KAZAKHSTAN

BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT (BMA)
ROUND 4 - APRIL 2024

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

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Disclaimer

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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) methodology[1]. 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 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 origin or return. Data is collected at the community[2] level from key informants and direct observations.

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

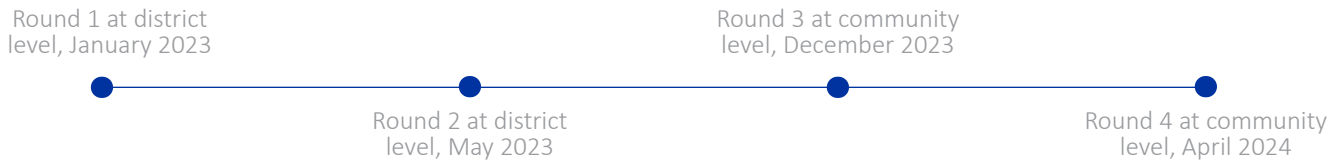
1. District-level assessment (B1): It aims to identify villages with high inflows and outflows of Kazakh nationals and provide estimated numbers of each target population category.
2. Community-level assessment (B2): Based on the results of B1, this assessment collects information on inflows and outflows 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[3]:

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.

TIMELINE OF DATA COLLECTION



1. DTM Methodological framework. Retrieved from: https://dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework
2. The communities include (microdistricts, townships, and villages)
3. IOM Glossary. Retrieved from: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

7 Provinces
3 cities
103 districts
1,301 communities assessed

1,923 key informants interviewed

29,853 internal migrants

3,224 emigrants

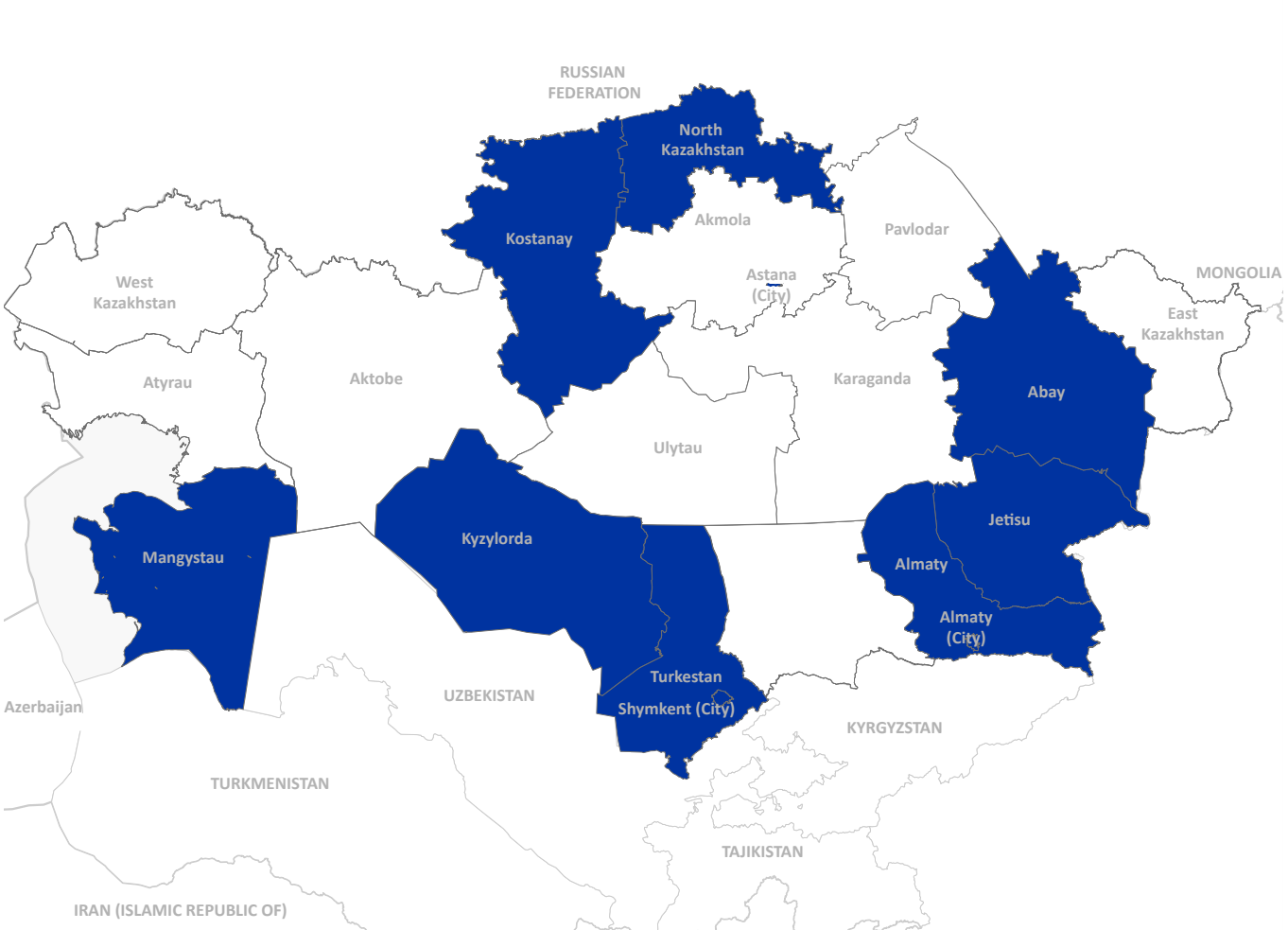
17,317 return migrants

598,094 international migrant workers

1,865 emigrants moved to the Russian Federation

The BMA was conducted in seven provinces (Abay, Almaty, Kostanay, Kyzylorda, Mangystau, North Kazakhstan, Turkestan) and three major cities namely Shymkent city, Almaty city, and Astana city. This assessment covered 1,301 communities during February 2024 and April 2024. During the assessment, 1,923 key informants were interviewed. Based on the key informants' estimates, 598,094 international migrant workers were hosted in the assessed locations in Kazakhstan from 2020 to April 2024. Concurrently, 29,853 internal migrants were hosted in the assessed locations, and 3,224 Kazakh nationals were reported to be residing abroad as international migrants. In addition, 17,317 Kazakh migrants have returned from abroad.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

