

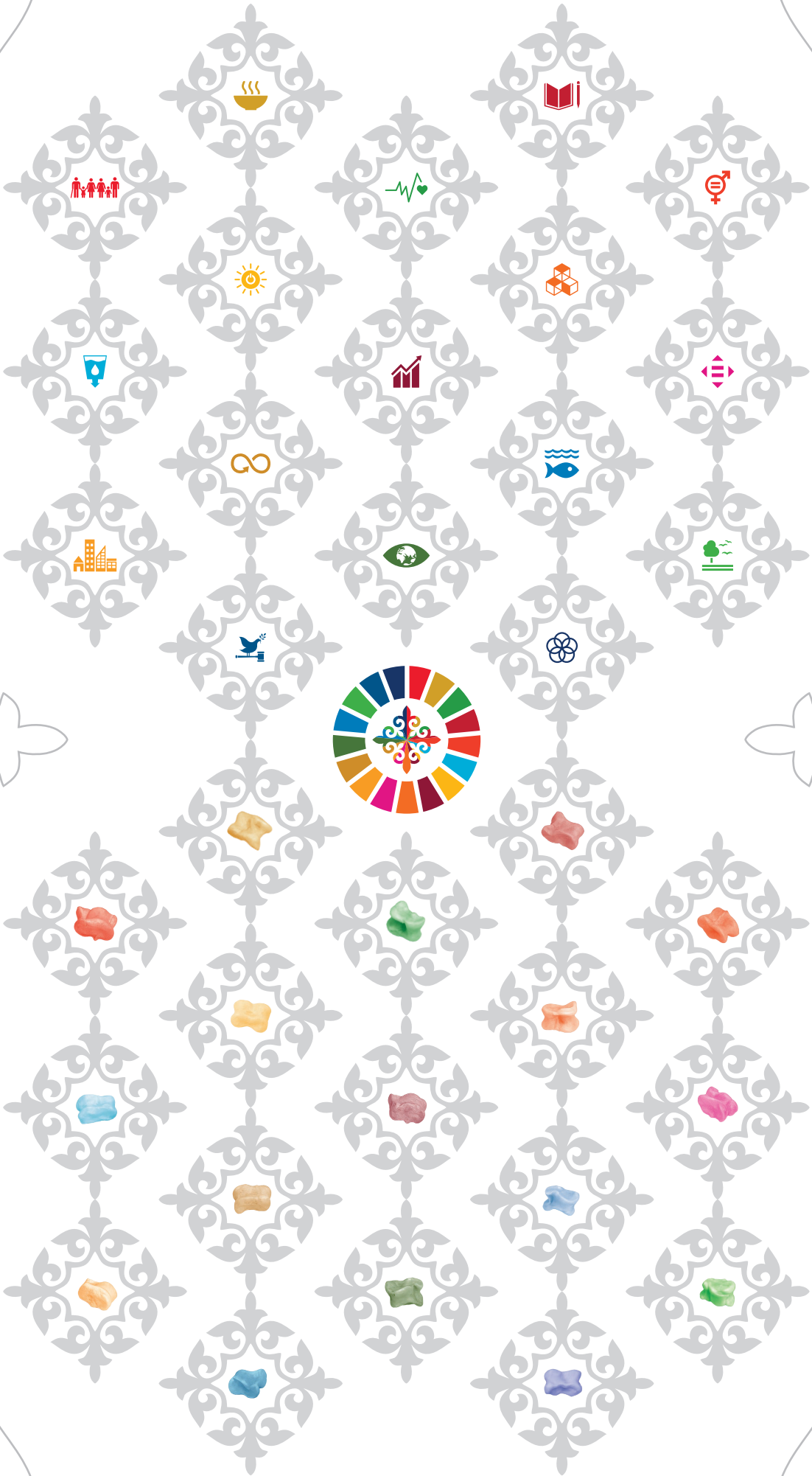
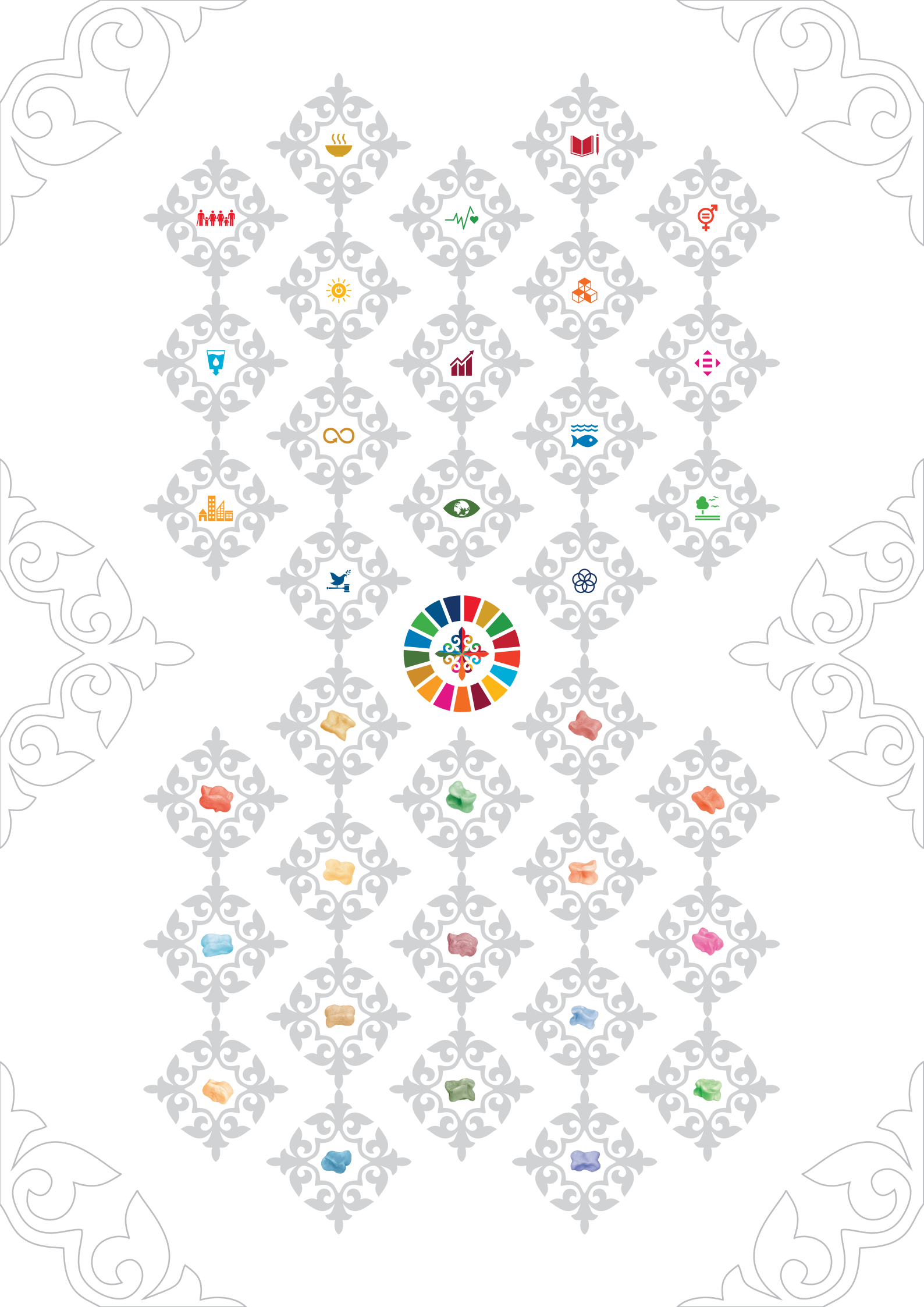
# KAZAKHSTAN



## **THIRD VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW** of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development







## Welcome address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan



### Dear Reader!

Kazakhstan remains firmly committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and presents its Voluntary National Review (VNR) every three years. This is the third review highlighting key achievements, challenges and lessons learned from 2022 to 2024.

Since the submission of the second VNR, notable progress has been made in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

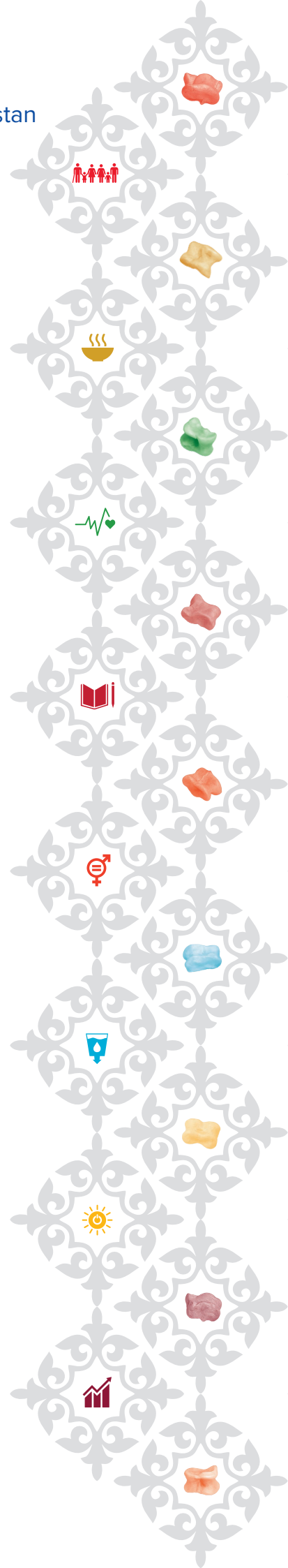
The Government of Kazakhstan has reviewed and updated the national Sustainable Development Goal indicators, taking into account the progress achieved and emerging challenges.

In 2023 a Parliamentary Commission was established in Kazakhstan to monitor the implementation of national SDG-related goals and objectives. The Commission is currently actively engaged in assessing the progress made in realizing the SDGs.

In 2024 the National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029 was adopted. This is the country's key medium-term strategic planning document. The Plan was developed in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and incorporates updated national SDG indicators.

The adoption of the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality of the Republic of Kazakhstan by 2060 is one of the most significant achievements in the area of strategic planning towards the implementation of the Global 2030 Agenda. This Strategy is aligned with global climate trends and is aimed at fulfilling Kazakhstan's international environmental commitments.

Kazakhstan places a high priority on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. In recent years efforts to establish methodological foundations for their implementation at the regional level have intensified. As a result approaches and principles for the localization of the SDGs in the national context have been officially endorsed.





It is worth taking note of the active involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2023 civil forums dedicated to sustainable development were held in all regions of the country. These events contributed to strengthening the dialogue between the government, the population and non-governmental organizations.

The business community is also actively engaged in the implementing of the SDGs. Major companies have begun to adopt Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, integrating sustainability into their strategic and operational processes.

Given both internal and external challenges, it is crucial to critically assess the progress in achieving the goals of the Global 2030 Agenda. The effective implementation of the SDGs requires cooperation at all levels and adherence to its core principle — “Leaving no one behind.”

The preparation of this Review brought together a wide range of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the SDGs in Kazakhstan. The process took into account the views of not only experts and adult citizens, but also youth and schoolchildren. This inclusive approach made it possible to identify priority areas most relevant to the broader public.

In that regard, in addition to the five goals the UN recommended for reporting in 2025, the Review provides an in-depth analysis of three additional Sustainable Development Goals of particular importance to Kazakhstan.

The SDG Coordinating Body, the Secretariat of the SDG Coordination Council and government agencies had the main responsibility for preparing the Review. However, the process was based on the principles of broad participation. It involved representatives of scientific and research institutions, civil society, the private sector, academia and international organizations. All of them made a valuable contribution to assessing progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan.

I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in the preparation of this Review. Through our joint efforts, we have succeeded in developing a comprehensive and transparent document that reflects the perspectives of various segments of the population.

We express our special appreciation to the United Nations Country Team for their technical and financial support. I would like to convey particular thanks to the United Nations Development Programme, which for the third time, has served as the Government’s key partner in this important process; the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator; the United Nations Children’s Fund; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UN Women; the United Nations Population Fund; and other partners who actively contributed to the preparation of the Review.

Kazakhstan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, striving for inclusive economic growth social justice, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

**Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
O.A. Bektenov**



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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>ACC</b>	Agrarian Credit Corporation
<b>ACSA RK</b>	Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AIC</b>	Agro-Industrial Complex
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
<b>AIFC</b>	Astana International Financial Center
<b>APDC RK</b>	Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Protection and Development of Competition
<b>ARB</b>	Apartment residential building
<b>ARDFM RK</b>	Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market
<b>ASPR RK</b>	Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>BNS ASPR</b>	Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>CDL</b>	Clinical and diagnostic laboratory
<b>CDW</b>	Construction and demolished waste
<b>CE</b>	Circular economy
<b>CEAP</b>	Circular Economy Action Plan
<b>CGA</b>	Central government agency
<b>CICA</b>	Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>CPB</b>	Citizen Participation Budget
<b>CSC</b>	Collective Security Council
<b>CSC</b>	Citizen Service Center
<b>CSHI</b>	Compulsory Social Health Insurance
<b>CSRIS</b>	Civil Status Registration Information System
<b>CSTO</b>	Collective Security Treaty Organisation
<b>CWBI</b>	Child Well-Being Index
<b>CWBI</b>	Information and communication technologies
<b>DCA</b>	Designated conservation areas
<b>DESA</b>	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>DFC</b>	Digital Family Card
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>EPR</b>	Extended producer responsibility
<b>ES</b>	Emergency situation

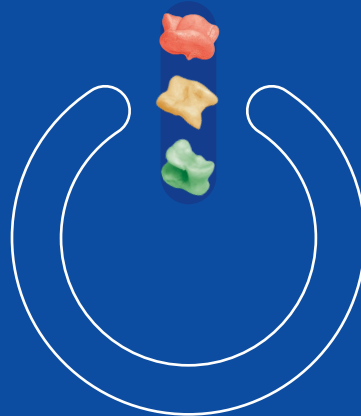
<b>ESG</b>	Environmental, Social, Governance principles
<b>ERG</b>	Eurasian Resources Group
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>F&amp;L</b>	Fuels and lubricants
<b>FAO</b>	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign direct investment
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>GGP</b>	Green Government Procurement
<b>GII</b>	Global Innovation Index
<b>GISS</b>	Government information systems covering subsidies
<b>GSB</b>	Gender-responsive budgeting
<b>GVA</b>	Gross value added
<b>GVFMC</b>	Guaranteed volume of free medical care
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>HEI</b>	Higher Education Institution
<b>HIV</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus
<b>HPS</b>	Hydroelectric power station
<b>HS</b>	Healthy lifestyle
<b>IPO</b>	Initial Public Offering
<b>IPPU</b>	Industrial Processes and Product Use
<b>ISO</b>	International Organization for Standardization
<b>IUUF</b>	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
<b>JSC</b>	Joint Stock Company
<b>LEB</b>	Local executive body
<b>LLP</b>	Limited Liability Partnership
<b>MA RK</b>	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MCI</b>	Monthly Calculation Index
<b>MCI</b>	Minimum calculation index
<b>MCI RK</b>	Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MDDI&amp;AI RK</b>	Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>ME RK</b>	Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>ME RK</b>	Ministry of Enlightenment of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MENR RK</b>	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MES RK</b>	Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MF RK</b>	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MFA RK</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MH RK</b>	Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan



<b>MIA RK</b>	Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MIC RK</b>	Ministry of Industry and Construction of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MICS</b>	Multi-indicator cluster survey
<b>MIPD RK</b>	Ministry of Information and Public Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MJ RK</b>	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MLSPP RK</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MNE RK</b>	Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MSHE RK</b>	Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MSW</b>	Municipal solid waste
<b>MT RK</b>	Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MTI RK</b>	Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MTS RK</b>	Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>MWRI RK</b>	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>NC</b>	National company
<b>NDC of the UNFCCC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NEET</b>	Not in Education, Employment or Training
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NPJSC</b>	Non-profit Joint Stock Company
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PET</b>	Preschool education and training
<b>PGEO</b>	Postgraduate Education Organization
<b>PHC</b>	Primary healthcare
<b>PIRLS</b>	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study
<b>PISA</b>	Programme for International Student Assessment
<b>PPP</b>	Purchasing Power Parity
<b>PPP</b>	Public-private partnership
<b>PRC</b>	People's Republic of China
<b>PS</b>	Penal System
<b>PSF</b>	Preschool facility
<b>PSF</b>	Personal Subsidiary Farm
<b>PwC</b>	PricewaterhouseCoopers
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and development
<b>RCP</b>	Responsible consumption and production
<b>RES</b>	Renewable Energy Source
<b>RK</b>	Republic of Kazakhstan

<b>RSE</b>	Republican State Enterprise
<b>SC RK</b>	Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan
<b>SCO</b>	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SEC</b>	Social and Entrepreneurial Corporation
<b>SEN</b>	Special Educational Needs
<b>SER</b>	State Energy Register
<b>SF</b>	Staple foods
<b>SIGI</b>	Social Institutions and Gender Index
<b>SIP</b>	Small Industrial Park
<b>SMBs</b>	Small and medium-sized businesses
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>SPP</b>	Solar power plant
<b>SSIF</b>	State Social Insurance Fund
<b>SSS</b>	Special social service
<b>STB</b>	Second-tier bank
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
<b>SVF</b>	Socially vulnerable family
<b>TA</b>	Traffic accident
<b>TEU</b>	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
<b>TPP</b>	Thermal power plant
<b>TR</b>	Traffic rules
<b>TSA</b>	Targeted Social Assistance
<b>TVE</b>	Technical and vocational education
<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Office of Education, Science and Culture
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UPPM</b>	Universally progressive patronage model
<b>USD -</b>	United States Dollar
<b>VLR</b>	Voluntary Local Review
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WPP</b>	Wind power plant
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>YHC</b>	Youth Health Center





## INTRODUCTION

Building a sustainable foundation for the country's development is the core objective of Kazakhstan's long-term strategic planning. Therefore the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains a strategic and long-term policy guideline for Kazakhstan, with sustainable development principles integrated into the State Planning System.

Since joining the 2030 Agenda, Kazakhstan has demonstrated a consistent approach to implementing the SDGs, systematically strengthening institutional, regulatory and programmatic mechanisms.

Key strategic documents adopted in recent years, such as the National Development Plan until 2029 and the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060 – both take into account and integrate the principles of sustainable development into the core directions of national policy. These documents establish the prioritization of environmental, economic and social sustainability as the foundation for the country's future development.

Analysing and assessing the implementation of the SDGs through the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) provides a unique opportunity to comprehensively evaluate implemented reforms, track progress and identify persistent challenges – thereby informing the design and implementation of future programmes and corrective measures.

The third Voluntary National Review (VNR-2025) provides an interim and comprehensive assessment of national progress since the beginning of the 2030 Agenda implementation. It reflects the evolution of Kazakhstan's approach to achieving the SDGs.

The first review focused on the institutionalization of the SDGs and the establishment of a foundational governance framework for sustainable development.

The second review emphasized the integration of sustainable development principles into strategic planning and the exploration of opportunities to align budget planning with the SDGs.



The third review focuses on integrating efforts across all stakeholders, including government bodies, civil society, academia, experts and international partners.

A key focus of the current review is the localization of the SDGs – translating global goals into regional and community-level action.

A defining feature of VNR-2025 is the broad participation of civil society and the analysis of the principle "Leave No One Behind". Consultations were conducted across the country's regions to discuss the draft Review with participation from local authorities, members of parliament, civil society, political parties, independent experts, pensioners, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders. A vote on national SDG priorities was held during these consultations.

An essay competition among school students and an online survey among youth were also organized. Student essays were submitted in Kazakh, Russian

and English. The best submissions were incorporated into the Review as reflections of the youth perspective.

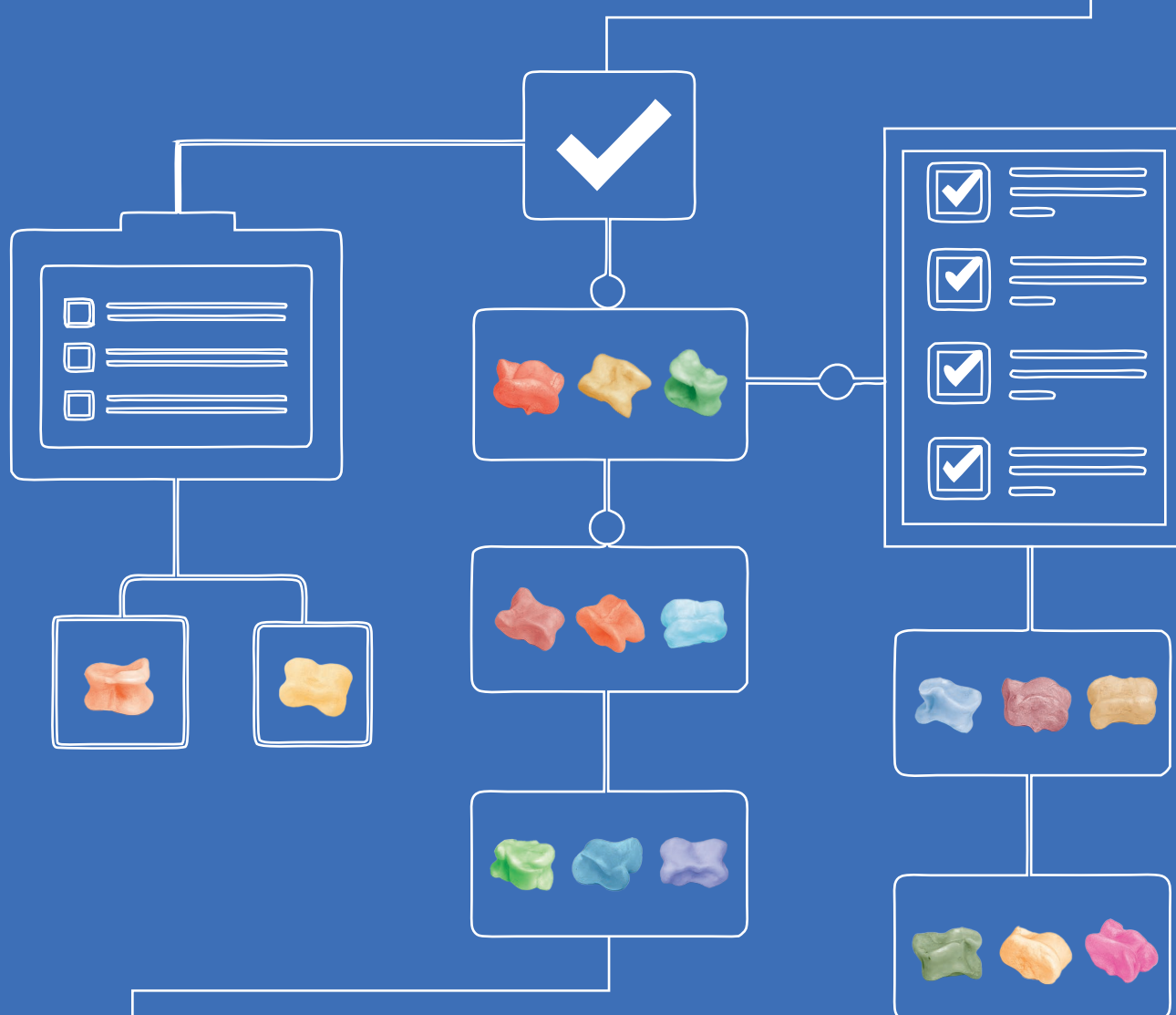
The Review also includes a dedicated section, titled «SDG Generation», featuring insights, evaluations and proposals from youth, NGOs, and activists, as well as their vision for the country's sustainable development future.

Thus the third Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Kazakhstan highlights both progress and the strengthening of the national approach to achieving the SDGs – through systemic efforts, partnerships and a results-oriented focus.



# 1. METHODOLOGY AND REVIEW PREPARATION PROCESS

- 1.1. Methodological approaches for the preparation of a Voluntary National Review
- 1.2. Interaction with stakeholders



## 1.1. Methodological approaches for the preparation of a Voluntary National Review

Kazakhstan continues to improve its methodology for preparing the Voluntary National Review (VNR). The methodology of the third Review was developed in accordance with the Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (2024 edition), issued by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, taking into account the experience gained from preparing the two previous reviews. To incorporate international best practices, VNRs submitted by various countries in 2023–2024 were also studied.

The preparation of this Review began with the approval of its Preparation Plan by the Coordination Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the SDGs, which outlined the main preparatory processes (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Preparation of the third VNR

The methodology for preparing the VNR was based on the core SDG principle — «**Leave no one behind**».

The preparation process included extensive consultations across the country's regions with representatives from government bodies, civil society, international organizations, experts, and the academic community. These consultations were held both online and offline. To reflect the voices of different age groups, a youth survey was conducted, along with an essay competition for school students.

Moreover, digital tools were actively utilized in the preparation of the Review. The draft document was uploaded to a cloud platform, where anyone interested could leave comments and submit suggestions.

Both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis were employed during development of the Review. By gathering and analysing public opinion, the process helped identify the most pressing national priorities requiring deeper examination and targeted action. Thus, this VNR provides systematic information on Kazakhstan's progress across all 17 SDGs. At the same time, it offers in-depth analysis of selected priority goals.

This Review brings together the assessment of SDG progress from both the Government and civil society. The civil society assessment was conducted by the ALE «Association for the Development of Civil Society «ARGO» in collaboration with the Public Opinion Research Center «CIOM» and with support from the Action for Sustainable Development initiative. In conducting the civil society evaluation, the People's Scorecard methodology was used, which is based on the opinions and perceptions of civil society organizations (CSOs) regarding SDG implementation.

### *Approaches to selecting priority sustainable development goals in Kazakhstan*

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The priority goals presented in the Review are divided into two groups. The first group includes goals recommended by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA):

**SDG 3** «Good Health and Well-being», **SDG 5** «Gender Equality», **SDG 8** «Decent Work and Economic Growth», **SDG 14** «Life Below Water», and **SDG 17** «Partnerships for the Goals».

The second group of priority goals was identified based on the results of surveys conducted during the preparation of this Review. The surveys were carried out in two formats:

- 1) As part of the consultations held to discuss the draft Review, a voting process was organized with the participation of **702** individuals from twenty regions of the country. Participants included representatives of local executive bodies, political parties, civil society, the academic community, and independent experts.
- 2) With UNICEF support a survey was conducted on the «U-Report» platform among children and youth under 35 years. A total of **3,123** people participated in the survey, **68** percent of whom were girls and women. The majority of respondents were aged 15–19 years (Figure 2).

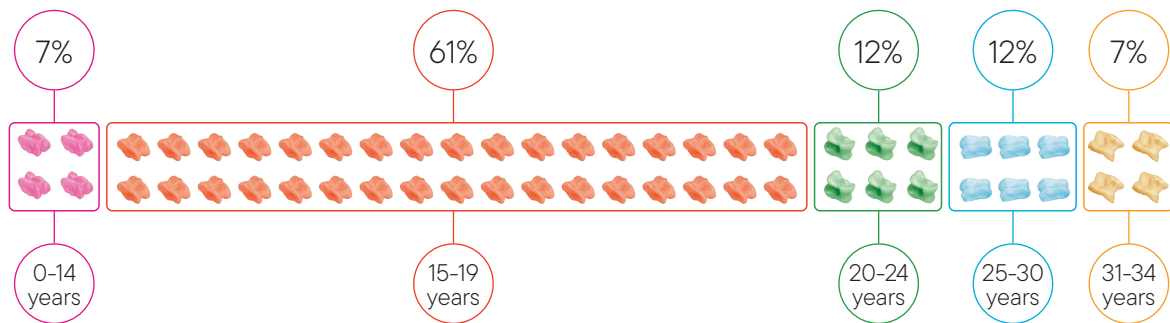


Figure 2. Age distribution of respondents participating in the survey on priority SDG selection

The survey revealed that people of different ages prioritize issues differently. Adults more often highlight social issues—such as health, education, and support for those in need. Youth view environmental protection and the preservation of peace as particularly important. More than **60** percent of youth who participated in the survey chose **SDG 12** «Responsible Consumption and Production», **46** percent selected **SDG 16** «Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions», **38** percent – **SDG 8** «Decent Work and Economic Growth», **35** percent – **SDG 17** «Partnerships for the Goals», and **33** percent – **SDG 1** «No Poverty».

Thus, the survey results show that sustainable use of natural resources and the promotion of peace are top priorities for young people.

This was also confirmed by the results of the student essay contest: the majority of essays focused on **SDG 12** «Responsible Consumption and Production» and **SDG 16** «Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions».

### A Youth Perspective

(translated from Kazakh to English)



“

Personally, I am deeply concerned about environmental issues in Kazakhstan. More and more often, I find myself asking: can we truly pass on the legacy we've inherited, untouched and unspoiled, to those who come after us?

According to data, Kazakhstan generates an average of 4.5 million tons of household waste annually. According to the latest data, the country's population exceeds 20 million people. This means that each resident «produces» over 200 kilogrammes of waste per year on average.

Waste is a threat. It pollutes the air, soil, and water, and can cause irreversible damage to nature. Today, the problem of air pollution in major cities is especially pressing. For example, according to IQAir, the air pollution index in Almaty is 135, and in Karaganda – 286.



*Garbage harms not only human health but also the entire environment. That's why I believe this issue must be addressed urgently. In my view, solving the waste problem will also help us tackle other challenges -, such as improving air quality, reducing harm to health, and preventing forest fires. It is vital to develop and implement various waste recycling methods, as we no longer have the luxury of time. However, today in Kazakhstan, less than a quarter of all waste is recycled.*

*I believe that solving environmental problems requires every individual to feel personally responsible. Environmental education should begin in school. This will help foster environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility in society. Ecological thinking is the ability to find scientific solutions to key problems, including waste management.*

*As the saying goes, "Two heads are better than one". Only through collective effort can we lay a strong foundation for sustainable development – for no challenge can be solved in isolation. Then, perhaps, we will breathe clean air, walk through green parks, and be proud that we preserved the natural wealth passed down to us by our ancestors for future generations.*

*Aruzhan Ömirtaikyzy, 11th grade student,  
School-Lyceum №38 named after Alimkhan Yermekov, Astana city,  
Winner of the national student essay competition*



Based on the survey results, the following SDGs were identified as priorities, each receiving over **30** percent of total respondent votes:

- **SDG 12** «Responsible Consumption and Production» (52%);
- **SDG 16** «Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions» (38%);
- **SDG 3** «Good Health and Well-being» (35%);
- **SDG 8** «Decent Work and Economic Growth» (38%);
- **SDG 1** «No Poverty» (32%);
- **SDG 17** «Partnerships for the Goals» (31%).

Three out of the six priority goals identified by the population coincided with the priorities highlighted by the UN. This indicates that most of the SDGs recommended by UN DESA align with Kazakhstan's national priorities.

As a result, this Review provides a detailed analysis of the following eight SDGs:

- 1) **SDG 1** «No Poverty»;
- 2) **SDG 3** «Good Health and Well-being»;
- 3) **SDG 5** «Gender Equality»;
- 4) **SDG 8** «Decent Work and Economic Growth»;
- 5) **SDG 12** «Responsible Consumption and Production»;
- 6) **SDG 14** «Life Below Water»;
- 7) **SDG 16** «Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions»;
- 8) **SDG 17** «Partnerships for the Goals».

## Sources of information and coordination during the Review preparation process

The analysis of the dynamics of national SDG indicators was based on data from the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and departmental statistics provided by central government agencies. Additionally, data from international organization reports were used.

Preparatory work began in 2023. That same year, the Economic Research Institute, with the support of the European Union (EU) and the UNDP in Kazakhstan, conducted an analysis of the interlinkages between SDG goals and indicators. This enabled the update of national targets and indicators, the results of which were used in 2024 for the actualization of the SDGs.

Furthermore, in December 2024, the Secretariat of the SDG Coordination Council conducted a preliminary review of the dynamics of national indicators in terms of progress toward achieving the SDGs in Kazakhstan.

As part of the Review preparation, civil society conducted an assessment of SDG implementation through public surveys, allowing for a comprehensive evaluation that incorporates public opinion.

During the Review preparation process, statistical data verification was carried out using various methods. The analyses and conclusions drawn from these data were coordinated with representatives of government bodies, NGOs, industry experts, and other stakeholders.

## Barriers

The preparation of the third Review demonstrated a gradual improvement in the official statistics database. The update of national indicators made it possible to establish a list with corresponding calculation methodologies.

However, several challenges were identified during the preparation of the Voluntary National Review and the effective implementation of the SDGs:

1. *Limited access to and low quality of certain data – for several indicators involving multiple stakeholders, clarification of data sources was necessary.*
2. *Lack of a comprehensive system monitoring methodology – this restricts the timely collection of data on SDG progress.*
3. *Absence of a database on the private sector's contribution to SDG implementation – this hampers full evaluation of several SDG-related activities.*
4. *Financial constraints – these remain a key limiting factor in accelerating SDG implementation.*
5. *Shortage of qualified professionals – there is a deficit in specialists with the necessary analytical skills and practical experience in implementing sustainable development tasks.*

## 1.2. Interaction with stakeholders

### *Stakeholders involved in the development of the Review*

The preparation of the Review was based on an inclusive approach, involving government agencies, the parliament, the private sector, civil society, youth, academia, UN agencies, and other interested parties.

In accordance with the decision of the Coordination Council, the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (*hereinafter – Economic Research Institute*) was appointed as the body responsible for preparing the Review (Figure 3).

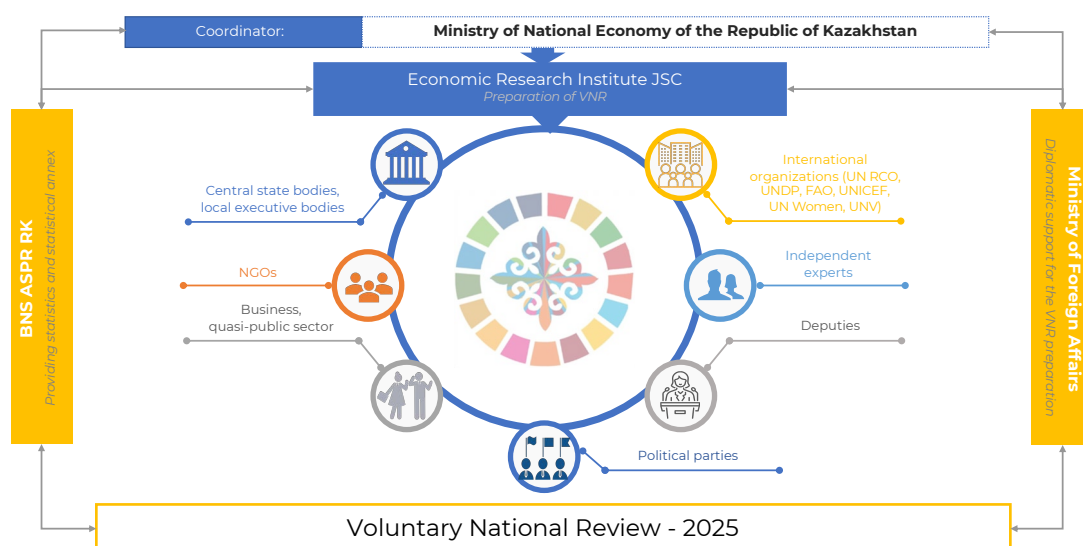


Figure 3. Interaction of stakeholders when preparing the VNR

The draft of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) underwent several stages of discussion with the involvement of all interested parties, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to its preparation.

Throughout the development of the Review, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan adhered to the core principle of the 2030 Agenda — «Leave no one behind». To support this, consultations were held across all regions of the country with the participation of various population groups. These consultations enabled the consideration of multiple perspectives and the diverse needs of citizens.

**The Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan played a key role in collecting statistical data and also prepared the statistical annex for the Review.**

**Approximately 5,000 individuals were involved in the preparation of the third Voluntary National Review (VNR).** The discussion of the draft Review took place in two stages.

The first stage began in February 2025 with a hybrid seminar that included representatives of central government bodies, international organizations, MPs, the Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan, other NGOs, independent experts, and representatives from the quasi-public sector. To discuss the draft Review and gather public input on priority goals, regional outreach seminars and online meetings were organized.

For broader public engagement, additional outreach seminars and online consultations were held in the regions (Figure 4).



*Figure 4. Regional seminars to discuss the draft Review and SDG localization*



To ensure maximum consideration of stakeholder opinions, a cloud document was created providing all participants with open access to the draft Review allowing suggestions and comments to be submitted in real time.

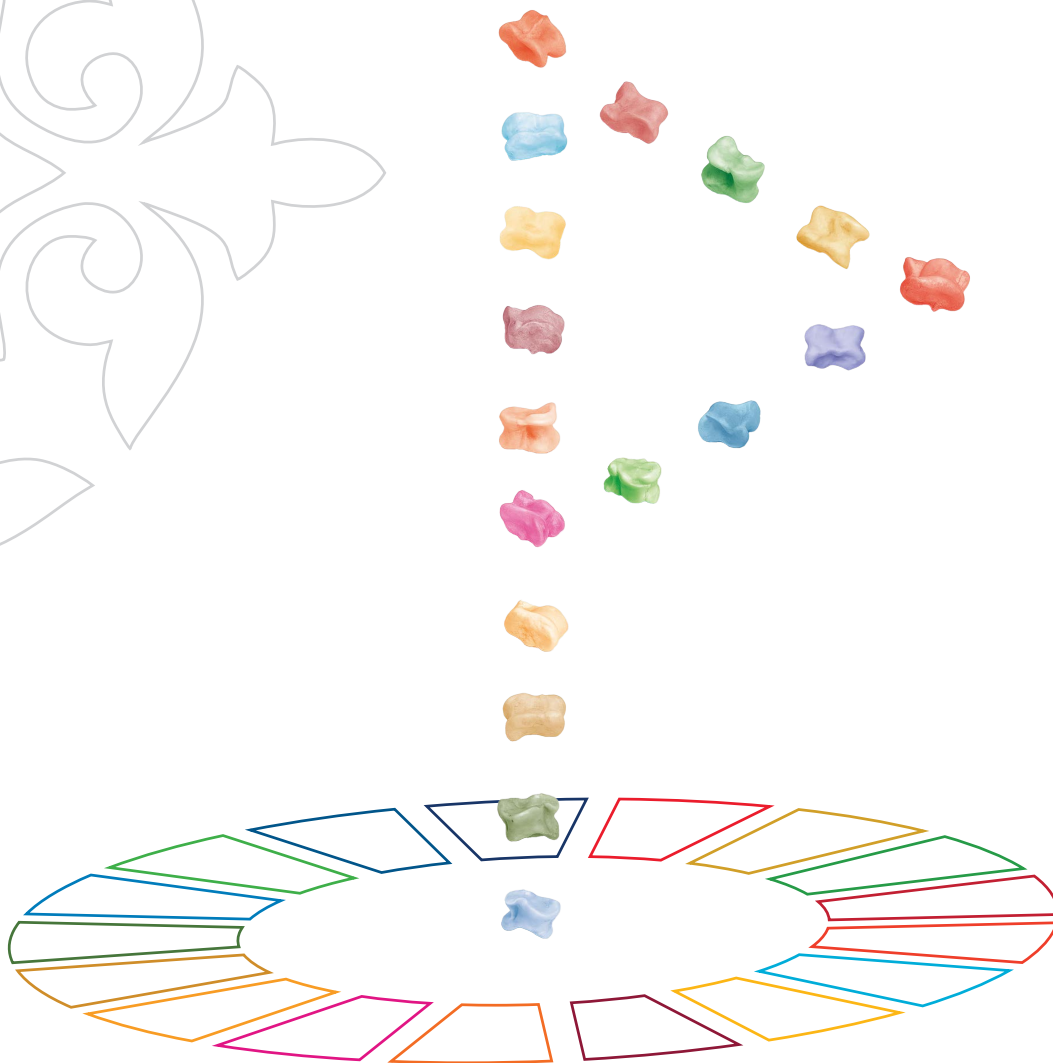
At the second stage, the content of the Review was validated – a collective proofreading and coordination of the text took place online with all interested parties.

The final stage of validation of the VNR project was its discussion at the meeting of the Coordination Council on Sustainable Development, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of the National Economy. The final discussion included heads of government agencies and representatives of international organizations involved in the document's preparation (Figure 5).



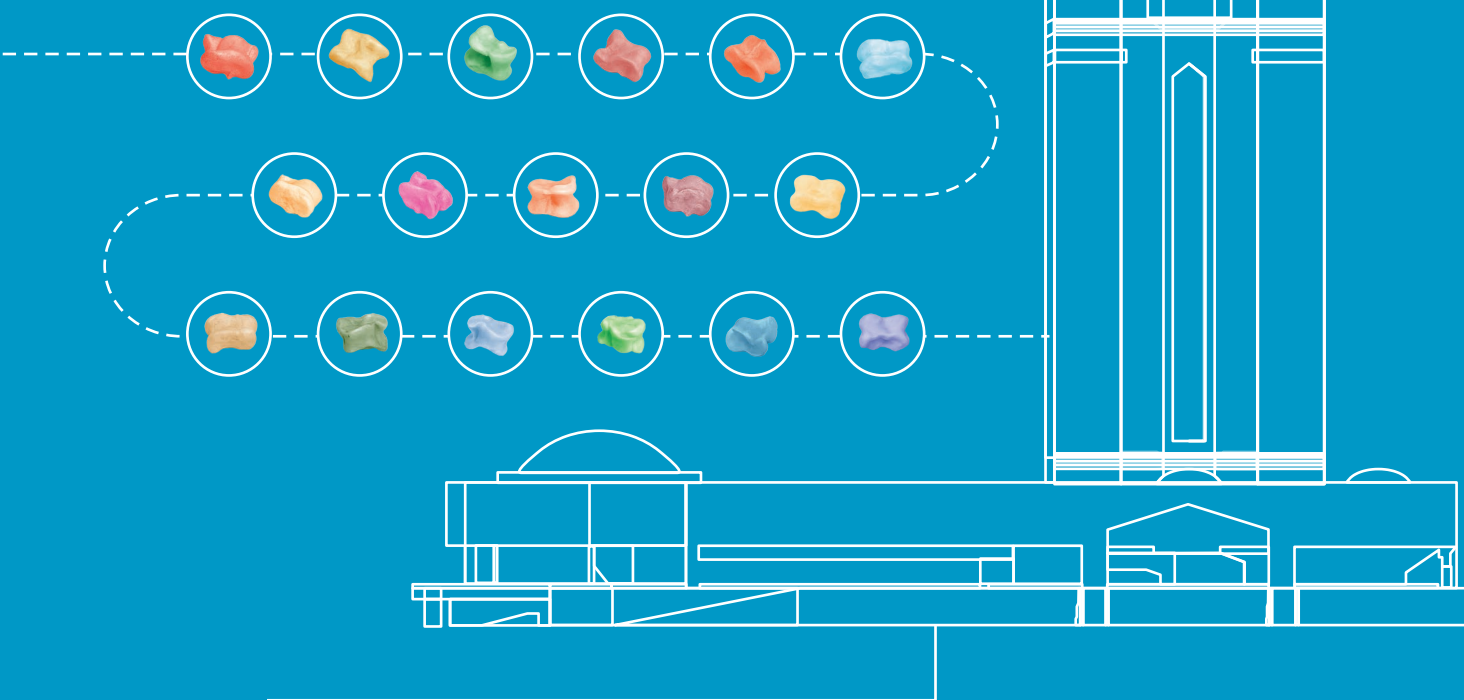
Figure 5. Final discussion on approving the Review

Thus during the preparation of the Review the participants' gender, age and professional characteristics were taken into account ensuring the final document was both inclusive and representative.



## 2. STATE POLICY OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

- 2.1. State institutions ensuring the implementation of the SDGs
- 2.2. Integrating the SDGs into state and regional planning
- 2.3. Implementation of the principle «Leave No One Behind»
- 2.4. Contribution of volunteering to the implementation of the «Leave no one Behind» principle
- 2.5. SDG Generation
- 2.6. Entrepreneurial initiatives as a means of implementing the SDGs



## 2.1. State institutions ensuring the implementation of the SDGs

One of the key factors for the successful implementation of the 2030 Global Agenda is the effectiveness of national institutions. As noted in the first Voluntary National Review, a national coordination architecture for the SDGs was established in 2018 through the Coordinating Council of SDGs under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Figure 6).

