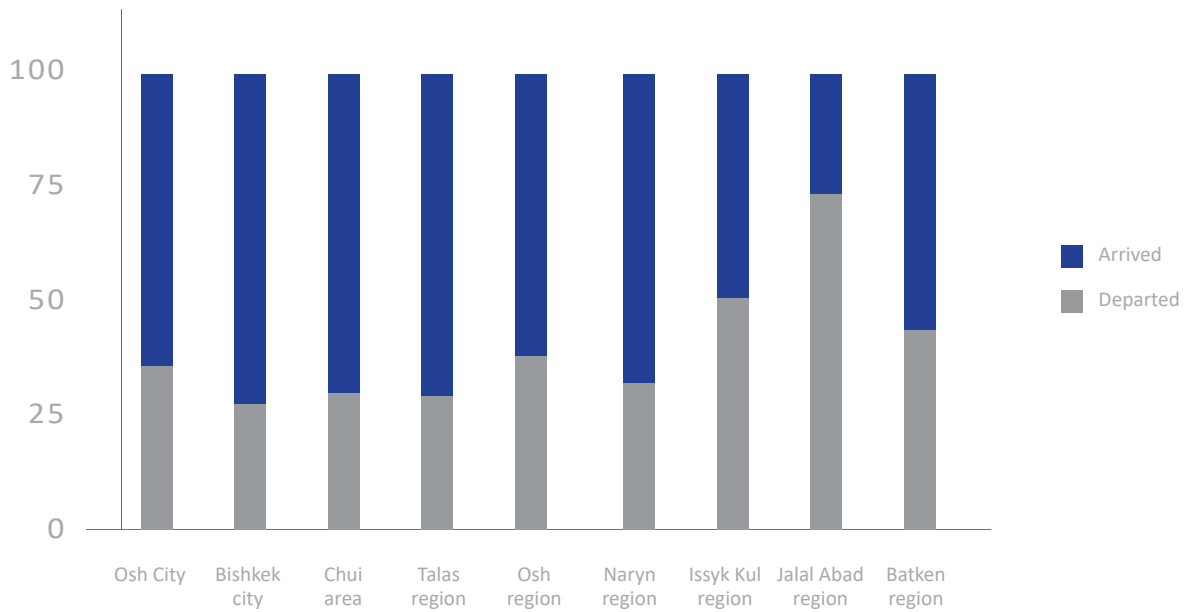
Source: NSC KR, 2023a

Number of internal migrants since 1991 varied between about 20,000 up to 50,000 people per year. In the early 1990s, the collapse of the Soviet Union led to a dramatic increase of the number of people migrating internally (Figure 13). The number of internal migrants then started to decrease during the next ten years (from 1991 with highest number of internal migrants to 2001).

FIGURE 13: INTERNAL MOBILITY IN KYRGYZSTAN, 1991-2022 (ABSOLUTE NUMBERS)
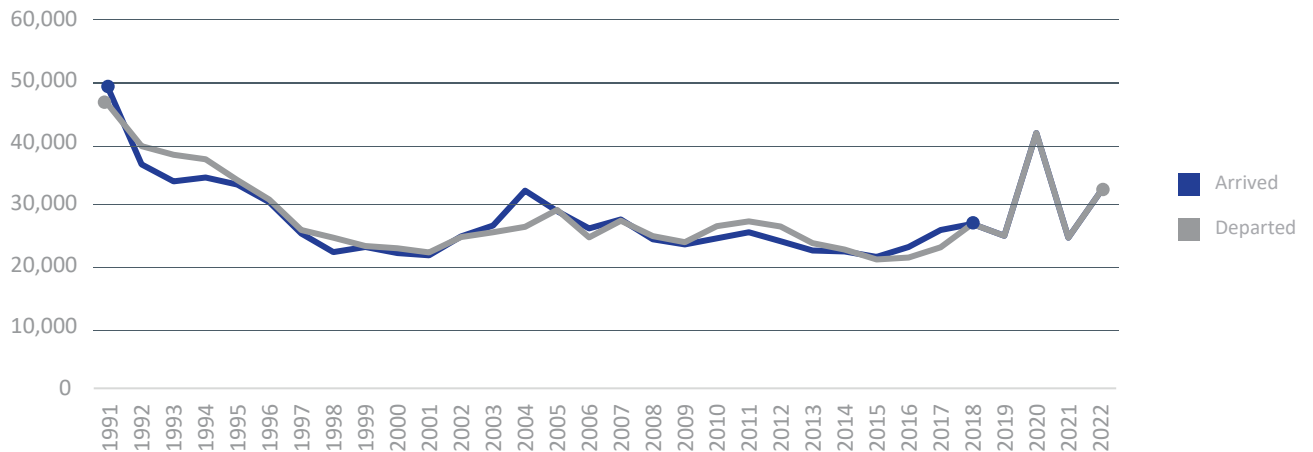
Source. NSC KR, 2023a

