

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN |
SECOND PROFILE 2025

MIGRATION
GOVERNANCE
INDICATORS



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Publisher: International Organization for Migration
17 route des Morillons
P.O. Box 17
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 717 9111
Fax: +41 22 798 6150
Email: hq@iom.int
Internet: www.iom.int

With research and analysis by

**ECONOMIST
IMPACT**

Required citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2025. *Migration Governance Indicators Second Profile 2025 – Republic of Kazakhstan*. IOM, Geneva.

ISBN 978-92-9268-992-6 (PDF)

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REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN |
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MIGRATION
GOVERNANCE
INDICATORS

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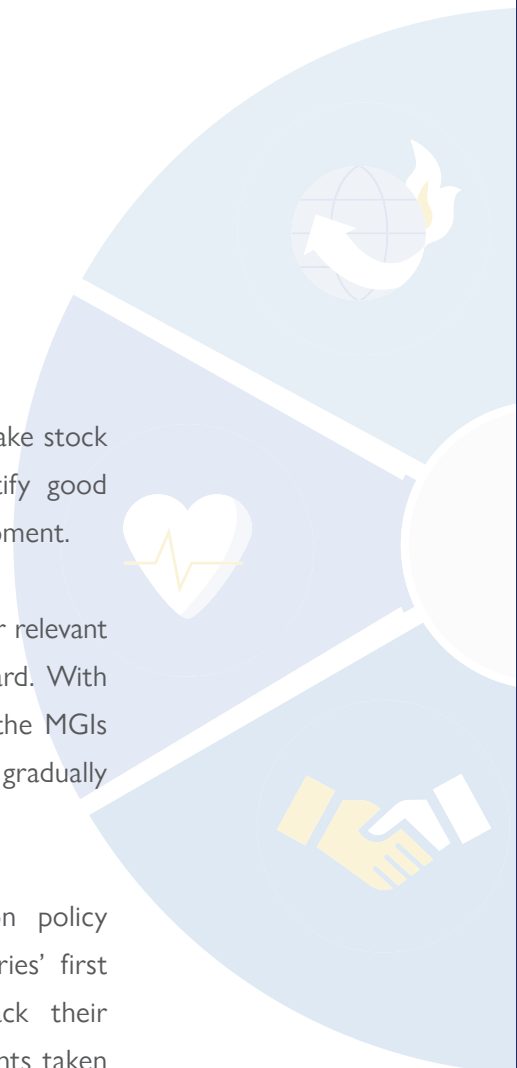
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OBJECTIVES

The MGIs aim to help governments, upon request, take stock of their migration policies and strategies to identify good practices and areas with potential for further development.

The MGIs open dialogues with governments and other relevant stakeholders to identify priorities on the way forward. With a focus on government ownership of the process, the MGIs offer support at the national and local levels to gradually improve migration management systems.

MGI follow-up assessments identify the migration policy developments that have occurred since the countries' first MGI assessments, thus helping governments track their progress on national priorities as well as commitments taken at the regional and international levels.



INTRODUCTION

“ Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history, and we recognize that it is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world, and that these positive impacts can be optimized by improving migration governance.¹

The need to maximize the opportunities and to face the challenges that mobility brings has been recognized with the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The incorporation of target 10.7 into the 2030 Agenda created the need to define “planned and well-managed migration policies”. This is why, in 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Migration Governance² Framework (MiGOF). This Framework³ offers a concise view of an ideal approach that allows a State to determine what it might need to govern migration well and in a way that suits its circumstances. That same year, IOM in collaboration with Economist Impact developed the Migration Governance Indicators (MGIs), a standard set of almost 100 indicators that help States assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures.

The indicators constitute a starting point to engage governments in a consultative process that allows them to identify areas that are well developed and others that would benefit from further development, and most importantly priorities that are in line with the specific challenges and opportunities that a given country is facing.

The MGIs are characterized by three main fundamental attributes:

1. The MGI process is a **voluntary** exercise: The MGIs are conducted in countries that have requested to be part of the process.
2. The MGIs are **sensitive to national specificities**: The MGIs recognize the different challenges and opportunities of each context, and therefore, do not propose a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather aim to spark a discussion on what well-governed migration can mean.
3. The MGIs constitute a **process**: The MGI process is not a static tool to collect data on countries’ migration frameworks. It is rather the first step of a dynamic exercise that can enable governments to identify areas of their migration policy in need of further development, or that could benefit from capacity-building.

The MGIs recognize that all countries have different realities, challenges and opportunities in relation to migration. Therefore, the MGIs do not rank countries on the design or implementation of their migration policies.

Finally, the MGIs do not measure migration policy outcomes or institutional effectiveness. Instead, they take stock of the migration-related policies in place and operate as a benchmarking framework that provides insights on policy measures that countries can consider as they further progress towards good migration governance.

¹ United Nations, [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (A/RES/73/195 of 11 January 2019), paragraph 8.

² “Migration governance” refers to the system of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms, and practices aimed at regulating migration and protecting migrants. It is used almost synonymously with the term “migration management”, although the latter is also sometimes used to refer to the narrow act of regulating cross-border movement at the State level.

³ IOM Council, [Migration Governance Framework](#), 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015), page 1, footnote 1.

MGI follow-up assessments aim to show the progress that countries have made in their migration governance policies since their first MGI assessment.⁴ This country profile presents a summary of the main changes and achievements that have taken place in the migration governance structures of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as Kazakhstan), since the first assessment in 2018, as well as the areas with potential for further development, as assessed by the MGIs.⁵

⁴ See the [2018 Migration Governance Snapshot of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#).

⁵ The MGI initiative is a policy-benchmarking programme led by IOM and implemented with the support of Economist Impact. Funding is provided by IOM Member States.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

MiGOF

IOM's MiGOF sets out the essential elements to support planned and well-managed migration. It seeks to present, in a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive way, a set of three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane and orderly, and benefits migrants and society.

At the basis of

PRINCIPLES

1. **Adhere** to international standards and fulfil migrants' rights.
2. **Formulate** policy using evidence and a whole-of-government approach.
3. **Engage** with partners to address migration and related issues.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
2. **Effectively address** the mobility dimensions of crises.
3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

MGIs

WHAT THEY ARE

-  A set of indicators that offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to strengthen their migration governance structures
-  A tool that identifies good practices and areas that could be further developed
-  A consultative process that advances dialogues on migration governance by clarifying what "well-governed migration" might look like in the context of SDG target 10.7 and the Global Compact for Migration implementation*

Which support the measurement of

WHAT THEY ARE NOT

-  Not a ranking of countries
-  Not an assessment of policy impacts
-  Not prescriptive



Note: "The Global Compact is framed in a way consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which Member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration."

The MGIs consist of almost 100 indicators grouped under the six different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:



MIGRANTS'
RIGHTS
PAGE 14

Indicators in this domain look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. They look at family reunification, access to work, and access to residency and citizenship. The international conventions signed and ratified are also included.



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT
APPROACH
PAGE 16

Indicators in this area assess countries' institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks related to migration policies. This area also looks at the existence of national migration strategies that are in line with development objectives and overseas development efforts, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in relation to migration management.



PARTNERSHIPS
PAGE 19

This category focuses on countries' efforts to cooperate on migration-related issues with other States and relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.



WELL-BEING
OF MIGRANTS
PAGE 21

Indicators in this area assess countries' policies on the recognition of migrants' educational and professional qualifications, provisions regulating student migration and the existence of bilateral labour agreements between countries. Aspects of diaspora engagement in the country of origin and migrant remittances are also under this domain.