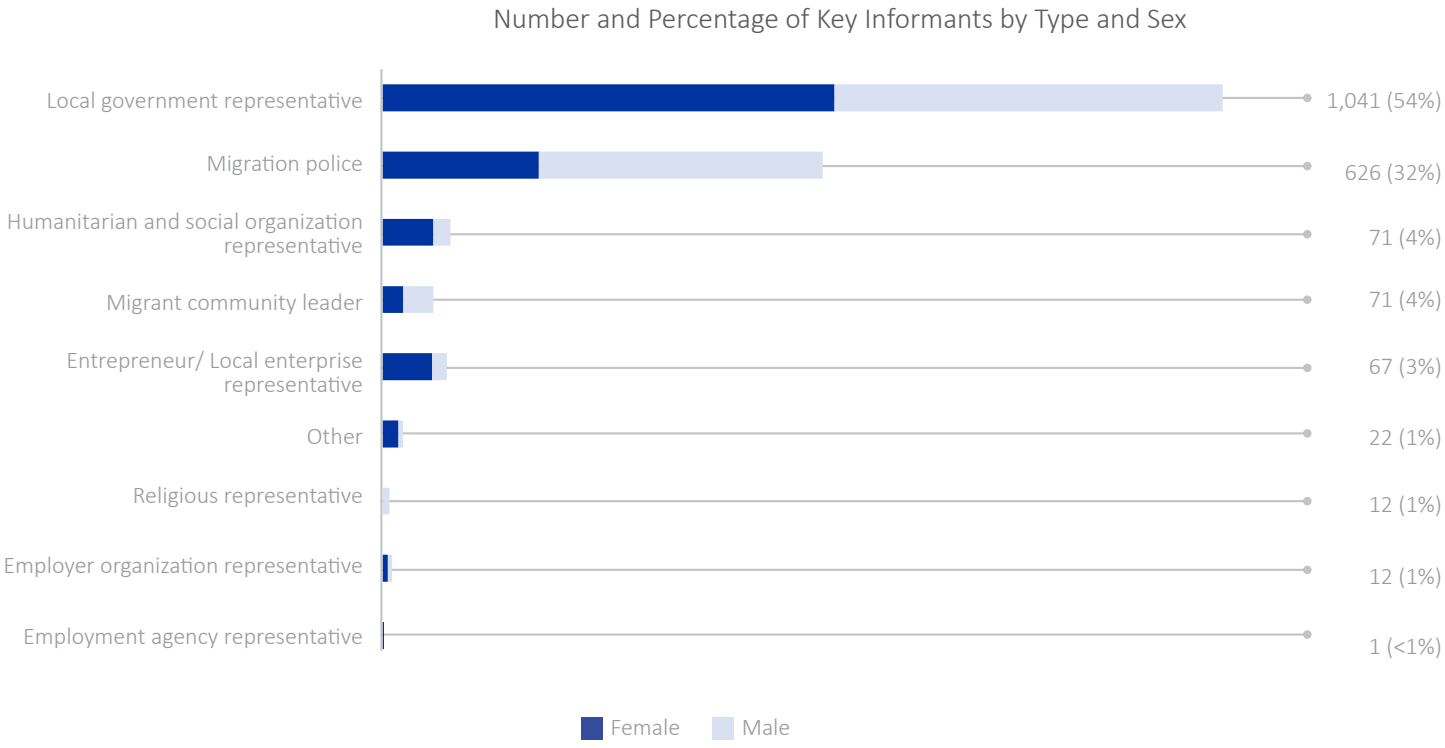


KEY INFORMANTS (KI)

Field enumerators (5 men/10 Women) collected data at the community level through in-person meetings with local government, community, and employer organizations, and other representatives. Most key informants represented local municipal bodies (akimats), migration police, and trade/shop owners.

In Round four of the data collection, 68 per cent of the key informants were men and 32 per cent were women ensuring a relatively balanced perspective from both genders. The majority of key informants were local government representatives, accounting 54 per cent. Followed by migration police at 32 per cent, humanitarian and social organization representatives 4 per cent, and community leaders 3 per cent. Additionally, there were religious representatives, representatives from employment agency, and employer organization representatives which accounted for a total of 2 per cent.

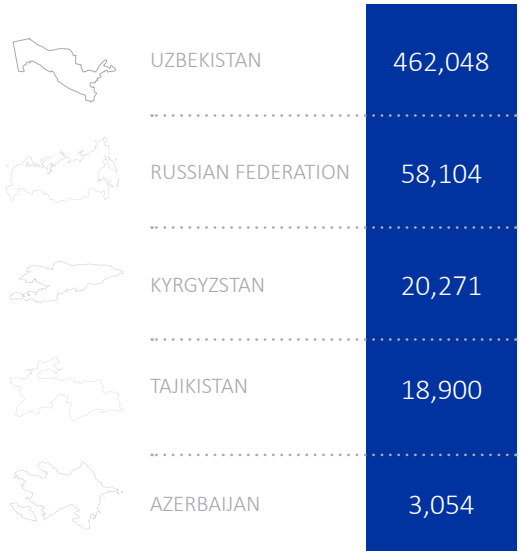
Key informants provided valuable insights into mobility patterns within the community, both internally and internationally. Their roles and positions within the community gave them access to critical information, significantly contributing to the data collection process. This approach ensured that the data reflected actual mobility trends and the factors influencing these trends.



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES



MTM key informants from 517 communities (40% of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of international migrant workers in their communities.

Key informants confirmed the presence of 598,094 international migrant workers from more than 17 different countries who have arrived to the assessed communities from 2020 to April 2024. However, the vast majority of the migrant workers belonged to just five nationalities. The largest group was from Uzbekistan, accounting for 77 per cent of the international migrant workers in Kazakhstan. This was followed by the Russian nationals at 10 per cent, Kyrgyz nationals at 3 per cent, Tajik nationals at 3 per cent, and Azerbaijani nationals at 1 per cent.

Meanwhile, key informants reported the presence of over 30,000 (5%) international migrants workers of unknown nationality.

