TAJIKISTAN

BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT (BMA) ROUND 3 - APRIL 2024

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX (MTM)







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Disclaimer

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ABOUT MTM

The Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system that tracks and monitors population mobility. MTM is adapted to the context in Tajikistan based on IOM's Global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology¹. DTM is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile population groups, whether on site or en route. MTM completed its first round of the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) data collection in January 2023, the second round of BMA in August 2023 and the third round in April 2024. MTM enables IOM and its partners to maximize resources, set priorities, and deliver better-targeted, evidence based, mobility-sensitive and sustainable humanitarian and development programming.

METHODOLOGY

DTM implements the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) in Tajikistan to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, geographic distribution of migrant workers and return migrants, reasons for migration and countries of return. Data is collected at the village level from key informants and direct observations.

When DTM assesses a district, enumerators collect data through two rounds of two-layered assessments:

- 1. District-level assessment (B1): It aims to identify villages with high inflows and outflows of Tajik nationals and provide estimated numbers of each target population category.
- 2. Village-level assessment (B2): Based on the results of B1, this assessment collects information on inflows and outflows of each target population category at each village, identified through B1. Additional villages are also identified and assessed, based on referrals from key informants.

FIVE TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA), MTM tracks the locations and population sizes of five core target population categories²:

T	International Migrant Workers	Foreign nationals who have moved to Tajikistan for the purpose of employment.
2	Return Migrants	Tajik nationals who have returned to Tajikistan after spending at least 3 months abroad.
3	Emigrants	Tajik nationals who have crossed international borders and currently reside as migrants abroad.
4	Internal Migrant	Residents of other locations in Tajikistan currently residing as internal migrants in the assessed communities.
5	Internal Emigrant	Tajik nationals from an assessed community who moved as an internal migrant to another

location within Tajikistan.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS



5 Provinces 12 districts 935 communities assessed



3,459 key informants interviewed



3,133 internal migrants



271,059 emigrants



299,834 return migrants



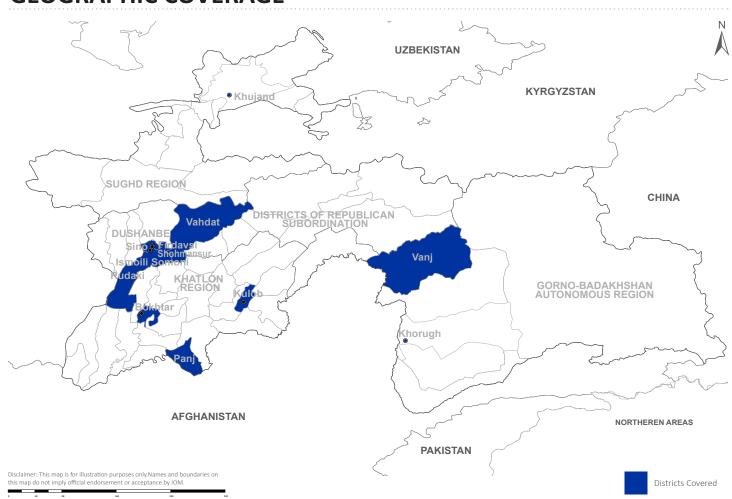
4,010 international migrant workers



261,619 emigrants moved to the Russian Federation

The Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) was conducted in all five provinces and all 12 districts/cities of Tajikistan (including Ismoili Somoni, Sino, Firdawsi, Shohmansur districts of Dushanbe city, Vahdat city, Rudaki district of Districts of Central Subordination, Khujand city of Sughd region, Bokhtar, Kulob cities and Panj district of Khatlon region, Khorugh city and Vanj district of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). This assessment covered 935 communities through interviews with 3,459 key informants. Based on the key informants' estimates, 4,010 international migrant workers were hosted in the assessed communities in Tajikistan during 2020 and April 2024. Concurrently, 3,133 internal migrants were hosted in the assessed communities and 271,059 Tajik nationals were reported to be residing abroad as international migrants. In addition, 299,834 return migrants have returned from abroad.

