

KAZAKHSTAN

BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT (BMA)

ROUND 3 - JANUARY 2024

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
MOBILITY TRACKING MATRIX (MTM)



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ABOUT MTM

The Mobility Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system that tracks and monitors population mobility and displacement. MTM is adapted to the context in Kazakhstan based on IOM's Global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology¹. DTM is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process, and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile population groups, whether on-site or en route. MTM completed its first round of the Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) data collection on the district level in January 2023, the second round of BMA on the district level in May 2023, and the third round on the village level in December 2023. MTM enables IOM and its partners to maximize resources, set priorities, and deliver better-targeted, evidence-based, mobility-sensitive, and sustainable humanitarian and development programming.

METHODOLOGY

MTM implements the BMA in Kazakhstan to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, geographic distribution of migrant workers and return migrants, reasons for migration and countries of return. Data is collected at the village level from key informants and direct observations.

When DTM assesses a district, enumerators collect data through two rounds of two-layered assessments:

1. District-level assessment (B1): It aims to identify villages with high inflows and outflows of Kazakh nationals and provide estimated numbers of each target population category.
2. Village-level assessment (B2): Based on the results of B1, this assessment collects information on inflows and outflows of each target population category at each village, identified through B1. Additional villages are also identified and assessed, based on referrals from key informants.

FIVE TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the BMA, MTM tracks the locations and population sizes of five core target population categories:

- 1 International Migrant Workers** Foreign nationals who have moved to Kazakhstan for the purpose of employment.
- 2 Return Migrants** Kazakh nationals who have returned to Kazakhstan after spending at least 6 months abroad.
- 3 Emigrants** Kazakh nationals who have crossed international borders and currently reside as migrants abroad.
- 4 Internal Migrant** Residents of other locations in Kazakhstan currently residing as internal migrants in the assessed communities.
- 5 Internal Emigrants** Kazakh nationals from an assessed community who moved as an internal migrant to another location within Kazakhstan.

1. DTM Methodological framework. Retrieved from: <https://dtn.iom.int/about/methodological-framework>



SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS



10 Regions
102 districts
1,245
communities
assessed



2,303
key informants
interviewed



41,574
internal
migrants



10,544
emigrants



6,005
return migrants



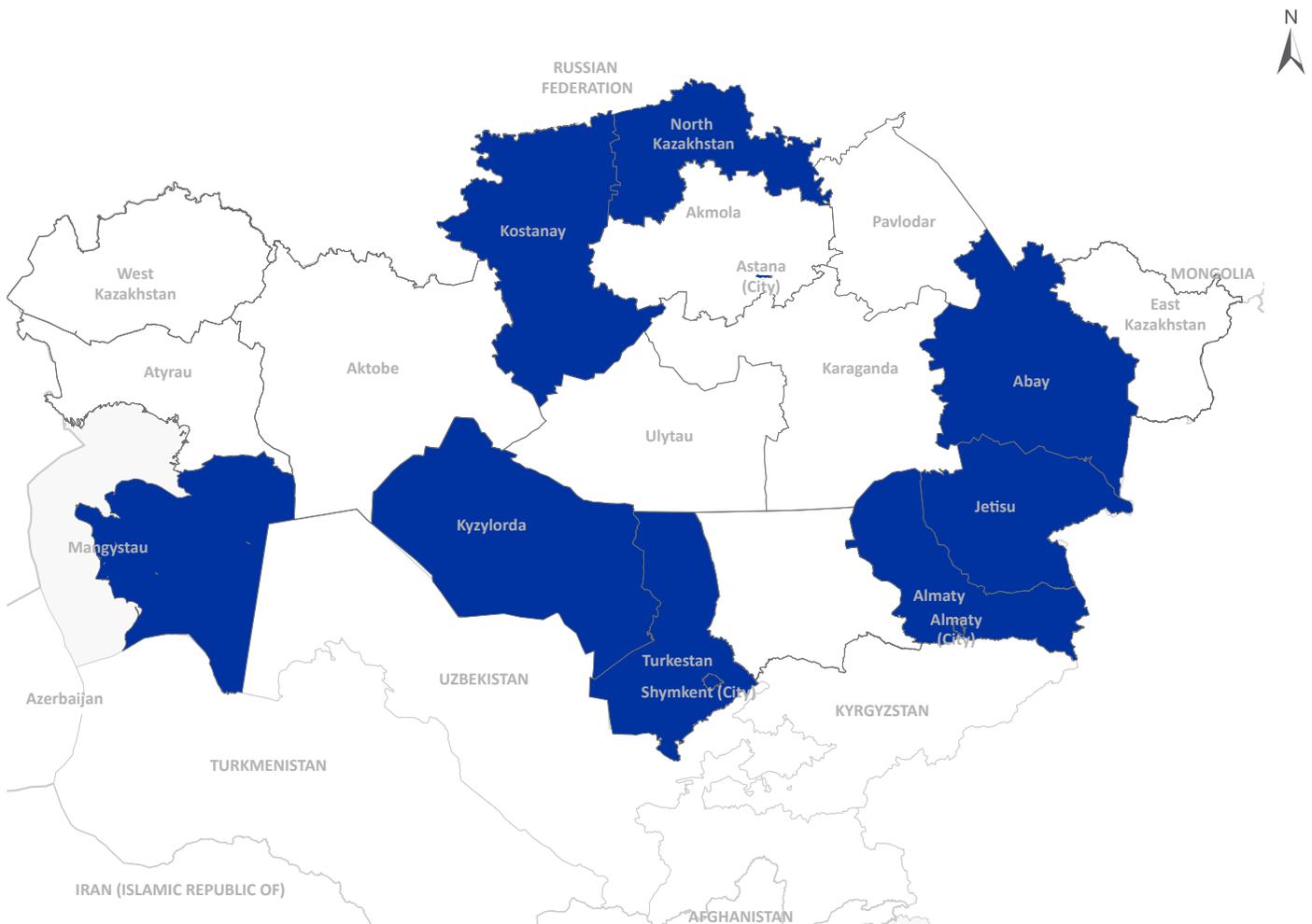
639,799
international
migrant workers



8,649
emigrants
moved to the
Russian
Federation

BMA was conducted in 10 regions including three major cities namely Shymkent city, Almaty city, Astana city, and 1,245 villages during December 2023 and January 2024. During the assessment, 2,303 key informants were interviewed. Based on the key informants' estimates, 639,799 international migrant workers were hosted in the assessed locations in Kazakhstan from 2020 to 2023. Concurrently, 41,574 internal migrants were hosted in the assessed locations, and 10,544 Kazakh nationals were reported to be residing abroad as international migrants. In addition, 6,005 return migrants have returned from abroad.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

