# TAJIKISTAN

# BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT (BMA) ROUND 4 - MAY 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) methodology<sup>1</sup>. 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, the third round in April 2024 and the fourth round in May 2024<sup>2</sup>. 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 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 community (Deha, Mahalla)<sup>3</sup> 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 BMA, MTM tracks the locations and population sizes of five core target population categories<sup>4</sup>:

	International	Foreign nationals who have moved to Tajikistan for the purpose of employment.
	Migrant Workers	
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 Taiikistan.

<sup>1.</sup> DTM Methodological framework. Retrieved from: https://dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework

 $<sup>2.\,</sup>BMA\,round\,4\,data\,collection\,was\,conducted\,based\,on\,the\,emerging\,needs\,and\,trends\,related\,to\,return\,migration.$ 

<sup>3.&</sup>quot;Deha" means village in the rural areas varies "Mahalla" means the location at the city or urban areas.

<sup>4.</sup> IOM Glossary. Retrieved from: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml\_34\_glossary.pdf

# **SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS**



5 Provinces 12 districts 948 communities assessed



3,288 key informants interviewed



3,371 internal migrants



282,466 emigrants



334,299 return migrants



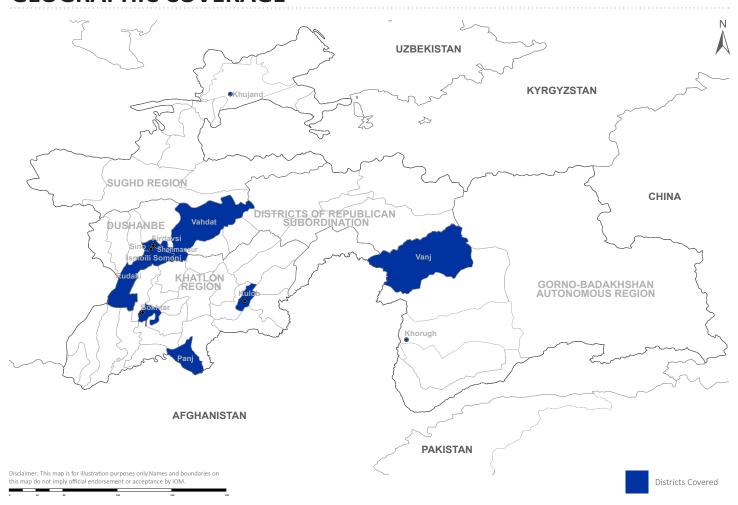
1,060 international migrant workers



274,333 emigrants moved to the Russian Federation

The BMA was conducted across all five provinces and the 12 districts/cities of Tajikistan, including Ismoili Somoni, Sino, Firdawsi, and Shohmansur districts of Dushanbe city, Vahdat city, Rudaki district of Districts of Central Subordination, Khujand city of Sughd region, Bokhtar and Kulob cities, and Panj district of Khatlon region, as well as Khorugh city and Vanj district of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). This assessment covered 948 communities through interviews with 3,288 key informants. According to the estimates provided by these key informants, 1,060 international migrant workers were residing in the assessed communities in Tajikistan between 2020 and May 2024. Simultaneously, 3,371 internal migrants were hosted in these communities, and 282,466 Tajik nationals were reported to be residing abroad as international migrants. Additionally, 334,299 migrants have returned from abroad.

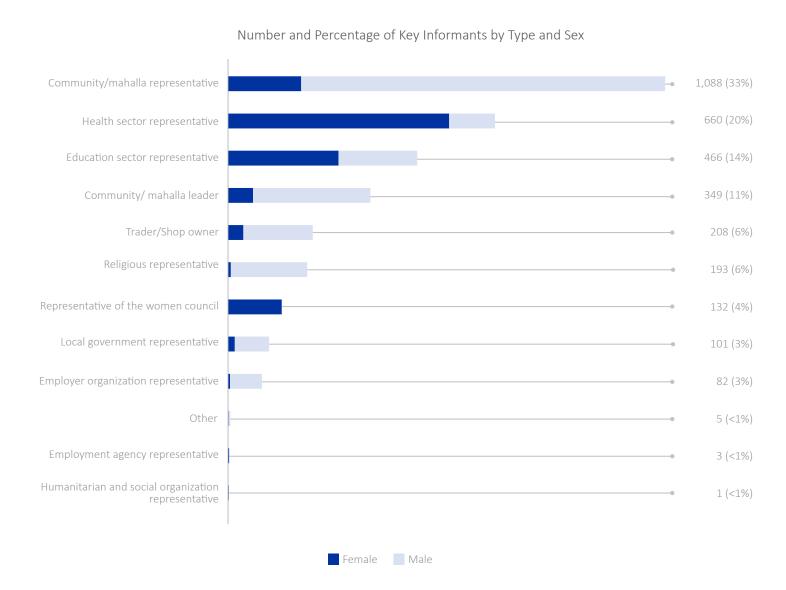
# **GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**



