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The Impact of Covid-19 on Labour Migration

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**Situation
before the
pandemic**

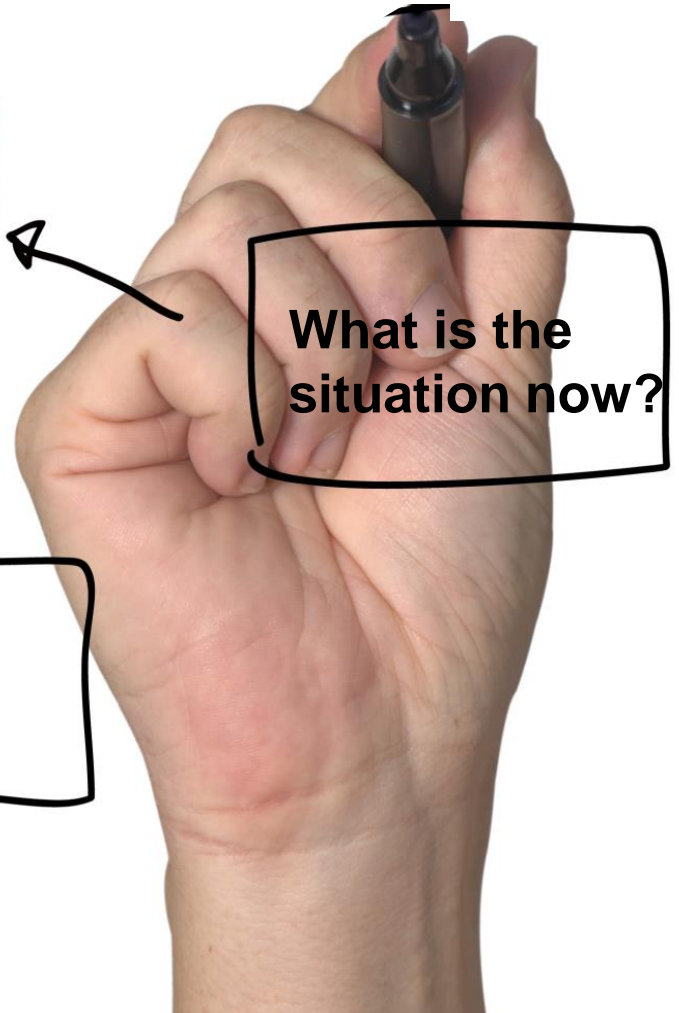


**What can you
get in the
next 10 Min?**

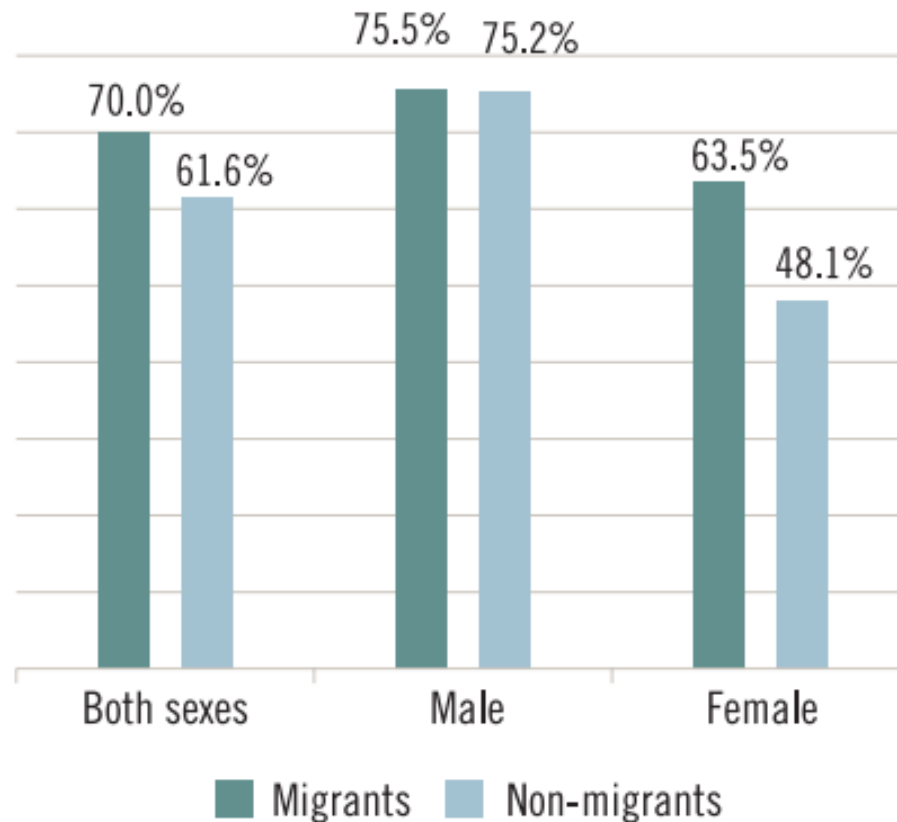


What to do?