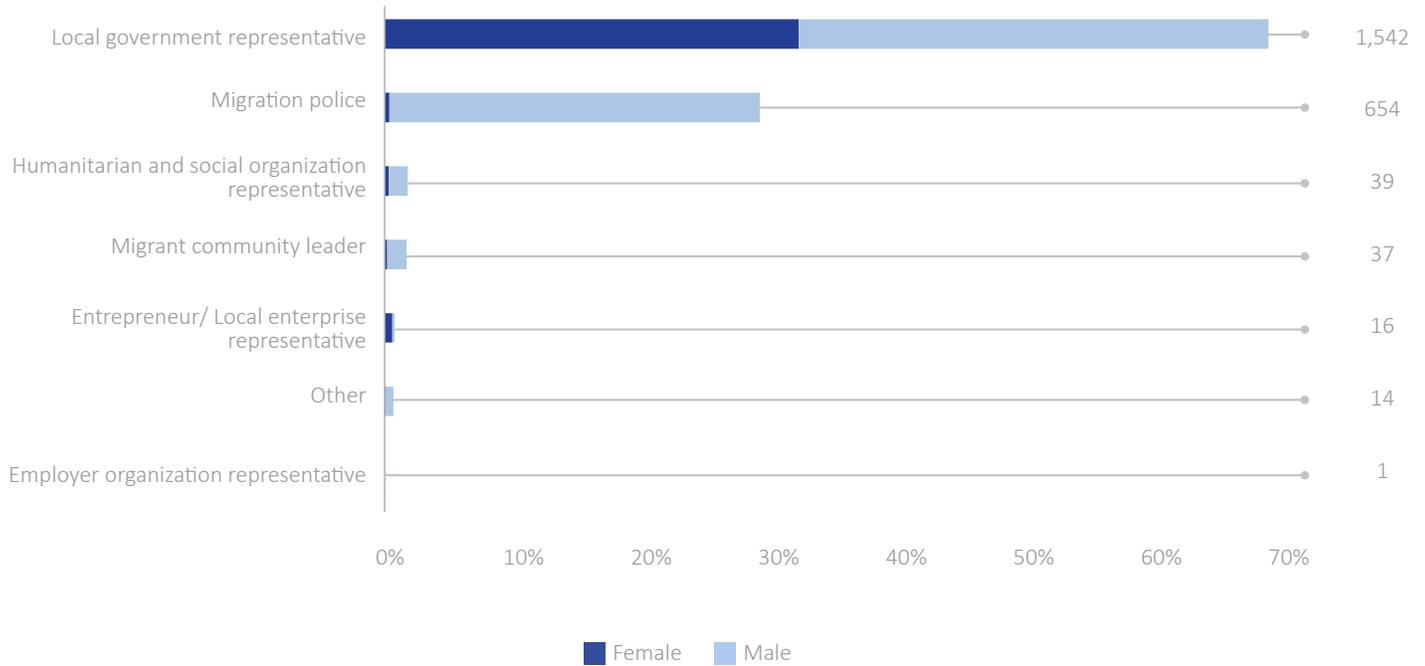
Regions Covered



KEY INFORMANTS (KI)

Field enumerators (5 men/10 Women) collected data at the village level through in-person meetings with local government, community, and employer organizations and other representatives. Most key informants represented local municipal bodies (Akimats), the Bureau of National Statistics, and the migration police. These authorities are obliged by the country's law to collect and share information concerning internal and international mobility in each district. In round three of the data collection, 67.4 percent of the key informants were males, and 32.6 percent were females.

Key Informants by Type and Sex



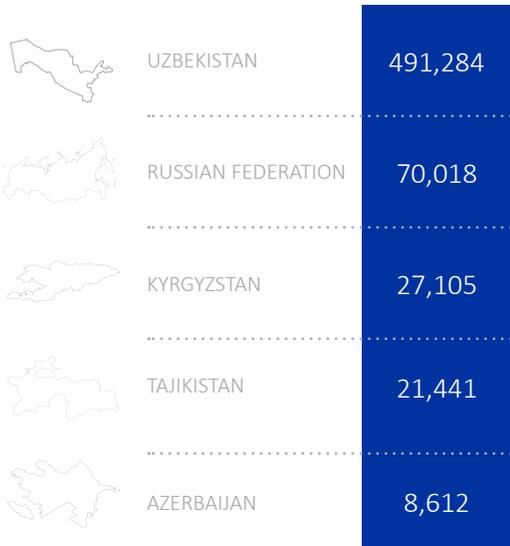
INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY





DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES



During the third round of data collection, MTM key informants from local government (Akimat) and migration police confirmed the presence of international migrant workers in 621 villages.

Key informants confirmed the presence of 639,799 international migrant workers from 30 countries in their villages. The majority of the migrant workers were of five nationalities. As in previous years, migrant workers from Uzbekistan (77%) were the largest migrant group who came to Kazakhstan for labour opportunities.

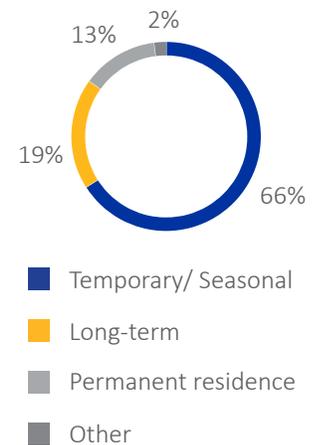
After Uzbek nationals, Russian Federation nationals (11%) accounted for the second-highest number of migrant workers in the assessed communities. Kyrgyzstan (4%) and Tajikistan (3%) accounted for the third and fourth countries of migrant workers. The fifth highest was unknown (3%) followed by Azerbaijan (1%).

