



NATIONAL VOLUNTARY GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION REVIEW 2021



Nur-Sultan, 2022

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

APK – Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan
ASP&R – Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms
BNS ASP&R – Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms
GCM – Global Compact for Migration
GPO – General Prosecutor's Office
GAFMC – Guaranteed Amount of Free Medical Care
EAEU – Eurasian Economic Union
EU – European Union
NSC – National Security Committee
CLS&SR – Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Records of the General Prosecutor's Office
FLF – foreign labour force
MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs
MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIID – Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development
LEAs – local executive authorities
MISD – Ministry of Information and Social Development
MOH – Ministry of Healthcare
MNE – Ministry of National Economy
IOM – International Organization for Migration
RK – the Republic of Kazakhstan
SMEs – small and medium-sized enterprises
MOA – Ministry of Agriculture
MLSP – Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MF – Ministry of Finance
MDDIAI – Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry
MEGNR – Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources
MJ – Ministry of Justice
NB – National Bank
NCE – National Chamber of Entrepreneurs
PHC – Primary health care
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
CA – Central Asia
SDGs – UN Sustainable Development Goals

METHODOLOGY

The Republic of Kazakhstan takes consistent measures to improve the regulation of migration processes, to integrate all 23 GCM Objectives into the system of state migration management and to develop international cooperation in the field of migration.

The Republic of Kazakhstan adopted GCM in 2018 and an interdepartmental working group on the implementation of the GCM has been established under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In 2020, the first voluntary GCM Review of Kazakhstan was prepared (Review).

The current Review was developed with the participation of governmental agencies of Kazakhstan, members of the interdepartmental working group on the implementation of GCM, experts from IOM Kazakhstan and other GCM stakeholders.

Sources of information included data from government agencies, media, open data and digital publications, research by international organizations and national experts.

In order to prepare the second Review in a timely, comprehensive and high-quality manner, experts from the IOM Sub-Regional Coordination Office for Central Asia in Kazakhstan have modified and updated the methodological approaches to data collection and analysis.

At the first stage of the process, in order to facilitate gathering of information, a “Questionnaire for government agencies as part of the methodological preparation of the National Review on the Implementation of the GCM” was formed. It consists of 73 questions on all 23 GCM Objectives. The questionnaire allowed for a better and more focused approach to the process of aggregating data from government agencies.

In the second stage, information and input was gathered from international and non-governmental organizations active in Kazakhstan, as well as the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, think tanks, independent experts and the media.

In the third stage, to elaborate the final version of the Overview, the IOM Sub-Regional Coordination Office for Central Asia in the Republic of Kazakhstan held an event on February 11, 2022, for the inter-agency working group and governmental stakeholders. The group provided recommendations for the “Next Steps” section of the Overview.

The preparation of the new Review provided an opportunity to reassess the current situation regarding measures taken in Kazakhstan in the field of migration policy and to develop measures to adjust it and increase its effectiveness.

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The purpose of migration policy in Kazakhstan is effective legislative regulation and management of migration processes in line with nationwide priorities in the field of demographic, economic, social, political and cultural development.

In Kazakhstan, migration issues, both external and internal, are studied, monitored and controlled on an ongoing basis. Many strategic guidelines and regulations in the country address migration and migrant issues.

The main strategic documents – “Kazakhstan-2050” Development Strategy, Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025, Plan of the Nation – 100 Concrete Steps to Implement Five Institutional Reforms – are aimed at strengthening human capital, improving quality of life of nationals, including those involved in migration.

For instance, in 2021, the issue of migration was mentioned at the highest level – in the annual address of the President to the people of Kazakhstan on 1 September 2021, “The unity of the people and systemic reforms are a solid foundation for the country's prosperity”. In his speech, Head of State K-J. Tokayev noted the great impact of migration processes on the labour market.

Since 2017, Kazakhstan has been guided by the Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2017-2021, approved by the Government Decree No. 602 dated 29 September 2017 and the relevant Action Plan.

During the implementation of the Concept, much work has been done to liberalise migration policy and to counter irregular migration. The Concept defined the strategic goals, objectives and directions of migration policy and envisaged the creation of a hybrid migration management system, which included:

- introduction of a systematic approach to the use of all external and internal migration flows for the socioeconomic development of the country;
- planning and recruitment of a foreign workforce tailored to the needs of specific sectors of the economy, based on liberalised migration policies;
- reducing the illegal employment of foreign immigrant workers, including those employed by individuals in households; establishing a modern migration flow recording system in order to forecast migration processes and take effective measures to manage them, etc.

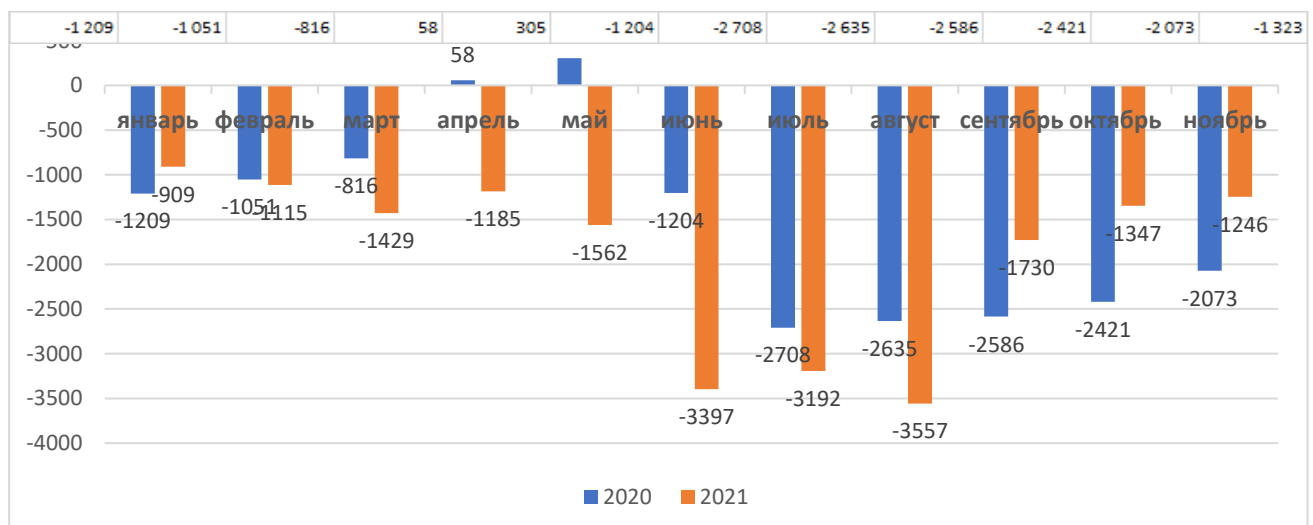
The demographic situation

The demographic situation in Kazakhstan is characterized by positive dynamics of population growth. Over the past five years, from 2017 to 2021, the population number has grown from 17,918.2 thousand people to 19,125.6 thousand people.

According to the results of January-December 2021, migration outflow increased by 20.2% compared to the previous year and amounted to 21.2 thousand people. In 2020, the negative balance of migration amounted to 17.7 thousand people.

The main reason for the decreased migration flows is related to the COVID-19 pandemic with the introduction of restrictive measures on movement of people and closure of borders in many countries around the world, including Kazakhstan.

Chart No. 1. Comparison of external migration balance for 2020 and 2021 by month (BNS data)



Most emigrants from Kazakhstan to the CIS countries move to Russia (97.6%) and Belarus (0.9%). It is also worth noting that the outflow of population to the Germany remains stable.

Most of migration inflow to Kazakhstan is from China - 249 people, Turkey - 215 people, Afghanistan - 187 people and Mongolia - 110 people. Also, with these countries over the past six years Kazakhstan has maintained a positive balance of migration.

During the reporting period, one clearly visible trend is the increase in the number of Kazakhstan nationals leaving the country and applying for residence permits in Turkey.

GCM and SDG

The GCM guidelines are very much in line with the priorities outlined in the current migration laws as well as in the country's strategic development documents.

Migration laws are based on the Constitution and consist of the Law “On Migration” (22 July 2011), the Law “On the Legal Status of Foreigners” (19 June 1995), and other regulatory legal acts.

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan established the Coordinating Council for Sustainable Development, which coordinates measures to nationalise SDG targets and indicators in five key areas: People (SDGs 1-5), Planet (SDGs 6,12-15), Prosperity (SDGs 7-11), Peace (SDG 16) and Partnership (SDG 17).

In 2019, the World Bank prepared a Kazakhstan Roadmap for Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals for 2020-2022 as part of the Joint Economic Research Programme of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the World Bank Group.

The paper notes that the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs has developed a minimum package of details directly referred to in the title of the target or indicator and has compiled a comprehensive synthesis of the detail standards currently in place for all SDG indicators. The categories and areas of detail currently available and planned by the custodial agencies are considered, as well as the policy priorities for the most vulnerable groups: persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and the elderly. However, the indicators do not allow for a separate category of migrants to be identified.

