

Rationale of the study and background information on migration flows in Central Asia

Lola Abdukadyrova
Solidarity Center Country Program Director in Kyrgyzstan



Comprehensive analysis of changing migration trends in Central Asia, in particular those related to labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan



- **Changing migration situation**

- Reduction in the number of migrants to Russia: from 587,000 in 2022 to 411,000 in 2024

- **Development of new labor markets**

- Increase in the number of migrants to South Korea: **previously** more than **8,000**, **now** about **15,000**
- **Increase** in the number of migrants to **European and Gulf countries**
- Vacancies are increasing in countries such as the **United Kingdom (8,000 workers)**, the **Gulf States (700 workers)**, and **Lithuania (5,000 workers)**

Research methodology

Goal: Development of recommendations for improving the situation of labor migrants and identifying the most relevant new labor markets for migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, **developed based on the migrants' needs assessment**

Research sample: 1031 migrant workers who are citizens of Kyrgyzstan (471), Kazakhstan (70), and Uzbekistan (490)

Geography: 80% Russia, 11% Kazakhstan, 3% Turkey, 2% Germany, 1% United Arab Emirates, 3% other countries

Methodology: desk research, interviews with migrants, in-depth interviews with migrants

Main research questions:

Study of
migration
practices

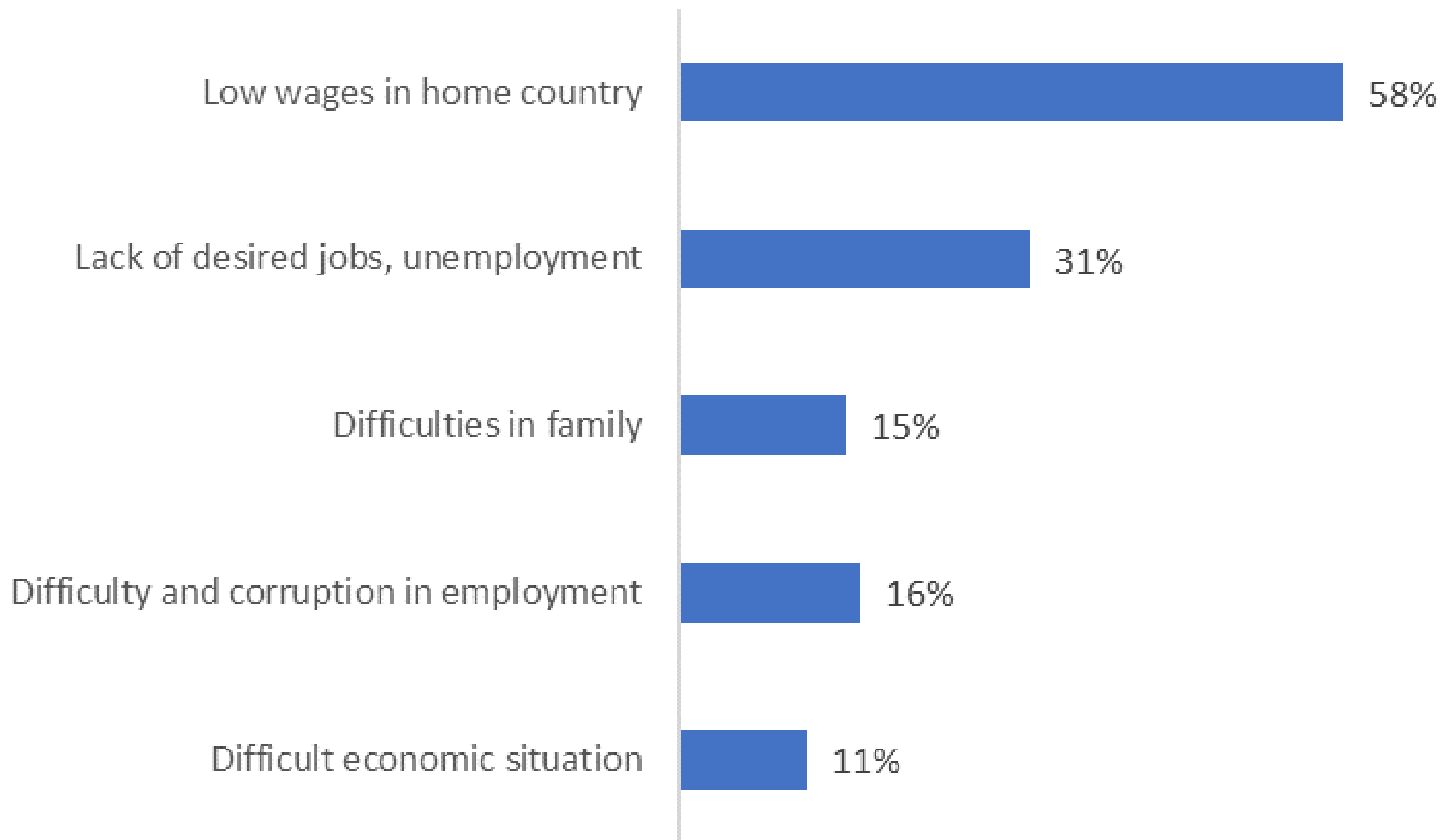
Role of state and
private recruitment
agencies

