

ETHNIC RELATIONS AND MIGRATION

INTERNAL MIGRATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: SOCIAL RISKS (CASE STUDIES OF KAZAKHSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, AND KYRGYZSTAN)

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the examination of the processes of internal migration in the countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan) and the risks that this phenomenon represents for the societies of those countries. The objectives of the study are the definition of the theoretical concepts of migration, internal migration and social risks, as well as an

analysis of the main social risks in the countries of the region. In the course of the study, the context of internal migration is identified and the likely points of social concern and dissatisfaction of the population—the social risks—are revealed.

Also identified are the main social risks of internal migration (disruption in the balance of the labor market, the growth of con-

flict proneness in society, reduction in the tolerance toward migrants, excessive urbanization, the decline of rural areas, crime increase, lowered birth rates, the violation of human rights, deterioration of the environment, the weakening of territorial and

cultural unity, the threat to security and quality of life of local communities, and civic passivity of the migrants) in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, their causes and connection to the current migration processes.

KEYWORDS: *migration, internal migration, social risks, unemployment, Central Asia.*

Introduction

In the context of globalization and economic crisis, there has been an increase in migration around the world. Migration dynamics are influenced by the liberalization of national economies, the transnationalization of labor markets, and uneven socioeconomic development of countries. The increase in the volume of international migration also occurs due to the presence of hotbeds of conflicts and destabilization of political situations in certain regions of the world.

In recent years, the problem of migration has become particularly acute in the countries of Western Europe (Germany, France, and Italy). Major migratory flows originating from the Middle East Region are shaping a new social reality in these countries. The issues of infrastructure, logistics, housing, employment and social adaptation are becoming relevant to migrants. Against this backdrop, however, there is a threat of terrorist and extremist organizations' members entering a country under the guise of refugees.

The strengthening of the dynamics of migration processes is characteristic for the countries of Central Asia, namely Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. In addition, while there are many causes of internal and external migration, the main reason for it is an economic one: the loss or lack of work, low level of income, low level of urbanization. "The main influence on migration is the economic factors, the most important of which is the quality of life"—as rightly pointed out in the 1970s by one of the researchers of migration, D.D. Moskvina.¹

The study used a considerable amount of scientific work by scholars from CIS countries, as well as countries' statistics. Particularly noteworthy are the studies by: Olga Vorobyeva, Vladimir Moiseyenko, Mikhail Kurman and Vladimir Staroverov, Leonid Rybakovskiy, Viktor Perevedentsev, Alevtina Kelnik, Ludmila Nivorozhkina and Nikol' Kolosova, Pavel Vasilenko, Eldar Gabdullin, Mukhit Asanbaev and others.

Among foreign studies, the authors used the works of Ernest George Ravenstein and Immanuel Wallerstein.²

The current study is relevant, as the internal migration processes largely determine the status of the regional labor markets, current socioeconomic and demographic situation in the region. In turn, the internal political stability and security of countries are qualified by and dependent on this data.

¹ See: D.D. Moskvina, *Naselenie SSSR: problemy migratsii*, Moscow, 1991, p. 100.

² See: I. Wallerstein, *The End of the World as We Know It: Social Science for the Twenty-First Century*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, London, 2001; E.G. Ravenstein, "The Laws of Migration," *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, No. 46, 1885, pp. 167-235; idem, "The Laws of Migration: Second Paper," *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, No. 52, 1889, pp. 241-305.

The tasks of this investigation are:

- defining theoretical concepts of migration, internal migration and social risks;
- estimating the processes of internal migration in the countries of Central Asia, based on the case studies of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan;
- identifying the main social risks, which are driven by the process of internal migration in the countries of Central Asia.

Achieving a goal is impossible without using a set of complementary theoretical research methods. The most important role in the construction of the research methodology is played by the systemic approach and the theory of international relations, in the framework of which the method of summary data and the problem-logical method of data analysis have been used.

1. The Concept of Internal Migration and Social Risks

Before proceeding to the analysis of the problem, it is necessary to come to a clear understanding of the terminology.