TYPE AND REASON OF MIGRATION

In exploring the type of migration, the highest proportion was recorded as temporary/seasonal migration (66%) followed by long-term migration (19%), migrants workers with permanent residence (13%), and other (2%).

When asked about the primary reasons for migration, the results revealed that labour opportunities are the main motivation for migrant workers (36%), followed by family issues (20%) and poverty (15%). The rest of the responses included other reasons (10%), the loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19 (4.8%), conflict, and general security situation (4%), partial mobilization of the Russian Federation (4%), sanctions (4%), and depreciation of currency (2%). Amongst "Other", geographical proximity to home (6%), and Unknown (3%) were dominant.

Type of Migration



Reasons for Migration

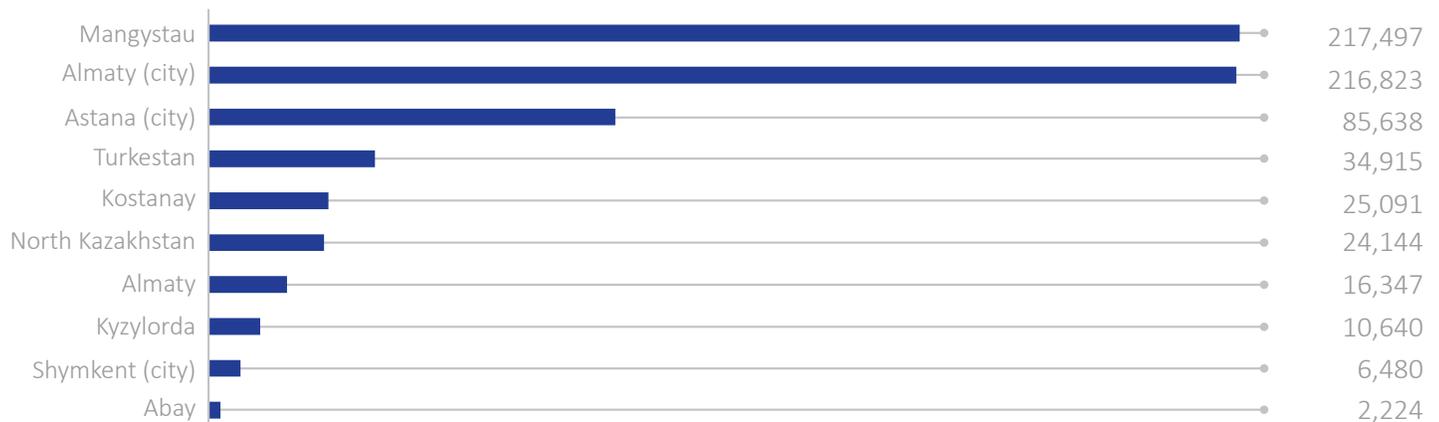




INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

Geographically, the distribution of international migrant workers was notably concentrated in the Mangystau province (34%) and Almaty city (33.9%). The capital of the country – Astana hosted 13.4% of migrant workers, followed by Turkestan province (5.5%), Kostanay (3.9%) and North Kazakhstan province (3.8%). One of the reasons why the concentration of migrants in these provinces may be higher than in others is due to the fact that Mangystau is an area where oil and gas production is active. At the same time, Almaty is considered the financial and business center of Kazakhstan. The largest number of migrant workers in Mangystau province, Almaty, and Astana cities are from Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation. Narrowing down to the district level in these particular areas, the largest percentage of migrant workers assessed in Mangystau province live in Aktau city (24%), followed by Bostandyk (13%) and Nauryzbay (10%) districts of Almaty city, and by Esil (7%) district in Astana.

International Migrant Workers | By Province of Arrival



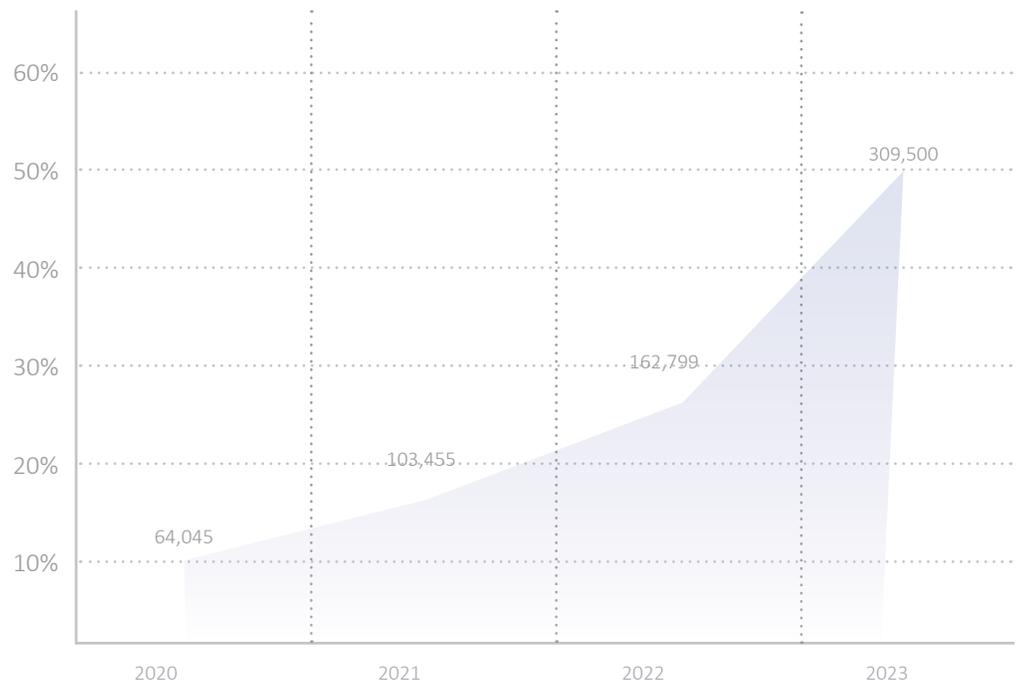
International Migrant Workers | Annual Trends

