

BASELINE ASSESSMENT AND SURVEYS: INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS IN KAZAKHSTAN DECEMBER 2022 – FEBRUARY 2023



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ABOUT MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX

The Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system that tracks and monitors displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route.

In December 2022, MTM conducted the first round of its Baseline Mobility Assessment in Kazakhstan to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, locations and geographic distribution of migrant workers and returnee migrants, reasons for migration, countries of origin and periods of migration. MTM enables IOM and its partners to maximize resources, set priorities, and deliver better-targeted, evidence-based, mobility-sensitive and sustainable humanitarian assistance and development programming. For more information about MTM Kazakhstan please visit <https://dtm.iom.int/kazakhstan>

3 TARGET POPULATIONS¹

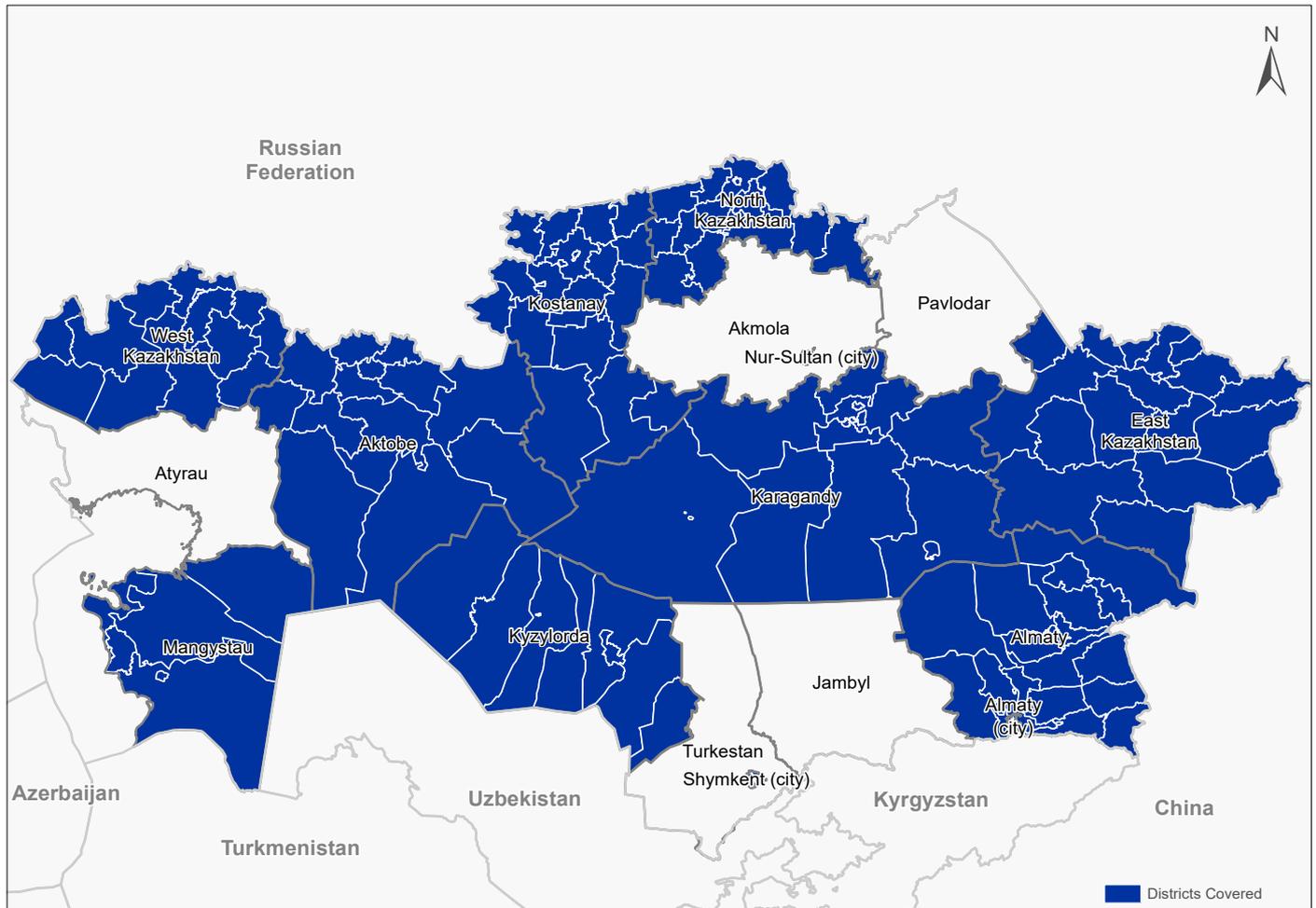
Through the Baseline Mobility Assessments, MTM tracks the locations, population sizes and period of mobility of three core target population categories:

- 1. Return Migrant**
The movement of Kazakh nationals returning home after having moved away from Kazakhstan and crossed an international border.
- 2. Migrant Worker**
A migrant worker is defined as a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.
- 3. Emigrant**
Kazakh nationals who moved abroad and are currently residing out of country (including persons in need of international protection and economic migrants).

Data on population sizes for the 3 target population categories is collected by time of mobility, categorizing them yearly for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

IOM Kazakhstan has conducted 142 key informant interviews (19% women) and 1,131 surveys (18% women) with international migrant workers from December 2022 to February 2023 in the country².

MAP 1 GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



Source: IOM Kazakhstan, 2023

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration

1. IOM Glossary's definition of a migrant worker was used for the purposes of this study. Please see the methodology section for more information.

2. Data collection covered the following locations: Mangystau, Almaty, Almaty (city), Karagandy, Shymkent (city), Nur-Sultan (city), Kyzylorda, Kostanay, Aktobe, North Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan and West Kazakhstan.

SUMMARY OF KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND METHODOLOGY

<p>12 regions covered</p> 	<p>113 rayons assessed</p> 	<p>270 key informants interviewed</p> 	<p>1,131 migrant workers interviewed</p> 	<p>668,422 migrant workers present in the country</p> 	<p>1 in 2 migrant workers interviewed were reported the sole/primary providers for their households</p>
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The Ministry of Labour, Akimats and Ministry of internal affairs (migration police units) of Kazakhstan provided support with the baseline assessment. MTM teams assessed 113 Rayons across Kazakhstan in Dec 2022 for Round 1 of the baseline mobility assessment in close coordination with Akimats. MTM interviewed 1,131 international migrant worker with the results from the baseline assessment.

