

## Father will be home soon

More than twenty-five years after independence, the former Soviet republics of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are still largely dependent on Russia. Every year, thousands of labor migrants from Central Asia make their way to Russia, in search of a better future.

Upon arrival in Russia, the reality is often harsh. Unable or unwilling to return to their home country, migrants have to face Russia's reality. A large number of migrants live in illegal spheres, often with low-paid jobs and harsh living conditions, facing discrimination and harassment.

Villages with only elderly and children are common in remote areas in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with an estimated 25 percent of the total population working in Russia. A generation of children is growing up being raised by their grandparent(s), while their parents are trying to provide a better future.

The photo series shows the struggle of being caught between lack of prospects in the home country and the possibility of finding work with the outlook of facing discrimination and harsh living conditions in Russia.