According to the estimations provided by MTM key informants, the aggregate number of migrant workers increased by 47 per cent in 2023 compared to the preceding year and by 79 per cent compared to 2020. Officials attribute the trend of a sharp

increase in migration flows to the influx of migrants from the Russian Federation due to the war in Ukraine, partial mobilization, and sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Kazakhstan, the majority of migrant workers were involved in the following spheres:

- Construction – 34%,
- Agriculture, forestry, and fishery – 12.7%,
- Mining and quarrying – 9.3%,
- Manufacturing – 8.3%,
- Professional and scientific, activities - 6%²

International Migrant Workers | Annual Trends

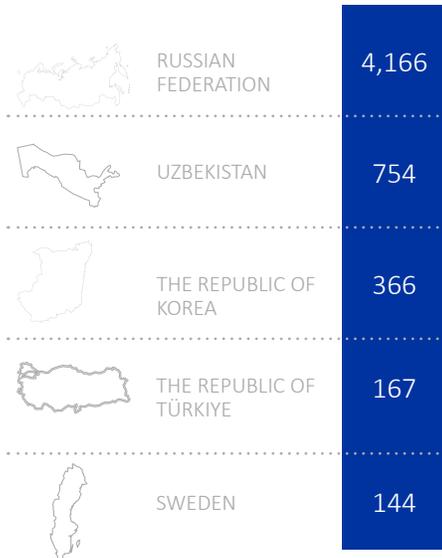


2. Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 2023



DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF RETURN



During the third round of BMA data collection, MTM key informants from 119 communities (10 per cent of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of return migrants in their communities. Key informants confirmed the presence of 6,005 return migrants from 18 different countries in the assessed villages.

Most of return migrants had returned from the Russian Federation, comprising 69.4 per cent of the total, followed by 12.6% of those who returned from Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea (6.1%). The Republic of Türkiye was the fourth largest, with 167 migrants, and Sweden was the fifth, with 144 return migrants. Thus, the leading country of return migration pattern is the Russian Federation.

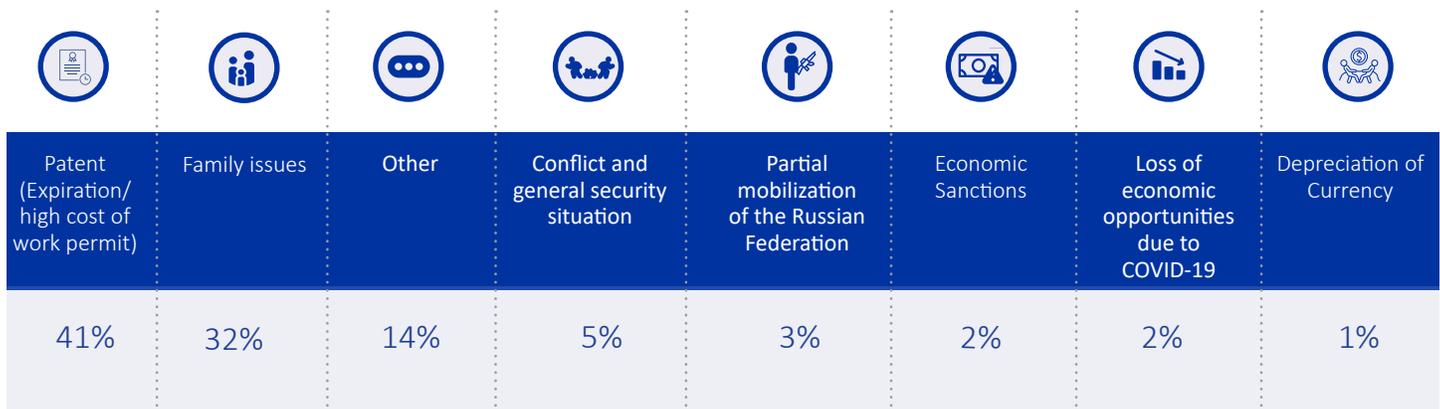
Seventy-four per cent of returned migrants were men and 26 per cent were women.

Reasons for Return

The main reasons for return migrants included expiration/high cost of work permit expiration (41%), followed by family issues (32%), conflict and general security situation (5%), partial mobilization in the Russian Federation (3%), loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19 (2%), and others (14%).

Completed education (5%), finished work (5%), and unknown (2%) reasons were common amongst the other category.

Reasons for Return

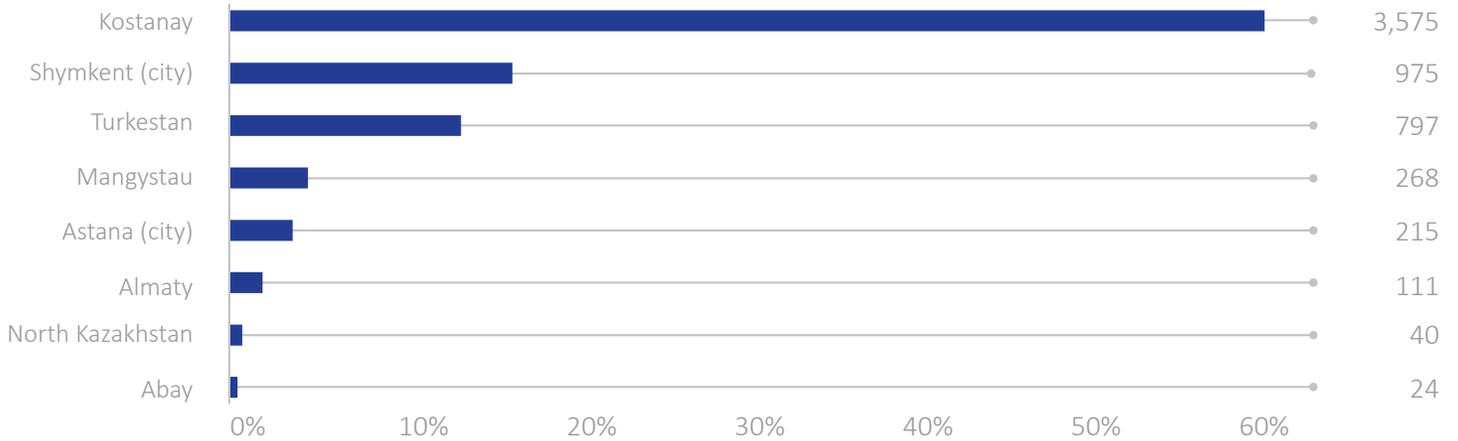




RETURN MIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

More than half of all the return migrants from the assessed communities returned to Kostanay province (60%), followed by Shymkent city (16%), Turkestan (13%), Mangystau (4%), Astana city (4%), and Almaty province (2%). The remaining return migrants were located North Kazakhstan, and Abay. On the district level, the largest amount of return migration was observed in Kostanay city (capital of Kostanay province) – 1,820 return migrants and in Rudnyy city (Kostanay province) – 1,387 return migrants. This may be due to the fact that Kostanay borders the Russian Federation and has large migration flows with this country.

