Mobility Tracking Matrix Survey: INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS IN KAZAKHSTAN

March-April 2023

IOM UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

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ABOUT MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX

Mobility Tracking Matrix is a system based on IOM's Global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile populations, whether on site or en route.

In March 2023, MTM verified Baseline Mobility Assessment data through phone calls with key informants in Kazakhstan to track mobility of migrant workers.

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 DTM methodology, please visit www.dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework

THREE TARGET POPULATIONS[1]

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessments, MTM tracks the locations, population sizes and periods 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 workder 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 .

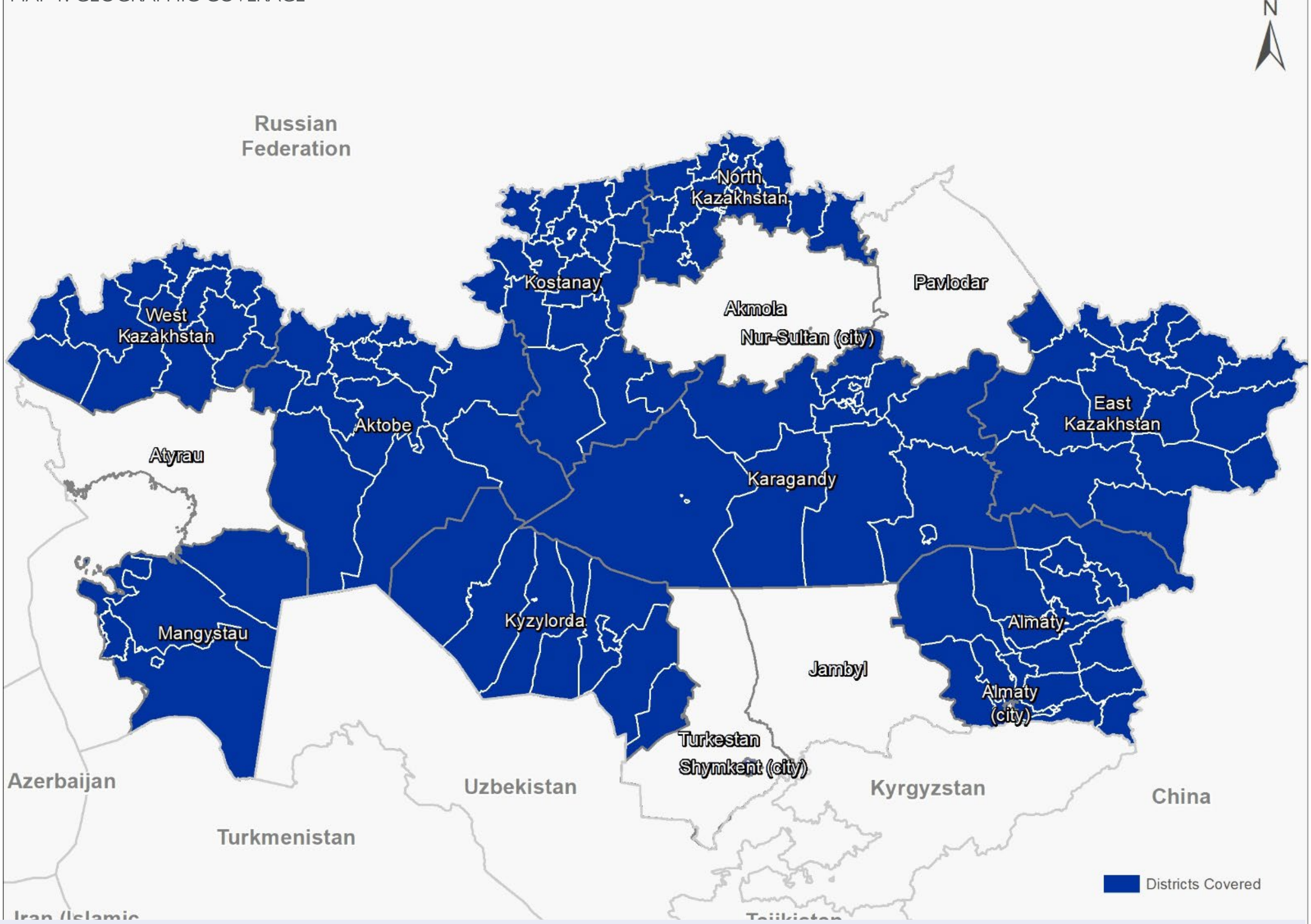
3. Emigrant

   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 three target population categories is collected by the time of mobility, categorizing them yearly for 2020, 2021, 2022, and the first quarter of 2023.

IOM Kazakhstan verified and updated data with key informants via phone interviews and conducted 1,129 surveys involving migrant workers (16% women)[2].

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

12 regions covered

113 rayons assessed

270 key informants interviewed

1,129 migrant workers interviewed

724,534 migrant workers present in the country

1 in 2 migrant workers interviewed were reported the sole/ primary providers for their households

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Akimats (local municipal bodies) of 12 designated regions, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan (migration police units) provided support with the Baseline Assessment. MTM teams assessed 113 Rayons[3] across Kazakhstan in March 2023 for Round 2 of the Baseline Mobility Assessment.

METHODOLOGY

DTM's Baseline Mobility Assessment and Survey methods were implemented for this study. Baseline Mobility 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's gender composition.

The Survey locations were selected based on the results of IOM's Baseline Mobility Assessment on international migrant workers. The survey questionnaire was developed based on IOM's similar studies in Central Asia[5] 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 Mobility Assessment of 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 Principles[6] 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, Akimats[7], and the 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 where 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
4	Working status	Currently working in Kazakhstan


Kyzylorda city, April 2023

[3] There are three levels of territorial divisions in Kazakhstan: 1.Region, 2.Rayon, 3.City or village. The three main metropolitan cities – Astana, Shymkent and Almaty have the status of republican importance and are considered as the regional level.
[4] Please find more information at: https://dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework
[5] IOM, 2022 "Study on labour migrants in three cities of Kazakhstan" at: https://kazakhstan.iom.int/resources/study-labour-migrants-three-cities-kazakhstan-almaty-astana-and-shymkent
[6] Please find more information at: https://www.iom.int/data-protection
[7] Capital Akimat is part of the unified system of executive bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which 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 2020-2023, IOM Kazakhstan found 724,534 international migrant workers for the baseline assessment round.

I. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY

The number of international migrant workers arrived in the first quarter of 2023 was 56,112, which totals to 724,534 international migrants being assessed by IOM Kazakhstan in the period of 2020 - 2023. The top five countries of origin of international migrant workers in Kazakhstan were Uzbekistan (86%), the Russian Federation (10%), Tajikistan (5%), Kyrgyzstan (3%) and Azerbaijan (2%). The following regions hosted the largest number of the international migrant workers in 2023: Almaty city (27%), Mangystau (23%), Astana city (15%), Almaty Oblast (13%) and Karaganda (5%).