MOBILITY DIMENSION
OF CRISES
PAGE 24

This category looks at the type and level of preparedness of countries when they are faced with mobility dimensions of crises. The questions look at the processes in place for nationals and non-nationals in relation to disasters and climate change, including if humanitarian assistance is equally available to migrants as it is to citizens.



SAFE, ORDERLY AND
REGULAR MIGRATION
PAGE 26

This area looks at countries' approach to migration management in terms of border control and enforcement policies, admission criteria for migrants, preparedness and resilience in the case of significant and unexpected migration flows, as well as the fight against trafficking in persons.



SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF UPDATES SINCE 2018

Migrants' rights

Since the previous MGI assessment in 2018, Kazakhstan has granted permanent residents equal access as citizens to Government-funded health services provided by the Ministry of Healthcare, as per the Code on Public Health and the Healthcare System (2020, updated in 2023).

In 2021, Kazakhstan signed the Agreement on the Provision of Pensions to Workers in Eurasian Economic Union Member States (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation), enshrining the portability of pensions within the region.

Whole-of-government approach

In 2022, Kazakhstan established the Migration Committee under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population as an interministerial coordination mechanism in the field of migration. It is responsible for developing migration policies, providing recommendations on foreign labour quotas and monitoring their implementation, overseeing the implementation of refugee policy, and coordinating government agencies' migration-related efforts.

In 2022, Kazakhstan adopted a new migration framework – the Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027. It covers seven major strategic priorities: international academic mobility, business immigration, qualified labour migration, diaspora relations, refugee and asylum-seeker affairs, the protection of internal labour migrants' rights, and the stimulation of internal migration.

Partnerships

Since the previous assessment, Kazakhstan has conducted several bilateral migration negotiations with origin and destination countries, including Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

In May 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to expand cooperation on refugee and asylum issues, including enabling access for refugees and asylum-seekers to health care, employment, education and social assistance.

Well-being of migrants

Since the previous MGI assessment, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with Uzbekistan in 2020, regulating labour activities and seeking to protect the rights of migrant workers by focusing on creating legal bases for cooperation in labour migration and ensuring the social protection of migrant workers. In 2024, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with Qatar, regulating the employment of Kazakh workers in Qatar, and drafted additional agreements with New Zealand and Latvia.

In 2020, Kazakhstan adopted the Strategy for the Promotion of Financial Literacy 2020–2024; however, this does not specifically address migrants.

Mobility dimension of crises

Kazakhstan has updated the Law on Civil Defence (2014, updated in 2023), which outlines the State's system for preventing and responding to emergency situations. However, it continues to lack measures to specifically assist migrants during crises.

In 2023, Kazakhstan adopted the Strategy for the Achievement of Carbon Neutrality in the Republic of Kazakhstan by 2060, which includes a section on climate change adaptation but does not explicitly mention migration or human mobility.

Safe, orderly and regular migration

Since the previous MGI assessment, the Government of Kazakhstan has added information in English and Kazakh to its official electronic portal, describing all visa categories and their application processes. Kazakhstan has also established the Visa–migration portal, allowing citizens of 109 countries to apply for single-entry business, tourist, medical or investor visas online prior to arrival.

Since 2018, Kazakhstan has implemented new measures to attract nationals who have emigrated from the country. The 2023–2027 Concept of Migration Policy introduced the Ata Zholy programme, which simplifies the procedure for gaining Kazakh citizenship for ethnic Kazakhs who are high-level professionals or entrepreneurs.

Additionally, in 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population published a new plan to combat human trafficking – the Plan on Measures to Prevent and Combat Crimes Associated with Human Trafficking 2024–2026.



CONTEXT

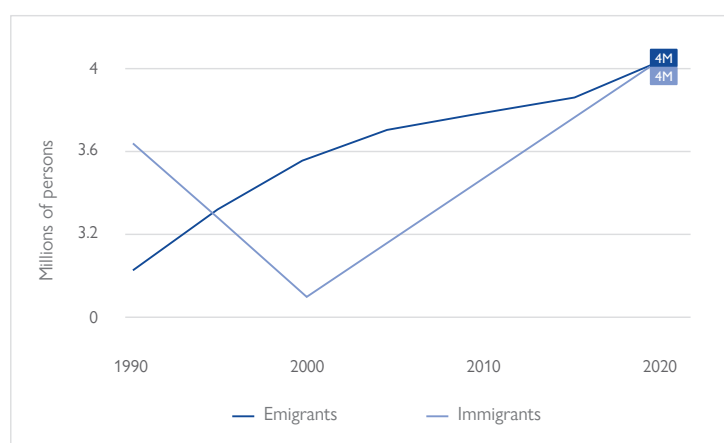
Immigration to Kazakhstan has increased over the past two decades.⁶ According to United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) figures, there were 3.7 million international migrants living in the country as of mid-2020 (see Figure 1), representing 19.9 per cent of the country's total population. In 2020, the shares of female and male migrants in Kazakhstan were equal (see Figure 2).

Kazakhstan has also experienced increasing emigration since 2000, with 4.2 million emigrants living around the world in 2020 (see Figure 1). The majority of these emigrants were female (54%) (see Figure 2).

More recent domestic data from the Kazakhstan Bureau of National Statistics estimate net migration for 2023 at approximately 9,200 people.⁷ Preliminary domestic figures for January to June 2024 indicate that compared to the corresponding period in 2023, migration arrivals in Kazakhstan increased by 4.4 per cent, while departures decreased by 0.4 per cent.⁸

Figures 3 and 4 show the most common origin and destination countries for migrants to and from Kazakhstan in 2020. Migrants from the Russian Federation were the single largest group in Kazakhstan, making up 66 per cent of all migrants, followed by Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The vast majority of emigrants from Kazakhstan reside in the Russian Federation (87%), followed by Germany and Ukraine.

Figure 1. Stock of migrants for Kazakhstan (1990–2020)



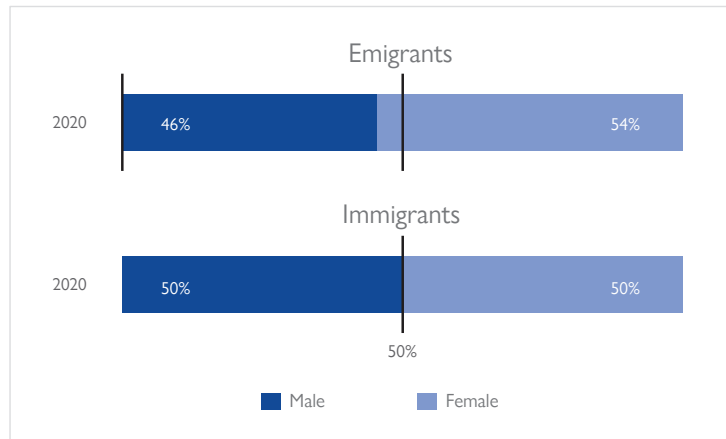
Source: DESA, *International Migrant Stock 2020*.

⁶ Visit the [Migration Data Portal](#) for more information.

⁷ Read more in the release on the [migration of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023](#), published on 12 April 2024.

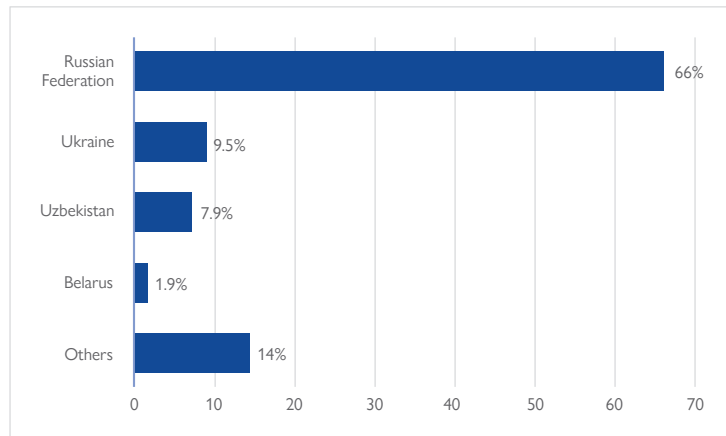
⁸ Additional information is available in the release on the [migration of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan \(January–June 2024\)](#), published on 9 August 2024.