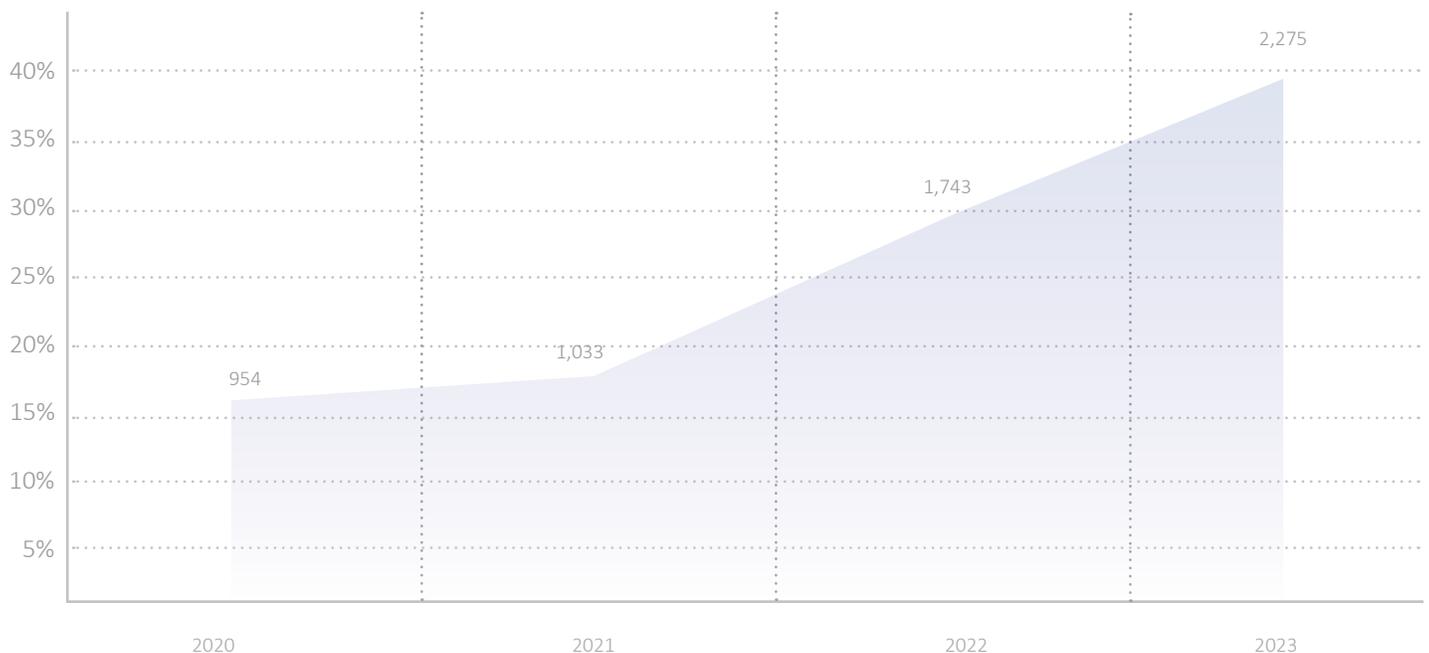
Return Migrants | By Province Of Arrival



Return Migrants | Annual Trends

MTM key informants estimated that the overall number of return migrants witnessed a sharp upsurge, surging by 69 percent in 2022 compared to the preceding year, 2021. In 2023, the number increased by 31 percent compared to 2022. This surge is probably due to the partial mobilization and sanctions levied against the Russian Federation.

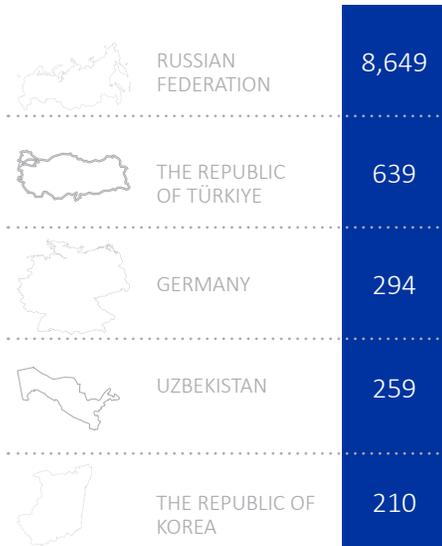
Return Migrants | Annual Trends





DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF MIGRATION



During the third round of BMA data collection, MTM key informants from five regions (Kostanay, Turkestan, Mangystau, Almaty, and Abay) and two cities Shymkent, and Astana confirmed the existence of 10,544 Kazakh nationals who have left their communities and currently live abroad as emigrants.

