FACILITATING SAFE LABOUR MIGRATION AND ASSISTING RETURNING MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Azalia Dairbekova, Executive Director
Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (Tajikistan)

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Situation Analysis

- Labor migration, both legal and illegal, is currently the major factor of the development of both Kyrgyz and Tajik economies and citizens' employment
- Migrants' remittances reach up to 50% of GDPs
- The level of remittances ranks second after aluminum and ahead of cotton if considered as an export of labor services, and towers over those of official development assistance as well as foreign direct investment
- Thanks to migrants' remittances, entire sectors of the nations' economies are developing – trade, construction, transportation, agriculture, etc.

Situation Analysis

- Governments' priority – easier to export labor than create jobs internally

- To ensure safe and legal employment only government accredited job agencies are allowed

- Limited access to innumerous agencies forces to avoid assistance and take risky, uninformed paths

Central Asian Migrant's Portrait

KYRGYZ	TAJIK
~50% male and 50 % female	~ 96% male and 4% female
Between 25 and 45	Between 19 and 45
Relatively high level of education with women's education being better than men's	Relatively low level of education (mainly secondary education or vocational training)
Often migrate with spouse and children, go single for seasonal migration	Mainly leave families with average 5 dependants
Men (construction, services, agricultural work), women (commercial activities and services)	Men (construction and agriculture)
Average knowledge of Russian	Poor knowledge of Russian

Average Migrants Income

Before migration	$30
In migration	$475
After migration	$90
Savings	0.015

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Vulnerability Factors

- Poverty in home country and 15 times higher incomes in migration
- Low education level
- Poor language/communication skills (inability to protect their rights or turn for help)
- Illegal status
- Financial crisis and unwillingness to go back despite loss of jobs and decreased incomes
- Disappointment of returnees from Russia after crisis and decision to try out their luck in other countries like UAE, China, etc.

Risk Groups

- Adult labor migrants (especially illegal and unskilled)
- Migrants' children (both in destination and home countries)
- Migrants' wives left in home countries (specifically in Tajikistan)

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The key to prevention of THB among migrants – legalization of labor migration processes and awareness/education

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Direct assistance to migrants:

- **Direct Services to Departing Migrants -** in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through the established networks of Resource Centers providing legal support, job placements, psychological counseling, Russian language courses and vocational training courses

- **Direct Services to Migrants in Destination Countries -** EF has established 5 migration and information support centers in Kazakhstan and operates 4 centers in Russia that provide information about potential employers, professional training, registration assistance, and legal consultations. Additional support is provided through Diaspora organizations located throughout Russia.

- **Re-integration Services for Returning Migrants:** In sending countries, the Network has supported local centers to help deported and returning labor migrants to reintegrate back into society.

Eurasia Foundation's Assistance

Addressing issues at policy level:

- **Lobbying for change –** In 2007, EFCA supported the establishment of a working group on labor migration issues under the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC).

- **Informing policy development –** To ensure that decision makers have the necessary information, EF funded 3 research studies to enable a targeted response to the needs of Central Asian migrants. EF operates the Caucasus Research Resource Centre (CRRC) that provides independent analysis on migration trends in the South Caucasus and provides fellowships to local policy researchers to conduct migration policy analysis. In Russia EF has established networks of independent experts on migration issues and works with the Krasnoyarsk regional government, Federal Migration Service, other NGOs and independent experts

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Work with governments:

- In addition to on-going cooperation with government bodies, EF Network has provided direct capacity support to government. In Russia, NEF is assisting regional governments in attracting and supporting labor migrants from Central Asia and the Caucasus. In Kyrgyzstan, EFCA provided technical support to the State Committee on Labor and Migration.

How did you migrate?

Through word-of-mouth, relatives, friends	70.6 %
Completely uninformed	9.3%
Through individual recruiters	8.5%
Through Internet, newspaper ads, other	6.3%
Through employment agencies, resource centers	5.3%

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Issue for Discussion

Who is in the best position to provide sustainable services?

Governments seems unable to, NGOs cost money to support and the private sector is in it only for the profit.