Let us start with a definition of the term “migration.”

In scientific literature, there is no single approach to the definition of the concept. It should be noted, however, that there are a number of theoretical approaches developed by the scholars of the Western research school.

One of the first theoretical studies of migration was proposed by the English scientist, Ernest George Ravenstein, who formulated the “laws of migration.” The main idea of these laws is that migrants, leaving places with limited opportunities, move to regions with greater prospects. Different levels of prosperity among countries have an impact on the volume and direction of migration flows.³

According to the neoclassical theory, the causes of migration mobility of the population lie in the differences of wages between countries of origin and destination. Migration is the result of geographical differences in the ratio of demand and supply of labor. The difference in wages causes labor migrants to move from regions with lower to regions with higher wages.⁴

Structural historical approach is reflected in the Immanuel Wallerstein’ world systems theory. The basis of this approach lies in the idea that the world is divided into more developed and less developed countries, with different access to enhanced resources. Capitalism, penetrating less developed countries, draws them into international migration flows, and thereby aggravates global inequality.⁵

It should also be noted that there are two basic approaches to the definition of migration. In the broad sense, migration is perceived as any form of territorial mobility of a populace, irrespective of its regularity, objectives and duration. Mikhail Kurman⁶ adheres to such definition, for example. In the narrow sense of the word, “migration” is changing the place of residence outside specific locality.⁷

³ See: E.G. Ravenstein, op. cit. (see also: P.V. Vasilenko, “Zarubezhnye teorii migratsii naselenia,” *Pskovskiy regionologicheskiy zhurnal*, No. 16, 2013, pp. 36-41).

⁴ See: P. Samuelson [1948], *Economics: An Introductory Analysis*; with William D. Nordhaus [since 1985], 2009, 19th ed., McGraw-Hill.

⁵ See: I. Wallerstein, op. cit.

⁶ See: M.V. Kurman, *Dvizhenie rabochikh kadrov promyshlennogo predpriiatiia*, Moscow, 1971, p. 15; idem, *Aktualnye voprosy demografii*, A Textbook, Statistika, Moscow, 1976, p. 138.

⁷ G.S. Vechkanov, *Migratsia trudovykh resursov v SSSR*, LGU, Leningrad, 1981, p. 73.

The most accurate definition is provided by Leonid Rybakovskiy, for whom spatial migration of a population is predicated on two simultaneous conditions:

- a population moves from one settlement to another and secondly,
- the movement is accompanied by changing the location of its permanent residence.⁸

Viktor Perevedentsev refers to the migration of the population as “the totality of such movements of people, which are inextricably linked with the change of residence.”⁹ With that, the concept of migration excludes the changing of the place of residence within the settlements.

With regard to the concept of internal migration, in most of the scientific works it is considered as the process of movement of people within the national borders.¹⁰

It is important to distinguish the two types of internal migration: intra-regional (intra-district)—within the boundaries of a certain administrative-territorial unit, inter-settlement (rural-urban)—population movements in directions: city-village, village-city, city-city, village-village, and inter-regional (inter-district)—moving from one region (district) to another. Inter-settlement migrations can be both inter-regional and intra-regional. Intra-settlement movements (for example, change of residence within the same city) are not considered in this classification, since they do not relate to migration of the population proper.¹¹

In modern conditions, the most widespread classification is the one that delineates the factors of migration by economic and non-economic characteristics. The reasons for the economic characteristics are:

- the differences in the levels of economic and industrial development of individual countries and regions (districts of a particular country).
- the national differences in the size of the salary, overpopulation, high level of unemployment in the country;
- the international movement of capital and the activity of international corporations.

Also important is the definition of the concept of social risk in the context of the current study.

In the scientific literature, the concept of social risk includes such types of risk, which permeate all public sectors of the population and involve a possible social impairments and detriments. The social risks include a possibility of universal losses, affecting elements of the quality of life.