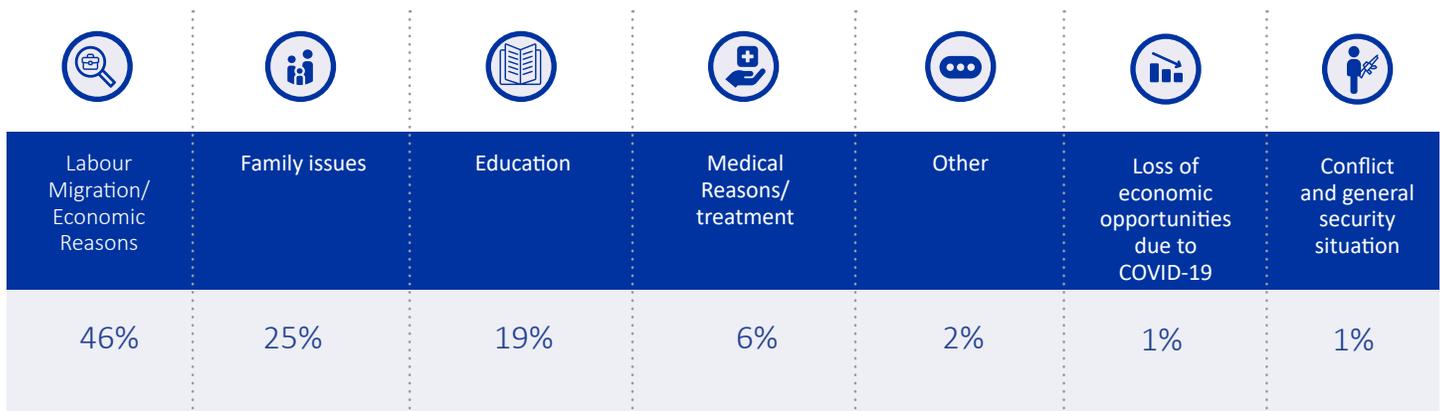
Key informants indicated that Kazakh nationals from the assessed communities have migrated to 23 different countries.

The predominant destinations for out migrants were overwhelmingly the Russian Federation, drawing 82 per cent of the migrant population, followed by Türkiye at 6 per cent. Among other countries for emigration were the Germany, Uzbekistan, the Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, Bahrain, and Sweden. Fifty-seven per cent of emigrants were men and 43 per cent were women.

Reasons for Migration

In probing the primary motivations driving Kazakh nationals to migrate abroad, the predominant choice for the majority of Kazakh nationals who have migrated abroad was labour migration or economic reasons (46%); migration due to family issues was mentioned as the second highest response (24.9%), followed by education (19.6%), and health issues (6.6%). The remaining 1.6 per cent were the other reasons, loss of economic opportunities due to COVID-19 (0.7%) and conflict and general security situation (0.6%).

Reasons for Migration

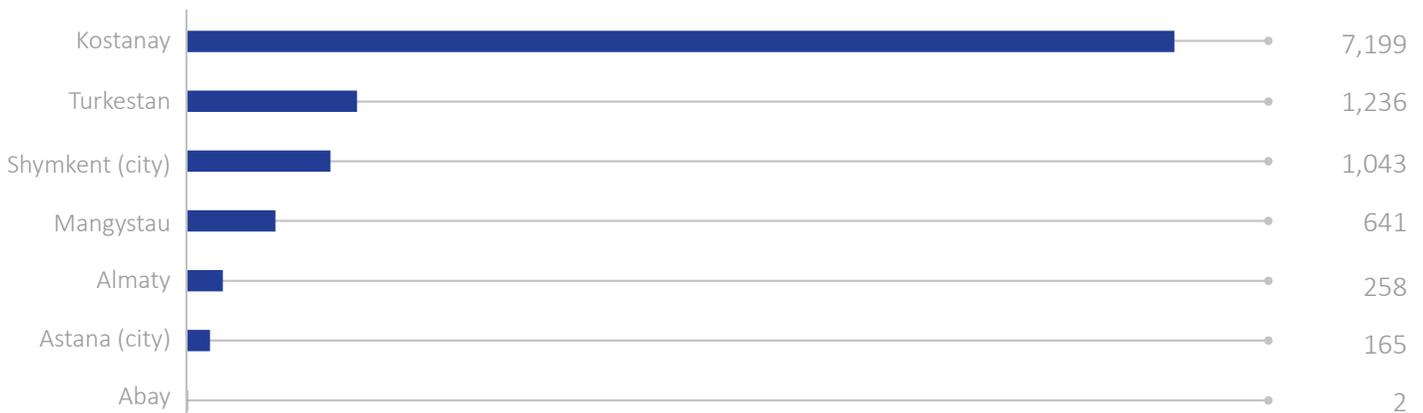




EMIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

More than half of all the out migrants from the assessed villages are from Kostanay (68%). The second highest number of emigrants (12%) are from Turkestan province, followed by Shymkent city (10%). Six per cent of the emigrants are from Mangystau, and only 2 per cent from Almaty. In Almaty city, Kyzylorda, and North Kazakhstan provinces the key informants could not identify the outbound migrants. In contrast to other countries in the Central Asian region, emigration flows are much lower in Kazakhstan.