The development of a new Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2022–2026 was started in 2021. The Concept defines the goals, directions, objectives, principles and main mechanisms of migration policy implementation, based on the strategic vision of the role of migration processes in development, existing global challenges, analysis of the existing migration management practices in the world and current understanding of migration management at national, regional and global scale.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GCM OBJECTIVES

The COVID-19 pandemic in Kazakhstan reached a new level in 2021. During the year, according to Ministry of Health 870,962 new cases of coronavirus and pneumonia with signs of coronavirus infection were detected. This is four times more when was registered in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions on the movement of people and cross-border transport that have been imposed almost everywhere in the world have reduced migration flows for an extended period of time.

At the meeting in Moscow on 21 December 2021, the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission formed a Recommendation No. 31 "On ensuring free movement of labour in the Eurasian Economic Union in the context of the pandemic". Member states are encouraged to allow the entry into their territory of nationals of other member states who have confirmed recruitment arrangements with employers and the competent employment authorities. The entry of such nationals should be subject to the sanitary and epidemiological requirements of the state of origin and the state of employment (negative PCR test, obligation to undergo testing in the state of employment, etc.).

An IOM study on the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on stranded migrants in Kazakhstan as a result of restrictive measures shows that the majority of stranded migrants were from three countries – Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation. The main problems they faced were loss of income as a result of loss of employment or non-payment of salaries, and the inability to leave the country. The bulk of the stranded migrants were migrants in low-skilled work.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, migrant workers from Central Asian countries had their terms of stay in Kazakhstan extended and were granted work permits. They were given time until 5 July 2021 to leave the country without being held administratively liable.

During the pandemic, it became far more difficult for migrant workers to find work and travel due to the increased financial burden (PCRs, medical documents, flight costs, etc.). Private persons providing intermediary services set unregulated tariffs for their services.

The state undertook stabilizing crisis management measures in the context of the pandemic, including protecting the rights of migrants stranded in the country due to the suspension of inter-state transport links.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is one of 103 states that signed the Joint Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants (of 12 June 2020), thus demonstrating its commitment to joint international action to address migration issues.

In the context of the emergency regime and restrictive measures during the pandemic, three packages of anti-crisis measures were adopted and implemented last year to preserve social and economic stability – urgent measures to support people and businesses, operational measures to preserve social and economic sustainability, and the Comprehensive Plan to Restore Economic Growth.

As part of improving the mechanism of health coverage for migrant workers, the government agencies worked on the issue of ensuring the recording and timely transfer of data on migrant workers and members of their families to the Compulsory Social Health Insurance Fund.

The need to respond to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and to overcome hotbeds of disease among migrant workers in the Republic of Kazakhstan has made this activity particularly urgent. The measures taken have made it possible not to lose control over the migration situation in the country and to keep a proper record of the stay of foreigners in Kazakhstan under emergency conditions.

Objective 1 - Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

A national data collection and analysis system ensures continuous monitoring of external and internal migration processes in the country. Thanks to increased digitalisation in Kazakhstan and the introduction of information and communication technology in the public sector, many outdated data processing methods have been automated (implementation of GCM Objective 1 (a)).

The Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms, the Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the population, the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry are main government agencies in the field of migration data collection and accumulation.

Social and labour information systems are integrated and operate within the Unified Social and Labour Information System, which includes 16 subsystems in the following areas: labour, employment, social insurance, pension and social security, social support, special social services and migration.

To date, the system has been integrated with the information systems of 13 government agencies and financial and non-financial institutions through 300 integration services.

According to the Law "On State Statistics", the Bureau of National Statistics (BNS) is the authorized body that forms and implements state policy in the field of statistics, develops and implements programmes on improvement of statistics in the country (implementation of GCM Objective 1 (b)).

In terms of migration processes, the BNS generates migration statistics on incoming and outgoing Kazakhstan nationals, foreigners and stateless persons by date of registration for permanent residence. To this end, a methodology has been developed for calculating key indicators of population migration, in line with international standards.

The processing of administrative migration data provided by administrative sources gives information on arrivals and departures grouped by territorial and several social and demographic attributes.

In 2019, in order to improve the collection of information and recording of population migration BNS integrated its information system "Statistical Population Register" with the "Population Registration and Documentation Centre" information system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to generate migration statistics on the country's nationals. Information on Kazakhstan nationals is automatically received online. This measure is in line with the GCM objective to improve cooperation between government agencies responsible for migration data and national statistical offices (implementation of GCM Objective 1 (i)).

The national population census is one of the main sources of information on migration. Kazakhstan's census took place in September–October 2021. As part of the implementation of GCM Objective 1 (g) "Improve national data collection by integrating migration-related topics into national censuses, as early as practicable", the 2021 census in Kazakhstan included migration-related questions (place of birth, residence, domicile, etc.).

These questions are included in the census according to the CES Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing (UN New York and Geneva, 2015), as well as the Decision of the 55th meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of Statistical Services of 8 September 2016 and taking into account the GCM recommendations. The results of the census will be published and posted on the BNS website in 2022-2023.

Objective 2 - Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan is taking comprehensive measures for the continuous improvement of the situation in the country, which are aimed at creating favourable living conditions for the population (implementation of GCM Objective 2 (b), (d), (e)).

Kazakhstan is not an exception to the global patterns of emergencies, their negative impact on the social sphere and the environment. The diverse natural, mining-geological and geodynamic conditions of the territory of the republic predetermine its significant susceptibility to natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, mudflows, landslides, snow avalanches, hurricanes, forest and steppe fires, sharp drops in temperatures and snowstorms, epidemics and epizootics.

To date, emergencies cannot be avoided, but it is possible to significantly reduce the number and scale of emergencies and mitigate their consequences. Activities to prevent emergencies are more important than their elimination. The socioeconomic results of preventive actions to prevent emergencies (reducing losses and damage) can be more effective for citizens, society and the state. From an economic point of view, this costs tens, and sometimes hundreds of times cheaper than the elimination of the consequences.

Economic growth and sustainable development are necessary conditions for preventing and preparing for natural disasters and similar catastrophes that have a negative impact on the environment. In 2021, 13,038 (-11.1%, 2020 14,669) emergencies and cases of natural and man-made nature were registered, 1,835 (-0.9%, 2020 1,851 people) were affected, of which 896 died (+9.1%, 2020 - 821 people). Natural emergencies account for 11.3% of the total number of emergencies, for the twelve months of 2021, 1,476 cases were registered (+6.3%, 2020 - 1389), while 783 people were affected (-24.4%, 2020 - 1,036), of which 436 people died (+8.2%, 2020 - 403). Technogenic emergencies account for 98.5% of the total number of emergencies, 11,562 cases were registered (-12.9%, 2020 - 13,280), while 1,052 people were affected (+29.1%, 2020 - 815), of they killed 436 people (+8.2, 2020 - 403).

According to statistics, the most common types of natural emergencies are mudflows, landslides, and avalanches. In the Republic of Kazakhstan, mountainous regions of Almaty, Zhambyl, Turkestan, East Kazakhstan regions, the cities of Almaty and Shymkent are subject to these natural phenomena.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations maintains a record of flood-prone settlements throughout the country. According to the List of settlements potentially subject to flooding and melt water in the republic, there are 1010 flood-prone settlements.

In 2021, within the framework of the Roadmap and other programme documents that are being implemented by local executive bodies, bank protection of 51.1 km and cleaning of about 71.7 km of river beds, construction and maintenance of 77.6 km (construction - 14 km, repair - 63.6 km) of protective dams, construction of 2 hydraulic structures, repair of 6 hydraulic structures, construction of 20.6 km and cleaning of 25.1 km of drainage channels, installation of 4 local warning systems.

In order to achieve sustainable development, which requires urgent action to combat climate change and its consequences, the Ministry of Emergency Situations is the responsible state body for implementing the policy of the global indicator "Number of countries that have adopted and are implementing national disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction for 2015-2030".

To reduce the risk of disasters, minimize human losses, the Ministry of Emergency Situations takes targeted measures on a timely basis to respond to seasonal and potential threats from emergencies.

Roadmaps are being implemented to prevent and eliminate natural hazards: to prevent and eliminate flood threats; ensuring seismic safety; ensuring mudflow, landslide and avalanche safety.

A well-established and effective system of preventive measures made it possible to reduce the threat of outburst of moraine lakes, the formation of mudflows and ensured the safety of settlements.

Civil protection authorities pay special attention to teaching the population, especially the younger generation, the rules of conduct in case of emergencies, the purpose of which is to instill life safety skills in children from an early age within the framework of the training hours provided for the study of life safety, as well as through extracurricular activities (classes, interactive lessons, quizzes, sports days, didactic games on fire safety, etc.).

Separately, it is necessary to note the work on interaction with non-governmental and volunteer organizations, covering 4 areas in the civil protection system: liquidation of the consequences of emergency situations; search for missing citizens; providing assistance to persons affected by accidents, natural disasters, environmental, man-made and other disasters in need of outside assistance and support; prevention of natural and man-made emergencies. Volunteers together with government officials conduct training seminars, round tables and flash mobs.