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

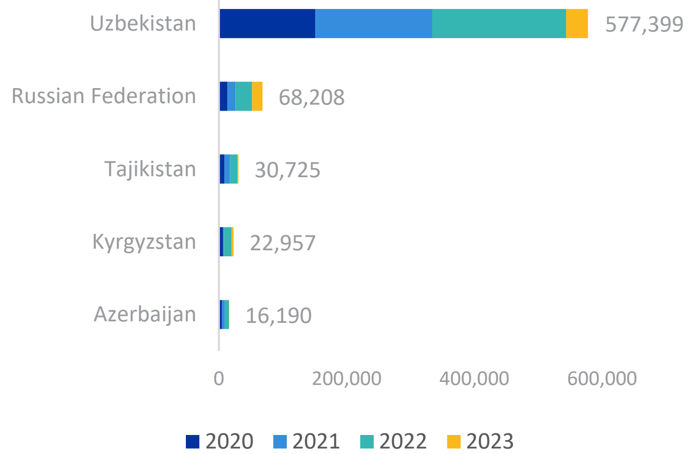
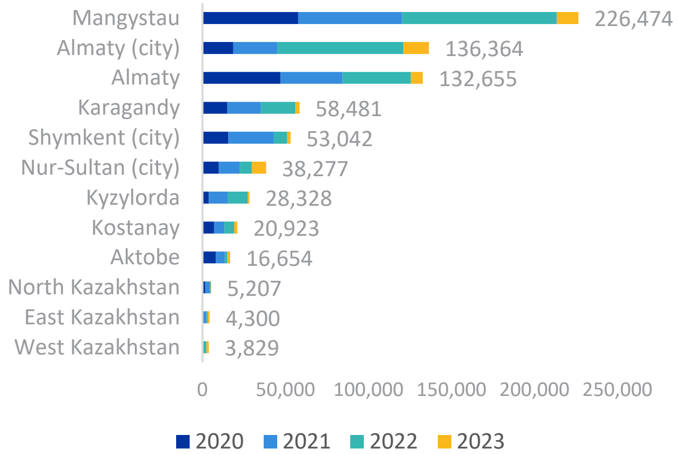
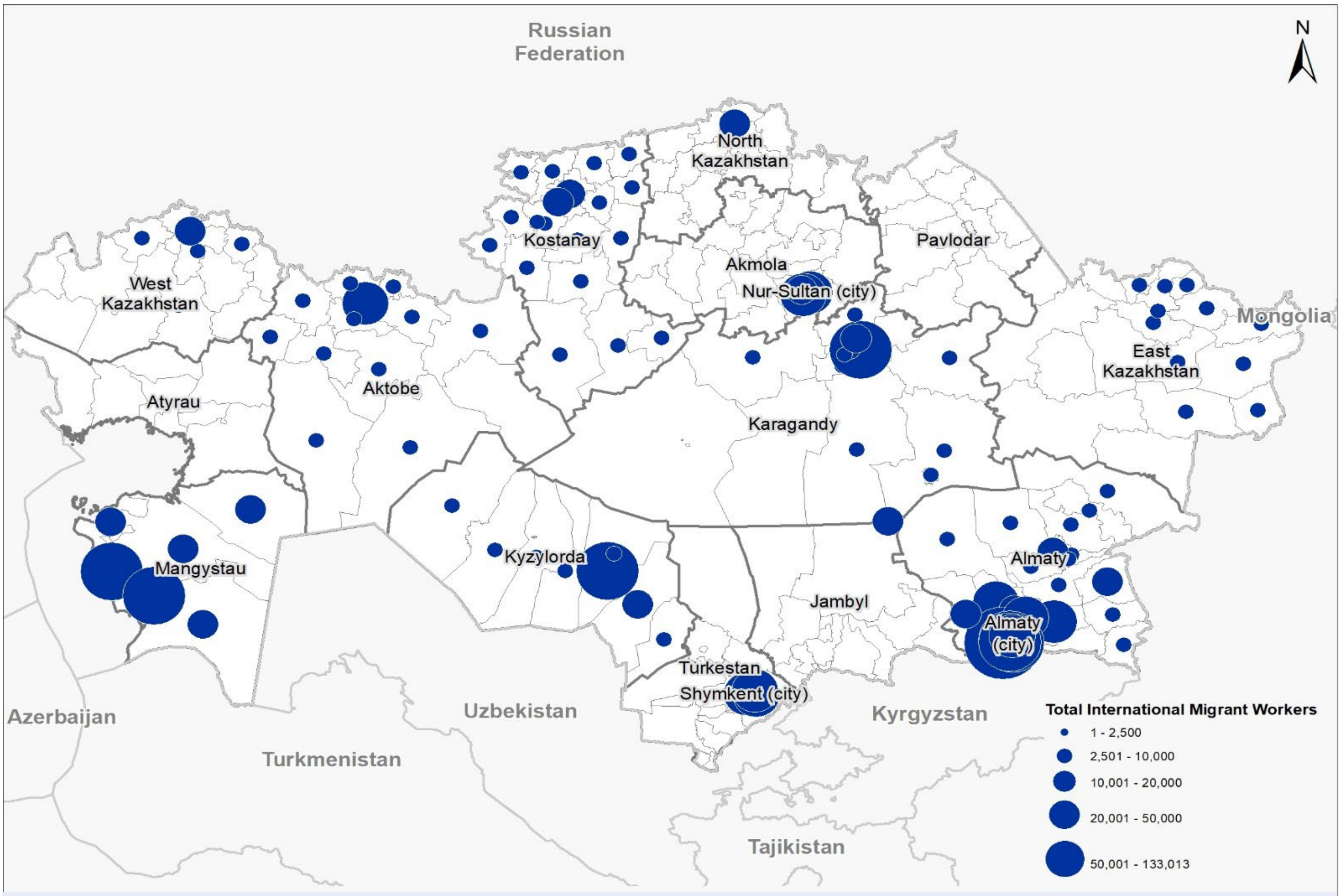


FIGURE 2: INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS BY PROVINCE | ANNUAL TRENDS



MAP 2: INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS BY DISTRICTS 2020-2023



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

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT SURVEY

MIGRANT PROFILE

Country of origin

86%

of migrant workers were from Uzbekistan, making them the largest group of all international migrant workers in the country

Rights protection

55%

of respondents do not have written contracts with the employer

Income

32%

respondents receive no income or slightly above 200 USD

Sanctions and war

51%

of respondents with the Russian Federation citizenship reported to leave their country due to war and sanctions

Age

33-34

was the average age of the respondents

Rights protection

61%

of respondents reported their employers not contributing pension payments on their behalf

Income

19%

of respondents have money only for essential goods

Sanctions and war

51%

reported the changes in the amount of their remittances due to imposed sanctions and war

Education

31%

of respondents reported having upper secondary education

Rights protection

78%

of respondents do not receive contributions for annual leave from the employer

Healthcare

47%

of respondents do not have access to healthcare or do not know how to access it

Sanctions and war

42%

reported facing challenges in the last six months related to imposed sanctions

Employment

40%

of the respondents work in the construction sector

Rights protection

57%

of respondents only partially know their rights

Remittances

85%

of respondents send money to support family/relatives/friends with basic needs

Sanctions and war

60%

of respondents from Russian Federation reported intentions to return if the situation gets better

The following conclusions and trends can be derived from the conducted survey among 1,129 migrant workers:

1. Overall situation of respondents shows the importance to strengthen the assistance for migrant workers in Kazakhstan. Nineteen per cent of migrants can afford only essential goods, and 38 per cent can buy what they need but cannot make any savings. The average income of 32 per cent of the respondents is at most 200 USD, which is slightly higher than the minimum wage in Kazakhstan (154 USD)[8]. Sixty per cent of respondents cannot afford a meal with meat or fish every two days. Most of them have families back home whom they support and send money to cover basic needs (reported 85% of the respondents). High rents (reported by 42% of the respondents), as well as low and unsteady incomes (reported by 41% of the respondents), do not allow the migrant workers to have permanent housing, which makes them share the living space with up to 4-9 people (reported 57% of the respondents).

2. The areas in which migrant workers need more assistance:

- Employment relationships with employers (55 per cent of respondents do not have written contracts with the employer, 78 per cent of respondents do not have paid annual leave, 61 per cent of respondents reported their employers not contributing pension payments on their behalf),
- Need in training and retraining (22 per cent of the responders reported not having access to education, 34 per cent do not know whether they have such access, 23 per cent of responders named lack of education as the main reason for not getting a job, and only 4 per cent reported they that received assistance from employment services on placement at education or training programs).

[8] Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan official website https://primeminister.kz/ru/news/reviews/porucheniya-prezidenta-i-mery-pravitelstva-chto-izmenitsya-v-zhizni-kazahstancev-v-2023-godu-3111425

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT SURVEY

- Easy access to healthcare services (25 per cent of respondents do not reach healthcare, and 22 per cent do not know how to get it),
- Receiving information about migrant rights and their protection and access to social services (only 28 per cent of respondents feel informed of rights including work, housing, education, personal safety, identity documents, and legal).

MIGRANT PROFILE: UZBEKISTAN (Sample size = 706)

General	Employment	Well-being
11% Women	**57%** of Uzbek migrants work in the construction sector	**464 USD** average income among Uzbek migrant workers
89% Men	**61%** of migrant workers from Uzbekistan were employed without a written contract	**58%** of Uzbek migrant workers are the main or sole provider in their household
33-34 the average age of the respondents	**68%** of Uzbek migrant workers reported their employers not contributing pension payments on their behalf	**84 USD** on average an Uzbek migrant worker spends on rent
91% of Uzbek migrant workers initially left their country of origin for employment purposes	**87%** of Uzbek migrant workers do not benefit from paid leave or compensation instead	**66%** share their housing with 4-9 other people

Most respondents (64%) from the migrant workers residing in Kazakhstan are Uzbek nationals. This corresponds with official statistics - 577.399 Uzbek migrants[9]. As in previous years, the primary purpose of their arrival to the country is employment opportunities. Fifty-seven per cent of the respondents from Uzbekistan are engaged in the construction sector. Sixty-one per cent of migrant workers are employed without a written contract, and 87 per cent do not benefit from paid leave or compensation instead.

The same problem exists with the contributions to the pension payments from the employers; 61 per cent of migrant workers reported their employers not contributing pension payments on their behalf. In contrast, only 10 per cent of migrant workers from the Russian Federation reported working without a written contract (sample size – 213 respondents), 34 per cent did not benefit from paid leave or compensation, and only 15 per cent reported their employers were not contributing pension payments on their behalf. Presumably, another such evidence is the higher income reported by Uzbek migrant workers (464 USD) compared to migrant workers from the Russian Federation (410 USD).