METHODOLOGY

The key informant interviews and surveys were conducted using IOM's Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) system in Kazakhstan. MTM is adapted to the context in Kazakhstan based on IOM's Global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology³. DTM is a system for collecting and analyzing data to disseminate important multi-layered information about the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations to enable evidence-based migration management.

DTM's Baseline Mobility Assessment, and Survey methods were implemented for this study. Baseline Assessment was done through key informant interviews while surveys were conducted with international migrant workers. Key informants were selected based on their knowledge of the areas, migrant situation, local community and mobility in their locations. They included individuals such as local authorities, community leaders, teachers, and religious leaders. The key informant interviews were recorded on tablets using KoBo software. The interview form covered questions on the presence, mobility and profile of international migrants, emigrants and returning migrant workers. Therefore, the gender composition of both samples, international migrant workers and key informants, reflects the country gender composition.

The Survey locations were selected based on the results of IOM's Baseline Assessment on international migrant workers. The survey questionnaire was developed based on IOM's similar studies in Central Asia⁴ and in consultation with internal and external thematic experts. The questionnaire included questions on socio-economic profile, migration experience, employment and remittances, needs and vulnerabilities.

The survey sample was calculated based on a Baseline Assessment on the presence of international migrants in the selected locations. The interviews were performed using tablets and the KoBo software. All interviews were anonymous and IOM's Data Protection Principles⁵ were observed throughout the entire data cycle.

Data collectors approached potential respondents using the snowball method to obtain their informed consent. Data collection was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Akimats⁶ and Ministry of internal affairs (migration police units) of Kazakhstan who extended their technical expertise to support the study.

IOM's definition of a migrant worker was used for the purposes of this study, according to the IOM Glossary. A migrant worker is a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.

TABLE 1 BELOW CRITERIA WAS USED TO CONDUCT THE SURVEY INTERVIEWS.

No	Variable	Inclusion criteria
1	Age	+18 years of age
2	Nationality	Not Kazakh
3	Interview with IOM	Has not been interviewed by IOM before in the same round of data collection

³ Please find more information at: <https://dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework>

⁴ IOM, 2022 "Study on labour migrants in three cities of Kazakhstan" at: https://kazakhstan.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1586/files/documents/STUDY%20ON%20LABOUR%20MIGRANTS_eng.pdf

⁵ Please find more information at: <https://www.iom.int/data-protection>

⁶ Capital Akimat is part of the unified system of executive bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan, ensures the implementation of the national policy of the executive power in combination with the interests and needs of the development of the relevant territory, please find more information here: https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=1021546&pos=5;-106#pos=5;-106

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Three groups of populations were targeted in the baseline assessment: (1) international migrant workers, (2) returning migrant workers and (3) emigrants however at this stage only the data on international migrant workers were available with the key informants approached. In the timeframe 2020-2022, IOM Kazakhstan found 668,422 international migrant workers for the baseline assessment round.

1. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY

The total number of international migrant workers in the locations covered by the IOM Kazakhstan’s assessment was 668,422. The top five countries of origin of international migrant workers in Kazakhstan were Uzbekistan (81%), the Russian Federation (8%), Tajikistan (4%), Kyrgyzstan (3%) and Azerbaijan (2%). The number of international migrant workers increased by 26.3 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021 and by 14.9 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020. In particular, Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan international migrants have almost doubled their presence, respectively by 95.6 per cent and 93.9 per cent, in 2022 compared to 2020. International migrants coming from Azerbaijan and Tajikistan have increased by almost half their presence, respectively by 44.6 and 41.2 per cent their presence in the last two years, while international migrants from Uzbekistan have registered an increase by 38.9 per cent in the same time period. The following cities hosted the largest number of the international migrant workers: Mangystau (32%), Almaty Oblast (19%), Almaty City (18%), Karagandy (8%) and Symkent City (8%).