Figure 2. Proportion of migrants by sex in Kazakhstan (2020)



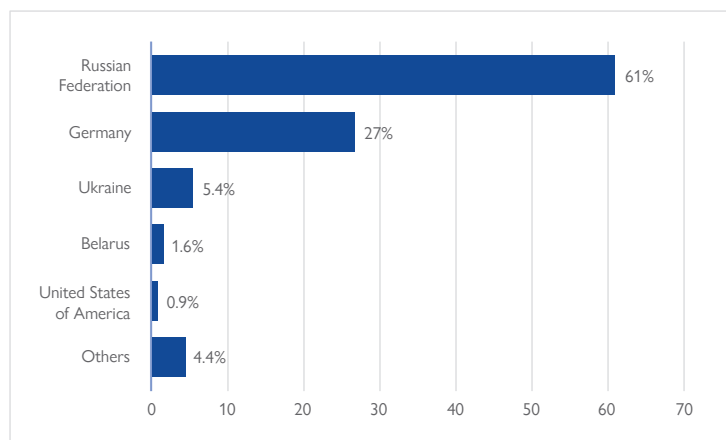
Source: DESA, International Migrant Stock 2020.

Figure 3. Countries of origin of migrants in Kazakhstan (2020)



Source: DESA, International Migrant Stock 2020.

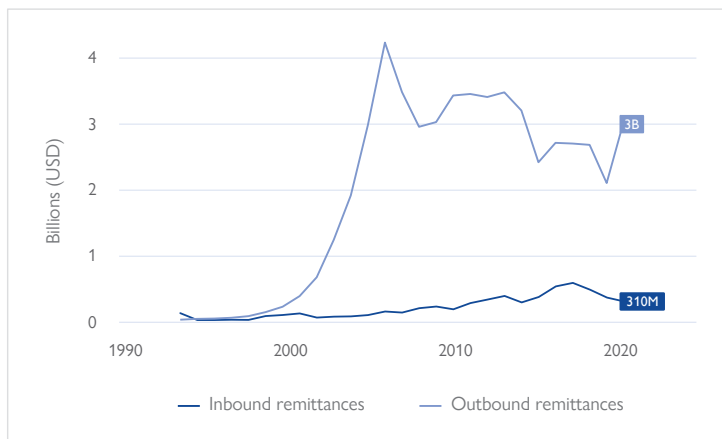
Figure 4. Countries of destination for migrants from Kazakhstan (2020)



Source: DESA, International Migrant Stock 2020.

In addition, data from the World Bank show that in 2020, outbound remittances sent from Kazakhstan was valued at approximately USD 3 billion, while inbound remittances received was valued at USD 310 million (see Figure 5).

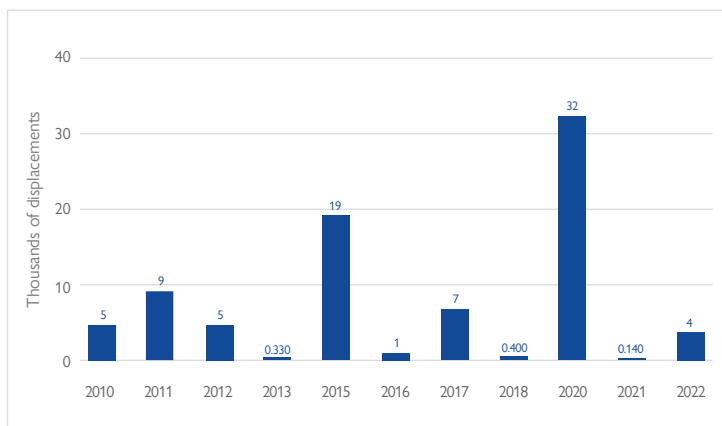
Figure 5. Inbound and outbound remittances for Kazakhstan (1990–2020)



Source: World Bank, [World Development Indicators](#).

Based on estimates from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the number of people internally displaced in Kazakhstan reached a peak in 2020 (see Figure 6), which included those displaced by the impacts of heavy rains and floodings in Kazakhstan in early May 2020. Further, domestic data highlight that in 2023 and the first half of 2024, there was interregional population migration into Kazakhstan’s major cities of Astana and Almaty.⁹

Figure 6. Internal displacement in Ethiopia (2008–2023)



Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, [Displacement data](#).

⁹ See footnotes 7 and 8.



KEY

FINDINGS



1

ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFIL MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. Migration governance: examples of well-developed areas

Since the previous MGI assessment in 2018, Kazakhstan has granted permanent residents equal access as citizens to State-funded health services, provided by the Ministry of Healthcare in accordance with the Code on Public Health and the Healthcare System (2020, updated in 2023). Migrants, stateless persons and refugees temporarily residing in Kazakhstan receive free medical care for diseases that pose a danger to others, while migrants with irregular status have access only to emergency health care. As per the Rules for the Provision of Emergency Medical Care, Including the Involvement of Medical Aviation Services (2020), the passport details of a patient are not needed in order to request an ambulance (see Appendix 1); while the Standard for Organizing the Provision of Emergency Medical Care in the Emergency Departments of Medical Organizations Providing Medical Care in Inpatient Settings in the Republic of Kazakhstan (2021) indicates that only the first and last names of patients are needed to admit them for emergency medical care, and only if these are available. All migrants, including labour migrants, are eligible to participate in Kazakhstan's compulsory pay-in health insurance system, the Social Health Insurance Fund, which was established in 2020.¹⁰

Regular migrants temporarily or permanently residing in Kazakhstan are eligible to enrol in preschool, primary, basic secondary, general secondary and vocational educational facilities on an equal basis as citizens, as per the Law on Education (2007, updated in 2023) (see Article 8, Section 2) and the Rules for the Admission of Foreigners and Stateless Individuals Permanently Residing in the Republic of Kazakhstan to Preschool, Primary, Primary Secondary and General Secondary Educational Facilities (2010, updated in 2022) (see Article 1.2). Migrants with irregular status, however, may face obstacles accessing education, as the enrolment process requires individuals to supply their registered address.

Since the first MGI assessment, Kazakhstan passed an order in 2021 enshrining the portability of pensions within the Eurasian Economic Union. As a member State of the Eurasian Economic Union – alongside Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation – Kazakhstan provides migrant workers from other member States with pension benefits on an equal footing with Kazakh citizens, as per the Agreement on the Provision of Pensions to Workers in Eurasian Economic Union Member States (2021) (see Article 3).

Foreign residents can become Kazakh nationals after holding legal permanent residency for five years or being married to a citizen for at least three years, as per Article 16 of the Law on Citizenship in the Republic of Kazakhstan (1991, updated in 2021). Ethnic Kazakhs without citizenship in Kazakhstan (known as “Kandas”), rehabilitated victims of political repression, and ethnic Kazakhs studying in educational facilities within the country are eligible for citizenship regardless of their length of stay in the country.