The following type of data on internal migrants were not found during the data gathering and reviewing: number of internal migrants for years earlier than 1991, detailed data breakdowns such as internal migrants by education, gender, age, by type of work, and other detailed information. Data on the stock of internal migrants for years earlier than 2010 was also not found. The Kyrgyz government may consider processing, analyzing, and reporting detailed data on internal migrants publicly in several languages including in Kyrgyz, Russian, and in English. The government may also consider data processing, analyzing, and reporting of stock of internal migrants.

6. BIG DATA

Big data collection and use is not systematic. Data or information on big data was not found during the review of available data sources from government, non-government, and development actors except for a few research studies that discuss migration-related big data. One research article provides a statistical relationship between online queries about migration to the Russian Federation made by residents of Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan) and subsequent flows of migrants from these countries to the Russian Federation. Another research examines the efficacy of using the Google Trends Index (GTI) to explain remittance patterns in Kyrgyzstan.

One of the publicly available research projects hypothesizes that there is a statistical relationship between online queries about migration to the Russian Federation made by residents of Kyrgyzstan and subsequent human flows from Kyrgyzstan to the Russian Federation. The authors of this research tested the hypothesis using the migration statistics of the Russian Government, Google Trends data on search intensity, and Yandex Wordstat service of word matching for validation of search images. The results of the research found that there is a moderate dependence of the dynamics of human mobility on previous queries. To do the analysis, the authors compiled a list of possible search words or search images from potential migrants. According to the Wordstat service, search queries containing the word "job" are very popular, followed by search queries "vacancy". For example, on average, the word "job" was searched 63,945 times per month, the word "vacancy" was searched 11,686 times, job/vacancy 72,387 times, job/vacancy in Moscow/the Russian Federation 6,842 times (Tsapenko & Yurevich, 2022). The results of the analysis demonstrate some correlations between queries and actual flows of migrants.

The authors explain that the potential reason for an increase in queries and flow after late summer 2019 may be connected to the adaptation of Law (No. 257-FZ) which simplifies the granting of temporary residence permits and permanent residence permits to migrants. On the contrary, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of the Russian Federation adopted a package of strict measures against the spread of the epidemic which led to a rapid decline in the influx of migrants and a minimization of the number of queries in the spring of 2020. However, when Russian legislation adopted the provision on the possibility of repeatedly extending patents[3] from May 2020, as well as a package of liberal rules for the stay of migrants in the country after June 2020, both queries and flows grew almost in parallel (Tsapenko, & Yurevich, 2022).

Another study, conducted by David W. in 2022, examined the efficacy of using the GTI to explain remittance patterns in Kyrgyzstan. The authors of the study have combined the gravity model with the frequency of use of selected internet search keywords in destination countries and Kyrgyzstan. The remittance inflows from six destination countries were selected for the empirical modeling including the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Germany, the USA, and England. Estimation results indicate that searched words in destination countries have more statistically significant impacts on remittances than those words searched in Kyrgyzstan, suggesting that remittance supply-side decisions are more search dependent (Roland-Holst & Karymshakov, 2022). The authors used gravity models initially for GTI words searched inside Kyrgyzstan, then inside countries of destination, and the estimation model for all countries in the third column. The authors provide a discussion of useful information, however, the article doesn't provide comparative examples of the correlation between remittances and GTI.