TYPE AND REASON OF MIGRATION

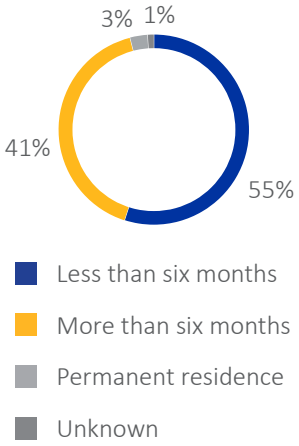
In exploring the patterns of migration among international migrant workers coming to Kazakhstan, it is observed that the highest proportion of these workers engage in shorter duration of migration. Specifically, 55 per cent of migrant workers stay for less than six months. This trend suggests that many individuals may be coming to Kazakhstan for seasonal work, temporary projects, or short-term employment opportunities that do not require extended stay.

Following the migration for shorter periods, migration for longer periods is also significant, with 41 per cent of migrant workers staying in Kazakhstan for more than six months. Additionally, 1 per cent resides in the country with permanent residence.

Additionally, there is a another segment of the migrant population whose duration of stay in Kazakhstan is classified as unknown, comprising 3 per cent of the total. This category may include individuals whose length of stay is indefinite due to various factors.

As shown on the following page, the primary drivers of migration presented a nuanced landscape of motivations. Financial problems and better working condition in Kazakhstan were listed as the most important reason for migrants' choice to travel to Kazakhstan. Low income in the country or origin, ease of access to Kazakhstan, better living condition in Kazakhstan, family matters, and lack of economic opportunities were rated as slightly important reasons.

Type of Migration by Percentage



DEMOGRAPHICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS

Importance of factors in entering Kazakhstan for migrant workers in 2023 by ranking

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

3.4
Financial problems/debts

2.7
Lack of economic opportunities in home country

3.4
Better working conditions (easier access to work permit, working hours, higher income)

1.9
Human rights violation

3.2
Low income in home-country

1.8
Conflict and general security situation in home country

3.0
Better living conditions

1.4
Climate change

3.0
Easier to access (geographical proximity)

1.3
Economic sanctions (Russian Federation)

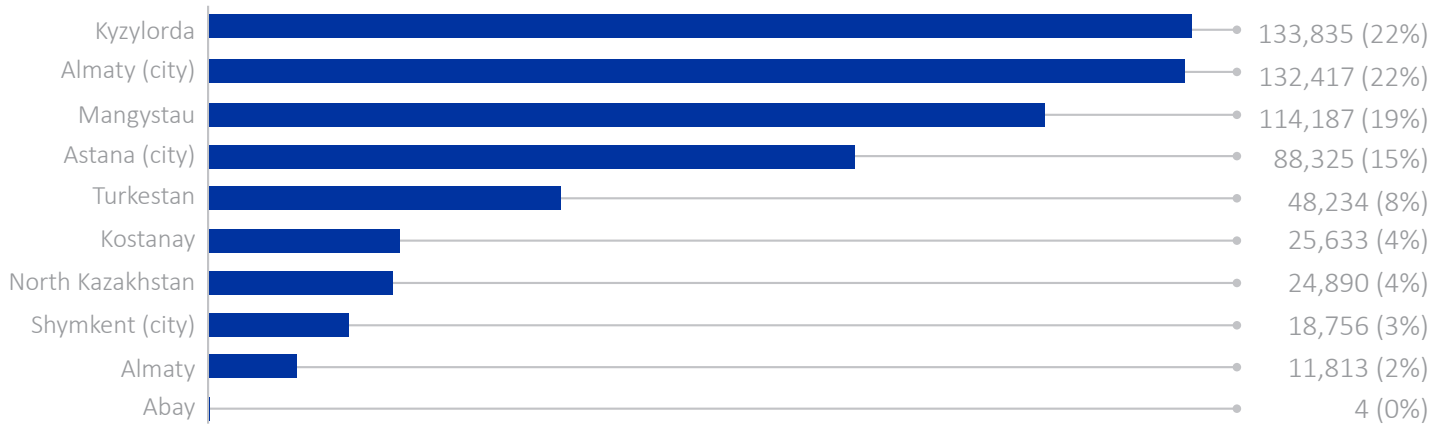
2.8
Family matters (reuniting with family, marriage, etc)

1.2
Partial mobilization of the Russian Federation

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

Geographically, the distribution of international migrant workers was notably concentrated in Kyzylorda province (22%) and Almaty city (22%), as well as Mangystau province (19%). Astana city hosted 15% of migrant workers, followed by Turkestan province (8%), Kostanay (4%) and North Kazakhstan province (4%). The less distribution of migrant workers was accounted in Shymkent city (3%), and Almaty province (2%). One of the reasons why the concentration of migrants in Kyzylorda, Almaty city, and Mangystau provinces may be higher than in others is due to the fact that Kyzylorda is bordering with Karakalpakstan of Uzbekistan, 99 per cent of migrant workers in Kyzylorda are of Uzbek nationality and Almaty is considered as the financial and business centre of Kazakhstan. Furthermore, Almaty city and Mangystau has more working opportunities and higher income compared to other parts of the country.

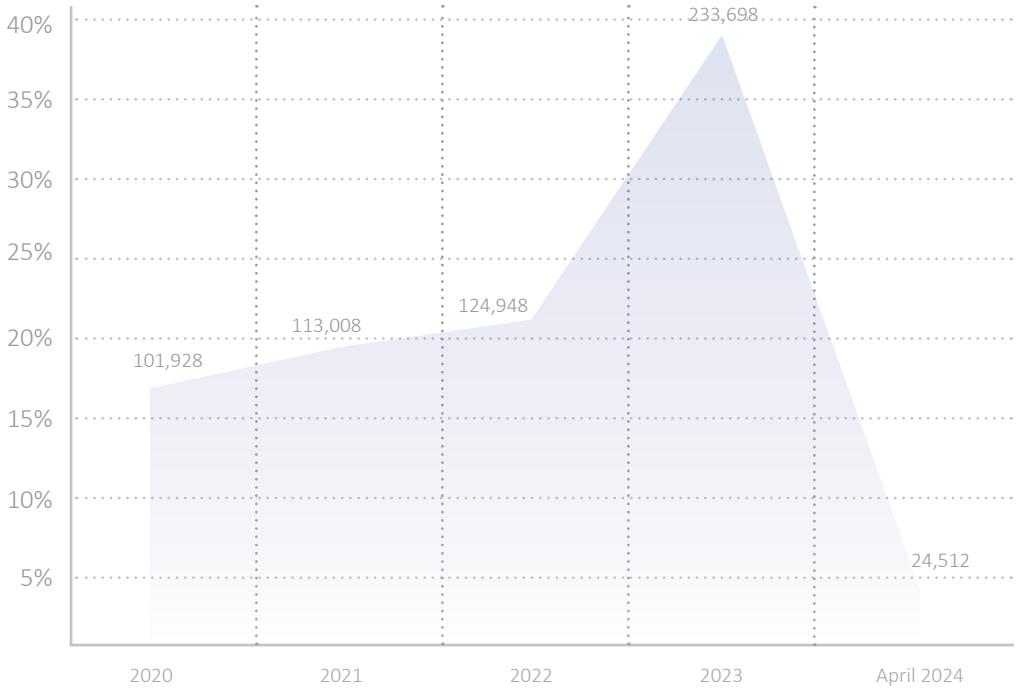
Number and Percentage of International Migrant Workers from 2020 – April 2024 | By Province of Arrival