Shymkent city, April 2023

Kyzylorda city, April 2023

[9] Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

MIGRANT PROFILE: RUSSIAN FEDERATION (Sample size = 213)

General	Employment	Well-being
22% Women	**21%** of Russian migrants work in the Computer/Tech sector	**410 USD** average income among Russian migrant workers
78% Men	**10%** of Russian migrant workers were employed without a written contract	**15%** of Russian migrant workers are the main or sole provider in their household
33-34 the average age of the respondents	**15%** of Russian migrant workers reported their employers not contributing pension payments	**95%** of Russian migrant workers reported having permanent housing
49% of Russian migrant workers initially left their country of origin for employment purposes	**34%** of Russian migrant workers do not benefit from paid leave or compensation instead	**28%** share their housing with 4-6 other people and pay 126 USD for rent[10]

The second largest group of migrant workers comes from Russian Federation. Almost half of them mentioned leaving the country for employment purposes. Fifty-one per cent of respondents with Russian Federation citizenship reported leaving their country due to war and sanctions. Sixty per cent will return if the situation gets better. Twenty-one per cent of Russian migrants work in the Computer/Tech sector and 17 per cent work in wholesale and retail trade. The survey has shown that average income among Russian migrants is 185,000 KZT (410 USD).

Shymkent city, April 2023

Kyzylorda city, April 2023

[10] According to the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan the rental housing in Kazakhstan for March 2023 amounted to 10 USD per square meter

1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES OF MIGRANT WORKERS

From March to April 2023, IOM Kazakhstan conducted 1,129 surveys involving international migrant workers. Sixteen per cent of respondents were women, whereas 84 per cent were men. The average age was 34 for women and 33 for men.

The largest proportion of participants (61%) were married, followed by those who were single (32%) and those who were divorced (6%). Notably, the proportion of married men (62%) slightly surpassed that of married women (54%). Additionally, women were observed to have a higher likelihood of reporting divorce (14%) compared to their male counterparts (4%).

The majority of the participants (31%) had attained an upper-secondary education level. This was closely followed by those who had completed lower secondary education (27%) and post-secondary non-tertiary education (23%). Nine per cent of respondents reported to have tertiary education.

FIGURE 3: SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION

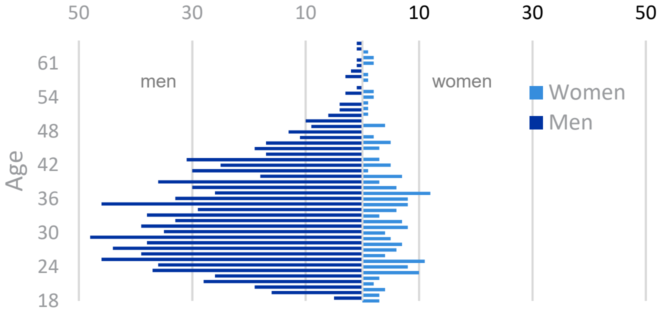
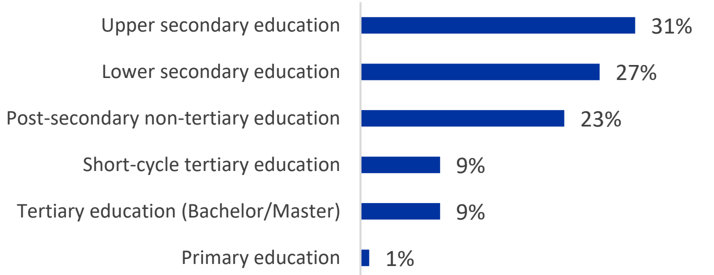


FIGURE 4: COMPLETED LEVEL OF EDUCATION



Among the respondents who had pursued post-secondary non-tertiary education, including short cycle or non-tertiary educational paths, as well as those at postgraduate levels or other, a variety of fields of study were reported. The largest proportion of respondents (27%) were in the engineering, manufacturing, construction, and architecture fields. This was followed by those who studied natural sciences (13%), agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and veterinary sciences (12%), and lastly, those who were in service-related fields (11%).

Less than half of the respondents (49%) indicated that they were the sole or primary providers for their households. A significant disparity was observed in terms of gender, with a higher percentage of men (58%) reporting that they were the main providers for their families compared to women (30%). On average women reported monthly income of 186,424 KZT (413 USD) while men reported earning 218,183 KZT (483 USD).

In comparison to the previous round of survey, there was a noted decrease in the average age of both female and male respondents. In the current round of surveys, there was an observed increase in individuals who received education in the field of natural sciences by four per cent compared to the round of surveys conducted in 2022. This represents a shift from the previous round, where service-related fields were reported as the second-largest category of educational attainment. The patterns relating to marital status, educational attainment and household provider appeared to remain consistent.

2. MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

Sixty-four per cent of the respondents were from Uzbekistan, making them the largest group. They were followed by respondents from the Russian Federation (20%), Kyrgyzstan (10%), Tajikistan (5%), and Azerbaijan (2%), representing the top five countries of origin among the survey respondents.

TABLE 2: TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Countries of Return	Individuals	Percentages
Uzbekistan	707	64%
Russian Federation	217	20%
Tajikistan	105	10%
Kyrgyzstan	54	5%
Azerbaijan	18	2%

Regarding the time respondents left their respective countries of origin to start their journey to Kazakhstan, 76 per cent of the respondents had been away for less than six months. Another nine per cent had spent a period ranging between seven months and a year away from their home countries, while a proportion of respondents had left their country of origin more than a year ago (10% for 1-3 years, and 4% for 3-5 years).

When it came to their anticipated duration of stay, 46 per cent of respondents had envisaged staying in Kazakhstan for up to six months, which is shorter than their actual length of stay. Fifteen per cent expected a stay between seven months and a year, while the remaining respondents expected a long-term stay (2% between 1-3 years, and 4% permanently). A portion of the respondents, 36 per cent, reported uncertainty regarding the duration of their stay.

KEY FINDINGS FROM INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKER SURVEY

In this round of survey, it has been noted that the majority of respondents have more recently arrived in Kazakhstan compared to 50 per cent of those who reported being outside their countries of origin in the previous round. There has been a notable increase in the share of respondents who are nationals of the Russian Federation by seven per cent since the last round. Despite these changes, the overall distribution of respondents' countries of origin has remained relatively consistent.

FIGURE 5: LENGTH OF STAY OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

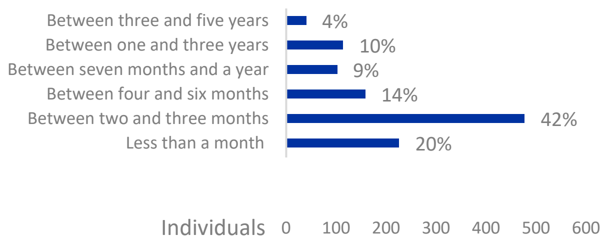
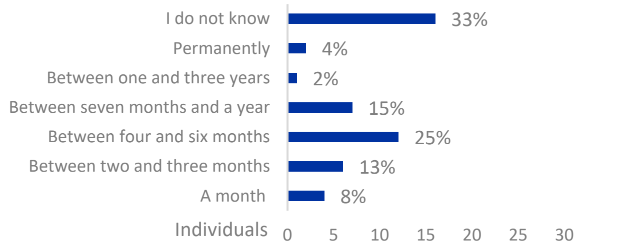


FIGURE 6: PLANNED LENGTH OF STAY OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



MAIN REASON IN THE DECISION TO LEAVE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

80%
Employment

THE REST (18%) OF THE FACTORS IN LEAVING COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

26%
Joining family/friends outside home country

8%
Partial Mobilization in Russian Federation

8%
To sell and buy things

7%
Lack of education opportunities

4%
Family problems

2%
No healthcare/poor quality healthcare

0%
Ger married

28%
I don't know

16%
I don't want to answer


Kyzylorda city, April 2023

A significant majority of respondents (80%) indicated that their primary reason for leaving their countries of origin was to seek employment opportunities, while 18 per cent cited other reasons, remaining one per cent did not want to answer and one percent did not know what to answer. Other reasons included reuniting with family and friends (26%), partial mobilization in the Russian Federation (8%), buying or selling goods (8%), pursuing education (7%), family issues (4%), and health concerns (2%). There were 28 per cent of respondents who were uncertain of the specific reason for their departure from their home countries, and 16 per cent chose not to provide a response to this question. When it comes to employment intentions or plans, the vast majority (93%) reported seeking employment for themselves, whereas 6 per cent of respondents reported that both they and their spouses intended to seek employment.

When compared to the previous report, the proportion of respondents departing their countries of origin primarily for employment has remained consistently high. However, there was a notable decrease in the number of respondents who cited partial mobilization as their reason for leaving, with responses in this category dropping by 24 per cent. Conversely, there was an increase of three per cent in the number of respondents who initially left their countries of origin for educational purposes.

3. EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO ARRIVAL TO KAZAKHSTAN

Thirty-nine per cent of the respondents reported being employed either in the private or public sector at their last place of residence before their arrival in Kazakhstan. This group was closely followed by those who identified as unemployed and actively seeking employment (23%), self-employed individuals (16%), and those earning daily wages (14%).

Men were more likely to report being employed (40%) compared to women (31%). The sectors of employment most frequently reported by respondents were construction (31%), wholesale and retail trade (25%), community, social and personal services (8%), and agriculture (7%). A greater proportion of women reported having worked in the wholesale and retail trade sector (56%) and community, social and personal services sector (15%). The majority of men were primarily employed in the construction (36%) and wholesale and retail trade sectors (20%).

The patterns of employment, as reported by the respondents, have largely remained consistent with the findings from the previous round of the survey. There was a notable increase in the proportion of respondents engaged in daily wage work by six per cent. In this round, fewer women reported being employed prior to their arrival in Kazakhstan, with a decrease of 18 per cent compared to the previous round. The sectors in which respondents were previously employed remained relatively unchanged from those reported in the previous round.

FIGURE 7: PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT SECTOR | WOMEN

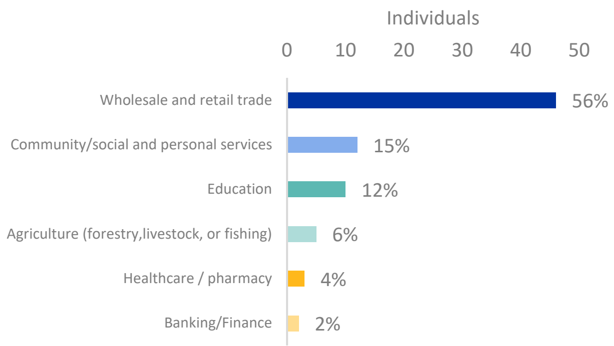
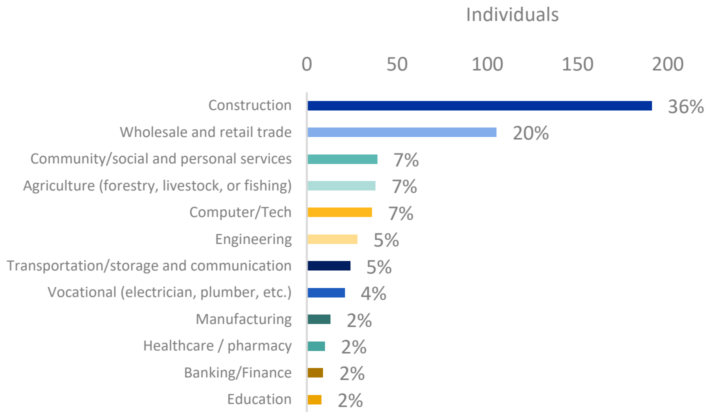


FIGURE 8: PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT SECTOR | MEN

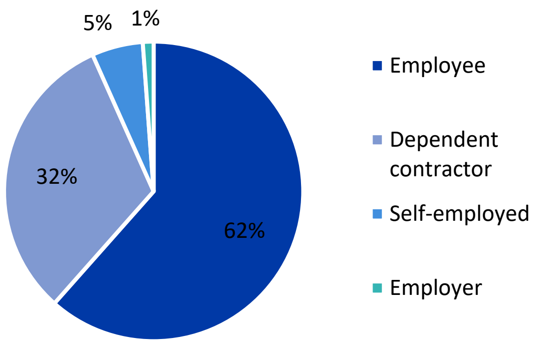


4. CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Sixty-six per cent of the respondents indicated they were employed, followed by those who were self-employed (15%) and those engaged in daily wage work (11%). Five per cent reported they were currently unemployed but were actively seeking work.

Less than half of the respondents stated they were formally employed with a written contract (44%). A portion of the respondents were dependent contractors (32%), while others identified as self-employed (5%), and a small percentage reported being employers themselves (1%).

FIGURE 9: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT TYPE



Kyzylorda city, April 2023

For the five per cent of respondents who reported being unemployed and actively seeking work, further details about their employment history were sought through multiple-choice questions. A significant portion, eighty-nine per cent, revealed that they had never previously worked in Kazakhstan. Almost none of the unemployed respondents (2%) were taking steps towards purchasing or initiating their own businesses.

Respondents were asked about methods they use for job search with option to indicate several choices. Job-seeking methods reported by these unemployed respondents included primarily newspapers and Internet (51%), reaching out to friends and relatives (49%), directly applying to employers (33%), and visiting worksites, farms, factory gates, or other potential job locations (22%).

When asked about the kind of job they would accept, the majority of respondents (66%) said they would take any job as long as it offered good remuneration. This was followed by respondents who stated that the job should be within their sector of expertise (11%) or match their qualifications (9%). Another six per cent expressed willingness to accept any job, irrespective of the conditions.

In terms of receiving job-seeking advice, women were more likely to report not having received any advice (2%) as compared to men (11%).

FIGURE 10: SOURCES OF JOB HUNTING FOR UNEMPLOYED

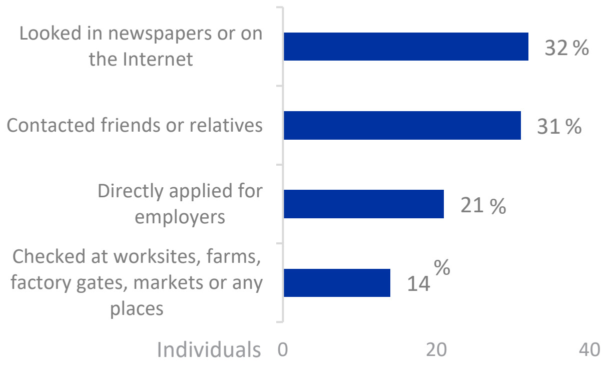
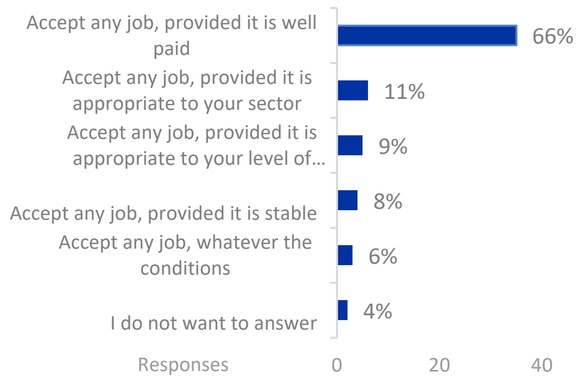


FIGURE 11: DESIRED WORKING CONDITIONS OF UNEMPLOYED



Twenty one per cent of unemployed respondents revealed that they had not received any advice, help, or assistance from employment services in Kazakhstan. However, the majority (62%) stated that they had obtained information about job vacancies, and a smaller group (13%) mentioned that they were offered advice on job-seeking from employment services.

Regarding the barriers to securing a good job, the most common challenges reported by the migrant respondents were a lack of education (23%), absence of work experience (21%), and scarcity of employment opportunities (9%). Both women (22%) and men (23%) were more likely to cite inadequate education as the primary obstacle to obtaining suitable employment.

When asked about what factors are important for employers in the hiring process, the vast majority of respondents (92%) indicated work experience, followed by language skills (32%) and literacy (28%). The least commonly selected factors were age (older preferred) at one per cent, ethnicity at two per cent, place of origin at two per cent, and gender at three per cent.

In comparison to the previous survey round, there has been a shift in the employment status of respondents. The proportion identifying as employers increased from 48 per cent to 62 per cent, while there was a decrease in the share of dependent contractors and self-employed individuals by nine per cent and four per cent respectively. There was a substantial decline by 54 per cent in the number of respondents who had previously been employed in Kazakhstan.

The proportion of unemployed individuals who received information about job vacancies from employment agencies has doubled since the last round. There has also been an increased uptake of guidance on educational and training opportunities, with a four per cent increase in individuals receiving such support, and a similar rise in those who reported to receive placements in education or training programs.