Emigrants | By Province of Arrival

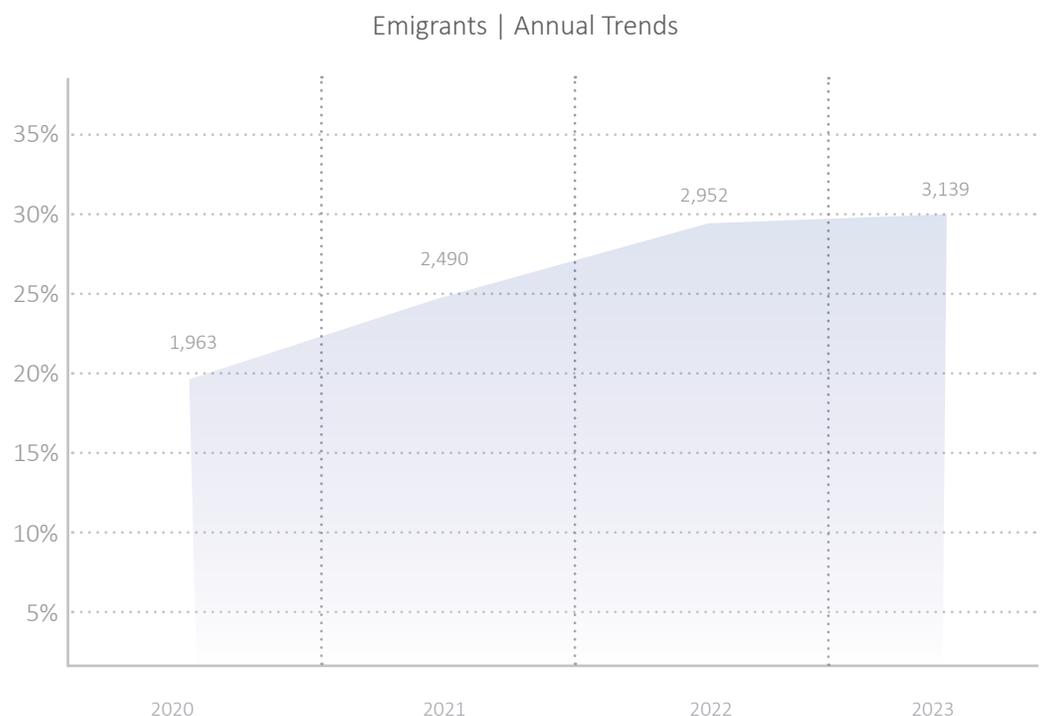


Emigrants | Annual Trends

Based on MTM key informants' estimates the overall number of out-migrants witnessed a constant smooth uprising, surging by 27 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020, followed by further increase by 19 per cent in 2022.

In 2023, the number of migrants remains at approximately the same level as in the previous year.

In general, in Kazakhstan, there has been a tendency towards an increase in emigration flows in order to find job opportunities. As officials stated, more than 190 thousand people, most of whom went to work, have left Kazakhstan since the beginning of 2023³.



2. Ministry of Labour and social protection, 2023

INTERNAL MOBILITY





INTERNAL MIGRANTS

During the third round of data collection, MTM key informants confirmed the presence of internal migrants in their villages.

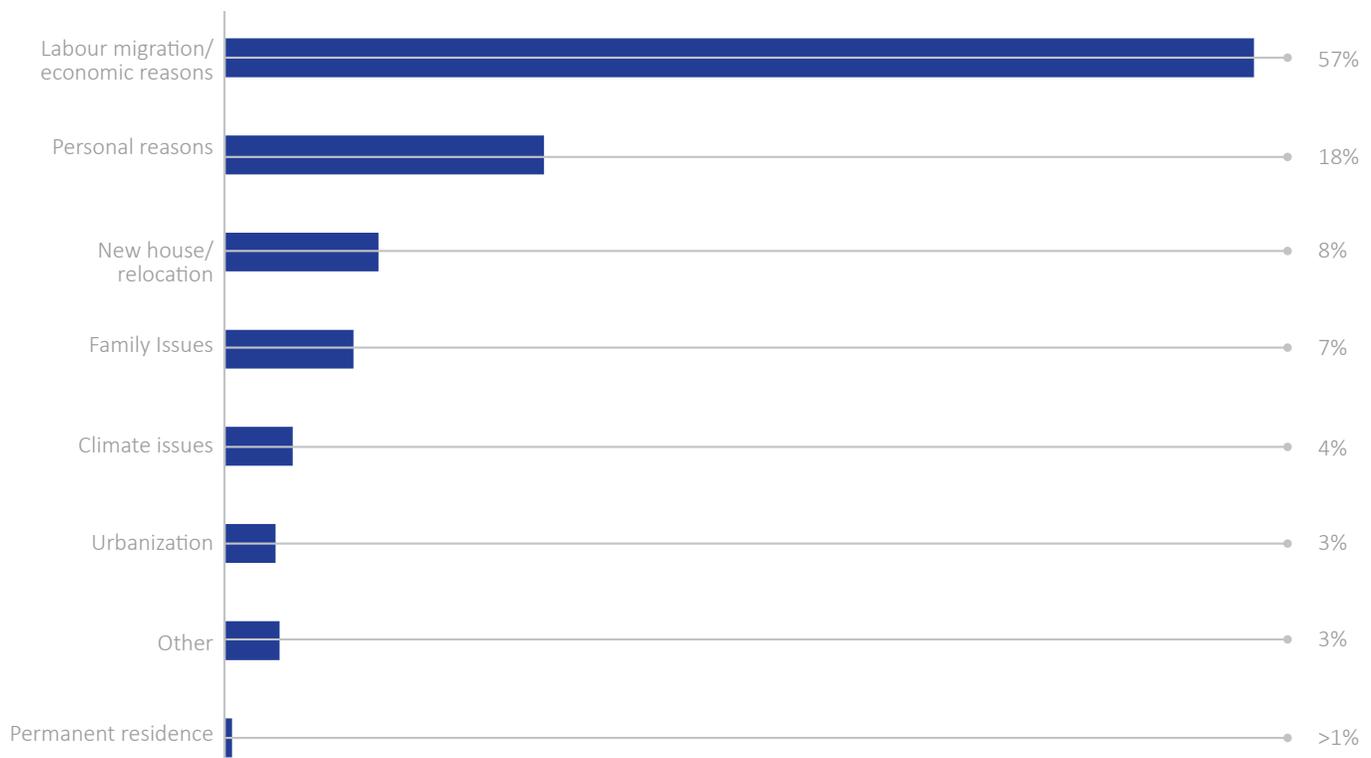
In 1,245 villages, key informants indicated that 353 villages had internal migrants, with the presence of 10,954 households and 41,574 individuals. Most of them are located in the provinces of Kostanay (47%) and Mangystau (31%), followed by Kyzylorda (12%) and North Kazakhstan (6%) provinces.

Reasons for Migration

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top first reason for internal migration was mentioned as labour migration/ economic reasons (57.1%).

Other reasons for migration included personal reasons (18%), purchased new house/relocation/ resettlement program (8%), family issues (7%), climate change (4%), urbanization (3%) other (3%) and permanent residence (>1%).

Reasons for Migration





INTERNAL EMIGRANTS

During the third round of data collection, MTM key informants confirmed the presence of internal emigrants in their communities.

In 1,245 villages, key informants indicated that 408 had internal emigrants, with the presence of 12,833 households, and 50,445 individuals.