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 56 per cent compared to 2020. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population (MLSP) of Kazakhstan the sharp increase in migration flows to the influx of migrants from the Russian Federation due to the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis, partial mobilization, and sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation.[4] The data for 2024, which includes figures up to April is expected to change by the end of the year and therefore cannot yet be compared to the previous year. Furthermore, presence of international migrant workers in Kyzylorda accounts for 2020 - 2023 with no new arrivals in 2024.

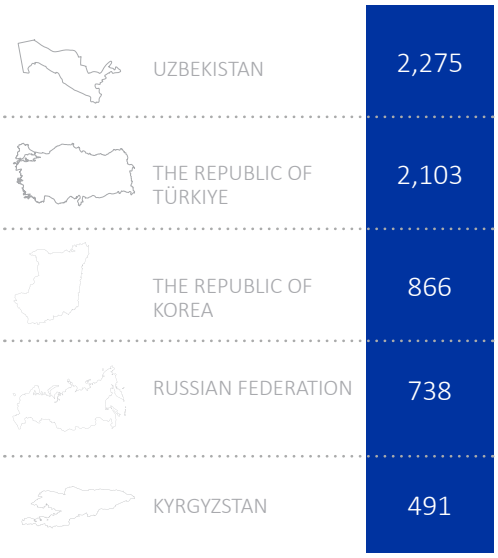
Number of International Migrant Workers from 2020 – April 2024 | Annual Trends



4. Ministry of Labour and social protection, 2024

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF RETURN



MTM Key informants reported the presence of return migrants in 80 communities, representing approximately 6 per cent of the total assessed communities. According to key informant data, a total of 17,317 migrants were confirmed to have returned to these communities from over 13 different countries between 2020 and April 2024. This highlights the ongoing trend of return migration affecting a variety of communities.

Notably, the country of return was unknown for a substantial majority (61%) of the return migrants. After unknown, the largest groups came from Uzbekistan (13%) and the Republic of Türkiye (12%). The Republic of Korea accounted for 5 per cent of return migrants, followed by the Russian Federation at 4 per cent. Additionally, nearly 3 per cent of return migrants were reported to have come back from Kyrgyzstan.

These patterns highlight the strong connections between Kazakhstan and its neighboring countries, particularly along traditional migration corridors with nations that share historical and linguistic ties, such as Uzbekistan, Türkiye, the Russian Federation, and Kyrgyzstan.

Type and Reasons for Return

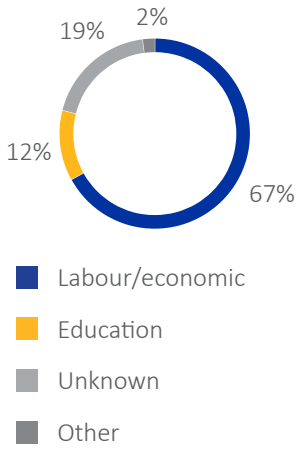
In exploring the type of migration for those who returned in 2023, the highest proportion was recorded as labour/economic migration (67%) followed by migrants whose type was recorded as unknown (19%). Twelve per cent returned to the country after completion of education, and 2 per cent accounted for other types.

When asked to rank the importance of various reasons for return to Kazakhstan, on a scale from 0 ("not applicable") to 5 ("very important"), expiration/high cost of patent (work permit) and completion of contract/duties at destination emerged as the most significant reasons, with an average ranking of 3.1 each. Next, family matters including family reunification or marriage and finding better job opportunities in Kazakhstan were ranked as the third and fourth most important reasons, with an average score of 2.4 and 2.3, respectively.

Other reasons, including returning due to financial problems/debts, lack of economic opportunities abroad, low income in country of return, depreciation of currency (mainly Russian rouble), conflict and general security situation abroad, and health conditions (mental health/disability) were ranked unimportant ranging from 1.8 to 1.5.

Deportation (1.3), climate change abroad (1.2), human rights violation abroad (1.1), economic sanction (1.0), partial mobilization of the Russian Federation (0.7), and other (0.5) were also noted as reasons, albeit with lower importance.