# **KEY INFORMANTS (KI)**

Field enumerators gather data at the settlement level, primarily through discussions with community key informants. These key informants are community representatives/member referred by other members who can provide information about internal and international mobility within each community. In the fourth round of data collection, nearly 62 per cent (2,029) of the key informants were males, while 38 per cent (1,259) were females.

During this fourth round of data collection, the majority of key informants (33%) were community representatives/ members. Health sector representatives accounted for 20 per cent, while those from the education sector were 14 per cent. Additionally, 11 per cent of the informants were community leaders, 6 per cent were trade/shop owners, and another 6 per cent were religious representatives. Informants from other categories showed less involvement such as women council representatives (4%), local government representatives (3%), and employer organization representatives (3%).



# **INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY**



## **DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS**

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES					
	AFGHANISTAN	641			
	CHINA	227			
	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)	86			
Type The second	UZBEKISTAN	30			
	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	28			

During the fourth round of data collection, MTM key informants from only 28 communities (3% of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of international migrant workers.

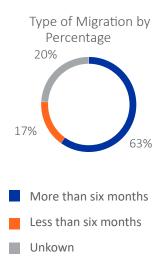
Key informants reported 1,060 international migrant workers from 10 different countries within their communities, with the majority (63%) residing in the Districts of Central Subordination. However, 95 per cent of these migrant workers were from only five countries: Afghanistan, China, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, and the Russian Federation. Round three (April 2024) data collection revealed that the number of international migrant workers from Russian Federation had the highest number reaching 2,731. However, this number significantly dropped to 28 in the fourth round (May2024), ranking in fifth.

Overall, the number of international migrant workers decreased by 73.6 per cent in the fourth round of data collection. This sudden decrease, especially from the Russian Federation, can be related to the increased security and safety reasons connected with terrorist attack occurred at Crocus Hall<sup>5</sup> in the Russian Federation in March 2024, involving Tajik citizens affiliated with the Islamic State-Khorasan group.

#### TYPE AND REASON OF MIGRATION

In examining the types of migration, more than six months accounted for the highest proportion at 63 per cent, followed by unknown at 20 per cent, and less than six months migration at 17 per cent.

As shown on the following page, the primary drivers of migration presented a nuanced landscape of motivations. Access to better working conditions was listed as the most important reason for migrants' choice to travel to Tajikistan by the key informants. Better living conditions and ease of access to Tajikistan were rated as slightly important reasons. Other reasons such as conflict and general security in home-country, lack of economic oportunities, low income in home-country were rated at lower than the slightly important closer to unimportant. Financial problems/debt, family matters, economic sanctions (Russian Federation), human rights violation, natural disasters/climate change, partial mobilization of the Russian Federation and health issues were rated as either unimportant or very unimportant.



# **DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS**

#### Importance of factors in entering Tajikistan for migrant workers in 2023 by ranking

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



2.0

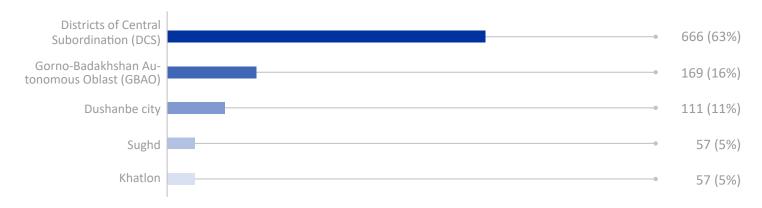
Financial problems/ debts

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

Geographically, the distribution of international migrant workers showed a significant concentration in the Districts of Central Subordination (DCS), where 63 per cent of the total migrant worker population resided within the assessed communities. Following this, the Districts of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBAO) accounted for 16 per cent, Dushanbe city for 10 per cent, Sughd region for 5 per cent, and Khatlon region for another 5 per cent.