FIGURE 1 TOP 5 NATIONALITIES | INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS | ANNUAL TRENDS

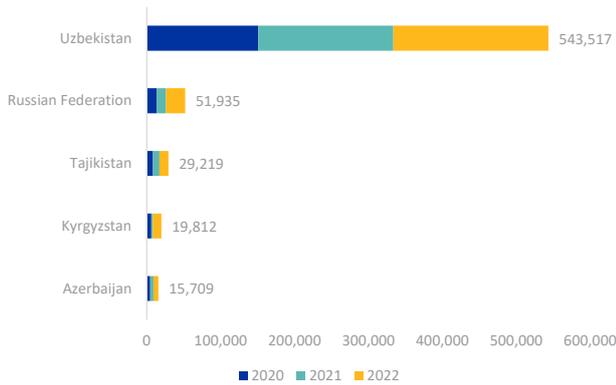
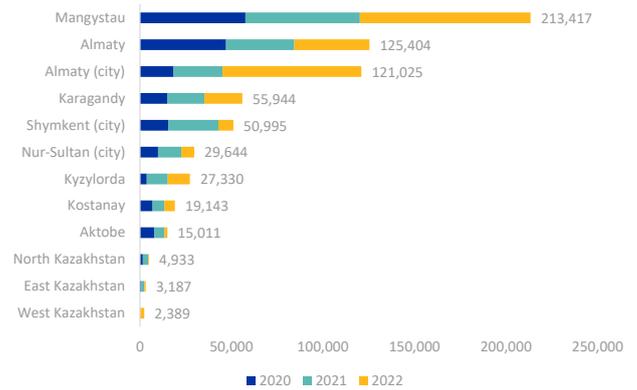
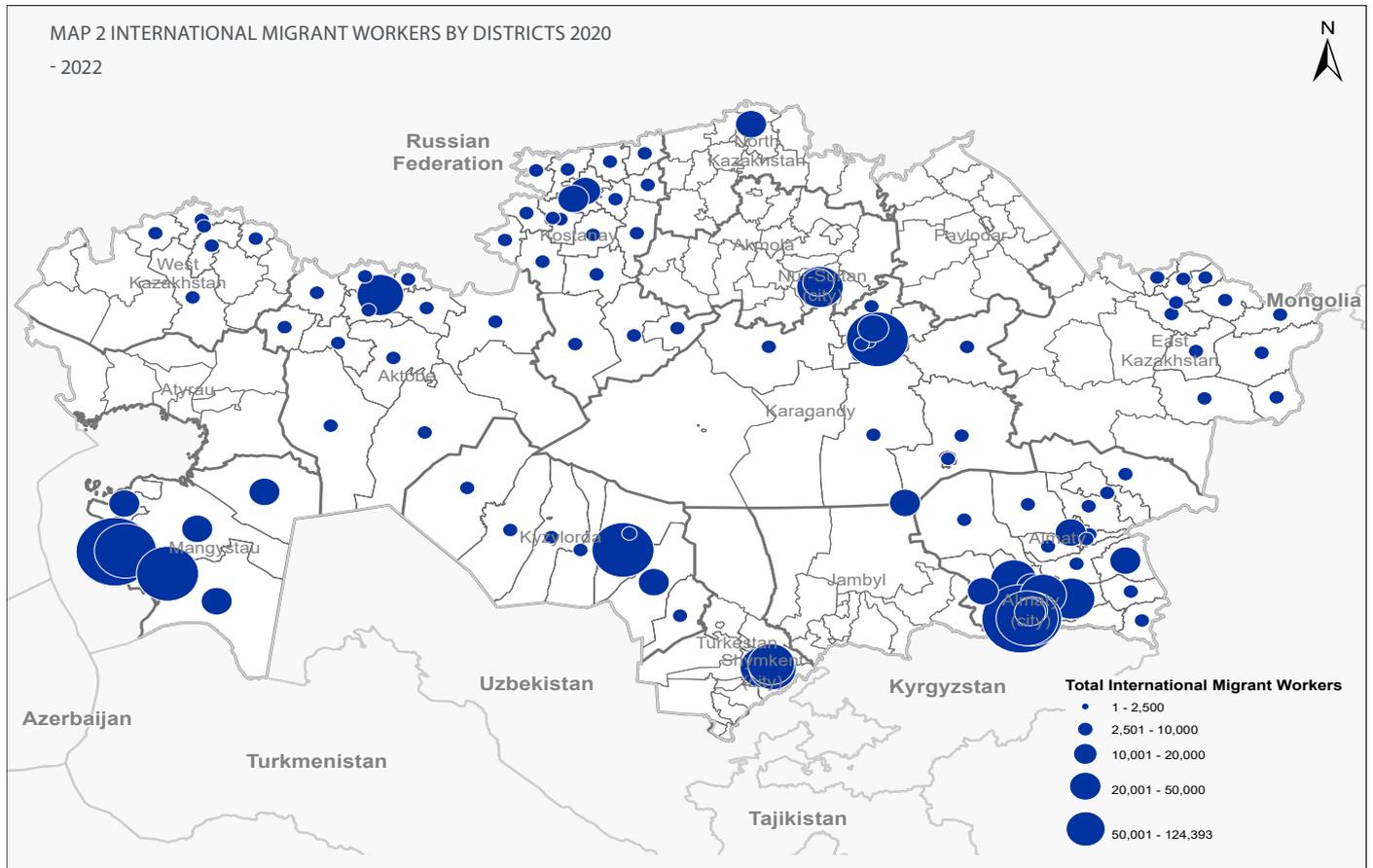


FIGURE 2 INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS BY PROVINCE | ANNUAL TRENDS



MAP 2 INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS BY DISTRICTS 2020

- 2022



Source: IOM Kazakhstan, 2023

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES OF MIGRANT WORKERS

IOM Kazakhstan has conducted 1,131 surveys with international migrant workers in the country from December 2022 to February 2023. Eighteen per cent of the respondents were women while 82 per cent were men. The average age of respondents was 37 for women and 35 for men. Most respondents reported being married (60%) followed by those who are single (28%) and divorced (9%). The marriage rate was slightly higher among male participants (61%) in comparison to those of female respondents (53%). Women were more likely to report being divorced (20%) than men (7%). The largest group of respondents (30%) reported completing upper secondary education, closely followed by those who achieved lower secondary education (27%) and post-secondary non-tertiary education (24%). Another nine per cent had completed tertiary education.

FIGURE 3 SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION

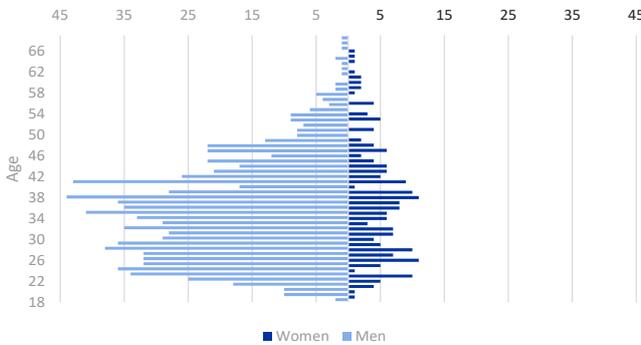
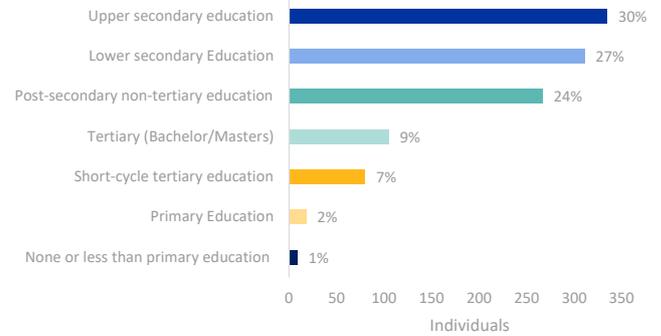


FIGURE 4 COMPLETED LEVEL OF EDUCATION



Those attending post-secondary non-tertiary education, short cycle or not tertiary education paths, post graduate levels or other have been reported their fields of education which varied engineering, manufacturing, construction and architecture (30%), followed by services (13%), agriculture forestry, fisheries and veterinary (12%), and education (9%).

More than half of the respondents (53%) reported being the sole/primary providers for their households. Men (58%) were much more likely to report being the main providers for their families than women (30%).

MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

Sixty-six per cent of respondents were Uzbekistan nationals, followed by those from Russian Federation (13%), Tajikistan (9%), Kyrgyzstan (8%) and Azerbaijan (4%) as for the top five countries of origin .

TABLE 1 TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Countries of Return	Individuals	Percentages
Uzbekistan	708	66%
Russian Federation	144	13%
Tajikistan	96	9%
Kyrgyzstan	84	8%
Azerbaijan	46	4%

When asked about when they left their countries of origin to start their journeys to Kazakhstan, 50 per cent of the respondents reported being away for less than six months. Another 19 per cent have been away from their country of origin between seven months and a year followed by those who left more than a year ago (between 1-3 years, 17% and between 3-5 years, 13%). More than half of the respondents (58%) said this was the time they expected to be away. Nineteen per cent reported not knowing how long they would be away while 15 per cent did not remember.

FIGURE 5 LENGTH OF STAY OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

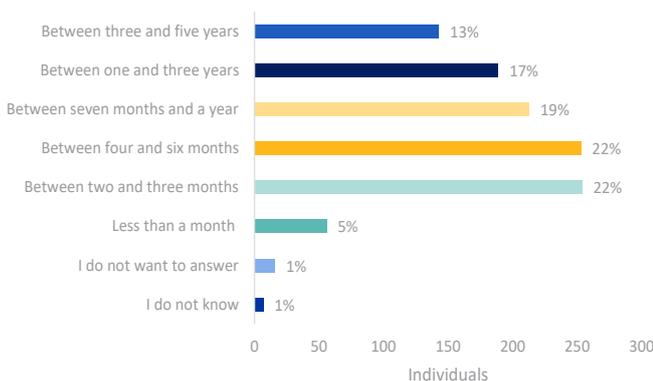
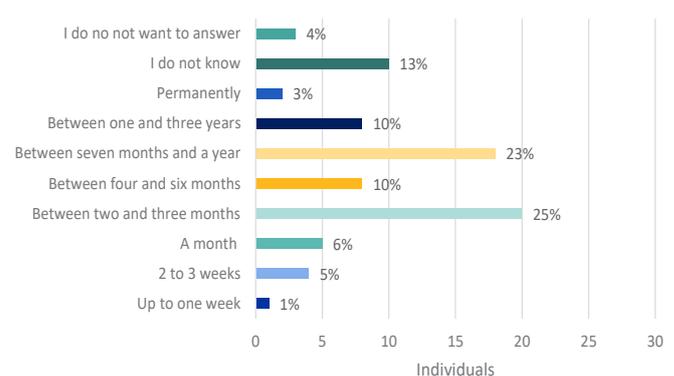


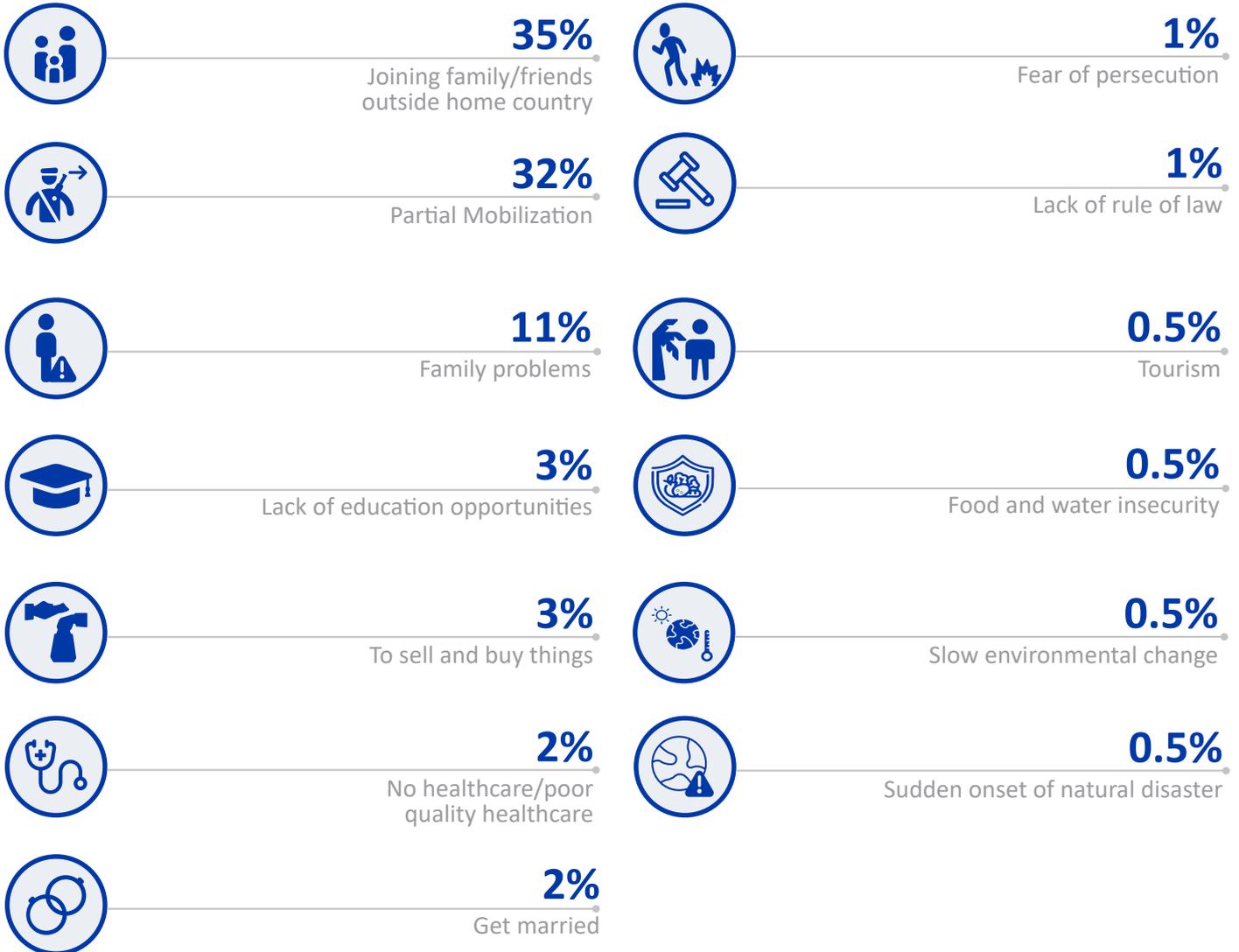
FIGURE 6 PLANNED LENGTH OF STAY OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



MAIN REASON IN DECISION TO LEAVE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



THE REST (21%) OF THE FACTORS IN LEAVING COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Large majority (79%) of respondents reported leaving their countries of origin to seek employment opportunities while 18 per cent cited other reasons, remaining 2 per cent who didn't want to answer and 1 per cent who didn't know what to answer. Other reasons including reuniting with friends (35%), partial mobilization (32%), family problems (11%), education (3%), to buy or sell things (3%), marriage (2%), and health issues (2%), in addition to the mentioned reasons, (12%) refused to answer. The employment intentions or plans were almost always (89%) for the respondents themselves while 10 per cent reported that both them and their spouses intended to work or find work.

EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL TO KAZAKHSTAN

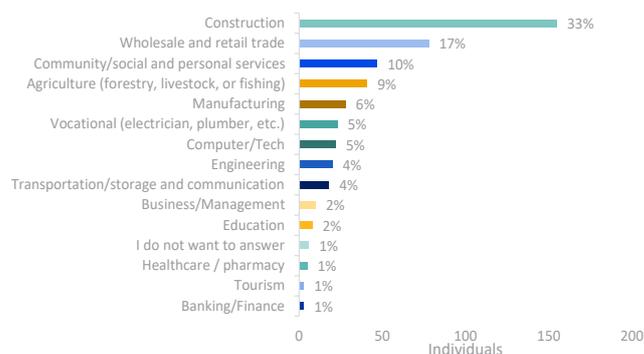
Thirty-six per cent of respondents were employed either private or public in the last place of residence prior to their arrival in Kazakhstan, closely followed by those who reported being unemployed and looking for a job (32%), being self-employed (13%) and on daily wages (8%). The definition of employment or having work was based on the understanding of individual respondent; international standards of what is considered employment and work could not be observed.

Men were more likely to report being employed (59%) than women (49%). Most commonly reported sectors of employment were construction (29%), wholesale and retail trade (19%), community, social, personal services (12%) and agriculture (8%). Women were more likely to report worked in wholesale and retail trade (34%) and community, social and personal services (26%) while men mainly worked in construction (33%) and wholesale and retail trade (17%).

FIGURE 7 PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT SECTOR | WOMEN



FIGURE 8 PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT SECTOR | MEN



CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Sixty-five per cent of the respondents reported being employed, followed by those who were self-employed (15%) and did daily work (11%). Five per cent reported being unemployed but looking for a job at the time of the interview. International Labor Organization’s definitions of labor and work⁷ were adopted for the purposes of this question; however, individual respondent’s understanding or awareness of their working status were recorded based on their self-reported responses. Almost half of the respondents said they worked as employees with official work contract (48%); 41 per cent were dependent contractors, 9 per cent were employers and 2 per cent reported being self-employed.

TABLE 2 CURRENT EMPLOYMENT TYPE

Employment type	Individuals	Percentages
Employee	496	48%
Dependent contractor	425	41%
Self-employed	95	9%
Employer	14	2%
Total	1,030	100%

To the five per cent of the respondents who were unemployed and were looking for a job, the history on employment was asked through multiple choice questions. Sixty-five per cent said they had worked in Kazakhstan before. Their reasons for leaving their jobs included the work ending as it was either temporary or seasonal; unsatisfactory work arrangements; and family reasons such as marriage and children. Almost none of the unemployed respondents (2%) were taking steps to purchase or start their own businesses. Unemployed respondents reported looking for jobs mostly through newspapers and internet (73%); friends and relatives (60%); checking worksites, farms, factory gates, or other places (18%) and direct applications to employers (15%). Most respondents (48%) said they would accept any job provided that it pays well followed by those who said it should meet their qualification (26%) or their sector (21%). Another 5 per cent said they would accept any job regardless of the conditions. Women were more likely to report not having received any advice (19%) than men (29%).

FIGURE 9 SOURCES OF JOB HUNTING FOR UNEMPLOYED

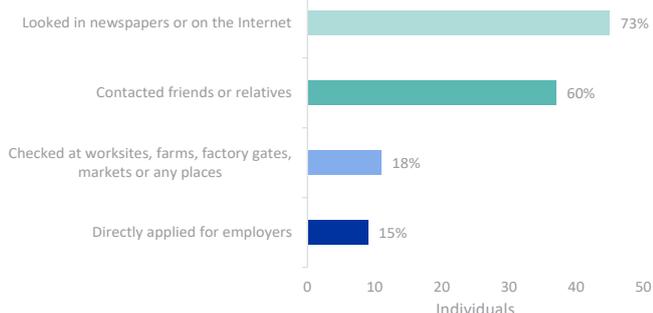
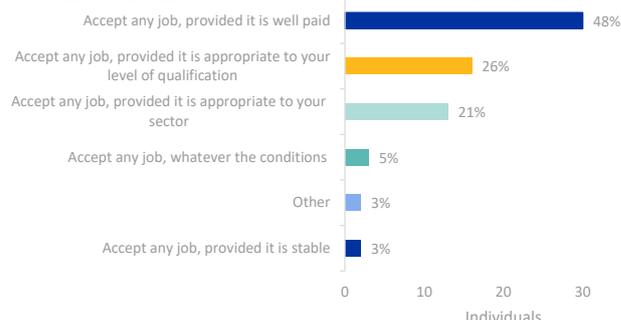


FIGURE 10 DESIRED WORKING CONDITIONS OF UNEMPLOYED



⁷ International Labour Organization definitions of labour and work was adopted for the purposes of this question. Please see more on: <https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/concepts-and-definitions/classification-economic-activities/>.

KEY FINDINGS FROM INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKER SURVEY

Majority of unemployed respondents (48%) reported that they did not receive any advice, help or assistance from employment services in Kazakhstan while some (31%) said they obtained information about the vacancies and a smaller group (23%) said they were given advice on how to look for a job.

When asked about the obstacles to finding a good job, the largest group of migrants reported poor working conditions in available jobs (32%), not having working experiences (21%) and no education (15%). Men were more likely to report poor working conditions as the largest barriers (38%) while women cited as their main reason the lack of documents (33%).