The key signs of social risks include the following:

- universality (social risks become the responsibility of each individual and society as a whole);
- inevitability (social risks initiate problems which cannot be ruled out completely, and can only be minimized in order to manage them with any degree of efficiency);
- social responsibility of all social and professional groups of society (management of social risks achieves success only in the presence of the effective partnership with participation of all vested parties in the process);
- potential crisis proneness (social risks are potential sources, catalysts of the crises of economic, political, and demographic nature).¹²

⁸ See: L.L. Rybakovskiy, *Regionalny analiz migratsiy*, Statistika, Moscow, 1973, p. 5.

⁹ V.I. Perevedentsev, *Metody izucheniya migratsii naselenia*, Nauka Publishers, Moscow, 1975.

¹⁰ See: A. Kelnik, *Regulirovanie vnutrennei migratsii naselenia v aspekte regionalnogo razvitiia Respubliki Belarus*, Belorusskaia nauka Publishing House, Minsk, 2012, p. 8.

¹¹ See: O.D. Vorobyeva, A.V. Topilin, V.I. Mukomel, *Migratsia naselenia: teoria, politika*, A Textbook, Ekonomicheskoe obrazovanie, Moscow, 2012, p. 13.

¹² See: Analytical report on the topic: *Relevant Questions of Migration Policy: An Assessment of the Current Situation, Forecast of the Demand for Labor Migrants, Taking into Account their Qualifications; Illegal Migration, the Experience of Foreign Countries*, The Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana, 2015.

The main social risks of internal migration include:

- the decline in living standards;
- rising unemployment;
- the loss of labor skills;
- narrowing of access to housing and social services;
- the growth of crime and social tension;
- decline in production.

2. Internal Migration in the Countries of Central Asia: The Main Causes and Trends

Central Asia is a unique region of its own economic, political, geographical and cultural orientation. With significant natural resources and energy potential, transit and transport capacity, the region is regarded to be within the scope of interests of Russia, China, and the U.S. In addition, the interests of each of the countries in the region often overlap.

Central Asia is characterized by active processes of formation of institutional structures, the search for cultural and political identity and a place in the system of international relations.¹³ Having a number of political, economic, and geographical advantages, the states of the region have a number of problems that threaten stability and sustainable development. These include: the intensification of internal political processes, formation and activation of extremist and terrorist organizations, growth of drug trafficking, the environmental problems, shortage of water resources, conflict proneness, based on the ethnoconfessional factor, as well as the large-scale internal migration. The last problem will be the focus of the study.

1.1. Kazakhstan: Analysis of the Current Situation

The migration processes in the Republic of Kazakhstan are characterized by the growth of external labor migration, increased illegal migration, intensive internal migration, the increasing migration of ethnic repatriates. The external migration policy is oriented toward the question of promoting ethnic repatriation and attraction of labor migrants, while the internal migration—toward the solution of problems of population resettlement in the regions in accordance with the needs of the economy, considering their particular demographic situation.

The main reason for the internal migration are the economic factors, resulting from the search for work and more favorable labor conditions. According to statistics, the volume of internal migration of Kazakhstan amounts to approximately 360 thousand people annually.¹⁴ It should be noted that within the framework of internal migration, the outlines of the socioeconomic problems of society are

¹³ See: E. Gabdullin, "Central Asia: Geopolitics, Security, and Development Scenarios," *Central Asia and the Caucasus*, Volume 12, Issue 1, 2011, pp. 22-35.

¹⁴ See: *The Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Statistics Committee*, available at [http://www.stat.gov.kz/faces/homePage/homeDinamika.pokazateli?_afriLoop=324764655061000#%40%3F_afriLoop%3D324764655061000%26_adf.ctrl-state%3Dxbexh1k3c_37].

more clearly identified. These problems clarify the emergence of various kinds of social risks within society, such as growth of unemployment, loss of labor skills in the labor force, restriction of access to housing and social services, growth of criminalization and social tensions.