FIGURE 12: ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

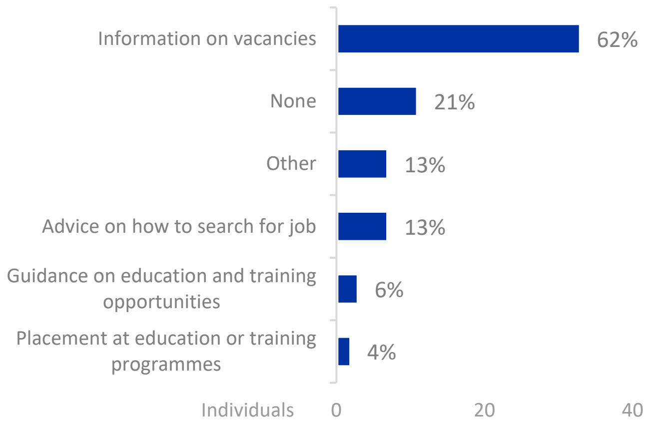
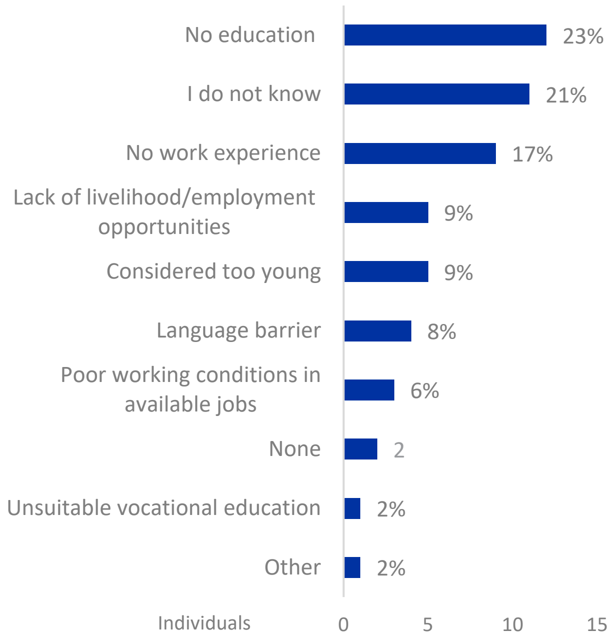


FIGURE 13: JOB-RELATED OBSTACLES




Shymkent city, April 2023


Shymkent city, April 2023

5. EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

The reported sectors in Kazakhstan were similar to those listed for the country of origin. Eighty-three per cent of respondents confirmed that they had worked in the same sector previously. The duration of employment in the same sector varied, with the majority having worked in the same sector for 3-5 years (36%), followed by 1-2 years (27%) and 6-10 years (22%). Nine per cent reported having 11 years or more of experience in the same sector, while six per cent had less than one year of experience.

When comparing the current Survey results to the previous, there is a consistent pattern in terms of employment sectors and the duration of employment in the same sector. The most significant change observed was a decrease of 4 per cent in individuals with over 11 years of experience in the same field, coupled with an increase of 3 per cent in individuals with 1-2 years of experience in the same field.

FIGURE 14: EMPLOYMENT SECTORS | WOMEN

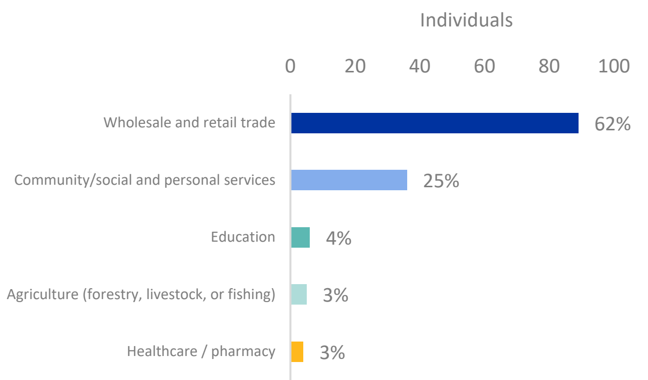
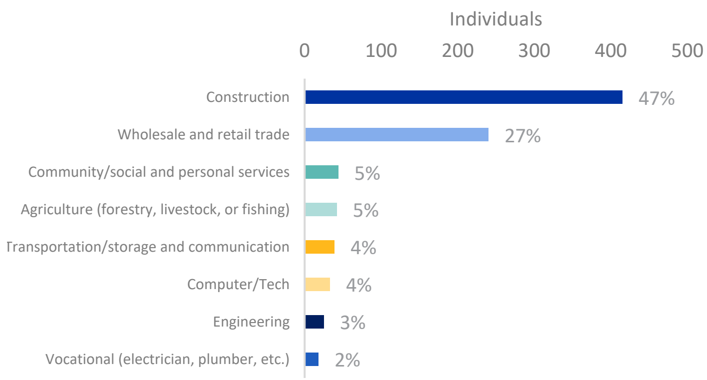


FIGURE 15: EMPLOYMENT SECTORS | MEN



Several indirect indicators were used to evaluate the working conditions of the migrant workers. Over half of the respondents (55%) indicated they were working without a written contract, with women (61%) more likely than men (54%) to report this circumstance. A significant majority were either without a pension scheme (61%) or unsure if they had one (5%). Furthermore, 78 per cent did not receive annual leave or equivalent compensation and some individuals were unsure about this entitlement (7%).

FIGURE 16: WORK LENGTH IN THE SAME SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT

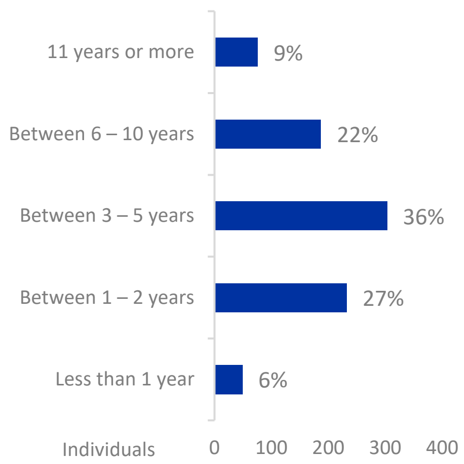
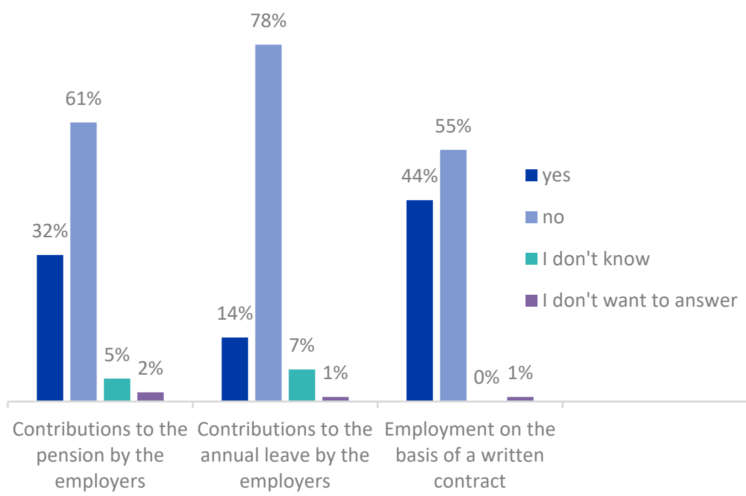


FIGURE 17: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PENSION BY THE EMPLOYERS



6. INCOME

The respondents reported an average monthly income of 213,646 Kazakh Tenge (473 USD)[11]. The reported income may include remittances from other countries, remuneration gained through work in Kazakhstan, social benefits and other financial support. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that their income was sufficient to cover their living expenses but could not save. However, 32 per cent reported being able to not only meet their living costs but also save from their income.

When asked about satisfaction with their current economic situation, more than half of respondents (58%) said they were satisfied; sixteen per cent said they were neither satisfied or dissatisfied; twelve per cent said they were very satisfied with their current economic situation. Six per cent of respondents reported to be dissatisfied, while four per cent of respondents did not want to answer and three per cent did not know. Those who were not satisfied with their current economic situation indicated following reasons: income is insufficient to meet their needs (47%); would like to achieve higher income (29%), not finding a job that matches their skill/education (14%); difficulties finding a job (7%); unemployment (7%) and debt (1%).

[11] According to the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan the average monthly salary was 340,636 KZT (755USD) in Quarter 1, 2023

FIGURE 18: SATISFACTION WITH THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION

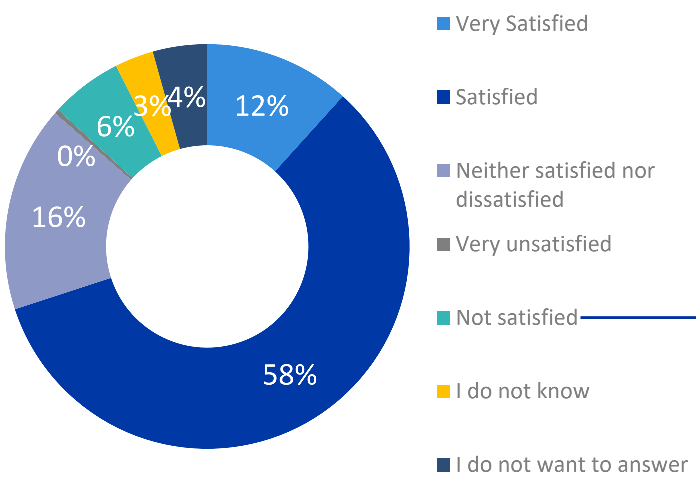


FIGURE 19: REASONS FOR DISSATISFACTION

41%	Income is not enough to meet my needs
29%	I would like to obtain a higher income
14%	Not able to find a job that matches my skills/education
7%	Not able to find a job
7%	Unemployed
1%	I have debt

A significant proportion of the respondents (19%) reported that their income only sufficed to meet their basic needs. Another seven per cent of respondents disclosed that they did not have a personal income, while one per cent indicated that their income was insufficient to purchase essential goods.