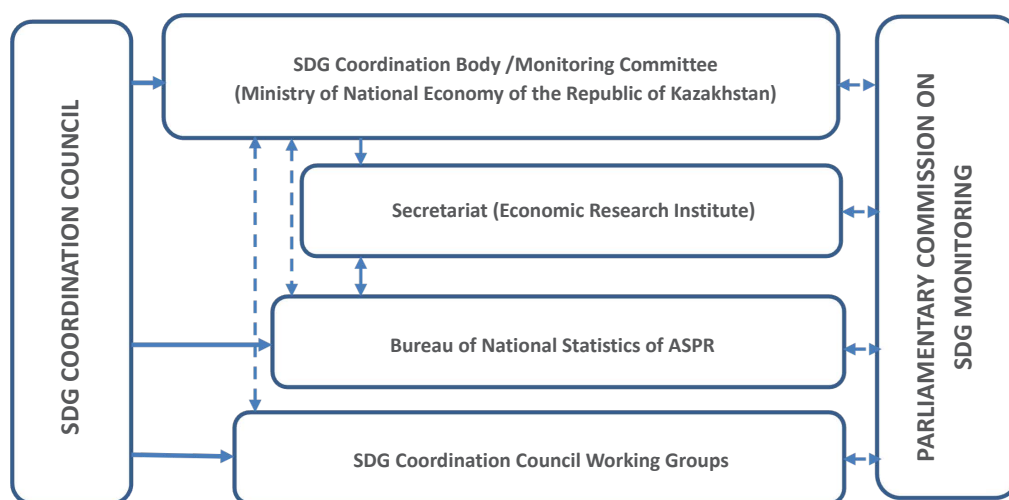


Figure 6. Institutional framework for SDG nationalization

As of today, the Council is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. The Council's main tasks include:

- Developing proposals to form a unified policy for SDG implementation in Kazakhstan;
- Coordinating the work of interagency working groups on various SDG areas;
- Providing recommendations for SDG fulfillment.

To ensure effective operations, five key working groups were established. Coordination is carried out by the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, responsible for sustainable development measures and interagency coordination.



The «**PEOPLE**» working group covers social SDGs: **SDG 1** «No Poverty»; **SDG 2** «Zero Hunger»; **SDG 3** «Good Health and Well-being»; **SDG 4** «Quality Education»; and **SDG 5** «Gender Equality».

The «**PROSPERITY**» group addresses goals linked to welfare and sustainable economic growth: **SDG 7** «Affordable and Clean Energy»; **SDG 8** «Decent Work and Economic Growth»; **SDG 9** «Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure»; **SDG 10** «Reduced Inequalities»; and **SDG 11** «Sustainable Cities and Communities».

The «**PLANET**» group includes environmental goals: **SDG 6** «Clean Water and Sanitation»; **SDG 12** «Responsible Consumption and Production»; **SDG 13** «Climate Action»; **SDG 14** «Life Below Water»; and **SDG 15** «Life on Land».

**SDG 16** «Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions» is handled by a dedicated «**PEACE**» group focusing on violence reduction, illicit flow control, effective institutions, and access to information.

**SDG 17** «Partnerships for the Goals» is also treated separately, emphasizing enhanced collaboration among government, business, international organizations and other stakeholders.

The Bureau of National Statistics under the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of Kazakhstan the main body responsible for data collection on SDG indicators.

To establish an SDG monitoring system, the **Committee for monitoring the achievement of SDGs** was created in 2021 under the Ministry of National Economy. It takes prompt actions and monitors SDG implementation. **Economic Research Institute JSC** acts as the Secretariat for both the SDG Coordination Council and Monitoring Committee, providing analytical and expert support. The establishment of the **Parliamentary Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of National Goals and Objectives** in the Field of Sustainable Development in 2023 was one of the key achievements in the process of improving the institutions responsible for the implementation of the SDGs in Kazakhstan. The creation of the Parliamentary Commission finalised the institutional architecture of SDG governance in Kazakhstan.

The Parliament carries out systematic work to achieve the SDGs in close cooperation with the Government, experts and civil society. Particular attention is paid to monitoring and analysing progress on the SDGs within the framework of the Parliamentary Commission on Sustainable Development, supported by the UN structures.

## SDGs – focus on the Senate's «School of Analytics» project



In 2024, the topic of the SDGs became a central theme in the Senate's public project «School of Analytics». This volunteer-based educational platform was initiated by the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. All activities are conducted free of charge and outside regular working hours.

The course was entirely dedicated to sustainable development in Kazakhstan. Participants learned practical methods for data collection and analysis, public policy evaluation, and the formulation of evidence-based analytical conclusions. The training was delivered by leading national and international experts, analysts, and public officials.

The program culminated in the production of **13** analytical reports prepared by teams in collaboration with experienced mentors. These works addressed five priority SDGs identified through a nationwide sociological survey conducted during the preparation of Kazakhstan's Voluntary National Review presented at the UN in 2022: SDG 1 «No Poverty», SDG 3 «Good Health and Well-being», SDG 4 «Quality Education», SDG 6 «Clean Water and Sanitation», SDG 8 «Decent Work and Economic Growth»

All analytical reports were compiled into a publication titled «Kazakhstan's Sustainable Development Course», published at the conclusion of the project.

An analysis of the implementation of the SDGs demonstrates that their effective realization requires the establishment of a comprehensive system for SDG localization. In 2023 Economic Research Institute JSC, with UNDP support, conducted a study on SDG localization. The pilot regions selected for this study were the **Kyzylorda region** and the newly formed **Abai, Zhetysu, and Ulytau** regions. This study revealed the need to develop specific mechanisms for SDG implementation at the local level.

The SDG localization process in Kazakhstan is taking on a multisectoral character. In addition to government bodies, civil society, the private sector and international organizations are involved in its implementation (Figure 7).

The roles of participants in the SDG localization process can be conditionally divided into the following areas:

- Coordination of the localization process (Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, central state bodies).
- Ensuring institutional and methodological foundations (Ministry of National Economy, Economic Research Institute JSC, international organizations).
- Statistical data collection (Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan, central state bodies).

Currently, active efforts are underway to establish institutions for SDG implementation at the local level, with working groups already formed in some regions.

- Providing expert support (Economic Research Institute JSC, international organizations, academia, NGOs).
- Financial support (central state bodies, international organizations, business);
- Implementation of practical projects, i.e., initiating local initiatives (local executive bodies, business, NGOs).
- Promoting initiatives through dialogue platforms (Parliament, political parties).

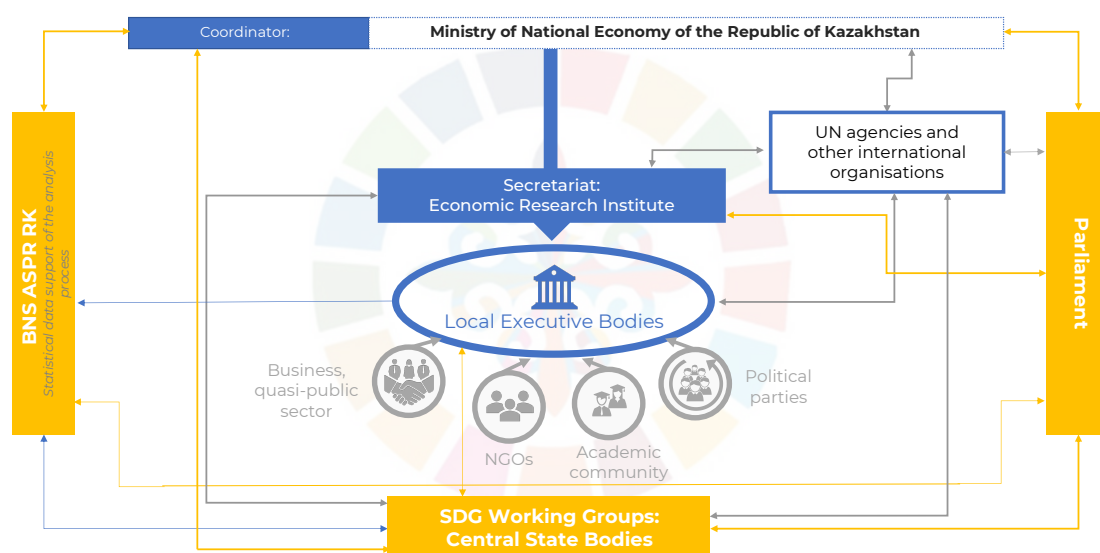


Figure 7. Participants in the SDG localization process

Practice shows that while the process of nationalizing the SDGs is generally carried out in a centralized manner, in contrast, localization, on the contrary, implies a more decentralized approach. In most cases, participants in the process act on their own initiative at various levels of regional governance. In turn this makes it possible to cover both regional centres but also remote rural settlements, promoting broad and inclusive outreach.

## MIND Accelerator as a mechanism for localizing SDGs at the regional level



In 2024, an SDG Accelerator was launched at the initiative of the Public Project Office of the Senate of Parliament, in collaboration with the MIND Research and Analytical Center at Maqsut Narikbayev University and the Akimat of Akmola Region. The MIND Accelerator brought together MPs, the academic community, local authorities, civil society, and international organizations.

As part of the 100-day acceleration program, **11** project teams were formed across eight SDGs, including SDGs 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 16. The accelerator resulted in the development of legislative recommendations and a portfolio of pilot project solutions, including the digitalization of local representative bodies (E-Maslikhat), automation of road warranties, implementation of Face ID in preschool education, and QR control in colleges.

Mainly grassroots initiatives are implemented with the support of international organizations and businesses.

## Collaboration between civil society and an international organization



In 2024, the «Association for the Development of Civil Society «ARGO» launched the project «GLocal – Promoting SDG Localization in Kazakhstan» in partnership with «ECOCENTER» and «Support for Initiative». The project is being implemented in two pilot locations – Karkaralinsk (Karaganda Region) and the village of Kamystybas (Kyzylorda Region) – with EU financial support.

The main goal of the project is to implement an effective and inclusive model for local development through the localization of the SDGs. As part of the project, working groups were formed, over **80** people received training on SDG-related topics, advocacy, and digital skills, and an interactive game called «Mission 2030» was organized.

The project helped to identify priority SDGs for both regions based on local population feedback and ensured their integration into development plans for 2025–2027. For the rural locality of Kamystybas, the priority SDGs were 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 14; for the city of Karkaralinsk – SDGs 1, 3, 8, and 9.

Consultations conducted during the preparation of the VNR are as follows:

*First*, enhancing coordination between central government bodies and local executive authorities is essential.

*Second*, mechanisms should be developed motivating businesses to take a more active role in achieving the SDGs.

Kazakhstan has established comprehensive institutional architecture to support the implementation of the SDGs. However, the effectiveness of its operation largely depends on alignment with national and regional planning processes.

## 2.2. Integrating the SDGs into state and regional planning

The Government of Kazakhstan is actively working to improve strategic planning focused on achieving concrete results. The introduction of sustainable development principles presents opportunities to enhance the national planning system. Accordingly, to effectively integrate the SDGs into national and regional planning processes, the Government is undertaking consistent and phased measures.

Since 2021, all documents within the national planning system have been developed with reference to national SDG indicators. This requirement is enshrined in the Government Decree on the State Planning System. To fulfill this requirement, a list of national SDG indicators up to 2030 was approved in 2021.

The national indicators are regularly updated to reflect contemporary realities. In 2024, these indicators were revised. The update considered strategic goals, sectoral policies, and the adequacy and relevance of specific indicators.

During the update, some indicators were excluded based on the following criteria:

- Irrelevance of the indicator;
- Duplication of metrics already covered under other SDGs;
- Full achievement of the indicator's target value. Based on this criterion, indicator 11.3.2 – «Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management operating regularly and democratically» – was excluded.

The revised list of national SDG indicators includes 200 indicators divided into two categories: current indicators and monitoring indicators. Of these, 69 are classified as current, and 131 as for monitoring purposes – meaning that 35 percent of all indicators are deemed current (Figure 8).





Figure 8. National SDG indicators

**MONITORING INDICATORS** are metrics that do not require mandatory inclusion in strategies, state programs or governmental planning documents. They are primarily used to track overall progress.

**CURRENT INDICATORS** are metrics recommended for mandatory integration into existing documents within the national planning system to ensure effective achievement of the country's strategic objectives. Their selection during the update was based on the following criteria:

- Progress dynamics in achieving the goals
- interconnection with other SDG targets and indicators (including dependencies and impacts)
- feedback from stakeholders

Currently, the majority of the current national indicators have been integrated into the following documents within the National Planning System:

- The National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029
- development plans of central state bodies
- regional development plans, cities of republican significance, and the capital

The Methodological Guidelines for Localizing the SDGs in the Republic of Kazakhstan, adopted in 2024, laid a solid methodological foundation for systematically integrating SDGs into regional planning processes. This document has become an important tool for adapting global sustainable development priorities to the socio-economic and environmental specificities of the regions. Following its adoption, explanatory sessions were conducted in several regions (Figure 9).



*Figure 9. Presentation of the localization methodology in Almaty*

As part of a study on SDG localization, conducted by the Economic Research Institute with UNDP support, a regional list of sustainable development indicators was developed, in accordance with the principle of decomposition.

To fully integrate the SDGs into national and regional planning, it is advisable to define approaches for systematic monitoring.

The VNR provides a comprehensive analysis of progress across all sustainable development tasks. The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan submits such a review every three years, contributing to a systematic assessment of SDG implementation.

Moreover, it is essential to develop unified methodological approaches for monitoring the implementation of SDGs at both the central and local levels, ensuring the mandatory inclusion of the contributions from civil society and the business sector.

In Kazakhstan, NGOs implement numerous social projects aimed at improving quality of life, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social stability, funded through the state budget and international support. For the effective implementation of SDGs, a monitoring tool utilizing digital technologies is essential.

At the local level, the city of Almaty currently remains the only city to have prepared a Voluntary Local Review (VLR). The first VLR on the implementation of SDGs in Almaty was presented in 2023 and published on the UN website. However, it is advisable to develop unified methodological requirements for the preparation of such reviews. This would enable the VLR to serve as an effective tool for monitoring SDG localization at the regional level.

Currently, civil society is initiating the development of platforms for monitoring the implementation of NGO projects related to the SDGs. Notably, NGOs in Kazakhstan increasingly taking responsibility for promoting public awareness the SDGs into public awareness.

In 2024, the Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan developed a **pilot monitoring platform to monitor public procurement under the government social order** using Almaty city as an example. This platform includes monitoring of **55** SDG indicators (Figure 10).

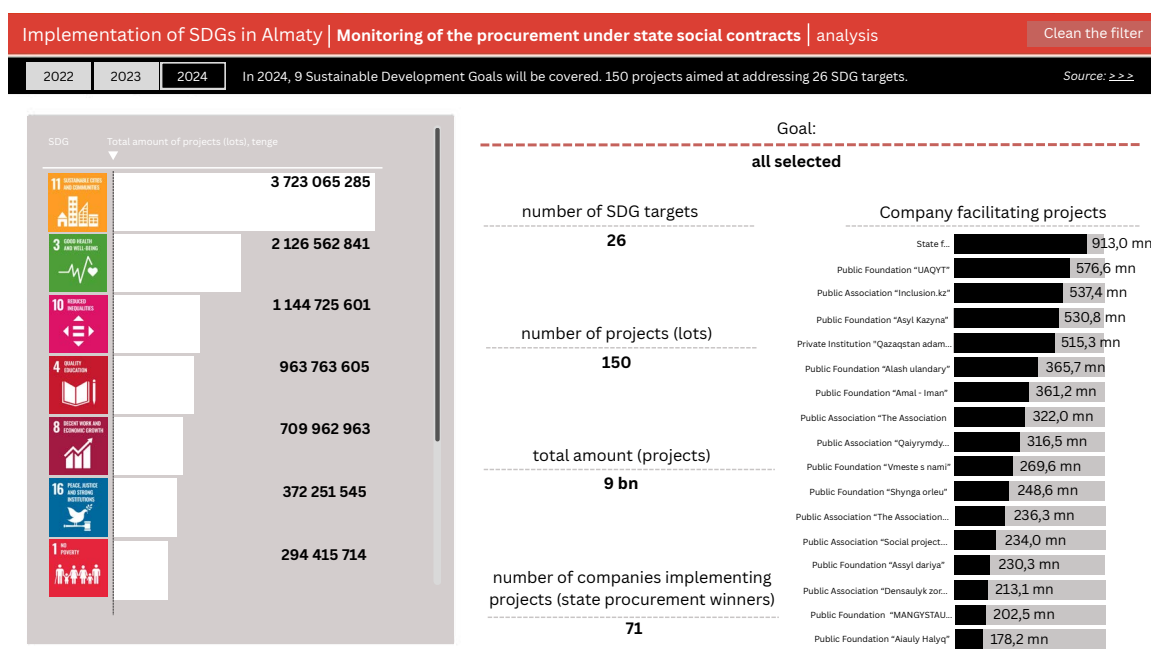


Figure 10. Platform for monitoring state social procurement developed by the Civic Alliance of Kazakhstan

As part of the development of the monitoring process, Kazakhstan places special emphasis on cooperation both with civil society and other countries. This approach facilitates the exchange of experience and continuous improvement of SDG implementation mechanisms.

Particular attention should be given to the support provided by international organizations in promoting SDG monitoring within a regional context. In 2023, with the technical and methodological support of the EU and UNDP, a Monitoring Platform for SDGs in Central Asian countries was developed.

With assistance from the governments of the Central Asian countries, an analysis of the interlinkages between the SDGs was conducted, taking into account the socio-economic characteristics of each region (Figure 11).



*Figure 11. Discussion on the relationship between sustainable development objectives and indicators in Central Asian countries*

An analysis of the current situation the state of SDG integration into national and regional planning indicates that Kazakhstan possesses significant potential to establish a comprehensive planning cycle – from development through the evaluation and audit of SDG achievement levels.

## 2.3. Implementation of the principle «Leave No One Behind»

The fundamental principles of public administration in Kazakhstan are closely linked to the core principle of sustainable development – «**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**».

Democracy is a paramount constitutional value in Kazakhstan, and a central component of the President's recent reform agenda has been the adoption of the «Listening State» concept. On 2 September 2019 the President's Address to the People of Kazakhstan emphasized the need to implement the «Listening State» concept.

**The «Listening State»** is a concept of public policy that focuses on the government's active engagement with citizens, understanding their issues and needs. Its goal is to ensure that citizens' voices are not only heard but also taken into account in the decision-making process.

The general idea behind the concept of the «Listening State» is that a diversity of opinions exists within society, and the state must take steps to hear all voices, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, gender, or other factors.

Thus, the «Listening State» concept is based on principles of openness and transparency. Public authorities are required to be open to the public, publish information about their activities, and participate in open discussions. Administrative decisions should be guided by the pursuit of specific, measurable outcomes that enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

To implement the «Listening State» principle, phased measures are being introduced:

*Firstly* in 2023, the **Law «On Public Control»** was adopted. Its main goal is to enhance the openness and transparency of government operations and encourage civic engagement in decision-making processes. The law provides a range of mechanisms for public oversight, including the establishment of independent public councils, holding public hearings for making key decisions, access to government-related information, and the creation of bodies enabling citizens to report rule and law violations.

*Secondly*, feedback mechanisms between public officials and the population have been developed. One such mechanism for implementing the “Listening State” principle is the establishment of permanent public and online reception offices within central and local government bodies. To ensure standardized interactions with citizens, a **Citizen reception centre** operates actively, enabling heads of central and local executive bodies to receive citizens according to a unified schedule in response to public demand, regional and city administrations have established **129** front offices, covering all regional centres several cities of regional significance and district centres.

Moreover, in the spirit of transparency and openness, sessions of the Parliament chambers are broadcast live on state television channels.

The **Public Council** is one of the most effective and large-scale consultative mechanisms. Currently, **264** Public Councils operate across the country – **36** at the national level and **228** at the local level.

*Thirdly*, digital platforms for public proposals have been implemented. The **«E-Otinish» information system** operates on a «one-stop-shop» principle. Over **50,000** organizations are connected to E-Otinish, and the system accepts all types of appeals. In the past five years, the number of appeals has more than doubled. This growing activity reflects the trust of the public in the Head of State and indicates a genuine need to be heard.

Since April 2024, the official **online petition platform «Epetition.kz»** has been operational. Petitions can be submitted via both mobile and desktop versions of the site. Citizens can support a petition using an electronic digital signature or the cloud-based Digital ID signature, without needing to log in to the website.



## «E-petition» module

The «E-Petition» module is designed to create and submit petitions for consideration by the administrative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This module has been operating successfully on the «E-Otinish» platform since 4 April, 2024.

As of 2024, more than 1,054 petition drafts have been submitted. Of these, only 91 passed moderation and reached the initial threshold of 50 votes. Among them, the following four petitions went on to reach the required 50,000 votes:

- «Against recycling fee and initial vehicle registration»
- «Turn back time»
- «Ban gambling for government officials»
- «We oppose both open and covert LGBT propaganda in Kazakhstan!».

*Fourth*, approaches are being introduced to incorporate public opinion in decision-making related to budget planning. One such approach is the **People's Participation Budget**. Since 2020, the principles of participatory (or initiative-based) budgeting have been implemented in the country through the People's Participation Budget project. This initiative serves as an effective tool for reflecting the views and needs of regional residents in allocating of budgetary funds.

**The People's Participation Budget** is an effective method of interaction between local executive bodies and the population. The public is given the opportunity to participate in the allocation of local budget funds for projects aimed at improving their city or district. The People's Participation Budget includes four main stages: submission of public proposals for urban improvement; expert evaluation of proposals for feasibility and compliance with established criteria; public voting; inclusion of winning projects in the funding plan and their implementation using local budget resources.

As part of a study on the localization potential of the SDGs, Economic Research Institute JSC, with UNDP support, conducted an analysis of the practical implementation of the People's Participation Budget in the regions of Abai, Kyzylorda, Ulytau, and Zhetysu.

The results of the analysis showed a positive trend in the implementation of the People's Participation Budget in Kazakhstan. There is also potential to extend initiative-based budgeting to urban areas with the involvement of sponsors. However, several areas for improvement remain. Increasing public awareness offers opportunities for expanding information and educational efforts. Limited budget caps highlight the need for flexible financing, especially for priority projects in small towns. Improving the regulatory framework for collaboration with international organizations opens up the potential for attracting sponsorship and investments within the framework of the People's Participation Budget.

### «Tugan Qala» project

The «Tugan Qala» project is being implemented in cities (such as Aksu, Khromtau, Rudny, and others) where Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) enterprises operate. Its purpose is to develop and improve urban districts based on public initiatives and proposals.

For instance, in 2022, within the framework of «Tugan Qala» in the city of Aksu (Pavlodar Region), 12 projects were approved for implementation with a total budget of ₸94.0 mln. These projects included the construction of sports and children's playgrounds, a Boccia court, and the improvement of the City Park of Culture and Recreation, among others.<sup>1</sup>

*Fifth*, historical forms of interaction with the population are being revived. A vivid example of this is the **National Kurultai** which the the President.

**The National Kurultai of Kazakhstan** represents an important institution aimed at uniting public and governmental efforts to discuss and address key issues of national development. The Kurultai has deep historical roots among Turkic peoples, including the Kazakhs.

The revival of this ancient form of popular assembly symbolizes the country's commitment to democratic reforms and the strengthening of civil society. What makes the National Kurultai unique is that the public can raise and address pressing issues directly at the Head of State level. This platform creates a unified institutional model for public dialogue and enhances the interaction between the government and the public.

The National Kurultai includes representatives of various social groups, public organizations, experts, and government officials. One of its key working mechanisms involves the formation of working groups and commissions that focus on specific areas of activity. Within the Kurultai, members of the public have the opportunity to voice their opinions, proposals and critical remarks, contributing to the development of a more balanced and well-grounded state policy.

*Sixth*, traditional dialogue platforms such as forums and conferences are being organized on a systematic basis. A major platform dedicated to civil society is the Civil Forum. For example, in 2023, the 11th **Civil Forum** was held under the theme: «A Just Kazakhstan: for all and for each of us – the key vector for civil society development».

<sup>1</sup> <https://tugan-qala.kz/>

## 2.4. Contribution of volunteering to the implementation of the «Leave no one Behind» principle

**Volunteering** is one of the most powerful tools for achieving the SDGs, particularly the principle of «Leave no one behind», as it enables civil society to address social challenges and promote inclusivity. While other mechanisms for implementing SDG-related tasks are typically applied in a systematic and planned manner, volunteering serves as a flexible and responsive instrument. As a result of their mobility, engagement, and direct interaction with vulnerable groups, volunteers can quickly respond to emerging needs, filling gaps where institutional mechanisms may be delayed or incomplete.

From 2022 to 2025, Kazakhstan has strengthened the role of volunteering in promoting the SDGs at both national and international levels. In 2022, the Central Asian Volunteer Forum was held in Astana, where the UN Volunteers Programme presented a global report featuring Kazakhstan's experience and announced a regional volunteer research initiative. In 2023, an International Forum was held with the participation of the President of Kazakhstan and delegations from more than 30 countries to discuss the role of volunteering in advancing sustainable development.

A distinctive feature of Kazakhstan's volunteer movement is its prompt response to emergencies of any scale and nature. Volunteering in Kazakhstan focuses on helping those in distress. Thus, one of the most popular volunteer areas is social volunteering, aimed at supporting people in difficult life situations or socially vulnerable groups – from newborns to the elderly. For example, the «Klub 28 petel (28 Loops Club)» supports the care of premature infants. The «Best For Kids» foundation and numerous other organizations and initiative groups assist children without parental care. According to the UN Volunteers Programme, one in three volunteer groups in Kazakhstan is engaged in this area in some form. Across all region outreach campaigns and targeted assistance efforts are organized to support people living alone or facing hardship.

For Kazakhstani volunteers, contributing to **SDG 10** «Reduced Inequalities» and **SDG 5** «Gender Equality» is a natural expression of civic responsibility and solidarity. The volunteer community in Kazakhstan considers them top-priority SDGs by the volunteer community in Kazakhstan. To a lesser extent and at very local levels, volunteer efforts also contribute to **SDG 1** «No Poverty» and **SDG 2** «Zero Hunger».

Kazakhstan annually sends 7 volunteers to UN agencies (in Kenya, Thailand, Turkey) and contributes to the UN Volunteers Programme's trust fund. At Kazakhstan's initiative, the UN General Assembly declared 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. Between 2022 and 2025, 206 UN volunteers served in Kazakhstan (84 percent Kazakhstani citizens, of whom 76% percent were women); 32 Kazakhstani volunteers served abroad.

Many volunteers involved in social work later pursue careers in these areas. For instance, since 2023, Kazakhstan has been implementing the «Teach for Qazaqstan» project by the Public Foundation, as part of the international «Teach for All» movement. The project aims to eliminate inequalities in access to quality education for children in remote areas. Another example is the «Kazygyrt Intellectual School» in Kazygurt village, which has introduced trilingual education and modern teaching standards. These initiatives showcase volunteer contributions to **SDG 4** «Quality Education».

Volunteers in Kazakhstan are also actively involved in local environmental improvements, biodiversity conservation, forest preservation, raising public awareness about climate change, and reducing carbon footprints.

### Examples of volunteer activities in environmental protection

- In Atyrau Region, a local volunteer tradition has contributed to the preservation of fish populations in the Ural River. In spring, as the river floods, fish spawn in the overflow areas. When the water recedes, fish fry remain trapped in small puddles that are no longer connected to the river and eventually dry up, causing the fry to perish. To save them, volunteers launched campaigns to return the fry to the river. Public calls were issued, and local residents joined the effort collecting the fry from the puddles and releasing them back into the river.
- The volunteer organization «Aktobe, dyshi!» is dedicated to protecting trees and green spaces in the city. Activists monitor the health and condition of all trees and shrubs – not just those they planted themselves. Thanks "Aktobe, dyshi!" efforts, a large number of trees have been saved. The volunteers also work to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving trees and urban greenery.

Thus, it is appropriate to highlight the contribution of volunteer activities to **SDG 6** «Clean Water and Sanitation», **SDG 12** «Responsible Consumption and Production», **SDG 13** «Climate Action», **SDG 14** «Life Below Water», and **SDG 15** «Life on Land».

Across the country initially spontaneous campaigns have evolved into systematic sector-specific volunteer projects. For example, volunteers, in cooperation with the police, paint over destructive graffiti: the police ensure safety and provide resources – paint, vests, flashlights. Similar joint patrols are conducted with emergency services departments to prevent water-related incidents in the summer and to ensure fire safety in winter.

This trend in volunteering reflects a natural inclination toward partnership and coordination, uniting efforts to address common challenges. It clearly contributes to **SDG 17** «Partnerships for the Goals».

In recent years, the volunteer movement in Kazakhstan has reached a new level of interaction with state structures. Today there is a stable dialogue and partnership between the state and the volunteer community. Despite the fact that there is still much to be improved, positive changes can already be noted: the state increasingly recognises the contribution of volunteers, is ready for constructive interaction, takes into account their proposals and supports joint initiatives.

Kazakhstan pays special attention to co-operation in promoting volunteering. In 2020, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during the general political debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly from the UN tribune announced an initiative to proclaim the International Year of Volunteers/Volunteers. The Republic of Kazakhstan put forward this resolution together with like-minded countries from all regions of the world – Armenia, Bolivia, Germany, Kenya and the island nation of Kiribati. The document was co-authored by 54 UN member states. As a result, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

Events within the framework of the International Year will give a vibrant impulse to the volunteer movement at the national, regional and global levels, will contribute to further strengthening of international cooperation in the field of volunteerism and identify key vectors of its future development.

## 2.5. SDG Generation

*Today, children under 18 years make up nearly one-third of Kazakhstan's population. This is a new generation that should not only experience the outcomes of the SDGs but grow up in a society shaped by these principles. For this reason, children and youth can be referred to as the «SDG Generation».*

Recognizing this responsibility, the government places special emphasis on child well-being, aiming to create conditions whereby every child can access to quality education, healthcare, protection, and opportunities for personal development.

The government has made significant progress in strengthening child rights protection, inclusive education, and social support through progressive legislative reforms since 2022. These reforms reflect the country's commitment to improving children's well-being – especially for children with disabilities and special educational needs – while expanding financial and social support for families. Notably, the Inclusive Policy Concept until 2030 was adopted. Amendments to the law now provide for teacher assistant programs and new measures to better support children with disabilities. However, the quality and coverage of services still require improvement, particularly in light of regional disparities in the availability of qualified teachers and specialists.



Youth also play a crucial role in advancing the global Agenda, as they will be the primary participants in the labor market beyond 2030.

Youth policy in Kazakhstan is implemented in accordance with the Concept of state youth policy for 2023-2029. This concept is aimed at comprehensive development of youth taking into account the principles of sustainable development. The main directions include education, employment, social support, health, civic engagement and environmental awareness.

To ensure inclusion in politics, party lists now include a 30 percent quota for youth and women. Programs for NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) aim to reduce their share from 6.7 percent in 2023 to 3.5 percent by 2029. In rural areas grants are provided to support youth initiatives in business, IT and media.

To incorporate young voices, an essay competition was organized among school students and a youth survey was conducted as part of the preparation of the national SDG review.

**The essay contest** became an important step in engaging the young generation in national dialogue on sustainable development and the core principle of the 2030 Agenda – «Leave no one behind». Over **600** essays were submitted in Kazakh, Russian, and English. Participants proposed more than **300** unique sustainable development cases across three categories: social, environmental, and economic.

In the social block, participants addressed key issues such as equality, inclusion, and healthy lifestyles. Students reflected on women's rights, access to education, inclusion of people with special needs, and the importance of equal opportunities for all – regardless of gender, age, or social status. They also presented creative ideas about future professions and the development of a sustainable labor market.

Results from the youth survey indicated strong interest among Kazakhstan's youth in responsible consumption and the conservation natural resource. This reflects a growing awareness of environmental stewardship among the younger generation and a willingness to support sustainable development initiatives.

Thus, Kazakhstan's youth have great potential for promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, as they are ready to engage in initiatives aimed at improving the environment and efficient use of natural resources.

## 2.6. Entrepreneurial initiatives as a means of implementing the SDGs

In Kazakhstan business is becoming a key stakeholders in achieving the SDGs. The private sector is increasingly integrating sustainability principles into internal processes, guided by international ESG standards. This focus on ESG not only fosters a culture of corporate responsibility but also enhances companies' investment attractiveness. The adoption of these principles is enshrined in national policy – for example, the Investment Policy Concept until 2029 mandates the integration of ESG as part of strategic business planning.

Small and medium-sized enterprises play a particularly important role in this process. Today, SMEs account for nearly half of the economically active population. Out of 2.3 million registered SMEs, over **2.1** million are active. Their contribution to GDP has increased from **28.4** percent in 2018 to **39.7** percent in 2024, demonstrating their substantial economic impact and potential as drivers of sustainable growth.

Simultaneously, social entrepreneurship is on the rise. Officially recognized in Kazakhstan since 2022, the number of registered social enterprises has increased more than fivefold – from 150 in 2019 to **803** by end 2024. These enterprises address specific social challenges and help integrate vulnerable groups into the economy.

Women are playing an increasingly active role in Kazakhstan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Nearly half (49.2 percent) of all SMEs are led by women, and among sole proprietors, the figure reaches 56.8 percent. A range of programmes – from preferential financing to educational initiatives – empower women to turn their ideas into reality and to strengthen their economic empowerment. Notable initiatives include the «Ümit» programme by the DAMU Fund, the international She's Next programme by Visa and Halyk Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) «Women in Business» project, and «Coca-Cola Belesteri», which has trained **110,000** rural women over 12 years, providing them with support to launch businesses.

Today Kazakhstan ranks first among Central Asian countries in terms of the pace of implementation of sustainable development standards: 100 companies have already become participants of the UN Global Compact, voluntarily committing themselves to respect human rights, protect the environment and combat corruption.

These positive trends have been made possible by major legislative and policy measures. Since 2021, Kazakhstan has adopted the **Law on Social Entrepreneurship**, amended the Entrepreneurial Code, and approved the SME Development Concept until 2030, which focuses on deregulation and digitalization. The development of support infrastructure – including Entrepreneur Service Centres, startup training programmes like «Bastau Business», and grant support of up to 400 Monthly Calculation Indexes (MCI) – provides vital resources for aspiring entrepreneurs, including youth, women, and socially vulnerable groups. In 2024 alone, **₸377 mn** tenge was allocated from the state budget to support **80** social initiatives.

Despite this progress, further efforts are needed to expand and systematize business participation in localizing the SDGs. Nevertheless, some companies and entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan have already established charitable foundations and are providing sustained support to rural areas, thereby advancing social initiatives at the community level.

### Aitas Holding's Sustainable Development Funds



Aitas Holding is a pioneer in localizing the SDGs in rural regions of Kazakhstan. Through its established foundations – Aitas Foundation, the Rural Sustainable Development Fund, and the Education Sustainable Development Fund – the holding fulfills its social mission aimed at building sustainable and self-reliant communities.

The foundations operate on the basis of a tripartite partnership between government, society, and business, with a key focus on SDG 4 «Quality Education». Over the past five years, more than **190** rural schools in 17 regions across the country have participated in educational programs. These initiatives have involved over **170,000** students and **17,000** teachers, led to the modernization of classrooms, and introduced new tools and methodologies to improve the quality of education.

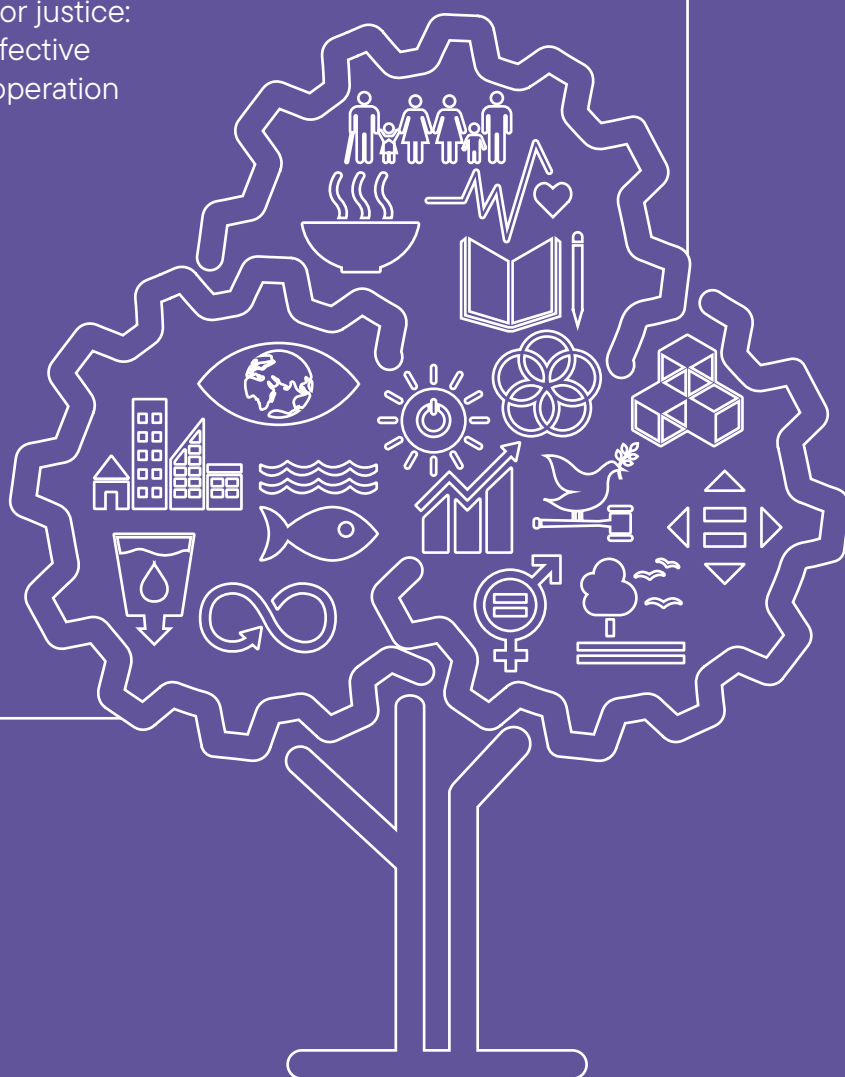
In five years, Aitas has invested over **₸3.1** bn tenge in education and rural sustainable development, attracted more than **₸65** bn tenge in partner funding, and implemented over **160** projects. All 17 regions of Kazakhstan have been covered. The approaches developed by Aitas are regarded as replicable and scalable.

Aitas Holding serves as a powerful example of how the private sector can actively contribute to sustainable development, making meaningful progress toward SDGs 1 «No Poverty», 3 «Good Health and Well-being», 4 «Quality Education», 8 «Decent Work and Economic Growth», 11 «Sustainable Cities and Communities» and 17 «Partnerships for the Goals».

Thus, entrepreneurship is becoming a key driver of sustainable development in Kazakhstan. By 2030, the country has set clear targets – to increase the share of SMEs in GDP to **40** percent and to create **5** million jobs. To achieve these goals, priority areas include expanding access to finance, developing crowdfunding and venture capital, digitalizing public services, and reducing administrative barriers. Consistent implementation of these measures will contribute to the development of an inclusive, innovative, and sustainable economy that aligns with both national interests and global priorities.

### 3. SYNERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS

- 3.1. Analysis of the interlinkages between SDG targets as a factor for effective implementation of the national strategy
- 3.2. Social justice and inclusive well-being for everyone
- 3.3. Innovations for sustainable economic growth and regional infrastructure development
- 3.4. Ecological harmony: preserving nature for future generations
- 3.5. The power of partnership for justice: building peace through effective institutions and global cooperation

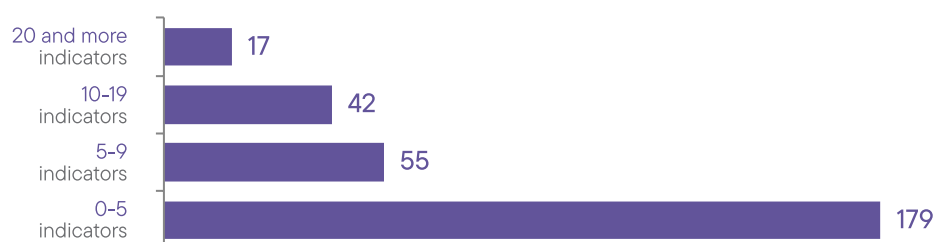


### 3.1. Analysis of the interlinkages between SDG targets as a factor for effective implementation of the national strategy

The identification of accelerators is a key factors in enhancing the effectiveness of SDG implementation – those actions or indicators that contribute simultaneously to the achievement of multiple SDG targets. In 2023–2024, Kazakhstan, in collaboration with other Central Asian countries, undertook large-scale efforts to analyse the interlinkages among SDG targets and indicators. This analysis made it possible to identify a set of integrated indicators, which were subsequently used to update the list of national SDG indicators.

To determine these interlinkages the following approaches were applied: in-depth study and an analysis of indicator calculation methodologies; a review of publicly available research and thematic publications; application of expert judgment.

The analysis revealed that approximately 60 national SDG indicators are among the most impactful due to their cross-cutting influence (Figure 12).



Source: Economic Research Institute

Figure 12. Distribution of SDG indicators impacting other SDG indicators

At the same time, 17 indicators have impacted 20 or more other SDG indicators. For example, indicator 16.6.1 «Republican budget expenditure as a percentage of the approved budget, disaggregated by functional group» influences the implementation of 64 SDG indicators. For 179 indicators, a low level of influence was identified. Indicator 10.a.1 «Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed and developing countries with zero-tariff» is one such example.



The feedback analysis also revealed a very low degree of reverse influence – that is, the influence of other indicators – on the implementation of more than 190 SDG indicators (Figure 13).



Source: Economic Research Institute

Figure 13. Distribution of SDG indicators impacted by other indicators

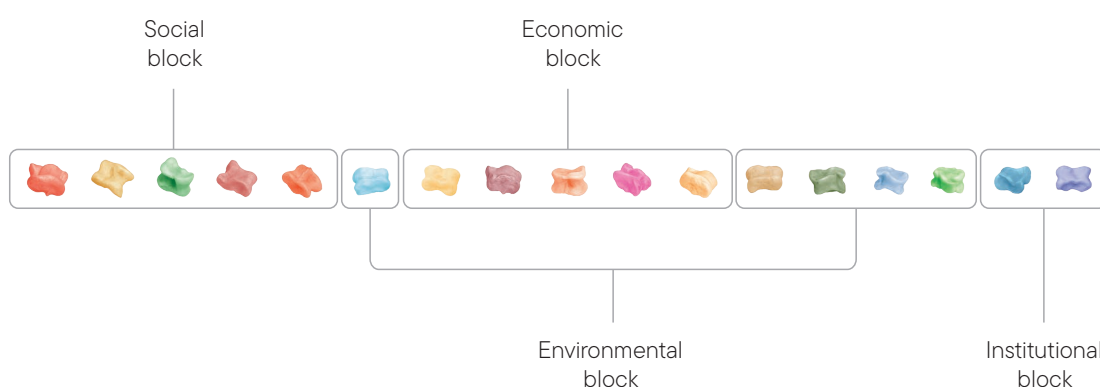
The effective implementation of over 30 SDG indicators is contingent upon the successful realization of 20 or more other indicators. Therefore such indicators do not necessarily need to be included in high-level strategic documents as performance indicators.

For example, the effective achievement of indicator 3.8.1 «Coverage of essential health services» relies on the successful implementation of 28 other SDG indicators.

There are also integrated indicators that not only have a significant impact on the achievement of other targets but are themselves highly dependent on the realization of multiple other indicators. For instance, indicator 2.3.1 «Agricultural labor productivity (in thousand ₮)» is influenced by 47 SDG indicators, 29 other indicators.

Given the interlinkages among SDG targets, this Review presents an analysis of progress across all 17 SDGs structured into four thematic blocks:

- Social block (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8);
- Economic block (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10, 11);
- Environmental block (SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15);
- Institutional block (SDGs 16, 17).