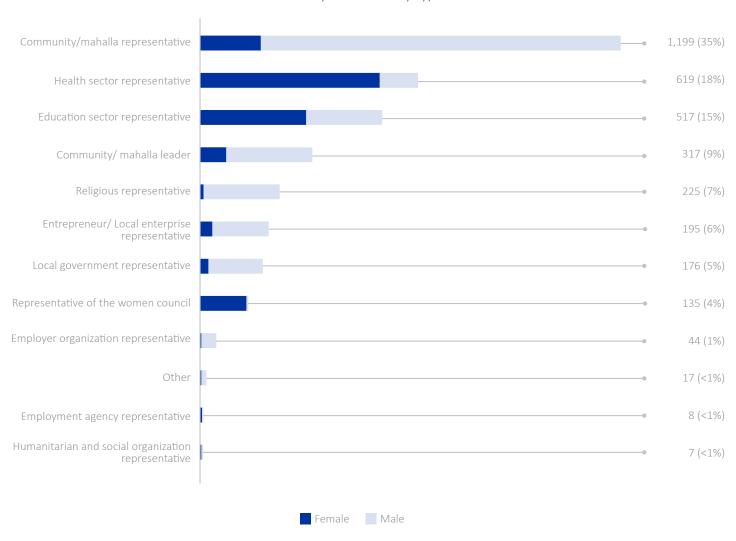
GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



KEY INFORMANTS (KI)

Field enumerators collect data at the settlement level, predominantly through discussions with community key informants. Key informants were representatives from the community who had been referred by the members of the community who could give information concerning internal and international mobility in each community. In round three of the data collection, 64 per cent of the key informants were males and 36 per cent were females.

Number of Key Informants by Type and Sex



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY



DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

RUSSIAN FEDERATION 2,731 AFGHANISTAN 714 CHINA 313 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA) THE REPUBLIC OF 23

During the third round of data collection, MTM key informants from only 37 communities (4% of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of international migrant workers in their communities.

Key informants confirmed presence of 4,010 international migrant workers from 12 different countries in their communities. However, the vast majority (98%) of the migrant workers were of only five nationalities. After Russian Federation, Afghan nationals accounted for the second highest number of migrant workers in the assessed communities.

Chinese nationals accounted for the third highest number of international migrant workers in Tajikistan. This is most likely due to the Bilateral Investment Treaties³ between China and Tajikistan, which allows Chinese companies to set up various projects on Tajik soil using their own labour force.

TYPE AND REASON OF MIGRATION

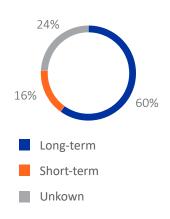
MOLDOVA

According to community key informants, the main reasons migrants move to Tajikistan in 2023 varied significantly, with access to better working conditions topping the list. The most common type of migration was long-term, followed by unknown reasons.

In exploring the type of migration the highest proportion was recorded as long-term migration (more than 6 months) (60%), followed by unknown (24%), and short term migration (16%).

As presented in the following page, the primary drivers of migration revealed a nuanced landscape of motivations. When asked to rate the importance of the factors in regards to choosing Tajikistan as a destination for labour migration, access to better working conditions was ranked as important. Geographical proximity of Tajikistan and better living conditions in Tajikistan were ranked as slightly important reasons. The rest of the reasons were ranked as either unimportant or very unimportant.

Type of Migration



DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Ranking of factors in entering Tajikistan for migrant workers in 2023 (score)