The reported average monthly income saw a rise of 10 per cent when compared to the previous survey round. However, it's noteworthy that there was a 13 per cent increase in the proportion of individuals who reported being able to meet their needs but unable to make savings, paralleled by a decrease of the same percentage in respondents who indicated being able to both meet their needs and save.

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FIGURE 20: PERSONAL AVERAGE INCOME SUFFICIENCY TO MEET MONTHLY EXPENSES

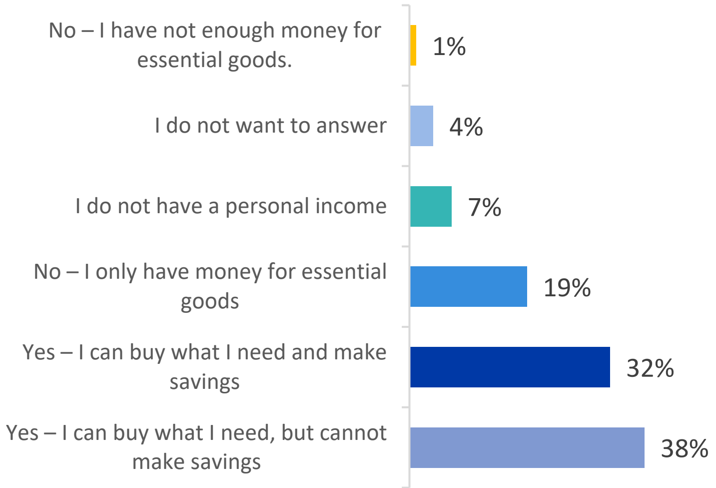
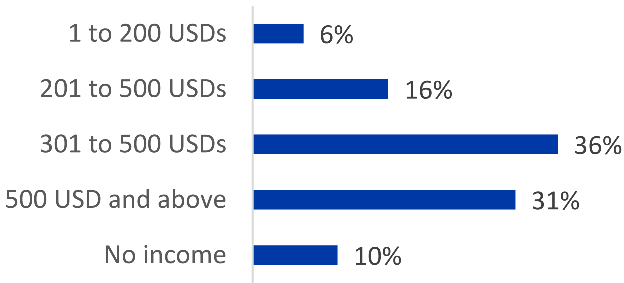


FIGURE 21: INCOME OF MIGRANT WORKERS

213,646 KZT (473 USD)
an average monthly income



Shymkent city, April 2023

7. REMITTANCES

Nearly half of the respondents (49%) reported sending remittances back to their countries of origin. Significantly more men (53%) reported sending money to their country of origin compared to women (24%). More than half of respondents (53%) reported remitting between 25-50% of their monthly income. This was followed by those who sent more than half of their income (32%) and some (12%) reported remitting between 10-25%. The largest group amongst both genders reported sending 25-50% per cent of their earnings to their countries of origin, men (54%) and women (50%).

Majority of respondents (74%) who send money back to their countries of origin said that remittances were the primary source of income for families back home. Seventy-five per cent of men reported that remittances were the primary source of income for their family compared to 50 per cent of women who cited the same answer. Two-third of respondents (66%) reported to remit once a month while nine per cent of respondents said to remit every three months. Respondents mostly preferred transferring through bank offices; money transfer operators' offices; and friends and relatives in the order of frequency based on criteria such as safety and speed.

Most respondents reported sending money back to their countries of origin to support their family and relatives to cover their living costs (85%). Few respondents reported other reasons such as supporting their families in their countries of origin to secure money (6%), create business opportunities(4%), buy property (2%) and repay debts (1%).

FIGURE 22: PERCENTAGE OF REMITTANCES SENT OUT THE MONTHLY INCOME

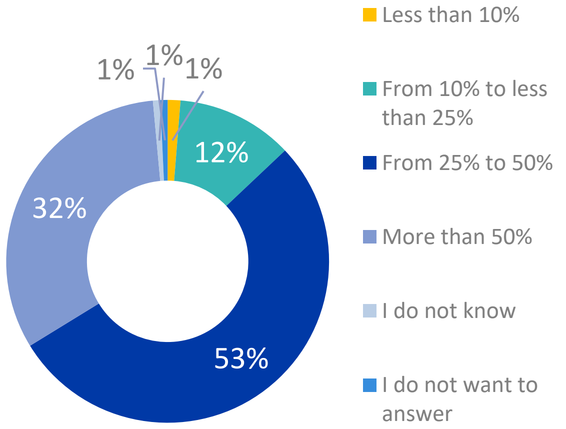


FIGURE 23: MAIN REASONS FOR REMITTANCES

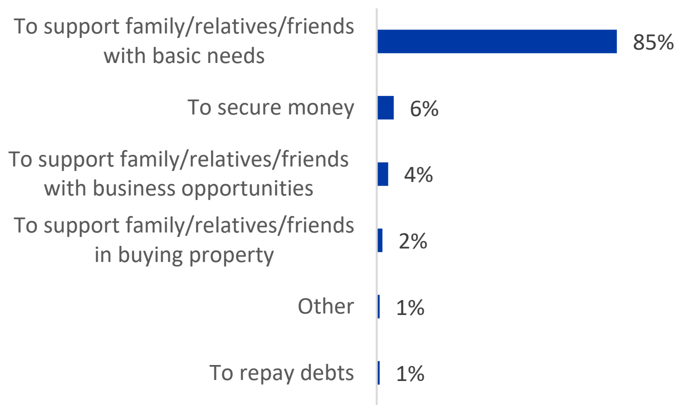
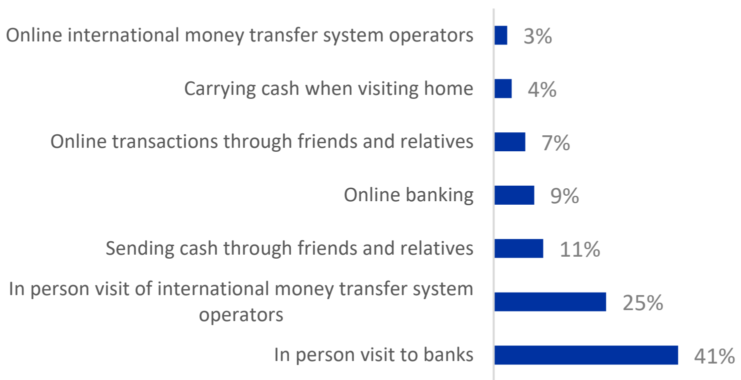


FIGURE 24: PREFERRED WAYS OF SENDING MONEY



Aktau city, April 2023

Compared to the previous survey, it has been observed that less women reported sending money back to their countries of origin in the second round by 11 per cent. There were more women who reported remitting 25-50 per cent of their earnings in the second round of surveys compared to the first round of surveys (50% vs 31%). While the share of those who reported sending remittance for covering basic expenses stayed the same high, other reasons for remittances shifted slightly: in the second round respondents reported sending more for securing money (6% vs 3%) and less for buying property (4% vs 2%).

8. GENERAL WELL-BEING IN KAZAKHSTAN

While the vast majority of respondents (89%) stated that they lived in permanent housing, a group of respondents (10%) reported living in temporary accommodation and 1 per cent was homeless. More than half of respondents (53%) reported to pay rent and 45 per cent said they do not pay rent. On average those who pay rent spend 47,624 KZT (105 USD)[12] on housing per month. Sixty-four per cent of respondents live with friends or coworkers followed by those who live with relatives (16%) and family (14%).

Barriers to permanent housing were listed as high rents (42%), low or unsteady income (41%) and lack of documents legalizing residency in Kazakhstan (22%).

[12] According to the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan the rental housing in Kazakhstan for March 2023 amounted to 4,678 KZT (10 USD) per square meter

The average size of the household was four people. Forty-eight per cent stated they live in a household size of 4 to 6 people, forty-one per cent live with from 1 to 3 people, nine per cent from 7 to 9 people, one per cent live alone and another 1 per cent live with 10 or more people.