Although big data has many advantages in providing information on human mobility and remittances, it has several limitations. Both studies, mentioned above, listed several limitations including a) how the level of Internet connectivity and mobile connection significantly influence the representativeness of the sample, b) the intensity of the digital services used by different social groups also varied, c) depending on their age and gender characteristics, d) the level of socio-economic development of the territory, e) the type of settlement, f) features such as the young age of Twitter users or the older age of Facebook audiences. Another important issue that needs to be considered is the existence of fake and double accounts that may impact statistical analysis.

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3   The patent tax system is a type of special tax regime, applied exclusively by individual entrepreneurs. The patent taxation system is established in accordance with Chapter. 26.5 "Patent taxation system" of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation.

7. MIGRATION POLICIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Government of Kyrgyzstan has developed a concept of a migration policy document encompassing most types of migration and linking migration and development. Following the concept of the migration policy, the Kyrgyz Government developed an action plan to implement its contents and identify priority interventions, key activities, timeframe, expected outputs, a list of indicators to measure achievements, responsible agencies, and sources of funding.

At the policy level, several government agencies are involved in the regulation of migration processes. The MoLSSM KR is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the migration policy and oversees immigrants, ethnic Kyrgyz returnees, refugees, and preventing and combating human trafficking (MoJ KR, 2022). The Council on Migration, Compatriots, and Diasporas Abroad, which was established under the Toraga Jogorku Kenesh (Speaker of the Parliament) in 2020, serves as a platform for discussing legislative initiatives on migration issues (IOM, 2022a). In 2022, the Government of Kyrgyzstan established a Coordination Council on migration issues and the Council meets at least twice a year to discuss migration issues (MoJ KR, 2016a). The Council for Relations with Compatriots Abroad under the President of Kyrgyzstan was created in November 2018 and is responsible for interaction with diasporas abroad (IOM, 2022a).

Regarding migration data collection and management, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MoLSSM collect data on the number of Kyrgyz citizens working abroad. The Ministry of Digital Development, the MoIA KR, and the State Committee for National Security also collect data on the number of foreign citizens in the country. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan (MES KR) implements a unified state policy in the field of civil protection and coordinates the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (MoJ KR, 2021b). The government adopted the concept of comprehensive protection of the population and territory of Kyrgyzstan from emergency situations for 2018-2030, which includes specific provisions for the prevention and elimination of the consequences of natural disasters associated with population displacement. The strategy is in line with the recommendations of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (IOM, 2022a).

There are several migration-related national laws and policies in place. The Concept of Migration Policy 2021-2030 (IOM, 2023a; Government of Kyrgyzstan, 2021) aims at regularizing migration processes through the implementation of state programs aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of migration. This will create conditions for good migration governance that would benefit migrants and the socio-economic development of Kyrgyzstan. The Action Plan 2022-2025 for the implementation of the Concept was adopted on 13 April 2022 (for.kg, 2022; Migration Network, 2023). The new Concept of Migration Policy conceptualizes a novel model of migration governance focused on the national interests of the country and ensures comprehensive and consolidated approaches of all state bodies and civil society to regulate migration processes and create conditions for safe, orderly, and regular migration. The Concept of Migration Policy was developed in line with the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan.

There are several laws and policies to regulate both external and internal migration and a summary on these laws and policies can be found in Table 5 below.

At the regional level, Kyrgyzstan participates in the Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration to improve cooperation and coordination among Central Asian states to address the region's migration issues. Kyrgyzstan is a party to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) (2014), a regional agreement promoting labor mobility. The treaty guarantees citizens of EAEU countries access to employment within the bloc, regardless of individual government regulations on work permits, quotas or other restrictions aimed at protecting labor markets, and qualifications are accepted on a reciprocal basis. In September 2022, the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration of Kyrgyzstan held the first Forum "Eurasian Dialogue on the Labor Market", where issues of access to the labor market for workers of the EAEU states, social security of the rights of workers of the EAEU states and members of their families in the state of employment, as well as issues of education, and healthcare were discussed. Kyrgyzstan has bilateral agreements with the Russian Federation (1996, as amended in 2003) and the Republic of Kazakhstan (2006) on labor mobility and the protection of the rights of migrant workers working in the two countries.