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important



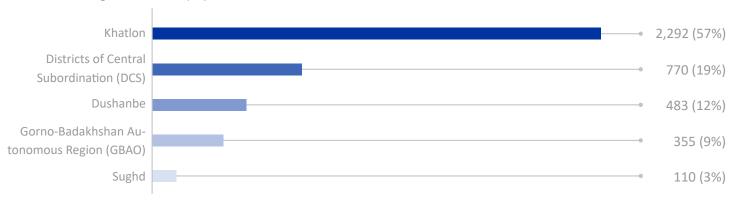
1.9

Financial problems/ debts

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

Geographically, the distribution of international migrant workers was notably concentrated in Khatlon region, which hosted 57 per cent of the total migrant worker population in the assessed communities. Districts of Central Subordination of Tajikistan followed with 19 per cent, Dushanbe city with 12 per cent, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region with 9 per cent, and Sughd region with 3 per cent. Delving into district-level specifics, a striking 86 per cent of migrant workers in the assessed communities were concentrated in just three districts. Foremost among these was the Panj district, situated in the Khatlon province which accounted for 56 per cent of the total. This was trailed by Rudaki district (19%) in Districts of Central Subordination and Shohmansur city (11%) in Dushanbe. This concentration of migrant workers in specific districts underscores the localized nature of migration patterns, offering valuable insights for targeted interventions and policy considerations.

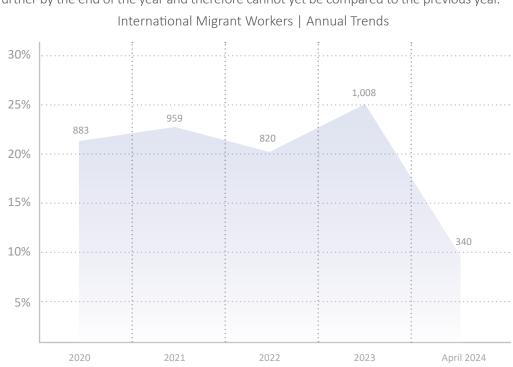
International Migrant Workers | By Province of Arrival



International Migrant Workers | Annual Trends

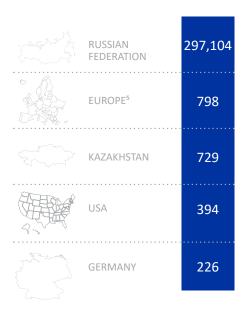
As per the estimations provided by MTM key informants, the aggregate number of migrant workers shows an increase of 8 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. However, the trajectory of labour migration in Tajikistan reveals a subtle downturn, showing a decline of 17 per cent in 2022. It shows an increase of 19 per cent in 2023. The data for 2024, which includes figures up to April is expected to rise further by the end of the year and therefore cannot yet be compared to the previous year.

According to the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)⁴, international migrant workers in Tajikistan are primarily involved in endeavours associated with the construction of hydroelectric plants, infrastructure projects, entrepreneurship, trade, and services. Nonetheless, a more comprehensive research effort is warranted to uncover the intricacies of the various sectors in which international migrant workers participate in Tajikistan.



DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF RETURN



During the third round of BMA data collection, MTM key informants from 862 communities (92% of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of return migrants in their communities.

Key informants confirmed the presence of 299,834 return migrants from 20 different countries in the assessed communities. Notably, a substantial majority of these return migrants had returned from the Russian Federation, comprising 99 per cent of the total. Return from Europe was mentioned as the second highest destination of return.

This concentration underscores the prevailing trend of return migration predominantly from the Russian Federation as the key host country, providing valuable insights into the dynamics of migration patterns within the assessed communities.

Kazakhstan was the third highest country of return with 729 return migrants, USA was the fourth largest, with 394 migrants and Germany was the fifth largest, with 226 return migrants.

Reasons for Return Since 2023

When asked to rank the importance of various reasons for return to Tajikistan, on a scale from 0 ("not applicable") to 5 ("very important"), the expiration or high cost of work permits emerged as the most significant reason, with an average ranking of 4.4. Close behind, the completion of work contracts or duties in the destination country was ranked as the second most important reason, with an average score of 4.3. Deportation was the third most important reason, scoring 3.7 out of 5.

Family matters (such as family reunification and marriage) and the depreciation of the destination country's currency (mainly the Russian rouble) were considered slightly important, with average scores of 3.4 and 3.2, respectively. Other reasons, including returning to find better job opportunities in Tajikistan, economic sanctions in the Russian Federation, and the conflict and general security situation in the destination country, each received an average ranking of 2.9.

Partial mobilization in the Russian Federation (2.8), low income in the country of return (2.7), financial problems or debts (2.7), lack of economic opportunities in the country of return (2.7), and human rights violations (2.5) were also noted as reasons, albeit with slightly lower importance.