1.2. Areas with potential for further development

Only permanent residents have equal access to social security as citizens in Kazakhstan, as per Article 8 of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners (1995, updated in 2023). According to the Social Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2023), permanent residents, stateless persons and refugees have access to targeted social welfare benefits if their salary is below the subsistence minimum (see Article 120) and to government disability benefits for themselves and their dependants (see Articles 175 and 183). Permanent residents also have access to caregiver benefits (see Article 187), special government benefits (see Article 190), and monetary support in the event of the death of a caregiver (see Article 234) and are entitled to pension

¹⁰ More information on the Mandatory Social Health Insurance scheme can be found on [Kazakhstan's e-gov website](#).

funds, including in the form of State basic pensions, age-related pensions and pensions for length of service. As per the Rules for the Allocation and Payment of State Targeted Social Aid (2023), migrants with irregular status may be refused targeted social aid if their documents are unverifiable or expired (see Sections 2.11 and 2.12).

Only permanent residents, individuals who have entered Kazakhstan for family reunification and have been married to a Kazakh citizen for three years or more, and citizens of Eurasian Economic Union member States have equal access to employment as citizens, as set out in the Decree on the List of Individuals Who Are Not Required to Receive Foreign Labour Permissions from Local Executive Authorities in Order to Work (2023). Other migrants require work permits, which are valid for up to three years, depending on the type. Migrant workers are typically employed under three categories: an employer's permit to hire a migrant worker, a certificate confirming that the migrant is qualified to be employed independently and a permit for the migrant to be employed by an individual. Migrants are unable to change jobs on the same work permit under the first category.

The provision of civil registration services to migrants without proof of legal identity is an area with potential for development. To access civil registration services, permanent residents must present a residence permit; temporary residents must present a document confirming their identity, issued by their country of origin; and stateless individuals must present a document confirming their identity, issued by a Kazakh authority, as per the Rules for the Organization of State Registration of Civil Status Acts, Introduction of Amendments, Corrections, Additions, Annulment and Restoration of Civil Status Acts (2015, updated in 2023) (see Section 1.6).

Kazakhstan does not have a specific policy or strategy in place to combat hate crimes, violence, xenophobia and discrimination against migrants. Nonetheless, the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan (1995, updated in 2022) prohibits discrimination based on nationality, background, socioeconomic status, gender, race, native language, religious persuasions, beliefs, place of residence or any other characteristic. Similarly, under the Penal Code (2014, updated in 2023), it is illegal to incite hatred towards a person or group based on nationality and other characteristics, including gender, race, language, ethnic background, religious practices or social group (see Article 174). According to the Strategy for the Development of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan 2022–2026 (2022), the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan facilitates interdepartmental coordination on the development of policies related to inter-ethnic relations and seeks to promote inter-ethnic integration through measures such as conferences and lecture series, the creation of Kazakh language clubs and groups, and the promotion of intercultural festivals. Additionally, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population is responsible for ensuring compliance with the principle of equal opportunity and the prevention of discrimination on social, racial, national or linguistic grounds in social and labour relations.¹¹

¹¹ This is according to Section 15.197 of the Regulation of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, issued in 2017 and modified in 2024.



2

FORMULATE POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: examples of well-developed areas

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for designing and coordinating the implementation of migration policy in Kazakhstan. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population develops and implements State migration policy, and coordinates policies on labour, employment, social security, and migration and asylum, in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population (2017). It also implements Kazakhstan’s Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 (2022).

As per the Law on Migration (2011, updated in 2023), the Ministry of Internal Affairs manages a unified immigration database; issues, cancels and extends visas; processes foreign visitor invitations; registers foreigners and stateless persons; monitors migration; ensures compliance with entry and exit rules; implements measures to prevent irregular migration; fulfils readmission treaty obligations; grants refugee status; and manages documentation for citizens and migrants (see Article 9).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates visa and invitation procedures with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Security Committee; disseminates information on migration policy abroad; fosters connections with former compatriots and ethnic Kazakhs; maintains a database for entry visas; manages invitations from foreign entities; issues, cancels and extends visas; informs ethnic Kazakhs about resettlement conditions; registers immigration documents; and engages in international cooperation on migration (see Article 10 of the Law on Migration).

In 2022, Kazakhstan established the Migration Committee under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population. It is responsible for developing migration policies, providing recommendations on foreign labour quotas and monitoring their implementation, monitoring compliance with refugee policies, and coordinating government agencies’ migration-related efforts. The Committee has four departments and is led by a Chairman and Deputy Chairmen. It engages diverse stakeholders in the design and implementation of migration policy in an ad hoc manner. For example, in September 2023, the Committee held a virtual round table with local executive authorities around the country to discuss regional migrant quotas, processes for conferring the status of “Kandas”, and refugee policies.¹² In October 2023, the Committee participated in a national round table to discuss asylum policies as part of the country’s preparation for the Global Refugee Forum.¹³

In 2022, Kazakhstan adopted a new migration framework – the Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027. It covers seven strategic priority areas: international academic mobility, business immigration, qualified labour migration, diaspora relations, refugee and asylum-seeker affairs, the protection of internal labour migrants’ rights, and the stimulation of internal migration. Each area has specific measures associated with it and a timeline for their completion, expected deliverables, and a list of responsible parties. Furthermore, the Concept’s implementation plan includes key performance indicators and annual metrics to assess progress.

¹² Read more in this 2023 press release about the [event](#), on the web page of the Migration Committee of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

¹³ Additional information is available in this 2023 press release on the [National Roundtable on Refugees held in Astana](#), on the web page of the Migration Committee of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Otandastar Qory is an independent, Government-funded centre in Kazakhstan that coordinates diaspora affairs.¹⁴ Established in 2018, it is tasked with protecting the rights and freedoms of Kazakhs living abroad; preserving the diaspora's cultural and intellectual potential; fostering cultural and business connections with members of the diaspora; and providing legal, logistical and informational support to members of the Kazakh diaspora. It is also involved in implementing Kazakhstan's Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027. Under the Rules for the Operation of Adaptation and Integration Centres for Kandas, and Rules for the Operation of Temporary Accommodation Centres (2013, updated in 2021), the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population manages centres for the integration of Kandas, offering various services.¹⁵

Kazakhstan publishes data on immigration and emigration on a quarterly and annual basis on the website of the Bureau of National Statistics, some of which are disaggregated by sex. The Order on the Method for Calculating the Key Indicators of Migration (2016) requires that official migration statistics are compiled and posted monthly, quarterly and annually (see Section 2.12). Publications include monthly bulletins and press releases on the demographic landscape of the country and quarterly and annual statistical analyses of migration.¹⁶ Each report provides a detailed breakdown of migration data by nationality, age group, region, purpose of migration, country of origin and area of specialization. Additionally, the Ministry of Internal Affairs publishes quarterly reports on the number of residence permits issued to foreigners in Kazakhstan, the number of passports issued to Kazakh citizens, the number of work permits issued and the number of people granted Kazakh citizenship.¹⁷

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

Kazakhstan's Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 does not address the effects of environmental degradation and climate change. In April 2023, Kazakhstan published its report on the Nationally Determined Contribution for the Global Mitigation of Climate Change, but the document makes no reference to migration.

Designing additional measures to enhance migrant integration is an area with potential for development, though the Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 does address integration in a limited manner. Namely, the Concept outlines the desire to attract skilled foreign specialists to Kazakhstan and the need to create conditions for their successful integration into society. The Concept also contains provisions for the integration of Kandas into Kazakhstan, including through the creation of new centres for integration.

The establishment of legislation specifically governing emigration in Kazakhstan remains an area with potential for further development. Nonetheless, the Law on Migration outlines the procedures for Kazakh citizens wishing to reside abroad permanently and establishes that citizens seeking to establish permanent residency abroad need approval from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (see Article 55). It also states that everyone has the right to leave Kazakhstan and that citizens have an unconditional right to return to the country.