At the district level, a remarkable 89 per cent of migrant workers in the assessed communities were found in just three districts. Leading this concentration was the Rudaki district in the Districts of Central Subordination, which alone accounted for 52 per cent of the total. Khorugh city in Gorno-Badakhshan followed with 14 per cent, and Vahdat city, also in the Districts of Central Subordination, contributed 10 per cent. This heavy concentration of migrant workers in specific districts highlights the localized nature of migration patterns and offers valuable insights for targeted interventions.

Number and Percentage of International Migrant Workers from 2020 - May 2024 | By Province of Arrival



## **International Migrant Workers | Annual Trends**

The total number of migrant workers increased by 48 per cent in 2021 compared to the previous year. However, the trend of labour

migration in Tajikistan took a slight downturn, with a 17 per cent decline in 2022. In 2023, there was a resurgence, with numbers rising by 47 per cent. The data for 2024, which includes figures up to May, is expected to continue increasing by the year's end and thus cannot yet be compared to the previous year.



## **DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS**

#### **TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF RETURN**

Contract of the second	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	331,360
	KAZAKHSTAN	1,077
	EUROPE <sup>6</sup>	578
Q.	USA	345
	GERMANY	210

MTM key informants confirmed the presence of return migrants in 898 communities (covering 95% of the assessed areas).

Key informants reported 334,299 return migrants from more than 18 different countries within the assessed communities. Notably, an overwhelming majority of these return migrants had returned from the Russian Federation, comprising 99.1 per cent of the total. Kazakhstan was identified as the second highest country of return migration for this round of data collection, differing from previous rounds where Europe was more prominent.

This concentration highlights the dominant trend of return migration from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan as the key host countries, offering valuable insights into the dynamics of migration patterns within the assessed communities.

Europe was the third highest destination for return with 578 return migrants, followed by USA with 345 return migrants, and Germany with 210 return migrants.

#### **Reasons for Return Since 2023**

When asked to rank the importance of reasons for returning 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 4.5. 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 4.2. Deportation was the third most important reason, scoring 3.9 out of 5.

Conflict and the general security situation abroad, family matters (such as family reunification and marriage), and human rights violations abroad were considered slightly important, with average scores of 3.3, 3.1, and 3 respectively. Other reasons, including the depreciation of the destination country's currency (mainly the Russian rouble), finding better job opportunities in Tajikistan, economic sanctions in the Russian Federation, and partial mobilization in the Russian Federation each received an average ranking of 2.9. Low income in the country of return (2.8), lack of economic opportunities in the country of return (2.7), and financial problems and debts (2.4) were also noted as reasons, albeit with slightly lower importance.

The remaining factors, including health conditions (1.6), health conditions related to mental health or disability (1.7), natural disasters and climate change (1.5), were generally ranked as unimportant or very unimportant.

Factors such as deportation (3.7), conflict and general security issues (2.9), and human rights violations (2.9) show increase compared to the previous round of data collection reaching 3.9, 3.3 and 3.

# **DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS**

### Importance of factors in returning to Tajikistan Since 2023 by ranking

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



**Economic sanctions** 

(Russian Federation)

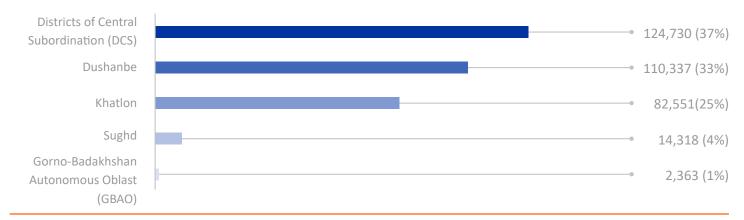
change abroad

# **RETURN MIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL**

Number of returned migrants increased compared to the previous round of data collection with 10 per cent reaching 334,299. Similarly, returned migrants from the Russian Federation also show increase of 11 per cent in the second quarter of 2024 reaching 330,282. More than two in three return migrants from the assessed communities returned to only two provinces: Districts of Central Subordination in Tajikistan (37%) and Dushanbe city (33%). This is followed by Khatlon province (25%), Sughd region (4%), and Gorno-Badakhshan (1%) regions. Nearly two in three migrants returned to the assessed communities in just three districts: 27 per cent returned to Rudaki district in the Districts of Central Subordination, 22 per cent to Shohmansur district in Dushanbe province, and 16 per cent to Panj district in Khatlon province.