Kyrgyzstan ratified four of the five key conventions linked to migration. In 2008, Kyrgyzstan ratified the 1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention. In 1996, two conventions were ratified- the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Refugee Protocol. In 1994, Kyrgyzstan ratified the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

TABLE 8: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RATIFIED BY KYRGYZSTAN

POLICY	RATIFICATION
1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention[a]	Yes, 2008 (ILO, n.d.)
1951 Refugee Convention[b]	Yes, 1996 (UNHCR, n.d.)
1967 Refugee Protocol[b]	Yes, 1996 (UNHCR, n.d.)
1975 ILO Migrant Workers Convention[a]	No
1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child[c]	Yes, 1994 (UNTC, 2023)
Total	**4/5**

TABLE 9: NATIONAL MIGRATION POLICIES OF KYRGYZSTAN

POLICY NAME	POLICY CONTEXT
Concept of Migration Policy of Kyrgyzstan 2030	The Concept regularizes migration processes through the implementation of state programs aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of migration and creating conditions for good migration governance that would benefit migrants and socio-economic development of Kyrgyzstan.
Law of Kyrgyzstan on Internal Migration (MoJ KR, 2002b)	The Law on internal migration key objective is: 1) regulation of internal migration processes within Kyrgyzstan; 2) protection of the rights and legal interests of internal migrants, 3) introduction and operation of unified state registration of population; 4) regulation of government agencies in taking measures to support internally displaced people; 5) creation of necessary conditions for living in new places of residence;
Law of Kyrgyzstan on External Migration (MoJ KR, 2000)	The main objectives of this Law are: 1) regulation of external migration processes in Kyrgyzstan; 2) ensuring the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of migrants; 3) warning and prevention of illegal migration; 4) stabilization of migration in Kyrgyzstan.
Law on the legal status of foreign citizens in Kyrgyzstan (MoJ KR, 1993)	This Law defines the basic rights, freedom, and obligations of foreign citizens in Kyrgyzstan, as well as foreign citizens who have received the status of a compatriot with foreign citizenship, and establishes the conditions and procedure for granting and terminating such status.
The Law of Kyrgyzstan on Refugees (MoJ KR, 2002a)	This Law establishes an environment and a ground for granting, loss, and deprivation of refugee status, the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of refugees and determines the legal, economic, and social guarantees for the protection of the rights of refugees in Kyrgyzstan. The Law also provides a definition of a refugee.
The Law of Kyrgyzstan on Preventing and Fighting against Human Trafficking (MoJ KR, 2005)	This Law defines the organizational and legal framework for preventing and combating trafficking in persons, and procedures for coordinating the activities of government bodies in fighting trafficking in persons. The Law also establishes a system of measures to protect and provide assistance to victims of trafficking in persons. It defines key terminology such as recruitment, victim of human trafficking, slavery, human trafficking, exploitation, and others.
Law on State Guarantees for Ethnic Kyrgyz Immigrating to Kyrgyzstan, No. 175 (MoJ KR, 2007)	This Law regulates state policy in the field of immigration of ethnic Kyrgyz, defines the legal, economic, and social foundations of immigration processes, as well as the creation of necessary living conditions in a new place of residency for Kairylmans. The Kairylman is an ethnic Kyrgyz who is a foreign citizen or stateless person who voluntarily resettles in Kyrgyzstan and has received the status of kairylman. The status is a temporary legal status until the acquisition of citizenship of Kyrgyzstan.

