

Pilot measure in Kyrgyzstan

# Skills for Reintegration

## Context

*Skills for Reintegration* supports migrants and forcibly displaced people with the decision to return voluntarily to their home countries and with their reintegration process. The main focus is on South-South migration since around 85 per cent of forcibly displaced people worldwide are hosted by developing countries.

To prepare migrants and forcibly displaced people for their voluntary return, the project offers professional and personal advice as well as vocational training adapted to local needs. This increases employability and lowers the risk of poverty. Where forcibly displaced people are unable to return to their home countries, vocational qualifications can facilitate integration in the host countries. Professional and personal qualifications are available to migrants, forcibly displaced people and host communities.

*Skills for Reintegration* works with targeted pilot measures in The Gambia, Niger, Kyrgyzstan and Mexico that are designed and implemented by international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), bilateral GIZ projects or the project itself.

## Recognition of qualifications and support for start-ups in Kyrgyzstan

Labour migration plays a crucial role in the economic development of Kyrgyzstan. It is estimated that up to 17 percent of the Kyrgyz population lives abroad. Labour migrants' remittances accounted for 35.1 percent of the gross domestic product in 2018.

Kyrgyz labour migrants often return to their home country with new and more advanced skills. Many of them have gained valuable professional experience and additional professional skills during their time abroad. This is useful not only to returnees wanting to start a business or looking for work, but also to Kyrgyz companies. A survey found out that the lack of qualified skilled workers was the biggest obstacle to successful company management.

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Yet returnees lack the support they need to seek recognition of skills acquired abroad and to strategically use these skills to start a business or find work. Targeted recognition of these skills and this professional experience is vital for successful reintegration into the Kyrgyz labour market.

## Objectives

1. Returning labour migrants are increasingly recognised as a special target group with the potential to boost economic development in Kyrgyzstan, and are supported accordingly.
2. The economic reintegration of returning labour migrants is strengthened by supporting the recognition of qualifications and providing advice and training on starting a business.

## Approach

The pilot measure works with the GIZ projects "Training and Employment Promotion" and "Promoting Sustainable Economic Development" in Kyrgyzstan. The project takes a two-pronged approach: on the one hand, it focuses on developing reintegration models through the formal certification and validation of skills acquired abroad and on implementing these models on a pilot basis in the gastronomy and construction sectors. On the other, it supports returning labour migrants looking to set up their own business by offering advice at the "MigrantIshker"

(‘MigrantEntrepreneur’) information office in Bishkek, selecting candidates for business trainings and establishing contact with business associations.

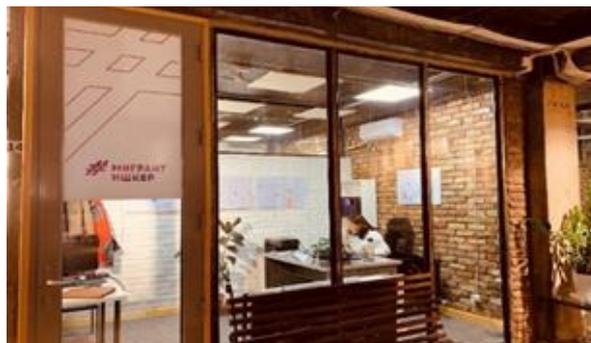
To enable private sector employers and returnees looking for work to contact each other directly, the “Jumush” (meaning ‘work’) app has been developed.

## Results

- 4 test standards have been developed for stucco, plasterers, painters and chefs.
- 24 returnees have been awarded a state-approved certification, 18 of whom have already entered the labour market.
- 120 people have taken part in the business training courses, 51 of whom have already set up their own company.
- In the evaluation of the business training courses 70 percent of the respondents said that their standard of living has improved, and 74 percent confirmed that their income has increased.
- The “Jumush” app is used by over 120 companies and around 2000 returnees in Kyrgyzstan.



*A self-employed Kyrgyz business training participant displays his products*



*The information office MigrantIsbker for returnees*

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