Kazakhstan provides free and open access to information on disaster risks, emergency situations, as well as the rules of behavior of the population in the event of a threat and the occurrence of disasters and accidents. All the necessary information for the population is posted on the Open Government Internet portal with regular updates, as well as on the Internet resource of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

In order to carry out flights to prevent and eliminate emergencies, provide emergency medical care, aviation protection of forests and wildlife, as well as search and rescue operations, helicopters of Kazaviaspas JSC of the Ministry of Emergency Situations are involved. All the necessary information for the population is posted on the Open Government Internet portal with regular updates, as well as on the Internet resource of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

In order to carry out flights to prevent and eliminate emergencies, provide emergency medical care, aviation protection of forests and wildlife, as well as search and rescue operations, helicopters of Kazaviaspas JSC of the Ministry of Emergency Situations are involved. During the period of active digitalization in the country, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan developed the *Darmen* mobile application, which provides timely information to the population within 5 seconds. *Darmen* is unique in that it allows you to instantly notify the population about the threat of an emergency. For example, messages are automatically sent to citizens' smartphones through the application when seismic sensors are triggered during earthquakes with a magnitude of 4 points or more.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations, together with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, is developing a database for recording losses from natural disasters named Desinventar Sendai.

Central and local executive bodies are responsible to developing Plans for the evacuation and dispersal (reception and accommodation) of the evacuated population.

At the same time, by Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated August 16, 2017 No. 486 "On approval of action plans for liquidation of emergencies of global and regional scales", tasks were distributed to central and local executive bodies. The content of the Plan within the framework of the issue under consideration involves the implementation of two points (Organization of priority emergency rescue operations in the emergency zone and Provision of transportation of the affected population by rail, air, river and road transport).

In order to coordinate the actions of the Ministry of Emergency Situations on issues of early evacuation measures in the event of natural and man-made emergencies, in accordance with paragraph 28 of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Civil Protection", the Ministry of Emergency Situations developed and approved the "Action Plan for the Elimination of Emergency Situations of a Global and Regional Scale", which provides for the section "Evacuation measures".

Objective 3 - Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

Kazakhstan has a single electronic portal "e-Government" (egov.kz), which is managed and maintained by National Information Technologies JSC (implementation of GCM Objective 3 (a), (c) and (d)).

By the end of 2021, 94% of public services in Kazakhstan were accessible to nationals through a special e-government portal. The portal provides 18 different types of public services for entering the country and obtaining Kazakhstan citizenship, and 13 types for travelling abroad.

Documents are accepted through CSCs (front offices) for the provision of such public services as "Formation of an individual identification number for foreigners temporarily staying in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan" (68,640 public services were provided in 2021) and "Issuance and prolongation of permits for immigrant workers" (214,060 public services were provided in 2021), which make it possible to legalise the employment of foreign nationals in Kazakhstan. Since 2021, the provision of the public service "Issuance and prolongation of permits for immigrant workers" has been replicated in all CSCs.

The Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is another government agency that provides public services that can be attributed to the field of migration. Most of the services provided are automated (implementation of GCM Objective 3 (a), (c) and (d)). The website of the Migration Service Committee also provides useful links and information for migrants.

Objective 4 - Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

At a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council (EAEU) on 10 December 2021, an amendment to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union of 29 May 2014 was adopted, enabling nationals of EAEU member states to change their purpose of entry without leaving the host state for the purpose of employment.

Kazakhstan nationals staying in other EAEU countries with an initial non-work-related purpose of stay will be able to change their purpose of entry to employment without leaving the host country.

From 2020, Kazakhstan will abolish temporary registration for all categories of foreigners entering the Republic of Kazakhstan for a period of up to 30 days (implementation of GCM Objective 4 (d)). According to these amendments, the obligation to notify the internal affairs authorities of foreigners staying with them is imposed on host individuals and legal entities. The notification mechanism is fully automated through the online visa and migration portal (<https://www.vmp.gov.kz>)

In addition, Kazakhstan has established a visa-free regime with 73 states. Of these, 54 countries have been granted visa-free travel on a unilateral basis and bilateral treaties have been concluded with 19 countries.

According to amendments to the RoK Government Decree "On Approval of the Rules of Entry and Stay of Immigrants in the RoK and their Departure from the RoK" and the Rules of Migration Control, immigrants enter and leave the RoK through the state border checkpoints open for international and passenger traffic, using passports or replacement documents with the RoK visa, unless otherwise established by the RoK legislative acts and/or international treaties ratified by the RoK.

Immigrants temporarily staying in the Republic of Kazakhstan are not allowed to carry out labour activities without relevant permits issued by local executive authorities or internal affairs authorities. Foreigners staying for more than 30 days (for purposes of work, study, medical treatment, business immigrants as well as for family reunification and permanent residence) shall obtain a temporary residence permit (implementation of GCM Objective 4 (g)). In order to obtain such a permit, foreign nationals do not need to apply to state authorities – these falls to the receiving individuals and legal entities, whose applications are forwarded to the internal affairs authorities via the Center of services for population.

When an immigrant changes temporary residence in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the receiving person shall notify the internal affairs authorities within three working days.

To date, internal affairs authorities and the Border Guard of the National Security Committee are empowered to impose administrative fines for evading the departure from Kazakhstan after the authorised period of stay has expired. Whereas previously a foreigner in breach of the terms of stay was sent to court to have an administrative case heard, now the decision is taken at the scene of the offence – without being removed from the flight.

To this end, the Ministry of the Internal Affairs has established migration checkpoints at airports to ensure that foreigners are processed as quickly as possible. At the same time, since January 2020, migration

cards have been abolished for all foreigners and instead of this a passport stamp is placed at border checkpoints, which is the beginning of the period of stay in the country.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, as the authorised body to issue identity documents and citizenship of Kazakhstan, has taken consistent steps to facilitate the acceptance of Kazakh citizenship by ethnic Kazakhs – "Kandas" (implementation of GCM Objective 4 (a)).

In Kazakhstan, persons who are not citizens and do not have proof of their citizenship from another state are recognised as stateless persons in accordance with national laws. The laws of Kazakhstan provide a definition of a stateless person, which extends to persons recognised as such and documented in accordance with the law (de jure stateless persons).

Thus, as of 1 January 2022, 7,140 persons were officially stateless in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Statistics show that the number of officially recognised stateless persons remains unchanged at around 7,000.

According to the law, stateless persons legally residing in Kazakhstan may apply for naturalisation on the same grounds as foreign nationals after 5 years of residence.

It should be noted that under current laws, formally recognised stateless persons have virtually the same range of rights as nationals, with a few exceptions (implementation of GCM Objective 4 (g)).

In addition to the above-mentioned category of de jure stateless persons, undocumented stateless persons (persons with undetermined citizenship) can and do potentially reside on the territory of the state.

Undocumented stateless persons have no access to fundamental rights and freedoms, they cannot receive medical or social assistance, education, pensions and benefits, they are unable to find official employment or even travel freely.

In order to address the situation of persons with undetermined citizenship and to determine the extent of statelessness, a large-scale identification campaign was initiated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in October 2020, implemented jointly with the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan, UNHCR and its partner organisations (implementation of GCM Objective 4 (e)).

Since the launch of the campaign, the migration services have registered over 7,299 undocumented persons (persons with undetermined citizenship), of which 6062 are documented. In respect of 1,237 persons, the procedure for confirming citizenship is under consideration (implementation of GCM Objective 4 (a)).

From 1 January 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan will centralise the formation of an individual identification number for foreigners, including its correction and restoration. In order to receive a public service, an individual (or his/her legal representative) shall apply to the service provider through the State Corporation at his/her place of residence or through the portal by submitting an application (implementation of GCM Objective 4 (a), (d)).

Objective 5- Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

During the implementation of the Concept of Migration Policy for 2017-2021, a set of measures has been implemented to optimise the migration processes in the country, including the creation of a clear and transparent system for providing migration services to foreign nationals.

Kazakhstan is getting more and more active in the global labour market and is now the second largest country in the EAEU in terms of the number of migrant workers it attracts. Attracting highly qualified foreign specialists to Kazakhstan's economy is one of the objective areas of migration policy that creates conditions for both a competitive economy and the import of knowledge and technological methods of work (implementation of GCM Objective 5 (d), (e)).

At the same time, in order to protect the domestic labour market, an annual quota for foreign labour force (FLF) recruitment is set based on regional needs. The FLF quota for 2021 was approved at 0.31% of the labour force or 29.3 thousand.

The quota is formed based on the number of employers' applications and an analysis of the local executive authorities in:

- 1) the demand for labour in the region, including through the envisaged job creation;

2) forecasting the number of unemployed persons and the expected release of workers, as well as the number of graduates of educational organisations;

3) opportunities to meet labour force needs through labour resources, including by training, retraining or advanced training of unemployed, self-employed, redundant workers in professions and specialities for which foreign workers are expected to be employed;

4) an assessment of the effectiveness of the use of foreign labour force in the previous year and the forecast need for foreign labour force for the coming year(s).

In 2021, 18.3 thousand work permits were issued under the local executive authorities (LEA) quotas.