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Law on the on the Fundamentals of State Policy to Support Compatriots Abroad, No. 183. (MoJ KR, 2013)	This Law establishes the principles and goals of the state policy of Kyrgyzstan in supporting compatriots abroad. It also identifies key activities of public authorities in implementing these state policies. The Law also provides definitions of keywords such as compatriots abroad, diaspora, and citizenship.
Regulations on the State Migration Service under the Government of Kyrgyzstan (MoJ KR, 2015)	The Law defines the role of the State Migration Service, its' goals and objectives, functional areas, rights and what are the competencies of the Service. The Law explains key principles of organization of work of the Migration Service. According to the Law, SMS KR's key role is the implementation of national policy on migration and ensuring compliance with migration law.
Regulation on the Coordination Council of Kyrgyzstan on Migration Issues. (MoJ KR, 2016a).	The regulation explains the key objectives, functional areas, operational procedures, and the rights of the Coordination Council. The key role of the Coordination Council is the development of coordinated decisions and actions of state bodies and local governments to develop and implement a unified state migration policy and coordination for actions to regulate migration processes; development of an effective mechanism for interaction between government bodies on migration issues; The Coordination Council coordinates government agencies, public and interactions organizations in the development of recommendations to improve legislation on migration.
Criminal Code of Kyrgyzstan. (MoJ KR, 2021a).	The objectives of the Criminal Code of Kyrgyzstan are to determine the principles of criminal liability, the grounds for criminal liability, the characteristics of the general concept of a crime, types of punishments, and other measures of a criminal legal nature applied to persons who have committed crimes. The Criminal Code also defines the organization of illegal migration, migrant smuggling, and types of punishment for organizing illegal migration.
Regulation #262 on the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan. (MoJ KR, 2021b).	The regulation explains key objectives and roles of the MoES KR on protection of Kyrgyz citizens from any kind of disasters including development and implementation of a unified state policy in the field of civil protection, fire safety, human safety on water and hydrometeorology, implementation of state supervision and control over ensuring compliance with norms and requirements in the field of civil protection. The Ministry also collects and processes information on civil protection.
Regulation on the Ministry of Labour, Social Security, and Migration of Kyrgyzstan (MoJ KR, 2021c).	The regulation identifies key roles of the Ministry on social protection of civilians, support socially vulnerable categories of citizens, protect vulnerable children, persons with disabilities and elderly citizens, including management of migration issues (immigrants, ethnic Kyrgyz and refugees, as well as preventing and combating human trafficking.
Resolution of the Government of Kyrgyzstan on registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the territory of Kyrgyzstan. (MoJ KR, 2016b).	The Resolution approves the list of foreign states indicating the terms of exemption of foreign citizens and stateless persons arriving in Kyrgyzstan from registration at the place of stay and 2) the procedure for registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons on the territory of Kyrgyzstan.
Regulations on the procedure for consular registration and deregistration of citizens of Kyrgyzstan through the use of the Automated Information System "Consular Registration". (MoJ KR, 2019).	This Regulation regulates the procedure for consular registration and deregistration of citizens of Kyrgyzstan living/staying in the territory of foreign states. The regulation also explains that citizens of Kyrgyzstan are considered permanent residents outside the country if they are deregistered from the place of permanent/usual residence for the purpose of leaving for permanent residence outside Kyrgyzstan.

8. REMITTANCES

The main data source on remittances in Kyrgyzstan is the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan. The National Bank publishes an annual report each year. The annual report reflects the activities of the central bank reporting on economic situation, monetary policy, and development of financial sector among others. The report also reflects the situation on remittances, as remittances play a significant role in the Kyrgyz economy. In the country, there is a systematic data collection and reporting on remittance inflows, remittance outflows, and remittance net flows that are collected and reported by the National Bank monthly. The NSC KR also reports on the foreign direct investment data.

Data on remittances are collected through two operators of the international remittance systems; one operator/issuer of the e-money international systems and one interaction operator were registered in the National Bank. Thirty-three operators of the remittance systems (14 international, 19 local (interbranch)), nine operators/issuers of the e-money international systems, seven international settlement systems using bank payment cards and two interaction operators were registered at the end of 2022 (NBKR, 2023).