FIGURE 11 ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

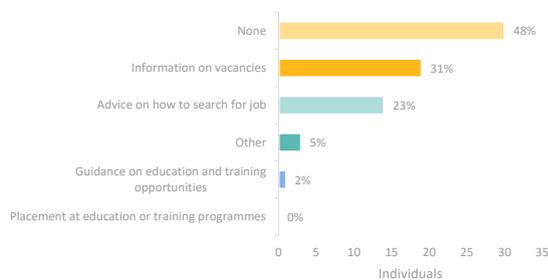
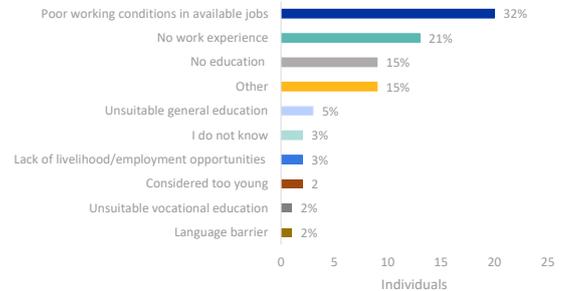


FIGURE 12 JOB RELATED OBSTACLES



EMPLOYMENT SECTOR AND INCOME

Majority of respondents reported working in the construction sector (38%), followed by wholesale and retail trade (26%) and community, social and personal services (14%). Women were more likely to report working in wholesale and retail trade (37%) and community, social and personal services (29%) while men mainly worked in construction (44%) and wholesale and retail trade (23%).

The reported sectors in Kazakhstan were similar to those listed for the country of origin. Eighty-one per cent of the respondents said that they had previously worked in the same sector. They had most commonly worked in the same sector for 3-5 years (35%), 1-2 years (24%) and 6-10 years (23%). Thirteen per cent reported having 11 years or more of experience in the same sector while five per cent said their experience was less than one year.

FIGURE 13 EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

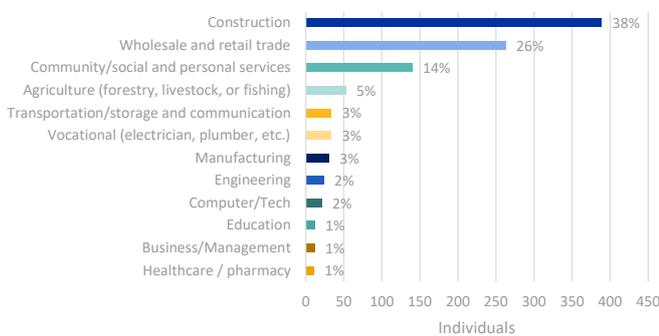
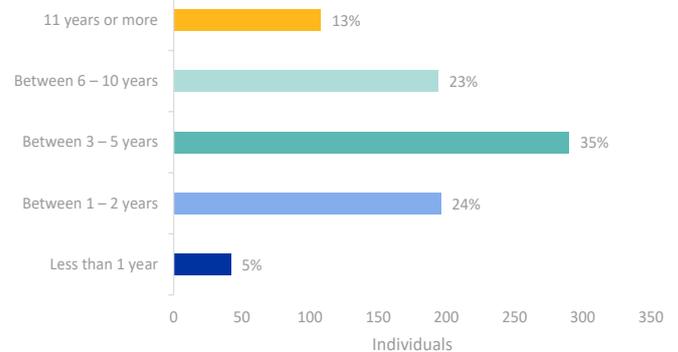


FIGURE 14 WORK LENGTH IN THE SAME SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT

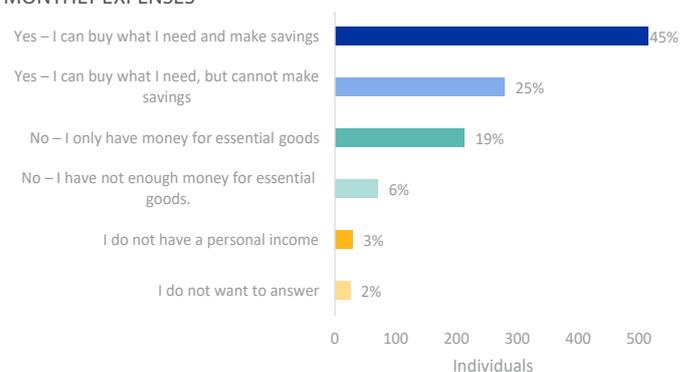


The report monthly average income among the respondents was 194,212 Kazakh Tenge (421 USD). The reported income may include remittances from other countries, remuneration gained through work in Kazakhstan, social benefits and other financial support. Nearly half of respondents (45%) said their income was sufficient to cover their living costs and save followed by those who could cover their expenses but could not save.

A significant group (19%) reported only being able to meet their needs; another six per cent could not purchase essential goods and three per cent did not have a personal income.

Multiple indirect indicators were used to assess the working conditions of migrant workers. Almost half of respondents (47%) reported working without a written contract. Women (55%) were more likely to report working without a written contract than men (45%). Large majority did not have a pension scheme (62%) or did not know if they had one (14%). Another 78 percent did not benefit from annual leave or compensation instead of it or did not know if they had this entitlement (10%). Forty per cent reported that their salaries were less than what they have been initially promised by their employers.

FIGURE 15 PERSONAL AVERAGE INCOME SUFFICIENCY TO MEET MONTHLY EXPENSES



REMITTANCES

More than half (53%) of respondents reported that they sent money back to their countries of origin. A lot more men (57%) said they sent remittances compared to women (35%). The biggest group among the respondents (46%) said they remitted between 25-50% of their monthly income, followed by those who remitted more than half (30%) and between 10-25% (18%). The largest group amongst men (48%) reported sending 25-50% per cent of their earnings to their countries of origin while amongst women this was equal between 25-50 per cent (31%) and 50 per cent (31%) of their income.

Seventy-two per cent of the respondents who remit to their country of origin said the remittances were their families’ primary source of income. Men (74%) were more likely to report that remittances were the main income of their families than women (51%). Respondents commonly said they remitted once a month (67%) or every three months (12%). The remittances were transferred through banks offices; money transfer operators’ offices; and friends and relatives in the order of most frequently used method of transfer. Safety and speed were the criteria listed for choosing these transfer methods.