The main countries of origin of FLF are China – 4,198 (23%), Turkey – 2,336 (12.7%), Uzbekistan – 2,247 (12.2%), India – 1,394 (7.6%), UK – 1,136 (6.2%). The number of employers who engaged FLF amounted to 1,779, employing 458.1 thousand Kazakhstan nationals.

Attracting both highly skilled foreign professionals to Kazakhstan's labour market to work in sectors recognised by the state as a priority, and less skilled migrant workers are seen as factors that can enhance competitiveness in the international market.

To this end, it is necessary to improve the assessment of the real and prospective ratio of supply and demand in the labour market of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in particular, to conduct systematic monitoring of long-term needs for highly qualified specialists in science, high-tech and innovative sectors of the economy, as well as to assess the availability of labour resources in those areas of the economy that attract the largest number of low-skilled migrants.

In the short term, Kazakhstan will remain attractive for migrant workers, especially those from neighbouring countries. An important task is to ensure the registration and monitoring of foreign workers, especially those working off-quota and under a patent for individuals.

New IT initiatives have now been implemented to deepen the digitalisation of labour, employment and migration. The e-Employment Exchange is a one-stop digital job search and employment platform. A number of Internet websites, 203 employment centres and 54 private employment agencies are now connected to it (implementation of GCM Objective 5 (e)).

The right of the migrant worker and his/her family members to receive appropriate free emergency (urgent) medical care and other medical assistance is regulated by the laws of the state of employment and the international treaties to which it is a party (implementation of GCM Objective 5 (i)).

Objective 6 - Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

In accordance with the RoK Law "On the Legal Status of Foreigners", foreigners may carry out labour activities in Kazakhstan on the basis and in the manner prescribed by the laws and international treaties of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In order to ensure the implementation of the constitutional right of nationals to freedom of labour, legislative acts may establish restrictions on the employment of foreigners in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

From 1 July 2021, the first digital project implemented within the EAEU – the unified search system "Work Without Borders" – has been launched. The service will allow employers and jobseekers to access the national job databases of all member states of the Union. At the same time, the personal data of nationals is fully protected as it is not transmitted through the "Work Without Borders" system (implementation of GCM Objective 6 (b), (d), (f)).

The project uses the existing national job search systems of five countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russia). As part of the project, users of the system can select one or more member states for a job search or recruitment, to generate a universal search query to national information systems, to access information on job vacancies and CVs, and to send a response or an invitation for an interview.

More than half a million people used the search engine in 2021. The Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission regularly monitors the functioning and development of "Work Without Borders".

The digital dimension of labour freedom in the EAEU will continue to expand. The strategic directions of development of Eurasian economic integration until 2025 envisage the formation of an entire

ecosystem of digital services in the area of employment of citizens of the Union member states, which will be called "Eurasian Labour Exchange".

Plans to develop a digital ecosystem and implement services such as information support for job seekers and employers, e-employment contracts, career guidance diagnostics, a marketplace for training courses and other related services, introduction of a mobile application and other services were also initiated in 2021.

By early 2022, more than 242 thousand people, including 27.7 thousand Kazakhstan nationals, had visited the job search portal for the EAEU member states.

"Work Without Borders" was supposed to be one of the tools to recover the common labour market of the EAEU states from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, as a first step towards creating a full digital ecosystem in the employment of the EAEU nationals. In addition, the project will reduce irregular migration and, on the other hand, protect the rights and safety of migrant workers in Kazakhstan. Such a situation would be important for socially vulnerable groups – women and young people – in finding work and being registered at their place of residence, fulfilling the terms of their contract and health care ([see also GCM Objective 5](#)).

In December 2020, the heads of state of the Union approved the Strategic Directions for the Development of Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025 (hereinafter – the Strategic Directions), which include new areas of economic cooperation, including education.

The Commission's official website section entitled "Economic cooperation in the field of vocational education", contains official information from the competent authorities of the member states, on samples of public education documents, academic and professional rights of their holders; links to available national resources on remote verification of education documents.

This will enable nationals to obtain reliable information about their academic and professional rights, and employers will be able to verify the authenticity of the education documents submitted by the employee at short notice if necessary.

The situation of migrant workers from the Republic of Kazakhstan is not fully tracked by official statistics. Kazakhstan nationals often do not register with the consular authorities at diplomatic posts abroad and even more rarely report what kind of activity they are engaged in abroad.

Indirectly, the number of Kazakhstan nationals working abroad is evidenced by the volume of remittances through various international money transfer systems from abroad to Kazakhstan.

According to the country's National Bank, Kazakhstan nationals received KZT344.6 billion from abroad in 2019, while remittances from abroad amounted to KZT286.9 billion in 2020 and KZT283.5 billion in 2021.

The number of Kazakhstan nationals working abroad is growing. The main host country for workers from the Republic of Kazakhstan is the Russian Federation. This is facilitated by geographical proximity, the absence of a language barrier, as well as visa-free travel and free movement of labour within the EAEU.

According to official EAEU data, the number of migrant workers from Kazakhstan in Russia has grown 3.2 times over the past eight years: in 2012 – 34.1 thousand people, in 2019 – 111.5 thousand, and in 2020 – 111.5 thousand. At the same time, a significant amount of labour migration from the Republic of Kazakhstan in the border regions of the Russian Federation is in the shadows.

A particular problem is the lack of transparency of private employment agencies in recruiting staff to work abroad. Nowadays, there are companies on the market that provide incomplete services. There is evidence of fraud – receiving money without providing employment services.

With the help of unscrupulous intermediaries, hundreds of nationals of the Republic of Kazakhstan were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation to Qatar, Indonesia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey.

Unskilled workers have a small share in the total volume of labour migration from Kazakhstan. They do not have much money for moving and then settling down in a new place. The category of unskilled labour is dominated by commuters in the regions bordering the Russian Federation.

Specialists, skilled workers predominate in the total volume of migrant workers leaving the Republic of Kazakhstan in search of work in other countries. It is also one of the varieties of "brain drain".

The implementation of the new Concept of Migration Policy envisages a series of measures aimed at supporting outgoing Kazakhstan nationals by the state (implementation of GCM Objective 14 (d)).

As mentioned in the Concept Paper, pre-departure training of migrants, including information on the destination country, its migration and labour legislation, the risks and dangers of undocumented employment should be an important focus of governmental structures and non-governmental organisations (employment agencies abroad, human rights organisations) (implementation of GCM Objective 6 (j), (l)).

The promotion of ethical recruitment as well as the development of organised labour migration schemes that connect migrant workers directly with employers are effective forms of ensuring the rights of migrant workers.

Objective 7 - Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

According to the Article 21 of the Criminal Procedure Code, all persons, including migrants, are granted equal rights of access to justice in criminal proceedings.

In 2021, the procurators filed motions of appeal and cassation against eight convicted foreign nationals (four citizens of the Russian Federation, three citizens of Uzbekistan and one citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic), and their rights were protected (implementation of GCM Objective 7 (c)).

IOM's February 2021 mapping of stranded migrants in Kazakhstan found that the population of stranded migrants consisted mainly of male respondents (72%) aged 25 to 44 (68%) and natives of three countries neighbouring Kazakhstan (80%): Uzbekistan – 51%, Tajikistan – 15% and Russia – 14%; 46% of respondents indicated active marriage status and more than half of respondents (60%) have children. And 93% of them have one to four children. One third of children (32.5%) live in Kazakhstan with the respondents.

Children involved in the migration process are the most vulnerable category of migrants. Due to their age and especially in the absence of parental care, birth registration or statelessness, they are at greater, in fact double the risk of being exposed to violence, labour exploitation and detention than adults.

The programme on the protection of children's rights in migration processes is aimed at building an effective model of support for migrant children in Kazakhstan. It covers the three regions that receive the largest flow of irregular migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. These are the cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent and the Turkestan region (implementation of GCM Objective 7 (b), (c), (e), (f)).

A key part of implementing an effective protection system for migrant children is case management. UNICEF defines it as "a process carried out by social workers that supports or regulates the provision of social assistance to vulnerable children, families and other groups in need".

Under the developed service model for the protection of the rights of migrant children, case management is entrusted to specialised regional state institutions – Centre for Adaptation of Minors (CAM) and Child Support Centre (CSC), where migrant children left without parental care are placed.

If the child is not in need of care and protection, he or she can be referred directly to an NGO for legal, social support or psychological counselling.

Providing legal aid to children with undetermined citizenship and at risk of statelessness and assisting in their documentation is one of the activities to reduce statelessness ([see also GCM Objective 4](#)).

According to figures provided by UNHCR, 7,118 persons hold stateless status in Kazakhstan at the beginning of 2021, of whom less than 2% are children under 18 years old.

Objective 8 - Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

In 2021, the territorial units of the Internal affairs authorities received 14 reports of foreign nationals who were missing in Kazakhstan, of whom 12 were identified. There are still 2 outstanding cases that are being investigated.