## 3.2. Social justice and inclusive well-being for everyone

Social justice is one of the fundamental principles of sustainable development, as it ensures equal opportunities for all people, regardless of their social status, gender, race or other factors.

Everyone has the right to a decent life and the equal opportunities for to development, free from discrimination and inequality. To achieve this, it is essential to create conditions that enable vulnerable groups to participate equally in economic, social and political life.

In this regard, this section examines such important aspects as eliminating poverty and hunger, ensuring access to health care, education, decent work and social protection and promoting gender equality.

The SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are closely interrelated, as they are aimed at ensuring basic human rights and creating conditions for a decent life:

- **SDG 1 «No poverty»** and **SDG 2 «Zero Hunger»** contributes to the achievement of SDG 3, SDG 4 and SDG 10, as poverty reduction improves access to health and educational services, and reduces social vulnerability.
- **SDG 3 «Good health and well-being»** is closely interconnected with SDG 1, SDG 6, and SDG 11, since limited access to essential services, poor sanitation and polluted urban environments can significantly undermine public health.
- **SDG 4 «Quality education»** enhances the implementation of SDG 5 and SDG 10, ensuring equal chances for employment, career growth and participation in public life.
- **SDG 5 «Gender equality»** strengthens the SDG 4, SDG 8 and SDG 10, as empowering the rights and opportunities of women contributes to increased participation in the economy, education, and politics, as well as to reducing gender gaps in pay and access to resources.





## Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

*Since the second Review, significant work has been done to end poverty. The state is actively implementing measures to ensure social protection of the population.*

*According to the World Bank, as poverty levels were decreased and living conditions were improved, the country has moved from the category of lower-middle-income countries to the category of upper-middle-income countries.<sup>2</sup> Between 2022 and 2024, the poverty rate in the country decreased from 5.2 percent to 5.0 percent.<sup>3</sup>*

*Poverty reduction plays a central role in the country's development strategies. The National Development Plan of Kazakhstan until 2029, prioritizes social protection with a focus on strengthening targeted support, increasing pension savings and building an inclusive society, all of which are expected to contribute to a sustained reduction in poverty. In addition, the Programme for Increasing Household Incomes until 2029 was approved by a Government Decree dated 28 March, 2023 <sup>4</sup>. The Programme is divided into national and regional levels.*

*In accordance with the Kazakhstan Social Code dated 20 April, 2023, a fundamental change in the paradigm of state support is envisaged in the country: the state support policy is focused on increasing targeting and moving to the proactive state support measures.<sup>5</sup>*

### Poverty level by international and national standards

The poverty level is one of the universally recognized social indicators used internationally to assess the population's quality. According to international standards (\$1.9 and \$3.2 at purchasing power parity (PPP) per day), extreme poverty in Kazakhstan was completely eliminated in 2021.

According to the World Bank's recommendation, taking into account the fact that Kazakhstan belongs to countries with an above-average income, the most relevant value of the international poverty line for the country is \$6.85 at PPP per person per day, which has been implemented in the country since 2021. This trend shows a steady decline from 2.7 percent in 2021 to 1.4 percent in 2024<sup>6</sup>, which means a reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty. The clear progress observed in the country in recent years shows an increase in social well-being and a reduction in poverty.

Since 2025 the poverty line for TSA is determined based on the median income of the population and amounts to 35 percent of the regional median income, but not less than 70 percent of the regional subsistence level.

<sup>2</sup> The World Bank Group and et al "Assessing Well-being in Kazakhstan" Report, Washington, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> BNS ASPR RK.

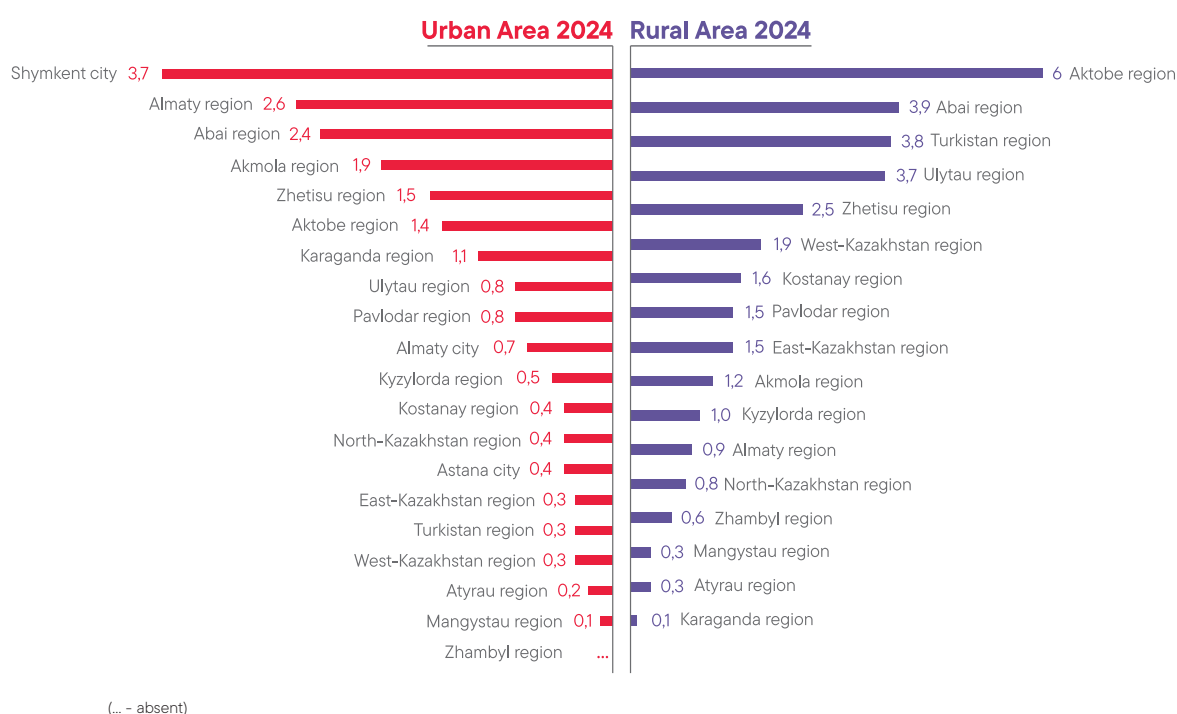
<sup>4</sup> Letter from MLSP on the implementation of the SDGs dated October 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Letter from MLSP on the implementation of the SDGs dated October 2024.

<sup>6</sup> BNS ASPR.



At the same time, there are significant differences in income levels by PPP across regions, especially between urban and its rural areas. In most regions, the poverty rate among the rural population is higher than among urban counterpart. Thus, in 2024, the share of the population with an income below \$6.8 per PPP in the Aktoke region was 1.4 percent in urban and 6.0 percent in rural areas, in the Turkistan region – 0.3 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively, in the Abai region – 2.4 percent and 3.9 percent (Figure 14).



Source: BNS ASPR

Figure 14. Share of population living on less than \$6.80 per day (PPP), by urban and rural areas, 2024 (%)

Compared to other regions, the minimum level of the share of the urban population with income below \$6.8 in PPP is found in Mangystau (0.1 percent) and Atyrau (0.2 percent) regions. And the minimum level among the rural population is in Karaganda (0.1 percent) and Atyrau (0.3 percent) regions. In large cities such as Astana and Almaty, the poverty rate remains relatively low (0.4 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively), while in Shymkent it reaches 3.7 percent.

In 2022 41,934 children lived on less than \$3.65, and 1,081,530 children lived on less than \$6.85<sup>7</sup>. According to the UN Country Team's assessment, a multidimensional analysis of child poverty shows that 28.5 percent of children in Kazakhstan experience multiple deprivations: among them, one in three children in rural areas and one in four in urban areas.<sup>8</sup>

Poverty rate among children aged 0 to 17 increased from 6.6 percent in 2019 to 7.8 percent in 2023, mainly due to an increase in child poverty in urban areas (from 4.3 percent in 2019 to 6.4 percent in 2023) compared with rural areas (from 9.5 percent to

<sup>7</sup> World Bank Group (2023). Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines. Policy Research Working Paper 10525.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations. Common Country Analysis: Kazakhstan 2024. United Nations Country Team in Kazakhstan, November 2024.



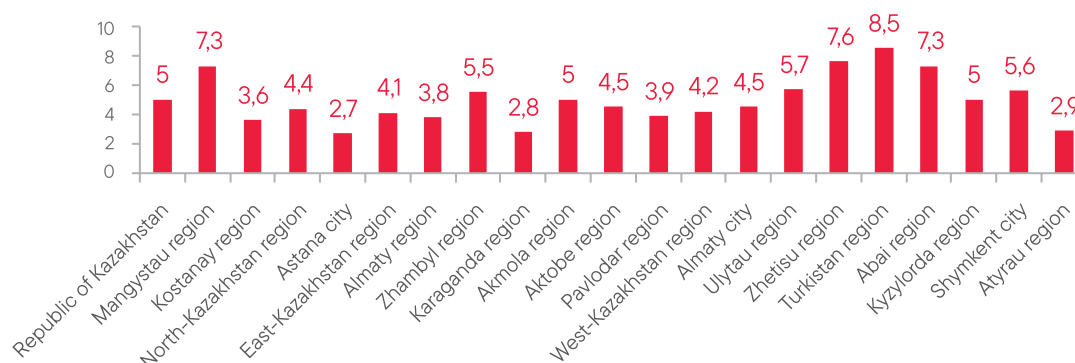
10 percent).<sup>9</sup> The highest rates of child poverty were recorded in Abai (11.2 percent), Turkestan (11.1 percent) and Zhetysu (11.0 percent) regions, which requires continued support measures for families with children.

In a country, the poverty level is determined through the indicator «Share of the population with incomes below the subsistence level». In recent years, there has been a steady downward trend in this indicator: from 5.2 percent in 2022 to 5.0 percent in 2024.

Over the first 8 months of 2024, the number of people with monthly average per capita income below the poverty line (70 percent of the regional minimum subsistence level) decreased by 47 percent compared to 2022 (2024, 8 months: 72,708 families, 2023: 114,086 families; 2022: 141,529 families).<sup>10</sup>

Since 2022, there has been a positive trend indicating a gradual improvement in the socio-economic situation and the effectiveness of the state policy on social support. Poverty decreased in both urban and rural areas, but its level remains higher in rural areas. The share of the poor population in urban areas was 3.8 percent in 2024, and in rural areas – 6.9 percent.

At the regional level, the poverty rate for 2024 shows significant disparities. High levels of poverty are observed in Turkestan (8.5 percent), Zhetysu (7.6 percent), Mangystau (7.3 percent) and Abai regions (7.3 percent), while low levels of poverty – in Astana (2.7 percent), Karaganda (2.8 percent) and Atyrau (2.9 percent) regions (Figure 15).



Source: BNS ASPR

Figure 15. Share of the population with incomes below the subsistence level by region, for 2024 (%)

At the same time, in the gender context, women have a more stable income status compared to men. The poverty rate among women decreased from 5.1 percent in 2022 to 4.8 percent in 2024, which is below the national level. For men, the indicator decreased from 5.4 percent to 5.2 percent.

<sup>9</sup> BNS ASPR (2024) Children of Kazakhstan 2019-2023. pp. 78-79.

<sup>10</sup> MLSP.





## A Youth Perspective

(translated from Kazakh to English)



“

Poverty is one of the most difficult and urgent global problems. Poverty is not only an economic challenge, but also a social problem that leads to inequality, poor health and instability. There are several main causes of poverty in our country.

Firstly, as an economic factor, the unemployment rate directly affects poverty. For example, youth unemployment, low incomes and inflation worsen the situation. To combat youth unemployment, one proposal is to increase the number of educational programmes such as “Bolashak”. In addition, in order to keep young people in the country, the following measures need to be undertaken strengthening special grant programmes for young professionals, introducing employment benefits, developing vocational training and supporting entrepreneurship.

Secondly, as a social factor, the of education level of school students needs to be raised by increasing the number of specialized schools for gifted children and by raising the standards of all ordinary schools to the level of innovative ones. It is also proposed to introduce a “Student Exchange” programme. Within the framework of this programme, one can organize an exchange between students of ordinary and specialized schools for gifted children for one to two weeks.

Thirdly, when considering social issues, the opinions and needs of adolescents are often not taken into account. The following measures are proposed to solve this problem: when developing social policies and programmes, one needs to systematically discuss the opinions and needs of adolescents, for which special platforms (forums) and school councils should be established.

Aiaru Zhenis, 9th grade student,  
Lyceum School №71, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition

”

Every year, the Local Executive Authorities approve Regional Employment Maps, which provide employment indicators within the framework of National Projects, concepts and private initiatives. A single list of all planned projects is developed in the Regional Employment Map. By end 2024, 979,400 people were employed<sup>11</sup>. The planned indicators in the Development Plan of MLSP of RK have been approved and divided until 2030.

As part of the Programme for Increasing Incomes of the Population until 2029, two rounds of grant distribution were implemented in 2024 for socially vulnerable groups, resulting in 8,941 grants awarded for the implementation of new business ideas. In terms of recipient categories: 5,646 grants were awarded to members of large families, 1,446 to persons with disabilities, 1,045 to parents raising children with disabilities, 253 to beneficiaries of targeted social assistance, 365 to beneficiaries of survivor's benefits, 151 to displaced persons and 35 to kandas.

<sup>11</sup> Report on implementation of the Development Plan of MLSP for 2023–2027, for the period: 2024.



## Social protection of the population

Kazakhstan has a multi-level social support system, which includes 41 types of social benefits for various social risks. A quarter of the republican budget expenditures 25 percent are allocated for social payments. Four million people in Kazakhstan receive pensions and benefits.

To improve the quality of life of the population, government support measures are implemented (pensions and benefits are indexed from 5 to 7 percent as part of the annual growth, and from 1 January 2024, the minimum wage was revised, which is currently set at ₸85,000).

The Social Code adopted in 2023, consolidated legislation on social security, simplifying citizens' access to information about their rights. Its key innovation lies in shifting the national focus toward the prevention of social risks—prioritizing the avoidance of difficult life situations rather than addressing their consequences after the fact.<sup>12</sup>

The Code implemented digitalization of services, a social contract, insurance systems and measures to stimulate employment. In the Kazakhstan Social Code, the Digital Family Card is designated as a tool to determine medium- and long-term tasks and areas of social policy.

### Digital Family Card

From 2023 the country introduced a Digital Family Card (DFC), which gathers information on more than 20.2 million citizens of Kazakhstan, or 6.2 million families.

The DFC is a daily «electronic notifier» of citizens about their rights to receive some type of guaranteed state support, depending on their social status. Since the launch of the DFC, an SMS notification has been sent to 1,491,400 individuals to obtain consent to provide public services, of whom more than 629,000 have received it proactively.

The social status of citizens is determined by a Digital Family Card in automatic mode based on data from the information systems of government agencies.

Since the beginning of the DFC's operation, it has provided access to 10 types of benefits and social payments, as well as 3 types of notifications. These include payments for the birth and care of a child, for the care of a child with a disability, for unemployment, for the loss of breadwinner, disability allowances for large families and mothers, targeted social assistance, as well as notifications on pension payments, employment and for kandases.

<sup>12</sup> Letter from MLSP on the implementation of the SDGs dated October 2024.



## Remuneration

In order to increase wages, the minimum wage has been increased to ₸85,000 since 2024, which is twice the 2022 level.<sup>13</sup> This had a positive impact on the incomes of 1.8 million employees.

A new methodology for calculating the minimum wage based on the median salary and labor productivity, which has been applied since 2025, has also been approved. Its use will ensure a balanced minimum wage, as well as establish a clear relationship between the income of employees and the volume of goods, works and services produced.

There are about 1.2 million civil servants in the country. Based on financial and economic opportunities, the Government applies consistent measures to increase their wages. Since 2022 a phased wage increase averaging 20 percent annually has been implemented for approximately 600,000 civil servants across various occupational categories, including accountants, economists, lawyers, public procurement managers, human resources inspectors, drivers, electricians, janitors, and watchmen.

## Targeted social assistance

Citizens of Kazakhstan, kandas, refugees, foreigners and stateless persons who are permanently residents and whose average per capita income does not exceed the poverty line are entitled to receive targeted social assistance (TSA).

The main purpose of the TSA is to bring a family out of a difficult life situation by providing support in the form of cash payments and involving able-bodied family members in active measures to promote employment. The criterion for the TSA is the poverty line which is equal to 35 percent of the regional median income, but not less than 70 percent of the regional subsistence level. If each family member's income for each family member is lower than this indicator, the difference is the TSA amount. Additionally, children aged 1 to 6 years inclusive from among the beneficiaries receive a payment of 1.5 Monthly Calculation Index (MCI) per child.

Thus, the share of the population covered by the social security system has been growing steadily since 2015. The number of TSA beneficiaries increased elevenfold from 38,200 in 2015 to 413,600 in 2024.<sup>14</sup>

In 2024 413,600 people from 78,100 families received TSA for a total amount of ₸39.5 bn. From these, 50,900 families who received TSA got out of poverty thanks to government support measures.<sup>15</sup> The additional payment covered 129,500 preschool-age children from 67,000 families in the amount of ₸5.4 bn (2024 – ₸5,538 bn). As of 1 May, 2025, TSA was assigned to 232,500 people from 43,400 families for a total amount of ₸10.4 bn. The additional payment covered 71,400 preschool-age children from 37,300 families in the amount of ₸1.4 bn (2025 – ₸5,898 bn).

<sup>13</sup> Letter from MLSP on the implementation of the SDGs dated October 2024.

<sup>14</sup> BNS ASPR.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/enbek/press/news/details/977867>



As of 1 May, 2025, 4,800 able-bodied beneficiaries were involved in active employment measures (3,200 people for permanent jobs, 1,400 people for community service, 177 people for social jobs, 17 people for retraining and advanced training, 26 people for youth practice).

## *Social support for motherhood and childhood*

Today the country has an integrated system of social support for families with children, which includes a system of state benefits, social benefits, employment promotion measures, tax benefits and other social benefits.

At the same time, in order to support families with children in different life situations, 5 types of state benefits are paid from the republican budget and 2 types of social benefits from the State Social Insurance Fund.

In 2024, ₸651.9 bn was allocated from the republican budget for the payment of state benefits to families with children, which is 12.7 percent more than in the previous year (in 2023 – ₸578.4 bn, in 2022 – ₸485.1 bn). Since the beginning of 2025 the amount of benefits has increased by 6.5 percent<sup>16</sup> compared to the previous year.

More than 609,500 large families with 4 or more minor children receive monthly benefits in a differentiated amount depending on the number of children (the amount of benefits for families with 4 children is 16.03 MCI – ₸63,030, with 5 children 20.04 MCI – ₸78,798, with 6 children 24.05 MCI – ₸94,565, with 7 children, 28.06 MCI – ₸110,332, with 8 or more children – ₸15,728 or 4 MCI per child).

Employees participating in the social insurance system are entitled to payments from the State Social Insurance Fund are provided upon the occurrence of ensured events. The main part is maternity and child care payments. Since 2023 the period for paying child care allowance has been extended from 1 year to 1.5 years.<sup>17</sup>

The National Fund for Children programme was launched in Kazakhstan in 2024.<sup>18</sup> The programme envisions that 50 percent of the annual investment income of the National Fund will be allocated to children's special accounts until they reach adulthood. These funds can be used in the future to pay for education or improve housing conditions.

## *Social protection of persons with disabilities*

The Government is making targeted efforts to achieve the goals of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the general principles and obligations ratified by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention and the Marrakesh Treaty. Legislative measures have been adopted and legal measures established to implement the Convention's provisions.

<sup>16</sup> Report on implementation of the Development Plan of the State Body of MLSP for 2023-2027 for 2024.

<sup>17</sup> Report on implementation of the Development Plan of the State Body of MLSP for 2023-2027 for 2023.

<sup>18</sup> <https://hcsbk.kz/ru/news/publications/gde-nayti-podrobnuyu-informatsiyu-o-programme-natsionalnyy-fond-detyam-15/>



To date, social protection of persons with disabilities is aimed at ensuring the rights of 737,400<sup>19</sup> persons with disabilities (3.6 percent of the total population), including 415,900 people of working age (56.4 percent), 206,800 of retirement age (28.0 percent), 114,700 children under 18 (15.6 percent). ₸483.8 bn was allocated for the implementation of the state social disability allowance in 2024, and in 2025 its amount was increased by 6.5 percent.<sup>20</sup> As of 1 January 2025, the number of recipients of state social disability allowance totalled 552,300 people, with the average amount of the allowance ₸74,405.

### *Compulsory social insurance*

The country has a compulsory social insurance system for employees participating in the social insurance system. The system provides state-guaranteed social benefits from the State Social Insurance Fund to compensate for income loss in the event of social risks disability, loss of employment, loss of breadwinner, and loss of income due to pregnancy, childbirth, or the adoption of a newborn.

By end 2024 the total amount of social contributions received for 6.8 million participants in the compulsory social insurance system amounted to ₸635.2 bn. Altogether 74.0 percent of the employed population is covered.

Every year the amount of social benefits in disability cases and in the loss of a breadwinner is indexed to a level corresponding to the indexation of similar benefits from the national budget. Thus starting from 2025, the amount of social payments from the State Social Insurance Fund for cases of disability and loss of a breadwinner increased by 6.5 percent.

### *Compensation for damage caused by emergencies*

In Kazakhstan, victims of natural emergencies can receive State Support in the form of compensation from budgetary and other legitimate sources.

According to the Rules for Compensation of Damage caused by Natural Emergencies, compensation for victims is provided from the local budget. Funds are allocated to meet their minimum needs. Funds from organizations, voluntary contributions from citizens, foundations, and other sources that do not contradict the law can also be used.

In 2024 158 natural emergencies were registered in the country, of which 95 percent were hydrometeorological and geological phenomena. As a result of natural emergencies from 2022 to 2024, 146 people were injured and 18 people died. The amount of damage from natural emergencies was as follows: in 2022 – ₸6,771,141,000, in 2023 – ₸16,433,075,200, in 2024 – ₸16,778,361,500.

<sup>19</sup> Report on implementation of the Development Plan of the State Body of MLSP for 2023-2027 for 2024.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.





## Basic social services

The government ensures the provision of basic social services. Thus in 2024 the share of spending on basic services – education, healthcare, social protection, culture and sports – reached 52.6 percent of total government spending, compared with 49.2 percent in 2015. The largest share of these funds is allocated to education (21.6 percent) and social assistance and welfare (19.4 percent). At the same time, private sector actors actively promote employment, create basic services for the population and contribute to improving the well-being of local residents.

### Example from a business involved in providing basic services

Turar LLP is one of the enterprises providing assistance to low-income families, veterans and other vulnerable segments of the population in rural areas.

The company is located in the Kamyshny Chandak village, Fedorovsky district, Kostanay region. The main activity of the LLP is the cultivation of grain and leguminous crops, as well as seed production. The company creates conditions for the employment of the local population, especially during seasonal periods – during sowing, harvesting, animal care and other work.

The company is actively involved in improving rural infrastructure, including the construction and repair of roads, the development of water supply systems and participation in landscaping projects.

The company built a new medical and obstetric centre at its own expense, which significantly increased the availability of medical care for the village residents. This is especially important for remote settlements, where basic medical facilities are often lacking.

Over the past three years, the country has implemented specific measures to improve the population's well-being. The main achievements are as follows:



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- The poverty rate was reduced.
- A new poverty assessment methodology was adopted, linked to the average regional median to provide social assistance.
- Introduced in 2022, the Digital Family Card covers more than **20** million persons, enabling the provision of proactive social assistance.
- Social benefits are indexed annually to inflation: in 2024, more than **4.5** million individuals received pensions and benefits worth **₸5.3** tn.
- Under the National Fund for Children programme each child receives annual savings for future educational or housing purposes.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 1

- Despite the fact that the poverty rate in the country has decreased, it remains higher in rural areas (6.9 percent) than in urban areas (3.8 percent).
- The regional poverty level shows significant differences.
- The level of child poverty remains a significant problem due to the growth in urban areas, as well as in certain regions. The highest rates of child poverty were recorded in the Abai, Turkestan and Zhetysu regions.



## Prospective steps

- Improving national legislation in line with international standards in the context of the social and human rights model.
- Promoting entrepreneurship with a focus on rural areas through the provision of micro-loans (2.5 percent per annum) for vulnerable groups and youth.
- As part of the “Auyl Amanaty” project, it is planned to create jobs in the real sector of the economy and employ 3.3 million people, including 2.3 million young people.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Letter from MLSPP on the implementation of the SDGs dated October 2024.



## Civil society assessment

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- The adoption of the new Social Code and laws on women's rights has become an important step towards strengthening social policy in Kazakhstan.
- Poverty and inequality remain acute systemic problems, especially in rural and remote areas.
- Inflation, rising prices for basic services, stagnating real incomes and limited access to quality medical, educational and social services continue to exacerbate the vulnerability of the population, especially among older women, people with disabilities, migrants and rural residents.
- Official statistics may not fully reflect the complexity of the situation, indicating the need to improve existing methods and approaches in policy development.



## Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

*Kazakhstan is the largest agricultural producer in Central Asia and the ninth largest country in the world covering a total area of 272.5 million hectares. The country is taking step-by-step measures to ensure food security, improve nutrition and develop sustainable agricultural practices.*

### *Food availability and sustainable nutrition of the population*

Kazakhstan had adopted extensive measures to reduce hunger and ensure that everyone has year-round access to safe, nutritious and adequate food.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MoA) monitors the availability of the main types of food products.

Domestic production supplies between 80 percent and 100 percent of the domestic market's demand for all 29 key food products. According to preliminary 2024 statistics, 10 products are fully supplied (100 percent or more) by domestic production: wheat flour, salt, bread, rice, pasta, sunflower oil, potatoes, mutton, beef, and onions. An additional 14 products are at least 80 percent domestically supplied, including: chicken eggs, horse meat, tomatoes, cucumbers, milk, buckwheat groats, cabbage, pepper, pork, beets, sour milk products, butter, apples, and carrots.

However, 5 food products are import-dependent: poultry meat (79 percent), sausages (60 percent), fish (68 percent), cheese and cottage cheese (53 percent), sugar (33 percent). In order to reduce import dependence on the abovementioned products, the MoA plans to implement 658 projects worth ₸3.3 tn by 2027.

Comprehensive measures are being implemented to ensure stable functioning of food markets in the country. Thus the Ministry of Trade and Investment of the Republic of Kazakhstan is introducing a system of digital price monitoring for socially important food products (SIFP). Since 2023 measures to support local producers have been implemented. As part of this state support of local retail facilities, a mechanism of counter obligations has been launched allocating 30 percent of shelf space for domestic products – at least 50 percent is for food products and 20 percent for non-food products.

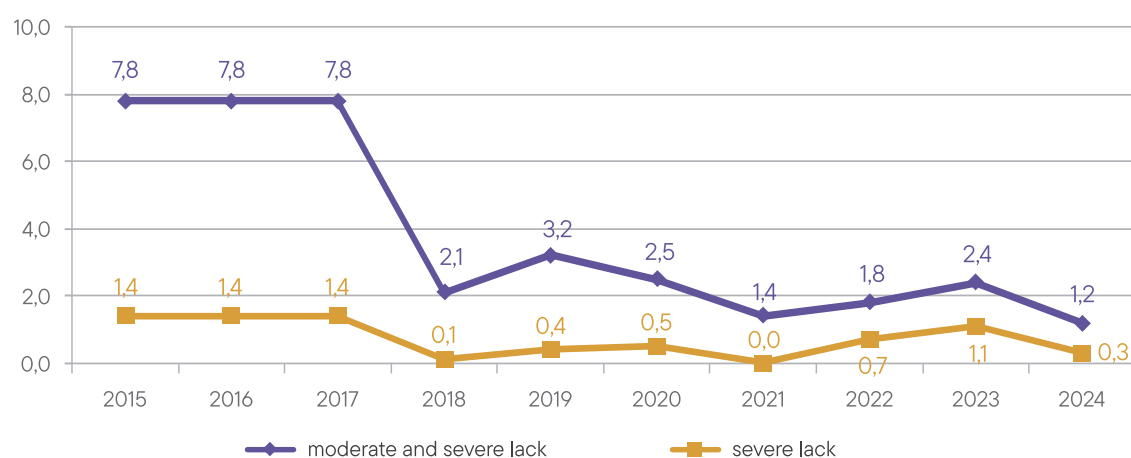
SIFP price dynamics shows how the market adapts to economic changes. Over the last three years the SIFP price index has experienced significant fluctuations and the index averaged 10.8 percent.<sup>22</sup> In 2021 it stood at 9.7 percent indicating a moderate price increase. This was due to the post-pandemic recovery and the beginning of market normalization. In 2022 the index rose sharply to 19.4 percent. This increase was on the back of external economic factors. In 2023 the index declined significantly to 3.2 percent indicating price stabilization and an improved market supply.

<sup>22</sup> Letter from MTI of RK on the implementation of the SDGs dated October 2024.



The measures taken to stabilize prices in the market contributed to the improvement of key indicators. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) assessment, the indicator of price anomalies in Kazakhstan's food market improved from "1.3" in 2019 to "-0.5" in 2023, which is within acceptable fluctuations. In 2015 it was "-0.3", indicating price cyclicalities. This progress reflects the effectiveness of government measures in regulating prices, such as via intervention, inflation targeting, agricultural subsidies and controlling input and fuel prices.

The food security indicator is improving. Based on the household survey, the share of moderately and severely food insecure people decreased from 1.8 percent in 2022 to 1.2 percent in 2024, and severely food insecure people decreased from 0.7 percent in 2022 to 0.3 percent in 2024 (Figure 16).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 16. Percentage of population experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity.

This reflects the positive impacts of measures taken to ensure physical and economic access to safe and adequate food.

However, FAO data points to a slight deterioration in moderate and severe food insecurity in Kazakhstan between 2017 and 2022 from 2.1 percent to 2.2 percent. By gender, the share of men with this level of food insecurity increased from 1.9 percent in 2017 to 2.3 percent in 2022, while women registered a slight improvement from 2.3 percent to 2.2 percent. This discrepancy is because FAO's assessment is based on global indicators.

### Rational nutrition and prevention of malnutrition

In line with WHO recommendations, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MoH) is pursuing measures to reduce the population's consumption of foods high in fat, sugar and salt, engaging both business and scientific organizations in the development and promotion of healthier, more nutritious products.





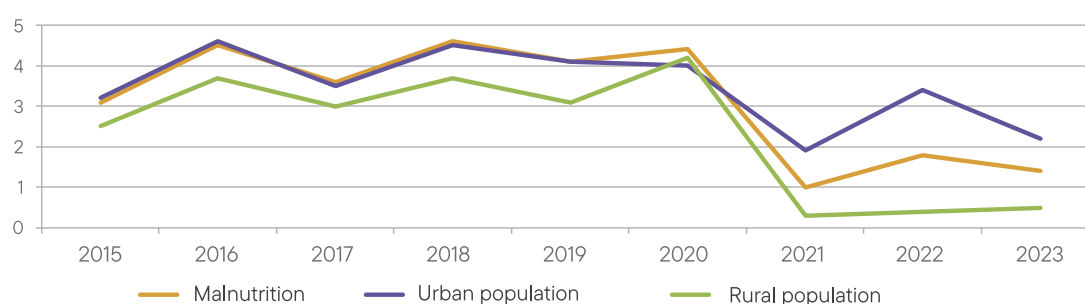
In order to organize hot meals for school students and free hot meals for 1-4-year-old school pupils the following steps have been undertaken:<sup>23</sup>

1. The necessary legal framework has been created: Uniform standards for school students' nutrition ration with the inclusion of products enriched with vitamins and minerals have been developed from 2018 in schools of Kazakhstan.
2. In accordance with WHO recommendations, MoH revised and approved the Methodological Recommendations, "Norms of physiological needs in energy and nutritional substances for different population groups of the RK", including school meals in 2023 and 2025.
3. In order to bring nutritional standards in line with the standards provided for in the Methodological Recommendations, MoH and MoE made amendments to the nutritional ration for children of pre-school organizations, orphans and children living in boarding schools and residential organizations.

MoE is focused on providing children from socially vulnerable families (SVF) of preschool and school age with free meals. Preschool organizations provide SVF children with free meals. Starting from 2023, free meals are also provided to all elementary school students, regardless of social status, and to school students from low-income families. In previous years, the coverage of free meals for school students in grades 1-4 was 56.6 percent.

As a result of measures taken, malnutrition indicators are improving across the country. Over the last decade, the prevalence of malnutrition in the country has halved from 3.1 percent in 2015 to 1.4 percent in 2023.

However, over the last decade, malnutrition rates among the urban population (3.2 percent in 2015 and 2.2 percent in 2023) have been higher than among the rural population (2.5 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively) (Figure 17).



Source: BNS ASPR of RK

Figure 17. Prevalence of malnutrition (%)

<sup>23</sup> Letter of the MoH of RK on SDG implementation dated October 2024.



In 2024 a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-7) was conducted in the country, based on a sample of 24,000 households in 20 regions of Kazakhstan. According to preliminary MICS-7 data, in 2024, 75.1 percent of newborns received a primary check-up at home after discharge from health care organizations; 24.8 percent of newborns had a check-up in public health care organizations; 0.1 percent – in private health care organizations.

Based on preliminary results of MICS-7, in 2024 the share of children under 5 years with growth retardation due to malnutrition decreased from 8.0 percent (2015) to 2.9 percent. The share of children underweight in relation to age and height decreased from 3.1 percent at MICS-6 to 1.4 percent, indicating the effectiveness of the measures taken. At the same time, the share of overweight children amounted to totalled 7.5 percent.

A great national achievement is the guaranteed, free provision of pregnant women with iron preparations. The country has a protocol for iron supplementation for women during pregnancy and the postpartum period, and iron preparations are included in the list of medicines and medical devices for free and/or preferential outpatient provision for certain categories of Kazakh individuals with certain diseases.

As a result of the measures taken, by end 2024, the incidence of anemia among pregnant women aged 15-49 years was 23.7 percent compared to 2022, a decrease of 13.2 percent (2022-27.3 percent; 2023-26.4 percent).

### ***Agricultural productivity and the transition to sustainable food production systems***

Recently, due to government support measures, the agro-industrial complex (AIC) has shown positive development trends.

The volume of gross agricultural production at end 2024 increased by 13.7 percent reaching ₸8.3 tn. This growth was achieved by increasing production in crop production by 21.1 percent (₸4,954.6 bn), in livestock production by 8.5 percent (₸3,269.1 bn). The volume of food production increased by 2.9 percent and totalled ₸3.3 tn.

Agricultural producers are actively supported through various financial instruments. In 2024 preferential financing of spring field and harvesting works (SF&H) was carried out by combining budgetary and commercial funds through various channels. As a result, the volume of preferential financing for SF&H increased more than threefold for the first time, reaching ₸580 bn. Previously the volume did not exceed ₸180 bn.

Conditions have been created for agricultural producers to purchase a wide range of necessary domestic machinery for a total amount of ₸120 bn at an annual interest rate of 5 percent (4,320 units of agricultural machinery).



## A Youth Perspective



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*Hunger remains one of the most pressing challenges in the world today. Millions of people don't have enough to eat, and it affects their health, education and future.*

*One way to reduce hunger is to support local farmers. Many small farmers do not have enough resources to grow food efficiently. If we help them with better seeds, water, and technology, they can produce more food for the community. People can also buy food from local markets, supporting farmers and reducing transportation costs.*

*Another way to reduce hunger is to reduce food waste. Tons of food is thrown away every year while many people go to bed hungry. If schools, restaurants, and families plan their meals more carefully and give excess food to those in need, we can help many people. Governments and organizations can also provide free meals to children in schools so they can learn without worrying about food.*

*If we take these actions, the world will be a place where no one suffers from hunger. People will be healthier, children will learn better and communities will be stronger. Each of us has a role in solving this problem, and together we can join forces to ensure that no one goes hungry. A world without hunger is possible if we work together!*

*Jasmine Jangeldina, 8th grade student,  
School №24, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

”

Kazakhstan continues to actively invest in projects in the agro-industrial complex. A particularly high level of investment activity took place in 2024: 286 projects totaling ₸279.6 bn were established across the country.

As a result, farmers harvested a total of 42.3 million tons of cereals, 5.5 million tons of oilseeds, 8.1 million tons of vegetables and 6.7 million tons of potatoes during 2023-2024.

### Adoption of digital and innovative practices

In order to improve the efficiency, transparency and sustainability of the agro-industrial complex, work is being carried out on the digitalization of the industry, including optimization of business and technological processes, sparing sustainable land, livestock and water use.

Thus, in order to optimize business processes, MoA has developed and uses four state information systems covering subsidies (GISS), lending, animal identification and AIC management. In addition, work is underway to create E-AIC, a unified digital platform that will unite all existing information systems in agriculture, where subsidization and crediting services in AIC will be provided on a “one-stop-shop” basis.



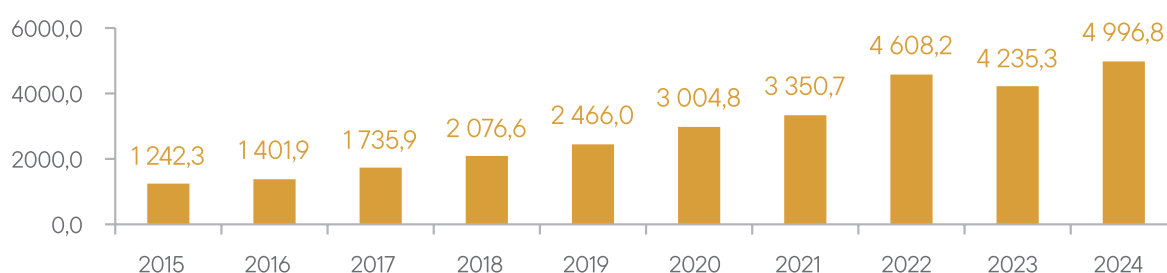
In recent years, the AIC sector has shown an increase in areas where new technologies and productive farming practices are applied.

The area of irrigated land with water-saving technologies has more than doubled: from 215,500 hectares in 2015 to 470,000 hectares in 2024. In general, this figure is projected to reach 1,362,000 hectares by 2030. In 2024 the area of irrigated lands with water-saving irrigation methods increased by 100,100 hectares, and 57,600 hectares of lands was leveled by laser planner. Currently, these areas have increased to 470,000 hectares (drip irrigation – 128,4000 hectares; sprinkler irrigation – 283,900 hectares, laser leveling – 57,600 hectares), and in general by 2030 the figure is expected to reach 1,362,000 hectares.<sup>24</sup>

Moreover, the number of farms introducing elements of precision agriculture is increasing every year. According to regional akimats, the number of agricultural producers introducing elements of precision agriculture in 2023 increased to 549 farms (in 2021 – 440 farms). In 2022 the area covered by precision agriculture totalled 2.5 million hectares or 10.5 percent of the total sown area.

An information system for the traceability of crop production is currently under development.<sup>25</sup> It will enable an end-to-end tracking of the production process and origin of crop products, following the "from stable to table" principle. The system is expected to launch in 2025.

As a result of the measures taken, labour productivity in agriculture showed stable growth, increasing from ₸1,242,300 in 2015 to ₸4,996,800 in 2024 (Figure 18).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 18. Labour productivity in agriculture (in thousand ₸)

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the labour productivity indicator does not differentiate between large and small farms, although 70-80 percent of production is generated by small and family-run farms. In this regard, FAO is proposing to introduce the indicator, "Average income of food producers by form, type and size of entities".

<sup>24</sup> Response Letter of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the SDGs implementation (2025).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.



## *Transition to sustainable land use*

According to the country's qualitative land assessment, 30 million hectares out of a total area of 272.5 million hectares are affected by erosion, leading to reduced soil fertility and declining agricultural potential.

Overall, according to FAO's sustainable land use assessment, the country is a moderate distance away from achieving productive and sustainable agriculture, although little progress has been made since 2015.

However, step-by-step attempts to restore contaminated soils and promotion of ecologically clean products are underway.

Since 2024, as part of the Roadmap for the restoration and improvement of soil fertility of agricultural land, a comprehensive soil survey has been carried out, involving soil, geobotanical and agrochemical surveys.

The State Institute for Land Surveying under the Land Resources Management Committee under the Ministry of Agriculture annually carries out survey works such as soil and geobotanical surveys, land monitoring and soil appraisal. For example, the area of soil surveys in 2024 totaled 6 million hectares and geobotanical surveys 7 million hectares. At the same time, the pace of surveys is gradually increasing. Based on the results of these survey works, local executive bodies are provided with recommendations on the rational use of agricultural lands.

International organizations are actively involved in the transition to sustainable land use. In that regard, FAO-Kazakhstan implements measures aimed at reducing chemical load, introducing sustainable alternatives and remediation of contaminated land, thus contributing to the formation of sustainable food production systems.

### **Restoration of contaminated lands and pesticide load reduction**

FAO and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project - Pesticide Life Cycle Management and Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) Disposal in Central Asia and Turkey.

Under the project, FAO, together with the Kazakh Research Institute of Plant Protection and Quarantine completed the second year of field trials on integrated plant protection at pilot sites in Almaty region. The results showed significant reductions in pesticide use: 70 percent in apple orchards, 40 percent in cabbage plantings and 25 percent in tomato greenhouses.

In parallel, in cooperation with the Kazakh Research Institute of Plant Physiology and Biotechnology, two-year bio- and phytoremediation trials were conducted at a pilot site in Saimasai village. The selected microbial strains (*Falsochrobactrum* sp. NM3 and *Glutamicibacter soli* NAM8) provided up to 99 percent degradation of POP pesticides in heavily contaminated soils.

A National Action Plan for the Promotion of Alternatives to Highly Hazardous Pesticides has also been developed, with a national discussion scheduled for 2025.



FAO in Kazakhstan conducts land quality studies and based on the findings, organizes trainings and capacity-building activities for soil scientists and farmers in the field. The trainings are aimed at improving soil quality, increasing farmers' resilience to climate change and preventing land degradation.

### **Sustainable agro-practices through soil diagnostics and training**

FAO-GEF CACILM-2 project: Integrated management of natural resources in arid and saline agro-landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey.

Under the project, FAO implements practical measures on the ground. In 2023, the project conducted a training for trainers under the Soil Doctor programme to build farmers' capacity in sustainable soil management.

Participants were shown methods and tools to diagnose soil degradation and implement effective solutions. Further, in the Almaty region farmers were trained in methods of rapid soil analysis based on seven key indicators.

As a result, 20 soil scientists were certified and 35 farms participated in the programme. Thus, the FAO project contributes to the formation of sustainable agricultural practices and improvement in land quality.

### ***Conservation of genetic diversity of plant and zoological origin***

Kazakhstan takes measures to preserve genetic diversity of plants and animals in agriculture. As of 2019 a total of 64,236 samples of the most important crops were held in storage, including 1,583 samples of wild crop relatives. By 2024 the indicator slightly decreased totalling 63,493 samples<sup>26</sup> which indicates additional support for agrobiodiversity.

According to the Law on Protection, Reproduction and Execution of Wildlife, Kazakhstan provides for the protection of rare and endangered species. Special attention is paid to the creation of conditions for habitat preservation and the artificial breeding of species. The government also supports scientific research and the work of private farms in breeding and reproduction. For example, the number of local breeds with sufficient genetic resources for potential restoration has shown positive progress, increasing from zero in 2015 to 7 in 2024. The increase of number of rare and endangered species of ungulates is decreasing for some species: for kulans from 5.1 percent in 2015 to 1.8 percent in 2023, and for two other species it is increasing, so for tugai deer it increased from 4.5 percent to 9 percent, for saigas from 15.1 percent to 45.3 percent.

<sup>26</sup> <https://stat.gov.kz/ru/sustainable-development-goals/goal/2/>





At the same time, the country is working on the conservation and selective improvement of domestic animals, including measures on genetic selection, crossbreeding and breeding of rare and valuable breeds. These processes are usually implemented by private farms and breeding farms.

### Example of the private sector in the conservation and breeding of domestic animals

“Akzhar Ondiris” Agrofirma LLP is an agricultural company that specializes in breeding horses, sheep and goats in the Pavlodar region since 2013.