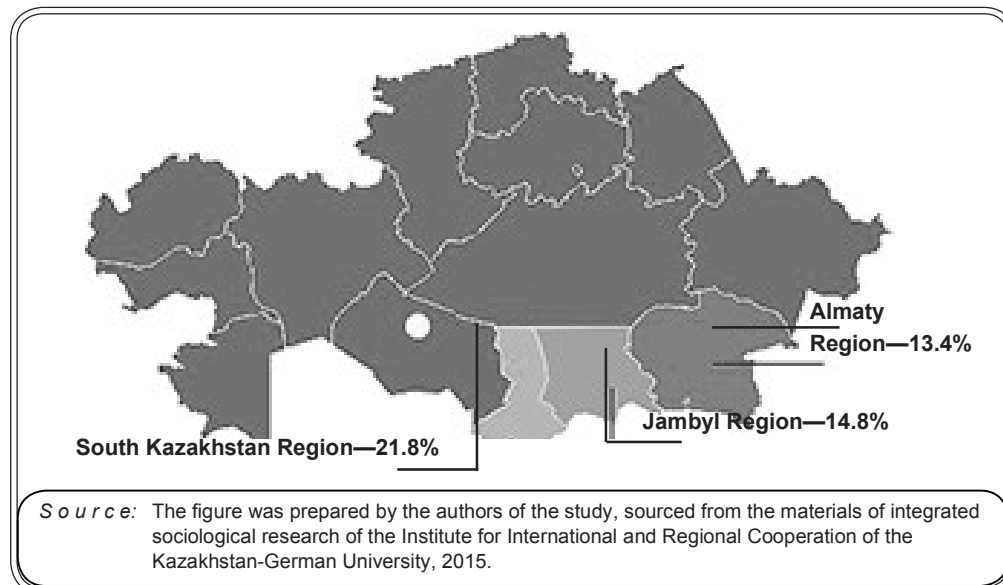
The key trend of internal migration in Kazakhstan is the intensive resettlement of the economically active population of the villages and economically disadvantaged regions in the regions with more favorable economic conditions.¹⁵

The main centers of attraction of migratory flows are the city of Astana and Almaty, as well as the western region of Kazakhstan (Mangistau and Atyrau regions).¹⁶ The highest outflow of migrants is from the southern regions of the country (Southern Kazakhstan, Jambyl and Almaty regions).

A significant impact on the interregional migration is produced by the level of income of the population. The latest data of average per capita nominal monetary income in the Atyrau and Mangistau regions and in the cities of Astana and Almaty are the highest in the republic. In the regions with the highest outflow of the population (South Kazakhstan and Jambyl regions), the nominal monetary income is the lowest. The top three regions—suppliers of labor migrants, are the southern regions of South Kazakhstan, Jambyl and the nearby Almaty regions. The percentage of this ratio looks as follows (see Fig. 1):

Figure 1

Regions Supplying Labor Migrants to the City of Almaty



High level of crime rates growth is characteristic in the regions, where there is a high migration activity of the population (South Kazakhstan, Karaganda regions).

The decision on the migration of the population is also directly impacted by such indicators as the gross regional product, average wages, the subsistence minimum, the level of unemployment, the structure of employment, etc.

¹⁵ See: M.B. Asanbaev, *Analiz vnutrennikh migratsionnykh protsessov v Kazakhstane*, Almaty, 2010.

¹⁶ See: *The Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Statistics Committee*.

Overall, it should be noted that high enough migration movement of people within the country is one of the key factors in the functioning of the national economy.

It is necessary to point out that apart from the problems in host regions, migration produces a negative impact on the donor regions in particular. Because of migration, the countryside becomes increasingly desolate; the base of its agricultural labor resources is undermined.