Situation with
respect to
fundamental labor
rights of migrants
and principles of safe
migration

Main data of the research- push factors for migration



Main push factors for migration for migrants from Central Asia :





Ways of finding employment

- **43%** of migrants **find jobs through relatives or friends**
- **156** private employment agencies in **Kyrgyzstan** in 2023 according to the Ministry of Labor
- **14** private employment agencies in **Uzbekistan** in 2024 according to the Ministry of Labor
- **Responsible state agencies:** the Center of Employment for Citizens Abroad in Kyrgyzstan and the Agency of External Labor Migration in Uzbekistan

Migrants from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan using the employment agencies services:

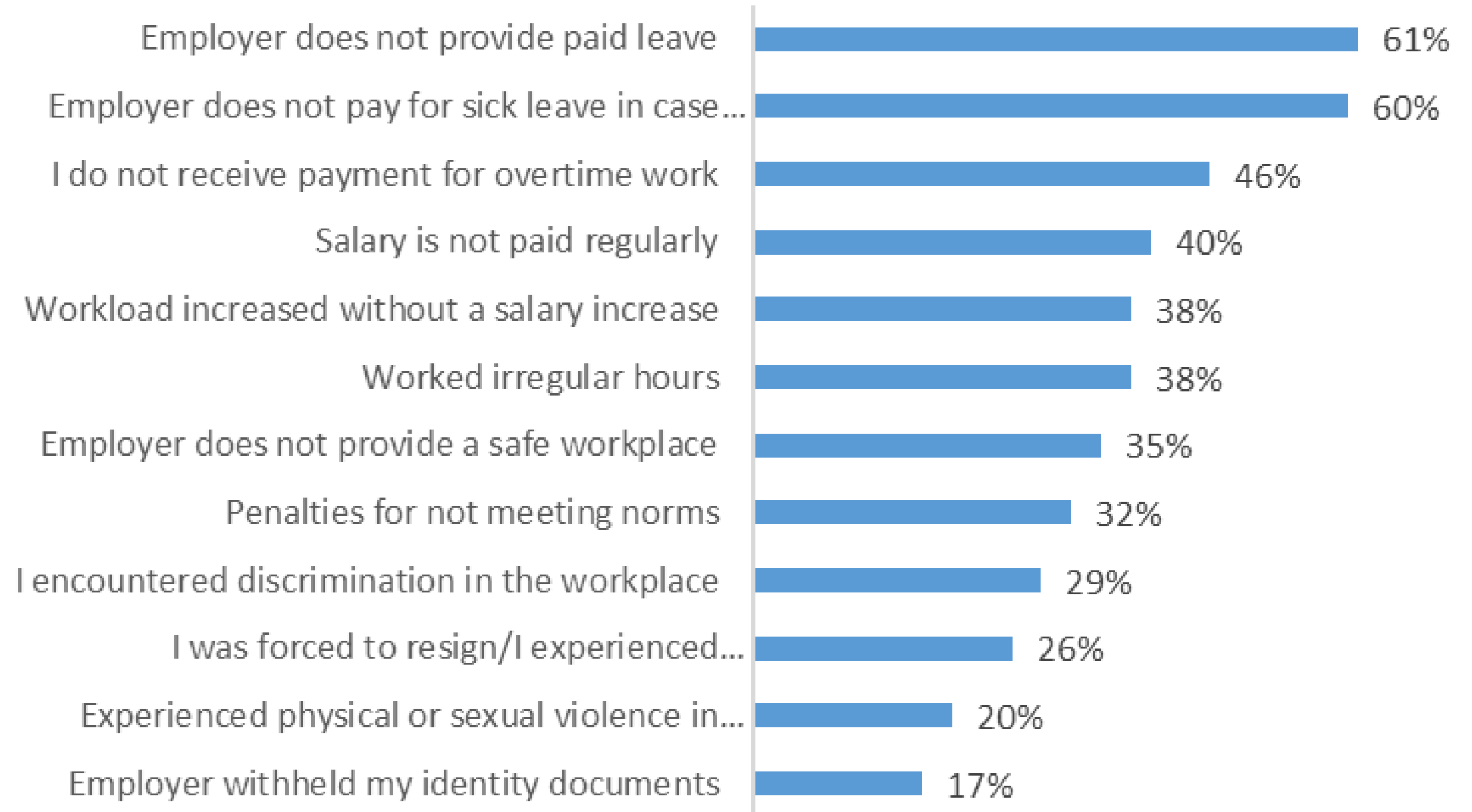
13% addressed PEAs

6% addressed state agencies

Labor rights violations



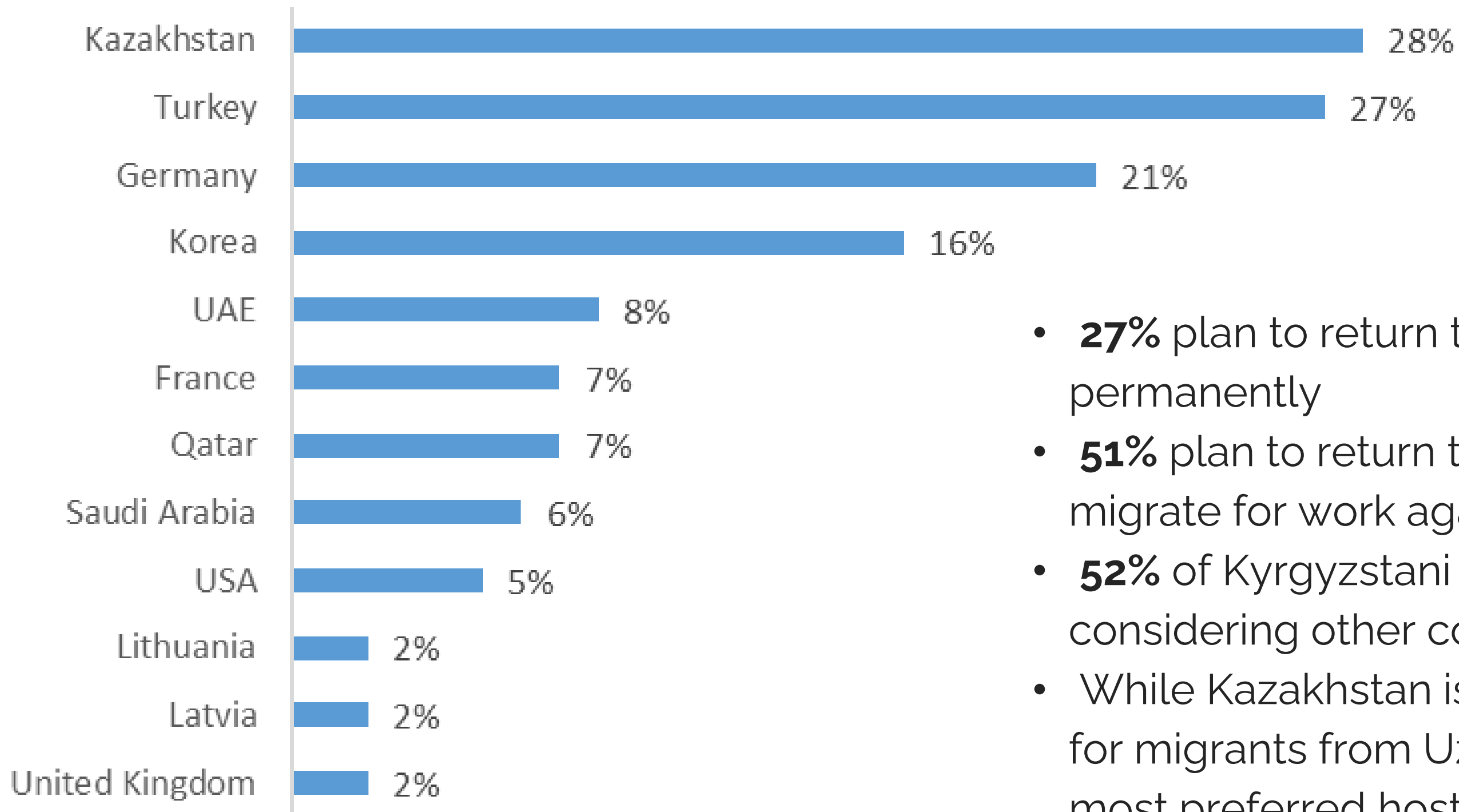
Labor violations:



Share of migrants who have labor contracts:

Kyrgyzstan: **66%**
Uzbekistan: **46%**
Kazakhstan: **79%**

Diversification of labor markets



- **27%** plan to return to their home country permanently
- **51%** plan to return to their home country but later migrate for work again
- **52%** of Kyrgyzstani and Uzbekistani migrants are considering other countries for migration
- While Kazakhstan is the top preferred destination for migrants from Uzbekistan (**49%**), Germany is the most preferred host country for migrants from Kyrgyzstan (**30%**)

Thank you for
your attention!