Most respondents reported sending money back to their countries of origin to support their family and relatives to cover their living costs (86%). Few respondents reported other reasons such as supporting their families in their countries of origin to buy property (4%), create business opportunities(4%), repay debts (3%) and enough money according to their lifestyles (3%).

FIGURE 16 PERCENTAGE OF REMITTANCES SENT OUT THE MONTHLY INCOME

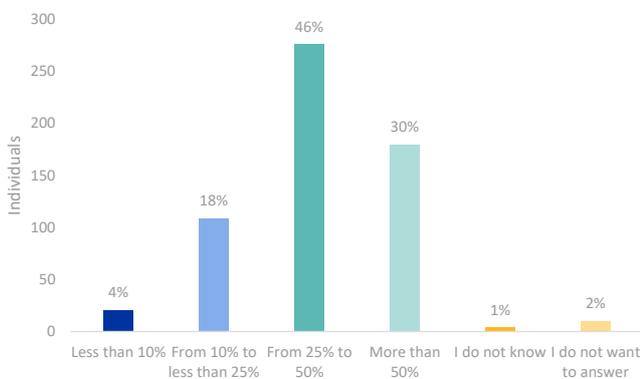


FIGURE 17 PREFERRED WAYS OF SENDING MONEY

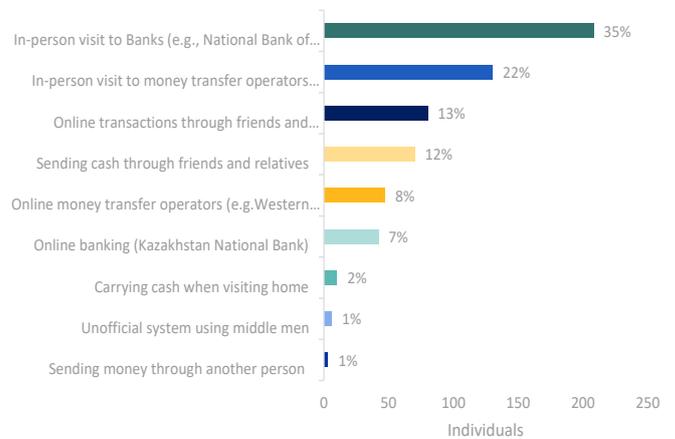
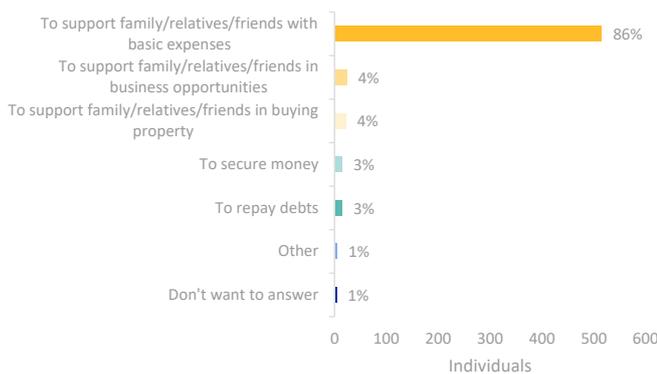


FIGURE 18 MAIN REASONS FOR REMITTANCES



GENERAL WELL-BEING IN KAZAKHSTAN

While approximately half of respondents (52%) stated that they lived in permanent housing, a significant group of respondents (46%) reported living in temporary accommodation and 1 per cent was homeless. Barriers to permanent housing were listed as high rents (70%), low or unsteady income (32%) and administrative difficulties (25%).

The average size of the household is 4 people. Forty-three per cent stated they live in a household sizes of 4 to 6 people, forty-one per cent live with from 1 to 3 people, seven per cent from 7 to 9 people and 7 per cent did not want to answer to this question.

FIGURE 19 CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION

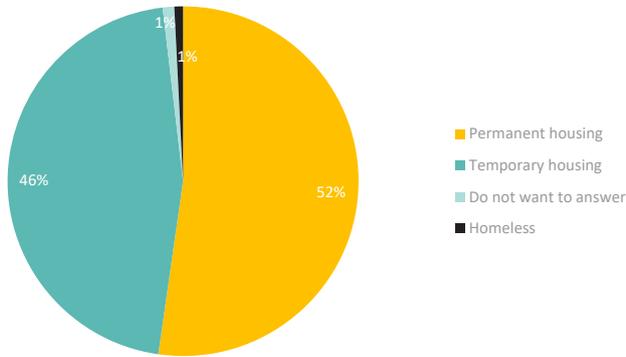
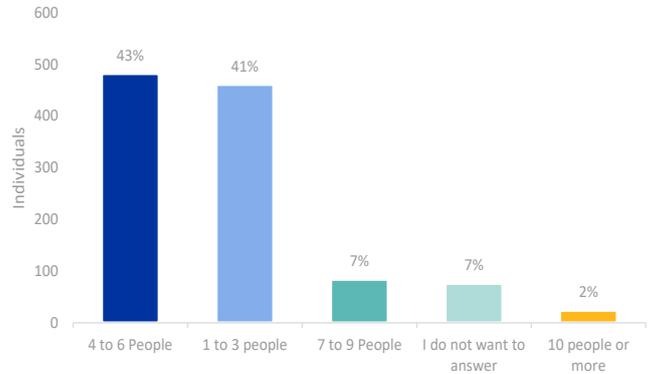


FIGURE 20 HOUSEHOLD SIZE



Sixty-eight per cent of the respondents stated that they had access to health services; 16 per cent did not have access and another 16 per cent did not know if they did. Men (68%) and women (67%) had very similar rates of reported access. Common barriers to accessing health care were reported as not having enough money to cover the costs, not knowing how to access it, not having an Individual Identification Number (IIN)⁵ and administrative difficulties in the order of frequency.

On the access to education 41 per cent respondents stated that they had access to education; 19 per cent did not have access and another 38% did not know if they did.

Seventy-eight per cent of the respondents stated that had access to financial services like opening an account getting a card and etc., while 7 per cent responded they did not have access to these services, 16 per cent did not know if they have access and 3 per cent did not want to answer.