There were 9,424 migrant workers who returned to Tajikistan after the tragic incident<sup>6</sup> happened at Crocus City Hall in the Russian Federation. The majority (51%) returned to Khatlon, followed by Dushanbe city (18%) and the Districts of Central Subordination (17%). Fourty-seven per cent returned to Kulob city in the Khatlon region.

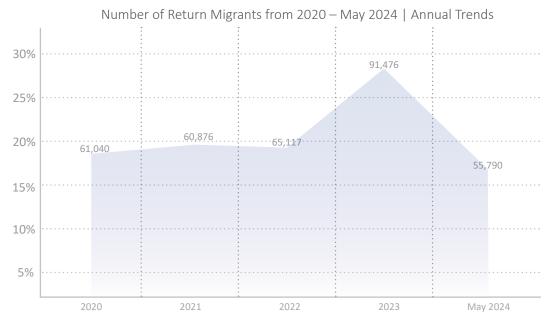
Number of Percentage of Return Migrants from 2020 - May 2024 | By Province Of Arrival



#### **Return Migrants | Annual Trends**

According to the findings, overall number of return migrants stayed almost the same in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. Subsequently, in 2022, a marginal increase of 7 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.

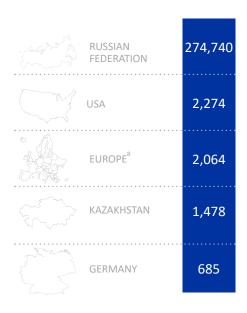
This is potentially connected to the sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation and heightened concerns on the spread of the war in Ukraine within the region. With rules and regulations further tightened in Russian Federation<sup>7</sup>, increased concerns with security and safety amongst migrant workers, we anticipate that the annual rate of return migration could exceed 40 per cent by the end of the year.



<sup>7.</sup> On 22 March 2024, a coordinated attack against civilians occurred at the Crocus City Hall music venue in Crocus City, Krasnogorsk, Moscow Oblast, Russia <a href="https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/03/27/number-of-wounded-in-crocus-city-hall-attack-rises-to-360-a84642">https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/03/27/number-of-wounded-in-crocus-city-hall-attack-rises-to-360-a84642</a>

# **DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS**

#### **TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF MIGRATION**



MTM key informants from 742 communities (78 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 282,466 Tajik nationals from the assessed communities have migrated to more than 25 different countries. The pre-eminent destinations for these emigrants were the Russian Federation, drawing 97 per cent of the migrant population, followed by the USA at 1 per cent, Europe at 1 per cent and Kazakhstan at 1 per cent. Other countries of destination showed less than one per cent on the emigration.

#### **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 4.3 each. 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 3.9 and 3.8 respectfully.

Financial problems/debts in Tajikistan and obtaining a work contract or duties in the destination country were considered slightly important, with average scores of 3.6 each. Economic situation/ depreciation of currency in Tajikistan, including family matters (joining with family elsewhere, marriage, etc) each received an average ranking of 2.8 and to seek medical treatment /health, and education reasons scored at 2.6 each.

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

# **DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS**

### Importance of factors in migration from Tajikistan Since 2023 by ranking

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



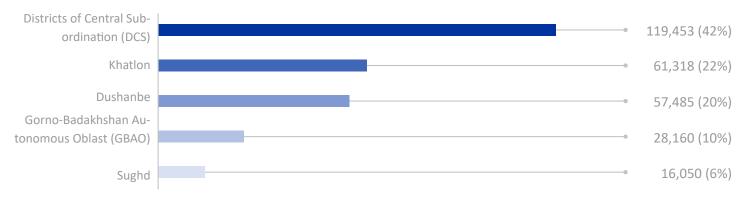
elsewhere, marriage, etc)

situation in home country

# **EMIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE**

Almost two in three of all the emigrants from the assessed communities were from the Districts of Central Subordination of Tajikistan (42%) and Khatlon region (22%). The third highest number of emigrants (20%) are from Dushanbe province, followed by Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (10%). Only six per cent of the emigrants are from Sughd province. Almost one third of all the emigrants are from Rudaki district (30%) located in District of Central Subordination (DCS). The second highest number of emigrants are from Sino district (14%) located in Dushanbe province and the third highest number of emigrants are from Vahdat city (12%) located in District of Central Subordination (DCS).