Since 2016, the Red Crescent Society of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been running a "Restoring Family Links" programme for migrant detainees in reception centres. The programme provides phone calls to relatives as well as humanitarian aid in the form of hygiene kits. The programme also supports the tracing of relatives both within Kazakhstan and abroad (implementation of GCM Objective (c)). The main incoming migrants to the reception centres are citizens of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Objective 9 - Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

One of the main areas of migration management is the fight against irregular migration, carried out at national and international levels. Irregular migration in Kazakhstan is most often caused by violations of labour laws by migrants and employers, including the employment or hiring of low-skilled foreign nationals without a labour contract and with violations of working conditions and remuneration.

Expanding legal channels for the entry and employment of foreign nationals and simplifying procedures for obtaining permits is an effective measure in preventing irregular migration. In addition, irregular migration can be combated in the way of prevention by creating transparent and clear procedures for obtaining the necessary permits and by avoiding unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles to the legalisation of migrants in the host country ([see also GCM Objective 5](#)).

Within the implementation of the Concept of Migration Policy for 2017-2021, a set of measures was carried out to optimise the migration regime in the country, including the creation of a clear and transparent system for the provision of migration services to foreign nationals.

In the framework of the ongoing modernisation and systemic reforms, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is taking measures to optimise the provision of state migration services. Work is under way to simplify the issuance of work permits and patents to migrants, to abolish registration for certain categories of migrants, and to raise migrants' awareness of migration laws and existing rules through the visa and migration portal ([see also GCM Objective 4](#)).

During 2018-2019, the Migration Service Centres were opened in all regional cities and the one-stop-shop principle was introduced for issuing labour patents. From 1 November 2020, the function of processing documents for migrant workers has been transferred to the Citizens Service Centres ([see also GCM Objective 3](#)).

As of 2018, criminal liability for organising irregular migration under Article 394 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been increased (punishments include community service). The organisation of irregular migration committed by a criminal group is punishable by 3 to 7 years' imprisonment (implemented in accordance with GCM Objective 9 (d)).

A training centre for specialists in combating irregular migration and human trafficking has been operating at the Karaganda Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs since 2005.

Combating irregular migration is carried out in cooperation with the competent authorities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Member States and other states on the basis of the Agreements on Cooperation of the CIS Member States in Combating Illegal Migration of 6 March 1998, on Combating Illegal Labour Migration from third states of 19 November 2010, other agreements, as well as on a bilateral basis (Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, etc.), within the EAEU, Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) unions and organisations (implemented under GCM Objective 9 (b), (f), [see also GCM Objective 23](#)).

In order to ensure the efficient tracking of migration flows, all units of the Migration Service are connected to the Unified Electronic Control System for Immigration Entry, Exit and Stay ([see also GCM Objective 11](#)).

In 2021, due to the pandemic, thousands of foreigners were in Kazakhstan because they could not leave. With the assistance of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, these persons were assisted in regularising their situation or returning to their home country.

From 6 to 12 December 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted an operational and preventive measure "Migrant" in order to identify offenders of migration laws and to ensure strict compliance with the stipulated rules of foreigners' stay (implemented in accordance with GCM Objective 9 (d) and (f)).

Objective 10 - Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

In Kazakhstan, the legal framework for preventing and combating crimes related to human trafficking is being improved systematically. The Criminal Code introduces the concepts of human

exploitation, forced labour, forcing to beggary, noncommercial sexual exploitation, as well as liability for violating labour legislation with respect to minors.

The Code of Administrative Offences establishes the liability of employers for violating labour legislation with respect to minors; health care providers for violating their obligations to inform internal affairs agencies about persons who have filed a complaint with police over recent injuries, wounds, or criminal abortions; and individuals and legal entities who knowingly provide premises for prostitution or procuring.

The Labour Code restricts the conclusion of employment contracts with individuals previously convicted of crimes against minors related to human trafficking.

In addition, the legislation increases the legal liability for many articles, in particular: for human trafficking, inducing a minor into prostitution, trafficking of minors, enticing for prostitution, and organizing or maintaining the disorderly houses for prostitution and procuring.

Thus, nowadays, the crime of human trafficking is punished with imprisonment for a term of up to 18 years with confiscation of property. This punishment is sufficiently severe and corresponds to the punishment for other serious crimes.

The legislation provides an extending the period of stay in Kazakhstan and not expelling foreigners against whom a serious crime has been committed until a court decision in a criminal case is made (Article 51 Part 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences).

Also, persons who have committed offenses are exempt from administrative responsibility if they are subsequently recognized as victims of crimes related to human trafficking (Article 741 Part 1, Clause 11 of the Code of Administrative Offences). This is especially relevant for migrants who have been subjected to labour or sexual exploitation.

Protection and assistance to victims, both citizens of Kazakhstan and foreigners, is provided under the Laws "On State Protection of Persons Participating in Criminal Proceedings" and "On the Victims Compensation Fund". The Ministry of Internal Affairs together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Healthcare developed and amended the Criteria for assessing the presence of abuse resulting in social disadaptation and social deprivation.

The amendments provide for the collecting of general primary information on the fact of human trafficking and ensuring its confidentiality, granting the victim of trafficking the right to choose the gender of the person conducting his/her identification, excluding re-identification if the person has already been recognized as a victim in a criminal case.

The Supreme Court made additions to the Regulatory Resolution "On practice for enforcement of the legislation establishing liability for human trafficking" which provides explanations of the ways of committing this category of crimes, the difference between human trafficking and organization of illegal migration, the concepts of "concealment of a person for subsequent exploitation" and "other acts for exploitation of a person".

Government Decree No. 94 dated 24 February 2021 adopted the Action Plan for 2021-2023, which includes: improvement of legislation; conduct of comprehensive and coordinated law enforcement intelligence; information campaigns and raising public awareness; cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations; provision of special social services to victims of human trafficking; and advanced training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, etc.

In December 2020, changes were made to the Criteria for assessing the degree of risk and checklists for compliance with the labor legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, according to which the checklists of state labor inspectors supplemented with reporting forms on the presence of revealed facts of forced labor. Also, the job descriptions of state labor inspectors include obligations to report the facts of forced labor to law enforcement agencies."

To coordinate the interaction of interested state bodies, the Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Illegal Export, Import and Trafficking in Persons operates, chaired on a rotational basis by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

In order to provide timely and urgent assistance to victims, their resocialization and return to society, the Standard for the provision of special social services for victims of human trafficking is being

implemented and targeted current transfers are allocated from the republican budget for the provision of special social services to victims of human trafficking in NGOs.

The Standard provides for the provision of assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in persons, including safe living services, medical and psychological assistance, vocational guidance, legal advice and other types of assistance. Over the past five years, more than 700 victims of human trafficking have been covered by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection with special social services.

Cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations has been intensified within the framework of bilateral memorandums. Those memoranda are effective between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and IOM since 2012, between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan since 2016, and between regional police departments and 18 NGOs since 2020.

In September 2021, the Organization of Individual Entrepreneurs and Legal Entities in the form of "Association of Farmers of Kazakhstan" and the NCE "Atameken" signed memorandums to increase efforts in the prevention of forced labour.

To intensify measures to prevent forced labour, in 2021 the second phase of the pilot project of mobile groups organized by the MIA together with the General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and IOM is continued in Karaganda, Mangistau, and Turkestan regions. Mobile groups are engaged in informing the population about the problem of human trafficking, including about forced labour, criminal legislation, and legal acts assisting victims of human trafficking, general signs of human trafficking and contacts for appeal; conducting consultations and questionnaires; distributing issue-related information, materials, videos, presentations, slides, etc.; taking measures under the law in case of information about an offense.

Another successful case of cooperation is the national information campaign "Stop Human Trafficking Together!" held in support of the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

In November 2021, an informational marathon "Together against human trafficking!" was held on the Kazakh-Kyrgyz and Kazakh-Uzbek sections of the border. As part of the campaign, citizens were advised on labour law, how to avoid a situation of human trafficking, and were provided contacts for appeal.

In total, more than 5,500 materials on human trafficking were published in 2021, of which 5,000 were published by internal affairs agencies. There was arranged the national 24/7 helpline line "116 16", the operators of which provide advice on any issues related to labour migration and human trafficking. The helpline is operated by specialists of the Association of legal entities "Union of Crisis Centres in Kazakhstan"; if reports of possible criminal offenses are received, the information is immediately sent to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for verification of the fact and appropriate action.

As a result of the measures taken in 2021, according to the estimates of the US State Department, Kazakhstan moved from the "watch list" to the second category of the international ranking of countries, which indicates an improvement in the situation in the field of ensuring human rights.

In 2021, the IOM Mission in the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with the Human Rights Commissioner in the Republic of Kazakhstan, presented a report prepared by international experts as part of the IOM Project assessing the effectiveness of measures to identify (potential) victims of human trafficking and prosecute crimes related to human trafficking in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The results of the study show that Kazakhstan has made significant efforts and progress in combating human trafficking. However, its legal framework and practice still have gaps in the identification and detection of victims, especially foreigners, and in the prosecution of human trafficking. The report provides recommendations for improving the legal and regulatory framework, its implementation, and capacity development for organizations involved in combating human trafficking. The report was sent to the relevant government agencies for review.