The company is also involved in meat processing, production of canned meat, production of dairy drinks (kumys), cultivation of grain and leguminous crops, cultivation of oilseeds and milk processing.

The company carries out a lot of work on breeding selection of animals. It also a leader in the Republic in breeding the Kazakh "zhabe" horses.

The company has developed a new breeder type of horse known as 'Bestau', distinguished by its high productivity, substantial live weight, large build, and adaptability to year-round pasture-based management. This achievement was preceded by the development of 3 new stallion lines. All new breeding results are patented. Since 2010 the company has held the official status of a stud farm.

Systematic selective breeding is also being conducted on sheep husbandry. Employees have acquired knowledge and certification as animal breeders and inseminator technicians. This enabled the company to independently carry out artificial insemination of sheep for 3 years.

Effect: animals are fully adapted to local climatic conditions, sales of breeding cattle for other farms are increased, breedability and distribution of their breeds among other entrepreneurs of the RK is improved.

Moreover, there is a so-called “maternity home” for saigas, whose numbers reach 5,000-10,000 animals, located next to the farm's fields. They are said to contribute to the ecobalance by destroying weeds. During periods of water scarcity, saigas occasionally use cattle drinkers as a water source. The farm follows crop rotation which does not worsen soil conditions. There are plans to increase the irrigated area to 1,500 hectares.

In conclusion, the following results were achieved as part of efforts to reduce hunger.



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- The domestic market is 80-100 percent supplied with all 29 key items through domestic production.
- The volume of gross agricultural output in 2024 increased by 13.7 percent due to a growth in crop production (+21.1 percent) and livestock production (+8.5 percent).
- Recent years has seen an increase in the use of new technologies. The area of irrigated land with water-saving technologies increased by 68 percent.
- According to FAO assessments, Kazakhstan has demonstrated progress in reducing price anomalies.
- In the country, free meals are provided to all 1-4 year school students, preschoolers and school students from socially vulnerable families.
- All pregnant women and children aged 0 to 5 years are covered by patronage services aimed at identifying targeted health risks.
- Work continues on restoring and improving soil fertility of agricultural land.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 2

- Import dependence persists for 5 food products (poultry meat, fish, sausages, cheese and cottage cheese, sugar).
- According to FAO assessments, the labour productivity indicator does not capture differences between large and small farms, despite 70-80 percent of production comes from small and personal subsidiary farms.



## Prospective steps

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- Implementation of 670 projects until 2027.
- Creation of the Information System of traceability of crop production and the platform “E-AIC”.
- Taking measures to develop carbon farming to transition to sustainable land use.

## Civil society assessment

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- The absence of mass hunger in the global sense and the existence of government programmes to support agriculture shows that there are the basic guarantees of food security in Kazakhstan.
- Sustainable access to quality food remains a challenge, especially for vulnerable groups.
- High food prices, low incomes, land degradation and water scarcity reduce the sustainability of the food system.
- The agricultural sector’s insufficient preparedness for climate change increases risks.
- To achieve SDG 2, the food strategy needs revision, investments in sustainable infrastructure are required and the reach of social programmes need to be expanded.



## Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

*The health promotion policy is based on the priorities of the National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029 where disease prevention, ensuring equal access to quality medical care and modernization of medical infrastructure are identified as key areas.*

*As part of achieving sustainable development, the main directions of the country's activities are promoting public health and, developing a sustainable, inclusive and patient-oriented health care system.*

### Maternal and child health care

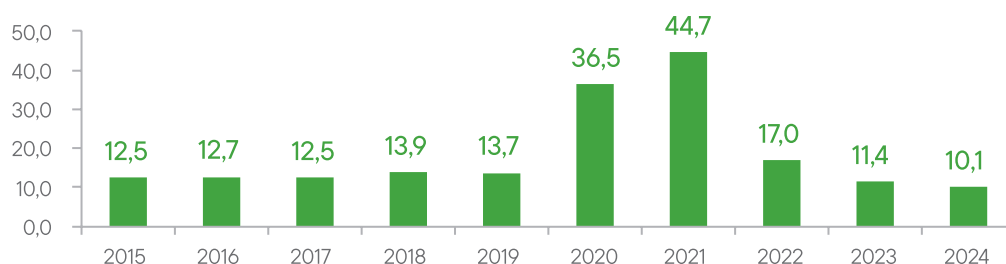
Government policy on maternal and child health care is based on the principles of equitable access, evidence-based medicine, early detection and intersectoral cooperation. Kazakhstan demonstrates sustainable leadership in Central Asia in terms of reducing maternal, infant and neonatal mortality, the quality of perinatal care and the introduction of modern family and child support technologies.

According to WHO estimates, Kazakhstan is among the 10 countries that have achieved the highest rates of reduction in the maternal mortality ratio.<sup>27</sup> In order to prevent maternal mortality, systemic measures have been implemented, the main ones being the approval of the Programme for further improvement of diagnostics and treatment of pregnant women and women in labour and delivery, and the revision of 25 priority clinical protocols on obstetrics. In addition, national and regional expert councils have been set up to address key issues in obstetric care, including the provision of 24/7 counselling for pregnant women in critical condition.

The practice of telemedicine consultations – involving more than 40 leading specialists, professors and staff of scientific and national clinics in the fields of anesthesiology and resuscitation, cardiology, surgery, neurosurgery, infection, pulmonology, vascular surgery, hematology, urology, gastroenterology and others – is being widely introduced to counsel pregnant women in distant regions and obstetrics.

As a result, the country has experienced a steady decline in the maternal mortality ratio over the last 10 years, which was interrupted in 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The downward trend resumed in 2022, and by the end of 2024 the rate had fallen to 10.1 cases per 100,000 live births (Figure 19).

<sup>27</sup> <https://ortcom.kz/ru/novosti/1740487057>



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 19. Maternal mortality ratio cases, per 100,000 live births

In three regions, Pavlodar, Mangistau and North-Kazakhstan regions no cases of maternal mortality were registered. However, the maternal mortality rate is three times higher than the national rate in Zhetisu region (36.5 per 100,000 live births) and Aktobe region (27.9 per 100,000 live births).

The availability of obstetric specialists also has an impact on reducing maternal mortality. In recent years the proportion of births attended by qualified medical personnel has been increasing, reaching 99.9 per cent in 2024 (98.7 per cent in 2023; 99.7 per cent in 2022).<sup>28</sup>

However, at the moment, the number of medical workers with higher and secondary education in the country's obstetrics service is two-thirds of the recommended standards. The number of obstetricians in the country is 18.16 per 10,000 women of fertile age, or 1 obstetrician for 105.6 births.<sup>29</sup> There is an insufficient ratio of midwives to pregnant women, 1: 5–6 women in labour; and neonatal nurses in neonatal intensive care units, whose ratio to newborns is 1:2.7. This fact emphasizes the need to increase the number of obstetric health workers.

The state of adolescent sexual and reproductive health remains a pressing issue. Sociological surveys conducted in 2018 and 2024 on the reproductive health of young people indicate that 30 percent of adolescents are sexually active, with the average age of sexual debut being 16.5 years. At the same time, 27.8 percent of adolescents aged 15–19 and 38.4 percent of young people aged 20–24 did not use condoms during their last sexual intercourse due to unwillingness to use them or lack of money.

According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, the prevalence of modern contraceptive use declined from 53.6 percent in 2015 to 43.7 percent by the end of 2024. At the same time, the rate of unmet need for family planning increased from 10 percent (2015) to 18 percent, driven by the high cost of contraceptives, confidentiality-related barriers, and a limited range of available methods. Modern contraceptive options such as implants and injectable contraceptives are not registered in Kazakhstan.<sup>30</sup>

With the aim of promoting responsible attitudes among young people toward their health and developing specialized services, Youth Health Centers have been established for adolescents aged 10 to 18 and young people within primary health care institutions. These centers provide medical care in the areas of reproductive and mental health, including cases of self-harm and suicide attempts.

<sup>28</sup> Letter of the MoH of RK on SDG implementation dated October 2024.

<sup>29</sup> Letter of the MoH of RK on SDG implementation dated October 2024.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Population fund (UNFPA) materials.



Youth Health Centres for adolescents aged 10 to 18 and young people were established at PHC organizations in order to foster responsible attitudes of young people towards their health and develop specialized services. The Center provides medical assistance in the field of reproductive and mental health, including cases of self-harm and suicide attempts.

As a result of the measures taken, the adolescent birth rate among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years in the country decreased from 19.71 per 1,000 women in 2022 to 15.3 in 2024. However, the adolescent birth rate remains higher in rural areas than in urban areas, at 23.37 cases versus 13.61 cases per 1,000 women respectively (2023). In this case, necessary to strengthen adolescent education and reproductive health measures, especially in rural areas.

### *Neonatal and child mortality*

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To reduce the infant mortality rate, the system of prenatal diagnostics is being improved and the use of modern effective perinatal technologies is being expanded.

For the first time in 2024, “Fetal Medicine” was introduced, which made it possible to correct and treat early pathological conditions of the fetus using minimally invasive procedures. 37 such surgeries have been performed.

One of the key measures was the establishment of 15 “**One Day Clinics**” in 13 regions of the country with improved material and technical base. As part of the project, 250,000 diagnostic services were provided to 50,000 pregnant women on a one-stop-shop basis; as a result, the early detection of congenital malformations increased by 10 percent, more than 1,000 pregnancies were terminated for medical reasons, infant mortality from congenital development defects was reduced by 15 percent, and the disability rate for children with congenital development defects was reduced by 3 percent in 2024.

In 2023 the Standard for the organization of neonatal care was approved, the principle of 1-to-1 nurse to newborn care ratio in intensive care units was established, new devices for diagnosis and treatment were provided.

Due to a 20 percent increase in neonatal surgery beds at perinatal centers, an average of 1,500 newborns with congenital development defects receive surgical treatment annually, 40 percent of whom are operated on by endovideosurgery, which has increased the survival rate of infants from 88 percent to 93 percent after surgery and reduced mortality by 15 percent.

Kazakhstan is the only country in Central Asia where cardiac surgery is performed from birth. In 2024, 2,474 cardiac surgical operations were performed, of which 317 were performed on newborns. 698 endovascular interventions were performed (12 percent growth by 2023). Neo-valvular pulmonary artery from the auricle of the right atrium was introduced (23 surgeries).

Special attention is paid to the development of oncohematological care in the country. High-tech modern methods of diagnosis and treatment have been introduced – immunohistochemistry, immunophenotyping, determination of specific cancer markers, high-dose chemotherapy for bone and soft tissue sarcomas, organ-preserving methods of surgical





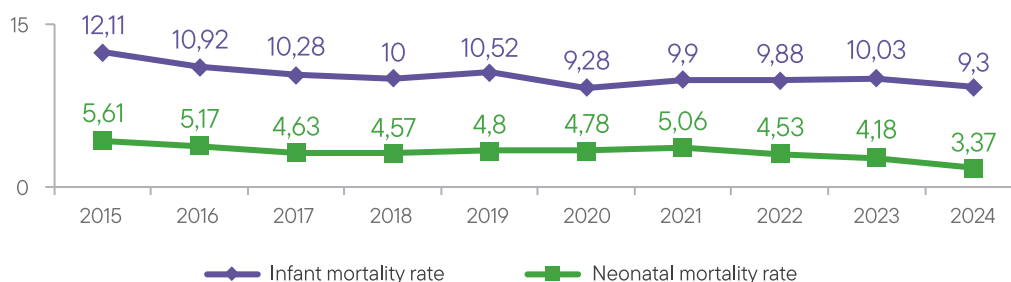
treatment for bone sarcomas. Thus, during the last 5 years, 415 children have undergone hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. 117 joint endoprosthetics for bone tumors, 86 selective intra-articular chemotherapy were performed. As a result, the 5-year survival rate of children with oncohematologic pathology is above 75 percent.

The Republic continues to implement the Universal Progressive Care Model (UPCM). The introduction of UPCM has made it possible to ensure continuous monitoring of pregnant women, newborns and young children, including home-based care, interdisciplinary support and early detection of developmental abnormalities. The coverage rate for the care of pregnant women was 93 percent, and the coverage rate for the care of newborns was 99 percent.

Since 2025, the introduction of early intervention in the health care system has been launched, which includes consulting parents on early childhood care, assessing the harmony of development, and, if developmental disorders are identified, developing an individual early intervention program for each child under 6 years of age according to the principle “before diagnosis, before disability”.

In order to reduce disabling conditions in children, the Republican Centre for Orphan Diseases Coordination was established in 2024. In addition, by March 2025, work was completed on the creation of a national register of patients with orphan diseases, which will make it possible to carry out systemic monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of treatment with expensive drugs.

As a result of consistent government policies and significant investments in maternal and child health, historically low rates of neonatal (3.37), infant (6.80) and child (9.30) mortality per 1,000 live births for 2024 have been achieved (Figure 20).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 20. Infant and neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births

Neonatal mortality rates are higher than the republican level in Aktobe region – 5.41, Almaty region – 4.14, Kostanay region – 4.41, and Zhetysu region – 4.34 per 1, 000 live births. At the same time, the highest rates and growth of infant mortality occur in three regions – Aktobe, Kostanay and Ulytau regions.



## *Infectious diseases*

**The HIV situation in Kazakhstan remains stable.** Kazakhstan has implemented all WHO recommendations on HIV prevention and in 2021 joined the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS “95-95-95” Strategy. As a result of implementing this strategy, by the end of 2024 the country achieved indicators that surpass the global average: 83 percent of people living with HIV are aware of their status; 90 percent of people are receiving antiretroviral therapy; 92 percent<sup>31</sup> of people have reached an undetectable viral load. HIV prevalence in the country remains within the concentrated epidemic and stands at 0.2 percent, which is below the global average of 0.5 percent (based on 2024 data).

Thus the number of new HIV infections decreased by 5 percent in 2024 and amounted to 0.19 cases per 1,000 uninfected people compared to 2022.

**Timely detection of tuberculosis** in Kazakhstan is ensured through the introduction of modern diagnostic methods recommended by WHO. Kazakhstan is a country that joined the political declaration of the UN High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis and is implementing the END TB strategy aimed at eliminating tuberculosis as an epidemic by 2035. In 2023, as a member of the UN General Assembly, Kazakhstan joined the Coalition of World Leaders to eliminate TB supported by the End TB Partnership.

XpertMTB/RIF machines have been installed in outpatient clinics for early TB diagnosis to increase access to rapid methods at primary health care level, including district-level primary health care facilities, detention facilities and AIDS centres.

In order to ensure effective health care measures, including tuberculosis prevention, for persons in the penal correctional system (PCS), the law on the transfer of the medical service of the PCS to MoH was adopted in 2021. The process of transferring medical institutions of the PCS to this ministry was completed in 2023. As a result of the measures taken, the incidence of tuberculosis in the Republic in 2024 decreased by 8.5 percent compared to 2022 and amounted to 33.4 cases per 100, 000 population (in 2022 – 36.5 cases).

## *Reduction of non-communicable causes of death*

The country is working systematically to reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through screening programmes and qualitative treatment, including the use of innovative technologies.

According to a 2022 WHO analysis, premature mortality from NCDs in Kazakhstan (451 deaths per 100,000 population) remains higher than the average for the WHO European Region (359 deaths), but lower than the average for Central Asia (546 deaths).<sup>32</sup>

In order to prevent mortality, circulatory diseases are screened once every two years among men and women aged 30–70 years. A total of 1,823,872 people were scheduled to be screened, with 100 percent coverage achieved in 2024. Diseases were detected in 6.3 percent of those examined, 87.0 percent of whom were placed on dynamic monitoring. There are

<sup>31</sup> Kazakh Scientific Center of Dermatology and Infectious Diseases, MH RK.

<sup>32</sup> WHO and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (2022) Health systems in action: Kazakhstan. <https://shorturl.at/AQIdi>



81 stroke centres in the country. In case of acute coronary syndrome, 48 coronary intervention centres provide specialized medical assistance to the country's population. The implantation of artificial Left Ventricular Assistance Devices (LVADs) for mechanical circulatory support is performed at the cardio-surgical centre in Astana.

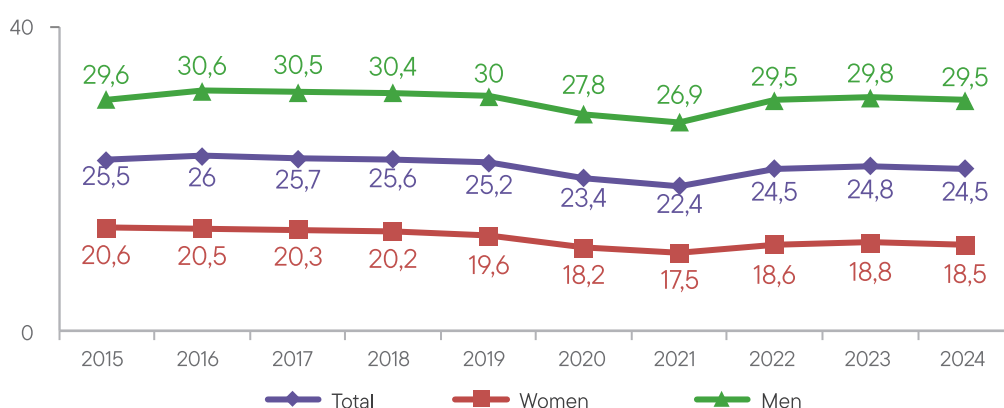
Screening for diabetes mellitus in the same age group (once every two years) covered 1,894,022 people, with 99.1 percent covered in 2024. The disease was detected in 1.3 percent of those screened, 89.5 percent of whom were registered.

**Improvement of oncological care** in the country was carried out within the framework of the Comprehensive Plan to combat cancer in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2027. In total, 230,000 cancer patients were on regular follow-up at end 2024, which is 5.9 percent more compared to 2023. The growth is associated with an increase in the rate of early detection of malignant neoplasms at stage 0-I through the screening programme: 31.4 percent in 2024 (30.5 percent in 2023). In this regard, the issue of timely diagnosis of oncologic diseases remains relevant for the country.

A “Green Corridor” has been introduced to speed up examination and treatment for suspected oncological and hematological diseases. Innovative 3-D prosthetics for bone oncopathology has been introduced. About 30,000 oncological operations are performed, in combination with chemoradiation therapy, using video endoscopic equipment. As a result of such measures, the mortality rate from malignant neoplasms decreased by 3.2 percent in 2024.

In the National Centre of Neurosurgery in Astana, a Gamma Knife complex for radiosurgical treatment of diseases of the central nervous system have been installed. Since its opening in 2024, 361 surgeries have already been performed. At the same time, a nuclear medicine centre was opened in Semey, where radionuclide therapy was introduced for the first time in Kazakhstan. More than 1,800 patients have been treated with radionuclide therapy for thyroid cancer.

According to 2024 data, the probability of mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases among individuals aged 30 to 70 decreased by 3.9 percent (25.5 percent) and remains stable at 24.5 percent over the last 3 years (Figure 21).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

*Figure 21. Probability of death from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease before age 70 (% of 30-year-olds)*



At the same time, there is still a significant gender imbalance in the risk of premature death: in 2024, it amounted to 29.5 percent in men and 18.5 percent in women. This fact requires additional mechanisms for prevention and early detection of diseases among the male population.

## *Risk factors for public health*

Tobacco use, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and environmental pollution all increase the risk of death from NCDs.<sup>33</sup>

**Mental health and prevention of behavioural disorders** due to substance use is an important aspect of preventive measures. The “Comprehensive Plan to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2025” and the “Roadmap for the Development of Mental Health Services in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2024” outlines measures to prevent and treat addiction to psychoactive substances and to improve access to medical and social support for mental health care across the population.

In order to prevent and treat mental disorders, 141 youth health centres operate in the country under the auspices of primary health care organizations and centres for promoting healthy lifestyles, where adolescents receive medical and psychosocial assistance on the principles of voluntariness, accessibility and confidentiality. The project “Unified information service for mental health care in the Republic of Kazakhstan” is also being implemented, aimed at expanding citizens' access to psychological assistance through online platforms.

In addition, child-oriented preventive activities are also actively carried out within the framework of the international project “Health-promoting schools”, which covers the country's general educational institutions. The “Healthy Universities” project is being implemented through higher education institutions.

In order to rehabilitate persons with mental disorders, the country implements a comprehensive programme of medical and social rehabilitation (the MSR) for drug addicts, which includes three stages: detoxification, psychotherapeutic and psychocorrectional treatment and social rehabilitation. Currently, MSR departments for drug addicts operate in 15 regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan with 315 medical beds.

Given the health risks for children and adolescents posed by energy drinks, from July 2024 the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan banning the sale of energy drinks to persons under 21 years was adopted. This measure is aimed at reducing obesity, especially among children. In order to prevent unhealthy nutrition, the MoH jointly with UNICEF, the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition and the MoE developed a draft School Nutrition Standard to come into force on 1 September 2025.

In order to protect children's health and combat tobacco smoking, the 2024 Law bans the circulation of electronic tobacco consumption systems (vapes), flavourings and liquids for them. As a result of effective measures in the country, the incidence of mental and behavioural disorders related to substance use (including alcohol and narcotic drugs) decreased by

<sup>33</sup> United Nations. Common Country Analysis: Kazakhstan 2024. UNCT in Kazakhstan, November 2024.



70 percent compared to 2015 to 63.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2024. In 2024, of the total number of household members surveyed, 20.7 percent of the population smoked tobacco, including 39.8 percent of men and 7.6 percent of women. The share of smokers in rural areas totalled 22.3 percent, in urban areas – 20 percent.<sup>34</sup>

### A Youth Perspective

(translated from Kazakh to English)



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*In today's world health has become not only a necessity for life, but also part of a fashionable lifestyle.*

*Today taking care of one's health is more than visiting doctors or needing to recover. It involves following a healthy lifestyle, eating right, practicing sports, maintaining a psychological balance and striving for self-development.*

*Staying healthy is important both from a physical and psychological point of view. There are different difficulties and stresses in life. Therefore, in order to maintain psychological balance, it is important to rest, take breaks on time, and spend time with friends or relatives. At school we are also given various tips and trainings on psychological wellness. This helps us to make the right decisions in difficult situations and in being in a good mood. In order to stay healthy, it is not enough just to exercise and eat right – psychological well-being also plays an important role.*

*Another important aspect of health is proper nutrition. The school canteens offer different kinds of food. I personally have given up sweets and fast foods and now eat more fruit and vegetables. This helps my body to work properly, increases my energy and contributes to good results in my studies. There is a growing awareness among today's youth about the importance of proper nutrition. In society the increasing incidence of obesity and other health problems is often linked to poor nutrition.*

*To summarize: health has become a fashionable trend and popular among the youth.*

*Ayazhan Tileubekova, 8th grade student,  
Shengeldi School-Kindergarten Complex, Shengeldi village, East Kazakhstan region,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

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Measures are being taken to ensure road safety and reduce related deaths. Due to changes in the criteria for counting road traffic accidents (RTA), starting from 2023 a statistical increase in RTAs took place from 14,834 cases in 2022 to 31,597 in 2024; deaths from 2,425 individuals in 2022 to 2,579 individuals in 2024; and individuals injured in RTAs from 19,135 persons in 2022 to 40,873 persons in 2024.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RK together with the NGO “Kazakhstan Association of Urbanists Q88” in the cities of Aktau, Almaty, Astana, Karaganda and Kokshetau are actively promoting the principles of the “Vision Zero” programme aimed at improving road infrastructure for pedestrians.

<sup>34</sup> [https://stat.gov.kz/ru/news/potreblenie-tabaka-vzroslym-naseleniem-v-respublike-kazakhstan-v-2024-godu/?sphrase\\_id=405994](https://stat.gov.kz/ru/news/potreblenie-tabaka-vzroslym-naseleniem-v-respublike-kazakhstan-v-2024-godu/?sphrase_id=405994)



Regional development plans include measures on territorial and transport planning, traffic organization and introduction of technical regulatory measures for urban and national roads.

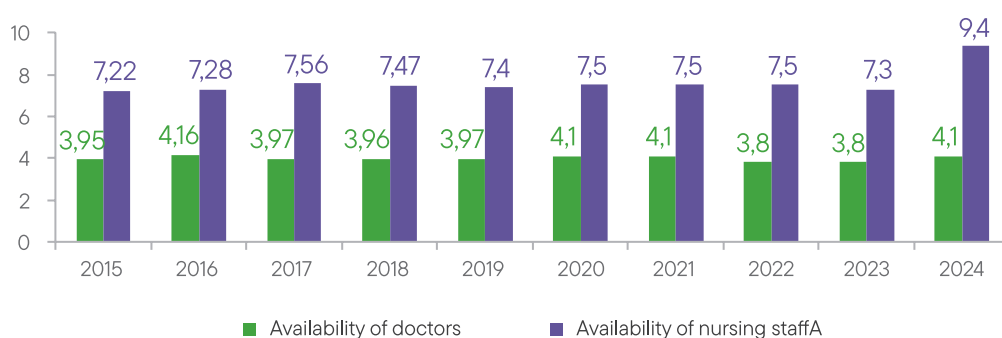
In 2023 legislative amendments and additions were made to regulate the movement of electric scooters. In 2024 the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan equated mopeds to mechanical vehicles and their mandatory registration was adopted.

As a result of these measures, the mortality rate from road traffic accidents for the last two years remained stable at 12.7 per 100,000 population, which requires additional mechanisms to reduce road traffic accidents. At the same time, the bulk of road traffic accident deaths occur at the pre-hospital stage, before the arrival of an ambulance crew, which is largely due to the wear and tear of ambulances. As of today, the depreciation of ambulance vehicles has increased by 16 percent compared to 2023 reaching to 60 percent.

MoH carries out sanitary and epidemiological monitoring of drinking water safety on a permanent basis. A significant number of drinking water samples were investigated in 2022-2024: 34,294 in 2022, 52,200 in 2023 and 38,049 in the first half of 2024. The share of samples that did not meet sanitary and chemical standards was 5 percent, 3.7 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. As a result of preventive and monitoring activities for the quality of water supply, the mortality rate related to the lack of safe water decreased to 0.75 deaths per 100,000 population in 2024 compared to 0.78 in 2023. However, the growing share of drinking water that not meeting sanitary and chemical standards requires increased quality control.

### *Provision of medical personnel, equipment and medicines*

The issue of staffing is becoming increasingly important in the health care sector. The number of doctors in 2024 is 4.1 units per 1,000 population, and 9.4 units for average medical workers (Figure 22).



Source: MoH RK

*Figure 22. Availability of physicians and nurses, per 1,000 population*

More than 271,000 medical personnel work in the health care system. By end 2024, the shortage of doctors decreased by 19 percent, from 4,864 staff units in 2023 to 3,954, while the shortage of nursing staff decreased by 7 percent, from 4,820 to 4,505 staff units. However, despite the strong presence of medical personnel, their distribution is uneven, especially in rural areas.





In order to address the issue of staff shortages in 2024, MoH has increased the number of quotas for training of specialized (narrow) specialists (from 1,500 to 2,500 places at the expense of RB), and measures have been taken to improve legal protection, labour conditions and social support.

Medical and feldsher-midwife stations are being built in rural settlements, and the facilities are being resourced. In 2023, the construction of 92 primary health care facilities was completed and 1,688 new permanent jobs were created, contributing to improving the level of medical personnel in rural areas.

Additional social support measures, such as stipends and soft loans, and incentive programmes from local governments, have a direct impact on the availability of health care professionals and modern medical equipment. These measures are effective in helping to solve staffing problems and ensuring the sustainable functioning of health care in rural areas.

As a result, from 2019 to 2024, the indicator of equipping medical organizations with modern medical equipment increased from 74.2 percent to 86.7 percent.

Early diagnosis of serious diseases is essential, as most can be effectively managed with conservative treatment in the initial stages. Therefore, the availability and equipment of diagnostic laboratories, especially in rural areas, is of particular importance. The involvement of business in addressing this issue is growing in Kazakhstan.

### Opening medical laboratories in villages through grant support

The Sustainable Rural Development Fund, together with local executive bodies and the business community is engaged in the management of rural areas based on sustainable development strategies. The aim of the project on opening medical laboratories is to enable rural residents to obtain quality test results for medical diagnostics in the shortest possible time and at minimal cost to them.

In 2021-2023, the Sustainable Rural Development Fund (the SRDF) provided grants to entrepreneurs to open biomaterial collection points (BCP) under “Olymp” and INVIVO franchises.

The amount of the grant varied from ₸1.5 to 3 mn depending on the remoteness of the rural settlement (district centre) from the regional centre and the number of inhabitants of the district. The participation of entrepreneurs – project initiators – with their own funds was envisaged.

The programme partners “Olymp” and INVIVO provided their franchises on preferential terms and supported entrepreneurs with marketing and operational design and staff training.

Grants for opening BCPs were allocated only for rural areas with no medical centres.

As a result, 20 BCPs were opened in 9 regions of the country, and 20 grants totalling over ₸33 mn were awarded. More than 40 jobs were created. The population of 20 districts in nine regions has access to the service of taking a wide range of tests at their place of residence without traveling to the regional centre and without spending time and money.

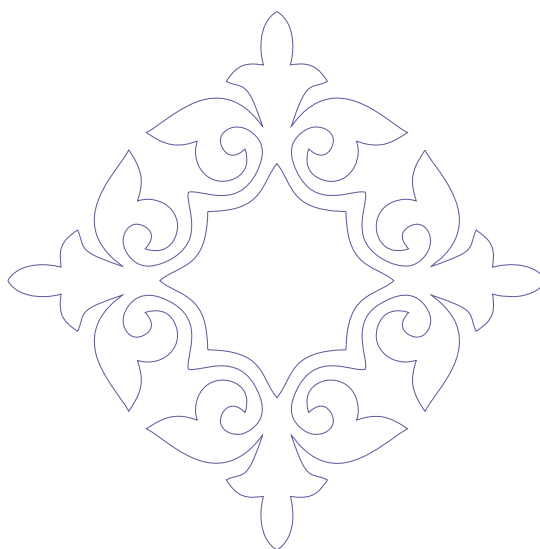


## Availability of medicines

There are 207 registered pharmaceutical manufacturers in the country, including 43 enterprises specializing in the production of medicines (25 have a GMP certificate), and 164 manufacturers of medical devices. In 2024 14 new production facilities for medical devices were opened in various regions. This contributed to the growth of domestic pharmaceutical production, whose volume reached ₺171.6 bn, an increase of 22 percent compared to 2023. As part of the investment project, production of antitumour drugs of the international company Roche was launched on the basis of Nobel JSC.

In 2024, the provision of medicines to patients under dispensary supervision amounted to 99 percent.

Immunization of the population with all vaccines is a priority for the country. In 2024, the share of the target population covered by immunization with all vaccines was 95.3 percent. In September 2024, the introduction of vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) began, and as of 21 February 2025, 121,800 girls aged 11-13 years were vaccinated. As a result of preventive and anti-epidemic measures taken among the population, no cases of 16 infectious diseases were registered, including plague, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, typhoid fever and rabies.





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- A universal progressive model of home care for pregnant women and children from 0 to 5 years old was introduced.
- The coverage of oncoscreening and monitoring of chronic patients increased.
- An increase in remote medical services took place. The number of telemedicine consultations increased over five years, which has strengthened the accessibility of medicine.
- Kazakhstan entered the top 10 countries with the highest rates of reduction of maternal mortality, according to WHO estimates.
- Neonatal mortality has been reduced by 24 percent in two years.
- Access to high-tech medicine has been expanded. Cardiac surgery is now performed from birth, including stem cell transplants – a service that is unique to the region.
- A ban on electronic tobacco products has been introduced.
- Road traffic of electric scooters and mopeds was regulated as part of accident prevention work.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 3

- Premature mortality from NCDs in Kazakhstan remains higher than the average for the WHO European region.
- Despite the decrease in maternal mortality across the country, regional disparities exist.
- There is a gender gap in premature mortality. The mortality rate from NCDs is significantly higher for men (29.5 percent) compared to women (18.5 percent).
- Uneven distribution of medical personnel. The problem is particularly acute in rural areas, where there is also a shortage in obstetrics care personnel.



## Prospective steps

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- Establishment of the National Centre for Children's Oncology and Hematology.
- Development of a national system of human resources for health care.
- Construction of primary health care facilities in rural communities with modern equipment.
- Implementation of new initiatives to fundamentally modernize the compulsory social health insurance system.
- Improving the quality of medical personnel training, including the introduction of differentiated educational grants.
- Integration of automatic systems for recording traffic violations in public transport, ambulances and service vehicles into the Unified Register of Administrative Offences to improve road safety.

## Civil society assessment

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- In Kazakhstan the health sector has seen positive improvements – in the development of OSMS, digitalization and modernization of medical services which.
- There are rural-urban inequalities, poorly developed prevention, lower age in the onset of substance use among adolescents, limited coverage of vulnerable groups and lack of systemic support for mental and reproductive health.
- The situation is exacerbated by environmental risks, inefficient use of resources and poor integration of social and health care.



## Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

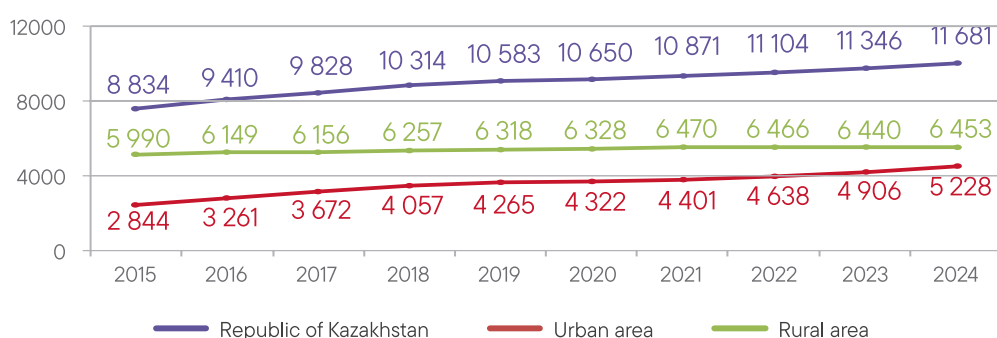
Since the second Review, significant results have been achieved in education.

In the National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2029, the development of the education sector is one of the main strategic priorities with a focus on inclusiveness and accessibility.

As part of the “Concept of Preschool, Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029” and the “Concept of Higher Education and Science Development for 2023-2029”, a key objective is to ensure equal and quality access for all child<sup>35</sup> and adult education levels. Kazakhstan’s commitment to ensuring equal access to education and ensuring opportunities for quality education aligns with the UN SDGs.<sup>36</sup>

### Equal access to primary and secondary education

An important condition for creating equal starting opportunities for every child to study in elementary school is to expand access to preschool education and training. Access to preschool organizations (POs) has significantly increased due to the growing number of non-state POs. Over the last three years, their number has increased by 5.2 percent, from 11,104 in 2022 to 11,681 in 2024 (Figure 23).



Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 23. Number of preschool organizations (units)

<sup>35</sup> GD RK, dated 28 March 2023, No.249 “On approval of the Concept of development of preschool, secondary, technical and vocational education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029”, Preschool education and training. <https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P2300000249#z81>

<sup>36</sup> ME RK, dated 27 September 2023, Quality Education Available to Everyone. Draft National Report to the First Congress of Teachers, <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/edu/press/article/details/135521?lang=ru>



At the same time, the number of pupils increased by 2.2 percent to 986,422 compared to 965,204 in 2022. However, POs in urban areas (5,228) are smaller than those in rural areas (6,453).

There has been a steady increase in the coverage of children aged 2 to 6 in preschool education and training (PET), with coverage reaching 93.06 percent in 2024. In 2022–2023 the coverage of children aged 3 to 6 was 98.5 percent. The share of children participating in pre-primary preparation has consistently remained high: 99.8 percent in 2015, 99.1 percent in 2022 and 99.9 percent in 2024.

A pilot project has been launched to provide public services in the field of PET and to implement state educational procurement based on a voucher-based financing model.

At the same time, one of the most pressing challenges in PET remains the shortage of teaching staff. As of 2024, the need for preschool educators totals 18,554 specialists. To address this issue, a set of comprehensive measures is being developed to support educators, aimed at enhancing the prestige of the profession, improving working conditions, and ensuring social protection.

Also, the Law of RK “On the status of the teacher” (2019) has provided systemic measures of support and incentives for the professional growth of teachers for four years. The salary of educators was increased twofold, accountability was reduced, professional development courses were expanded (every three years) the number of grants in pedagogy was increased. State awards are conferred in recognition of exceptional merit.

Secondary education represents the future of Kazakhstan, and its quality and accessibility are key priorities for the country. The total number of schools in 2024 increased by 233 compared to 2022 reaching 7,920. This growth is due to economic and demographic factors. Over the last three years, the number of students has increased by 195,000, reaching 3.9 million due to natural population growth.

Kazakhstan maintains a stable and balanced gender composition of students, with no significant distortions by region, which contributes to equal opportunities for girls and boys. Overall, there are only 2.1 percent more boys (78,415) than girls. However, a notably higher proportion of boys – exceeding 2.5 percent – was recorded in Akmola, Aktobe, West-Kazakhstan, North-Kazakhstan regions and in Almaty city.

Kazakhstan continues to actively participate in international comparative studies that provide independent assessments of students’ educational achievements. In 2022 the country once again participated in the PISA study, which assessed the educational achievements of 15-year-old students in the post-pandemic period. In this period, for the first time Kazakhstan entered the top 50 countries in math and science literacy, ranking 46th and 49th respectively, and 61st in reading among 81 countries.

The results of the PISA-2022 study indicated a narrowing of the gap in educational achievement between urban and rural students in Kazakhstan.<sup>37</sup> The urban-rural gap decreased in math and science, but was maintained in reading. A significant proportion of students do not reach the minimum literacy levels of 64 percent in reading, 50 percent in math and 45 percent in science. Boys from rural areas have particularly low scores.

<sup>37</sup> MoE RK, Analytical note on the report on the National Project “Quality Education ‘Educated Nation’ implementation for 2023.





Cases of bullying are also reported in Kazakhstani schools. International studies such as PISA-2022<sup>38</sup> and PIRLS-2021,<sup>39</sup> show that 22 percent of 15-year-old pupils and 15 percent of 5-year school students report incidents of bullying at least several times a month. The most common form of bullying is behavioral discrimination, specifically exclusion from the group (16 percent). Boys are more often victims of bullying (26 percent) than girls (19 percent). Moreover, rural schoolchildren face bullying more often than urban schoolchildren (25 percent vs 21 percent).<sup>40</sup>

In order to address the problem, as part of the Children's Rights Protection Comprehensive Plan,<sup>41</sup> a methodology for early identification and assistance to children who are victims of violence or witnesses of bullying and cyberbullying<sup>42</sup> has been approved.

In order to reduce the knowledge gap between regions, a Rural School Development Program “Auyl Mektebi” has been developed, which is aimed at overcoming the gap in the level of education. The necessary conditions have been created within the programme’s framework: this involves technological upgrading, expanding teaching formats, professional development of teachers and a strengthened partnership with the local community. Moreover, in Kazakhstan volunteers are actively involved in providing qualitative education to children from remote villages.

### Establishing a modern school in a rural area

Kazygurt Intellectual School LLP is a modern school in the settlement of Kazygurt district, Turkestan region, which was registered in 2021. As one of the initiatives of National Volunteer Network LLP, the school works as per all the requirements of modern education providing a trilingual education. Children in primary school master the English language. The uniqueness of the school is that it is a one-shift school. In the afternoon the school students can study in hobby groups. Moreover, the school teaches its students to give their opinions and to always express their thoughts directly.

The share of three-shift schools and schools in poor repair across the country is gradually decreasing. The number of schools with three-shift education has decreased from 139 in 2022 to 76 at the beginning of 2025, thanks to the construction of new schools as part of the national programme, “Comfortable School”. Priority is given to regions with the highest school overload. The number of schools in poor repair in Kazakhstan has also decreased:

<sup>38</sup> “Taldau” Baitursynuly National Center for Education Research and Assessment JSC (2024). National Report “Kazakhstan's Results in PISA-2022” – Astana: MoE RK

<sup>39</sup> GD RK, dated 31 August 2023, № 748 “On approval of the Comprehensive Plan for the protection of children from violence, suicide prevention and ensuring their rights and well-being for 2023-2025”.

<sup>40</sup> National report on the state and development of the education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan (at the end of 2023). – Astana: Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Taldau Baitursynuly National Centre for Education Research and Assessment JSC, 2024, p. 373.

<sup>41</sup> GD RK, dated 31 August, 2023, № 748 “On approval of the Comprehensive Plan for the protection of children from violence, suicide prevention and ensuring their rights and well-being for 2023-2025”

<sup>42</sup> Joint Order of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, dated 21 December, 2023, “Methodology for early identification and assistance to minors who have been subjected to or witnessed violence, bullying, cyberbullying” <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/bko/press/article/details/149127?lang=ru>



in 2024 there were 50 such schools compared to 55 in 2023. However, the problem is still acute in rural areas, where 38 out of 50 schools in poor repair are located (76 percent).

The provision of high-speed internet access to schools is an objective of the “Affordable Internet” National Project.<sup>43</sup> At the same time, the gap between urban and rural schools has been practically levelled, averaging 98.6 percent.<sup>44</sup>

Provision of equipment to classrooms expands every year. Provision with modern equipment increased from 10.0 percent in 2022 to 10.4 percent in 2024. Thus in 20 regions (6,035 schools) in 2023, 1,507 classrooms were purchased (chemistry – 380, physics – 396, biology – 373, STEM – 234, robotics – 124).<sup>45</sup> At least 7,000 modern school rooms are to be opened between 2023 and 2029. In order to fill the knowledge gaps in core subjects, a roadmap for the Digital Teacher project for children from socially vulnerable families is being implemented.<sup>46</sup> The goal of the project is to prepare students to take final exams online in two elective subjects and to provide access to higher education.

### A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



“

*Quality education is the foundation for a sustainable future.*

*Education helps to develop an economy based on innovations and technologies that reduce environmental damage. High levels of knowledge contribute to the emergence of new professions and solutions that minimize pollution and use resources more efficiently.*

*Social sustainability also depends on education. Educated people are more likely to strive for peace, equality and mutual understanding. They are more aware of global problems and can participate in solving them. Development of society is possible only when everyone has access to knowledge that helps them to build a decent life.*

*Thus sustainable development is impossible without educated individuals. It is knowledge that helps us understand the world, find solutions to complex problems and build a future in which humanity can exist in harmony with nature. Therefore I believe that education should be a priority for every person and for society as a whole.*

*Alikhan Nasypan, 8th grade student,  
Smart Technological School, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

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The enrolment of children in extracurricular education is an important aspect of secondary education. To ensure such access to rural children, work has begun to establish 1,000 community centres based in rural schools by 2025. In 2023 468 such centres were opened,

<sup>43</sup> Report of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Concept of Development of Preschool, Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029 in 2023.

<sup>44</sup> BNS RK.

<sup>45</sup> Report of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Concept of Development of Preschool, Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029 in 2023.

<sup>46</sup> MoE RK, Analytical note on the report on the implementation of the National Project “Quality Education ‘Educated Nation’ for 2023.

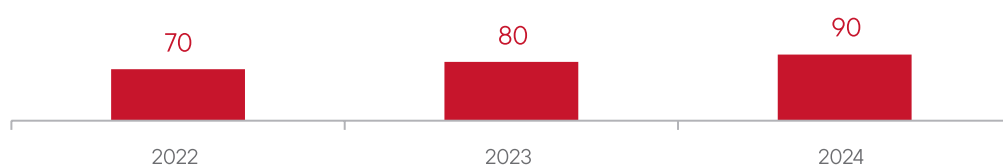


and in 2024 – 304 more. Despite the positive trends, accessibility to sports and playgrounds in rural areas is a problem. This creates unequal conditions for rural schoolchildren compared to their urban peers.<sup>47</sup>

### *Competitive staff of technical and vocational education organizations and higher education institutions*

As regards **technical and vocational education (TVE)**, reaching young people with training and employment is a government priority.