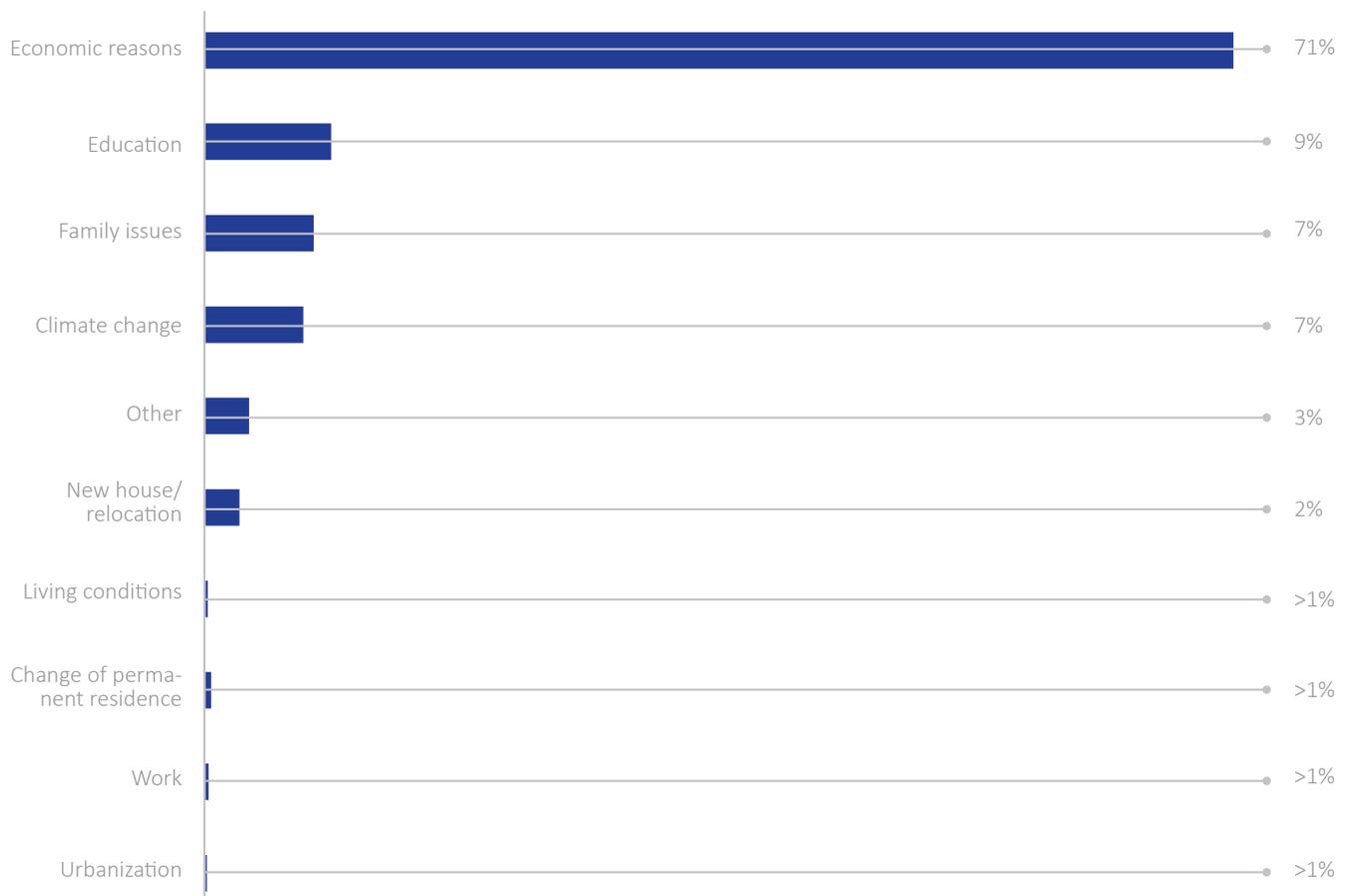
Most of the Kazakh nationals internally migrated from Kostanay (43%) and Mangystau (30%), followed by Kyzylorda (13%) and Astana city (6%).

Reasons for Migration

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top reason mentioned out of the assessed communities was economic reasons/job/labour (71%).

Other reasons for migration included education (9%), family issues (7%), climate change (7%), other (3%), purchased new house/relocation/ resettlement program (2%).

Reasons for Migration





ANNEX: ACCESS TO SERVICES

In the third round of data collection, MTM enumerators interviewed key informants regarding the presence of essential services in their respective villages.

The findings revealed the following trends: 25 per cent of communities lacked clinics, 66 per cent lacked hospitals, 43 per cent were without markets, 9 per cent lacked access to safe drinking water sources, 5 per cent were without schools, and 3 per cent had no access to internet within their communities.

Availability of Services within the Community		
Services	Yes	No
Clinic	75%	25%
Hospital	34%	66%
Internet	97%	3%
Market	57%	43%
Drinking Water	91%	9%
School	95%	5%

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES BY DISTANCE

MTM enumerators conducted interviews with key informants, focusing on the significant travel distances individuals have to undertake to access essential services. The data revealed that a staggering 34,169 households are required to travel over 25 kilometers to reach clinical services, while 80,856 households have to cover the same distance to access hospital care.

In order to get to the nearest market, 70,778 households will need to travel over 25 kilometers, and 18,517 will travel 21-25 kilometers.

The distance to school for 7,527 households exceeds 25 kilometers, and the same distance 16,602 households need to travel to access drinking water access.

DISTANCE TO NEAREST FACILITY AMONG COMMUNITIES WITHOUT FACILITIES

Travel Distance	 Clinic	 Hospital	 Internet	 Market	 Safe Drinking Water	 School
	Number of Households (HHs)					
0-5 KM	42,078	284,917	1,028	199,226	548	3,540
6-10 KM	12,187	53,673	5,190	13,109	821	4,143
11-15 KM	20,771	45,616	3,973	22,094	2,187	7,947
16-20 KM	6,377	39,185	428	19,659	2,497	4,056
21-25 KM	6,522	32,504	904	18,517	2,840	1,707
Over 25 KM	34,169	80,856	4,083	70,778	16,602	7,527
Total Households	122,104	522,046	15,606	343,383	25,495	28,920

* A hospital provides comprehensive medical care including emergency services, surgeries, and inpatient care, while a clinic offers outpatient services for routine exams, minor treatments, and preventive care.



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