In 2022, annual net inflow transfers amounted to USD 2,118.0 million. Compared to 2021, in 2022, net inflow decreased by 16 per cent. In the structure of 2022 transfers, a significant volume of inflow was provided by remittances (Figure 14). Following the results of 2022, the net inflow of individuals' remittances through money transfer systems decreased by 21.2 per cent and amounted to USD 1,727.5 million (NBKR, 2023).

FIGURE 14: REMITTANCES OF INDIVIDUALS THROUGH MONEY TRANSFER SYSTEMS, 2018-2023 (IN MILLION USD)
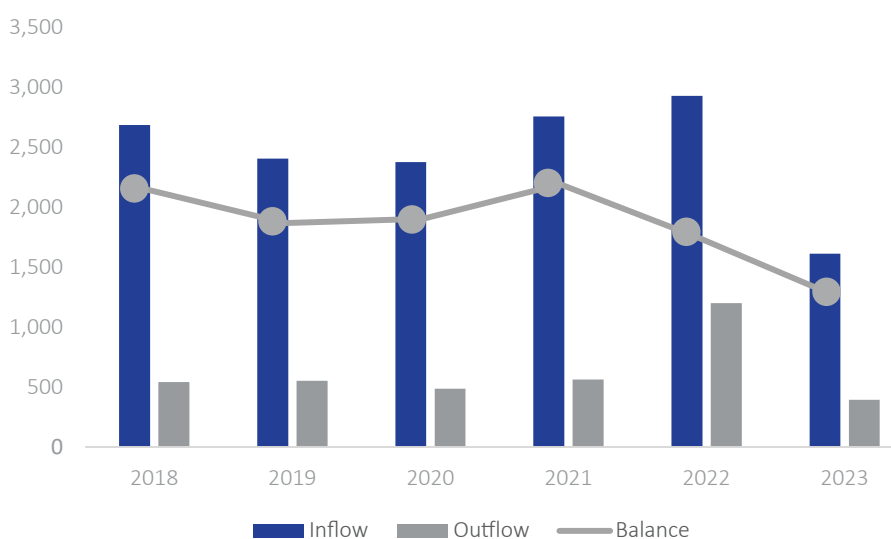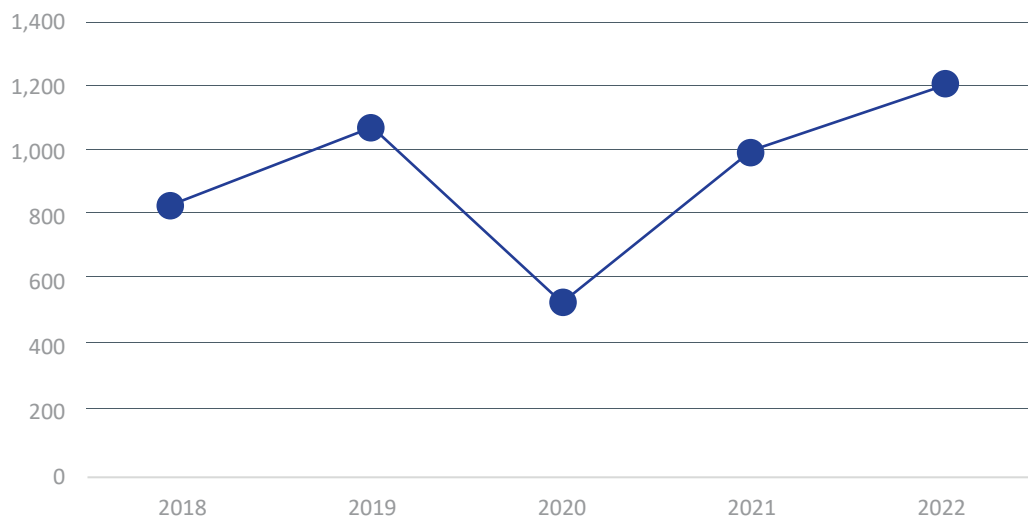