In 2021, IOM, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, developed standard operating procedures for work with victims of human trafficking (step-by-step algorithms) for patrol officers, juvenile police, local police inspectors, and investigators. The goal is to increase the professionalism of police officers in combating human trafficking, particularly in identifying victims, conducting interviews and interrogations, providing appropriate protection and assistance, and reducing the potential for legal, moral, and other mistakes while communicating with victims.

In addition, within the framework of international cooperation, seminars, conferences, round tables are held on an ongoing basis together with state and non-governmental organizations.

Objective 11 - Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

Based on the UN Security Council Resolutions No. 2396-2017 and ICAO 2178, as well as the Law of RoK "On transport in the Republic of Kazakhstan", APCAS automated data collection system for air ticket booking and air passenger registration was introduced in 2019.

In 2021, the existing border management information system was integrated with the APCAS to obtain proactive information on air passengers (implementation of GCM Objective 11 (b), (g)).

Under the UNODC programme, border cooperation offices and classes for the training of border staff, including on the rights children of, were opened at some checkpoints (Kordai, Syptay Batyr, B. Konysbaeva) (implementation of GCM Objective 11 (e)).

In pursuance of the instructions of the Head of State and the presentation of the Prosecutor General's Office on preventing the facts of illegal adoption and trafficking in children, the Ministry of Education and Science has created an interdepartmental working group and is developing legislative amendments to determine the procedure for crossing the state border by minors and their return, establishing paternity and fixing the obligatory informing of the prosecutor's office about cases of abandonment of newborn children.

In April 2021, Phase 10 of the Border Management Programme (BOMCA) began. Since BOMCA launch in 2003, its activities have focused on capacity building and institutional development, improving border management and eliminating drug trafficking, developing trade corridors, and facilitating trade in CA. Each subsequent phase was developed taking into account the results obtained in the previous phases.

Phase 10 aims to increase security and stability in the region by promoting sustainable economic development and integrated border management. The current phase will also support cross-border cooperation and aim to improve the living conditions of people living in the border areas of Central Asia (implementation of GCM Objective 11 (a), (b), (g)).

Objective 12 - Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

The country pays great attention to the situation and protection of the rights of migrant and refugee children, and measures are taken to ensure the safety of this category of children. The main goal is to protect vulnerable children affected by migration providing them with social, legal, and psychological assistance, as well as creating a comfortable and friendly environment at all stages of interaction with migrant children (implementation of GCM Objective 12 (d)).

Since 2017, several countries, including Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Thailand, have had a multi-country programme to protect the rights of children affected by migration, implemented by UNICEF with EU support and in cooperation with the governments of these countries. The program aims to provide effective support and protection of the rights of children affected by migration. Implementation period: 2017-2021.

The programme aims to strengthen the system of effective protection via case management services, i.e. comprehensive social, psychological, and legal assistance to children affected by migration. These services ensure that the best interests of children are respected during their stay in Kazakhstan.

In Kazakhstan, the programme has been implemented since 2018 in Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent, and Turkestan region. Professional case management services for children affected by migration have been tested by civil society organizations, such as the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Rodnik Fund, and Legal Centre for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim" together with regional centres for child support and adaptation.

As part of the programme, the EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan, the Commissioner for Human Rights in Kazakhstan, and the UNICEF Representative in Kazakhstan opened child-friendly rooms for migrant children on 1 June 2021. There, they provide care and support for the children is provided during their

temporary stay at the Centre for the Support of Children in Nur-Sultan as well as facilitating their contact with established family members.

Since the programme started, more than 350 children affected by migration were provided with protection services, and a study was conducted on a comparative analysis of national legislation and international standards for the protection of children affected by migration.

Guidelines for protective services for children affected by migration were developed and tested for government agencies, the civil sector, and cross-sector cooperation. Training and evaluation of the program implementation was conducted. Other important initiatives and projects on the above-mentioned programme were also implemented.

Objective 13 - Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

Amendments were made to the Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Execution Code, the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the legal status of foreigners", "On migration of the population", "On the prevention of offenses" and "On the procedure and conditions for detention of persons in special institutions, special rooms providing temporary isolation from societies" to solve the problems of introducing international standards into national legislation on human rights protection, eliminating legal gaps, removing provisions in the legislative acts that are not necessary for the protection of human rights and freedoms; as well as for implementing the proposals of the Constitutional Council of RoK on additional legislative regulation of the terms of detention when deporting persons (foreigners or stateless persons) from the Republic of Kazakhstan, regulating the procedure of their detention and subsequent placement in special facilities of internal affairs bodies (implementation of GCM Objective 13 (f), (d), (c)).

Objective 14 - Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

There are currently 96 consular establishments in 70 countries around the world. Along with this, there are 106 Honorary Consuls of Kazakhstan working abroad. To expand the geographic coverage of the consular protection of citizens of Kazakhstan abroad, the Consulate General of Kazakhstan in Busan (South Korea) was established by Presidential Decree No. 642 dated 20 August 2021. Bilateral negotiations are underway to open a Consulate General in Xi'an (PRC).

Due to COVID-19 pandemic in the world, comprehensive assistance of compatriots abroad in the return to their homeland is continued. In 2021, about 100 repatriation flights were organized and about 3,000 of our citizens from countries with no direct regular flights were returned home.

To create appropriate conditions for the departure of Kazakhstani students of foreign higher educational institutions to their places of study, the activities of the Operation Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were aimed at resuming direct air communication, clarifying the conditions and procedure for the beginning of the academic year at foreign higher educational institutions. The relevant information is regularly updated and published on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. The citizens of Kazakhstan are also regularly informed about the current situation and measures taken to combat the coronavirus epidemic through the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign establishments of Kazakhstan and various social networks.

About 80 citizens of Kazakhstan and ethnic Kazakhs were evacuated from unstable regions of Afghanistan and Syria due to worsening internal political situation.

To facilitate the movement of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, work is underway to conclude intergovernmental agreements on the mutual exemption from visa requirements. On 6 September 2021, in Bern, a visa exemption agreement for holders of diplomatic or service passports was signed between RoK and Switzerland.

In general, to date, Kazakhstan has signed visa exemption agreements for holders of diplomatic passports with 71 countries and with the UN, for holders of service passports – with 50 countries, and for holders of national passports – with 20 countries.

In addition, negotiations are underway with other countries (Austria, Albania, Andorra, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Brunei, Grenada, Dominican Republic, Maldives, Nicaragua, Republic of South Africa, San Marino, Garden Arabia, Suriname, Fiji) to agree on draft agreements on the exemption from visa requirements for holders of various types of passports.

Objective 15 - Provide access to basic services for migrants

One of the priorities of international cooperation in the field of healthcare according to Article 72 of the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Public Health and Health Care System" is the provision of medical care to foreigners and stateless persons (implementation of GCM Objective 15 (e)).

Article 83 of the Code stipulates that Kandas, refugees, as well as foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, are entitled to the Guaranteed Amount of Free Medical Care (GAFMC) in the same way as citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Foreigners and stateless persons temporarily staying in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as asylum seekers, have the right to receive the GAFMC for diseases that pose a danger to others, according to the list and in the volume defined by the Order of the Minister of Healthcare of RoK.

For foreigners from EAEU, in case of sudden acute conditions and diseases that threaten the life of the patient or the health of others, accidents, poisoning, injuries, childbirth, and emergency conditions during pregnancy, emergency medical care is provided to citizens safely, free of charge and in full in medical institutions of the state of the temporary stay, regardless of organizational and legal forms, departmental affiliation and forms of their ownership.

Foreign workers arriving for self-employment or attracted by employers, including intra-company transfer, business immigrants, and seasonal foreign workers are required to have health insurance covering PHC and inpatient care.

That is, migrant workers staying in Kazakhstan, regardless of the period of stay in the country, have the right to be participants of the Mandatory Social Health Insurance system, including the categories of persons whose contributions are paid by the state. State contributions to compulsory social medical insurance are paid for categories listed in Article 26 of the Law "On Compulsory Social Health Insurance" (15 categories).

Thus, immigrant workers are required to be insured in order to participate in the insurance system, i.e., to have a voluntary insurance policy covering PHC services. In 2021, 2,990 foreigners and stateless persons were provided medical care under the guaranteed volume of medical care and the insurance system, including 2,858 emergency medical care (in 2020, 5,201 foreigners were provided medical care, including 4,857 emergencies medical care).

By countries, the largest number of citizens provided with medical care are from the Russian Federation - 1,063, Uzbekistan - 992, and Kyrgyzstan - 296 people.

If foreign nationals reside permanently in the country and have a "residence permit", they can get vaccinated against COVID-19 free of charge. Only foreigners without a residence permit who are not registered with PHC organizations are vaccinated for a fee.

Migrants and members of their families permanently residing in the territory of the RoK have access to free antiretroviral therapy for HIV on an equal basis with citizens of the country. At the same time, migrants temporarily staying in the RoK do not have such an opportunity, while there is no paid provision of such services in practice.

According to the National Education Database, 689 refugee children, 20,367 migrant children, and 7,637 Kandas children were enrolled in secondary education organizations for the 2020-2021 school year; 485 Kandas children and 93 migrant children were enrolled in vocational education.