Type of Return Migrants by Percentage



DEMOGRAPHICS OF RETURN MIGRANTS

Importance of factors in returning to Kazakhstan since 2023 by ranking

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

3.1
Patent (expiration/high cost of work permit)

3.1
Completion of work contract/ duties in the destination

2.4
Family issues (family reunification, marriage, etc)

2.3
To find (better) job opportunities in home country

1.8
Financial problems/debts

1.7
Lack of economic opportunities abroad

1.6
Low income in country of return

1.6
Depreciation of currency (mainly RFs rouble)

1.5
Health issues (mental health, disability, etc)

1.5
Conflict and general security situation abroad

1.3
Deportation

1.2
Climate change

1.1
Human rights violation

1.0
Economic sanctions (Russian Federation)

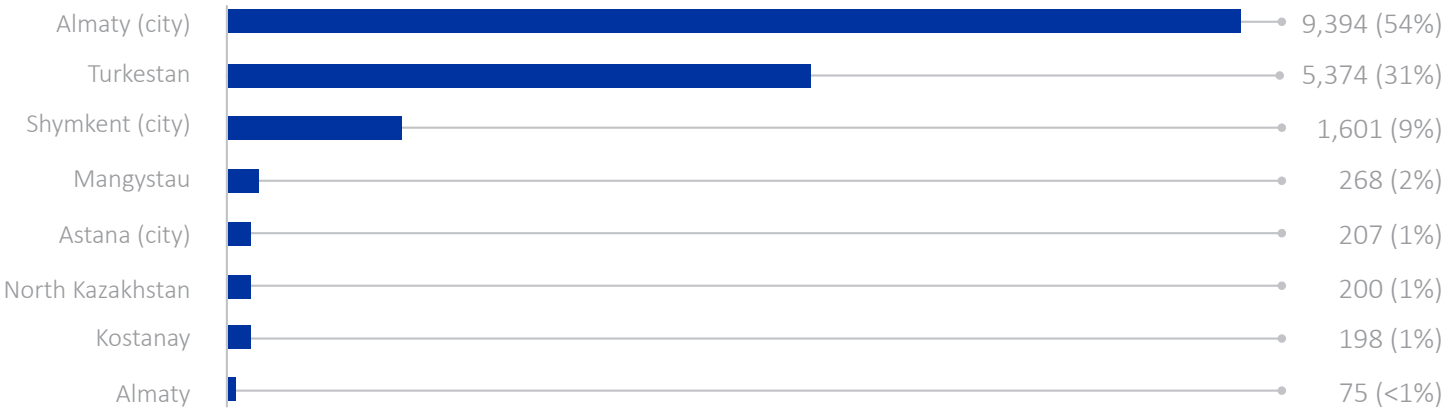
0.7
Partial mobilization of the Russian Federation

0.5
Other

RETURN MIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE OF ARRIVAL

More than half of all the return migrants from the assessed communities returned to Almaty city (54%) and Turkestan (31%). Fewer return migrants were reported by key informants in Shymkent city (9%), and Mangystau (2%), followed by Astana city (2%), North Kazakhstan (1%), and Kostanay (1%) provinces. Meanwhile, no return was reported in Kyzylorda and Abay provinces.

Number and Percentage of Return Migrants from 2020 – April 2024 | By Province Of Arrival

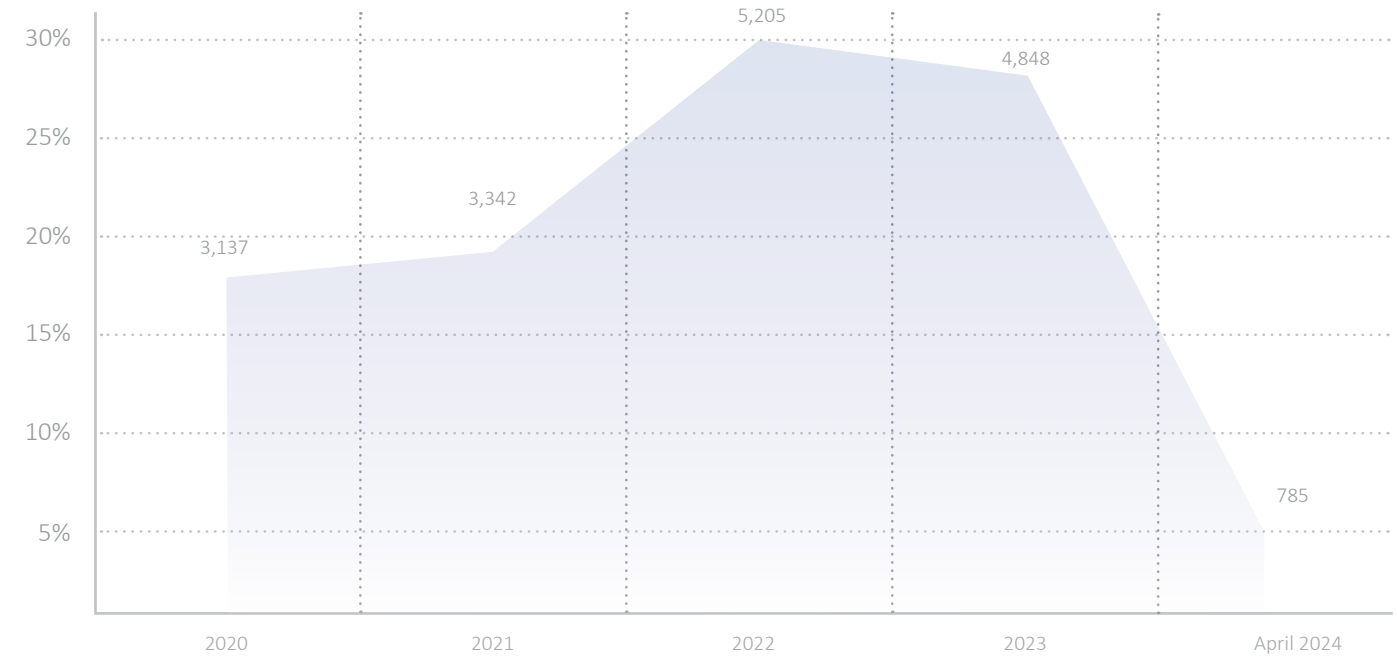


Return Migrants |Annual Trends

MTM key informants estimated that the overall number of return migrants witnessed a sharp upsurge, surging by 56 per cent in 2022 compared to the preceding year, 2021.

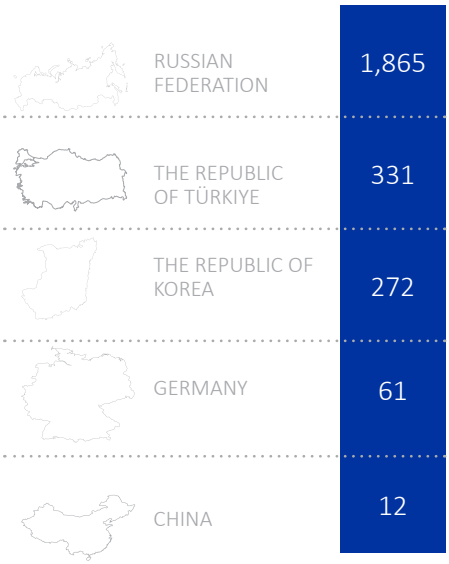
In 2023, the number decreased by 7 per cent compared to 2022. The data for 2024, which includes figures up to April is expected to change by the end of the year and therefore cannot yet be compared to the previous year.

Number of Return Migrants from 2020 – April 2024 | Annual Trends



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF MIGRATION



During the fourth round of BMA data collection, MTM key informants from four provinces (Kostanay, Turkestan, Mangystau, Almaty) and two cities (Shymkent and Astana) only in the 9 per cent of communities assessed confirmed the existence of 3,224 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 more than 14 different countries.

