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ABOUT THE PROJECT

In 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) initiated the implementation of the 'Labour Migration Programme - Central Asia,' which is financed by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC). The program's primary objective is to establish secure, well-organized, and systematic recruitment pathways that address the demands of employers, safeguard the rights of migrant workers and increase developmental impacts in both the origin and destination countries. The project focuses on Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a method that collects and examines data to share essential information about the movement, susceptibilities, and necessities of displaced and moving groups. These data help decision-makers and responders offer more suitable aid to these populations. Initially developed in 2004 to supervise internal displacement in Iraq, DTM has now been adjusted and implemented in more than 80 nations, including areas of conflict, climate change, disaster, complex emergencies, and long-lasting crises.

OBJECTIVES

Migration reports provide governments with policy-relevant information on migration trends, including estimates of migration flow and historical data. Coordinated data activities can inform relevant actors about patterns related to fragility, mobility solutions, and other areas of interest. Academic partnerships and interagency initiatives promote good data governance and ethical practices, and partnerships with research institutions promote standards for data collection in complex environments.

PARTNERS

IOM collaborates closely with key national stakeholders, such as representatives from the government, national banks, civil society, business communities, academia, and international organizations.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This initial quarterly report is dedicated to the final quarter of 2022 and is designed to offer a summary of the methodology and implementation process of the program, as well as an update on the most recent migration patterns in Kazakhstan. It also includes an evaluation of the Baseline Assessment (a component of the project's methodology).

METHODOLOGY

The DTM consists of four standard components - Mobility Tracking, Flow Monitoring, Registration, and Surveys - which can be adjusted and combined as necessary for a particular context and data requirements. The most appropriate DTM component(s) can be determined to be used in a specific context based on common information objectives and unique operating environment characteristics and constraints.

The Baseline Assessment is an exercise where key informants participate in focus group discussions to identify locations of migration mobility on district and village levels. A team of data enumerators was equipped for fieldwork, and Baseline Assessment and Survey forms were developed and adapted to the country context.

TRAINING

On 10 and 11 November, IOM conducted a two-day online training on Data Collection, with the participation of 20 enumerators from 14 regions of Kazakhstan. The first day of the training was dedicated to providing an overview of the project's overall objective and goals, the DTM methodology and components, the advantages of collecting data on migration, and its potential future applications. On the second day of training, enumerators learned the Baseline Assessment and the use of the data entry tool KoboCollect.

1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Kazakhstan adopted the Migration Policy Concept for 2023-2027 on the 30th of November, 2022.¹ The main objectives of the concept are to ensure national security, promote economic growth and development, and protect the rights and interests of migrants and citizens.

The concept identifies several priority areas for action, including improving migration legislation and regulations, enhancing border management and security, improving migration data and analysis, and strengthening integration policies and programs for migrants.

¹ On Approval of Migration Policy Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023 - 2027, Decree No. 961/2022 of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



Data collection in Naurzbyay district, Almaty city, 03.03.2023



Data collection in Kazbek-bi district, Karaganda city, 16.02.2023

2. MIGRATION FLOWS

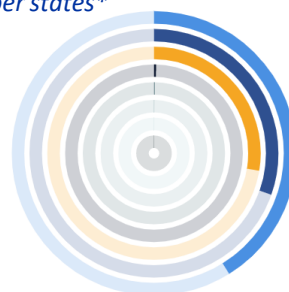
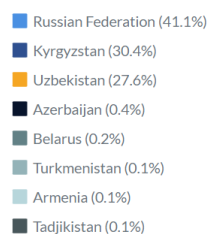
2.1 Overview

According to UN DESA, in 2020, Kazakhstan welcomed 3.7 million of international migrants stock, almost 20 per cent of its population, equal to 18.7 million people.²

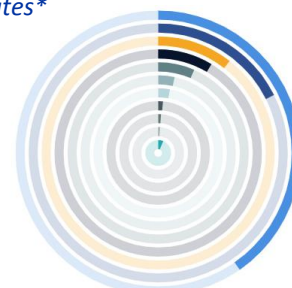
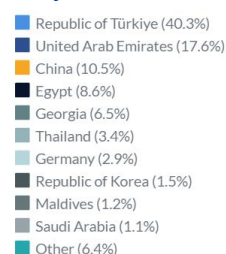
In 2022, the Border Service of Kazakhstan reported that more than 7.5 million migrants arrived in the country.³ Nearly 6 million arrivals accounted for Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member states.⁴ The majority of migrants from CIS countries came from the Russian Federation (41.1%), Kyrgyzstan (30.4%), Uzbekistan (27.6%), Azerbaijan (0.4%), and Belarus (0.2%), 1.6 million arrivals accounted for non-CIS countries of origin: the Republic of Türkiye (40.3%), the United Arab Emirates (17.6%), China (10.5%), Egypt (8.6%), and Georgia (6.5%).⁵