National legislation stipulates that all children have equal rights regardless of origin, race, and nationality, social and property status, gender, language, education, attitude toward religion, place of residence, health status, and other circumstances concerning the child and his or her parents or other legal representatives (Article 4 of the Law "On the Rights of a Child in the Republic of Kazakhstan").

Granting the right to education to stateless persons permanently residing in the Republic of Kazakhstan (RoK) is regulated by Clause 2 of Article 8 of the Law "On Education".

There are the Rules for receiving pre-school, primary, basic secondary and general secondary education by foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the Republic of Kazakhstan (Order of the Ministry of Education and Science No. 468 dated 28 September 2010), which regulate enrollment to educational organizations for pre-school, primary, basic secondary and general secondary education of children of foreigners; stateless persons (including Kandas) permanently residing in the RoK; and persons temporarily residing in the RoK.

Kazakhstan is taking consistent measures to implement Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Kazakhstan, to educate migrant children under applicable law. The LEAs provide migrants with studying seats in schools and preschool organizations under the procedure established by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Objective 16 - Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

Since independence, the government of Kazakhstan has continuously worked to create a constitutional and institutional framework to respect and protect the political rights of ethnic groups and their participation in the social and political life of the country. The principle of cultural autonomy was implemented by the government of Kazakhstan back in 1991 through the creation of national cultural associations. By doing this, the government aimed to support the "national revival" of the peoples of Kazakhstan.

Nowadays, there are representatives of more than one hundred ethnic groups living on the territory of the country. Practically, ethnocultural associations are the main bearers of ethnocultural self-government and act as non-state institutions, that until recently worked only with the development and preservation of the culture and language of individual ethnic groups.

The Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan (APK) plays an important role in the formation of a unique model of all-Kazakhstan unity. The APK was established by Decree of the Head of State on March 1, 1995. Chairman of the APK is the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The main task of the APK is to implement the state national policy, ensure socio-political stability in the Republic of Kazakhstan and increase the effectiveness of interaction between state and civil society institutions in the field of interethnic relations.

Today, the ANK contributes to the creation of favorable conditions for further strengthening interethnic harmony, tolerance in society and unity of the people. In addition, the APK provides assistance to state bodies in countering manifestations of extremism and radicalism in society. The ANK ensures the integration of the efforts of ethno-cultural associations, helps the revival, preservation and development of national cultures, languages and traditions of Kazakhstan.

The APK is also strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties with partners in the Eurasian Economic Union. For example, on the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union was established direct recognition of educational documents in most specialties for employment in another member state. The Commission, together with the competent authorities of the member states, has prepared an amendment to the Treaty on the EAEU, which eliminates the exemption from the EAEU law associated with the need for recognition procedure for educational documents by workers who claim to be engaged in teaching and legal activities. This amendment was adopted at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council on 10 December 2021. In accordance with the Treaty on the EAEU, documents on academic degrees and academic titles issued by the authorized bodies of the member states are recognized under the laws of the state of employment (implementation of GCM Objective 16 (d)).

Objective 17 - Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

Kazakhstan has developed a stable model of interaction between ethnic groups and religions that provides stability and an atmosphere of harmony and concord in society. The fundamental document, the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, contains the following provisions that correspond to the implementation of the Objective 17 at the highest legislative level:

"Formation and functioning of public associations pursuing the goals or actions directed toward a violent change of the constitutional system, violation of the integrity of the Republic, undermining the security of the state, inciting social, racial, national, religious, and tribal enmity".

"No one shall be subject to any discrimination for reasons of origin, social, property status, occupation, sex, race, nationality, language, attitude towards religion, convictions, place of residence or any other circumstances".

"Any acts capable of violating inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony shall be recognized as unconstitutional".

The Republic of Kazakhstan has ratified more than 180 basic international normative legal acts in the sphere of regulation of interethnic and interfaith relations.

In 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, the Republic of Kazakhstan held I, II, III, IV, V, VI Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which confirms the policy of interfaith harmony, respectful, tolerant attitude to all ethnic groups and confessions. In 2022, after the recession of the pandemic, the capital of Kazakhstan will be ready to hold the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions not only to continue inter-religious dialogue, but also to find ways to peacefully unite communities and nations united by common interests.

To prevent and avoid interethnic tension, the interethnic situation in the country is being monitored, including for identifying facts of language discrimination in all spheres of life.

The Ministry of Information and Social Development (MISD), together with regional akimats, takes appropriate measures to prevent any form of denigration of honour and dignity on language and ethnic grounds. In all regions, representatives of ethnic and cultural associations and the NCE "Atameken" run a campaign to educate entrepreneurs on their compliance with the laws of RoK "On languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan" and "On Protection of Consumer Rights" in terms of consumer services in the language they talk and placement of visual information (advertising, announcements, price tags, menus, etc.).

Objective 18 - Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

Kazakhstan is an active participant in the global market of educational services. The number of both Kazakhstani citizens leaving to study abroad and of foreign students who have chosen Kazakhstan as their place of study and research are significant.

According to UNESCO, 89,292 citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan studied at universities in 55 foreign countries in 2021 (which is 13% of the total number of students in Kazakhstan), including 71,368 students in the Russian Federation, 2,191 students in Turkey, 2,083 students in Kyrgyzstan, and 1,792 students in the USA.

Encouraging Kazakhstani citizens to obtain higher education in the world's best universities is part of the state strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. To this end, under the Bolashak programme created in 1993, hundreds of young Kazakhstani citizens are annually awarded presidential international educational scholarships to train professionals for priority sectors of the economy. In total, about 15 thousand Kazakhstani students were sent to study abroad under the Bolashak programme by 2021. More than 11,000 graduates have returned and are working in Kazakhstan.

In addition, educational grants for the study of Kazakhstani students in their countries are provided annually under intergovernmental agreements by the governments of Russia (450 grants), Hungary (250 grants), PRC (150 grants), Ukraine (40 grants), Poland (11 grants), Azerbaijan (10 grants) and some other countries.

In addition, many Kazakhstanis go to study abroad at their own expense, at the expense of international educational scholarships, or under inter-university student exchange agreements.

The motivation for Kazakhstani youth to go abroad for higher education is the higher quality and prestige of foreign education, the desire to see the world and broaden outlook, learning foreign languages, and for some students – further employment and living abroad.

This is the “reverse side” of educational migration from the Republic of Kazakhstan: the country loses part of its intellectual potential due to the desire of some migrants living and working in other countries after graduation.

At the same time, Kazakhstan is an attractive country for international students. These are mostly citizens of Central and Southeast Asian states. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 40,742 foreign students from 33 countries studied in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2021, including 26,130 students from Uzbekistan, 4,453 students from India, 3,294 students from Turkmenistan, and 1,487 students from the Russian Federation.

A special channel of educational migration to the country is the provision of priority educational opportunities in Kazakhstan for ethnic Kazakhs and Kandas.

Education from universities of the RoK is recognized in the world. The international QS World University Rankings include 10 universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, three of which are among the top 500 universities in the world.

Objective 19 - Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

Kazakhstan is implementing the Comprehensive Action Plan for 2020-2025 in places of residence of ethnic groups. The Comprehensive Action Plan includes several systematic measures for monitoring and integration of ethnic groups, strengthening their civic identity and expanding the scope of the state language, etc.

In addition, the Ministry of Information and Social Development (MISD) systematically analyzes interethnic relations and the situation through sociological and analytical studies, including local field studies among ethnic groups.

In 2021, the following studies were conducted:

- 1) Local field research (anthropological expeditions) among ethnic groups;
- 2) Study of the issues of determining the effectiveness of the state policy on the adaptation of repatriates in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- 3) Conducting a sociological study of the interethnic situation in the country;
- 4) Conducting a sociological study on the topic: "Social differentiation of repatriates";
- 5) Interethnic relations in the context of value orientations.

Maps of the ethnodemographic situation and maps of the ethnosocial tension of each region of the country have been developed. The maps include information on statistical data, ethnodemographic processes, interethnic interaction, economic and migration directions.

MIOR has developed and approved a Model plan for work in places of compact residence of ethnic groups and an Interdepartmental plan for the development of interethnic relations. On the basis of which, regional authorities have developed and are implementing regional plans, within the framework of which a set of organizational and methodological measures is provided: monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the interethnic situation; prevention of interethnic incidents and conflicts, prevention of any forms of discrimination, etc.

According to a preliminary estimate of the Otandastar Foundation, around 1.5 million ethnic Kazakhs wish to return to Kazakhstan from abroad. And this gives a fresh impetus to the development and improvement of diaspora policy. One of the features of the Kazakh diaspora abroad is the hybrid identity of its representatives, which makes interstate interaction possible at a higher quality level.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, in 2021, 17,540 people returned to their historical homeland and received the status of Kandas. In total, 1,088 thousand Kandas have returned to their historical homeland since 1991.

As part of the implementation of the Concept of Migration Policy for 2017-2021, in order to promote the dissemination abroad (for diasporas) of information about the historical homeland and the state policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of migration, a cross-country socio-political, literary and scientific "Tugan-til" almanac is published annually for the Kazakh diaspora abroad. The almanac is distributed through Kazakh cultural centres in the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Turkey, Hungary, and Kyrgyzstan.