At the end of 2024, there were 772 colleges with a total enrollment of 550,000 students, including 264,000 girls (48 percent). In 2024 the free enrollment rate of youth in in-demand TVE occupations reached 90 percent, an increase of 29 percent compared to 2022 (Figure 24). In the 2024-2025 school year, 143,000 people were enrolled under the state order, with 65 percent of placements allocated to technical specialties.



Source: MoE of RK

*Figure 24. Youth enrollment in free TVE (%)*

The President of the Kazakhstan declared 2025 the «Year of vocational professions». TVE is now being transformed in line with the economic structure of the country's regions. Divided into four macro-regions, TVE programmes have been reoriented to meet the specific needs of each region.

From 2022-2023 academic year colleges were granted academic independence. As part of academic independence colleges together with employers develop educational programmes (EP) based on the requirements of state and international education standards. In the development of EPs, the opinions of employers are given priority. In order to ensure the relevance and quality of developed EPs, local executive bodies take measures to increase the number of Industrial Councils at colleges, thereby increasing the pool of employers involved in the development of educational programmes.

**Organizations of higher and postgraduate education (OHPGE)** conduct formal and non-formal types of training, covering people of different ages. There were 104 civil higher education institutions in the higher education system by the end of 2024. During 2022-2024 strategic partnerships were concluded with advanced foreign Higher Education

<sup>47</sup> G.T Seitova. et al. (2024), "Report on the Situation of Children in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2023", requested by the Children's Rights Protection Committee under MoE.



Institutions (HEIs), as a result of which 16 branches of foreign HEIs were opened in the country. This made it possible to introduce global educational standards in educational and increase access to international higher education for the local population.

The Atlas<sup>48</sup> of new professions and competencies<sup>49</sup> was created at the request of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Kazakhstan. The Atlas is a collection of new professions due to appear in the near future according to industry experts. It analyses technological trends projected to critically impact the labour market in the next 5-10 years.

As part of OHPGE specialist training, a strong emphasis is placed on the practice-oriented nature of educational programmes through the implementation of dual training. Since 2023 the Ministry has approved the rules for the organization of dual training in OHPGE. In dual training, at least 40 percent of the course material is learned directly at work. The dual training programme is developed for each enterprise separately. More than 6,000 students are covered by dual training. Companies also provide paid internships.

### Examples of dual education in cooperation between universities and enterprises

Karaganda Industrial Institute and Karaganda Technical University named after A. Saginov have established academic departments at leading enterprises: KMG Engineering LLP, "Aircraft Repair Plant No. 405" JSC, "ArcelorMittal Temirtau" JSC, "Kamaz Engineering" JSC, "Maker-KLMZ" LLP, Republican Centre for Space Communication JSC, "Southwest Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and Crop Production" LLP, and "KEGOC" JSC.

Students at KazNRTU named after Satbayev enrolled in the "Industrial Engineering" educational programme and completed pre-graduation internships at "SaryarkaAvtoProm" LLP, "KARLSKRONA LC AB" LLP, and KazGiproNefteTrans, with subsequent employment opportunities.

At the same time, there is a trend towards the introduction of micro and nano-qualifications. They are becoming an effective tool of the education system, providing flexibility, accessibility and quick adaptation to labour market requirements. They allow students to obtain in-demand certificates in digital marketing, programming, project management, among other subjects, thereby, increasing their competitiveness.

Modern bachelor's programmes are built on a modular principle through minors and microlearning. This provides an opportunity to be certified in four to five levels of the National Qualifications Framework and allows students to enter the labour market after the two to three years of study. This structure facilitates coordination between different educational levels and shortens the study period for college graduates.

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.enbek.kz/atlas/>

<sup>49</sup> Concept for the Development of Higher Education and Science in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029.



## Inclusive education

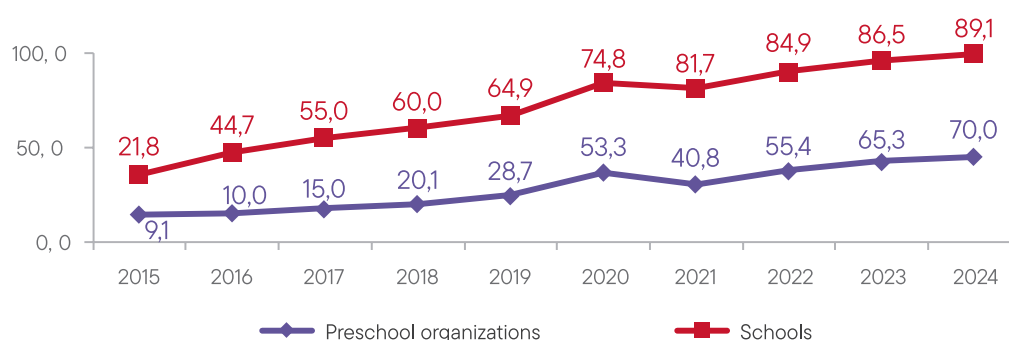
A key step in advancing inclusive education in preschool and school institutions was the adoption of legislation enabling the implementation of the state educational order for special psychological and pedagogical support for children with disabilities, as part of the Law of RK “On amendments and additions to certain legislative Acts of RK on inclusive education”.

Psychological and pedagogical support services have been established in Kazakhstan's schools, including psychologists, social pedagogues and special pedagogues. A three-level model of psychological and pedagogical support for children has been introduced.

Since 2023, teaching assistants have been included in the standard staff of general education schools. More than 2,400 teaching assistants have been introduced to support children with special educational needs, 9,700 special educators (defectologists, speech therapists, sign language therapists and tiflo teachers), more than 12,000 pedagogical psychologists (8,200) and social pedagogues (4,600)<sup>50</sup>. Eighty-five percent of children in need received special psychological and pedagogical support.

In 2024 the staff unit of “teacher assistant” was introduced in organizations of preschool education and training, technical and vocational education. Previously, it was only in general education schools. Moreover, the standard staffing structure of general education institutions now includes a “special teacher” position, as well as a newly introduced role of “individual assistant” to provide physical support for children with disabilities who have mobility challenges.

By end 2024 70 percent of preschools, 90 percent of secondary schools and 81 percent of technical and vocational education institutions had created conditions for inclusive education (Figure 25).<sup>51</sup>



Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 25. Percentage of preschool institutions and schools with established conditions for inclusive education

<sup>50</sup> Report on the implementation of MoE RK 2023 - Plan.

<sup>51</sup> National Statistics Bureau of the Strategic Planning and Reform Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



The number of students with special educational needs (SEN) is increasing in the country. As per the Roadmap for the Development of Inclusive Education in Higher Education Institutions for 2023–2025, conditions are being created to support inclusive education.

Since 2024 a key development has been the introduction of qualification requirements by the MSHE of RK, mandating that higher education institutions provide accessible facilities for persons with SEN. As a result, by the end of 2024, 91 higher education institutions – representing 70 percent of all institutions – had established conditions for inclusive education, marking a 7.7 percentage point increase compared to 2023. The goal is to achieve full coverage, with 100 percent of institutions meeting these requirements by 2026.

In 2024 2,919 students with SEN were registered in 91 higher education institutions, which is 0.46 percent of the total number of students. In order to increase the accessibility of higher education, the country has a quota for people with disabilities in the amount of 1 percent of the total number of entrants to higher education institutions. Over the last three years, the state educational order for this category of students increased by 29 percent from 518 places in 2022 to 668 in 2024.<sup>52</sup>

Today, all educational programs of teacher training include disciplines of inclusive education.

As part of the World Bank project, “Enhancing the Capacity of Teacher Education,” 30 innovative educational programmes have been developed. Under this project, all current teacher training programmes now include a module on “Inclusive Education.” Based on this model, training has been provided to 250 university faculty members and 250 specialists and teachers from state general and special education institutions, including 200 educators from rural schools (defectologists, speech therapists, psychologists, educational psychologists, and subject teachers). Fourteen higher education institutions that train specialists in “Special Pedagogy” have been equipped with inclusive education resource rooms. For the first time, Braille printers have been procured.

Since 2023, admission quotas have been allocated for citizens from socially vulnerable groups and rural youth to study in educational programmes that contribute to the socio-economic development of rural areas. As of 2023 54.5 percent of the total state educational grant allocation was reserved under these quotas.

At the same time, the country has introduced a compensation of up to 29 MCI (100,050 tenge) for persons with special educational needs and certain vulnerable categories of students for the period of their education. The measure applies to orphans and children left without parental care; young people from among the citizens of Kazakhstan who lost their parents or who were left without care before reaching adulthood; persons with disabilities of groups I and II, including disability since childhood.

<sup>52</sup> National Centre for Higher Education Development under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.





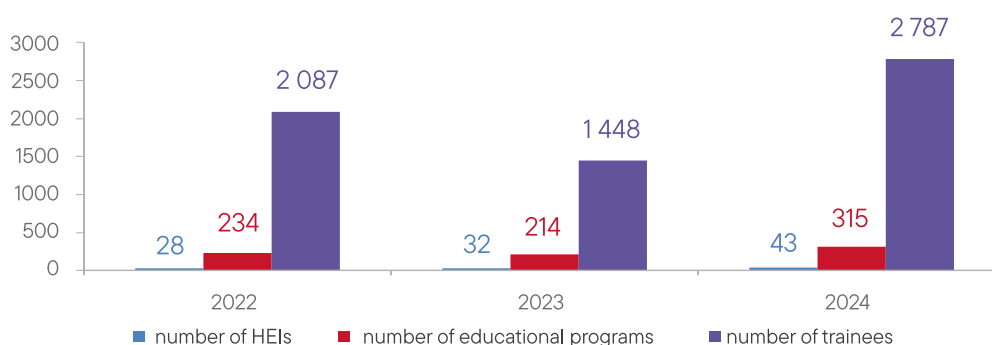
## Lifelong learning

Continuing education in higher and postgraduate education (OHPGE) institutions is implemented through non-formal education and silver education.

To that end, since 2023 Kazakhstan has adopted regulations recognizing both of learning outcomes acquired through non-formal education and professional qualifications.<sup>53</sup>

As part of the Concept for the Development of Higher Education and Science for 2023–2029, efforts are underway to promote non-formal learning in the country. In 2023 15,652 working-age individuals participated in non-formal education programmes at universities, and 33,614 in the regions. In 2024 more than 180,301 learners completed short-term non-formal education courses, representing 40 percent of the total unemployed working-age population. Short-term courses in professions such as driver, accountant, postal operator, SMM manager, preschool teacher and tractor operator were delivered in partnership with companies from the real sector, including: “Centre for Specialist Certification “Sapa” LLP, “Bolshevichka” LLP, “Training Centre ‘Praktikum’” LLP, “Akkol Oku Ortalygy” LLP, “Softtrade Kazakhstan” LLP, and others.

To expand access to continuing education for persons aged “50+”, measures have been taken to develop “Silver Universities,” which are currently operating in 43 (40 percent) out of 103 civil universities. As part of this initiative, 315 educational programmes are being implemented, covering areas such as digital and financial literacy, information technology, foreign languages, and therapeutic physical education (Figure 26).



Source: National Centre for Higher Education Development of Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Figure 26. Year-by-year implementation of the “Silver University” programme

Between 2022 and 2024, the number of Silver Universities increased by 54 percent, while the number of participants increased by 33.5 percent.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

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- Access to preschool education institutions was expanded through the introduction of voucher financing.
- Kazakhstan entered the top 50 countries in math and science literacy (PISA 2022).
- Rules for the operation of psychological and pedagogical support services in educational organizations were adopted.
- Profiling of technical and vocational education by macro-regions was introduced.
- 16 branches of foreign universities were opened in Kazakhstan.
- Launched “Silver Universities” for citizens 50+.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 4

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- There is a deficit of preschools, especially in cities of national importance.
- There is a risk of growth of emergency schools in rural areas.
- There is insufficient orientation of TVE that meets needs of the adult population.



## Prospective steps

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- Increasing the network of preschool institutions, including private ones.
- Introduction of differentiated approaches to school development.
- Improvement of inclusive education approaches.



## Civil society assessment

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- Kazakhstan has achieved high enrolment in primary and secondary education, reflecting progress in access to basic learning.
- Rural-urban disparities persist, with some regions lacking teachers and infrastructure, while others are overburdened, and three-shift schooling persists.
- Education for children with disabilities and adolescents is also limited due to a lack of inclusive environments, adapted programmes and specialists.
- Higher education remains financially unaffordable for certain categories of individuals, while the employment rate of graduates and the competitiveness of higher education institutions are areas of concern.
- The lack of focus on sustainable skills, digital equity and career guidance is a factor that can affect the education system's effectiveness in the long term.
- Without a strong emphasis on quality, equity and practical orientation in education policy, the achievement of SDG 4 by 2030 remains uncertain.



## Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### *Institutional and normative framework for promoting gender equality in Kazakhstan*

The Republic of Kazakhstan continues its policy of ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Gender equality is seen as a cross-cutting priority of state policy and is reflected in normative legal acts, institutional mechanisms and programme documents.

#### **Kazakhstan – legal party to international gender equality laws and conventions**

Kazakhstan is a party to key international treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) where a candidate from Kazakhstan was elected to the Committee for the first time in 2024.<sup>54</sup>

Kazakhstan is also a party to the Beijing Platform for Action to advance the position of women (1995), its Optional Protocol (2001), the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (2000), the Convention on the Citizenship of Married Women (2000), the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women for Work of Equal Value (2000), and others.

The National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the RK is the central coordinating body on gender policy issues. The Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan serves as the authorized government body on gender policy issues.

The Family and Gender Policy Concept 2030, updated in 2022, provides measures to eliminate discrimination, promote women's participation in political and economic life, prevent violence and strengthen the institution of the family.

In 2023 the President signed the Human Rights Action Plan, which includes a separate block on gender equality. In 2024, legislation on women's rights and child safety was supplemented with measures to prevent domestic violence. In addition, an Action Plan for Equal Rights and Opportunities of Men and Women was approved by Government Decision in 2024. As part of this plan, special attention is paid to the issue of gender certification.

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa/press/news/details/788558?lang=ru>



## Introducing gender certification in government and quasi-public bodies

Gender certification helps to reduce operational and reputational risks, increase productivity, reduce staff turnover and build investor confidence, which directly aligns with the country's economic priorities.

In 2023, the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan became one of the first participants in the UNDP Gender Equality Certification Programme for Public Institutions in the post-Soviet space. This initiative aims to comprehensively assess the compliance of public administration bodies with international standards and provides institutional recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of gender equality policies.

In 2024 the programme was formally incorporated into a government decree, thereby securing its institutional status.

An analysis of the interlinkages among sustainable development targets shows that SDG 5 exerts a multiplier effect on the achievement of other key goals. Thus Goal 5 indicators are directly or indirectly linked to more than 106 indicators and 50 targets of other Goals. Adopting approaches based on the interdependence of SDGs can significantly improve the effectiveness of strategic programmes and accelerate the achievement of both Goal 5 and related development areas. Addressing this issue is closely linked to securing the necessary resources, including financial resources. **Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB)** is an important step in this direction.

In Kazakhstan, a solid basis for integrating gender equality approaches into strategic planning has been established. Step-by-step efforts are underway to explore opportunities to integrate gender equality approaches into government budget planning. However, according to a UNDP analysis, there is a gap between political commitments to gender equality and actual budget financing: while 77.8 percent of state plans contain references to SDG 5, only 11.1 percent are included in budget programs.

For the sustainable implementation of GRB, the concept must be institutionalized at the legislative level. This, in turn, requires the adoption of a unified list of socially vulnerable population groups.

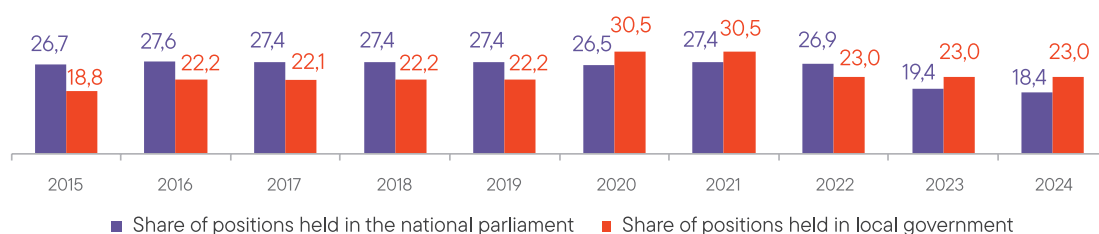


## Equal rights and opportunities for women

According to the international index assessments, Kazakhstan has shown positive progress in eliminating discrimination. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), the country is categorized as a low-discrimination group (21 percent in 2023). Compared to the previous 2019 survey, progress has been made in areas such as access to productive and financial resources (from 31st to 21st place), discrimination in the family (improving from 22nd to 15th place), and civil liberties (from 22nd to 12th place)<sup>55</sup>.

At the same time, data from the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index show the presence of persistent challenges. In 2024 Kazakhstan ranked 76th out of 146 countries (2023 – 62nd, 2022 – 65th), demonstrating relative stability in the indicators “economic participation and opportunities” and “health and survival”. However, its positions in “political empowerment” (decreased from 100th to 116th place) and in “education” from 27th to 36th place.

**Representation in elected office.** In order to increase the inclusiveness of political representation and eliminate discrimination at the decision-making level, Kazakhstan has legislated a 30 percent quota for women, youth and persons with disabilities on political party lists for elections to the Majilis and Maslikhats. However, as of today, the representation of women in the Mazhilis has decreased from 26.9 percent in 2022 to 18.4 percent in 2024 (Figure 27).



Source: Parliament of Kazakhstan

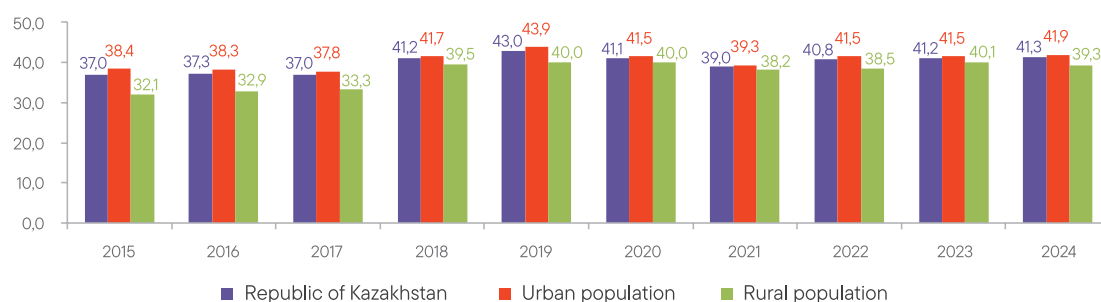
Figure 27. Percentage of positions held by women in (a) national parliaments; and (b) local governments

At the same time, in local representative bodies (maslikhats), this indicator has remained stable at around 23 percent since 2022. Therefore additional and systemic measures are needed to encourage and promote women's participation in politics.

**Representation in leadership positions.** In contrast to elected positions, the indicator of the share of women in leadership positions shows a positive trend, breaking the 30 percent threshold of representation of women managers. For example, the share of female executives increased from 37 percent in 2015 to 41.3 percent in 2024 (Figure 28).

<sup>55</sup> [https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/sigi-2023-global-report\\_4607b7c7-en/full-report.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/sigi-2023-global-report_4607b7c7-en/full-report.html)





Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 28. Percentage of women in leadership positions

The growth is particularly notable among the rural population – from 32.1 percent to 39.3 percent over the same period – which reflects the effectiveness of measures to equalize opportunities and to develop women's human resource potential. For example, to promote gender policy in the regions, starting from 2023, positions of freelance gender equality advisors to the akim have been established in local executive bodies around the country.

To increase the leadership potential and political activity of women and girls, Kazakhstan is investing in the long-term development of women's leadership. The Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan (the MCI RK), with the support of the National Commission, launched an information and education programme, “Tomiris”, in 2022. This programme is aimed at increasing women's political and economic activism in all regions. Since 2022 about 1000 women have been trained within the framework of the Tomiris educational programme, organized under UN Women support.

One of the systemic measures included promoting the establishment of women's wings within political parties and providing training for women in political leadership.

### Advancing women's leadership through party initiatives

In 2023 the AMANAT party established a women's wing comprising 66 percent women members. The wing unites the initiatives of women leaders and acts as a link between the legislative and executive branches and local communities. Since the beginning of the eighth convocation, the deputies of the AMANAT faction have voiced 22 parliamentary requests and drafted 11 bills on the protection of women's rights. At the initiative of the Women's Wing, work has begun on a bill of psychological assistance to the population.

In 2024 a permanent training seminar “Trust of a woman” was launched for women leaders and members of primary party organizations to improve women's competencies and to identify women leaders in labour collectives.

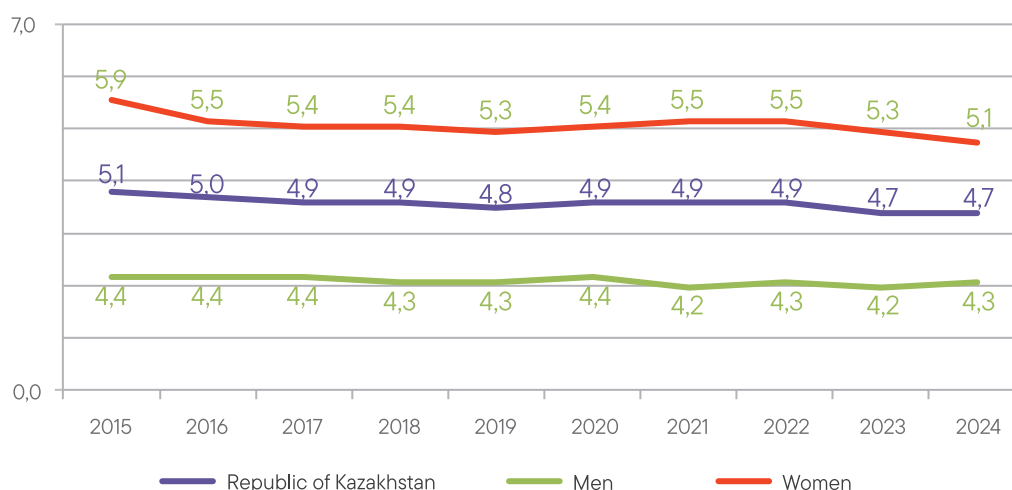


## Women's economic empowerment and access to resources

Kazakhstan is taking targeted measures to remove systemic barriers that inhibit women's full and equal participation in economic life. The focus is on reducing gender segregation in the labour market, increasing the presence of women in sectors with high growth potential (in particular in the STEM, digital and green economy sectors), and recognizing and redistributing labour within the care economy.

Since 2024 the Women's Economic Empowerment Action Plan has been implemented, which is aimed at creating equal conditions for employment, entrepreneurship and career development. The plan includes measures in education, employment, legal and information support, as well as family and social policy. Special attention is paid to monitoring, assessing and eliminating factors limiting women's economic activity.

However, a gender imbalance persists in unemployment: 5.1 percent among women, compared to 4.3 percent among men in 2024 (Figure 29).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 29. Unemployment rate by gender (%)

As of end 2024, the employment rate among the population aged 15 and older was 60.1 percent for women and 70.4 percent for men. This gap is driven by both socio-economic and non-economic factors, including gender segregation in the labour market. According to the social survey,<sup>56</sup> women in Kazakhstan are traditionally concentrated in the following sectors: education and science – 50.8 percent; health care – 46.8 percent; and services – 36.2 percent. At the same time, their participation in high-paying and promising sectors such as renewable, traditional energy and digital spheres remains low.

Gender segregation also persists in sectors such as forestry, where female employment remains low due to persistent stereotypes of “physically demanding” occupations.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Sociological research of the Kazakhstan Institute for Social Development – “Gender policy in modern Kazakhstan society”, 2024 Sample – 1,200 women.

<sup>57</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/fcee5e65-63f8-4a68-8004-72b0720352f9/content>



From 2015 to 2024 employment of women in agriculture, forestry and fisheries decreased from 43.9 percent to 40.0 percent, against the background of an overall decline in labour resources in these sectors.

At the same time, despite the overall decline in the proportion of women allocated agricultural land, the proportion among rural women in recent years shows an increase from 2.35 percent in 2022 to 3.12 percent in 2024. One of the barriers to women's access to agricultural land and leadership positions in AIC is the lack of development of rural settlements and infrastructure.

Kazakhstan's legislation guarantees equal rights of women and men to own and use land resources. However, according to FAO's assessment, the country is showing moderate progress towards the target values. In this regard, FAO recommends harmonizing national indicators on gender equality with global indicators, setting target levels and incorporating measures to promote women's rights into agrarian strategies and land legislation.

Thus, a wage gap persists in the country: At the end of 2023 the average monthly nominal wage for women amounted to ₸311,217, while for men it was – ₸418,788, a gap of 25.7 percent. Despite the fact that Kazakhstan has abolished professions that limit women's participation, one of the reasons for the pay gap is the existence of prejudicial attitudes that limit women's participation in STEM professions (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). According to a UN Women and UNDP sociological survey conducted in 2024, 54.3 percent of respondents in Kazakhstan believe that STEM professions are “not suitable for girls”.<sup>58</sup> This highlights the need to strengthen information and awareness-raising efforts in these sectors.

### A Youth Perspective



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*Gender inequality is not just a social problem, but a global crisis that stifles innovation, weakens the economy and limits human potential.*

*What is the situation in Kazakhstan? Women here are well educated, but they face barriers in the workplace. If companies introduced mentoring programmes and equal pay policies, we might see more women in leadership positions, thereby contributing to economic and social progress*

*Gender equality is not just a women's issue, it is a society-wide issue. When women thrive, societies thrive. If every company prioritized equal pay, if every school encouraged girls to choose STEM majors, we would see an explosion of economic and scientific advances.*

*But real change starts with us. As individuals, we can fight gender stereotypes in our daily lives. We can support women in STEM, advocate for fair working conditions, and help both boys and girls grow up believing in their capabilities. The revolution doesn't start with laws, it starts with our thinking because an equal world isn't just a fairer world, it's smarter, richer, and stronger.*

*Adina Bolat, 10th grade student,  
School №30, Astana city,  
Winner of the national student essay competition*

”

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.undp.org/ru/kazakhstan/publications/obschestvennoe-vospriyatie-gendernogo-ravenstva-i-rasshireniya-prav-i-vozmozhnostey-zhenschin-v-kazakhstane>



In the context of realizing the goal of gender equality, Kazakhstan is making efforts both at the state administration level and in the private sector. The National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan, together with the “Samruk-Kazyna” National Welfare Fund, is implementing the Gender Equality Programme. Within its framework, a personnel reserve of 69 women leaders has been formed, 15 of whom have already been appointed to expert and managerial positions.

### Private sector spotlight: Gender equality at “KTZh” JSC

“NC “Kazakhstan Temir Zholy” JSC is a national railroad operator demonstrating sustainable dynamics in promoting human rights, gender equality and ESG principles.

It is a participant of the UN Global Compact since 2012. In 2024 S&P Global awarded the company an ESG rating of 60 points, which allowed it to enter the top 10 percent of the best transportation companies among more than 300 international participants.

In close cooperation with UNDP and other international organizations, the company has conducted systematic training of employees in both areas. Today 30 percent of Boards of Directors and Supervisory Boards members of subsidiary organizations are women.

In 2024 the company approved a Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy based on zero tolerance of violations and ensured equal access to employment and career development.

A systemic approach, management support, transparent procedures and women's participation in management create the conditions for an inclusive corporate culture and sustainable business practices.

**Unpaid work.** Women in Kazakhstan continue to bear a disproportionately high burden of unpaid domestic and care work, especially during childbirth and child-rearing. According to the social survey this is a key factor limiting their participation in economic activity and career development.

The results of the sociological research of the Kazakhstan Institute of Social Development<sup>59</sup> demonstrate that Kazakhstani men most often share family responsibilities (50.6 percent), but women spend three to four times more time on such types of labour compared to men.

<sup>59</sup> Sociological research of Kazakhstan Institute of Social Development – Kazakhstan families – 2024, Sample – 1,200 respondents.



95 percent of women in Kazakhstan spend a significant amount of time on unpaid domestic labor. On average, this ranges from 2 to 5 hours per day, indicating a high level of women's involvement in household labour. In particular, among both women aged 46–60 and, those with many children, more than four hours a day are spent on household work.<sup>60</sup> Due to the unequal distribution of household work are needed, and, mechanisms to promote equal household work, the number of preschool organizations and other social services increased.

In response to this challenge, issues of family well-being and involved parenthood have become important areas of social policy. An important role in promoting such models is played by the annual Fathers' Forum held with the support of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with the Republican Public Association “Union of Fathers”.

### *Eliminating violence against women and girls*

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Kazakhstan remains committed to a policy of eradicating domestic violence. Legislative frameworks have been designed to prevent such crimes, to reduce their number and to form a new social consciousness.

In 2024 amendments were made to some laws on women's rights and child safety. The amendments are aimed at increasing criminal liability for repeated and serious acts of domestic violence. Provisions on “dependency” were introduced in the Criminal Code, and penalties were toughened in cases where the victim is financially or otherwise dependent on the perpetrator. Fixed periods of administrative detention were defined (minimum 5 days, up to 25 days for repeated offenses); and reconciliation procedures were toughened, allowing reconciliation only once and only in court.

The country has improved the institutional framework for countering violence, which consists of the following components:

- The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as of 15 April 2024, No. 72-VIII ZRK strengthened responsibility for domestic violence, including stricter penalties, limiting conciliation procedures and protecting victims who are dependent on the aggressor.
- The Public Security Concept for 2024–2028 includes indicators on violence prevention.
- The National Roadmap for Violence Prevention covers reforms, information and support.
- The standard of social services under the Social Code, which includes eight types of assistance to survivors.

Strengthening the set of measures to detect domestic violence has made it possible to increase the detection of offenses. Thus, the number of offenses committed against women in the sphere of family and domestic relations increased from 622 cases in 2022 to 3,080 cases in 2024.

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<sup>60</sup> Sociological research of the Kazakhstan Institute for Social Development – Gender policy in modern Kazakhstan society, 2024, Sample – 1,200 women.



Overall, the number of offenses against women's rights halved from 2017 to 2023 to 52,222 cases. Among them, violent crimes in relationships with women decreased by 39.7 percent, including homicide, by 40.3 percent, grievous bodily harm by 8.7 percent, and moderate bodily harm against women by 31.5 percent.

At the same time, the number of offenses committed against minors in the sphere of family and domestic relations increased from 44 cases in 2022 to 255 in 2024. The increase in the number of crimes against minors is related to the start of active work on their detection from 2023 within the framework of the Prosecutor's Office project, "Happy Childhood", and the activities of mobile groups of the Prosecutor's Office and the police.

In Kazakhstan, early marriage to underage girls is considered an offense, since the legal age of marriage is 18. In exceptional cases, it can be lowered by two years – with the consent of parents or guardians.

The policy of eradicating violence in Kazakhstan is accompanied by preventive measures against violence against women and support measures for families in difficult life situations. To date, 46 crisis centres providing special social services to victims of domestic violence<sup>61</sup> are operating in the country, and 112 family support centres are operating in the regions, where work is being done to preserve marriages and families and to provide support to persons in difficult life situations by government bodies within their competence. Standards for special social services have been developed, on the basis of which individual case management is developed for each woman. To enhance the quality of services provided by the centres, a transition to per capita financing is planned.

At the same time, among the systemic limitations of Family Support Centres, there is still a shortage of medical personnel.

### NGO case study: Supporting women, engaging aggressors

The NGO "Women's Light" makes a systemic contribution to the prevention and reduction of domestic violence in the region, providing comprehensive social, legal and psychological assistance to vulnerable groups.

Since 2023 the organization has been implementing a pilot model of work with aggressors, covering five areas (Akmola, Almaty, Karaganda regions, Astana city and the East Kazakhstan region). As part of the initiative, anger management rooms have been created, interagency work algorithms and a system of counseling aggressors in temporary detention facilities have been introduced.

<sup>61</sup> Response Letter from the MCI on the SDG implementation (2024).





Between April 2023 and December 2024, more than 400 aggressors, including their families, received assistance. Innovative approaches were introduced:

- Counseling rooms with multi-level support (lawyer, psychologist, social worker, medical professional)
- Online aggression management trainings for high school students
- Training for crisis centres and law enforcement agencies
- Conducting a sociological study on the causes of aggression among adolescents.

A key outcome was a zero recidivism rate, with 90 percent of families maintaining their relationships while continuing to seek support services. This demonstrates the high efficacy of the model and the potential for scaling it up to improve violence prevention statistics.

The country is taking proactive measures to ensure the safety of women in the workplace. A Harassment Bill is being drafted, which includes clear rules for filing complaints, protection of victims of sexual harassment in the workplace and punishment of perpetrators in accordance with international standards.

Volunteer organizations make a significant contribution to the work on prevention of gender-based violence. Every year from 25 November to 10 December, the social campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” takes place all over the world. In 2024 more than 80 individuals from all cities of Kazakhstan became UN volunteers in UN Women and UNFPA to provide information support and to help in the preparation and implementation of activities within the campaign, whose slogan in 2024 was “No excuses. Unite to eradicate violence”. This event contributes to publicizing the problem and sensitizing government bodies and the public on gender-based violence, which has an impact on its eradication.

Trafficking in persons, including women and girls, is criminalized in the country. In 2024 the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Anti-Trafficking in Persons in the Republic of Kazakhstan” was adopted, which is aimed at regulating social relations in the area of combating trafficking in persons and implementing the State policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in this area. One of the main objectives of the Act is to ensure the protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of victims of trafficking in persons, including women and children, to provide assistance to the victims and to ensure their safety and the confidentiality of their private lives.

With a view to detecting trafficking in persons, including minors, “STOP trafficking” operative-search and preventive measures are carried out on an ongoing basis, during which farms, construction sites, wintering grounds, among others, are checked.

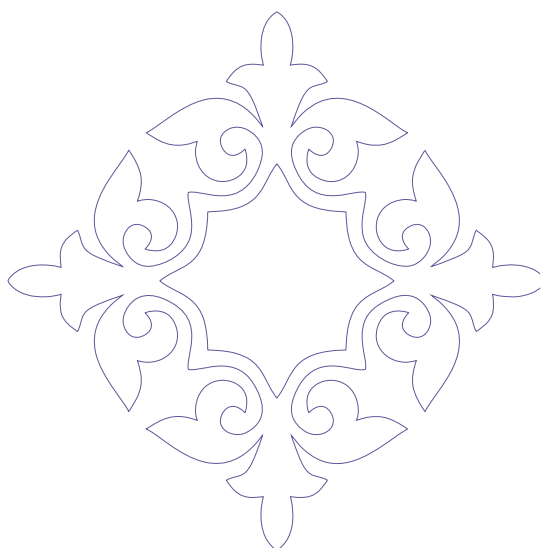


## Access to sexual and reproductive health services

In Kazakhstan, equal access to sexual and reproductive health services is enshrined in the Constitution and the Code on People's Health and the Health Care System. Legislation guarantees that all citizens from the age of 15 years receive the relevant services.

Today women of reproductive age make up one third of the country's population, and young people aged 14 to 29 make up about one quarter. In order to preserve and strengthen the reproductive health of the population, annual preventive examinations and counseling for women of childbearing age are conducted nationwide. To improve the availability and quality of reproductive services, more than 845 family planning offices operate within the primary health-care system. They provide women and men with consultations on reproductive health care, safe motherhood and family planning issues.

Youth Health Centres (YHCs) play an important role in prevention, youth education and access to health services. By end 2024 103 YHCs were operating in the country. YHCs provide medical, psychosocial and legal assistance to minors aged 10 to 18 and young people aged 18 to 29. Within the framework of YHCs, young people can receive counseling from a gynecologist, urologist, STD and skin specialist, psychologist, social worker and lawyer. Between 2021 and 2023, YHC services reached 1,852,656 people, equivalent to 35.4 percent of the target population aged 10 to 29 (out of a total of 5,234,150 people): in 2021 – 285,169 persons, 2022 – 728,628 persons, 2023 – 838,859 persons.





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

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- In 2022 the Family and Gender Policy Concept until 2030 was updated, with a focus on increasing women's economic and political participation and strengthening the institution of the family.
- Starting in 2023 measures to promote gender equality in the regions were adopted, with the establishment of the position of akim advisers on gender equality.
- The Law on Ensuring Women's Rights and Child Safety was adopted, strengthening criminal and administrative liability for domestic violence, including the protection of victims dependent on the aggressor.
- The private sector is making progress, with large companies implementing gender equality plans and adopting anti-harassment policies.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 5

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- There has been slow integration of a gender-sensitive approach in strategic and budget planning.
- Gender gaps in wages, employment, unemployment and political representation persist.
- Access to quality reproductive services and legal information is limited, especially among vulnerable and rural groups.



## Prospective steps

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- Introduction of gender certification in state bodies and quasi-state structure.
- Introduction of gender-responsive budgeting.
- Increasing women's access to agricultural land through quotas and training programmes.
- Raising public awareness of equal rights of men and women.
- Strengthening the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data.



## Civil society assessment

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- The adoption of new laws, including the Law on the Protection of Women and Children from Violence, demonstrates the recognition of the importance of gender equality in Kazakhstan and the desire to create a legal framework for the protection of women's rights.
- Crisis centres operate inconsistently and fail to meet the full range of needs.
- Women remain underrepresented in decision-making, especially in rural areas.
- Unpaid care is not addressed in policies.
- Limited access to reproductive health care, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Without systematic implementation of adopted laws, clear redistribution of responsibilities, adequate support to crisis structures and the full participation of NPOs, achieving SDG 5 by 2030 remains at risk.

### 3.3. Innovations for sustainable economic growth and regional infrastructure development

Innovation plays a key role in ensuring sustainable economic growth and the development of regional infrastructure by offering new opportunities to enhance efficiency and resilience. In this regard, targeted efforts are focused on implementing advanced technologies and sustainable practices that open up new horizons for long-term economic growth.

Achieving these objectives is only possible when their interlinkages with other SDGs are taken into account, ensuring a comprehensive approach to development:

- **SDG 7 «Affordable and Clean Energy»** supports the implementation of SDGs 9, 11, 12, and 13 by providing sustainable energy needed for industrial modernization, emission reduction and improved urban environments.
- **SDG 8 «Decent Work and Economic Growth»** is realized through progress in SDGs 4, 7, 9, and 10, as human capital development, energy access, and infrastructure investment generate sustainable employment opportunities.
- **SDG 9 «Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure»** has a multiplier effect on SDGs 8, 10, and 11, as the development of transportation, manufacturing, and digital systems reduces regional disparities and strengthens urban resilience.
- **SDG 10 «Reduced Inequality»** is closely linked to SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, and 11, as equitable resource distribution, equal access to education and employment and the development of urban and rural infrastructure form the foundation for reducing inequality.
- **SDG 11 «Sustainable Cities and Communities»** is supported by SDGs 8, 9, 12, and 13, as urban modernization requires the integration of environmental, economic, and social approaches.





## Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

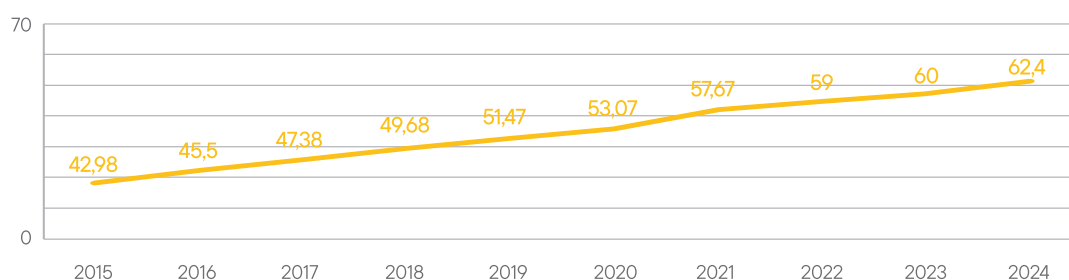
*In recent years, Kazakhstan has made significant progress in ensuring access to reliable and sustainable energy: gasification now covers two-thirds of the population, and hundreds of settlements have been connected to the gas supply. Between 2022 and 2024 37 new renewable energy facilities have been commissioned, thermal power plants are being modernized, environmental standards are being tightened, and large-scale measures on energy conservation and efficiency are being implemented. At the same time, rapid economic and population growth continues to drive up energy consumption, particularly in the industrial sector, which accounts for approximately 67 percent of the country's electricity use.*

### Access to sustainable energy supply

The country consistently ranks among the global leaders in providing universal access to electricity. A full 100 percent of households are connected to the power grid, ensuring comprehensive energy coverage across the population. Nevertheless, other challenges related to energy infrastructure remain.

One of Kazakhstan's priorities is to expand public access to natural gas as a more environmentally friendly and efficient fuel source. Between 2015 and 2024 the gasification rate of the population increased from 42.98 percent to 62.4 percent meaning approximately 12.6 million people now have access to natural gas. The average annual growth in gas coverage was around 2.16 percentage points, reflecting the consistent implementation of gasification programmes. This is a moderate yet steady growth, demonstrating incremental progress toward the goal of universal gasification.

The increase in gasification rates is the result of a coherent state policy and large-scale infrastructure projects (Figure 30).



Source: Ministry of Energy

Figure 30. Trends in the population gasification rate in Kazakhstan, (%)





In 2022 the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved a Comprehensive Plan for the Development of the Gas Industry through 2030. The plan aims to expand the commercial gas resource base, ensure supplies to the domestic market and modernize the gas transportation infrastructure.<sup>62</sup>

In 2023 the General Gasification Scheme for 2023–2030 was adopted. This scheme envisions the creation of a unified gas transportation system and the expansion of gas supply to remote regions.<sup>63</sup> Currently, several major gas pipeline projects are underway, including the first and second lines of the Beineu – Bozoi – Shymkent pipeline, Aktobe – Kostanay, Saryarka, and Taldykorgan – Usharal – with a combined throughput capacity of over 21 billion cubic meters per year. The implementation of these projects is expected to eliminate the fragmentation of the gas network and provide access to previously underserved areas. An analysis of the current situation indicates that corporate social responsibility is growing in Kazakhstan, with businesses increasingly contributing to solving regional infrastructure challenges.

### Energy with impact – Kazakhturkmunay in Bayganin district

Kazakhturkmunay LLP, a wholly owned subsidiary of KazMunayGas National Company JSC, provides free gas supply to residents of Zharcamys village in Bayganin District, Aktobe Region. The annual supply volume is approximately 4 million cubic metres. Between 2007 and 2023 the total volume of such deliveries reached around 30 million cubic metres of gas. In addition, since 2015 the company has been supplying surplus electricity – generated at its own power plant – free of charge to two local farming enterprises.<sup>64</sup>

Despite the overall growth in gasification across Kazakhstan, significant regional disparities persist. Western and southern regions – such as Almaty Region (77.7 percent), Zhambyl Region (91.1 percent), and the city of Shymkent (97 percent) – are almost fully connected to the gas grid. In contrast, central and northern regions, such as Karaganda and Ulytau Regions, have low coverage rates not exceeding 3.4 percent. This discrepancy stems from historical development patterns: gas production and trunk pipelines are concentrated in the west, while investments have traditionally been directed toward southern energy-consuming centres. Meanwhile, the northern and eastern regions have remained reliant on coal-based energy. This inequality gives rise not only to infrastructure gaps but also to broader socio-economic divides: quality of life, energy efficiency, emission levels and even climate resilience vary significantly across the country. One of the key strategies for reducing this inequality is the active engagement of private investment, which can serve as a powerful driver for the development and modernization of the regional gas infrastructure.

<sup>62</sup> Government Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 18, 2022 № 488. On approval of the Comprehensive Development Plan of the gas industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2022 – 2026 years [https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P2200000488?utm\\_source](https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P2200000488?utm_source)

<sup>63</sup> Order of the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 29, 2023 № 350 On approval of the General Scheme of Gasification of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023 – 2030 [https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/G23JVM00350?utm\\_source](https://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/G23JVM00350?utm_source)

<sup>64</sup> KazMunayGas is preparing a concept for full-scale development of the Central and Eastern Urkhtau fields <https://www.kmg.kz/ru/press-center/press-releases/osvoenie/>



## Private investment brings gas to Yubileynoye village

Novo-Prirechnoye LLP invested ₸140 mn in the installation of an LPG tank system in Yubileynoye village, Yesil District of Akmola Region. The project included the design and installation of liquefied gas storage tanks, the construction of 11.75 km of distribution pipelines and the connection of 160 households – achieving 100 percent coverage.