**What is the
situation now?**



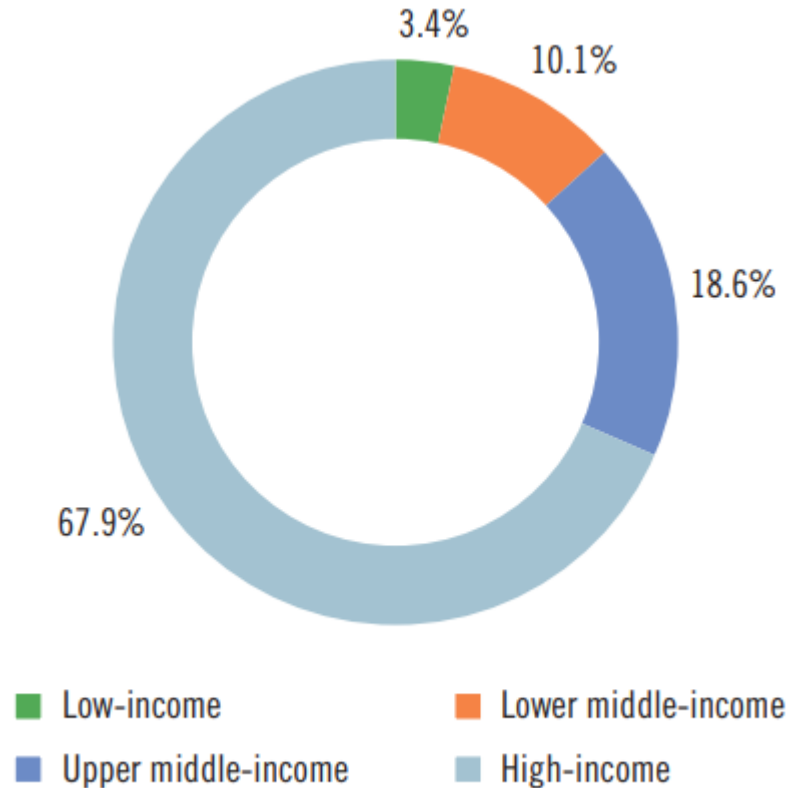
Before (1): Global labour force participation rates of migrants and non-migrants