The predominant destinations for emigrants were overwhelmingly the Russian Federation, drawing 58% per cent of the migrant population, followed by the Republic of Türkiye at 10 per cent. Among other countries for emigration were the Republic of Korea, Germany, China, Uzbekistan, Sweden, and Spain. Additionally, the country of destination were reported unknown for 20 per cent of the emigrants.

Type and Reasons for Migration

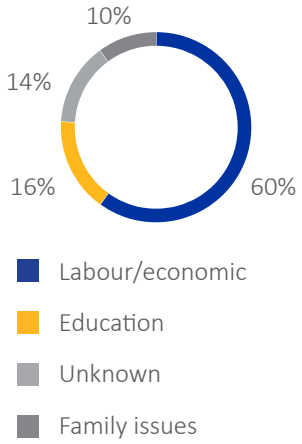
In exploring the type of migration for those who emigrated, the highest proportion recorded was for labour/economic migration (60%) followed by education (16%), unknown (14%), and family issues including family reunification (12%).

When asked to rank the importance of various reasons for emigration from Kazakhstan, on a scale from 0 ("not applicable") to 5 ("very important"), family matters (joining with family elsewhere, marriage) and looking for better job opportunities abroad were equally ranked at 2.9 (slightly important), low income and lack of economic opportunities in Kazakhstan ranked at 2.5 and 2.3, respectively.

Close behind, obtained work contract/work duties abroad, education, financial problems/ debts, economic situation/depreciation of currency, and seeking medical treatment, were ranked as unimportant ranging from 2.1 to 1.4.

The remaining factors, including emigration for conflict and general security situation, human rights violations, and climate change, and economic sanctions (Russian Federation), were generally ranked as very unimportant.

Type of Emigrants by Percentage



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF EMIGRANTS

Importance of factors in migration from Kazakhstan since 2023 by ranking

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

2.9
Family matters (joining family elsewhere, marriage, etc)

2.9
To find (better) job opportunities abroad

2.5
Low income in Kazakhstan

2.3
Lack of economic opportunities in Kazakhstan

2.2
Obtained work contract/ work duties abroad

2.1
Education

2.0
Financial problems/debts

1.7
Poor economy/depreciation of currency in home country

1.4
To seek medical treatment/ health reasons

0.9
Conflict and general security situation in home country

0.9
Human rights violations in home country

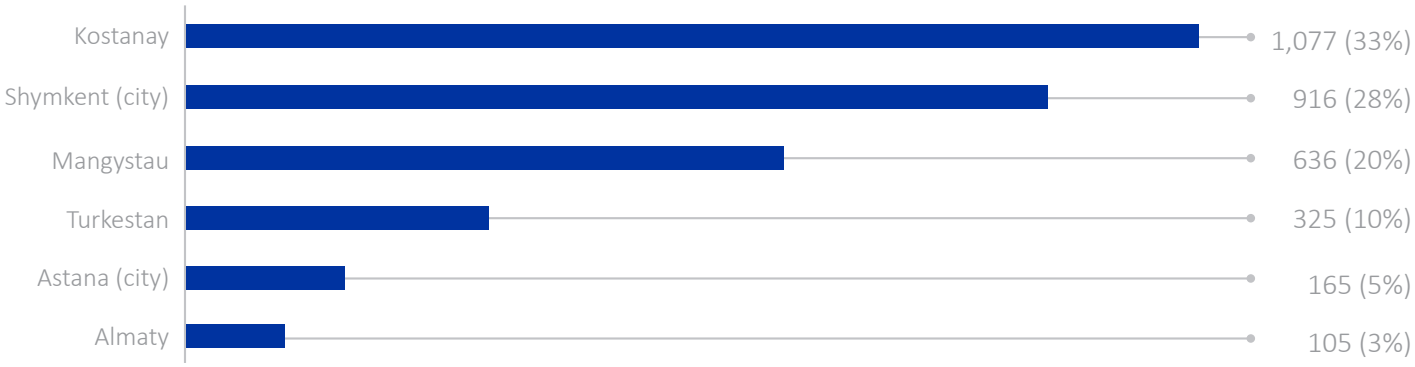
0.8
Climate change

0.6
Economic sanctions (Russian Federation)

EMIGRANTS | BY PROVINCE

Thirty-three per cent of the emigrants from the assessed communities are from Kostanay province. The second highest number of emigrants (28%) are from Shymkent city, followed by Mangystau (20%), Turkestan (10%), Astana city (5%), and Almaty province (3%). There were no emigrants reported in Almaty city and North Kazakhstan.