The remaining factors, including returning due to tuberculosis infection, general health issues, and natural disasters or climate change, were generally ranked as unimportant or very unimportant.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS

Ranking of factors in returning to Tajikistan Since 2023 (score)

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important



situation abroad

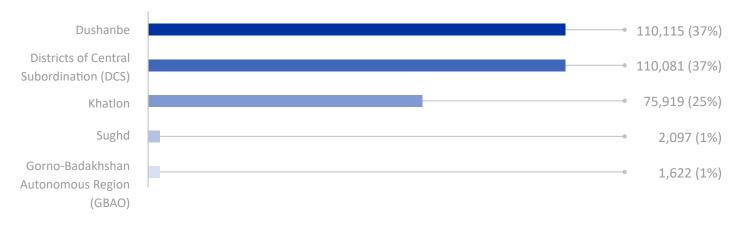
change abroad

RETURN MIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

Almost two in three return migrants from the assessed communities returned to only two provinces: Dushanbe and the Districts of Central Subordination of Tajikistan (37%). This is followed by Khalton province (25%), Sughd (1%) and Gorno-Badakhshan (1%) regions.

Almost three in four migrants returned to the assessed communities in only three districts: 44 per cent of the migrants returned to Rudaki district located in districts of Central Subordination, 17 per cent returned to Panj district located in Khatlon province and 11 per cent returned to Kulab city also located in Khatlon province.

Return Migrants | By Province Of Arrival

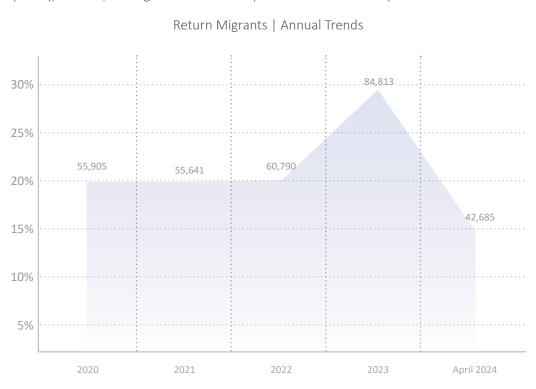


Return Migrants | Annual Trends

Based on MTM key informants' estimates the overall number of return migrants stayed almost the same in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. Subsequently, in 2022, a marginal increase of 9 per cent recorded compared to 2021.

In 2023, the trend took a noteworthy upturn, experiencing a 40 per cent increase compared to the previous year. This surge could be in part attributed to the sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation and heightened concerns on the spread of the war in Ukraine within the region.

The data for 2024, which includes figures up to April is expected to rise further by the end of the year and therefore cannot yet be compared to the previous year.



DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF MIGRATION

RUSSIAN FEDERATION	261,619
KAZAKHSTAN	2,059
EUROPE ⁶	1,526
USA	1,227
GERMANY	1,109

During the third round of BMA data collection, MTM key informants from 773 communities (83 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the existence of Tajik nationals who have left their communities and currently live abroad as emigrants.

Key informants indicated that 271,059 Tajik nationals from the assessed communities have migrated to more than 25 different countries. Remarkably, the pre-eminent destinations for these emigrants were overwhelmingly the Russian Federation, drawing 97 per cent of the migrant population, followed by Kazakhstan at 1 per cent.

The prominence of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan as primary destinations for both emigration and return among Tajik nationals indicates the dynamic and reciprocal nature of migration patterns between Tajikistan and these key host nations. This juxtaposition emphasizes the intricate interplay of economic, social, and geopolitical factors influencing migration dynamics within the Tajik population.

Reasons for Emigration Since 2023

When asked to rank the importance of various reasons for emigration from Tajikistan, on a scale from 0 ("not applicable") to 5 ("very important"), low income and lack of economic opportunities in Tajikistan emerged as the first and second most significant reasons, with an average ranking of 4.2 each. Close behind, looking for (better) job opportunities and better living conditions in the destination country were ranked as the third and fourth most important reasons, with an average score of 3.8 each.