Further, there are limited measures designed to assist individuals wishing to emigrate. The Kazakhstan Migration online portal – managed by the Centre for the Development of Labour Resources (a company overseen by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population) – offers consultations and information on internal migration and resettlement in Kazakhstan.¹⁸ Initiative 20 of Kazakhstan's Concept

¹⁴ Read more on the [Otandastar Qory website](#), which also provides, among other topics, country-specific information for members of the Kazakh diaspora, and advice on learning the Kazakh language and for resettling in Kazakhstan.

¹⁵ As of June 2023, there were three such centres (in Shymkent, Karaganda and Aksukent) and another six centres to provide accommodation for ethnic Kazakhs before they received the status of "Kandas" in Aktobe, Atyrau, Taraz, Kostanai, Pavlodar and Petropavlovsk. Services on offer include translation; employment (e.g. job search, training and upskilling); courses on Kazakhstan's history, culture, traditions and small business opportunities; legal assistance; cultural events; citizenship and documentation services; language courses (Russian and Kazakh); and help with securing medical and social services.

¹⁶ See, for example, the Bureau of National Statistics webpage on the [migration of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan \(January–September 2023\)](#), published on 9 November 2023.

¹⁷ These reports are available in [Kazakh and Russian](#).

¹⁸ Visit the [Kazakhstan Migration online portal](#) to know more.

of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 proposes measures to protect the rights of citizens planning to work abroad, including the development of new bilateral labour agreements and the creation of a smartphone app with information on destination countries and job openings abroad.

Kazakhstan's migration policies are available to the public, but they are not centralized or presented in a clear format. The country's Visa–migration portal has information available in Kazakh, Russian, English and Chinese, enabling migrants to initiate their migratory and visa processes online.¹⁹ However, the site lacks clear and transparent information regarding the rules of migration. There is also a government website containing information on migration and citizenship in Kazakh, Russian and English.²⁰ It includes details on residence permits, work permits, visa categories, acquiring “Kandas” status, obtaining refugee status, and entry and exit rules for foreign nationals.

¹⁹ Visit the [Visa–migration portal of Kazakhstan](#) to know more.

²⁰ Visit the [page for foreigners](#) of the e-government portal of Kazakhstan to know more.



3

ENGAGE WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: examples of well-developed areas

Kazakhstan is part of several regional processes and forums: the Budapest Process,²¹ the Almaty Process²² and the Prague Process.²³ In addition, Kazakhstan participates in bilateral migration discussions with both origin and destination countries. It has conducted several negotiations since the previous MGI assessment in 2018. In 2021, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a bilateral agreement on cooperation in migration, under which both countries share migration statistics and information about the legal status of nationals residing in each country and aim to protect the rights of citizens of each country (see Article 3). Kazakhstan signed a similar agreement with Tajikistan in 2019 to ensure that both countries discuss migration issues and exchange relevant information and best practices. Kazakhstan also has an agreement with Uzbekistan (2020) on combating irregular migration. In 2022, representatives of both countries met to discuss irregular migration, human trafficking, migration law violations and best practices. Additionally, since 2020, Kazakhstan has conducted bilateral discussions on migration with a range of countries as part of the United Nations Network on Migration, including with Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

National laws provide for the formal engagement of the private sector in agenda-setting and the implementation of migration-related policies. The Rules for the Establishment of Quotas on Foreign Labour in the Republic of Kazakhstan (2016, updated in 2022) states that employers at the local level must inform local authorities of their foreign labour needs by 1 October of each year. These requirements in turn inform decisions at the national level about distributing foreign labour quotas across the country. The Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 (2022) states that the Government will expand cooperation with the Confederation of Employers in order to develop educational programmes that more effectively meet the requirements of the labour market.

Kazakhstan is part of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (2014),²⁴ a regional agreement promoting labour mobility. The Treaty grants access to employment of nationals within the bloc regardless of individual government regulations on work permits, quotas, or other limitations aimed at protecting their labour markets, and qualifications are reciprocally accepted. In addition, Kazakhstan is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, established in 1991, through which member States cooperate on labour and social affairs.

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

Since the previous MGI assessment, there have been no developments regarding arrangements for formal intraregional mobility through the regional consultative processes and interregional forums on migration of which Kazakhstan is a member.

²¹ As of June 2024, the Budapest Process has 51 member States and 7 observer States. The process was established in 1993 as an “information sharing tool between European countries in a pre-EU enlargement setting ... [and a] forum for improving migration management”.

²² The Almaty Process was established in 2013; Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Türkiye participate as member States, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Pakistan and Turkmenistan as observer States. The Almaty Process aims to foster dialogue, implement integrated policies, monitor irregular migration, and enhance migration management and refugee protection capacity.

²³ The Prague Process, established in 2009, is a regional consultative process on migration covering 50 European States, with the aim of “strengthen[ing] cooperation in migration management, and ... [exploring and developing] agreed-upon principles and elements for close migration partnerships between the participating countries”.

²⁴ The Eurasian Economic Union is an economic union between Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation. It creates a common market for member States by coordinating economic policy among them.

The establishment of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) relating to migration with other countries is an area with potential for development. Nonetheless, in May 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population signed an MoU with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to expand cooperation on refugee and asylum issues, including enabling access for refugees and asylum-seekers to health care, employment, education and social assistance.²⁵ In addition, Kazakhstan has signed bilateral labour agreements with Azerbaijan (2000), China (2014), Kyrgyzstan (2002), the Republic of Korea (2014), Tajikistan (2006), Uzbekistan (2020) and Viet Nam (2009).

Engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) on migration-related issues remains limited in Kazakhstan. The Law on Public Councils (2015, updated in 2023) enables CSOs to engage with State institutions. These public councils include ministry representatives and CSO members and are able to operate at the national or local level. While they do not have a specific focus on migration, discussions related to migration occasionally take place. For example, in August 2023, the Astana Public Council held a discussion on the city's population strategy and migration rules. The Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 proposes creating mechanisms to work with CSOs in destination countries to protect the rights of Kazakhstan's labour migrants. In 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population formed a multidisciplinary working group to develop the Concept, with the group including government bodies, Parliament deputies, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, international organizations and subject-matter experts.

²⁵ Read more in this 2023 article on [UNHCR and the Ministry of Labor strengthening cooperation on providing support to refugees and asylum-seekers in Kazakhstan](#), from the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



4

ADVANCE THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: examples of well-developed areas

Kazakhstan monitors the labour market demand for immigrants but does not publish the data. Since the previous MGI assessment in 2018, Kazakhstan has updated the Rules for the Establishment of Quotas on Foreign Labour in the Republic of Kazakhstan (2016, updated in 2022), which states that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population establishes annual quotas of migrant workers based on input from local authorities and employers regarding their foreign labour needs per sector, submitted by 1 October each year. Summaries of these assessments are published in an ad hoc manner, but the full results are not released.²⁶ The Ministry maintains a list of occupations that are strategically important to the country. This was updated in July 2023 and developed according to strategic goals established by national strategies and plans, labour market trends, investment projects, economic research and input from businesses.²⁷

Kazakhstan offers various visa types to attract specific labour skills. The C4 visa is accessible to individuals who are seeking work in sectors that are designated as strategically important by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population.²⁸ Kazakhstan also offers business visas (B1, B2 and B3) and investor visas (A5). At the time of drafting this report, there are plans in place to introduce a special skills visa to attract foreign specialists and facilitate knowledge transfer, as well as a digital nomad visa for IT professionals, which has a pathway to permanent residency.

