

come from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan (MLSP) and other relevant Ministries as well as workers' and employers' organisations.



The MLSP implements an integrated state policy and enforces legal regulations in the field of labor, employment, and training of adults, migration, social insurance and social protection of the population. MLSP represents the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in the International Labor Organization.

The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Tajikistan was established in 1991 with more than 800,000 members. There are three regional councils (Soughd, Khatlon, GBAO), one city council (Kulyab) and 157 district committees. The Construction Workers Trade Union, which is an affiliate of the Federation, has been successful in providing advocacy and training services for potential migrants, among other through bilateral agreements of cooperation with Russian and Kazakh construction workers unions.

The Union of Employers of the Republic of Tajikistan is a voluntary association of employers and other legal entities, established with purpose to protect the rights and interests of employers, social dialogue and partnership development, promotion of employment and contribution to the development of an effective labour market. The activities of the association aim at realizing socio-economic reforms in Tajikistan, including the reform of labour market relations. It provides legal assistance to members as well as advice and training on enterprise development and related issues.

Project Donor

The project is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) with an overall amount of 1,065,062 USD. Established in 1999, the UNTFHS currently receives contributions from the Governments of Japan, Slovenia and Thailand. The objective of UNTFHS is to translate the concept of human security into concrete activities implemented by UN agencies through projects that address diverse human security threats in order to secure peoples' livelihoods and dignity.

UNTFHS supports projects designed to protect the people from critical and pervasive threats to their lives and empower those people to enhance their resilience.

Key ILO publications

- *ILO Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Geneva 2008*
- *ILO: A Global Alliance against Forced Labour, Geneva 2005*
- *ILO: Human trafficking and forced labour exploitation: Guidance for legislation and law enforcement, Geneva 2005*
- *ILO: Trafficking for forced labour: How to monitor recruitment of migrant workers, Training manual, Geneva, 2006*

Key UNDP's publications

- *UNDP: Human Development Report, 2006*
- *UNDP: Millennium Development Goals Report*
- *UNDP: National Development Strategy*
- *UNDP: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper*
- *UNDP: Millennium Development Goal Needs Assessment*
- *UNDP: The Observance of Human Rights in Tajikistan, Annual Report 2007*
- *UNDP: Informal Economy in Tajikistan, National Human Development Report 2007*



International Labour Organization



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Tajikistan – source country for labour migration

Upon independence from the Soviet Union, Tajikistan became embroiled in civil war from 1992 to 1997 which generated massive displacement of people. Despite the overall economic recovery after the civil war, Tajikistan remains the poorest country of Central Asia. Poverty differs substantially from region to region but is most acute in rural areas, including Rasht valley, which was one of the war torn areas and has received less assistance from the Government and international agencies.

Due to continued socio-economic insecurities, many people seek employment abroad, namely in Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 Tajik nationals are working abroad. However due to the lack of capacity of national and local institutions to assist migrant workers, many fall into the trap of traffickers who exploit their vulnerability, and they consequently face serious human rights violations abroad. A significant number of them do not return home due to accumulated debts or due to

Project Brief

Prevention of human trafficking through employment creation and improved migration management



their inability to earn sufficient money while abroad. The prolonged absence of the male head of the household often leaves the rest of the family in a destitute situation. Women find it difficult to cope with the social consequences of migration and single female-headed households belong to the poorest in the country.

The ILO approach

The ILO was founded in 1919 and became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights, such as freedom of association, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work related issues. It provides technical assistance primarily in the fields of labour law and administration, employment policy, industrial relations, working conditions, labour migration, social security, labour statistics as well as occupational safety and health. It promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organisations and provides training and advisory services to those organisations. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.

ILO Conventions relevant to the prevention of human trafficking

- **Forced Labour Convention**, 1930 (No. 29)
- **The Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention**, 1975 (No. 143)
- **Migration for Employment Convention** (revised), 1949 (No. 97)
- **Private Employment Agencies Convention**, 1997 (No. 181)
- **Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention**, 1999 (No. 182)

Since its establishment, the ILO has been concerned with the protection of migrant workers' rights. In 1998, with the adoption of the Declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work and its follow-up, the ILO stressed once again the need to protect migrant workers from violations of their basic labour rights. In 2001, the ILO Governing Body established the **Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL)** to spearhead ILO activities against forced



labour and trafficking that are often direct consequences of illegal migration. SAP-FL has undertaken new research on the scope of forced labour in the world today, including human trafficking. It provides technical support to governments and social partners on laws and policies that aim at the elimination of forced labour and trafficking. It has also initiated work on prevention and rehabilitation through micro credit schemes, vocational training and improved of public employment services. The ILO stresses the importance of labour market institutions in the prevention and eradication of trafficking as well as the need to build their capacity for more effective action.

Photographic mission to Russian Federation, 22-29 September 2006, M. Crozet; © ILO

The project

The project aims to increase the level of human security of people from the Rasht region of Tajikistan with particular emphasis on the socio-economic needs of migrants and of women who were left behind without income. It is based on a two-pronged strategy: Empowerment of people and communities through income-generating activities, vocational training and awareness raising. Protection of Tajik migrant workers and their families through better migration management by building capacity of local community authorities.

The main beneficiaries of this project are: 1) Potential migrant workers at risk of trafficking; 2) Female-headed households that have to cope with the long-term consequences of largely male migration flows; and 3) Local community authorities, such as employment services, as well as the social partners.

Expected results

- Potential and returned migrants will be empowered through vocational and pre-migration training.
- Women will be empowered through entrepreneurship training and household budgeting.
- The capacity of the Government and social partners at national and local levels to protect Tajik migrant workers from human rights abuses will be increased.
- Actual and potential migrant workers from the Rasht district, including victims of trafficking, will have better access to information and legal redress mechanisms.



Project partners

The project is implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The overriding aim of all UNDP activities is to eradicate poverty and to reach the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (the MDG's) by 2015. UNDP addresses global development challenges across the following focus areas:

In the suburbs of Moscow lies this informal meeting place for daily workers in the building sector (mainly coming from Tajikistan) and recruiters.

Photographic mission to Russian Federation, 22-29 September 2006, M. Crozet; © ILO



democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and environment and HIV/AIDS. UNDP has been on the ground in Tajikistan since 1994. Within the framework of the project, UNDP will implement activities in the pilot region of Rasht, such as micro-credit programmes linked to Jamoat Resource Centres, awareness raising and training. The project has an Advisory Council that meets on a regular basis and provides guidance to the project team. Members of the Advisory Council

Migrant workers from Tajikistan © ILO