2.2. Tajikistan: Analysis of the Current Situation

According to the rating of the World Bank for March 2017, Tajikistan has the income level below the average comparing with the other members of this Organization.¹⁷ According to the latest available official data for the year 2016, the level of registered unemployment was 103.6 thousand people.¹⁸

One of the most acute public problems for the country is the external migration. The causes of this phenomenon are similar in many ways to the prerequisites of internal migration: cessation or termination of activities of enterprises, decline in household income, the impoverishment of population, and search for work.¹⁹ The solution to this problem is one of the central issues in the social policy of the state, as evidenced by the number of documents: the *Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan on Migration* (11.12.1999, No. 882), *The Concept of External Labor Migration of the Republic of Tajikistan*, the *Decrees on the Establishment of a Procedure for Recording Foreign Labor Migration of Tajik Citizens* (6.06.2003, No. 264), *The Introduction of Migration Registration Cards for Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan* (01.08.2008, No. 378), *Program of External Labor Migration of the Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan for the Years 2006-2010*.

At the same time, the problem of internal migration is no less acute. Economically active population of the country actively moves within its borders. Particularly high population outflows are in the high mountainous regions, where there is no industry, while farming and agriculture are difficult because of the natural and geographical conditions. Similar to Kazakhstan, the main reasons for changing the region of residence are unemployment, unsatisfactory level of wages, weak social infrastructure, etc.

According to Mavjuda Tajibaeva's definition, factors, which determine internal migration within the country, are as follows:

- (A) destructive processes that give rise to social tension (the economic crisis, lowered standard of living, unemployment);
- (B) the development of market relations;
- (C) private enterprise and commerce, causing capital transfers, and, consequently, the movement of labor.²⁰

¹⁷ See: *World Bank. World Bank Country and Lending Groups*, available at [<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>].

¹⁸ See: *The Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan*, available at [<http://www.stat.tj/ru/macroeconomic-indicators/>].

¹⁹ See: M.N. Tajibaeva, "Vnutrenniaia migratsia i ee vliianie na sotsialno-ekonomicheskie protsessy Respubliki Tadjikistan," *Vestnik Tadjzhikskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta prava, biznesa i politiki*, Seria gumanitarnykh nauk, 2012, pp. 175-180.

²⁰ See: *Ibidem*.

The most attractive for internal migrants is the city of Dushanbe (the main population inflow is directed there), Khujand and Kurgan-Tyube.²¹ The massive intra-republic migration is one of the internal threats to the stable economic and social development of the state. The consequence of this phenomenon is the outflow of specialists from the rural areas, disruption in the balance of the labor market, seizure of land within the urban periphery in the absence of the necessary social infrastructure.

In Tajikistan, the internal migration flows can be divided into two types: intra-regional and inter-regional. The greatest volumes of intra-regional migration have been recorded in the Khatlon (82%) and the Sughd (72%) regions.²² Accordingly, it is possible to speak of the appearance of the recipient and donor regions.

As in Kazakhstan, the predominant trend of migration is from villages to a city. For Tajikistan, rural-urban migration, in principle, is the basic domestic migration trend. The reasons for it are simple: in the cities, rural residents see more opportunities for education and careers, further employment, saving initial capital and conducting private business. The outflow of youth, as the most active and educated part of the population, leads to social, vocational and skill-set decline in the countryside.

Another similar feature between the countries is the fact that migration within countries is focused on those regions that have a high level of industrial and economic development and a more developed structure of the labor market.

2.3. Kyrgyzstan: Analysis of the Current Situation

Like Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic is a country with per capita income below average among the members of the World Bank.²³ The poor economic situation causes stable flows of migrants within the country. The situation was aggravated in 2005, when representatives from the Southern Region came to power in the country, the population of which, under the leadership of Askar Akaev, had fewer opportunities for migration to the more developed North of Kyrgyzstan.

Ethnic conflicts also played a role in the past. Particularly important were the periods in 1991, 2005 and 2010.

In the republic, there is an intensive internal re-allocation of the working-age population. Particularly high outflow of the inhabitants is from the mountain regions. The main causes of the outflow of the population of the republic from a number of regions are unemployment, low level of wages, and poor social infrastructure.