Financial problems/ debts in Tajikistan and obtaining a work contract or duties in the destination country were considered slightly important, with average scores of 3.3 and 3.2 respectively. Other reasons, including family matters (joining with family elsewhere, marriage, etc) and general economic situation/ depreciation of currency in Tajikistan, each received an average ranking of 2.7.

The remaining factors, including emigration due to education, seeking medical treatment, economic sanctions (Russian Federation), conflict and general security situation, natural disasters/ climate change, and human rights violations in Tajikistan, were generally ranked as unimportant or very unimportant.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS

Ranking of factors in migration from Tajikistan Since 2023 (score)

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important



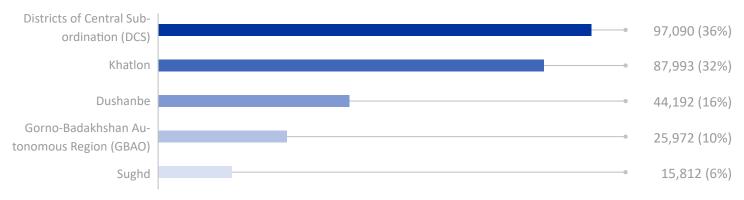
elsewhere, marriage, etc)

home country

EMIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

More than two in three of all the emigrants from the assessed communities are from the Districts of Central Subordination of Tajikistan (36%) and Khatlon region (32%). The third highest number of emigrants (16%) are from Dushanbe province, followed by Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (10%). Only six per cent of the emigrants are from Sughd province. Almost one third of all the emigrants are from Rudaki district located in Districts of Central Subordination. The second highest number of emigrants are from Panj district (12%) located in Khatlon province and the third highest number of emigrants are from Sino district (12%) located in Dushanbe.

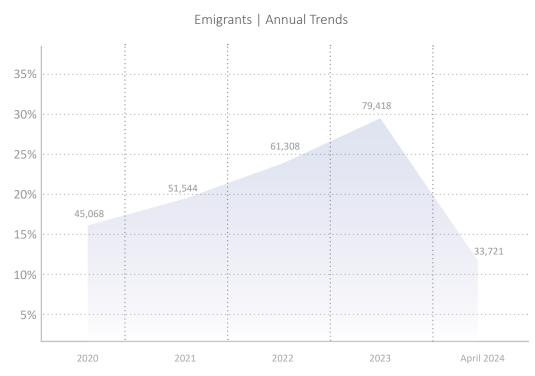
Emigrants | By Province of Arrival



Emigrants | Annual Trends

According to estimates from MTM key informants, the overall number of emigrants experienced a significant increase of 14 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. Following this pronounced increase, there was an increase of 19 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021, and a subsequent rise of 30 per cent in 2023. The data for 2024, which includes figures up to April is expected to rise further by the end of the year and therefore cannot yet be compared to the previous year.

The fluctuation in emigrant numbers over the observed vears underscores the complexity of migration dvnamics. While provided data offers valuable insights, there remains a need for more in-depth research to comprehensively understand the underlying reasons behind these fluctuations. Conducting additional research would enable a nuanced exploration of economic, social, and geopolitical factors that contribute to the varying trends in emigration, facilitating more informed policy decisions and interventions.



INTERNAL MOBILITY



INTERNAL MIGRANTS

During the third round of data collection, MTM key informants from 135 communities (14 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of internal migrants in their communities.

Key informants indicated that 3,133 Tajik nationals have internally migrated in the assessed communities. Eighty four per cent of the internal migrants had migrated within the same district.

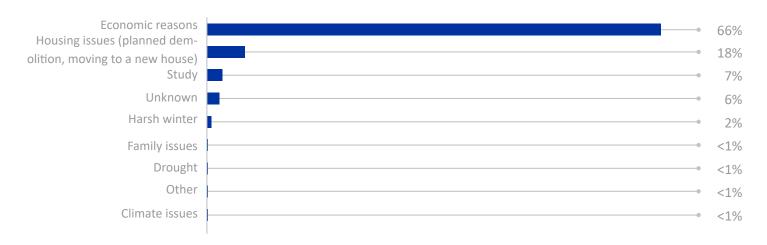
Thirty-five per cent of the internal migrants had moved to Districts of Central Subordination, followed by Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (25%), Khatlon region (21%), Dushanbe city (18%), and Sughd region (0.4%).