Kazakhstan has formal bilateral labour agreements (BLAs) in place with other countries to facilitate legal employment and protect the rights of migrant workers. It has an agreement with Azerbaijan (2000) on bilateral cooperation in labour activities and the social protection of migrant workers; with China (2014) on the regulation of labour migration processes and social protection of migrant workers, including specific provisions on work permits and employment conditions; with Kyrgyzstan (2002) regulating the labour migration of agricultural workers and their protection; with the Republic of Korea (2014) regulating intracompany temporary labour migration, covering the issuance and renewal of work permits, the protection of citizens' rights, medical care and employment restrictions; with Tajikistan (2006) to create favourable conditions for labour migration with a focus on legal employment and social protection; and with Viet Nam (2009) on temporary labour activities to establish a legal basis for the employment of citizens of each country in the other.

Kazakhstan signed a new agreement with Uzbekistan in 2020 regulating labour activities and seeking to protect the rights of migrant workers by focusing on creating legal bases for cooperation in labour migration and ensuring social protections for migrant workers. Additionally, in 2024, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with Qatar, regulating the employment of Kazakh workers in Qatar, and drafted additional agreements with New Zealand and Latvia. According to Kazakhstan's Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 (2022), the country plans to sign BLAs with the Republic of Korea, the United Arab Emirates and other countries with large numbers of labour emigrants from Kazakhstan, concerning the protection of labour rights and establishing consultation mechanisms for Kazakh citizens working abroad.

²⁶ For example, in January 2022, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection published that the 2022 foreign labour quota was set to 0.31 per cent of Kazakhstan's workforce.

²⁷ According to the Rules for Issuing or Prolonging a Permit Confirming a Foreigner or Stateless Person's Eligibility for Self-employment; and the List of Priority Sectors (Economic Areas) and Highest-demanded Professions for Self-employment by Foreigners and Stateless Persons (2023), priority jobs include teachers of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects and foreign languages at the secondary and tertiary levels; certain health-care workers (e.g. paediatric surgeons, oncologists and neonatologists); real estate specialists; artists; sound engineers; legal professionals; and design and manufacturing engineers (see Annex 2).

²⁸ This visa can be issued for either 90 days (single entry) or three years (multiple entry).

There are limited mechanisms to protect the rights of Kazakh citizens working abroad. Nationals can voluntarily register with embassies or consulates, and those in an emergency situation²⁹ may receive financial and legal aid from consular authorities as per the Rules for the Usage of Funds Allocated by the Programme – Protection of the Interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan Abroad (2016) (see Sections 1.2–1.5). The Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 envisions measures to enhance protection for Kazakh nationals working abroad, including ensuring fair contractual terms and conditions for labour emigrants, and the development of a smartphone app to provide labour emigrants with information on legislation, languages and documentation. In addition, BLAs with countries like Tajikistan (2006) and Uzbekistan (2020) outline protections for Kazakh migrant workers, including rights to medical care and occupational safety.

All workers are protected by general provisions for gender equality, and there are limited measures specifically targeting the inclusion of migrant women in the labour force. The Decree on the Approval of the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Ensure the Promotion of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women for 2024–2027 (2024) includes action points in collaboration with IOM to introduce cultural integration and entrepreneurial skill courses for migrant women in the cities of Almaty and Shymkent, and to conduct an assessment of the environmental impact on gender-sensitive migration in mountainous areas of Kazakhstan. Further, the Law on the Confirmation of the Family and Gender Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan through 2030 (2016, updated in 2023) prioritizes women's equal access to the workplace. Its objectives include promoting gender equality, supporting women's entrepreneurship, training for women in rural areas and those from vulnerable social groups, and achieving at least 30 per cent female representation in decision-making bodies. Kazakhstan's Labour Code (2015, updated in 2024) also prohibits discrimination in the workplace on various grounds, including gender and nationality (see Article 6).

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

The establishment of a national assessment to monitor the effects of emigration on the domestic labour market is an area with potential for development. Since the previous MGI assessment, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population introduced its United Protocol for the Monitoring of Job Creation, a framework for reporting information about job creation and labour market conditions, established under the Rules for the Monitoring of Job Creation by Central and Local Authorities Responsible for the Implementation of State and National Programmes, and for the Reporting of Information about Job Creation (2018, updated in 2022). The Rules further requires job creation to be monitored at the regional and national levels, obligates local and central authorities to collect and summarize data on new jobs created, validates data about employees' placement into new jobs, and analyses job creation data for use in decision-making processes. However, it does not provide for the reporting of information on emigration. Kazakhstan's Bureau of National Statistics also publishes analyses of labour market conditions,³⁰ without addressing the impact of emigration on the domestic labour market. The Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 identifies that brain drain from Kazakhstan has yielded negative effects and proposes several measures to protect the rights of Kazakh citizens working abroad, but it does not contain provisions to assess the impact of emigration on the domestic labour market.

The collection of labour market data that are disaggregated by migration status is another area with potential for further development. The Bureau of National Statistics publishes quarterly reports (the most recent one published in November 2023) and annual summaries on the labour market that are disaggregated by gender, region, age, profession, education, workplace status (formal/informal) and place of residence (urban/rural),

²⁹ Emergencies include being subjected to human trafficking or other unlawful actions and experiencing a health crisis or other force majeure. Eligible expenses include compensation for transportation costs incurred in returning to Kazakhstan from abroad, translation services and legal services, in addition to one-time material support for food, housing, acquisition of first aid materials, or costs associated with transporting or preserving the body of a deceased person.

³⁰ Topics covered include the unemployment rate, details on the employed population (such as the number of wage workers and self-employed individuals), changes in employment compared with the previous year, sectors with the highest employment and data on youth unemployment.

but not by migration status. The reports cover the size of the labour force, the number and percentages of employed and unemployed persons, the number of self-employed persons, the number of wage workers, the youth unemployment percentage and the number of people not counted as part of the labour force.

The creation of formal remittance schemes remains an area with potential for further development. The Law on the Regulation and Control of Currency Operations (2018) permits residents and non-residents of Kazakhstan to freely transfer money from foreign bank accounts to eligible bank accounts in Kazakhstan, and vice versa (see Article 6), but it does not establish a specific mechanism for remittances.

Since the previous MGI assessment, Kazakhstan has adopted the Strategy for the Promotion of Financial Literacy 2020–2024 (2020); however, it does not specifically address migrants. The Strategy includes measures related to the promotion of digital currencies, the adoption of international standards on financial inclusion, and the creation of a working group to improve access to financial services, without specific reference to migrants. The Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 further envisions the creation of a mobile phone application that allows Kazakh labour migrants abroad to send money home.



5

EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: examples of well-developed areas

Kazakhstan's Ministry of Emergency Situations oversees the country's emergency and disaster response system. Since the previous MGI assessment in 2018, Kazakhstan has updated the Law on Civil Defence (2014, updated in 2023), which outlines the State's system for preventing and responding to emergency situations. Provisions in the Law focus on rescuing and evacuating those affected, training and equipping emergency response forces, maintaining the country's stockpile of materials needed for disaster response, notifying the public about emergency situations, preventing contamination of the country's food and water supplies, maintaining the country's warning system, and monitoring disaster risks. The updates did not include any provisions to address the needs of migrants and displaced individuals in emergencies.

Kazakhstan has communications systems in place to receive information on the evolving nature of crises and how to access assistance, as well as a way for the public to communicate their needs to the Government. According to the Rules for the Organization of the Emergency Communications System (2014, updated in 2022), information about the potential or actual threat of a disaster may be communicated via television, radio, text message, online and the media by the Ministry of Emergency Situations (see Sections 3.23 and 3.26). Additionally, the Ministry of Emergency Situations operates crisis and emergency hotlines and an online platform that fields requests and communicates public needs to the Government via the government website.