Number and Percentage of Emigrants from 2020 – April 2024 | By Province



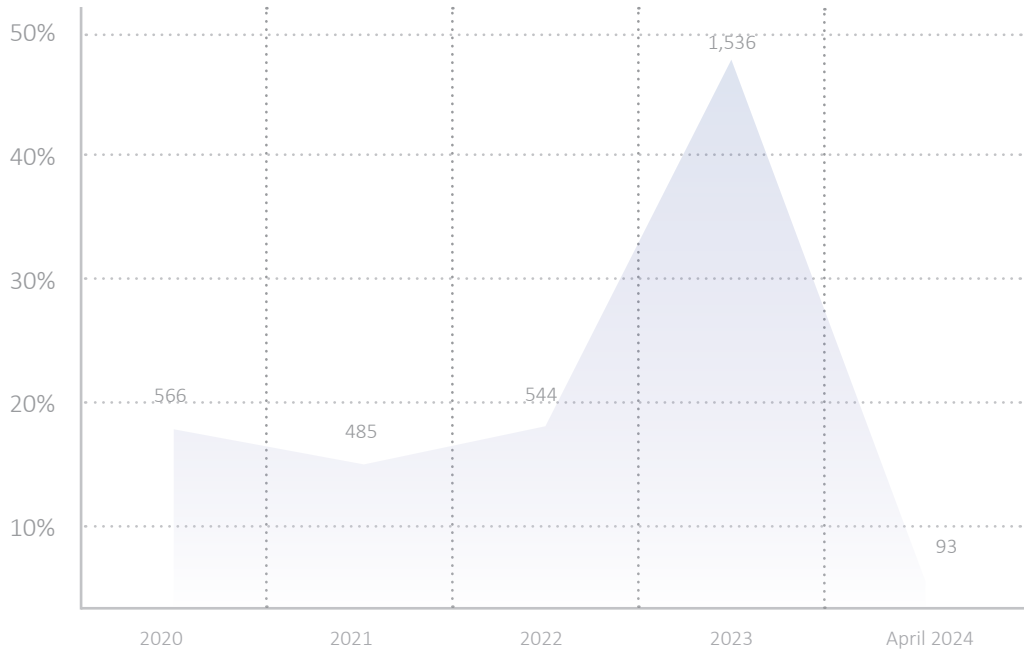
Emigrants |Annual Trends

The overall number of emigrants witnessed a decrease of 14 per cent in 2021 compared to the preceding year, 2020. However, this trend reversed in 2022, with an increase of 12 per cent. The most significant change occurred in 2023, when the number of migrants surged by an astonishing 182 per cent compared to the previous year. This dramatic rise highlights a growing trend in emigration flows within Kazakhstan. According to the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan, there has been a notable 47 per cent increase in the number of migrants since the beginning of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.[5]

This data underscores a consistent upward trajectory in emigration, reflecting various socio-economic factors influencing people's decisions to migrate.

Overall, Kazakhstan has experienced a marked increase in emigration flows over the past few years, except for a slight decrease in 2021, which is most probably due to COVID-19.

Number of Emigrants from 2020 – April 2024 | Annual Trends



5. Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan, 2024

INTERNAL MOBILITY

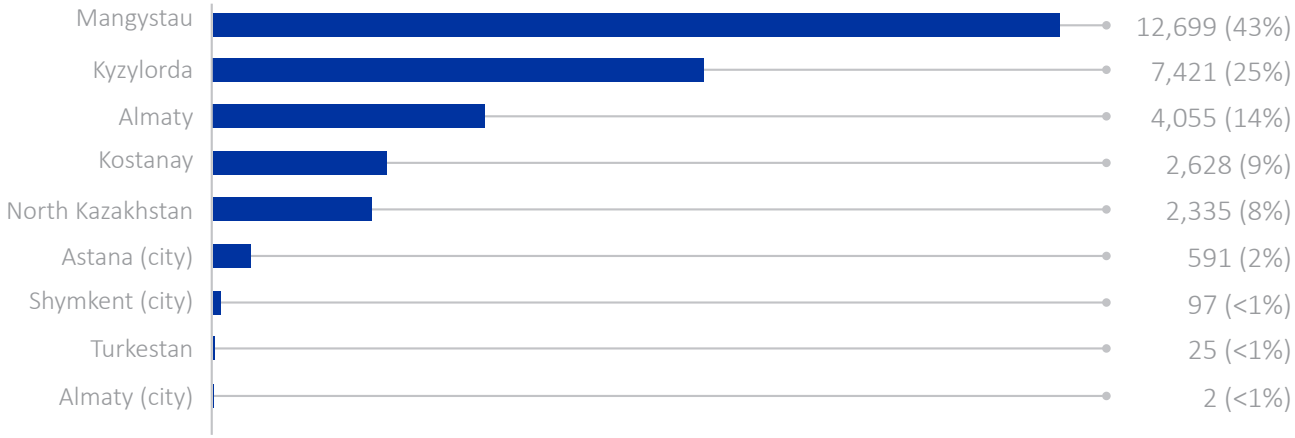
INTERNAL MIGRANTS

MTM key informants from 229 communities (18% of the assessed communities) confirmed the presence of internal migrants in their communities.

Key informants indicated that 29,853 Kazakh nationals have internally migrated to the assessed communities during 2023. Sixty-four per cent of the internal migrants migrated within the same district. Almost half of the internal migrants (43%) moved to Mangystau, followed by Kyzylorda (25%), Almaty (14%), Kostanay (9%), North Kazakhstan (8%) and Astana city (2%) provinces. While Shymkent city, Turkistan province, and Almaty city are hosting 1 per cent of internal migrants in aggregate.

Moreover, the highest numbers of internal migrants from the assessed communities were reported in Munayli district (20%) located in Mangystau, followed by Ile district (12%) located in Almaty, and Kyzylorda district (11%) of Kyzylorda province.

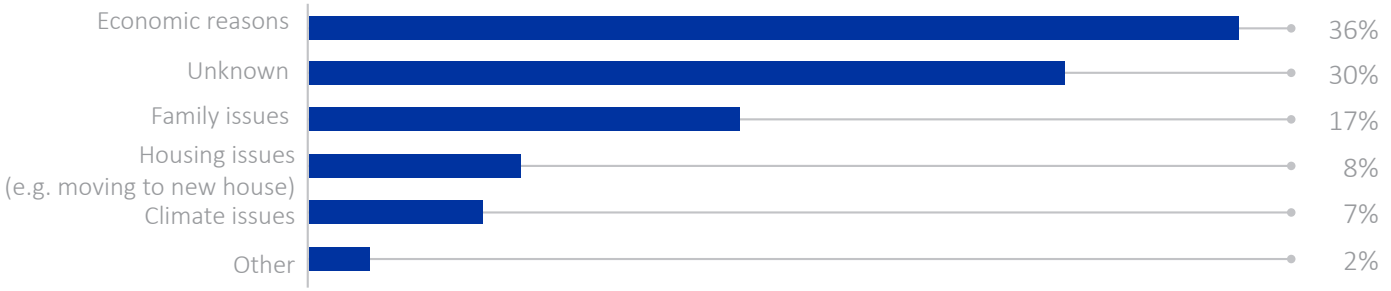
Number and Percentage of Internal Migrants in 2023 | By Province of Arrival



Reasons for Migration

When asked about the reasons for internal migration, the top first reason for internal migration was mentioned as economic reasons (36%), followed by family issues (17%), housing issues including moving to a new house (8%), climate issues (7%), and other reasons (2%). However, 30 per cent of the reasons for internal migration were unknown.