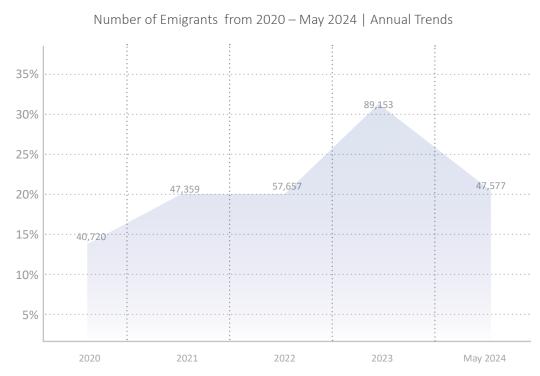
Number and Percentage of Emigrants from 2020 – May 2024 | By Province



#### **Emigrants | Annual Trends**

Overall number of emigrants experienced a significant increase of 16 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. Following this pronounced increase, there was an increase of 22 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021, and a subsequent rise of 55 per cent in 2023. The data for 2024, which includes figures up to May 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 years underscores the complexity of migration dynamics. While the provided data offers valuable insights, there remains a need for more in-depth research to comprehensively understand the underlying reasons behind these fluctuations. Conducting survey on drivers of migration (SDM) aligned with the existing Return Migrant Workers Survey (RMS) 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**

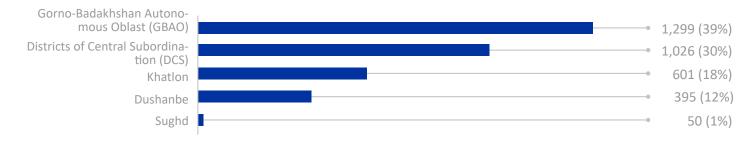
MTM key informants from 115 communities (12 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of internal migrants in their communities.

Key informants indicated that 3,371 Tajik nationals have internally migrated in the assessed communities. Seventy-eight per cent of the internal migrants had migrated within the same district.

Thirty-nine per cent of the internal migrants had moved to Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast followed by Districts of Central Subordination (30%), Khatlon region (18%), Dushanbe city (12%), and Sughd region (1.5%).

Moreover, the highest numbers of internal migrants from the assessed communities were reported in Khorugh city (38%) located in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, followed by Rudaki district (22%) located in Districts of Central Subordination, and Bokhtar city (17%) located in Khatlon region.

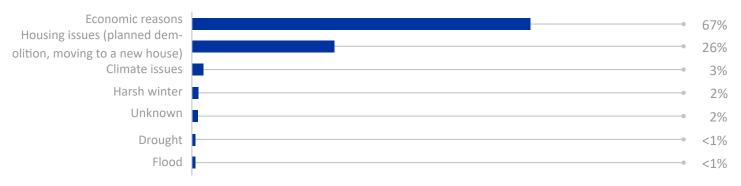
#### Number and Percentage of Internal migrants in 2023 | By Province



#### **Reasons for Migration**

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top reason for internal migration was mentioned as economic reasons (67%) which has 1 per cent difference from the previous reporting period (66%). Twenty six per cent had housing issues including planned demolition of buildings $^9$ . Climate issues showed 3 per cent, followed by harsh winter (2%), unknown (2%), drought (0.4%) and flood (0.1%).

#### Percentage of Reasons for Internal Migration in 2023



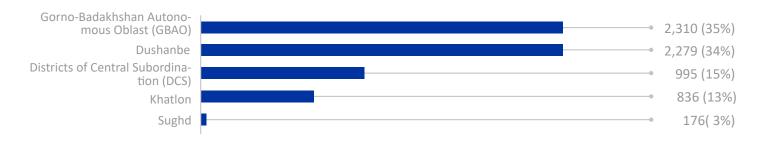
## **INTERNAL EMIGRANTS**

MTM key informants from 138 communities (14 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of internal emigrants who moved from thier communities and currently live somewhere else within Tajikistan.