As a result, 549 residents gained access to natural gas for heating, cooking and domestic needs without having to wait for large-scale government investments in trunk pipeline infrastructure. This case demonstrates that private investment and local solutions can play a pivotal role in bridging regional disparities and accelerating access to modern energy resources for the population.<sup>65</sup>

The modernization of existing and construction of new gas-powered energy facilities is also a key component of the strategy. In 2024, Astana successfully converted CHP-1, CHP-2, CHP-3, and the new «Yugo-Vostok» boiler plant to natural gas, helping to eliminate the heating supply deficit and improve both reliability and environmental performance. In Almaty a gasification project for CHP-2 and CHP-3 was launched through the construction of the second line of the Almaty – Baiserkе – Talgar gas pipeline.

## A Youth Perspective



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*Heating problems in a large industrial city like our Pavlodar have been discussed for over 40 years. I found out about this from an article in the Zvezda Priirtyshya newspaper from 1982.*

*But in all that time, almost nothing has changed. Today this issue is once again being widely discussed – especially during winter when the air becomes hard to breathe due to pollution and smoke.*

*It turns out that harmful emissions in the city don't come only from factories. In the private sector, 12,500 houses are still heated with coal. People live in the city center, but use old stoves because it's impossible to connect to the central heating system, and there's no gas in the city.*

*Now it's important to look for modern solutions. One of them is heat pumps. These are devices that extract heat from the air, ground, or water and convert it into energy for the home. They cause almost no air pollution and help reduce dependence on coal.*

*Although these systems are expensive, over time they help save money and don't require constant maintenance. They're convenient and reduce the burden on people.*

*I believe that heat pumps can really make a difference in our city – especially in neighbourhoods most affected by heating challenges and environmental concerns.*

*Asanali Suleimenov, 9th grade student,  
Gymnasium №3 for Gifted Children, Pavlodar Region,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

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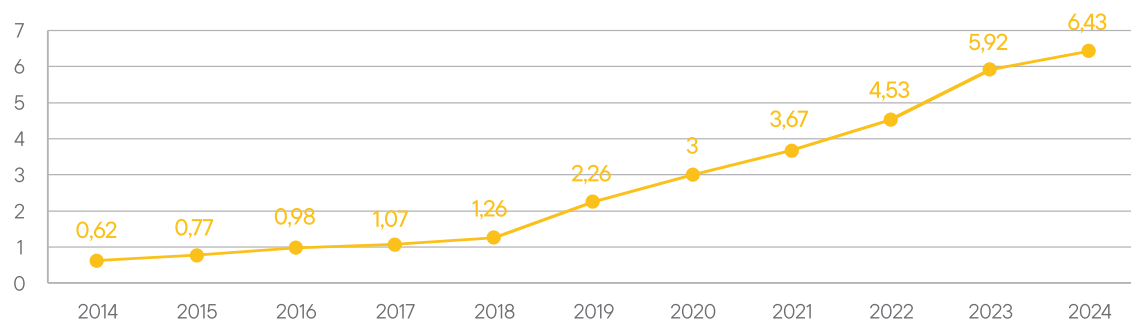
<sup>65</sup> Materials of Akimat of Yesil district, Akmola region.



In 2024 a social pilot project titled «Social Wallet» was launched, offering discounts of up to 24 percent on gas payments for low-income populations. The initiative currently covers 6,000 people in the West Kazakhstan Region and the city of Shymkent, with plans for nationwide expansion. These initiatives make gas more accessible for socially vulnerable groups and encourage the shift toward environmentally friendly heating solutions.

### Renewable energy: growth and structure

Despite its abundant fossil fuel reserves, Kazakhstan has been steadily increasing the share of renewable energy sources in its energy mix. Over the past decade, the share of electricity generated from renewables has grown more than tenfold – from 0.62 percent in 2014 to 6.43 percent in 2024 (Figure 31). Progress has been achieved through the commissioning of new capacities and consistent government support for «green» energy.



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 31. Growth in the Share of Electricity Generated from Renewable Energy Sources in Total Production

As of early 2025, Kazakhstan operates 154 renewable energy facilities (with capacities over 200 kW) with a total installed capacity of 3,082 MW. These include: 63 wind power plants with a combined capacity of 1,570 MW, 46 solar power plants totaling 1,222.6 MW, 42 hydropower plants producing 287.7 MW, and 3 biogas plants with a capacity of 1.77 MW.

Wind power accounts for 50.9 percent of all «green» capacity, solar – approximately 39.7 percent, hydro – 9.3 percent, and bioenergy – 0.1 percent, the latter being primarily small hydro plants.

Renewable energy development is supported at the state level. Annual auctions are held to select projects, with winners awarded long-term electricity purchase agreements.

By the end of the first quarter of 2025, renewables contributed about 5.93 percent of total electricity generation (production is typically lower during the winter-spring period). By 2030, the share of renewables is expected to reach 15 percent. In the long term, Kazakhstan has set an ambitious target: by 2050, at least 50 percent of the country's total energy consumption should come from renewable and alternative sources.

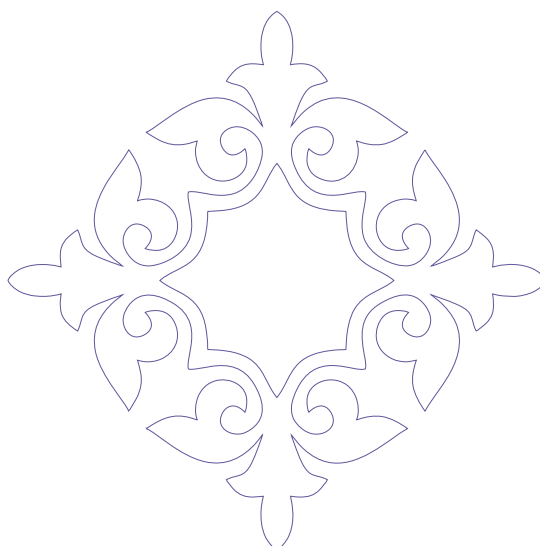


To achieve these goals – supported by annual auction-based tenders and long-term contracts, including large-scale projects with energy storage systems – Kazakhstan plans to commission approximately 8.4 GW of total renewable energy capacity by the end of 2035.

### *Energy conservation and energy efficiency improvement*

In line with the updated Concept for the Transition to a Green Economy (June 2024), Kazakhstan has set a target to reduce GDP energy intensity by 15 percent by 2030 compared to the 2021 level. By the end of 2023, this indicator had decreased by 1.38 percent, reaching 0.3156 tons of oil equivalent per \$1,000 of GDP. Since the adoption of the Law on Energy Saving (2012), more than 80,000 organizations have been registered in the State Energy Register (SER), including 19,300 active entities with a total energy consumption of 62.1 million tons of coal equivalent. Energy audits have been conducted for 2,216 entities.

From 2015 to 2023 over ₸431 bn was invested in energy-saving measures, resulting in savings of approximately ₸106.8 bn (equivalent to 3.6 million tons of coal equivalent). In 2023 alone, investments totaled ₸48 bn, with energy savings amounting to ₸1.7 bn. In 2024 energy consumption standards in the public sector were monitored, accompanied by an analysis of more than 10,000 public procurement cases for equipment. The findings showed 51 percent of refrigeration units procured were energy-efficient.





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2024 Astana's CHP-1, CHP-2, CHP-3 and the «Yugo-Vostok» boiler plant were converted to natural gas. In Almaty a gasification project for CHP-2 and CHP-3 was launched, improving heat supply reliability and reducing emissions.
- From 2015 to 2024 the gasification rate increased from 42.98 percent to 62.4 percent, reaching 12.6 million people through large-scale infrastructure projects.
- In 2024 the pilot project «Social Wallet» was implemented, providing up to 24 percent gas payment discounts to 6,000 low-income residents in West Kazakhstan Region and Shymkent.
- In 2024 the share of renewables in the energy mix reached 6.43 percent. Altogether 37 new facilities were commissioned, bringing the total number of operational renewable power plants to 154 (3,082 MW).
- From 2015 to 2023 ₸431 bn was invested in energy-saving measures, saving 3.6 million tons of fuel. More than 2,000 organizations underwent energy audits.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 7

- A persistent deficit of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) remains at 20,000–25,000 tons per month, driven by low retail prices compared to gasoline, while LPG fractions are a valuable feedstock for the petrochemical industry.
- The absence of a unified gas transportation system results in some regions being isolated from the main trunk pipelines, hindering the equitable distribution of gas across the country.
- In regions with low levels of gasification, coal continues to be used for heating, leading to increased air pollution and a rise in respiratory illnesses among the population.
- To mitigate renewable energy imbalances, a pilot project is being developed to instal an energy storage system (ESS) at a KEGOC substation, in partnership with a Chinese company. The draft law on alternative energy includes support mechanisms for such solutions.



## Prospective steps



- Gradual development of transit capacities of main gas pipelines and expansion of population coverage through the creation of a unified gas transportation system to fully meet gas supply needs using domestic gas resources as an environmentally friendly fuel.
- Annual auctions for the selection of renewable energy (RE) projects.
- Establishment of new flexible resources, including energy storage systems, to ensure balance within the national power system.
- Increasing the share of domestic RE generation through the net consumer mechanism by introducing small-scale installations (up to 200 kW).
- Launch of the first nuclear power plant construction in full compliance with safety standards and with transparent public engagement.

## Civil society assessment



- The adoption of the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060, along with near-universal access to electricity, reflects Kazakhstan's commitment to transitioning toward a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy model.
- Concerns remain regarding the reliability and affordability of energy supply: some regions experience outages, and rising tariffs are outpacing the growth of household incomes.
- Survey respondents emphasize the importance of strengthening the role of renewable energy sources, implementing decentralized solutions, improving energy efficiency, and adhering to the principles of environmental and social responsibility in the country's energy policy.



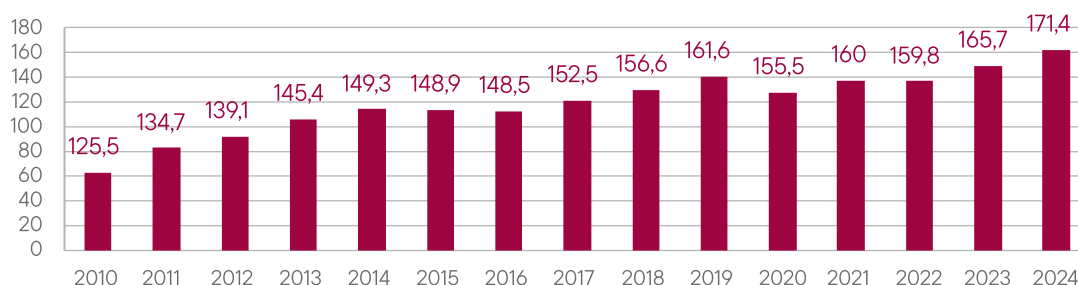


## Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

*Kazakhstan is experiencing steady economic growth, declining unemployment rates, and the development of new economic sectors, including tourism and the creative industries. In recent years improvements have been observed in employment indicators, efforts to reduce informal employment, enhanced occupational safety measures and increased support for youth. At the same time systemic challenges remain that require a comprehensive approach: the need for economic diversification, reduction of regional disparities, and adaptation of the labour market to new realities and technological changes.*

### Economic growth and gdp per capita

As a result of economic diversification policies, Kazakhstan's GDP grew by 4.8 percent in 2024. Real GDP per capita increased from 125.5 percent in 2010 to 171.4 percent in 2024 compared to the 2005 baseline (Figure 32).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 32. Annual Real GDP per Capita Index, as a Percentage of the 2005 Level

At the same time, the growth rate of real GDP per employed person reflects a positive trend: it reached 101.3 percent in 2022, increased to 104.7 percent in 2023, and stood at 103.6 percent in 2024, indicating steady improvements in labour productivity and economic activity.

The country also maintained its regional leadership in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), accounting for 61 percent of total FDI inflows among 15 post-Soviet and Central Asian countries. Additionally, the share of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the economy rose to 39.3 percent of GDP in the first nine months of 2024, compared to the same period in 2023.

The development of the creative economy has become a new driver of employment and growth. However, according to a survey by the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies, only



about 50 percent of the population is familiar with the concept, «creative industry». Respondents identified film and television (49.4 percent), IT (48.1 percent), and music (41.8 percent) as the most promising sectors. The main barriers cited were a lack of investment, weak government support and low legal literacy – factors that call for comprehensive measures to develop the sector.<sup>66</sup>

## *Sustainable tourism development*

Tourism has been recognized as a priority sector of the national economy, as reflected in Kazakhstan's National Development Plan through 2029. At the institutional level, a national standard for ecotourism has been developed.

Kazakhstan maintains a visa-free regime with 84 countries, and international air service connects the country with 33 nations via 130 routes, providing 761 weekly flights.

In 2023 gross value added generated directly by tourism reached ₸1,184.4 bn – nearly three times higher than in 2020 – demonstrating sustained sectoral growth. Key drivers of this success include the expansion of tourism infrastructure, increased service volume and investment promotion measures. From 2015 to 2024, the number of accommodation facilities grew by 84 percent (from 2,338 to 4,303), the number of rooms increased by 73 percent (from 53,126 to 91,849), and the number of beds nearly doubled (+98 percent). The volume of services in the tourism sector grew more than fourfold – from ₸72.6 bn in 2015 to ₸299.8 bn in 2023. As a result, the share of tourism-related employment rose to 5.5 percent of total employment.

Sustainable tourism principles are being integrated into strategic documents, including comprehensive development plans for Burabay, Mangystau, and the Almaty Mountain Cluster, as well as a master plan for sustainable tourism in the Katon-Karagay district. In addition, proactive individuals are playing a vital role in promoting sustainable tourism in Kazakhstan.

### **Local initiatives drive sustainable tourism in Katon-Karagay**

Katon-Karagay District in East Kazakhstan Region is listed among the 200 priority ecological regions of the world by WWF's Living Planet report. Since 2019, the Public Foundation «Sustainable Development of Katon-Karagay District», established by local entrepreneurs, has become an active stakeholder in promoting sustainable tourism. Over five years, the foundation has implemented more than 100 projects totalling ₸987 mn – from developing tourism products to managing waste.

The foundation actively promotes community-based tourism by offering grants to convert homes into guesthouses and providing training through a «Hospitality School». As a result, 65 new bed spaces were created, providing villagers with new income opportunities. For example, one family in the village of Berel earned about ₸1 mn in a single tourist season.

<sup>66</sup> Materials of the RSI «Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan»



In 2024 the district won third place in the «Thriving Communities» category of the Green Destinations Top 100 Story Awards at the ITB Berlin exhibition, in recognition of best practices in sustainable tourism. This case illustrates how local initiatives and strategic planning can make tourism a driver of development while preserving nature and enhancing community well-being.

The positive dynamics in tourism are also confirmed by international rankings. Kazakhstan's upward momentum in tourism is reflected in global rankings. In the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI), the country rose from 80th place in 2019 to 52nd place in 2023 out of 119 countries.

The post-pandemic period has seen a significant rise in the popularity of ecotourism. Visitation to the country's national parks has quadrupled – from 698,000 to 2.8 million visitors. To balance environmental preservation with tourism development, visitor centres and glamping sites are being established. Currently, there are 16 operational visitor centres, 8 of which are located within national parks, along with more than 40 glamping sites. In recent years, solar panels have been actively used, particularly in national parks such as Charyn, Altyn-Emel and Kokshetau. Other notable infrastructure developments include the introduction of eco-buses on the Shymbulak tourist route.

### **Qazaq National Parks visitor centres – boosting tourism and communities**

The visitor centres built by Qazaq National Parks (Altyn-Emel, Ayusai, Batan, Charyn and Turgensai) have played a vital role in managing tourist flows in national parks and ensuring economic stability.

In collaboration with partners such as Tary, Ayusai Electro Bikes, and others, more than 200 jobs have been created. Qazaq National Parks actively supports social initiatives in villages near the visitor centres. For instance, a tour to Charyn Canyon was organized for 100 residents of the village of the Nura village in the Almaty Region, some of whom later gained employment. A local school serving 500 students was renovated at a cost of ₸2 mn. In Basshi village in the Zhetysu Region, near the Altyn-Emel visitor centre, young doctors who trained abroad through the Bolashak programme, were invited to conduct medical checkups for over 100 residents.

These efforts contribute both to the preservation of the natural heritage and to the sustainable development of local communities by creating jobs and improving the quality of life in rural areas.



Government support is stimulating investment inflows and industrial growth. Since 2022 seven support measures have been introduced, the most popular being the 10 percent reimbursement of costs for the construction and renovation of tourism facilities. The progress is striking: from just one project and ₸7.5 mn in reimbursements in 2022 to 39 projects and ₸3.2 bn in 2024. Additional subsidies are also being developed for the maintenance of sanitation facilities, roadside services, the purchase of vehicles and equipment for ski resorts, and measures to support inbound tourism.

## A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



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*The 21st century is an era of new opportunities for everyone. Today people travel more than ever before – they want to see the world with first-hand and learn about other cultures and countries. As the saying goes, «Travel is growth». I believe that careers in tourism will remain important in the future, because even if artificial intelligence replaces people in other fields, tourism will always need the human touch.*

*Kazakhstan is a land of peace and harmony in the heart of Eurasia. We have unique UNESCO-recognized sites, such as the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and the Tamgaly petroglyphs. And we also have breathtaking landscapes: Ile-Alatau, Charyn Canyon, Lake Kaindy, Lake Alakol, Katon-Karagay National Park and Borovoe. These are true natural wonders!*

*I believe that tourism in Kazakhstan has a great future. We have routes that could interest the whole world: ancient cities of the Great Silk Road, archaeological sites and ethnographic tourism. Scientists continue to discover new historical treasures here, and we must preserve and share them with the world.*

*Future tourism professionals will have the power to shape the world by connecting travellers with new places, cultures and perspectives. For example, we could organize archaeological tours where tourists take part in real research, or create a virtual agency for ethnographic tourism – now that would be exciting!*

*Aizhan Tolegen, 11th grade student,  
School-Lyceum №59 named after Karim Mynbayev, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

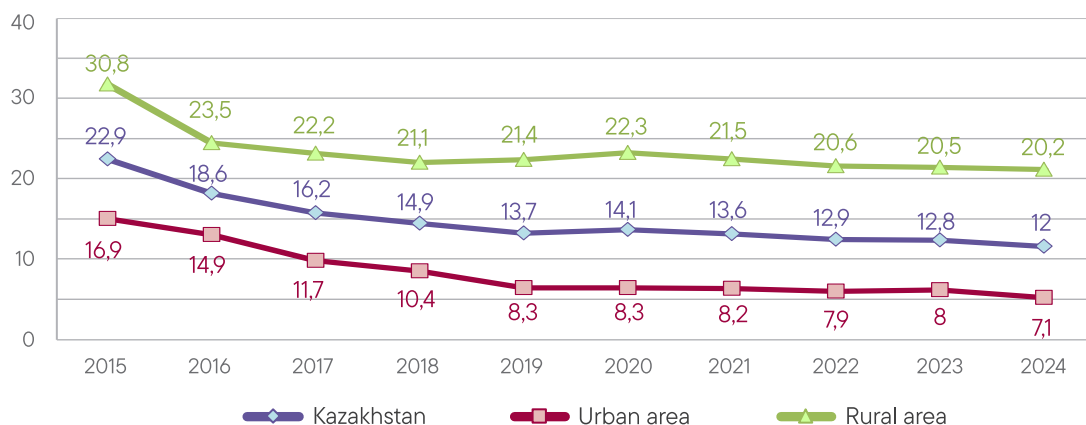
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Overall, the combination of government support, active investment attraction and a focus on environmental sustainability provides a strong foundation for the long-term development of the tourism sector.

## Reducing informal and unproductive employment

The labour market is showing steady improvement in key indicators. The unemployment rate declined from 4.9 percent in 2022 to 4.7 percent by the end of 2024 – the lowest level in Kazakhstan’s modern history. In 2024, the number of employed persons reached 9.2 million (7 million employees and 2.2 million self-employed), representing 95 percent of the labor force. A particularly positive trend is seen in workers’ income: the minimum wage increased from ₸42,500 in 2021 to ₸70,000 in 2023, and to ₸85,000 as of January 2024. This increase benefited approximately 1.8 million workers, directly raising their income and contributing to overall wage growth across the country.

Kazakhstan continues to demonstrate a strong trend toward reducing informal employment. The share of informally employed workers declined from 22.9 percent in 2015 to 12 percent (1.15 million people) in 2024. The reduction is especially pronounced in urban areas, where the rate dropped from 16.9 percent in 2015 to 7.1 percent in 2024. In rural areas, informal employment also fell significantly – from 30.8 percent to 20.2 percent over the same period – though it remains high compared to urban areas (Figure 33).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 33. Share of informal employment in urban and rural areas (%)

However, independent studies indicate that when accounting for grey employment, up to 36 percent of workers may lack formal labour contracts or underreport their income. This issue is particularly acute in the southern regions (such as the Turkestan Region, Shymkent, among others), where the share of the population engaged in the shadow economy exceeds 30 percent.<sup>67</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digital transformation of the labour market. In 2023 the number of remote workers exceeded 42,000 people. This trend is especially relevant in the fields of information technology, education and financial services. Employers are increasingly introducing flexible schedules and remote work arrangements, contributing to higher employment rates among women and persons with disabilities.

<sup>67</sup> Adam Research, «Peculiarities of the labour market and employment in the Republic of Kazakhstan», Report (no date).



## Social and tax reform for internet-based jobs

To formalize employment and simplify compliance for self-employed individuals working through online platforms, amendments to Kazakhstan's Tax and Social Codes came into effect in September 2024.

Key changes include a reduction in social payment rates to 1 percent (with a total tax burden of 4 percent, including individual income tax, mandatory pension contribution, social contributions, and health insurance payments), while retaining the right to pay standard rates (e.g. 10 percent for mandatory pension contributions). Online platform operators have been officially designated as tax agents responsible for withholding and remitting taxes and social payments.

Additional measures include an exemption from employer pension contributions until January 1, 2026, and the possibility to apply two tax regimes simultaneously for individuals engaged in parallel entrepreneurial activity.

The online platform operator meets all tax obligations for this self-employed worker. The only requirement is registration as an individual entrepreneur and selection of a special tax regime via a mobile app. All processes – receipt generation, tax calculation, withholding and remittance of taxes and social payments – are fully automated.

The pilot project was launched in September 2023 with the participation of Yandex Taxi, and was later joined by the InDrive platform. As a result, the activities of approximately 69,000 taxi drivers have been formalized.

Integration is currently ongoing with other major online platforms in Kazakhstan (Wolt, Glovo, Choco, Arbus, and others). Around 27 platforms are expected to join the system, significantly expanding coverage and increasing formal employment in key economic sectors.<sup>68</sup>

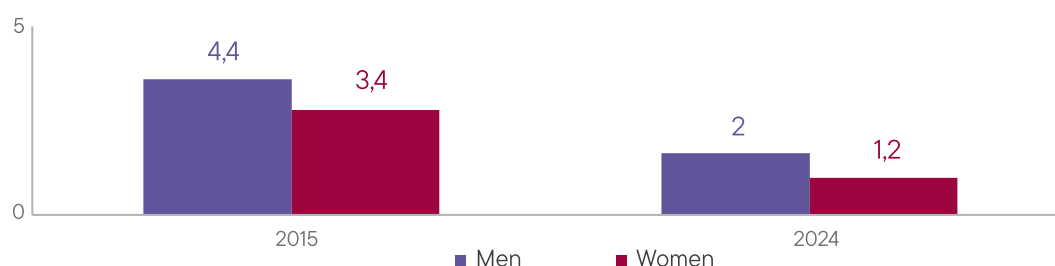
The employment formalization policy includes specific measures to protect minors from forced and illegal labour. In 2022, declared the Year of Children, special attention was given to shielding adolescents from unlawful employment.<sup>69</sup>

According to the Labour Force Sample Survey, the share of employed adolescents aged 15–17 decreased from 0.9 percent in 2022 to 0.07 percent in 2024. This positive trend reflects progress in preventing child labour, although the issue persists in rural areas and requires further attention. In urban areas the rate of employed adolescents stands at 0.03 percent, in rural areas – 0.12 percent.

<sup>68</sup> Pilot project on platform employment for taxi drivers <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/kgd/press/news/details/647721?lang=ru>

<sup>69</sup> Materials of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

In 2015 the overall level of unproductive employment was estimated at 3.9 percent of the labour force: 4.4 percent among men and 3.4 percent among women. In recent years, a positive trend has emerged: by 2024, the share of unproductive employment had decreased to 1.6 percent of all employed persons. Among men, the figure dropped to 2 percent, and among women – to 1.2 percent. The gender gap, which was previously significant, has nearly disappeared, with male and female rates converging in 2024 (Figure 34).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

*Figure 34. Decline in unproductive employment among men and women: comparative analysis (%)*

The development of micro-entrepreneurship, particularly in rural areas, has significantly contributed to reducing informal employment. In 2023 a large-scale programme, titled «Auyil Amanaty», was launched to increase rural incomes. The programme provides loans for business projects to residents of villages and small towns through designated agents at an interest rate of 2.5 percent for up to 5 years, and up to 7 years for livestock projects. The maximum loan amount is up to 2,500 MCI (monthly calculation index), and up to 8,000 MCI for the development of agricultural cooperatives. In 2023–2024, more than 16,500 microloans were issued under the programme, totalling approximately ₸110.6 bn, resulting in the creation of 18,400 new jobs. Programme participants launched legal businesses (such as livestock farms, family-run mills and artisan workshops), transitioning out of informal employment.

Agricultural cooperatives are an essential component of rural entrepreneurship under this program. They play a vital role in resource consolidation and in securing more favorable conditions for selling household agricultural products, thereby increasing rural incomes. Since the programme's inception, around 600 agricultural cooperatives have been established across all regions of Kazakhstan, 561 of which were financed with ₸12.7 bn from the 2023–2024 state budget.

Overall, this initiative, along with the «**Auyil – El Besigi**» rural infrastructure development project, forms the foundation of the new Rural Development Concept and aims to improve the well-being of nearly 40 percent of the rural population.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Materials of the Ministry of Agriculture

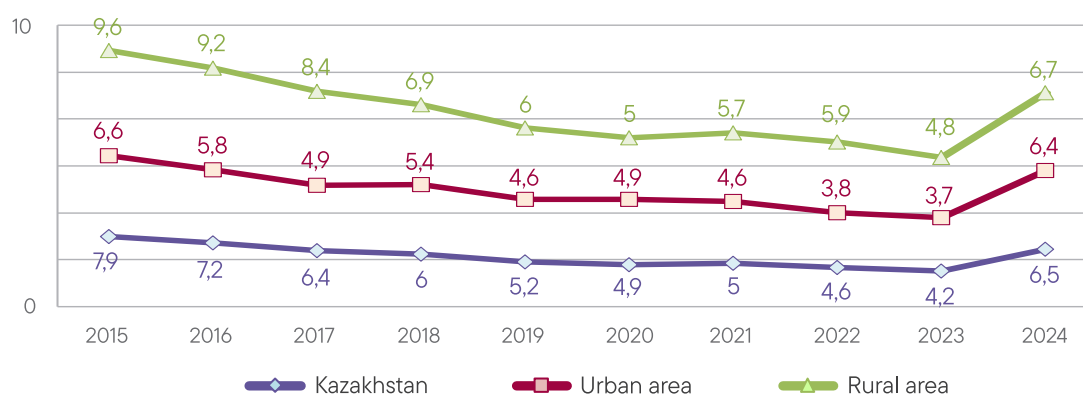




## Youth employment and NEET rate

Young people under the age of 35 make up nearly one-third of Kazakhstan's population – 5.76 million people<sup>71</sup> – and about 40 percent of the labour force.<sup>72</sup>

From 2015 to 2023 the share of inactive youth declined across all categories. In 2015 the overall NEET rate in Kazakhstan was 7.9 percent, falling to 4.2 percent by 2023. In urban areas the rate dropped from 6.6 percent to 3.7 percent, and in rural areas – from 9.6 percent to 4.8 percent (Figure 35).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 35. Share of Youth (Aged 15–24) Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) in Urban and Rural Areas, %

However, 2024 saw a sharp increase in the share of inactive youth: nationwide it rose to 6.5 percent, with 6.4 percent in urban areas and 6.7 percent in rural areas. On average, this is nearly 1.5 times higher than the 2023 figures. According to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On State Youth Policy," the age limit for youth was increased to 35 years starting from 2023.

To engage young people in the economy, a series of targeted initiatives are being implemented. For example, since 2023 Astana has launched a youth employment support programme called «Jol Tap», and in 2024 similar «Jumys Tap» centres were opened in Almaty, Aktobe and the Karaganda regions. These programmes assist young job seekers with career guidance, skills training and finding their first jobs. Parallel to this, job fairs are held nationwide – more than 500 youth-focused job fairs were organized in 2023 alone, strengthening the direct connection between employers and graduates.

<sup>71</sup> Kazakh youth: key figures and events of 2024

<sup>72</sup> Youth in the labor market in Kazakhstan <https://kisi.kz/ru/molodezh-na-rynke-truda-v-kazahstane/#>



One of the most successful examples of temporary youth employment is the «Zhasyl El» movement, which provided paid environmental work to 35,000 students and schoolchildren across the country during summer 2023. Additionally, in 2024 the government funded 280 grants under the «Zhas Project», aimed at supporting initiatives from unemployed NEET youth. The «Youth Internship» programme also continues to operate, offering paid internships at enterprises for recent graduates – many of whom subsequently secure permanent employment.<sup>73</sup>

## Occupational Safety and New Labour Market Initiatives

Kazakhstan has seen positive developments in occupational safety in recent years. A milestone was the government's adoption of the **Occupational Safety Concept** for 2024–2030 in 2023. The number of workplace accidents has been gradually declining. In 2024 1,408 workers were injured on the job, of whom 202 lost their lives. Each case is a tragedy, but compared to the previous year, workplace injuries decreased by 4.5 percent. In 2023 1,474 people were injured and the number of fatalities was higher at 251. Major incidents – such as the methane explosion at the Kostenko mine in 2023 (46 fatalities) and the forest fire at the «Semey Ormany» reserve (15 fatalities) – significantly impacted the statistics.

The highest rates of occupational injuries remain in Kazakhstan's industrial regions. In 2024 159 injuries were recorded in the Karaganda Region, 124 in East Kazakhstan, 112 in Pavlodar, 101 in Abay Region, 91 in Kostanay, and 116 in Almaty city.

By economic sector, the largest share of injuries occurred in the mining and metallurgy sector (18.3 percent) and the construction industry (10.1 percent). The main causes of workplace accidents included: poor organization of work processes (35.5 percent), gross negligence by the injured worker (31 percent), violations of traffic regulations (8.2 percent), and breaches of safety and labour protection rules (7.6 percent).<sup>74</sup>

Over the past five years, comprehensive measures taken by government bodies and employers in occupational safety have led to a 6.3 percent reduction in workplace injuries.

To prevent violations and enhance compliance, 3,262 enterprises across the country have implemented occupational health and safety standards.

Since 2019 Kazakhstan has actively promoted the **"Vision Zero"** concept of zero workplace injuries. To date 605 enterprises have joined this initiative.

In the construction sector a vertical control model continues to be implemented, where general contractors bear full responsibility for ensuring safety compliance by all subcontractors on site. This control model has been adopted by 318 enterprises across the country.

<sup>73</sup> Kazakh youth: key figures and events of 2024 <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mam/press/news/details/905036?lang=ru#>:

<sup>74</sup> The level of occupational injuries in Kazakhstan decreased by 4.5 percent. <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/enbek/press/news/details/924686?lang=ru>



Starting in 2024, workers employed in hazardous or harmful conditions are eligible for retirement at the age of 55, provided they have made professional pension contributions to the Unified National Pension Fund (ENPF) for at least 84 months (7 years). This provision is enshrined in Kazakhstan's Social Code. Upon meeting the eligibility criteria, workers can receive a special social payment from the state budget, an insurance company, the employer and the ENPF until they reach the age of 63, while retaining the right to continue working in less hazardous conditions. This measure is aimed at protecting workers by reducing their health risks and offering financial support for early retirement or safer job transitions.

Additionally, in 2024 Kazakhstan launched a **Digital Enterprise Map**, which enables real-time monitoring of working conditions. This system helps identify and eliminate violations, thereby improving workplace safety. The **Online Labour Consultant** electronic service was also introduced. Since its launch 41,090 employers have conducted self-assessments to check compliance with occupational safety requirements.

On the initiative of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kazakhstan, more than 11,000 workplace safety councils have been established and are actively operating within member organizations. Their main function is to organize inspections and prevent workplace injuries. To further strengthen public oversight of labour safety legislation, over 16,000 technical labour inspectors are now working across the country.<sup>75</sup>

### “Smart” helmet – AI and IoT for industrial safety

BEST Vision Technologies (founded in 2023) is a startup specializing in wearable IoT solutions for industry. The company has developed a «smart» helmet equipped with an action camera and built-in AI analytics. Weighing just 150 grams, the device easily attaches to a standard safety helmet and acts as the «eyes and ears» of management – streaming real-time video from worksites, analysing data and identifying risks and potential emergencies. The project aims to enhance safety and control at industrial facilities by integrating artificial intelligence and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to prevent incidents and abnormal situations. The system is currently in use at metallurgical and mining enterprises in Kazakhstan.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>75</sup> Materials of the Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic of Kazakhstan

<sup>76</sup> In two years ₸250 mn - ₸300 mn have been invested in the project. Kazakh residents launched the production of "smart" helmets near Almaty. <https://digitalbusiness.kz/2025-04-14/za-2-goda-vlozhili-v-proekt-250-300-mln-tenge-kazahstantsi-zapustili-proizvodstvo-umnih-kasok-pod-almati/#>



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2024, GDP grew by 4.8 percent, the share of SMEs reached 39.7 percent, and Kazakhstan maintained its leadership in FDI volume among CIS and Central Asian countries. Real GDP per capita rose from 125.5 percent in 2010 to 171.4 percent and in 2024 relative to the 2005 baseline.
- From 2020 to 2023 tourism GDP nearly tripled, reaching ₸1,184.4 bn. The number of accommodation facilities increased from 2,338 in 2015 to 4,303 in 2024. Kazakhstan climbed from 80th (2019) to 52nd place (2023) in the Global Tourism Index, and employment in the sector reached 5.5 percent.
- The unemployment rate declined from 4.9 percent (2022) to 4.7 percent (2024).
- The share of informally employed workers fell from 22.9 percent to 12 percent.
- The Occupational Safety Concept (2024–2030) was adopted.
- The number of workplace injuries decreased from 1,465 (2022) to 1,408 (2024).
- A Digital Enterprise Map was introduced.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 8

- A high share of the oil and gas sector and limited development of non-resource industries – such as manufacturing, agriculture, IT and innovation – make the economy vulnerable to external shocks and hinder the creation of sustainable jobs.
- Despite ongoing positive employment measures, the level of informal employment in rural areas remains high.
- The share of NEET youth in rural areas (6.7 percent) is higher than in urban areas (6.4 percent).
- There is a persistent gap in access to decent work and economic opportunities between urbanized and rural regions.



## Prospective steps



- Support for automation and digitalization initiatives in industrial enterprises.
- Improvement of regional planning with a focus on tourism development potential.
- Scaling up microcredit programmes in rural areas, strengthening investor support and developing cooperatives.
- Expanding the application of Vision Zero standards, enhancing the risk-based approach, and digitalizing occupational safety tools.

## Civil society assessment



- Positive developments in sustainable economic growth are being observed in Kazakhstan, including active digitalization, support for startups, and measures to combat child and forced labour, in line with international commitments.
- A significant portion of the working-age population – up to 40 percent – remains engaged in the informal sector, limiting their access to social protection. The majority of Kazakhstanis (9 out of 10) earn less than ₸151,000 per month, and inflation is eroding household purchasing power.
- Specific groups – such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, and rural residents – continue to face barriers to labour market access. The situation is further complicated by a mismatch between the education system and current labour market demands.
- High youth unemployment, a persistent gender pay gap, and the limited effectiveness of employment programmes hinder the achievement of inclusive and sustainable growth.



## Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Kazakhstan is making notable progress in infrastructure modernization and technological advancement. Its industrial policy is focused on diversification, with the share of the manufacturing sector now nearly equal to that of the extractive sector. The IT sector is also experiencing rapid growth: the number of IT companies has surpassed 18,800 (a 16 percent increase over three years), and IT service exports have increased twentyfold over the past five years.

### Transport logistics and freight turnover

Kazakhstan's transport system is based on a heavy-use network of railways, pipelines, and highways. Railways account for more than half of the country's freight turnover: in 2023, they represented 53 percent of total freight-passenger ton-kilometres (compared to 23 percent for road transport and 24 percent for pipelines). In 2024, railways transported 437.1 million tons of cargo (+5.0 percent) with a freight turnover of 327.9 billion ton-kilometres (+0.3 percent). Road transport recorded a sharp increase: freight turnover rose by 19.7 percent, and cargo volumes by 19.5 percent. Pipelines carried 295.4 million tons (+7.4 percent) with a turnover of 149.1 billion ton-kilometres (+3.7 percent). Maritime exports more than doubled in 2024, reaching 2.8 million tons (Table 1).

Table 1. Freight traffic volume by type of transport, million tons

Year	Total (million tons)	Pipeline	Railway	Automotive	Air	Inland waterway	Sea
2015	662,2	214,6	341,4	102,5	0,02	1,2	2,5
2016	657,9	205,8	338,9	109,4	0,02	1,2	2,6
2017	762,4	232,8	387,2	138,6	0,02	1,6	2,1
2018	840,8	281,4	397,9	158,5	0,04	1,2	—
2019	869,9	273,0	397,0	197,6	0,03	1,3	0,8
2020	851,1	253,7	402,3	193,2	0,02	0,9	—
2021	910,5	281,4	410,3	217,1	0,03	0,8	0,8
2022	927,2	266,7	395,5	263,2	0,02	0,6	1,2
2023	999,2	282,9	414,9	299,9	0,02	0,2	1,3
2024	1 078,8	295,4	437,1	343,0	0,03	0,3	2,8

Source: BNS ASPR RK



The Central Asian transit route (the «Middle Corridor») is experiencing rapid growth. In 2023 the total freight turnover of the Aktau and Kuryk ports along the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route reached 2.8 million tons – 1.86 times higher than in 2022. However, the share of road transport remains high, leading to traffic congestion and increased road wear.

### Biny.co – digital platform for secure logistics

According to statistics around 15 percent of trucks transporting goods across Kazakhstan fall victim to fraud, resulting in millions in losses for companies. The root causes of this problem include the lack of digitalization in logistics processes and insufficient transparency. Kazakhstani startup Biny.co launched a digital freight platform (a «digital freight forwarder») that connects drivers and shippers directly, without intermediaries, offering quality assurance and transparent service. The solution eliminates dishonest brokers, reduces costs and speeds up delivery: drivers see the actual order price, and clients receive verified service. Operating since 2022, the platform is contributing to the revival of regional transit corridors.

### Key infrastructure projects

**Railways:** Construction and reconstruction of Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ) mainlines is underway. In 2023–2024 the design phase began for the Almaty Bypass line and the second track on the Dostyk–Moynty section. Construction of the Bakty–Ayagoz railway section is ongoing. In 2024 1,400 kilometres of track were repaired.

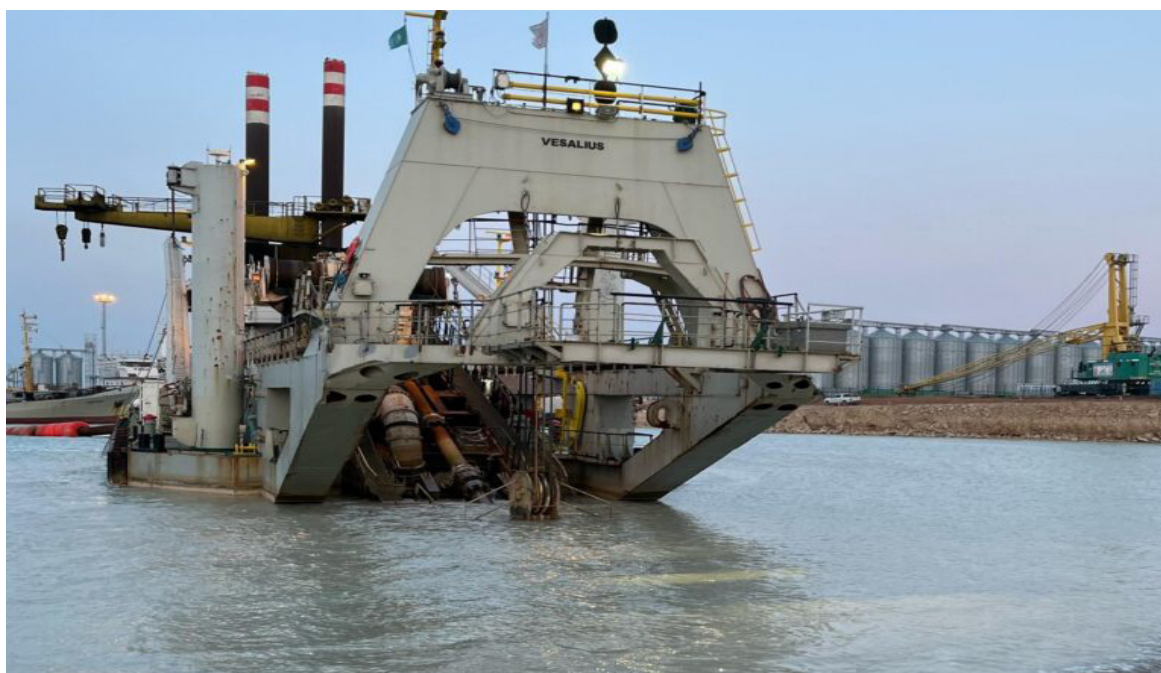
**Roads:** A record 12,000 kilometres of roads were reconstructed in 2024, including 7,000 kilometres with new pavement. Key roads were inaugurated, including the Big Almaty Ring Road, the bridge over the Bukhtarma Reservoir in East Kazakhstan Region (the longest in Central Asia), the Shakpakhbaba Tunnel in Turkestan Region and an overpass in Shamalgan, Almaty Region.

**Aviation:** In 2024, new terminals were opened in Almaty, Kyzylorda, and Shymkent. Construction began on the Kenderli Airport (150 passengers/hour) in Mangystau Region and on the reconstruction of the Arkalyk Airport in Kostanay Region.

Since 2024, work has been underway to establish an international air hub. Systematic development of multimodal aviation hubs is in progress at six airports: Aktau, Aktobe, Almaty, Astana, Karaganda and Shymkent.

**Maritime Infrastructure:** Ports on the Caspian Sea are being expanded. A container hub is under construction in Aktau, which will increase the port's capacity from 140,000 to 240,000 TEU. In 2024 the dredging campaign at Kuryk Port (Sarzha anchorage) (Figure 36) was completed, and its full-scale corridor layout was prepared.





*Figure 36. Dredging works at the Kuryk Port (Mangystau region) to ensure access for large-tonnage vessels <sup>77</sup>*

Kazakhstan, in cooperation with China and Russia, is advancing multimodal transport corridors. With the reconstruction of the Kalbatau–Maikapshagai highway and the construction of an airport in Zaysan (East Kazakhstan Region), a logistics hub is being formed along the route to Siberia.

### *Passenger transportation*

Passenger traffic across all modes of transport is on the rise. In 2024 railways transported 20.8 million passengers (+5.1 percent), with a passenger turnover of 16.2 billion passenger-kilometres (+0.5 percent). Road transport increased passenger volume by 9.4 percent (turnover +24.6 percent). Aviation carried 14.7 million passengers (+10.6 percent) with a turnover of 28.3 billion passenger-kilometres (+9.2 percent). River shipping began to recover, growing by 90.9 percent compared to 2023. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a sharp drop in travel in 2020, but by 2023, railway passenger traffic had returned to 2019 levels (Table 2).