Similarly, 7.7 million migrants left Kazakhstan in 2022.⁶ The Russian Federation (41.5%), Kyrgyzstan (30%), Uzbekistan (27.4%), Azerbaijan (0.4%), and Belarus (0.2%) among CIS member states. Departed migrants from non-CIS countries were Republic of Türkiye (39.5%), the United Arab Emirates (17.3%), China (10.3%), Egypt (8.5%), and Georgia (6.6%).⁷

Migrants from CIS member states*



Migrants from non-CIS states*



* The information on nationality provided in this report is based on the nationality declared by migrants as reported by the Kazakhstan authorities.

² UN DESA, 2020

³ The Border Service of the National Security Committee, 2022

⁴ The Border Service of the National Security Committee, 2022

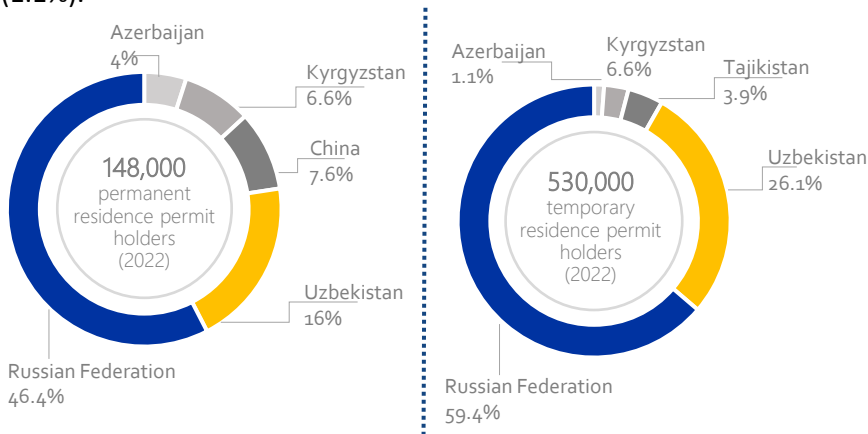
⁵ The Border Service of the National Security Committee, 2022

⁶ The Border Service of the National Security Committee, 2022

⁷ The Border Service of the National Security Committee, 2022

2.2 Residence permits

In 2022, there were 148 thousand of permanent residence permit holders in Kazakhstan.⁸ The majority of permanent residence holders were nationals of the Russian Federation (46.4%), Uzbekistan (16%), China (7.6%), Kyrgyzstan (6.6%), and Azerbaijan (4%).⁹ In 2022 there were 530 thousand migrants temporary residence permit holders in the country.¹⁰ More than half of temporary residence permit holders (59.4%) were nationals of the Russian Federation. Other countries of origin among temporary residence holders include Uzbekistan (26.1%), Tajikistan (3.9%), Kyrgyzstan (2.7%), and Azerbaijan (1.1%).¹¹

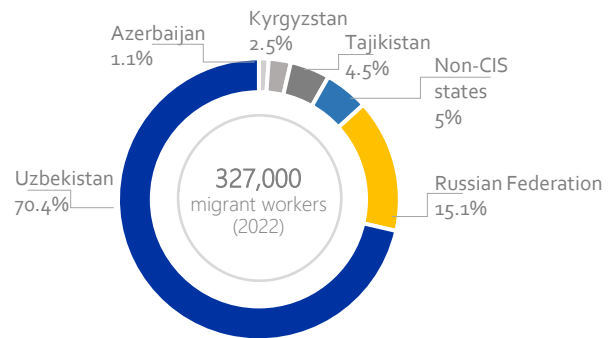


Data collection in Tasboget, Kyzylorda city, 30.01.23

⁸ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022
⁹ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022
¹⁰ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022
¹¹ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022

2.3 Labour Migration

In 2022 there were 327 thousand migrant workers present in Kazakhstan.¹² Migrant workers were nationals of CIS member states. Countries of origin of working migrants were Uzbekistan (70.4%), the Russian Federation (15.1%), Tajikistan (4.5%), Kyrgyzstan (2.5%), and Azerbaijan (1.1%).¹³