Kazakhstan has certain provisions for making exceptions to immigration procedures for migrants from crisis-affected countries. The Law on the State Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2013, updated 2023) states that crossing the border to escape life-threatening danger is not a violation, but it does not make explicit exceptions for migrants in this regard (see Article 18). Additionally, Kazakhstan's COVID-19 visa extensions from April 2020 granted a 30-day extension for citizens of Kazakhstan-recognized visa-free entry countries.

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

Kazakhstan does not have an emergency management framework with specific measures to assist migrants before, during and after crises. While foreign nationals and stateless persons have the same rights in civil defence as Kazakh citizens under the Law on Civil Defence (see Article 18), there are no initiatives in place to effectively respond to the needs of migrants during emergencies.

Establishing a national disaster risk reduction strategy with provisions for preventing and addressing the displacement impacts of disasters is an area with potential for further development. As of July 2024, disaster risk reduction is addressed through Section 4 of the Law on Civil Defence, which includes measures for the prevention of disasters, such as raising disaster risk awareness, reinforcing buildings, adopting disaster-informed construction practices and developing disaster risk monitoring systems. However, it makes no reference to displacement.

Another area with scope for further development is the inclusion of human mobility considerations in Kazakhstan's environmental and climate change policies. Since the previous MGI assessment, Kazakhstan has adopted the Strategy for the Achievement of Carbon Neutrality in the Republic of Kazakhstan by 2060 (2023). This includes a section on climate change adaptation (e.g. the need for investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and improved irrigation systems and mechanisms for collecting climate data)

but does not explicitly mention migration or human mobility. Similarly, Kazakhstan's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution for the Global Mitigation of Climate Change (2023) focuses on key adaptation measures (including integrated water resources management, expanded wastewater treatment and afforestation of degraded land) but makes no reference to migrants or human mobility.

The establishment of a contingency plan to manage large-scale population movements in times of crisis remains an area with potential for development. There is no evidence of such a plan in the Law on Migration (2011, updated 2023), the Law on Civil Defence, the Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 (2022) or on the website of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan through 2025 (2018, updated in 2023) includes measures to promote internal migration, but there are no measures regarding displacement. For example, according to Priority 1, the Government plans to develop strategies to stimulate labour mobility into large and medium-sized cities to promote population density. The Law on the System for State Planning in the Republic of Kazakhstan (2017) mentions migration as a factor influencing the demographic situation of the country (see Section 9) but does not include provisions relating to refugees and displaced persons.



6

ENSURE THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MANNER

6.1. Migration governance: examples of well-developed areas

The Ministry of Internal Affairs continuously monitors visa overstays through the automated Berkut system. The Berkut system allows for information coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Border Service of the National Security Committee and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The system stores migration data, including on border crossings, deportations, and the issuance of visas and residence permits, as per Chapter 2 of the Rules for the Issuance and Coordination of Invitations for Foreigners' and Stateless Individuals' Entry into the Republic of Kazakhstan, and for the Issuance, Annulment and Restoration of Kazakhstani Visas as well as the Prolongation or Shortening of Their Period of Validity (2016, updated in 2023). Migrant and tourist stays in Kazakhstan are also monitored via the eQonaq information system and the Ministry of Internal Affairs' internal information system, as per the Rules for the Implementation of Migration Control, as well as the Registration of Foreigners and Stateless Persons Illegally Crossing the State Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Illegally Staying on the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as Persons Who Are Prohibited from Entering the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2012, updated in 2024) (see Section 2, Article 4).

The Border Service under the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan is tasked with integrated border control and security, according to the Law on the State Border of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2013, updated in 2023). It is responsible for maintaining security at the border and other entry points, upholding Kazakhstan's obligations under international agreements regarding its border, facilitating the fulfilment of national security tasks, defending Kazakhstan's economic interests at its border and ensuring the integrity of Kazakhstan's coastline (see Article 64). The Migration Service Committee of Kazakhstan, operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is also involved in limiting the movement of foreigners during emergency situations.

The Government of Kazakhstan's official electronic portal clearly lists and describes all visa categories and provides information on the application and deliberation process (including processing timelines and fees) for each in English, Russian and Kazakh. The information in English and Kazakh has been added since the previous MGI assessment in 2018.

Kazakhstan has also established an online Visa–migration portal, allowing citizens of 109 countries to apply for a single-entry business visa, tourist visa, medical visa or investor visa online prior to arrival. Citizens from other countries are required to apply for a visa in person at a Kazakh consulate or embassy abroad.

Kazakhstan has implemented new policies and initiatives to attract nationals who have emigrated from the country. The Government operates the Erulik website as an information portal for ethnic Kazakhs residing abroad who wish to return to Kazakhstan.³¹ It provides information on benefits when resettling (such as the ability to obtain the status of "Kandas", which entitles the person to a one-time payment from the State and free integration/resettlement support) and relevant regulations. The Concept of Migration Policy for 2023–2027 (2022) introduced the Ata Zholy programme, which simplifies the procedure for gaining Kazakh citizenship for ethnic Kazakhs who are high-level professionals or entrepreneurs. The Government of Kazakhstan also offers grants to ethnic Kazakh entrepreneurs living abroad who are in the fields of culture, education and business.

³¹ Visit the [Erulik website](#) for more information.

In 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population has developed a new plan to combat human trafficking – the Plan on Measures to Prevent and Combat Crimes Associated with Human Trafficking 2024–2026. It aims to prevent trafficking through the development of standard operating procedures for identifying and referring victims of human trafficking in order to provide comprehensive assistance; implementing measures to counter criminal activities related to human trafficking and to block channels of irregular migration and human trafficking, including through cross-border cooperation; and providing special social services to victims of human trafficking through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Additionally, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population and the Ministry of Internal Affairs ensure the functioning of the Interdepartmental Commission against Unlawful Human Smuggling, Transport and Trafficking – the body responsible for conducting analyses of human trafficking in the country, developing recommendations on countering human trafficking, raising awareness of human trafficking, improving anti-trafficking legislation, protecting human trafficking victims and improving preventative measures against human trafficking.³²

Kazakhstan has measures in place to combat labour exploitation, which cover migrants, but these are not tailored to them specifically. The Directorate for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Protection of the Participants of Criminal Proceedings (under the Ministry of Internal Affairs) aims to tackle the exploitation of workers, including human trafficking, forced labour and sexual exploitation, as well as instances when employers mislead workers regarding remuneration, working hours or other working conditions. However, it does not have specific responsibilities regarding migrants. The Labour Code of Kazakhstan (2015, updated in 2024) safeguards workers from harmful and dangerous working conditions, without making specific reference to migrant workers or nationality.³³ In 2021, the Commission on Human Rights under the President issued a special report on human trafficking in Kazakhstan. However, the section on “Labour migrants” focused exclusively on the potential for labour migrants to be fraudulently working in the country and did not address their well-being or measures to prevent their exploitation.

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

Border staff in Kazakhstan receive training on an ad hoc basis through the European Union-funded Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) – initiated in 2019 – and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). BOMCA aims to enhance the institutional development of border control agencies, improve detection capacities, facilitate trade and improve cross-border cooperation. Its member States are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In April 2024, BOMCA provided training for officers of Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs working on human trafficking.³⁴ The OSCE organizes seminars on document security, profiling techniques and combating organized crime in an ad hoc manner. Kazakhstan’s National Security Committee also offers education through its academy for border staff.

The establishment of non-custodial alternatives to detention is an area with potential for further development. However, exemptions to custodial provisions are applied when migrants with irregular status are victims of human trafficking, according to Article 60-1 of the Law on Migration (2011, updated in 2023).

³² The last meeting took place in December 2022 and involved representatives from the Ministry of Healthcare, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Enlightenment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Human Rights Centre, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Agency for Financial Monitoring, the Border Service of the National Security Committee, IOM, the Astana office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other NGOs.