<sup>77</sup> Jan De Nul: New terminal launched at Kuryk Port, <https://www.dredgingtoday.com/2025/04/29/jan-de-nul-new-terminal-launched-at-kuryk-port/>



Table 2. Passenger traffic volume by type of transport, million people

Year	Total (million people)	Railway	Automotive	Inland waterway	Sea	Air	Urban Electric
2015	1 703,8	22,5	1 609,3	—	—	5,9	66,0
2016	1 640,1	23,1	1 546,2	0,1	—	6,0	64,7
2017	1 654,6	22,9	1 553,0	0,1	—	7,4	71,3
2018	1 633,5	23,1	1 531,9	—	—	7,6	70,5
2019	1 614,1	22,4	1 497,8	—	0,06	8,6	85,1
2020	989,6	13,2	917,2	—	0,04	5,5	53,7
2021	1 289,9	16,1	1 199,1	0,1	0,08	9,4	65,2
2022	1 486,1	20,1	1 374,0	0,1	0,09	11,5	80,3
2023	1 607,3	20,5	1 489,4	0,1	0,04	13,3	83,9
2024	1 727,2	20,8	1 610,8	0,2	0,10	14,7	80,4

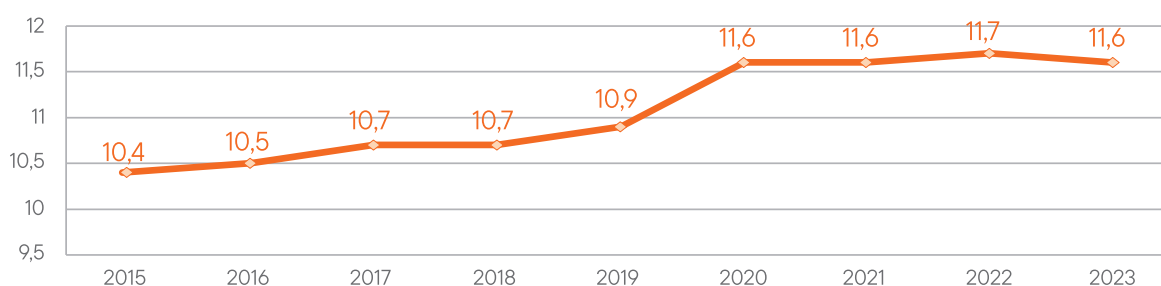
Source: BNS ASPR RK

Meanwhile, more than 20 major foreign airlines were involved in the development of passenger air transportation from 2019 to 2024.

### Development of the manufacturing industry

The manufacturing industry maintains a stable share in the economy – around 11–12 percent of GDP. In 2023 the sector's output reached ₺22 tn, marking a 4.2 percent increase compared to the previous year (₺17.1 tn in 2021, ₺21.2 tn in 2022). Growth was driven by increases in mechanical engineering (+25.4 percent), woodworking (+38.0 percent), light industry (+12.2 percent), and the construction materials sector (+6.1 percent). The gross value added (GVA) of the sector per capita is estimated at approximately US\$1,300–\$1,600 (in 2010 constant prices).

From 2015 to 2019 the share of manufacturing GVA in GDP showed a gradual increase from 10.4 percent to 10.9 percent. Since 2020 it has risen to 11.6 percent and remained stable at a high level in the 11.6–11.7 percent range between 2020 and 2023, reflecting the sector's strengthening position (Figure 37).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

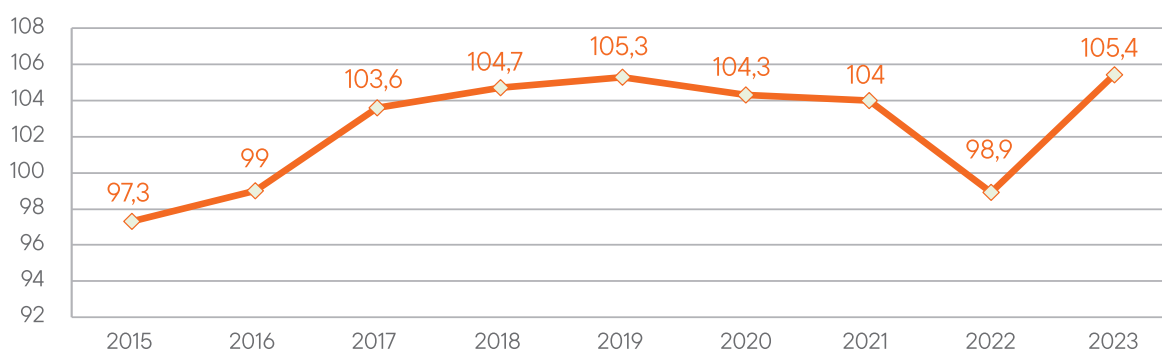
Figure 37. Share of manufacturing gross value added in GDP at constant 2010 prices (%)



Exports of manufactured products have shown fluctuations. In 2022, due to the «low base» effect from 2020 – when pandemic-related restrictions were in place – the sector's export volume increased, reaching \$26.8 bn. In 2023 exports slightly declined to \$25.7 bn.

Investment volume rose by 11.2 percent, totaling ₺1.7 tn. This growth was driven by a sevenfold increase in investments in the production of other transport equipment, a 5.6-fold increase in apparel manufacturing, a fourfold rise in furniture production, and a 3.5-fold boost in the automotive industry.

Between 2015 and 2019 labour productivity in the manufacturing sector steadily increased from 97.3 percent to 105.3 percent. From 2020 to 2022 the indicator declined to 98.9 percent, although in 2023 it recovered to 105.4 percent, surpassing pre-crisis levels (Figure 38).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 38. Labour productivity growth in the manufacturing industry (%)

Employment in the sector has grown due to new projects. In 2022 various investment initiatives created approximately 3,800 jobs, while in 2023 projects implemented by the **Industrial Development Fund JSC** resulted in around 5,200 new jobs.

The government is actively implementing measures to stimulate industrial development. The Law on Industrial Policy and the Programme for the Development of Domestic Value and Export-Oriented Production have been adopted, and the Concept for the Development of the Manufacturing Industry until 2029 has been updated. Preferential lending programmes are being implemented through the Industrial Development Fund JSC, Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund JSC, and through second-tier banks offering low interest rates (6–10 percent) for SMEs in the manufacturing sector. Leasing programmes are also in place to support production modernization. Tax incentives and subsidies for raw materials and electricity are provided. Export stimulation measures include grants, co-financing for participation in international exhibitions, simplified certification procedures and other preferences.

Additionally, the development of **Small Industrial Parks (SIPs)** is being actively pursued as a complementary initiative.



## Boosting SMEs and jobs through industrial parks

Small Industrial Parks (SIPs) are specially equipped areas with ready-to-use facilities and utilities, where entrepreneurs can lease space at a fixed rate of ₸1,350 per square metre, with the option to purchase. Since 2021 11 SIPs have been operating in Almaty, covering a total area of 46,000 square metres. These parks currently host 76 resident businesses, which have created 1,074 jobs. This successful model is now being expanded to other regions across the country.

## Innovation: R&D and business

In the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, Kazakhstan ranked 78th out of 133 countries, marking an improvement from 81st place in 2023.<sup>78</sup> This reflects progress in scientific and technological development, while still demonstrating significant potential in advanced technologies and research.

### A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



“

*Today the world faces many challenges – advancements in medicine, environmental issues and resource scarcity. I believe the solution lies in new technologies that can make life easier and safer. Creating these innovations is not only the task of scientists, but of society as a whole. People can help by supporting new ideas and applying them in everyday life.*

*Schools and universities prepare future engineers, programmers, and doctors. The authorities should support research and allocate funds for important projects.*

*I enjoy coming up with ideas to improve life – for example, developing smart technologies for cities or medical IT products. I've heard of a global climate controller – a system that regulates weather – and diagnostic nanomedicine capsules that detect diseases inside the body.*

*In Kazakhstan nanomedicine and climate-related projects are already being developed, but such technologies require significant resources and international cooperation. I believe that their implementation is entirely feasible in the future. These technologies could make healthcare more accessible, the environment cleaner, and people healthier.*

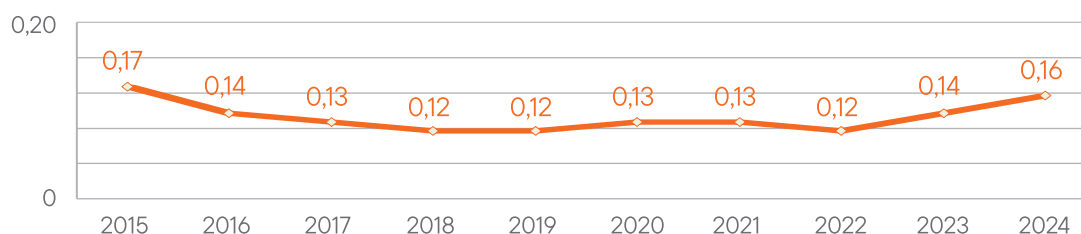
*Alina Shukasheva, 11th grade student,  
School-Gymnasium №20 named after Saken Seifullin, Turkestan Region,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

”

<sup>78</sup> Kazakhstan ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2024 <https://www.wipo.int/gii-ranking/en/kazakhstan>



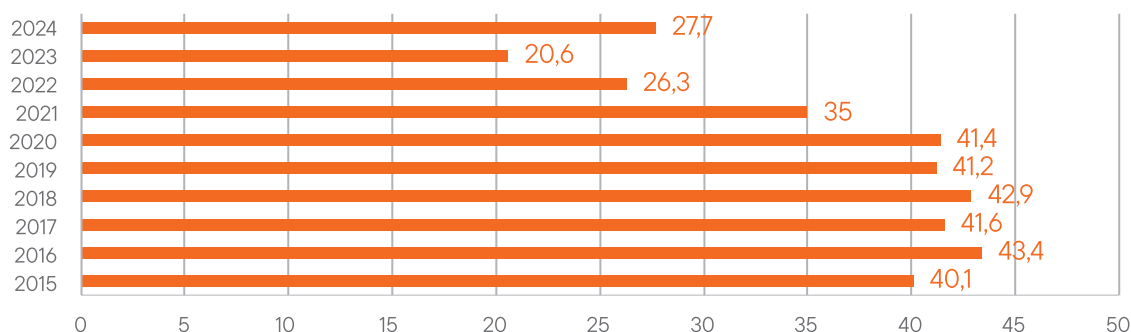
However, the country still exhibits a low level of investment in R&D: in 2024, total expenditures on research and development amounted to only about 0.16 percent of GDP (by comparison, the average in the EU reaches 2.2 percent), which hampers the pace of innovation-driven growth (Figure 39).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 39. Domestic R&D expenditures as a percentage of GDP (%)

Most R&D is funded by the government, with minimal business contribution due to limited financing and high borrowing costs for SMEs. From 2015 to 2020 the share of business expenditures in total R&D spending remained stable at 40–43 percent. However, it dropped to 35 percent in 2021, 26.3 percent in 2022, 20.6 percent in 2023, and in 2024 reached only 27.7 percent, nearly half the level observed five years ago (Figure 40).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 40. Business share of total R&D expenditures (%)

Nevertheless, there are positive trends in digitalization: by 2024 the digital ID system covered 92 percent of government services, placing Kazakhstan among the top 25 countries in e-government. The «Digital Nomad Residency» programme was launched to attract foreign IT specialists, offering the opportunity to obtain permanent residency in Kazakhstan through a simplified process.

Following the example of Astana Hub, 20 regional IT hubs have been established and are operational. As of the end of 2024, IT service exports exceeded \$600 mn. Despite this, sustainable innovation development requires significant additional investment in the scientific base and the R&D industry.



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- Volume of freight transportation increased from 927.2 million tons to 1,078.8 million tons; maritime exports more than doubled (from 1.2 million to 2.8 million tons); passenger traffic rose from 1,486.1 million to 1,727.2 million people.
- In 2024 12,000 km of roads were reconstructed (7,000 km with new surfacing), 1,400 km of railway tracks were repaired and major infrastructure projects were launched: BAKAD, Bukhtarma Bridge, Shakpakbaba Tunnel, and the Shamalgan overpass.
- New terminals were opened in Almaty, Kyzylorda and Shymkent; dredging works were completed in Kuryk port; the capacity of Aktau port is expanding from 140,000 to 240,000 TEU.
- Manufacturing output rose from ₸21.2 tn (2022) to ₸22 tn (2023); in 2023 labour productivity in the sector grew to 105.4 percent (compared to 104 percent in 2021), and exports reached \$25.7 bn.
- The Digital Nomad Residency programme was launched.
- Kazakhstan rose to 78th place in the Global Innovation Index; digitalization covered 92 percent of government services.
- IT service exports increased from \$33 mn (2019) to \$600 mn; 20 regional IT hubs are now operating.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 9

- Increasing freight volumes by road are leading to network overload, road deterioration, and rising pollutant emissions.
- Insufficient integration into global logistics chains and underutilization of the country's transit potential.
- Limited international competitiveness due to the low share of high-tech manufacturing exports (7 percent).
- Low R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP (0.16 percent).
- Limited infrastructure (tech parks, laboratories) and a shortage of qualified personnel hinder innovation growth.



## Prospective steps

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- Modernization and development of throughput infrastructure, including the creation of «green corridors».
- Accelerating the construction of the Centre–West highway, expanding the Western Europe–Western China corridor, developing the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, and integrating actively into global supply chains.
- Attracting investment in the transport sector and ensuring stable fuel supply to increase freight volumes.
- Creating modern industrial ecosystems focused on stimulating non-resource-based production and expanding value chains.
- Strengthening export support programmes (simplifying certification, subsidizing logistics) to enhance the global competitiveness of Kazakhstani products.
- Increasing R&D expenditures to 1 percent of GDP.
- Mass development of digital infrastructure, including support for IT hubs and the launch of a National AI Centre in Astana to enhance innovation sector competitiveness.
- Implementing a comprehensive system for workforce training.
- Enhancing quality monitoring of infrastructure projects.



## Civil society assessment

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- Digitalization has become one of the most prominent areas of progress in Kazakhstan – e-government services, financial technologies, ICT services, and the introduction of the «Digital Family Map» have improved public access to essential services.
- Industrial policy still faces certain constraints: the economy remains largely resource-based, the manufacturing sector is insufficiently diversified, and the share of domestic production in GDP structure has yet to show sustainable growth.
- Funding and integration of R&D and scientific activities into the economy remain inadequate.
- Infrastructure development is uneven: many rural and remote regions continue to face challenges with reliable transport, water supply and digital connectivity.
- Small and medium enterprises encounter such barriers as high borrowing costs, limited investment access and weak integration into production chains.
- Achieving SDG 9 by 2030 will be difficult without large-scale industrialization, comprehensive structural reforms in the economy, investment in science, sustainable infrastructure planning and stronger anti-corruption mechanisms.





## Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

*Despite the high level of human development achieved and the active efforts of the state, social and economic inequality remains a pressing issue in Kazakhstan. Significant disparities in income, opportunities and access to basic services between regions – as well as among various social groups – pose challenges to sustainable and equitable development. Vulnerable population groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and rural residents, continue to face constraints that require a comprehensive and systemic response.*

### Inclusive development and ensuring equal opportunities

Between 2022 and 2024 Kazakhstan took significant steps to protect the rights of vulnerable groups. In June 2023 the country ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, granting individuals the mechanism to submit individual complaints. That same year a new Social Code came into force, a «Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities» portal was launched featuring an interactive map of accessible infrastructure, and procedures for disability recognition were simplified.

Progress on the inclusive agenda continued in 2024: Kazakhstan presented its first report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In December, the Concept of Inclusive Policy for 2025–2030 was approved. The document aims to transition from a medical-social to a social-rights-based model of disability and expand participation of all social groups in societal life.

As of early 2025 the country is home to 737,400 persons with disabilities (3.6 percent of the population), including 415,900 of working age, 206,800 of retirement age (28 percent), and 114,700 children (15.6 percent). In 2024 ₸483.8 bn were allocated for state social benefits, which increased by 6.5 percent in 2025, with the average amount reaching ₸74,405.

Digitalization is actively promoted in the rehabilitation sector. In 2024 the Social Services Portal facilitated 512,340 rehabilitation events for 512,300 individuals with disabilities. A Digital Rehabilitation Diary was launched, along with protocols for various diagnoses. Four new rehabilitation centres were opened (in Semey, Taraz, Kentau, and Uralsk) as well as seven day-care centre for children with autism spectrum disorders (including in Pavlodar, Shymkent, Kostanay, and others). A pilot programme on in-home rehabilitation for children with musculoskeletal disorders using innovative technologies is underway in four regions. By the end of 2024, around 13,000 individuals were fully rehabilitated (7.2 percent of those reassessed), and over 11,000 were reclassified to a milder disability group.

Coordination of inclusive policy is carried out with the involvement of civil society. A working group has been established under the Ministry of Labour to align legislation with the UN Convention.



## From villages to cities – ensuring equitable growth

In 2019 Kazakhstan adopted the Regional Standards System (RSS) for various types of settlements – from rural villages to cities of national significance. The primary goal of the RSS is to ensure that all settlements are provided with essential infrastructure and services within walking distance, thereby promoting inclusive development and reducing regional disparities.

As of 2024, the average level of provision of infrastructure and services (amenities) in accordance with the RSS across the country reached 66.1 percent, including 89 percent in urban areas and 65.7 percent in rural areas.

The highest levels of service provision in 2024, according to the RSS, were recorded in the cities of Almaty (90.9 percent), Shymkent (87.9 percent), and Astana (87.6 percent). Among the regions, the best indicators were observed in Mangystau (72.6 percent), Zhambyl (73.7 percent), and Kyzylorda (68.8 percent) regions.

The new Budget Code provides for the integration of RSS provisions into budget planning, particularly in the formation of general-purpose transfers, as well as investment plans of state bodies and regional authorities. Priority will be given to projects in settlements with the greatest gap in RSS indicators, which will be funded on a preferential basis.

Despite the progress made, challenges remain. There is a lack of official studies on individuals' personal experiences with discrimination. Independent sources, including the 2023 Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), highlight the persistent gender inequality and the lack of data concerning other vulnerable groups. The low level of data transparency and completeness hinders targeted responses and the development of effective policies.

### A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



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*Respect and equality – these are two words we understand from early childhood. From a young age, our parents teach us to respect others, and our teachers explain in class how important it is to be tolerant in today's society. Tolerance and respect are key qualities on the path to equality.*

*One of the most pressing issues in modern society is inequality among people. It is a source of conflict and division. To change this, we need to foster respect and equality. This effort can be supported not only by individuals but also by schools, cities, and entire nations.*

*It is important to cultivate tolerance from an early age. Schools should offer lessons that teach children about different cultures and how to respect one another. Countries can host festivals that bring together people of various ethnicities, and companies should ensure equal working conditions for everyone.*



*In our country, which is multinational and considered a model of tolerance, various events and celebrations help foster harmony. Each year on May 1st, we celebrate the Day of Unity of the People of Kazakhstan, symbolizing friendship and mutual respect among different ethnic groups.*

*If respect and equality become core values of society, the world will change. In such a world, there will be no barriers dividing people, and everyone will live in harmony and understanding. If people achieve absolute harmony, the world around us will transform. We'll be able to make even greater discoveries because united, we are stronger than when we stand alone.*

*Adiya Aushakimova, 8th grade student,  
Regional Multidisciplinary Boarding Lyceum  
for Gifted Children, Pavlodar Region,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

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Alongside broader equality efforts, Kazakhstan places special emphasis on protecting the rights and well-being of children. The country has established 14 Regional Centres for Psychological Support, which play a crucial role in supporting children's mental health and resilience. A dedicated methodology has been adopted for the prevention, identification, and assistance to children who are victims of violence. In 2022, Kazakhstan introduced the **Child Well-being Index** – a key tool for assessing child welfare and evaluating the effectiveness of national policies across various domains affecting children's lives. This index serves to ensure a data-driven approach to improving child-related services and outcomes.<sup>79</sup>

Within this framework, particular importance is attached to initiatives aimed at fostering inclusive environments in educational institutions, ensuring that every child, regardless of ability or background, has equal access to quality education and support services.

### Fostering inclusive learning in Astana schools

In 2024, the Samruk-Kazyna Trust Foundation launched a project aimed at establishing inclusive classrooms in Astana schools. Ten such classrooms were opened, developed with input from experts and aligned with international best practices. These inclusive spaces provide children with special needs access to quality education and have become welcoming centers for families.

As a result of the project, schools became significantly more accessible: School No. 97 saw an increase in students with special needs from 15 to 45, School No. 59 from 18 to 34, and School No. 76 from 5 to 25. This initiative has enabled the inclusion of 16 percent of children with special educational needs in the capital.

By the end of 2025, an additional 10 inclusive classrooms are planned. The initiative underscores the Samruk-Kazyna group's commitment to fostering an inclusive and modern educational environment in Kazakhstan.

<sup>79</sup> The Child Welfare Index has been developed and implemented, <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/edu/press/news/details/781739?lang=ru>



According to the Human Development Index (HDI) published by the United Nations Development Programme for 2025, Kazakhstan remains among the countries with a very high level of human development. The country ranks 60th out of 193 countries and territories, with an HDI of 0.837. From 1990 to 2023, Kazakhstan's HDI increased by 21.5 percent (from 0.689 to 0.837). However, when adjusted for inequality, the HDI drops to 0.766, representing a loss of 8.5 percent.

Considering gender aspects reflected in the Gender Inequality Index – which measures disparities based on gender in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity – Kazakhstan ranks 50th out of 172 evaluated countries, with a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.182.<sup>80</sup>

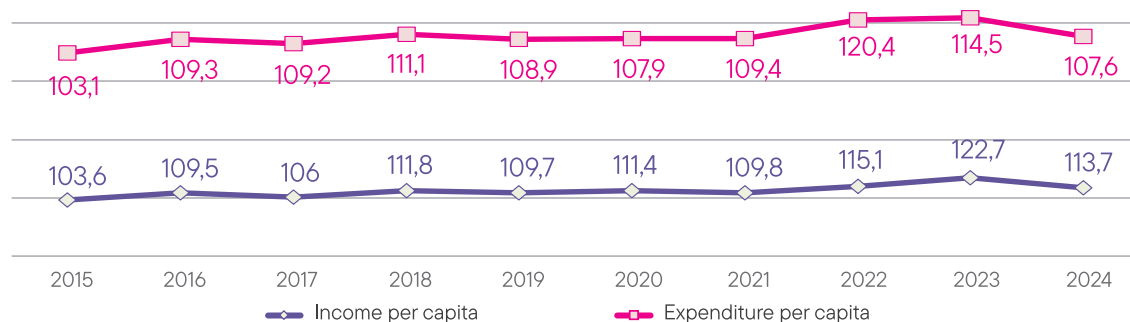
In recent years, Kazakhstan has implemented significant measures to support low-income groups. In 2022 a housing rental subsidy was introduced for socially vulnerable families (such as large families, persons with disabilities, orphans, and others) with low income. Targeted social assistance programmes remain in place. Between 2022 and 2024 the minimum wage increased from ₸60,000 in 2022 to ₸70,000 in 2023 and ₸85,000 in 2024, which was intended to stimulate income growth among the least well-off.

Simultaneously, pensions and social benefits have also been raised. For example, the basic pension increased from ₸24,341 in 2023 to ₸28,215 in 2024. Government benefits for families with children have also increased annually in line with inflation, as benefit amounts are calculated as multiples of the Monthly Calculation Index (MCI), which is determined annually based on the forecasted inflation rate in the national budget law.

For example, the one-time state childbirth allowance has been increased to ₸140,296 (for the first, second, and third child) and to ₸232,596 (for the fourth and subsequent children). The monthly childcare allowance until the child reaches 1.5 years old has been raised to ₸21,266 (for one child), ₸25,143 (for two children), ₸28,982 (for three children) and ₸32,859 (for four children), depending on the number of children. The allowance for large families with four or more underage children living together has also increased, ranging from ₸59,833 (for families with 4 children) to ₸103,598 (for families with 7 children).

Household incomes have shown stable growth – from 103.6 percent in 2015 to 113.7 percent in 2024 relative to the previous year. However, expenditures are also rising and remain significantly higher than incomes. In 2024 this indicator reached 107.6 percent, indicating increased financial pressure on vulnerable groups (Figure 41).

<sup>80</sup> UNDP: Kazakhstan retains its position in the Human Development Index ranking, but measures are needed to overcome inequality and environmental risks <https://www.undp.org/ru/kazakhstan/press-releases/proon-kazakhstan-sokhranyaet-pozicii-v-reytinge-indeksa-chelovecheskogo-razvitiya-neobkhodimy-mery-dlya-preodoleniya#>



Source: BNS ASPR RK

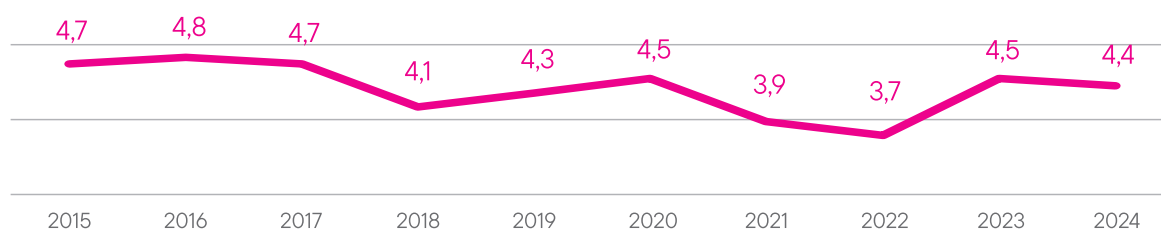
Figure 41. Per capita income and expenditures as a percentage among the bottom 40 percent of the population

Despite the ongoing positive trend in incomes, the gap between income and expenditures remains, indicating insufficient purchasing power among this segment of the population.

The World Bank notes that given the challenging economic conditions of recent years, real incomes of Kazakhstanis declined by 0.3 percent<sup>81</sup> in 2023. This decline reflects high inflation: in February 2024, the annual increase in consumer prices reached 9.3 percent.

Relative poverty in Kazakhstan remains at a comparatively low level. Although the official Gini coefficient for Kazakhstan in 2023 stands at approximately 0.29 – which is considered a relatively low level of inequality by international standards – an increasing trend of socio-economic stratification is observed in reality. Capital income shares are growing, and asset concentration is intensifying. According to the World Bank, the wealthiest 1 percent of the population controls 15 percent of total income and 30 percent of all assets.<sup>82</sup>

In addition, in 2024, the share of the population with incomes below 50 percent of the median level reached 4.4 percent, compared to 3.7 percent in 2022 (Figure 42).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 42. Proportions of individuals with incomes below 50 percent of the median income (%)

<sup>81</sup> Materials of the World Bank. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099644504212516788/pdf/IDU-66abcca0-b9e4-416a-a15e-c700cac255d6.pdf>

<sup>82</sup> Materials of the World Bank. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099644504212516788/pdf/IDU-66abcca0-b9e4-416a-a15e-c700cac255d6.pdf>



For comparison the official poverty rate based on the subsistence minimum reached 5.2 percent, with significantly higher rates in rural areas than in urban ones. This indicates the presence of vulnerable groups, particularly women, the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children – whose level of relative poverty remains consistently above average.

Kazakhstan's population is gradually ageing: the share of citizens aged 65 and older is projected to rise from 8 percent in 2020 to nearly 15 percent by 2050. As a result, the old-age dependency ratio will steadily increase, leading to a growing need for healthcare and social support services. These demographic changes require timely and comprehensive planning, with an emphasis on investments in human capital and the social protection system.<sup>83</sup>

A stark disparity continues to exist between rich and poor regions: the poverty rate in Turkestan Region (9–10 percent) is nearly four times higher than in the capital (2–3 percent). This drives urban migration and increases social tensions. A clear urban–rural divide also exists within regions: in 2023 the share of low-income individuals in rural areas (7.2 percent) was more than twice that of urban areas (3.9 percent). These disparities contribute to uneven development in infrastructure, education and healthcare.

According to the official definition, starting in 2025, the poverty threshold will be set at 35 percent of the regional median income (down from the previous 50 percent). This reflects an adaptation of the poverty measurement methodology.

### 2024 floods – Kazakhstan's social safety measures

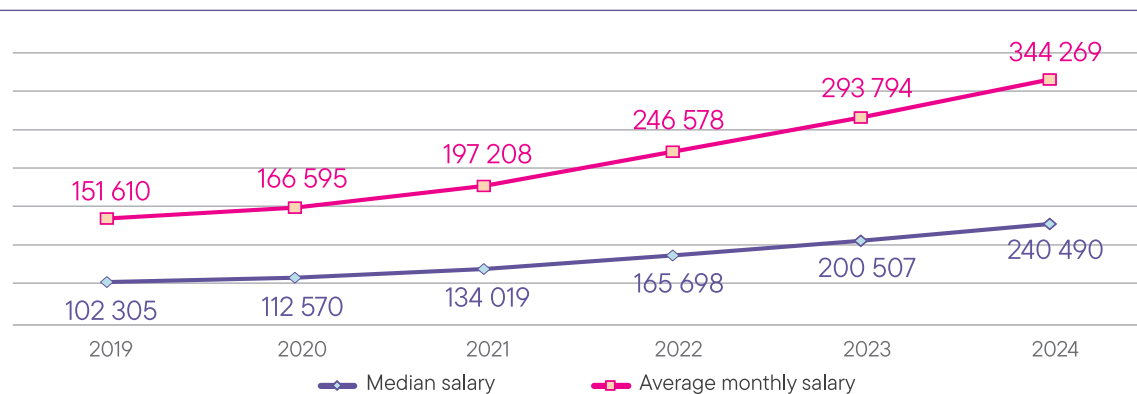
The spring floods of 2024 affected the northwestern and northern regions of Kazakhstan. Hundreds of homes were submerged, with rural residents and low-income families suffering the most. The government provided compensation to the victims in the amount of 100–150 MCI (up to approximately ₸554,000), allocated funds for infrastructure repairs and ensured evacuees received housing, food and clothing. The overall response involved over 63,000 personnel, around 7,000 pieces of equipment, more than 1,000 water-pumping units, 418 boats and 38 aircraft.

The situation was especially severe in the Aktobe and Atyrau regions. Local administrations assessed the damage, processed subsidies, conducted disinfection efforts, and provided on-site support. NGOs and international organizations also contributed: the Red Crescent Society, UNICEF, the UN, and businesses collectively allocated about ₸155 bn to support those affected.

From 2019 to 2024, Kazakhstan has experienced a steady increase in both median and average wages (Figure 43).<sup>84</sup>

<sup>83</sup> United Nations. Common Country Analysis: Kazakhstan 2024. United Nations Country Team in Kazakhstan, November 2024.

<sup>84</sup> Materials of Center for Human Resources Development JSC.



Source: Centre for Human Resources Development JSC

Figure 43. Average monthly salary (in ₸)

However, the persistent gap between median and average wages indicates an uneven income distribution.

Despite positive trends, the proportion of low-income individuals remains significant. Inflation and rising prices for basic necessities pose risks of increased poverty among the most vulnerable groups. Additional challenges stem from unresolved structural issues, including regional disparities in income levels.

At the same time, an analysis of 4.3 million electronic labour contracts by profession reveals that women constitute the majority of highly qualified professionals. However, the proportion of women in managerial positions is significantly lower than for men. Moreover, more women than men are engaged in low-skilled labour, while men dominate in sectors such as agriculture, construction, industry and transportation.

When it comes to employee earnings, men's average salaries are significantly higher than women's across major occupational groups. For example, on average male managers earn 12.4 percent more than their female counterparts. Despite the large number of women in the “professional” category, their wages are 29.0 percent lower than men's. The greatest disparity is found in the “industry, construction, and transportation workers” group, where men earn 69 percent more than women.

A substantial gender pay gap is observed in oil-rich and industrial regions, while it is minimal in southern and agricultural regions. In particular, in the Mangystau Region men's average salary is 86 percent higher than women's, with the biggest contributors to this gap being the “industry, construction, and transportation workers” and “professional” categories.

In major cities the gender wage gap ranges from 16–19 percent, with the primary contributors being the “professional” and «industry, construction, and transportation workers» groups. Meanwhile, the Almaty Region and Shymkent city show relative pay equity across all major occupational categories.<sup>85</sup>

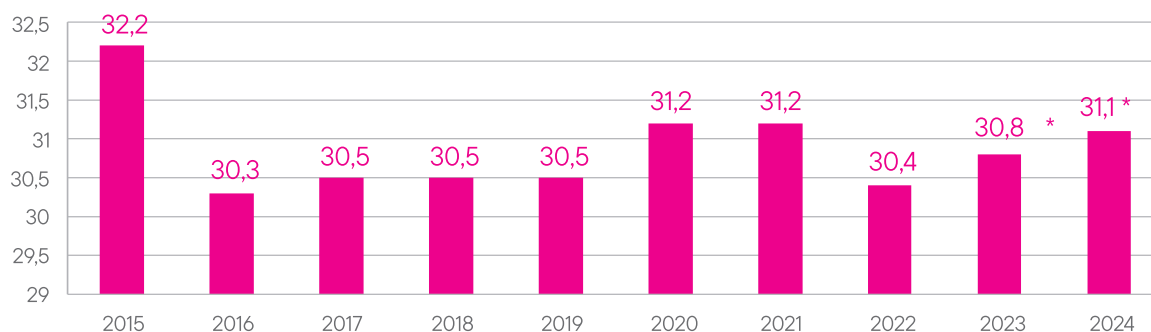
<sup>85</sup> Materials of Center for Human Resources Development JSC.





## Economic equalization through fiscal measures

The share of labor compensation in GDP reflects the portion of value created in the economy that is received by employees in the form of labor income. In 2022, labor compensation accounted for 30.4 percent of GDP; in 2023, it increased to 30.8 percent, and in 2024 it reached 31.1 percent (Figure 44).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 44. Share of Wages in GDP (%)

Within the framework of the Population Income Growth Programme until 2029, a goal was set to increase the share of labour compensation in GDP to 36.4 percent by 2024. Despite positive dynamics the wage share in GDP remains far from the target. The main share of GDP still comes from business profits and mixed income (60–61 percent), while the tax burden remains low (6–8 percent).

This structure highlights the need for further measures to stimulate wage growth and ensure a more balanced income distribution. Steps are being taken in this direction: a “dynamic approach” to setting the minimum wage is being developed, and wage systems are being revised. Additional support comes from the strengthening of the banking sector – its capitalization grew by about 50 percent in 2023, reaching 13.3 percent of liabilities by early 2024, creating a potential for income growth.

Between 2022 and 2024 the budget deficit significantly increased. According to the National Bank, the state budget deficit amounted to approximately 2.1 percent of GDP in 2022 and 2.4 percent in 2023 (about ₸2.8 tn). In 2024 the deficit grew again by ~30 percent to approximately ₸3.6 tn (~2.7 percent of GDP). This growth was driven by the increased fiscal stimulus: expanded social programmes and transfers from the National Fund to the republican budget. Oil revenues accounted for less than 32 percent of total budget revenues, while the non-oil deficit remains high (8–9 percent of GDP). A large deficit could limit long-term growth prospects and exacerbate social inequality if resources are used inefficiently.



## *Migration policy and mobility*

Kazakhstan is implementing a policy to promote safe and orderly migration. In 2022, the Migration Policy Concept for 2023–2027 was approved, aimed at simplifying visa procedures, protecting migrants' rights, and attracting highly qualified professionals.

In 2023–2024 both external and internal migration flows increased. According to official statistics, in 2023 25,387 people arrived in Kazakhstan, while 16,094 left (net migration +9,293). In 2024 the inflow rose to 29,282 (+15.3 percent), and the outflow decreased to 12,732 (–20.9 percent), resulting in a net migration of +16,550. This change was largely due to migration from CIS countries (81.6 percent of those arriving in 2024 were from the CIS). Internally, there was active migration to major cities, notably Almaty, Astana and Shymkent.

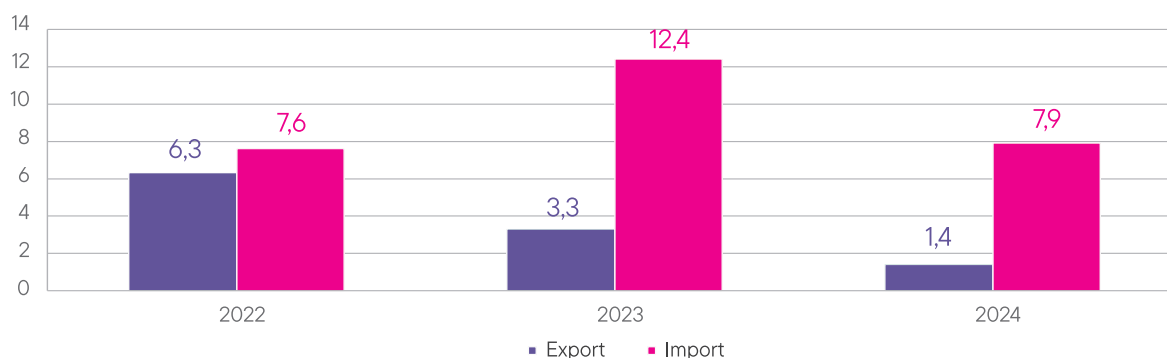
The government has taken steps to simplify the employment of foreign specialists. As of 1 May 2025, 14,200 foreign nationals were employed under permits issued by local authorities, primarily from China, Turkey and Uzbekistan. A quota is in place for attracting foreign labour (approximately 0.2 percent of the employed population, or 16,500 permits for 2025). Efforts are underway to address employment access for Kazakh citizens in South Korea.

Kazakhstan ratified the 1951 UN Refugee Convention in 1998. The state ensures protection from expulsion and provides access to public services for refugees. A working group under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is facilitating making refugee access to education and medical services equal to those of its nationals. A national office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been established, with ongoing registration and integration of refugees.

As of May 1, 2025, Kazakhstan hosts 271 asylum seekers and 307 recognized refugees, originating from countries such as Afghanistan, China, Syria and Ukraine.

## *Official development assistance and financial flows to developing countries*

Kazakhstan is actively engaged in international humanitarian and development cooperation, consistently strengthening its role as a reliable donor and responsible recipient. In 2022, Kazakhstan exported humanitarian aid worth \$6.3 mn. The main recipients included Afghanistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Poland, Tajikistan, and Hungary. The largest share of aid – over USD 4 mn – was directed to Afghanistan. In 2023, the export volume amounted to \$3.3 mn, with the majority again sent to Afghanistan. Additional aid was delivered to Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. In 2024, the volume decreased to \$1.4 mn and was concentrated on two countries – Afghanistan and Tajikistan (Figure 45).



Source: Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Figure 45. Export and import of humanitarian aid by Kazakhstan (million \$)

Regarding imports, over the past three years, Kazakhstan has received a total of \$27.9 mn in humanitarian aid. In 2024 during the spring floods, several countries provided support to the affected regions. Kyrgyzstan sent around 300 tons of humanitarian cargo, including food, life-support equipment and clothing. Tajikistan provided 3,500 tons of assistance, including food, drinking water and construction materials. In addition, Serbia demonstrated solidarity by transferring Euro 1 mn to the public fund «Qazaqstan Khalkyna» for housing construction in the affected areas.

The implementation of official development assistance (ODA) is a key component of Kazakhstan's soft power foreign policy. In 2024, the volume of Kazakhstan's ODA increased by 29 percent, from USD 36.86 mn to USD 47.8 mn.

The Kazakh Agency for International Development (KazAID), established in 2020, coordinates humanitarian and technical aid. A notable achievement has been the launch of annual ODA programmes such as «Dostyk: Diplomacy», «Dostyk: Digitalization», and «Avicenna: Healthcare». Foreign partners have also welcomed the start of school construction in Turkey's earthquake-affected Gaziantep region, with KazAID as the implementing agency. Other projects include the transfer of e-government modules to Tajikistan, Sierra Leone, and Togo; the provision of 100 training vouchers at Astana Hub for specialists from Tajikistan; and the opening of the Kurmangazy Center for Children's Creativity in Azerbaijan. KazAID's involvement strengthens Kazakhstan's image as a middle power and attracts interest from new donor countries, such as Brazil, China, Indonesia and Thailand.

Thus Kazakhstan continues to expand its role as a donor country by developing its ODA system and strengthening humanitarian cooperation. At the same time, it maintains a significant level of external support, which further enhances its international standing.



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2023 Kazakhstan ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2024 the country submitted its first national report and adopted the Inclusive Policy Concept for 2025–2030.
- Four rehabilitation centres and seven autism centres for children were opened; a digital rehabilitation journal was introduced. In 2024, 512,340 services were provided to 512,300 persons with disabilities via the Social Services Portal.
- Pensions and benefits were increased; family support measures expanded: the one-time birth allowance rose to ₸140,296 (for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd child) (2023 – ₸131,100) and to ₸232,596 (for the 4th and subsequent children) (2023 – ₸217,350); allowances for families with four children increased to ₸59,833 (2023 – ₸55,304) and for families with seven children to ₸103,598 (2023 – ₸96,807).
- The share of labour compensation in GDP rose from 30.4 percent (2022) to 31.1 percent (2024).
- In 2024, the net migration balance reached +16,550 people; visa procedures were simplified and a quota for 16,500 foreign workers was established for 2025.
- Kazakhstan provided humanitarian aid totaling \$11 mn and increased ODA to \$47.8 mn through the KazAID agency.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 10

- There is a noticeable poverty gap between rural and urban areas. Vulnerable groups, including large families, people with disabilities, and others in rural regions with underdeveloped infrastructure, face limited access to education, healthcare and social support.
- Despite the growth in average wages, a gap between household incomes and expenditures persists, particularly among the bottom 40 percent of the population.
- Women continue to encounter fewer employment opportunities and lower wages compared to men.
- Insufficient transparency and the lack of regular studies on specific minority groups limit the effectiveness of targeted policies.
- Challenges remain in integrating incoming migrants and addressing undocumented migration.



## Prospective steps

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- Ongoing measures to equalize wages, increase social support, and stimulate employment among vulnerable groups.
- Expanding programmes for developing women's leadership, ensuring equal pay, and creating conditions for women's professional growth.
- Improving mechanisms of legal protection and access to services for people with disabilities.
- Introducing regular surveys and data collection systems on various aspects of inequality, including ethnic and social characteristics, to inform effective policymaking.



## Civil society assessment

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- Kazakhstan continues to take steps to reduce inequality, including the ratification of international agreements, the development of inclusive education, the implementation of social programmes and the expansion of participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making, including through representation in Parliament and local assemblies (maslikhats).
- Socio-economic inequality persists: about 10 percent of the wealthiest population holds a significant share of national assets, while over half of citizens live on incomes below the minimum wage and 69 percent lack savings.
- Significant disparities remain between regions, as well as gender gaps in access to education, employment, and healthcare services. Vulnerable groups continue to face difficulties in accessing basic services.
- Special attention should be given to ensuring reliable consumer protection and increasing the transparency of the tax system.
- Achieving SDG 10 by 2030 requires a comprehensive approach, including the strengthening of legal and social mechanisms and the fair redistribution of resources.



## Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

*Kazakhstan is taking significant steps to reduce the gap in living standards between urban and rural areas. In cities digital technologies are being actively developed, infrastructure is being modernized and elements of «smart» governance are being implemented. In rural areas the road network and social conditions are improving. Government measures are expanding opportunities for residents of remote regions..*

### Urbanization and planning

Regional planning in Kazakhstan is built on a strong institutional foundation. Conceptual documents have been approved, and each region independently develops development plans based on local characteristics. Amid the steady growth of cities, thoughtful and flexible territorial policies are gaining importance.

In 2024 the urbanization level in Kazakhstan reached 62.1 percent, and it is projected to increase to 63.9 percent by 2030. Regionally, from 2015 to 2024, population growth due to migration took place in the Mangystau Region and the cities of Almaty, Astana and Shymkent.

Efforts are underway in collaboration with stakeholders to adopt a Construction Code. Public hearings are being held on new master plans and urban development projects.