Percentage of Reasons for Migration in 2023



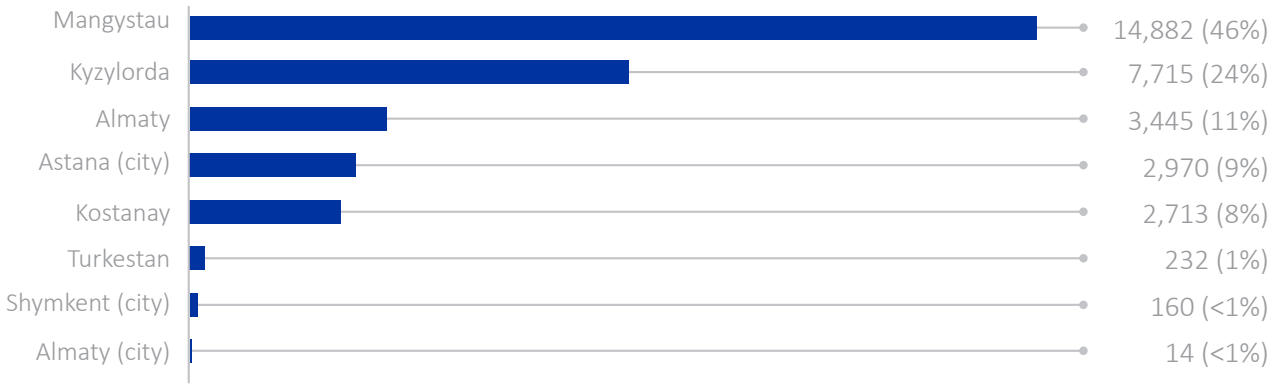
INTERNAL EMIGRANTS

MTM key informants from 21 per cent, eight out of ten provinces/cities of the assessed communities confirmed the existance of internal emigrants who moved from their communities and currently live somewhere else within Kazakhstan.

Key informants indicated that 32,131 Kazakh nationals have migrated internally from the assessed communities in 2023. Almost half 49 per cent of the internal migrants migrated within the same district. Fourty-six per cent of internal migrants had moved from Mangystau province, followed by Kyzylorda (24%), Almaty (11%), Astana city (9%), Kostanay (8%), and Turkestan (1%).

Moreover, the top three districts of internal emigrants were Munayli district (23%) located in Mangystau, followed by Ile district (10%) located in Almaty province, and Kyzylorda district (10%) of Kyzylorda province.

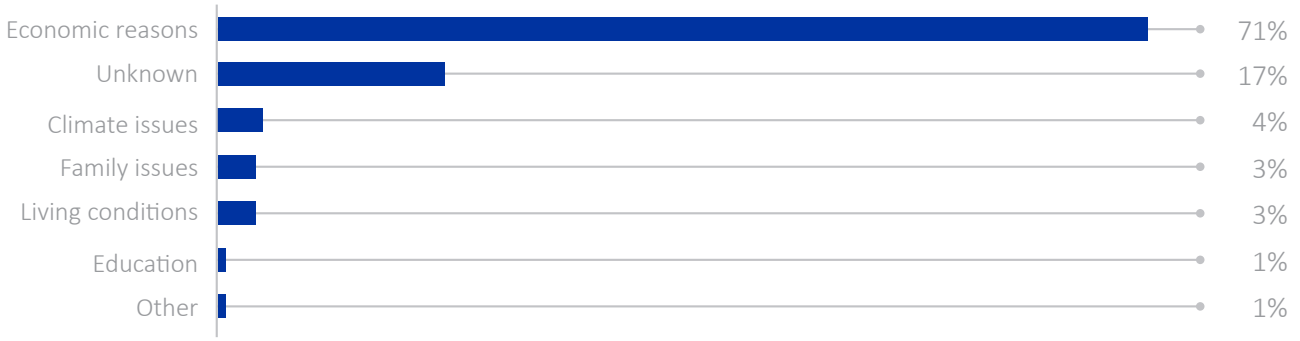
Number and Percentage of Internal Emigrants in 2023 | By Province



Reasons for Internal Emigration

When asked about the reasons for internal emigration, the top first reason for migration was mentioned as economic reasons (71%), followed by migration due unknown reasons (17%), and climate issues (4%). Family issues and better living condition accounted for 3 per cent each. Education was also listed as the reason for internal emigration at 1 per cent followed by other reasons at 1 per cent.

Percentage of Reasons for Internal Emigration in 2023



ANNEX: ACCESS TO SERVICES

MTM enumerators interviewed key informants regarding the presence of essential services in their respective communities.

The findings revealed the following: 9 per cent of communities lacked clinics, 59 per cent lacked hospitals, 19 per cent were without markets, 8 per cent lacked access to safe drinking water sources, 1 per cent were without schools, 2 per cent had no access to mobile internet and 22 per cent had no access to banks, ATM or post office within their communities.

Availability of Services within the Community		
Services	Yes	No
Clinic	91%	9%
Hospital	41%	59%
Internet	98%	2%
Market	81%	19%
Drinking Water	92%	8%
School	99%	1%
Bank, ATM, Post Office	78%	22%

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES BY DISTANCE

MTM enumerators conducted interviews with key informants, focusing on the significant travel distances individuals must undertake to access essential services. The data revealed some staggering figures: 15,700 households are required to travel over 25 kilometres to reach clinical services, while an astonishing 113,581 households must cover the same distance to access hospitals.

When it comes to accessing the nearest market, 47,373 households have to travel over 25 kilometres. For safe drinking water, 17,386 households are compelled to travel over 25 kilometres. Moreover, over 35,000 households have to travel for more than 25 kilometres to access a bank, ATM or a post office.

The situation is equally challenging for mobile internet access. At least 1,259 households can only access mobile internet within a distance of six to ten kilometres, while 604 households are unable to get it until they travel over 25 kilometres. Additionally, children from 334 households have to travel between 11 and 15 kilometres to reach the nearest schools.

DISTANCE TO NEAREST FACILITY AMONG COMMUNITIES WITHOUT FACILITIES

Travel Distance	Clinic	Hospital	Internet	Market	Safe Drinking Water	School	Bank, ATM, Post
	Number of Households (HHs)						
0-5 KM	5,336	297,888	394	19,744	326	91	1,459
6-10 KM	7,456	63,257	1,259	26,553	327	18	11,294
11-15 KM	6,881	34,588	105	14,486	320	334	3,109
16-20 KM	4,234	34,213	164	6,999	2,050	87	8,290
21-25 KM	2,025	27,102	120	11,902	1,964	0	6,634
Over 25 KM	15,700	113,581	604	47,373	17,386	232	35,586
Total Households	**41,632**	**570,629**	**2,646**	**127,057**	**22,373**	**762**	**66,372**

* 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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