³³ These are defined as “working conditions which, in the event of noncompliance with safety rules, may lead to injury, sudden illness, or poisoning, which could lead in turn to temporary or permanent disability, occupational disease, or death” (Article 1).

³⁴ More information can be found in this article on [BOMCA 10 advancing the training of officers working on THB cases in the border regions in Kazakhstan](#), published on the website of the Border Management Programme in Central Asia on 30 April 2024.

Kazakhstan publishes information and news articles on its counter-trafficking activities on an irregular basis on the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The most recent is a December 2023 article on a government meeting to discuss measures to combat trafficking.³⁵ The Ministry also produces social advertisements, along with informational materials, about human trafficking and measures to combat it, and regularly provides statements, interviews and press releases, including statistics. The Bureau of National Statistics publishes data on human trafficking incidents, disaggregated by region, sex and minor status, from 2000 to 2022.

The establishment of comprehensive procedures for identifying and assisting migrants who are in vulnerable situations – beyond victims of trafficking – and the creation of a system to trace and identify missing migrants within Kazakhstan remain areas with potential for further development. The Plan on Measures to Prevent and Combat Crimes Associated with Human Trafficking 2024–2026 includes provisions to partner with NGOs to increase the provision of services to trafficking victims, but it contains no such provisions for other vulnerable migrants.

Kazakhstan does not have specific measures to protect migrant children. Such initiatives previously existed on an ad hoc basis but are no longer active as of July 2024. For instance, in 2017, Kazakhstan's Commissioner for Human Rights collaborated with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Kazakhstan and the European Union to launch the Protect Children Affected by Migration in Kazakhstan programme, which ended in November 2022.³⁶

³⁵ For more information, read this 2023 article on [the Ministry of Internal Affairs summing up the results of the work of the Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Human Trafficking in 2023](#), on the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

³⁶ It involved data collection on the scale of child protection issues in Kazakhstan, testing of child protection services delivery models, border force training and the provision of humanitarian support. Read more about this programme in a publicly available report on the [UNICEF Kazakhstan website](#), published in August 2023.



ANNEX

The MGI process



1 Launch of the MGI process

The first step of the process is to explain what the MGIs entail to key government officials, in order to ensure full understanding of the project and complete buy-in.



2 Data collection

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data, based on about 100 indicators grounded in the six dimensions of the MiGOF. A migration governance profile based on the analysis of the findings is then drafted and shared with the government counterparts.



3 Interministerial consultation

The third step of the process is to convene an interministerial consultation where all relevant ministries and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main areas that could be developed further as identified in the draft migration governance profile, as well as priorities on the way forward. It is also an opportunity for them to comment and provide suggestions on the draft profile.



4 Publication of the report on the Global Migration Data Portal

After the migration governance profiles are finalized and vetted by government counterparts, they are published on the [Migration Data Portal](#) and the [IOM Publications Platform](#).

After the MGI assessment

IOM would like to thank the Government of Kazakhstan for its engagement in this process. IOM hopes that the results of this assessment can feed into the Government's strengthening of its migration governance. After an MGI assessment, the following are recommended:



The MGI report can be used to inform policy work with the support of IOM (if desired).



A follow-up assessment can be conducted after three years to verify progress.



The findings can feed into capacity-building activities, which may connect to other IOM initiatives.



Governments can exchange best practices and innovative solutions with other governments that have conducted the MGI process.



KEY

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* All hyperlinks were working at the time of writing this report.

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- 2019 [On Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in the Field of Migration.](#) Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 25 January 2019, No. 220-VI.
- 2020a [On Public Health and the Healthcare System.](#) Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 7 July 2020, No. 360-VI (updated in 2023).

- 2020b [On Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Migration. Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 26 March 2020, No. 306-VI.](#)
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- 2022b [On Approval of the Concept for the Development of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan for 2022–2026. Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 15 September 2022, No. 1014.](#)
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- 2023e [On Approval of the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2060. Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 2 February 2023, No. 121.](#)
- 2024a [On the Signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the State of Qatar on the Regulation of the Employment of Workers from the Republic of Kazakhstan in the State of Qatar. Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 12 February 2024, No. 82.](#)
- 2024b [On Approval of the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Prevention and Combating of Crimes Related to Human Trafficking for 2021–2023. Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 24 February 2021, No. 94.](#)
- 2024c [On Approval of the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Ensure the Promotion of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women for 2024–2027. Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 18 September 2024, No. 759.](#)
- Government of Kazakhstan and Government of Azerbaijan
- 1999 [Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic on Labour Activity and Social Protection of Citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic Temporarily Working in the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan Temporarily Working in the Territory of the Azerbaijan Republic.](#)
- Government of Kazakhstan and Government of Kyrgyzstan
- 2002 [Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Employment and Social Protection of Migrant Farm Workers in the Border Regions \(Bishkek, 9 July 2002\). Not available online.](#)

Government of Kazakhstan and Government of Tajikistan

- 2006 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the Employment and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers, Nationals of the Republic of Kazakhstan Temporarily Employed on the Territory of the Republic of Tajikistan and on the Employment and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers, Nationals of the Republic of Tajikistan Temporarily Employed on the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Astana, 4 May 2006). Not available online.

Government of Kazakhstan and Government of Viet Nam

- 2009 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Temporary Labour Arrangements for Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Citizens of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Not available online.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 2016 [On Approval of the Rules for the Usage of Funds Allocated by the Programme – Protection of the Interests of the Republic of Kazakhstan Abroad](#). Order of the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 26 December 2016, No. 11-1-2/619. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 27 January 2017, No. 14748.
- 2020 [On Issues of the Stay of Foreign Citizens on the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan during a State of Emergency](#).

Ministry of Healthcare

- 2020 [On Approval of the Rules for the Provision of Emergency Medical Care, Including the Involvement of Medical Aviation Services](#). Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 30 November 2020, No. KR DSM-225/2020. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 2 December 2020, No. 21713.
- 2021 [On Approval of the Standard for the Organization of Emergency Medical Care in the Admission Departments of Medical Organizations Providing Medical Care in Inpatient Conditions in the Republic of Kazakhstan](#). Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 2 April 2021, No. KR DSM-27. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 5 April 2021, No. 22493.

Ministry of Internal Affairs

- 2014 [On Amendments and Additions to Certain Orders of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#). Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 13 March 2017, No. 185.
- 2023 [The Ministry of Internal Affairs summed up the results of the work of the Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Human Trafficking in 2023](#). 14 December.

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population

- 2018 [On Approval of the Rules for Monitoring Job Creation by Central and Local Executive Bodies Responsible for the Implementation of State and Government Programmes, Providing Information on Job Creation](#). Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 19 June 2018, No. 260. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 13 July 2018, No. 17198 (updated in 2022).
- 2022 [On the Migration Committee of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#). Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 21 April 2022, No. 133.
- 2023a [On Approval of the Rules for the Allocation and Payment of State Targeted Social Assistance](#). Order of the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 21 June 2023, No. 227. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 23 June 2023, No. 32885.
- 2023b [On Approval of Standards for the Provision of Special Social Services in the Field of Social Protection of the Population](#). Order of the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 29 June 2023, No. 263. Registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 29 June 2023, No. 32941.

2023c A number of issues related to migration processes have been considered by the Migration Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications together with local executive bodies. Migration Committee, press release, 9 September.

2023d The National Roundtable on Refugees was held in Astana. Migration Committee, press release, 31 October.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2023 [UNHCR and Ministry of Labor strengthen cooperation on providing support to refugees and asylum-seekers in Kazakhstan.](#) 26 May.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Kazakhstan

2023 [Strengthening child protection systems for children affected by migration in Kazakhstan.](#)



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