Moreover, the highest numbers of internal migrants from the assessed communities were reported in Khorugh city (25%) located in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, followed by Rudaki district (25%) located in Districts of Central Subordination, and Bokhtar city (18%) located in Khatlon region.

Reasons for Migration

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top first reason for internal migration was mentioned as economic reasons/job/labour (66%). Eighteen per cent had housing issues including planned demolition of buildings⁷ and moving to new/bigger houses (18%). However, seven per cent of the reasons for migration were study and six per cent were unkown reasons. This was followed by harsh winter (2%), family issues (0.4%), drought (0.3%), other (0.3%) and climate issues (0.2%).

Reasons for Migration



INTERNAL EMIGRANTS

During the third round of data collection, MTM key informants from 167 communities (18 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of internal emigrants in their communities.

Key informants indicated that 7,605 Tajik nationals migrated internally from the assessed communities. Over one in two internal migrants (62%) migrated within the same district.

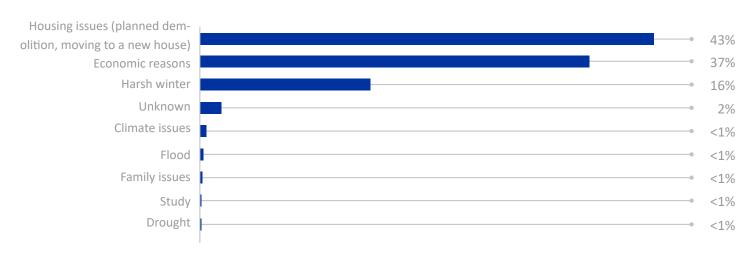
Over one in two internal migrants (56%) had moved from Dushanbe city, followed by Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (20%), followed by District of Central Subordination (13%), and Khatlon (10%) and Sughd (1%) regions.

Moreover, the top three districts of internal migrants were Firdavsi (19%) located in Dushanbe city, followed by Khorugh city (13%) located in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, and Ismoili Somoni district (13%) also located in Dushanbe city.

Reasons for Emigration

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top first reason for migration out of the assessed communities was mentioned as housing issues including planned demolition of buildings⁸ and moving to new/bigger houses (43%), followed by economic reasons/job/labour (37%) and harsh winter (16%). However, two per cent of the reasons for migration were unknown. The rest of reasons for migration out of the assessed villages were mentioned as climate issues (0.6%), flood (0.3%), family issues (0.2%), study (0.1%) and drought (0.1%).

Reasons for Migration



ACCESS TO SERVICES, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

ACCESS TO SERVICES

In the third round of data collection, MTM enumerators interviewed key informants regarding the presence of essential services in their respective communities. The findings revealed significant gaps in infrastructure: 48 per cent of communities lacked clinics, 91 per cent lacked hospitals, only 6 per cent had tuberculosis (TB) Health Centers, 76 per cent were without markets, 4 per cent lacked access to safe drinking water sources, 21 per cent were without schools, 6 per cent had no access to mobile internet within their communities, and 73 per cent did not have access to Banks, ATM or Post offices in thier communities.

Availability of Services within the Community					
Services	Yes	No			
Clinic	52%	48%			
Hospital	9%	91%			
TB Health Center	7%	93%			
Internet	94%	6%			
Market	24%	76%			
Drinking Water	96%	4%			
School	79%	21%			
Bank, ATM, Post Office	27%	73%			

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES BY DISTANCE

Key informants were asked to provide the travel distance to the nearest facility of services if they were unavailable within the communities. Based on key informant estimates, in 48 per cent of the communities that did not have clinics, over 7,500 families had to travel for more than five kilometres to access health clinics elsewhere. In the majority (91%) of the communities that did not have hospitals, over 3,000 families have to travel for more than 25 kilometres to access hospitals elsewhere. In 76 per cent of communities that do not have markets, over 25,000 families have to travel for more than 10 kilometres to access nearest market. In the 4 per cent of communities that do not have sources of safe drinking water, over 4,000 families have to travel for three kilometres or more to access safe drinking water. In 21 per cent of the communities that do not have schools, more than 13,000 families did not have access to education facilities in less than 3 kilometer distance. In 6 per cent of the communities that did not have mobile internet, over 3,000 families have to travel more than 5 kilometres to access mobile internet. In 73 per cent of the communities that did not have bank, ATM or a post office, over 4,000 families have to travel 15 kilometres or more to access a bank, ATM or a post office.