FIGURE 25: CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION

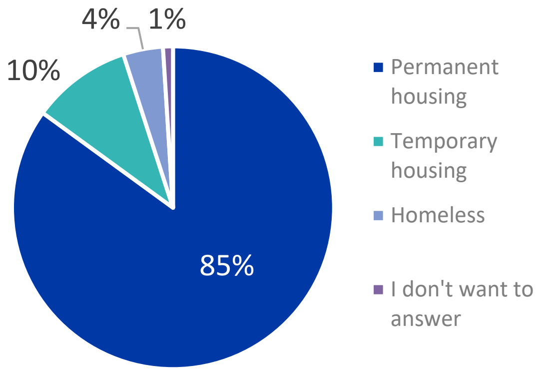
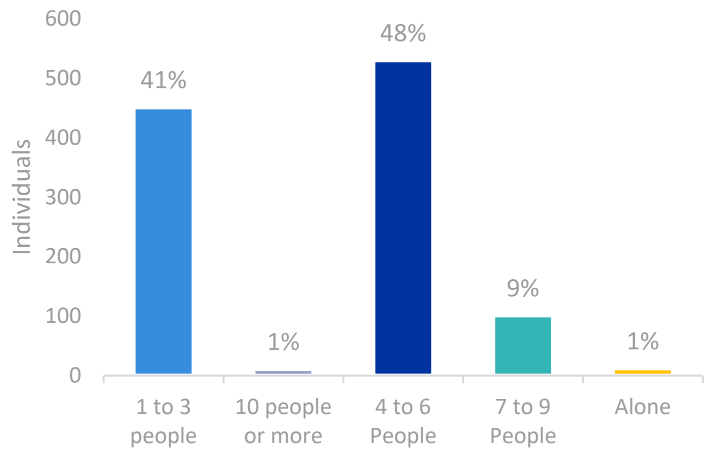


FIGURE 26: HOUSEHOLD SIZE



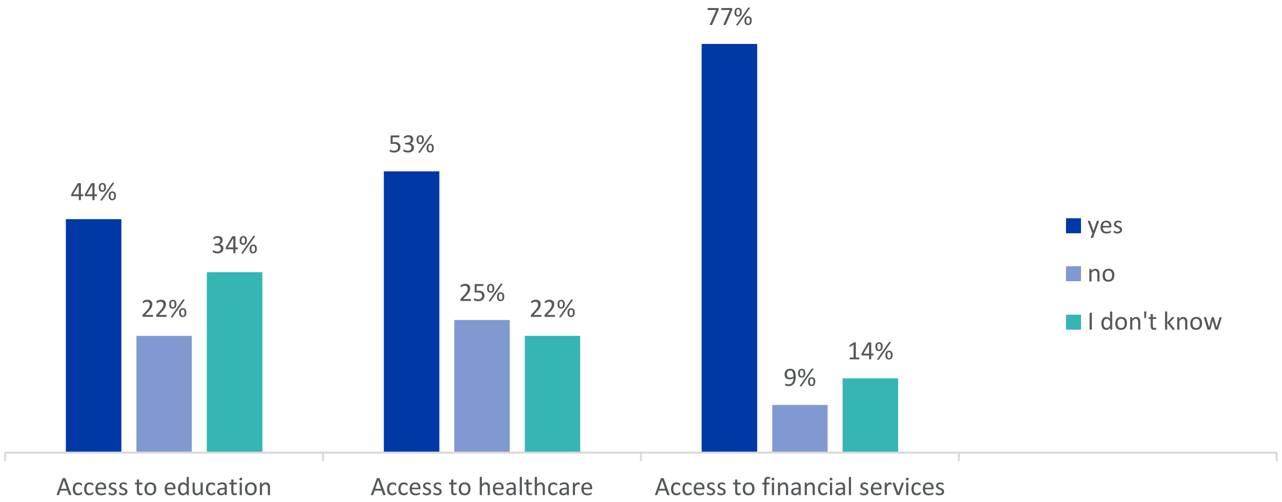
Fifty-three per cent of the participants confirmed having access to health services, while 25 per cent stated they did not have access. Additionally, 22 per cent of the respondents were unsure if they had access to health services. Notably, both women (67%) and men (68%) reported similar rates of access to health care.

The most commonly reported barriers to accessing health care, in order of frequency, were identified as: not having enough money to cover the costs, not knowing how to access it, administrative difficulties and not having an Individual Identification Number (IIN)[13].

Regarding access to education, 44 per cent of the respondents reported them or their children having access to education, while 22 per cent stated they did not have access. Additionally, 34 per cent of the respondents were uncertain about whether they had access to education.

When it comes to financial services, such as opening an account or obtaining a debit card, 77 per cent of the respondents indicated they had access to these services. Nine per cent reported not having access, and 14 per cent were uncertain about their access to financial services.

FIGURE 27: ACCESS TO SERVICES



Compared to the previous survey, the share of respondents who reported living in permanent housing increased from 52 per cent to 89 per cent and the share of those who reported living in temporary housing dropped from 46 per cent to 10 per cent. Less individuals indicated high rents as a barrier compared to last round (70% vs 42%). The lack of documents was reported to be a barrier more frequently during the second round of survey.

Less individuals were aware of their rights to health care services during the second round of the Survey compared to those who were surveyed in the first round. Awareness about access to education and financial services stayed relatively the same.

[13] 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

When asked about the ability to afford goods and services, sixty-four per cent of respondents reported affording owning a mobile phone. Significant number of respondents said they can afford to have a meal with meat, chicken or fish products (39%). The subsequent categories, including keeping accommodation adequately warm, avoiding arrears, and affording a washing machine, had thirty per cent of respondents selecting each category. Respondents were less likely to select categories such as going on holidays (7%) and owning a car(6%).

An overwhelming majority of respondents stated that their interactions were positive with the local Kazakh community (96%) and other migrant communities (93%) 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.

The patterns of respondent choice for ability to afford goods and services stayed consistent with the results of the first rounds of survey. The high rates of positive interaction with Kazakhs and migrant communities did not experience significant changes since the first round of the survey.

FIGURE 28: ABILITY TO AFFORD ESSENTIAL UTILITIES AND SERVICES

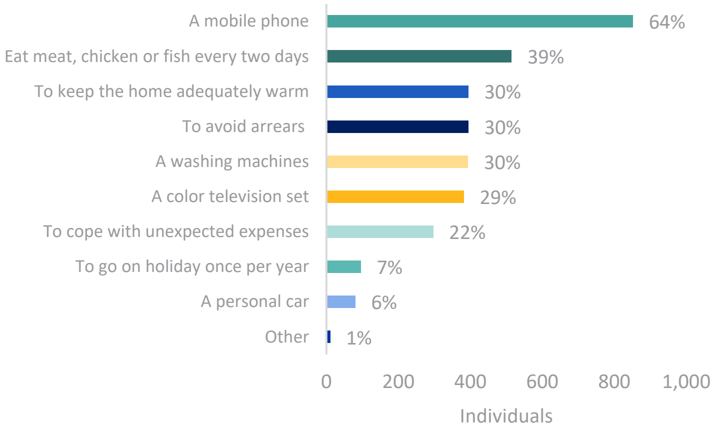
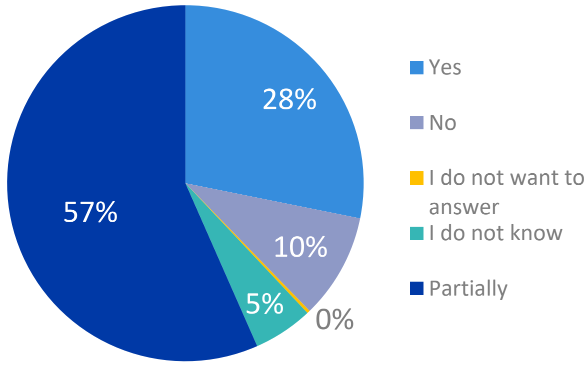


FIGURE 29: FEEL INFORMED OF RIGHTS INCLUDING WORK, HOUSING, EDUCATION, PERSONAL SAFETY, IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, LEGAL



9. AWARENESS OF RIGHTS

A majority of the respondents (57%) reported being partially informed about their rights on topics such as work, housing, education, personal safety, identity documents and legal status and only twenty-eight per cent of respondents stated that they were well informed. A small number of respondents (5%) expressed that they did not know about their rights, and 10 per cent stated they did not feel informed about their rights in Kazakhstan.

In terms of gender, women (33%) were slightly more likely than men (27%) to report being well-informed about their rights. Similar rates of being partially informed were reported by both men and women (57%).

10. INTENTIONS

Fifty-seven per cent of the respondents reported having intentions to circulate between Kazakhstan and their countries of origin followed by 25 per cent of respondents who intended to stay permanently in Kazakhstan, 13 per cent intended to return to their country of origin permanently and another 3 per cent wanted to move to a third country.

Out of the thirteen per cent of respondents who intended to return or move to another country, the majority (52%) did not know when they would travel, followed by those (20%) who expect to return or move to another country in 4-6 months.

Out of the three per cent of respondents who wished to move to third country from Kazakhstan, most reported the Russian Federation (11%) as their intended country of destination followed by those who have not decided on a country 6%) and respondents who wished to travel to Republic of Türkiye (5%), Republic of Korea (5%) and Canada (3%).