Since 2018, the Republic of Kazakhstan has been implementing an Action Plan to support ethnic Kazakhs abroad for 2018-2022 which includes for the development, publication and placement on Internet resources of educational and methodological manuals for ethnic Kazakhs abroad, as well as the provision of Kazakh cultural centres abroad with humanitarian literature upon request.

Objective 20 - Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

In Kazakhstan, the cost of transfers is formed by banks independently based on the competition prevailing in the payment market.

As part of balance of payments statistics, the National Bank of Kazakhstan (NBK) forms a "personal remittances" indicator, which takes into account all current transfers made by resident households to non-resident households or received by resident households from non-resident households.

That is, "Personal Remittances" includes all current transfers (gratuitous transfers) between resident and non-resident individuals, regardless of the source of the sender's income and the relationship between the households.

Personal Remittances often arise as a result of migrant workers sending money to support their relatives in the migrants' country of origin.

According to statistics, Kazakhstan is a net sender of (personal) remittances in relation to other countries. That is, remittances from Kazakhstan exceed their receipts.

According to NBK preliminary data, remittances of resident individuals from Kazakhstan abroad in 2021 amounted to \$1,443.54 million. Remittances from abroad in favor of resident individuals of Kazakhstan amounted to \$306.28 million.

According to the data, remittances of resident individuals abroad in favor of non-resident individuals are mainly sent to CIS countries and some non-CIS countries. According to the NBK, the largest volumes of such remittances fall on the Russian Federation - \$538.33 million, the Republic of Uzbekistan - \$214.31 million, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan - \$167.01 million, Turkey - \$245.74 million, and China \$36.40 million.

The largest volumes of remittances received from abroad in favor of resident individuals of the Republic of Kazakhstan fall on remittances from the Russian Federation - \$62.97 million, Uzbekistan - \$28.81 million, the United States of America - \$64.73 million, and the Republic of Korea - \$50.54 million.

An additional factor stimulating the practice of digital money remittances is the appropriate level of digital financial literacy of both the sender and recipient. In this regard, state programmes to improve financial literacy are implemented in the countries of sending and receiving of remittances. For example, Kazakhstan is implementing the Concept for improving financial literacy for 2020-2024.

Objective 21 - Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

To create a legal basis for the return of irregular migrants, the Republic of Kazakhstan has concluded readmission agreements with 17 countries, including some countries of EU, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. List of countries: Germany (10.12.2009), Switzerland (4.03.2010), Czech Republic (23.02.2011), Latvia (16.09.2011), Lithuania (6.10.2011), the Russian Federation (7.06.2012), Uzbekistan (7.09.2012), Norway (12.10.2012), Belarus (4.10.2013), Hungary (4.06.2014), Benelux countries (2.03.2015), Moldova (02.09.2015), Poland (22.08.2016), Kyrgyzstan (17.10.2016), and Tajikistan (14.03.2018).

Another 27 readmission agreements with neighboring and far-abroad countries are being under development and are at various stages of approval.

Objective 22 - Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

According to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Compulsory Social Insurance", foreigners and stateless persons, as well as kandas permanently residing in the territory of Kazakhstan and carrying out income-generating activities in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, are subject to compulsory social insurance.

In accordance with the Treaty on the EAEU dated May 29, 2014, social security (social insurance) is compulsory insurance in case of temporary disability and maternity, compulsory insurance against industrial accidents and occupational diseases, and compulsory medical insurance.

In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a personalized record of social contributions of each employee is maintained, based on an individual identification number (IIN). Thus, a worker of a member state of the EAEU must, before concluding an employment contract, obtain an IIN, on the basis of which social contributions will be transferred to the State Social Insurance Fund.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Pension Provision in the Republic of Kazakhstan" (hereinafter referred to as the Law), foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan enjoy the right to pension provision on an equal basis with citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, unless otherwise provided by laws and international treaties.

At the same time, the issues of accounting for the length of service worked out in another country for the purpose of providing pensions are resolved through the conclusion of international treaties.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is a party to the Agreement on Guarantees of the Rights of Citizens of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the field of pensions dated March 13, 1992, which provides for accounting for the length of service worked out in the territory of any of the states parties to the Agreement, as well as in the territory of the former USSR in the time before entry by virtue of the Agreement.

As for other states, until 2019, the work experience developed in their territories was not considered when assigning pension payments in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

At the same time, Kazakhstan, without waiting for the conclusion of bilateral agreements, unilaterally, within the framework of its national legislation, settled this issue in relation to ethnic Kazakhs.

So, in accordance with subparagraph 18) of paragraph 1 of Article 13 of the Law, labor activity in the country of departure of ethnic Kazakhs who arrived in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the purpose of permanent residence in their historical homeland is counted in the length of service when assigning pension payments (the norm came into force on January 8, 2019).

On this basis, from the specified date, when assigning pension payments in Kazakhstan, the work experience of ethnic Kazakhs who arrived in the Republic of Kazakhstan, in the country of departure, is included in the length of service.

Since 1 January 2021, the Agreement on Pension Coverage of EAEU Member States came into force. With the adoption of the Agreement, workers of member states and members of their families received equal pension coverage rights, which are formed, maintained and implemented under the same conditions and in the same manner as the citizens of the state of employment.

The agreement made it possible to export pensions of workers. The workers became entitled to a pension in the territory of the state of residence or the member state that granted the pension.

The Agreement guarantees not only retirement pension rights but also disability pension, pension for loss of breadwinner for family members, under the laws of the state of employment.

To this end, the Agreement provides for the right of workers and members of their families to a remote medical examination if they are in one State of the Union and claim and disability pension or pension for loss of breadwinner from another State of the Union. Thus, the implementation of the Agreement increases the level of social protection of citizens of the Union at retirement.

Objective 23 - Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Kazakhstan has established comprehensive regional cooperation by becoming a party to a number of regional agreements, especially within the CIS, and has signed bilateral agreements with Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and others.

The *Almaty Process* is a regional consultative platform on refugee protection and international migration issues affecting Central Asia. The Almaty Process is aimed to address the multiple challenges posed by the dynamics of mixed migration and to enhance regional cooperation and coordination on mixed migration issues.

The Objectives are to facilitate dialogue on international migration and refugee protection issues; to develop mechanisms to monitor and address issues related to irregular migration; to promote a common understanding of the causes and consequences of displacement and migration; to promote coherent, comprehensive, and differentiated policies for people mobility; and to develop an action plan to strengthen the capacity of states to manage migration and provide refugee protection.

The *Prague Process* is a targeted migration dialogue and a policy process promoting migration partnerships among countries of the European Union, Schengen Area, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Central Asia, Russia and Turkey.

In the Joint Declaration, serving as a common political framework, the participating states agreed to strengthen co-operation in migration management, to explore and develop agreed principles and elements for close migration partnerships between their countries, following a comprehensive, balanced, pragmatic and operational approach, and respecting the rights and human dignity of migrants and their family members, as well as of refugees.

Further steps on GCM implementation

Within the framework of the new Concept of Migration Policy for 2022-2026, Kazakhstan will take further steps to enhance the implementation of the GCM, including:

1. Development and updating of Comprehensive development plans for the northern regions, in conjunction with other neighboring regions.
2. Elaboration of the issue of placing the main industrial zones in the northern, central-eastern regions to redistribute the flow of internal migrants from the southern regions.
3. Strengthening efforts to reduce intra-regional disparities through the implementation of measures of the National Project "Strong regions are the driver of the country's development".
4. Studying the flows of migration to improve the system of their accounting.
5. Development of a program to increase the income of the population.
6. Formation of the legislative foundations of the system of social support for citizens, ensuring the systematization of the social rights of citizens, mechanisms for reducing unemployment, as well as dependent approaches in social policy.
7. Elaboration of the issue of creating a single information portal to provide accurate, systematic data on the volume and direction of educational migration.
8. Elaboration of the issue of introducing a mechanism to simplify visa requirements for talented foreign applicants with further simplification of the process of obtaining citizenship for graduates and their families.
9. Improving the mechanisms for attracting highly skilled foreign labor in order to stimulate economic growth.
10. Taking measures to simplify the procedure for the implementation of labor activities by foreign investors and amending the regulatory legal acts, taking into account the approved proposals.
11. Creation of an information system for monitoring the registration of labor immigrants working for individuals in the household.
12. Creation of mechanisms to ensure more accurate accounting of Kazakh citizens traveling to other countries for the purpose of employment, including the promotion of voluntary registration in the

consulates of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the host country with the involvement of consulting organizations providing legal assistance

13. Development of information materials for the preparation of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan traveling for employment abroad (legislation, culture, language, paperwork, etc.).
14. Information support of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan on migration, labour legislation, including on liability for illegal employment in the country of destination.
15. Conducting scientific research on migration processes within the framework of grant and program-targeted funding in order to form a reliable and up-to-date picture of the migration situation, assess the role of migration in the development of the Republic of Kazakhstan and build a fact-based state migration system.