Source: ILO 2018



Before (2): Migrant workers, by income level of countries

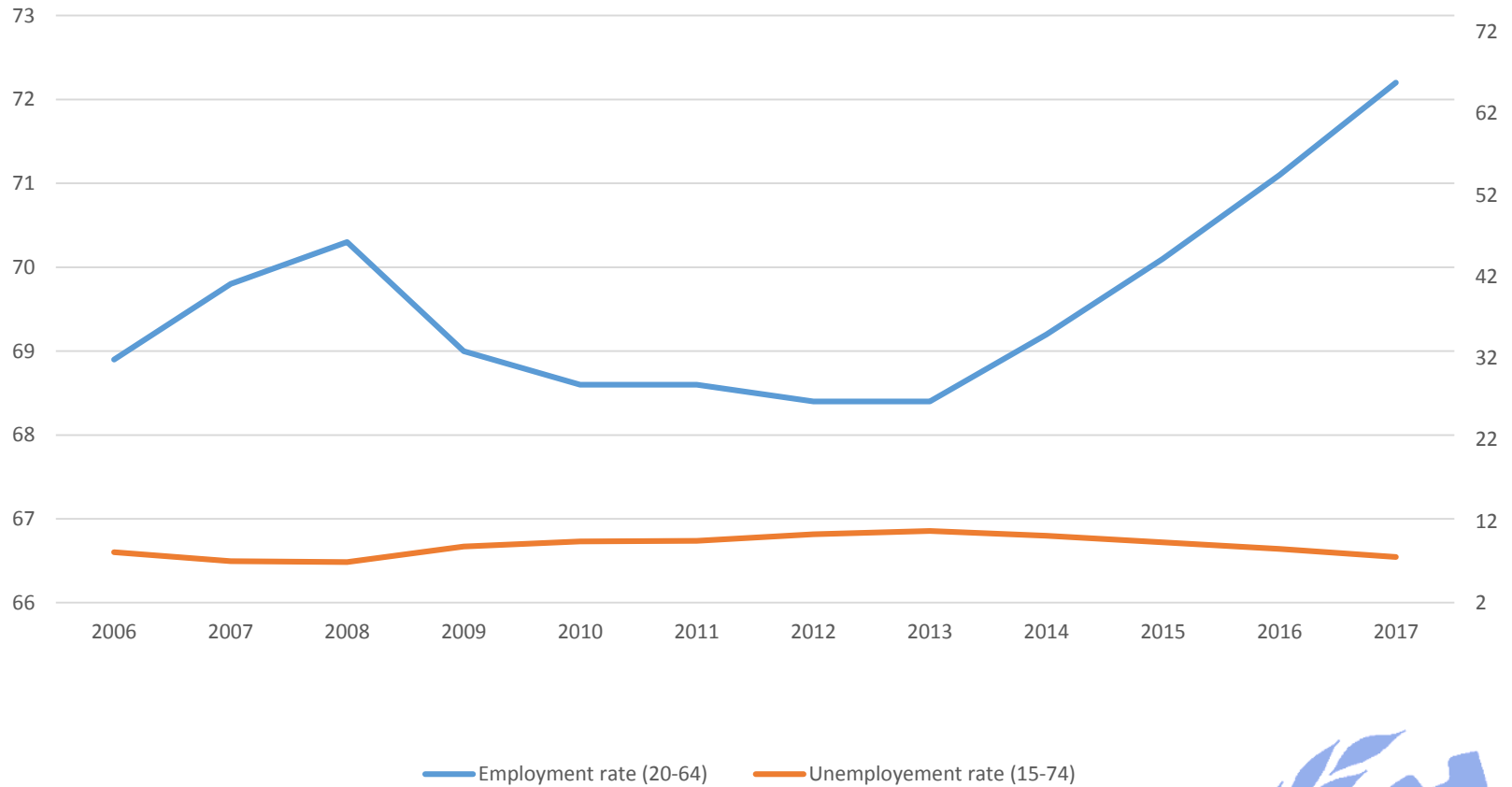


Source: ILO 2018



Before (3): Employment/unemployment rates

in the EU-28



Source: Eurostat Database



What is the situation now ?

Receiving countries: Covid-19 and immigrant employment

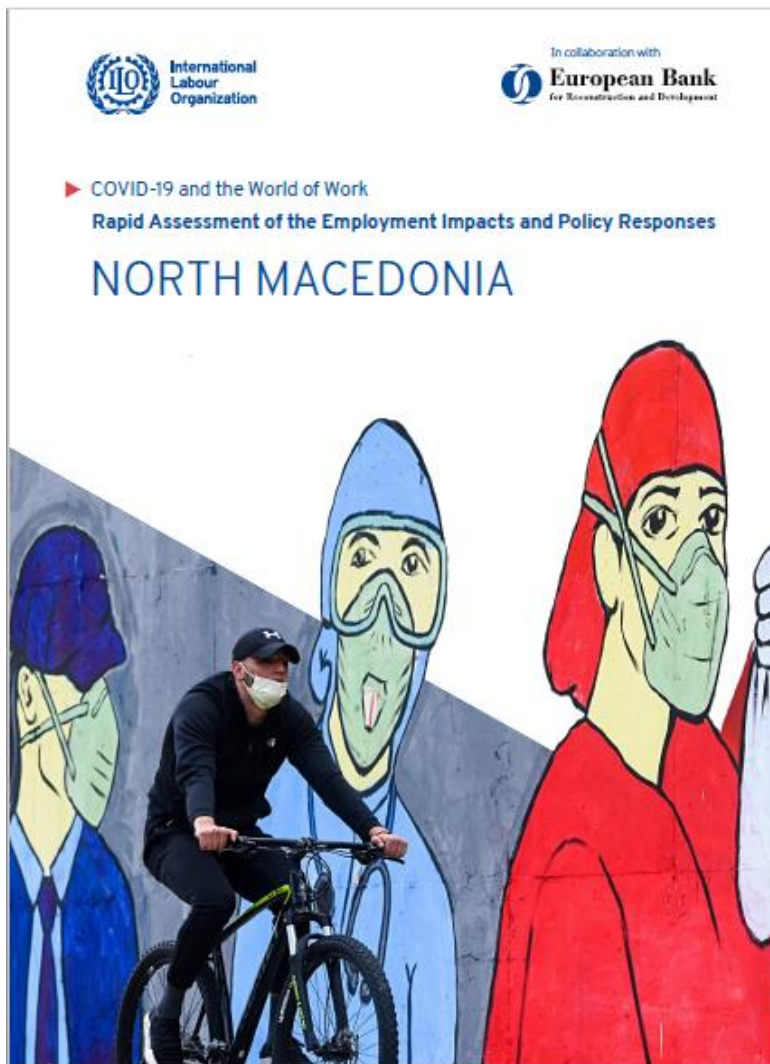
Data from US monthly population survey for April show:

- Immigrant employment rate before the pandemic: 6% higher
- Same rate now: 2 % lower



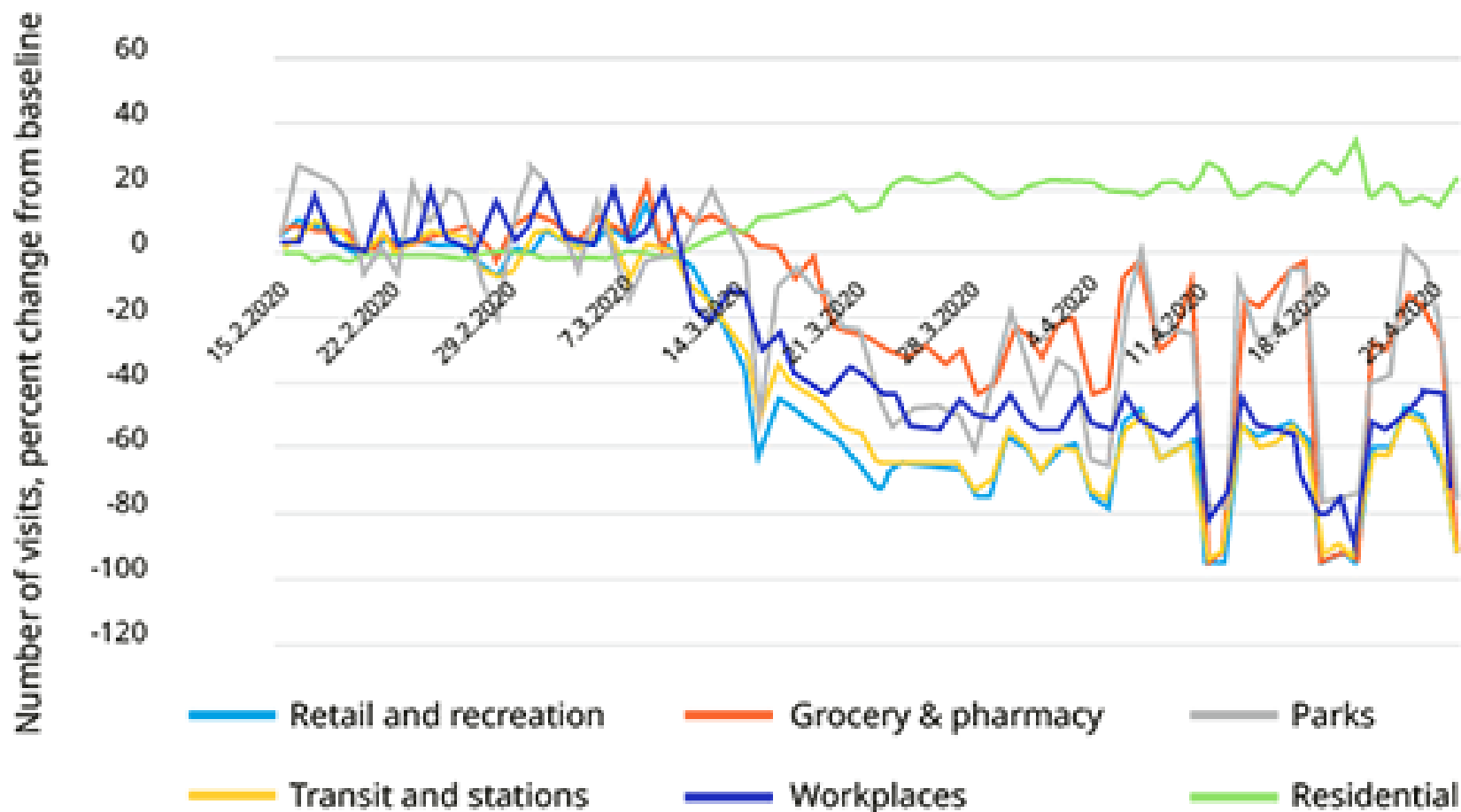
What is the situation now (2)?