FIGURE 30: FUTURE MIGRATION INTENTIONS

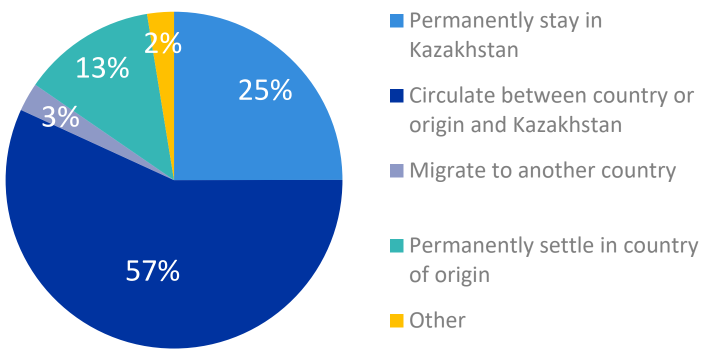
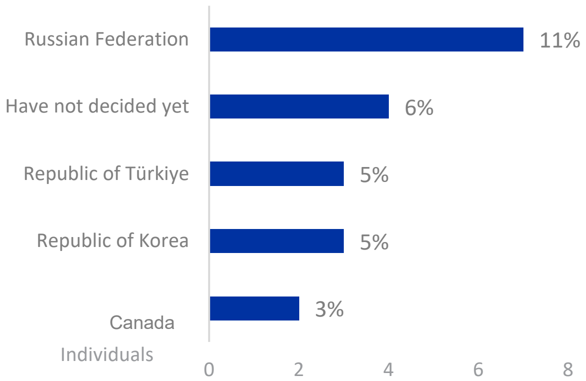


FIGURE 31: TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION OF RE-MIGRATION



11. IMPOSED SANCTIONS AND ITS IMPACT ON MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

Respondents were asked about the financial sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation related to the war in Ukraine and its impact. Majority of respondents reported that there was no change in the amount of salary (76%) and working hours (84%) as a result of ongoing imposed sanctions.

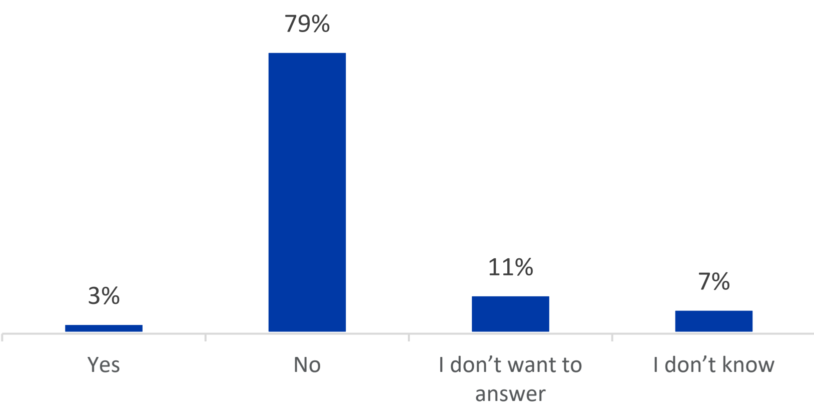
When asked about the impact of imposed sanctions on the willingness to continue working and living in Kazakhstan, the majority of respondents (74%) said that it does not affect their decision, thirteen per cent said it affects their decision and twelve per cent reported not knowing.

Seventy-nine per cent of respondents reported no change in the amount of money that they remit, 11 per cent did not want to answer, 7 per cent said they didn't know and only 3 per cent of respondents reported that there was a change in the amount of money that they remit with ongoing sanctions. For slightly less than two third of respondents who reported a change in the amount that they remit it was a negative change, while for one-third it was a positive change.

Majority of respondents (77%) reported not facing any challenges in the past 6 months while fourteen per cent of respondents reported facing challenges. Six per cent of respondents did not want to respond and another three per cent did not know. Forty-two percent of respondents who faced challenges in the past half years associate it with imposed sanctions. Significant share of respondents (29%) do not know if challenges are related to imposed sanctions while 27 per cent do not relate their challenges to imposed sanctions. Small number of respondents (2%) did not want to answer. Respondents who reported facing challenges named increased prices (69%), unemployment (28%) and insufficient income (24%) as their Top 1 challenges.

It is worth mentioning that the complexity of this context necessitates further information and meticulous data collection to accurately determine the comprehensive effects of sanctions on migrants and their migration intentions. Therefore, the conclusions drawn in this report should be regarded as provisional, pending additional research and a more extensive understanding of the subject matter.

FIGURE 32: CHANGES IN THE AMOUNT OF REMITTANCES DUE TO IMPOSED SANCTIONS



Shymkent city, April 2023

Two-third of respondents reported never having lived in the Russian Federation while 27 per cent reported to live in the Russian Federation. 60 per cent of those who answered positively reported that they have plans to move back while four per cent said they plan to move back if the sanctions were lifted. 21 per cent of those who lived in the Russian Federation reported to have no plans of moving back and considering settling in Kazakhstan. Some individuals (10%) said that they did not decide on their future plans while 3 per cent reported to have other plans.

Respondents who at some point resided in the Russian Federation left the country for reasons such as: both war and sanctions (51%), other reasons (31%), sanctions (8%), war (8%) and harassment/ ethnic-related fears (2%).

FIGURE 33: FUTURE INTENTIONS TO MOVE BACK TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

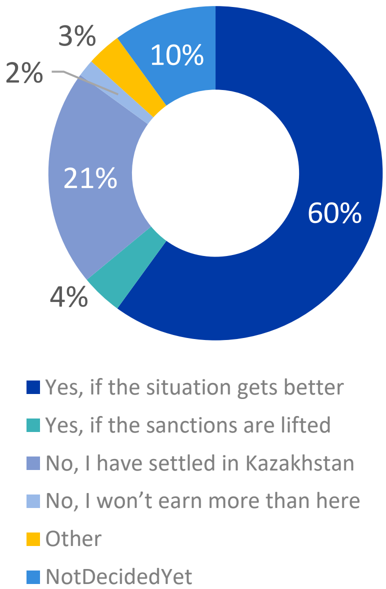
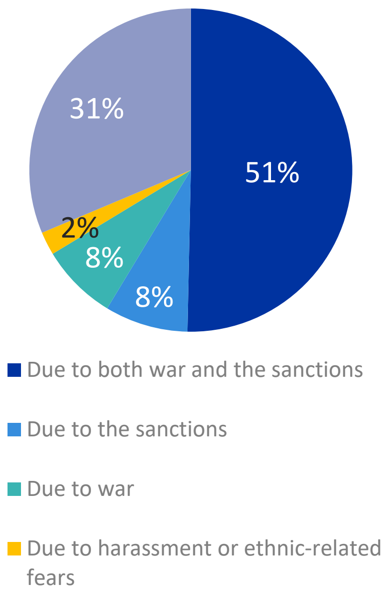


FIGURE 34: REASONS TO LEAVE THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



Sardor, Mangystau region, 36 year old[14]

Sardor represents 64 per cent of migrant workers who have made a similar journey from Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan. His pursuit of employment reflects the motivations of approximately 80 per cent of migrant workers in the country. Sardor is among 40.6 per cent of migrants working in construction sector. Just like Sardor 55 per cent of the migrant workers in Kazakhstan operate without a written contract. Having no written contract can put someone in a vulnerable position, especially if it involves a high-risk job like construction. Several years ago, Sardor sought medical assistance for a health condition which he developed due to his occupation. Sardor experienced significant blood loss, necessitating a transfusion of 900 grams of blood.

Tragically, Sardor contracted HIV in strange circumstances after this incident. It's worth noting that Sardor's employment does not include a formal contract, and therefore, his employer is not contributing towards MSHI. Consequently, he had to bear all the medical expenses related to his health complications out-of-pocket. Medical expenses were a significant financial burden for him as he reported earning 150,000 KZT (332 USD) which is less than the average income of migrant workers in Kazakhstan[15]. Sardor is able to secure his necessary HIV medication through The Global Fund's support. However, his supply of medicine will only last for one more month, leaving him with a great deal of anxiety about his future. Sardor is one of the 25 per cent of migrant workers reported having no access to medical services.

Despite these challenges, he continues to support his family in Uzbekistan, representing 49 per cent of migrant workers who regularly remit money to their country of origin. Sardor sends approximately 40 per cent of his earnings, which aligns with the figures reported by 53 per cent of migrant workers who send 25 to 50 per cent of their income. Sardor lives alone in a rented apartment for 20,000 KZT (44 USD) monthly[16].

His intentions were to continue living in Kazakhstan. He made several attempts to receive a permanent residence permit, but unfortunately, his application has been rejected by authorized law enforcement and special bodies without a specific reason being given.

This personal story refers to the results of the second round survey and do not represent entire migrant population in Kazakhstan.

Aktau city, May 2023

[14] Pseudonym was used to protect respondent's identity
[15] According to the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan the rental housing in Kazakhstan for March 2023 amounted to 4,678 KZT (10 USD) per square meter
[16] According to the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan the average monthly salary was 340,636 KZT (755 USD) in Quarter 1, 2023

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