¹² Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022
¹³ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2022

2.4 Remittances

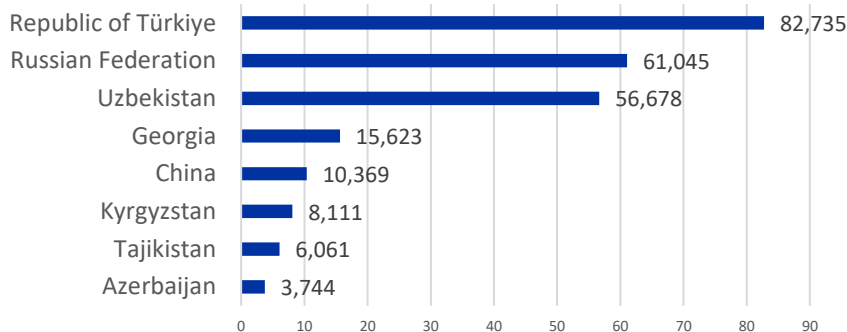
The volume of remittances sent from Kazakhstan is estimated to be over 257 billion Kazakhstani tenge or 557 million USD (considering the annual average exchange rate) in the fourth quarter of 2022. The highest amount of transfers was wired to the Republic of Türkiye - 82.7 billion KZT (179 million USD) (share of the total amount - 32.1%), followed by 61.0 billion KZT (132 million USD) (share - 23.7%) transferred to the Russian Federation and 56.7 billion KZT (122.8 million USD) (share- 22.0%) transferred to Uzbekistan. Other countries that received remittances from Kazakhstan include Georgia - 15.6 billion KZT (33.8 million USD), China - 10.4 billion KZT (22.5 million USD), Kyrgyzstan - 8.1 billion KZT (17.4 million USD), Tajikistan - 6.1 billion KZT (13.2 million USD) and Azerbaijan - 3.7 billion KZT (8 million USD).¹⁴



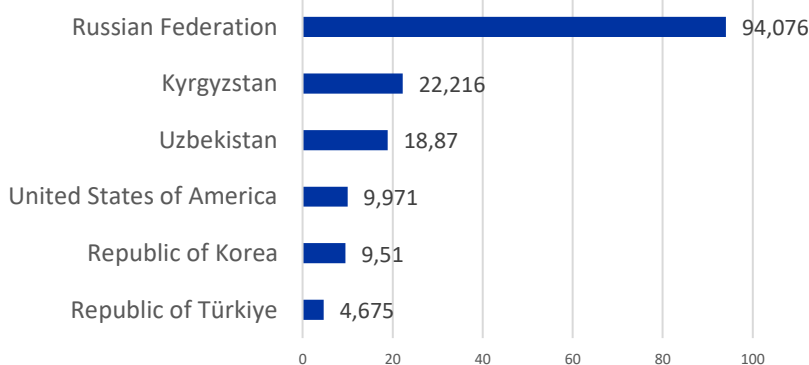
Data collection in Al-Farabi district, Shymkent City, 02.02.2023

¹⁴ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, 21 January 2023.

The volume of remittances transferred from Kazakhstan in Q4 2022, million KZT



In the fourth quarter of 2022, 433,300 transactions worth 177.5 billion KZT (384 million USD) were sent to Kazakhstan. The leaders in terms of money received from abroad were: the Russian Federation - 94.1 billion KZT (203.8 million USD) (share of the total amount - 53.0%), Kyrgyzstan - 22.2 billion KZT (48 million USD) (share - 12.5%), Uzbekistan - 18.9 billion KZT (40.9 million USD) (share - 10.6%), the United States of America - 10.0 billion KZT (21.7 million USD) (share - 5.6%) as well as the Republic of Korea - 9.5 billion KZT (20.6 million USD) (share - 5.4%).¹⁵