Sending Countries: From “Pls don’t go” to “Pls don’t come”?



What is the situation now (3)?

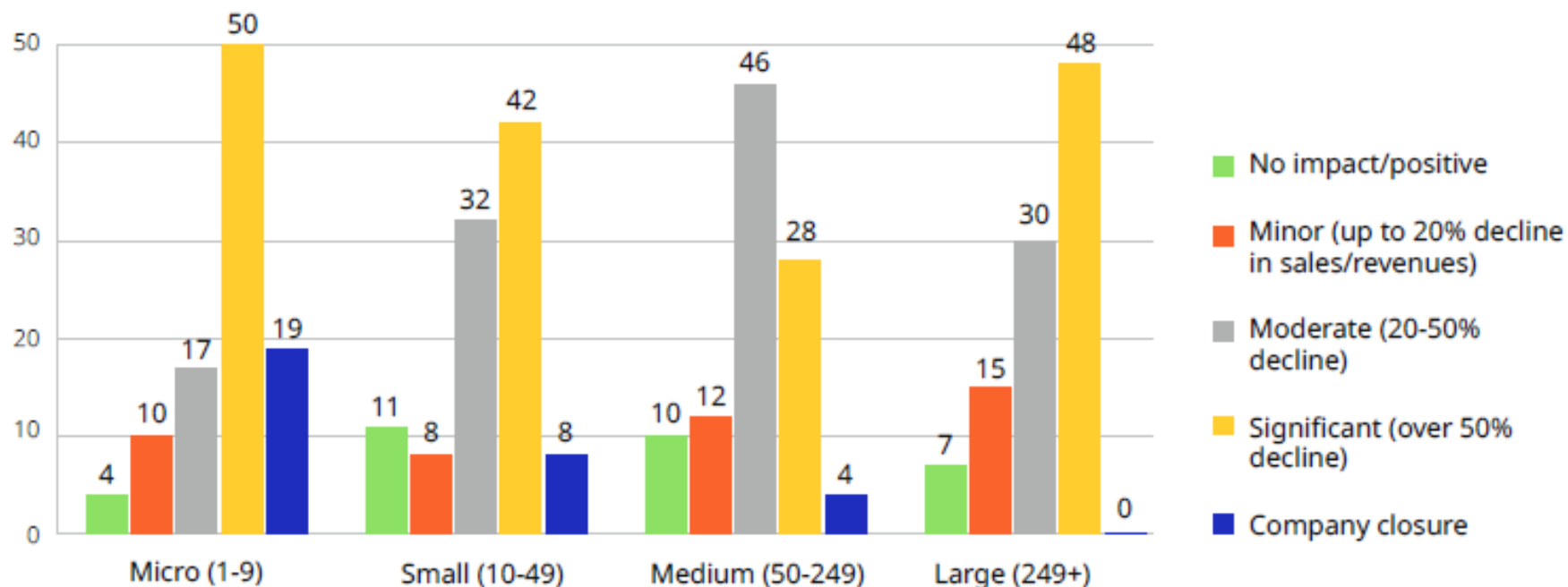
Mobility trends N Macedonia during lock down



What is the situation now (4)?

Percentage of Companies Reporting Loss of Revenues

Figure 3.3 Companies reporting a significant decline of revenues, by size



Source: Enterprise Survey. Employers' organizations, ILO, EBRD (2020).

What to do?

- **Receiving countries:** Include migrant workers in Covid-19 responses such as income protection and social protection
- **Sending countries:** Support returning migrants through reintegration in local job markets, skills recognition



What to do (2): Recommended Readings



International
Labour
Organization

► ILO brief

► Policy Brief

April 2020

Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic Recommendations for Policy-makers and Constituents

This policy brief provides information and identifies a number of key recommendations to assist governments and other stakeholders in designing COVID-19 policy responses that can help to ensure the protection of migrant workers, as well as to inform responses for the protection of refugees and those displaced working in countries other than their own, differentiated by gender as appropriate and based upon relevant international labour standards,¹ and ILO guidance and good practices. This document will be updated regularly as the situation evolves.