In internal migration of the Kyrgyz Republic, currently, the following trends are revealed:

- (1) migration from the countryside to a city;
- (2) from regional cities to large cities (Bishkek, Osh, Dzhalsalabad);
- (3) from economically underdeveloped, disadvantaged regions to the more developed, prosperous ones.²⁴

²¹ See: *The Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Size of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan as of 1 January 2016*, available at [http://www.stat.tj/ru/img/7a20337ca019c92e18235196b4e62aa_1470198679.pdf].

²² See: M.N. Tajibaeva, op. cit.

²³ See: *World Bank. World Bank Country and Lending Groups*, available at [<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>].

²⁴ See: Zh.K. Belekov, "Osobennosti vnutrennei migratsii v Kyrgyzskoi Respublike," *Vestnik KazNU*, 2011.

In Kyrgyzstan, the internal migratory flows are differentiated as inter- and intra-regional, and usually the volume of inter-regional migration prevails. The highest level of inter-regional migration is in the Naryn (82%) and Batken (72%) regions of Kyrgyzstan. Whereas in the Osh and Dzhalsalabad regions, the greatest relative volume of migratory flows is intra-regional (70% and 63%, respectively).²⁵

The most economically attractive areas in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan are the Chui Region and the town of Bishkek. Of all the administrative and territorial units in the Kyrgyz Republic, only the Bishkek and Chui regions have a positive migration population growth. All other areas of the republic suffered very considerable human losses.

The bulk of the intra-republic migrants settles in the cities of Bishkek, Osh and Dzhalsalabad.²⁶ In addition to the capital, there is also the resettlement in such developing cities of the Chui Region as Kant and Tokmak, as well as some of the villages and settlements in Issyk Ata and Moscow regions.²⁷

Due to the lack of developed infrastructure and manufacturing enterprises in the regions, as well as imperfections in the reforms of local self-government, there has been a steady trend of migration from rural areas of Kyrgyzstan to Bishkek and its outskirts.²⁸ As in the case of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, the outflow of youth from villages causes significant harm to the rural areas in terms of economic social and demographic development. Because of internal migration, the rural population of Kyrgyzstan is declining annually by 3-5 thousand people.

3. Social Risks of Internal Migration in the Countries of Central Asia

Internal migration flows have a significant impact on the sociocultural appearance of a particular region, and also affect the sociopolitical situation in a country. In cities, subjected to strong migration processes, the issue of increasing social tension becomes more relevant. This migration movement contributes to the process of urbanization of countries. The process of urbanization is accompanied by spontaneous, unsystemic expansion of cities and their suburbs, exacerbation of environmental, transportation, housing and social problems. Among the social risks of this process are the increased burden on urban infrastructure and violation of human rights.

As has been proven empirically, migration processes have an impact on individual and group security of the host population.²⁹ At the source are the increased competition in the local labor markets and housing, social and cultural marginalization of migrants, their criminalization. In addition, migration can create hotbeds of social tension in locations of increased concentration of migrant workers, local outbreaks of ethnic conflicts, the spread of xenophobia, provoked by tensions and conflicts.

A common trend is the situation, according to which a part of the migrants cannot find work or are not employed in their specialty. In this regard, the real threat is the loss or irrational use of the qualification potential of migrants. Also in such situations, there is a risk of reducing their motivation for work.

²⁵ See: Zh.K. Belevov, op. cit.

²⁶ See: Ibidem.

²⁷ See: R. Rakhimov, "Vnutrennaia migratsia v kontekste zemelnykh otnoshenii," available at [https://auca.kg/uploads/Migration_Database/Rahimov_rus.pdf].

²⁸ See: Ibidem.

²⁹ See: Z.K. Shaukenova, *Sotsialnaia aktivnost molodezhi Kazakhstana v sovremennykh sotsialno-politicheskikh realiakh*, A Collective monograph, IFPR KN MON RK, Almaty, 2014.

Due to the fact that a number of the migrants cannot legally be employed and get normal housing and social services, there is a number of large settlements (neighborhoods) outside the main part of the cities, in which the inhabitants do not have the required residence registration (*propiska*) and ownership rights in their homes. In addition, this group of citizens is deprived of access to quality public and social services, and what is important, work in the informal sector of the economy.