Key informants indicated that 6,596 Tajik nationals emigrated internally from the assessed communities. Two in three internal migrants (67%) migrated within the same district.

Thirty five per cent of the internal emigrants moved from Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast and another 35 per cent from Dushanbe. Comparatively, District of Central Subordination (DCS) had 15 per cent, Khalton 13 per cent and Sughd 3 per cent of internal emigrants. Moreover, the top three districts of internal migrants were Khorugh city (33%) located in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, followed by Firdavsi (22%) located in Dushanbe city, and Shohmansur district (12%) located in Dushanbe city.

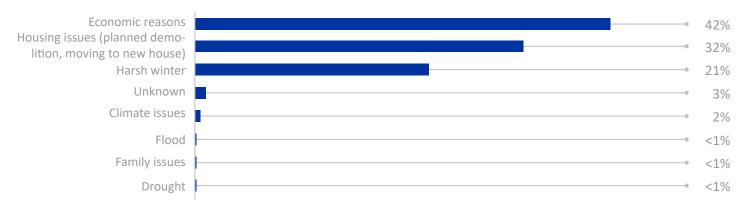
#### Number and Percentage of Internal Emigrants in 2023 | By Province



## **Reasons for Emigration**

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top three reasons for migration out of the assessed communities were economic reasons (42%), housing issues including planned demolition of buildings<sup>10</sup> (32%) and harsh winter conditions (21%). Additionally, other reasons such as unknown (3%), climate issues (1.6%), flood (0.2%), family issues (0.1%) and drought (0.1%) shows less than five per cent response.

#### Percentage of Reasons for Internal Emigration in 2023



## **ANNEX: ACCESS TO SERVICES**

MTM enumerators interviewed key informants regarding the presence of essential services in their respective communities. The findings revealed significant gaps with health services infrastructures, specifically lack of access to hospitals (92%), Tuberculosis health centers (97%) and clinics (43%). Furthermore, 77 per cent were without markets, 6 per cent lacked access to safe drinking water sources, 22 per cent were without schools, 3 per cent had no access to mobile internet within their communities, and 68 per cent did not have access to banks, ATMs or post offices in their communities.

Availability of Services within the Community (%)						
Services	Yes	No				
Clinic	57%	43%				
Hospital	8%	92%				
TB Health Center	3%	97%				
Internet	97%	3%				
Market	23%	77%				
Drinking Water	94%	6%				
School	78%	22%				
Bank, ATM, Post Office	32%	68%				

## **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 43 per cent of the communities that did not have clinics, over 4,500 (4%) families had to travel for more than five kilometres to access health clinics elsewhere. In the majority (92%) of the communities that did not have hospitals, more than 6,400 (3%) families have to travel for more than 25 kilometres to access hospitals elsewhere. In 77 per cent of communities that do not have markets, over 32,500 (15%) families have to travel for more than 10 kilometres to access nearest market. In the 6 per cent of communities that do not have sources of safe drinking water, over 5,000 (58%) families have to travel for three kilometres or more to access safe drinking water. In 22 per cent of the communities that do not have schools, over 10,000 (21%) families did not have access to education facilities in less than three kilometer distance. In 3 per cent of the communities that did not have mobile internet, over 1,500 (21%) families have to travel more than five kilometres to access mobile internet.

#### Distance to nearest facility among communities without facilities (Absolute numbers)

Travel Distance	Clinic	開開 Hospital	(B) Center	Înternet	Market	Safe Drinking Water	School	Bank, ATM, Post
	Number of Households (HHs)							
0-5 KM	98,108	122,879	74,206	6,406	129,900	5,455	47,395	112,585
6-10 KM	3,210	72,338	101,264	1,652	52,395	3,491	649	32,785
11-15 KM	1,295	20,186	47,460	0	20,990	11	11	3,582
16-20 KM	0	20,764	25,547	0	5,175	0	0	822
21-25 KM	0	2,647	13,204	84	2,462	0	67	671
Over 25 KM	0	6,406	17,301	0	3,954	0	0	505
Total Households	102,613	245,220	278,982	8,142	214,876	8,957	48,122	150,950