Source: NBKR 2023

Note: 2023 reports data for January - October

The NSC KR collects and reports data on direct financial investment on a quarterly and on an annual basis. The NSC KR collects data through state statistical reporting forms (No. 1-Invest (annual, quarterly) "Report on investments", No. 2-Invest (annual, monthly) "Report on the commissioning of fixed assets and the use of investments in fixed assets capital." The data on foreign direct investments include:

  – Foreign direct investment by type of activities,
  – Foreign direct investment by country (how much investment from which country)
  – Foreign direct investment by location in the invested country (how much investment to which location in Kyrgyzstan);

Kyrgyzstan is one of the countries with the highest dependence on international remittances worldwide. Remittances in Kyrgyzstan accounted for 30 per cent of GDP and the country ranked third in the world in terms of the volume of remittances as the share of GDP (ADB, 2022).

FIGURE 15: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS, 2018-2022, (THOUSANDS USD)

The volume of foreign direct investment (excluding outflows) in 2022 amounted to 1,202.6 million US dollars, which is 19.5 percent higher than in 2021 and 1.4 times higher than in 2018 (Figure 15). The foreign direct investment (88.5%) was invested into mining enterprises, manufacturing, financial intermediation and insurance, as well as wholesale and retail trade (58.3% in 2021, 65.3 percent- in 2018) (NSC KR, 2023d).

9. DATA GAPS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Overall, there is a complex data collection system in place that covers several thematic areas on migration. However, there are also several gaps in data collection and reporting. We believe that it's key to ensure systematic data collection, monitoring, and evaluation throughout the migration life cycle to better understand migration dynamics. In 2021, the Government of Kyrgyzstan approved a new concept of migration policy 2020-2030 that aimed at improving overall migration management. The Kyrgyz Government also developed an action plan to implement this migration policy and one of the indicators listed in the action plan is to improve data collection on migrants. There is a working group in place that represents different government and non-government organizations, and the working group is working on improving the data collection system on migrants. We find that filling data gaps related to migration will therefore support multiple stakeholders in better linking migration and development and proposing evidence-informed policies.

During this data mapping exercise on migration, several data gaps have been identified. The major data gaps include missing comprehensive stock data on migrants, some of the existing data not being digitalized and not publicly available. Several thematic areas do not present systematic, quantitative statistics (including undocumented migrants, and internally displaced persons), missing data on refugees from Kyrgyzstan at government level, and missing comprehensive data on IDPs.

One of the data gaps is the missing comprehensive stock data. For example, the Government of Kyrgyzstan doesn't not separately report on stock data of immigrants. During the development of this report, the following type of stock data on immigrants were not found from government agencies: stock number of immigrants by gender, location in Kyrgyzstan, origin in home country, age, employment status (such as employed, unemployed, students, retired, etc.), and education level. Stock numbers of emigrants are collected by consular offices and embassies of Kyrgyzstan abroad, but the data is not disaggregated by social profile of emigrants.

Another gap is that not all available data is publicly accessible. Some data can be obtained only through formal request from relevant government agencies. For example, there is detailed data available at NSC KR on external and internal migrants including data disaggregation by education, marital status, immigrants' origin of home country and by location in host country, migration by purpose, ethnicity, and many other details. However, these data are not publicly available. Most of these data is not translated in English, but are mostly in Russian and Kyrgyz.

There is no systematic data collection in place on certain thematic areas, including undocumented migrants and internal displacement. Data that exists is mostly in qualitative form and presents qualitative evidence on these types of migrants. During the data mapping, no data was found at government agencies such as NSC KR and MoLSSM KR on refugees from Kyrgyzstan.

One of the major gaps, perhaps, relates to agencies using different definitions for the same set of migrants. This diversity poses challenges to compare numbers and to gauge the reality on the ground. For instance, surveys demonstrate that majority of internal migrants move within the country without any registration upon arrival although the Law requires registration of internal migrant.

There are various data collection systems is in place in various government organizations. However, a few steps can be undertaken to further improve migration data collection and address data gaps highlighted in this section of the report. Future research may make efforts to further explore stock data in most of the migration thematic areas. Are there raw data that can be processed, analyzed and reported on migration stock? What are the challenges and opportunities to make existing data publicly available in several languages?

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