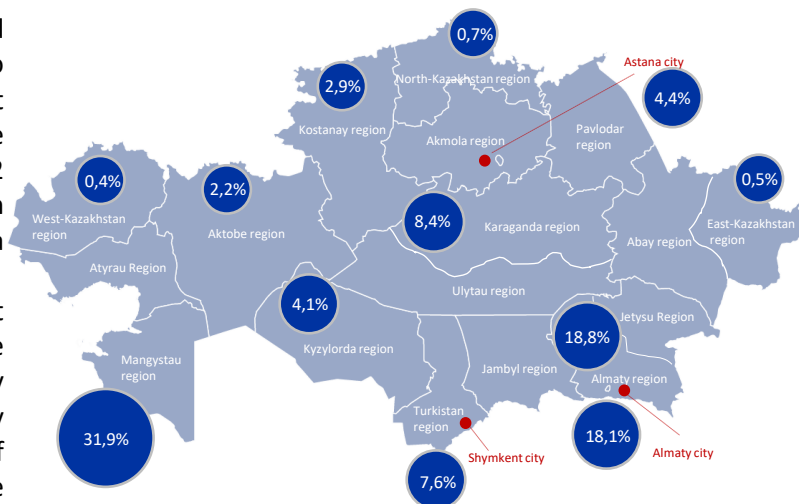
Volume of remittances transferred to Kazakhstan in Quarter 4 2022, million KZT

¹⁵ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, 21 January 2023.

3. BASELINE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Key informants were interviewed during focus group sessions to identify locations with migrant presence. Results of the Baseline Assessment show that 668,422 migrant workers were present in Kazakhstan at the moment of data collection.

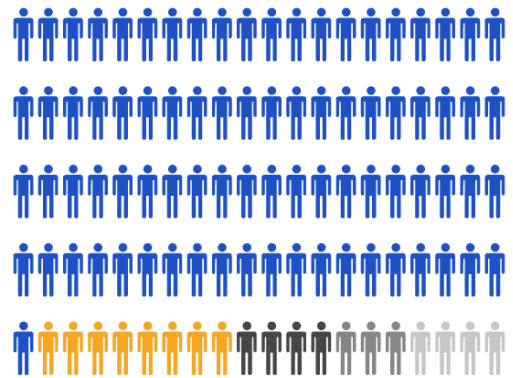
The biggest share of migrant workers was located in the Mangystau region (31.9%), Almaty region (18.8%), and Almaty city (18.1%). The smallest share of migrant workers was residing in the West-Kazakhstan region (0.4%), East-Kazakhstan region (0.5%), and North-Kazakhstan region (0.7%).



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be free of error, nor do they imply a judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

The Baseline Assessment found that 81.3 per cent of migrant workers present in Kazakhstan were citizens of Uzbekistan. A small fraction of migrant workers were from the Russian Federation (7.8%), Tajikistan (4.4%), Kyrgyzstan (3%), and other countries.

The number of migrant workers who moved to Kazakhstan increased by 16 per cent in 2021 compared to the previous year and increased by 25 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021. Men represent the largest majority (84%) of migrant workers.



Gender proportion of migrant workers



In 2022, key informants shared that the majority of migrant workers moved to Kazakhstan for the following reasons: difficult economic situation (67.2%), economic sanctions (12.4%), conflict and general security situation (8.8%), and loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19 (5.4%). 6.1 per cent of individuals migrated due to partial mobilization in the Russian Federation.

Seasonal migration was prevalent among migrant workers (73.3%). One-fifth (20.2%) of migrant workers moved to Kazakhstan long-term in 2022. 6.5 per cent of migrant workers were associated with other types of migration, according to key informants.

4. CONCLUSION

This Quarterly Report on the migration situation in Kazakhstan shows the total number of migrants in 2022, including migrant workers, their regional displacement, the countries of origin, remittances, and gender proportion. The migrant flow in Kazakhstan is concentrated between the country and other CIS members.

The Baseline Assessment has provided valuable insights into demographic and migration patterns. It identified 668,422 migrant workers at the time of data collection, which differs from the official statistics. This crucial observation needs to be addressed by the state authorities in order to improve future comprehensive analysis and planning. The research efforts should prioritize gathering and analyzing data from different sources, and support its integration and mutual exchange.

5. ACRONYMS

- CIS - Commonwealth Independence Countries
- CSO - Civil Society Organizations
- DTM - Displacement Tracking Matrix
- SDC - Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency
- IOM - International Organization for Migration

6. GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS¹⁶

labour migration the movement of persons from one state to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment.

migrant flow the number of international migrants arriving in a country (immigrants) or the number of international migrants departing from a country (emigrants) over the course of a specific period.

migrant worker a person who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state in which he or she is not a national.

¹⁶ Glossary on Migration. International Migration Law No. 34, IOM, Geneva

The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. This publication was made possible through support provided by the Swiss Agency For Development And Cooperation (SDC) under the terms of the Initiative “Labour Migration Programme – Central Asia”. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM or SDC.

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