DISTANCE TO NEAREST FACILITY AMONG COMMUNITIES WITHOUT FACILITIES.

Travel Distance	Clinic	明日 Hospital	TB Center	Internet	Market	Safe Drinking Water	School	Bank, ATM, Post
			Numb	er of Hous	eholds (HHs	s)		
0-5 KM	105,959	139,192	75,056	8,101	115,458	6,597	43,265	111,062
6-10 KM	6,309	73,654	97,878	3,059	58,512	500	357	43,501
11-15 KM	781	17,497	25,548	603	16,201	0	0	4,387
16-20 KM	305	3,875	19,411	0	3,375	0	0	1,342
21-25 KM	157	2,478	20,742	0	2,928	0	0	750
Over 25 KM	211	3,085	23,968	0	3,474	0	0	541
Total Households	113,722	239,781	262,603	11,763	199,948	7,097	43,622	161,583

HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

Key informants from the health sector were asked to provide information about vulnerabilities and critical diseases. According to their estimates, 13,358 confirmed and active cases of untreated disabilities were registered. Additionally, 6,385 cases of respiratory diseases were documented in the three months prior to the assessment. Mental health issues were also significant, with 1,904 active cases. During the same three-month period, 1,487 cases of skin diseases were registered. Tuberculosis (TB) was prevalent as well, with 1,029 active cases identified during the assessment.

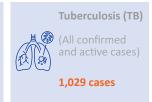
ACTIVE CASES OF DISEASES/ VULNERABILITIES











ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

Tajikistan is highly susceptible to natural disasters. According to key informants, the most frequently recorded natural disaster in 2023 was landslides/mudflows, with 71 incidents affecting 33 households. This was followed by floods, with 69 incidents impacting 28 households. Extreme cold weather and snowstorms accounted for 3 incidents, affecting less than one percent of households. Avalanches were recorded 5 times, affecting 58 households, while droughts occurred 2 times, impacting 65 households. Earthquakes, with 9 incidents, affected 30 households, and extreme rain/wind, with 6 incidents, affected 21 households.

NATURAL DISASTER INCIDENTS DURING 2023

		Number of Incidents	Percentage of HHs Affected
* T	Drought	2	65%
PEA.	Avalanches	5	58%
<u> Ea</u>	Landslide/ Mudflows	71	33%
7,00	Earthquake	9	30%
	Floods	69	28%
	Extreme rain/ wind	6	
	Extreme cold weather/ storm	3	<1%

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

When asked about the impacts of the natural disaster incidents described on the previous page, key informants identified the loss of assets as the most significant challenge, giving it an average rank of 3.2 out of 5. This was followed by the loss of agricultural food production (3.0), shortage of water for agricultural needs (2.9), economic losses (2.9), and housing damage (2.8). Other notable challenges included the outbreak of diseases (2.7), shortage of safe drinking water (2.7), crop failure (2.4), loss of livestock (2.2), food shortage (2.2), livestock diseases (2.2), and school disruptions lasting one month or more (2.1). Increased migration from the village (1.7), heightened village-level conflict (0.8), and increased household-level tensions (0.8) were also mentioned, albeit with lower rankings.

Ranking of natural disaster Impacts in 2023 (score)

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

	3.2 Loss of assets	Loss of livestock
	Loss of agricultural food production	2.2 Food shortage
(Same of the second of the sec	Shortage of water for agricultural needs	Livestock diseases
	Economic losses (livelihood disruptions)	Children had to stop schooling (for 1 month or more)
	Housing damage/ loss of housing	Increased migration/ departure from the village
	Disease outbreak (human)/ health issues	Increased conflict/ violence in the village
	Shortage of safe drinking water	Increased household tensions/violence
	2.4 Crop failure/ diseases	