► Introduction

The COVID-19 crisis is having an unprecedented impact on global economies, businesses and workers. ILO estimates that nearly 2.2 billion workers, representing 68 per cent of the global workforce, are living in countries with recommended or required workplace closures.² Migrant workers represent 4.7 per cent of this global labour pool comprising 164 million workers,³ with nearly half being women. In many countries migrant workers represent a significantly larger share of the workforce making important contributions to societies and economies,⁴ and serving on the front lines carrying out essential jobs in health care, transport, services, construction, and agriculture and agro-food processing.⁵ Yet, most migrant workers are concentrated in sectors of the economy with

high levels of temporary, informal or unprotected work, characterized by low wages and lack of social protection, including in care work which in many countries is largely carried out by women migrant workers.⁶

Migrant workers are among the most vulnerable. Reports document rising levels of discrimination and xenophobia against migrants and in some cases food insecurity, layoffs, worsening working conditions including reduction or non-payment of wages, cramped or inadequate living conditions, and increased restrictions on movements or forced returns (where they may be stigmatized as carriers of the virus).⁷

Human rights groups fear rising levels of violence, particularly for those in domestic work where women workers predominate.⁸

Public Disclosure Authorized

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WORLD BANK GROUP

Potential Responses to the COVID-19 Outbreak in Support of Migrant Workers¹

"Living Paper" Version 9 (June 2, 2020)

This note describes the key challenges facing the health, livelihoods, and mobility of internal and international migrants and their families due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The note presents the policy options available to governments to address these challenges and describes the assistance that the World Bank can offer in areas related to social protection and jobs to support these efforts.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The living and working conditions of internal and international migrants make them vulnerable to contracting COVID-19.
- Measures put in place to control disease transmission both within and across countries have resulted in significant disruption in transportation networks and in labor markets that have hit migrant workers hard. The resulting decline in remittances will transmit these negative impacts to the families of migrants.
- Travel restrictions may lead to labor shortages in critical sectors like agriculture that are dominated by migrant workers.
- While the specific type of support that should be targeted to migrants depends on location, legal status, and type of migration, most migrants will need access to safety nets in the form of cash or in-kind assistance to support them as they comply with transmission control measures and cope with the impacts of the crisis. Policies to support employment retention and promotion will be particularly important as a complement to these safety nets for internal migrants and migrants returning from abroad. Policies to offset the expected declines in remittances will be important for all migrants and their families.
- Programs created to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak should be migrant-sensitive to take into account the unique challenges facing migrants.

¹ This note was prepared by Harry Moroz, Maheshwor Shrestha, and Mauro Testaverde, World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Unit, with inputs from Pablo Acosta, Samik Adhikari, Syud Amer Ahmed, Jumana Alaref, Shrayana Bhattacharya, Laurent Bossavie, Carole Chartouni, Tamuka Chekero, Luc Christiaensen, Carlo Corazza, Helen Dempster, Dung Doan, Matthew Dornan, Puja Vasudeva Dutta, Francesco Fasani, Daniel Garrote Sanchez, Yashodan Ghorpade, Hayden Hubbard, Yang Huan, Su Su Htay, Keiko Inoue, Johannes Koettl, Manjula Luthria, Froilan Malit Jr., Alessandra Marini, Christian Meyer, Mushfiq Mobarak, Simona Moscarelli, Harish Natarajan, JJ Naddeo, Philip O'Keefe, Helidah Ogude, Duru Oksuz, Junko Onishi, Caglar Ozden, Emily Margaret Owen, Ekaterina Pankratova, Ioanna Pantelaiou, Kenia Parson, Boban Varghese Paul, Josefin Posadas, Ririn Salwa Purnamasari, Federica Ranghieri, Dilip Ratha, Nayib Rivera, Achim Schmillen, Juan Segnana, Rebekah Smith, Lars Sondergaard, Nithin Umapathi, Dewen Wang, Ruslan Yemtsov, Soonwha Yi, and Wei Zhang.

What to do (3): Job Quality Frameworks are in place

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments **for all workers, including migrant workers**, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Indicator 8.8.1: Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and **migrant status**

Indicator 8.8.2: Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on ILO textual sources and national legislation, by sex and **migrant status**



Looking for partnerships on

Support to returned migrants in Eastern Europe

Sectorial job pacts in Central and Eastern Europe

Skilling stranded migrants in the Western Balkans



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