It should be noted that the internal migrants substantially alter the structure of the labor force in the cities. On the one hand, in centers of attraction, either there is a shortage of jobs or the existing jobs do not match the skilled set of the population structure. Thus, in the labor market of the host region there is an inconsistency between the demand for the labor force and its supply, which in turn leads to the growth of unemployment. A typical example is the fact that in the regions of recipient countries there is a high level of unemployment.

On the other hand, a sufficiently high degree of unemployment of the total population appears in the regions of donor areas. It is clear that the lack of employment opportunities is the main reason why migrants leave their places of residence.

The consequence of unemployment is poverty, high level of crime, illnesses, and increased social tensions in society.

Housing is the factor of high concentration of social risks. It is largely confirmed by the low supply of housing, crisis in the housing fund of a country, the unavailability of mortgages for the majority of the citizens.

In addition, this is due to the insufficient rates of providing new housing, a small share of social housing, and limited budget subsidies to the established categories of citizens. Also, one of the factors affecting the unwarranted overestimation of housing prices is the internal migration of the population. In the situation being what it is, the influx of migrants promotes the demand for housing in the regions of the recipient countries.

Because of the shortage of new residences, migrants are forced to settle in nearby territories, thus creating risks of social tension.

The environmental side of the issue lies in the fact that there is an overpopulation of cities. There is an imbalance and increased pressure on the social infrastructure of cities. An increase in the number of people leads to the use of a large number of natural resources. The other side of the issue is pollution of the atmosphere and biosphere in overcrowded cities.

The spontaneous internal population migration could become a serious threat to sustainable economic and social development of countries; uncontrolled internal migration leads to the occurrence and aggravation of ethnic contradictions.

If one summarizes all the above, the social risks, which are common to the analyzed countries of Central Asia, are the following: imbalance in the labor market; growth of conflict proneness in society; reduced tolerance toward migrants; excessive urbanization, growth of mega-cities; decline of villages; increased crime rate; violation of human rights; environmental degradation; the weakening of territorial and cultural unity of the host communities; the threat to security and quality of life of local communities; civic passivity of migrants, their shadow adaptation and self-realization.

Conclusions

The analysis of internal migration in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan showed active movements of population from less to more developed regions. The three countries have similar problems:

- (1) low wages;
- (2) lack of employment;
- (3) unemployment;
- (4) low level of social security.

For Kyrgyzstan, another factor, affecting internal migration, is the inter-ethnic conflicts. These problems give rise to the following trends:

- mass migration from villages to cities;
- migration from regional to larger cities;
- the preeminence of inter-regional over intra-regional migration;
- migration to capitals, as the most attractive places of residence.

These trends have a negative potential for development. With unfavorable scenarios, migration flows can continue and, in these conditions, donor regions will not be able to achieve a high level of socioeconomic development. In this regard, the social burden for the states of the Central Asian region will increase.

After reviewing the migration situation in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, it should be noted that questions of housing, social adaptation, logistics and employment are of particular importance to migrants.

Migration processes have a considerable impact on urban infrastructure, sanitation, epidemiological and ecological conditions, crime rate and sociocultural environment in a city.

Against the background of such factors as overcrowding and physical workload, reducing the quality of the natural habitat, high unemployment, social problems of migrants are exacerbated. As a result, the question of security becomes more relevant, while the protest potential in these countries is increased.

The analysis of internal migrations showed that of all the migration factors, economic indicators exert the most important impact on internal migration flows. These are: the level of well-being of a population and a situation on a regional labor market. The “pull” migrant factor is “the status of a prosperous region.” Meanwhile, the “push” factor is the unfavorable socioeconomic and ecological situation in a region.

Influencing the internal migration is possible only by addressing the underlying causes, namely:

- “pushing” migrants from economically disadvantaged regions;
- the unregulated labor markets and an active urban growth;
- uncontrolled migration.