FIGURE 21 ACCESS TO EDUCATION

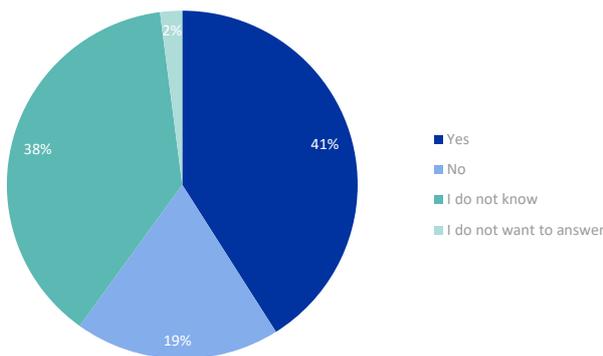
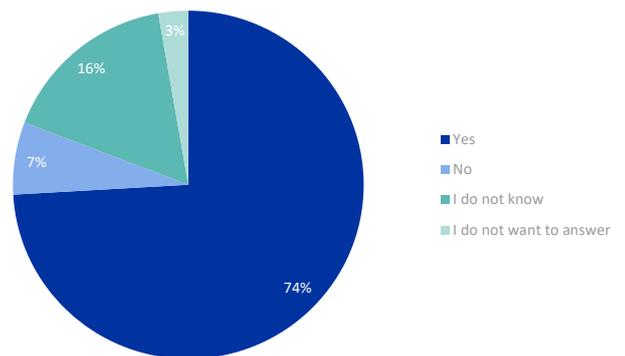


FIGURE 22 ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES



⁵ The IIN is a 12-digit number that is issued to everyone upon his first registration in the information and production system to create documents. The IIN is generated automatically, considering the concepts of uniqueness and immutability. See <https://korgan-zan.kz/en/obtaining-iin-and-binin-kazakhstan>:

GENERAL WELL-BEING IN KAZAKHSTAN - AWARENESS ABOUT RIGHTS

More than half of the respondents (54%) stated that they were informed of their rights on topics such as work, housing, education, personal safety, identity documents and legal status. A considerable number of respondents (29%) said they did not know and 15 per cent they did not feel informed of their rights in Kazakhstan. The remaining three per cent did not want to answer this question. Women (55%) were slightly more likely to report that they feel informed about their rights than men (53%).

Based a multiple choice question about the ability to afford goods and services, the majority of respondents could afford owning a mobile phone (67%). Forty-three per cent said they could purchase meat, chicken or fish products. Thirty-seven per cent could keep their accommodation adequately clean. Among the indicators listed in this question, respondents were less like to say yes to going on holidays (10%) once per year and owning a car (8%).

An overwhelming majority of respondents stated that their interactions were positive with the local Kazakh community (98%) and other migrant communities (94%) present where they live. The social likeability bias and hesitations due to cultural, social and safety concerns might have prevented respondents from sharing negative experiences in response to this question.

FIGURE 23 FEEL INFORMED OF RIGHTS INCLUDING WORK, HOUSING, EDUCATION, PERSONAL SAFETY, IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, LEGAL STATUS

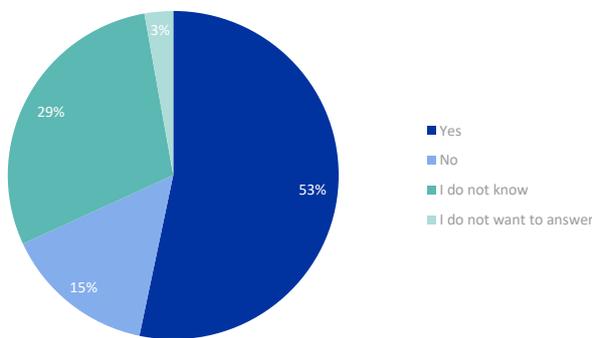
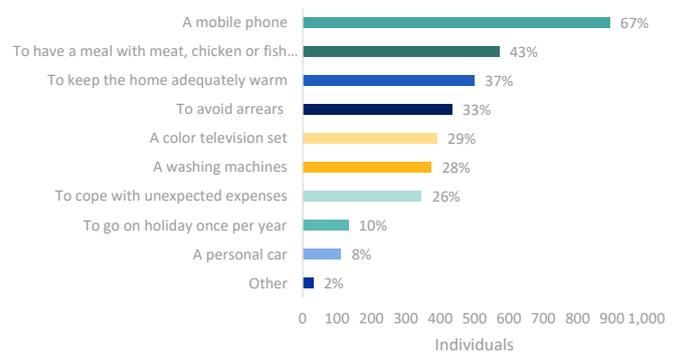


FIGURE 24 ABILITY TO AFFORD ESSENTIAL UTILITIES AND SERVICES



FUTURE INTENTIONS

Forty-six per cent of the respondents shared their intention to circulate between Kazakhstan and their countries of origin while 40 per cent wanted to stay in Kazakhstan permanently, 6 per cent wished to return to their country of origin permanently and another 6 per cent wanted to move to a third country. Most of 2 per cent, classified as “other”, are meant to stay in Kazakhstan until the completion of special Russian military operations.

Out of the 12 per cent of respondents who intended to return or move to another country, majority (29%) said they would do so in 1-3 months followed by those (23%) who did not know when they would travel.

Out of the five per cent of respondents who wished to move to third country from Kazakhstan, most reported Russian Federation (35%) as their intended country of destination followed by those who have not decided on a country (18%) and respondents who wished to travel to USA (8%), Republic of Korea (8%) and Georgia (5%).

FIGURE 25 FUTURE MIGRATION INTENTIONS

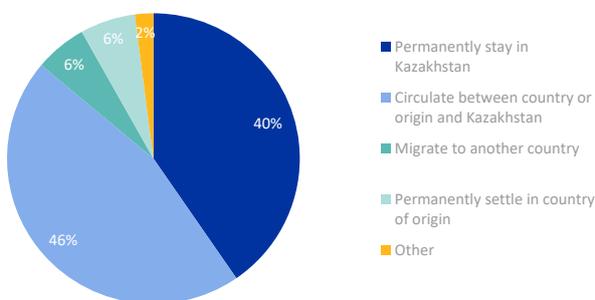


FIGURE 25 TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION OF RE-MIGRATION