### A Youth Perspective

*(translated from Russian to English)*



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*Today, cities are growing at a tremendous pace, but alongside technological progress, we face serious challenges: air pollution, lack of green spaces, high energy consumption, technological and digitalization issues, and poorly thought-out architectural and aesthetic designs. If we don't rethink our approach to construction and architecture, megacities will become concrete traps. That's why we need «cities of the future» – ones that support human life and rapidly improve it.*

*As a future architect, I propose building smart structures that interact with nature. Imagine chameleon architecture where buildings change colour depending on the weather: reflecting sunlight in summer and absorbing heat in winter, reducing energy use. Another innovation would be energy-efficient roads. Instead of asphalt, imagine surfaces that generate energy from sunlight and vehicle pressure. This would allow cities to power themselves without harming the environment.*



*Autonomous green domes are also vital – huge enclosed parks with clean air and natural ventilation, where you can breathe deeply even in the heart of the city. These areas should become a requirement for all major cities. If we implement these ideas, cities can become places where nature and technology work together. The future is already here! Clean air, emission-free energy, buildings that care for people rather than the other way around.*

*The city of the future isn't just concrete and glass – it's a living organism that evolves alongside humans. All we have to do is build it.*

*Ilsana Zakaeva, 10th grade student,  
Chokan Valikhanov Secondary School, East Kazakhstan Region,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

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Given the rising urbanization and the growing demand for a comfortable and inclusive urban environment, the importance of civic engagement tools is increasing. One such tool is the People's Participation Budget. Residents can propose projects to improve their neighbourhoods, which are then reviewed and implemented with the support of local authorities (akimats).<sup>86</sup> The People's Participation Budget was first launched in 2019.

In 2023 the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On the Development of Agglomerations» and the Concept for the Development of Rural Areas of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2027 were adopted. From 2019 to 2023 5,400 projects aimed at developing social, engineering and transport infrastructure were implemented in 1,800 rural settlements. During the same period 45,000 specialists benefited from the «With a Diploma to the Village» programme, of which 21,200 received budget loans for housing acquisition. Additionally, the country is pursuing a systematic policy of diversifying the economies of single-industry towns.

### From monotown to growth hub

Saran city in the Karaganda region stands as a prime example of successful structural economic transformation, demonstrating steady growth since the establishment of the “Saran” Industrial Zone in 2021. A number of anchor projects have been implemented within the zone, with total investments exceeding ₸410 bn. Covering an area of 207 hectares, the zone has generated over 2,000 jobs.

Among the key enterprises are: Tengry Tyres LLP – produced 190,900 automobile tyres in 2024; QazTehna LLP – manufactured 1,616 buses under the Yutong brand in 2024; Silk Road Electronics LLP – produced 164,500 units of household appliances under the «Artel» brand in 2024; Techno-Karaganda Plant LLP – producer of thermal insulation materials; OptimTech LLP – plant for manufacturing electronic components for household appliances. Thanks to these achievements, Saran was removed from the list of monotowns in 2023 due to its high level of economic diversification.

<sup>86</sup> What do you need to know about the PPB - the People's Participation Budget? [https://www.gov.kz/situations/682/intro?lang=ru&utm\\_source](https://www.gov.kz/situations/682/intro?lang=ru&utm_source)





In 2024 Astana became the first city in Kazakhstan and Central Asia to receive the international ISO 37120 certification for «Sustainable Cities and Communities» at the Silver level. The World Council on City Data assessed the capital based on 128 indicators across 19 key areas (economy, education, transport, safety), making it one of 140 major cities globally to receive such recognition.<sup>87</sup>

In 2025, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On the Special Status of the City of Turkistan» was adopted. The city has been granted the status of a spiritual, historical-cultural, and tourist centre.

Active investment in the preservation of cultural heritage continues. In addition to government funding, international grants are also being attracted: in 2024 UNESCO allocated \$99,600 to Kazakhstan for updating the national list of intangible cultural heritage and strengthening the capacity for its protection. Projects for the restoration of monuments and museums are being implemented. In particular, to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, regional governments allocated at least ₸150 mn for the renovation of military-historical memorials.

In 2023 UNESCO included the territories of the Altyn-Emel National Park and the Barsakelmes Nature Reserve in the World Heritage List as part of the transnational nomination «Cold Winter Deserts of Turan», submitted jointly by Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. As a result Kazakhstan now boasts six sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List – three cultural and three natural. Three of them have transboundary status, sharing heritage with neighboring countries. Additionally, 2025 marks the 180th anniversary of Abai Qunanbaiuly, an occasion that has received international recognition from UNESCO.

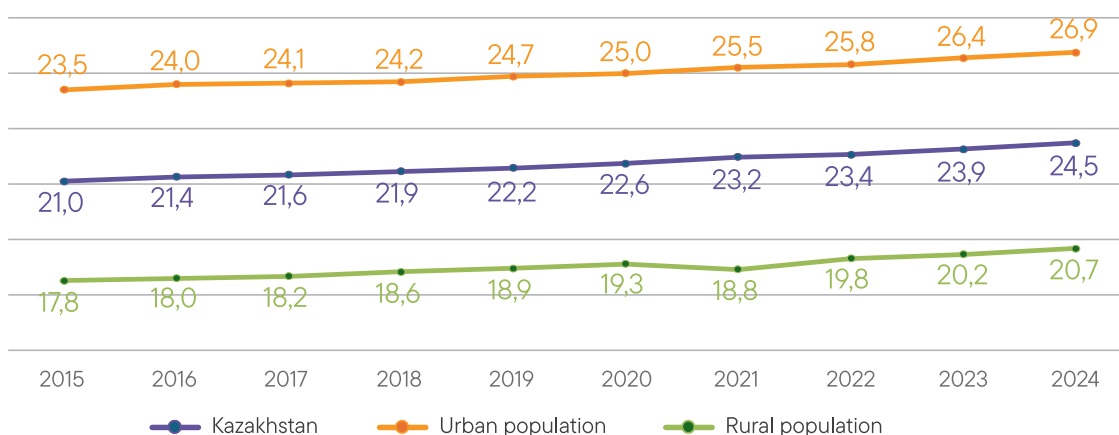


<sup>87</sup> Astana was the first in Central Asia to receive an international certificate, <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/astana/press/news/details/902750?lang=ru>



## Housing conditions

Kazakhstan is consistently implementing a systematic housing policy, developing and introducing targeted programs aimed at addressing the current needs of the population. Against the backdrop of a steadily growing population, the country continues to maintain high rates of housing construction (Figure 46). Large-scale government initiatives such as «Nurly Zher», «Bakytty Otbasyy», «7-20-25», and others have significantly improved housing conditions. In 2022, the total area of housing commissioned was 15.4 million square meters, in 2023 – 17.5 million square meters, and by the end of 2024, a record high of 18.9 million square meters was recorded. This enables the provision of housing to approximately 25,000 citizens annually.

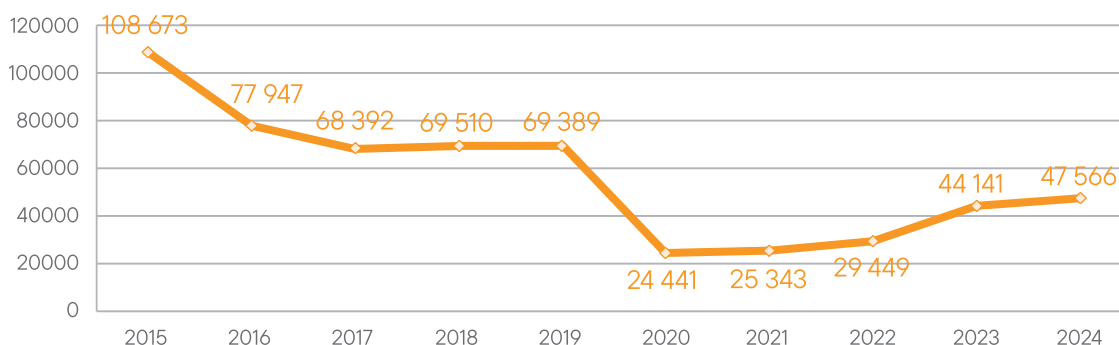


Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 46. Housing availability per person, (sq.m.)

In 2024 the average housing space per capita in Kazakhstan reached 24.5 square metres, with urban areas averaging 26.9 square metres and rural areas 20.7 square metres. This reflects an increase of 0.6 square meters compared to the previous year.

Despite this positive trend the issue of dilapidated housing persists. Since 2020 the number of people living in unsafe housing has steadily increased, nearly doubling from 24,441 to 47,566 individuals (Figure 47).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

Figure 47. Number of persons living in emergency homes



In 2022 there were approximately 2,000 emergency residential buildings in the country, which is an 8.3 percent increase compared to 2021.<sup>88</sup> In 2023 the number of emergency housing units continued to rise, reaching 2,100 units with a total area of 762,400 square metres, which exceeds the previous year's figure by 41 percent. The highest numbers of emergency housing were recorded in the Atyrau region – 445 units (153,800 sq. m) – and the Akmola region – 209 units (26,300 sq. m).<sup>89</sup>

Additionally, as of today, the republic has 1,118 emergency and 2,763 dilapidated multi-apartment residential buildings. To address this issue, local executive bodies have been authorized to implement housing stock renovation programs for «old quarters». In 2023 52 multi-apartment residential buildings were constructed for owners of emergency housing, 82 buildings were demolished, and 854 owners were provided with new housing. In 2024 97 buildings were demolished and 1,141 owners were provided with new housing.<sup>90</sup>

In addition to implementing targeted housing policy programmes, the government also takes prompt measures in response to emergencies such as floods and fires, when urgent assistance is required for the population.

### Kazakhstan's post-flood recovery

The 2024 flood became the most severe in Kazakhstan in the past 80 years. Thousands were left homeless, and the disaster-damaged infrastructure required large-scale restoration. However, thanks to effective coordination and well-orchestrated cooperation between government agencies, humanitarian organizations and the private sector, the government was able to minimize the consequences of the disaster and promptly assist those affected.

In the flood-affected regions, commissions surveyed 19,359 flooded homes and dachas, which were the sole residences of individuals. To provide housing, 5,767 properties were purchased on the real estate market. Repairs were completed in 9,156 homes – 100 percent of the targeted properties. A total of ₸54.7 bn was allocated for these purposes. Additionally, 2,680 individual houses were built for the population in a short time at a cost of ₸64 bn.

Thus Kazakhstan's housing policy shows steady growth, although it requires increased attention to issues related to dilapidated housing stock.

<sup>88</sup> Kazakhstan needs to upgrade its housing stock: the number of dilapidated houses in Kazakhstan has increased by 8 percent in a year <https://ranking.kz/reviews/kazakhstan-nuzhdaetsya-v-obnovlenii-zhilfonda-kolichestvo-avariynyh-domov-v-rk-vyroslo-na-8-za-god.html>

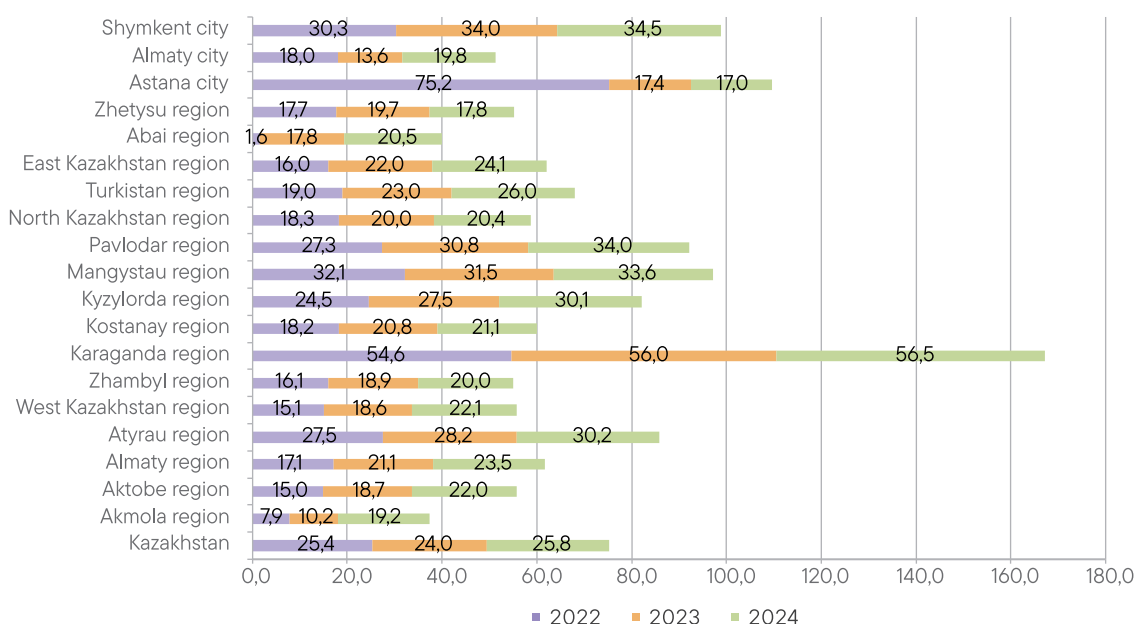
<sup>89</sup> The number of hazardous housing units has increased by 41 percent in Kazakhstan. [https://ranking.kz/reviews/kazakhstan-nuzhdaetsya-v-obnovlenii-zhilfonda-kolichestvo-avariynyh-domov-v-rk-vyroslo-na-8-za-god.html?utm\\_source](https://ranking.kz/reviews/kazakhstan-nuzhdaetsya-v-obnovlenii-zhilfonda-kolichestvo-avariynyh-domov-v-rk-vyroslo-na-8-za-god.html?utm_source)

<sup>90</sup> Materials of the Ministry of Industry and Construction



## Environmental impact

The share of municipal waste that is collected and recycled continues to grow. In 2024 Kazakhstan collected 4.8 million tons of solid household waste (SHW), with 25.8 percent directed toward recycling and utilization (compared to 24 percent in 2023). In major cities, however, recycling rates remain low: Almaty – 19.8 percent, Astana – 17 percent, and Shymkent – 34.5 percent (Figure 48).



Source: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

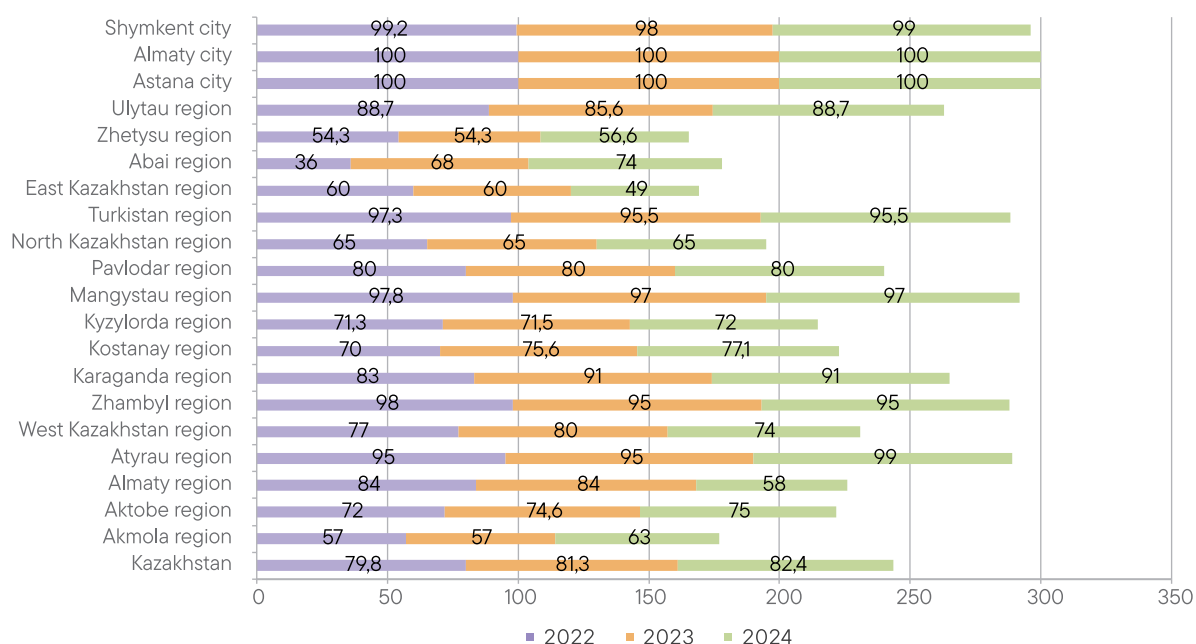
Figure 48. Share of waste recycled and utilized (%)

At the same time, around 80 percent of households collect waste in designated containers. There are 2,973 municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills in the country, but only 608 of them (20.4 percent) meet environmental and sanitary standards. In 2023–2024, unauthorized dumpsites were actively eliminated: 4,800 illegal dumpsites were identified, and with 93 percent were removed and rehabilitated.

The state policy emphasizes the development of waste management infrastructure. In terms of MSW processing, work is underway to build 37 new facilities and modernize 8 existing plants, with a total capacity of more than 1.2 million tons per year.

Additionally, in 2024, a mechanism for concessional financing of waste management projects was approved. This includes the acquisition of garbage trucks, the launch of sorting lines and the establishment of recycling facilities. Financing is provided through the Industrial Development Fund at a 3 percent interest rate, with loan terms ranging from 3 to 15 years.

The level of public access to waste collection and disposal services also varies by region (Figure 49).



Source: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Figure 49. Population coverage by waste collection and disposal services (%)

In most regions of the country, there has been steady growth in the population's access to waste collection and disposal services. By 2024 full coverage was achieved in major cities – Almaty, Astana and Shymkent. The lowest rates remain in East Kazakhstan Region (49 percent) and Zhetysu Region (56.6 percent).

At the same time, sustainable development of the utility sector is impossible without citizen involvement: along with investment, environmental awareness, patriotism and responsible attitudes toward the environment are essential.

### Taza Qazaqstan – A people-powered green movement

In 2024, as part of the national environmental campaign «Taza Qazaqstan» aimed at promoting ecological awareness, patriotic values and respect for the environment, 183 environmental events were held across the country. More than 6.2 million people participated, including 229,000 volunteers. Over 1.1 million tons of waste were collected, and approximately 1.6 million tree saplings were planted. The digital platform @ TazaQazBot is operational, enabling citizens to report environmental issues and take part in solving them.





Air quality remains a problematic area. According to IQAir estimates, the average annual concentration of fine particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Kazakhstan in 2023 was approximately 22.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is 4.4 times higher than the WHO guideline. In Almaty, the average annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> level decreased from 30.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2023 to 24.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2024. A similar situation is observed in Astana, where PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels often exceed norms during winter due to coal heating. To address air pollution several cities have introduced restrictions (such as banning coal-fueled transport and transitioning to gas), but these efforts require accelerating the modernization of municipal thermal power plants (CHPs).

Against the backdrop of environmental challenges local initiatives aimed at beautifying and improving the urban environment, with the participation of businesses and the public, are becoming increasingly significant.

### ERG's social impact and community engagement

City-forming enterprises play a key role in the socio-economic development of single-industry towns by contributing significantly to infrastructure and social projects. One notable example is the Eurasian Resources Group (ERG), which invested ₸12.9 bn in 2023 into social projects across four cities where it operates: Aksu, Ekibastuz, Khromtau and Rudny.

ERG also implements the «Tugan Qala» project, aimed at engaging residents in the improvement of urban environments. A distinctive feature of the initiative is the active participation of individuals in selecting and implementing projects. Between 4 percent and 10 percent of city residents take part in voting, allowing for the actual needs of the population to be considered.

To date, around 100 projects have been implemented under «Tugan Qala», totaling ₸690 mn. These initiatives focus on park improvements, the creation of public spaces and the development of urban infrastructure.

Such initiatives not only enhance the quality of life for residents, but also foster a sustainable social environment where people feel connected to their city's development. The involvement of city-forming enterprises like ERG serves as a model of successful collaboration between business and society, aimed at the comprehensive development of regions.<sup>91</sup>

Kazakhstan is taking steps to develop its waste management system and improve environmental infrastructure. However, challenges remain, including low recycling rates, air pollution, and a limited number of compliant landfills.

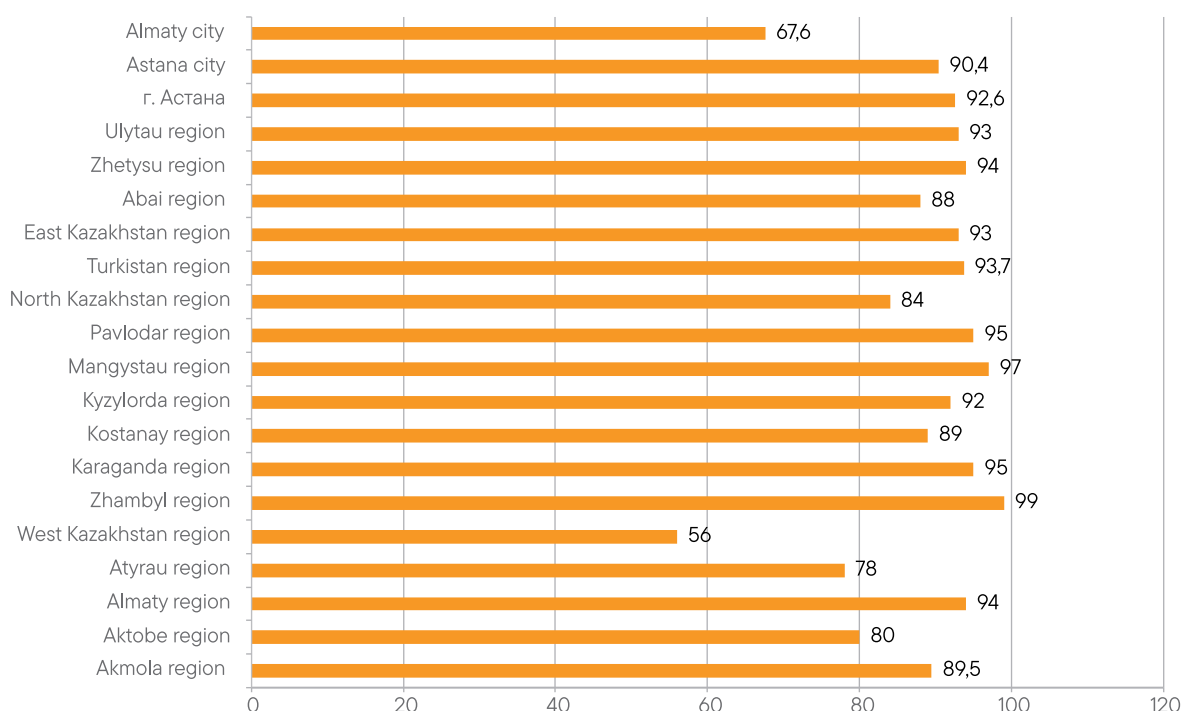
<sup>91</sup> Materials of Economic Research Institute JSC



## Transport system in populated areas

The development of local roads is a priority in government financing. In 2022 ₸113 bn were allocated solely from the republican budget for road repairs. Since 2023 financing has been provided through transfers, with an annual allocation of ₸148 bn.

However, road surface wear remains a serious issue in certain regions. For instance, West Kazakhstan Region (56 percent), the city of Shymkent (67.6 percent), Atyrau Region (78 percent) and Aktoobe Region (80 percent) have the lowest share of roads in good and satisfactory condition (Figure 50). In comparison, the national average is 89 percent.



Source: Ministry of Transport

Figure 50. Proportion of local roads rated in good or satisfactory condition, 2024 (%)

In turn, the government is consistently modernizing the public transport fleet in cities. Currently 10,653 buses are operating on regular urban routes across the country's regions.

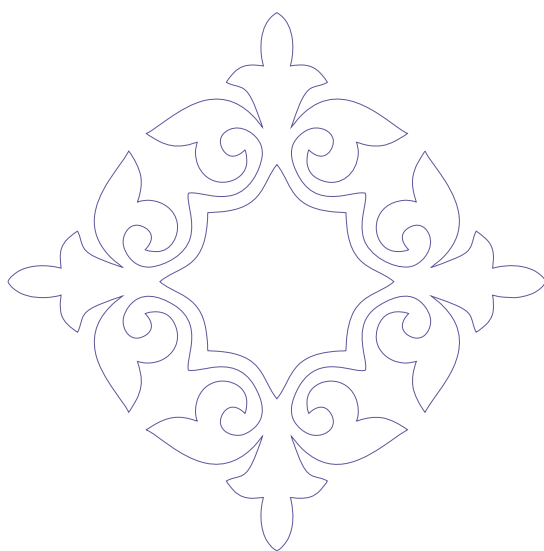
From 2022 to 2024 the wear and tear rate of the national bus fleet decreased from 46 percent to 25 percent, a drop of 21 percentage points. This was made possible by the acquisition of new domestically produced buses in the regions under a government preferential leasing programme. From 2018 to 2024 approximately ₸80.7 bn was allocated from the republican budget for this programme, delivering 4,767 new buses to the regions.





Metro and light rail systems continue to develop in the cities of Almaty and Astana. Smart transport system projects (electronic ticketing, dispatching) are being introduced, and dedicated bus lanes are being implemented. Since public transport organization falls under the jurisdiction of local executive bodies, regions are introducing support measures tailored to the needs of specific population groups. For example, in Karaganda, as of March 2023, free city bus rides have been granted to mothers of large families and persons with Group I disabilities, and from May, to children under 18. In Aktobe, starting in April 2024, such support has been extended to pensioners and individuals with Group III disabilities.

To date, the government policy is focused on consistent investment in transport infrastructure: renewing vehicle fleets, implementing smart technologies and enhancing social support in public transportation.





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2024 the urbanization level rose to 62.1 percent. Agglomeration and rural development plans were adopted, along with the approval of the Rural Development Concept.
- In 2024, 18.9 million m<sup>2</sup> of housing was commissioned (up from 15.4 million m<sup>2</sup> in 2022), housing provision reached 24.5 m<sup>2</sup> per capita.
- The municipal solid waste recycling rate increased to 25.8 percent in 2024 (compared to 24 percent in 2023).
- Air pollution with PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Almaty decreased from 30.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (2023) to 24.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (2024).
- Bus fleet depreciation was reduced from 46 percent (2022) to 25 percent (2024).



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 11

- An increase in emergency housing has taken place in certain regions.
- Significant road wear and uneven access to transport and utility services across regions hinder sustainable development.
- Air pollution, especially during winter, remains a chronic issue in major cities.
- Low levels of waste recycling and non-compliance of landfills with sanitary standards increase environmental pressure.
- Residential and engineering infrastructure remains vulnerable to climate-related disasters.



## Prospective steps

- Standardization of urban planning and architectural innovations considering environmental and technological requirements.
- Modernization of utility infrastructure, fleet renewal and expansion of waste management systems.
- Development of green urban spaces by increasing public areas, reducing emissions, and using environmentally friendly energy.
- Implementation of digital solutions for territorial management, including smart monitoring systems and feedback platforms for residents.



## Civil society assessment

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- Kazakhstan is taking a series of consistent steps toward sustainable urban development. Beautification programmes are being implemented in major cities, cycling infrastructure is being developed, participatory budgeting initiatives are being introduced, and localization of the SDGs is beginning.
- Small towns and rural settlements continue to face difficulties in accessing quality housing and public transport. Much of the infrastructure requires renovation and adaptation to modern standards.
- Environmental issues, such as air pollution and waste management, remain pressing. Strengthening emergency response systems also remains a key priority, especially in the context of climate change.
- Certain urban planning challenges, including chaotic development and the reduction of green areas, require a systematic approach and strategic planning.
- Creating an accessible urban environment for all, including persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, remains a top priority.
- Achieving SDG 11 is possible through comprehensive efforts aimed at improving planning mechanisms, increasing transparency, enhancing the resilience of urban environments and preparing for future challenges.

### 3.4. Ecological harmony: preserving nature for future generations

Ecological harmony, as a principle of preserving nature for future generations, is closely linked to Kazakhstan's policy, which actively works to improve the environmental situation and promote sustainable development. Within the framework of state policy in this direction, measures are being taken for the rational use of natural resources, reduction of emissions and conservation of biological diversity.

The implementation of environmental SDGs is impossible without integrated interaction between various areas of sustainable development:

- **SDG 6 «Clean Water and Sanitation»** impacts SDG 3, SDG 11, SDG 13 and SDG 2, as access to water and sanitation is critically important for health, food security and sustainable urban development.
- **SDG 12 «Responsible Consumption and Production»** supports the achievement of SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 13 and SDG 15 by reducing pressure on natural resources, improving the environmental condition of cities and contributing to biodiversity conservation.
- **SDG 13 «Climate Action»** is interconnected with SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11 and SDG 15, as addressing climate change requires a shift to clean energy, infrastructure adaptation and protection of natural ecosystems.
- **SDG 14 «Life Below Water»** and **SDG 15 «Life on Land»** play a vital role in achieving SDG 6, SDG 11, SDG 12, and SDG 13, since the state of ecosystems affects water quality, agricultural sustainability, climate regulation and regional development.





## Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

*The main volume of Kazakhstan's water resources comes from surface water, averaging 106 km<sup>3</sup> per year. Of this amount, 56 percent is formed within the country, while the remaining 44 percent comes from transboundary rivers flowing in from neighbouring countries. This creates a dependence on external resources, particularly on the water policies, infrastructure and management systems of neighbouring countries.<sup>92</sup>*

*Kazakhstan is taking active measures to ensure equal access to clean water and sanitation, modernize infrastructure and manage water resources effectively in the face of climate and transboundary challenges.*

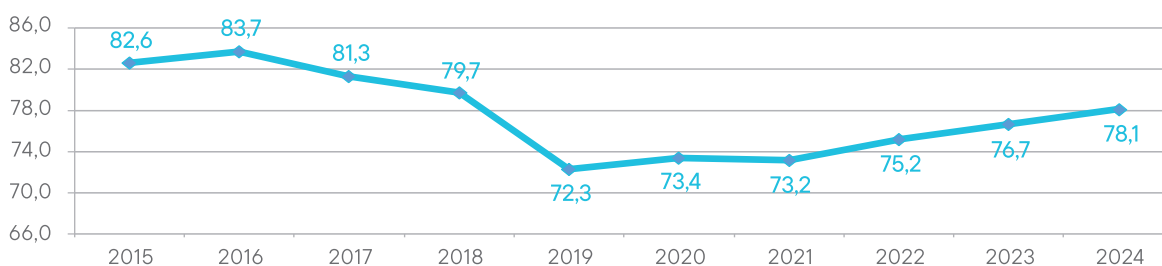
### Equal access to drinking water and sanitation

Drinking water in the country is supplied through centralized systems. Approximately 98.9 percent of the urban population and 96.6 percent of the rural population have access to safe water. However, the country still faces serious water supply challenges:

- deteriorated infrastructure (24 percent of water pipelines need replacement, and over 50 percent of water treatment and pumping stations are physically outdated).
- pollution of surface water sources and weak protection of sanitary zones around water intakes.
- weak monitoring (only 12 stations are installed on transboundary rivers).

In cities, the wastewater treatment rate is 68.6 percent, which is 6.5 percent lower than in 2021 and 8.5 percent lower than in 2022. In rural areas, coverage is just 5 percent. The decline in urban coverage is due to rapid expansion.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the share of treated wastewater. In 2024, the figure reached 78.1 percent (Figure 51).



Source: BNS ASPR RK

*Figure 51. Share of wastewater treated by full biological treatment (including additional treatment) in the total volume of wastewater discharged (%)*

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/ecogeo/documents/details/762991?lang=kk>



As of 2024, out of the 132 water bodies studied, 10 rivers and 1 canal have the worst water quality, where the water is suitable only for certain types of industrial use. Fifteen rivers and one reservoir have been classified as unsuitable for any type of water use. The main pollutants include chlorides, suspended solids, total iron, cadmium, manganese, copper, zinc, ammonium ion, calcium, magnesium and salinity. In 2024 water quality stood at 44.5 percent, which is 2.2 percent lower than in 2023.<sup>93</sup>

Comprehensive measures are being taken to increase the volume of wastewater treatment. As a result the share of water bodies with good water quality increased from 9.3 percent in 2015 to 44.5 percent in 2024.

## Water – use efficiency

In Kazakhstan about 85 percent of freshwater comes from rivers, along with other available sources such as seas, lakes, reservoirs, underground aquifers, mines and pits. More than 40 percent of available freshwater resources are used, exceeding the water stress threshold of 25 percent according to UN Water classification. As a result, water resources do not have enough time to replenish.<sup>94</sup>

Of the total volume of freshwater in the country, 34.6 percent is used for water withdrawal needs. Water withdrawal amounts to 24.9 bn. km<sup>3</sup>, of which 60 percent – is for agriculture, 20 percent – for electricity generation, 10 percent – for water supply enterprises, 2 percent – for households and 9 percent – for other types of economic activity.

To improve water efficiency and address the identified issues, a number of strategic documents have been adopted. These include the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources Management System for 2024 – 2030, the Comprehensive Plan for the Development of the Water Sector for 2024–2028, and the Roadmap for Water Conservation for 2024–2026.

Water-saving measures in Kazakhstan focus on the implementation of technical solutions, digitalization of processes and sustainable water resource management.

### Sustainable irrigation systems

In 2024 55,000 hectares of rice fields in the Kyzylorda Region were leveled using laser land levelers, resulting in water savings of approximately 200 million cubic metres, which were diverted to the Northern Aral Sea. This also increased crop yields from 40-55 to 70-80 centners/ha. To encourage the adoption of water-saving technologies, the level of government support has been increased — including subsidies covering up to 80 percent of the costs for infrastructure development and installation of irrigation systems. Cost compensation for irrigation water can reach up to 85 percent, depending on the tariff.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/ecogeo/documents/details/762991?lang=kk>

<sup>94</sup> <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/water-scarcity>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/water/press/news/details/839004>



Moreover, in the Sauran District of Turkistan Region, the «Murat» farm successfully applies drip irrigation to cultivate cucumbers and bell peppers on an area of 2.25 hectares. This allowed them to harvest 25 tons of cucumbers in the first cycle and plan for a total yield of up to 70 tons. The farm provides employment for 10 local residents and supplies environmentally friendly produce.<sup>96</sup>

Kazakhstan is facing increasing pressure on its water resources due to infrastructure limitations and dependence on transboundary sources. In response, the country is consistently implementing strategic measures, including digitalization, system modernization, and greater business involvement to ensure sustainable management of shared water resources.

### *Water resource management and water diplomacy*

Kazakhstan, with limited freshwater reserves and dependence on transboundary sources, faces challenges such as deteriorating infrastructure, pollution and climate-related risks. The country is taking measures to reform water governance and develop water diplomacy. The level of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management stands at 51 percent.

In 2024 an Information and Analytical Centre was established for monitoring and analysing water resources, along with the creation of the national hydrogeological service «Kazhydrogeology». This service is responsible for the inventory and monitoring of more than 4,300 groundwater sites, digitalization of the sector, exploration in water-scarce regions and development of geothermal resource use.

Basin water management in Kazakhstan is conducted through 8 water basins, many highly dependent on transboundary inflows. Kazakhstan shares transboundary rivers with neighbouring countries: 20 with Russia, 24 with China, 15 with Kyrgyzstan and 2 with Uzbekistan. More than 10 bilateral and multilateral agreements have been signed, including treaties with China (2001), Russia (2010, 2016), Kyrgyzstan (2000) and Central Asian countries (1992). Transboundary basins make up 63.4 percent of the country's surface area. In 2024, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a Joint Statement approving the Strategic Action Programme (2022–2030) for the Shu and Talas river basins. Agreements were reached to increase the water flow in the Talas River, and an rapid warning agreement for natural disasters is also in place. Overall, Kazakhstan held 15 meetings with neighbouring countries on transboundary water issues in 2024, resulting in over 5 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water inflow into the country.

In 2024 the «Blue Peace Central Asia 2.0» project was launched, aimed at enhancing transboundary water cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The initiative focuses on sustainable water management, strengthening interstate dialogue, introducing water-saving technologies, supporting youth and fostering academic cooperation. It is crucial that everyone, including the youth, recognizes their role in preserving water and the environment.

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/ontustik/press/news/details/769155>





## A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



“

*Water is life, and only we can save it for future generations.*

*Unfortunately, clean water was not appreciated in industrial societies. Refined products polluted and pollute rivers and seas, tourists leave behind plastic and other debris, not caring that all this will end up in the nearest reservoir. «Don't spit in the well – it's useful to drink water» – this folk wisdom, unfortunately, began to be gradually forgotten. Humanity made a profit and consumed everything, so it did not follow this wisdom.*

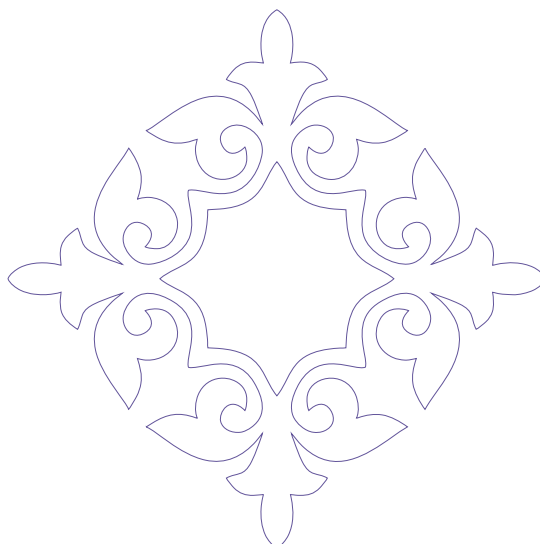
*Water is necessary for all living things. The supply of clean fresh water on the planet is not endless, and our future and the future of our children depend on how well we manage these resources.*

*Sarah Mustafa, 8th grade student,  
Gymnasium school № 30, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

”

In 2024 Al-Farabi Kazakh National University launched a Master's programme in «Water Diplomacy». Additionally, the Kazakh-German University offers a programme in Integrated Water Resources Management.

Through improved water resources management methods, effective flood-water collection, transboundary agreements and the use of water-saving irrigation technologies, a positive trend has been observed. As a result 75 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water were accumulated in the country's reservoirs in 2024, with over 12 billion m<sup>3</sup> coming from floodwaters. Since 2025 the beginning of the year 12 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water have been directed to Lake Balkhash, 7.4 billion m<sup>3</sup> to the Caspian Sea and more than 2 billion m<sup>3</sup> to the Aral Sea since October 2023.





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

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- The Concept for the Development of the Water Resources Management System for 2024-2030 and the Comprehensive Plan for the Development of the Water Sector for 2024–2028 have been adopted.
- The share of water bodies with good water quality increased from 9.3 percent in 2015 to 44.5 percent in 2024.
- In 2024, the National Hydrogeological Service «Kazhydrogeology» was established.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 6

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- Water resource management remains narrowly sectoral, lacking cross-sectoral integration.
- In rural areas many residents rely on delivered water due to deteriorated infrastructure and weak quality control, especially along transboundary rivers.
- Wastewater treatment remains a challenge due to outdated facilities, discharge of toxic industrial effluents into water bodies and low levels of water reuse.
- Water losses are also a serious issue caused by deteriorating infrastructure and outdated technologies.
- Kazakhstan faces water stress, using more than 40 percent of its freshwater resources, exceeding the 25 percent threshold, further exacerbated by dependence on transboundary rivers and high agricultural water consumption.



## Prospective steps

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- Modernization of infrastructure: hydraulic posts, irrigation and watering facilities, transition to water reuse.
- Construction of 42 and reconstruction of 37 reservoirs, modernization of 14.5 thousand km of canals until 2030 with savings of up to 10 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water.
- Reducing water stress through reallocation of resources and increasing efficiency in agriculture.
- Introduction and adaptation of digital management systems and flood forecasting and modelling systems.



## Civil society assessment

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- Since its establishment in 2023 Kazakhstan's Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation has initiated large-scale reforms aimed at the deep transformation of the water management sector.
- A draft of a new Water Code has been developed, alongside the adoption of the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources Management System until 2030, the Comprehensive Plan for the Development of the Water Sector until 2028 and the Water Conservation Roadmap until 2026. A Development Partners Coordination Council for the water sector has also been established. These initiatives reflect the ministry's commitment to modernizing the water supply system, introducing water-saving technologies and enhancing resilience to climate risks.
- However, the real situation in the regions remains far from the declared goals: hundreds of villages – especially in the northern and central regions – still rely on unprotected water sources. Only 2-3 percent of the population has access to water that meets European standards. Water quality requires additional filtration, while sanitation and sewage systems in rural areas and tourist zones remain critically insufficient.
- The spring floods of 2024 exposed weaknesses in water risk management: underdeveloped forecasting, a lack of systems for collecting and storing meltwater and vulnerability of hydraulic structures. In the context of climate change, water scarcity is further worsened by inefficient management.
- Without infrastructure modernization, fair resource distribution, water quality control and active involvement of civil society in planning and monitoring, achieving SDG 6 remains at risk.



## Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

*Kazakhstan is witnessing a gradual shift toward more sustainable consumption and production, driven by measures to develop a circular economy, improve waste management and implement ESG – practices.*

### *Resource conservation and the circular economy*

According to the World Bank, Kazakhstan's economy is growing at a moderate pace (4 percent in 2024), but faces several challenges – including low investment (less than 17 percent of GDP), high inflation (8.6 percent), dependence on oil exports and low tax revenues.<sup>97</sup> Under these conditions, a shift is underway from a traditional linear economy based on natural resource extraction to a model focused on efficient resource use.<sup>98</sup> Therefore the circular economy in Kazakhstan is being developed as part of the sustainable development policy. However, the recycling rate remains low due to weak infrastructure, limited business involvement, legislative gaps and low public awareness. To accelerate the transition to a circular economy, measures are being taken in the areas of standardization, education and business incentives. In 2024 the Carbon Neutrality Strategy to 2060 and the «Taza Qazaqstan» Concept were adopted to promote environmental awareness and increase the waste recycling rate from 25 percent to 38 percent by 2029. In 2023 a technical committee was established under the KazWaste Association to develop standards for life cycle assessment of products and processes that support sustainable consumption.

The practical implementation of these sustainable consumption and production initiatives is already taking place at the local level.

#### **Biomass heating system in a school**

A school with a century-long history in the village of Beskol, North Kazakhstan Region, which serves 1,025 students and employs 169 staff members, has installed a modular biomass heating system that uses local wood waste. The system operates autonomously for up to two weeks, is fully automated, adapts to weather conditions and provides stable heating for four interconnected buildings.

The project cost ₸92 mn, and is 40 percent UNDP funded. As a result, the school reduced its heating costs by 80 percent, saving over ₸12.5 mn annually, and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 900 tons per year.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>97</sup> <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099059501272541786/pdf/IDU11da225421849a149901937e1a05880ba9ffc.pdf>

<sup>98</sup> <https://be.kaznu.kz/index.php/math/article/view/2636>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.undp.org/kazakhstan/stories/reducing-heating-costs-and-carbon-emissions-insights-school-kazakhstan>



## Waste management

The waste management system in Kazakhstan is regulated by the Environmental Code, the Concept for Transition to a «Green» Economy and is implemented through the «Zhasyl Damu» JSC under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system.

The government aims to reduce environmental harm, ease the burden on landfills, create new economic opportunities, and advance toward a circular economy. However, in most regions, the majority of waste is still disposed of in landfills and the overall waste recycling rate remains low.

As of 2023 the generation of hazardous waste (all hazard levels) per capita amounted to 2.37 tons. In 2024, the share of industrial waste recycling and utilization relative to total waste generation decreased to 26.7 percent – down by 3.67 percent compared to 2023, and by 13.33 percent compared to 2022.<sup>100</sup> The decline in this indicator may be attributed to the entry into force of the updated standard ST RK 2862–2023 in 2024, which regulates the procedure for the collection and removal of solid and bulky household waste.<sup>101</sup>

In 2024 the share of waste recycling and recovery reached 25.80 percent, which is 1.80 percentage points higher than in 2023. However, this figure still falls short of the minimum target of 30 percent.<sup>102</sup>

In 2024, the automated EcoQolday system was relaunched – a government digital platform designed to ensure the effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility. Through a mobile application all stages of waste management, from collection to recycling, are recorded.<sup>103</sup>

The government has approved a preferential financing mechanism for investment projects in the field of municipal solid waste (MSW) management, which involves the use of funds from the recycling fee. Financing is provided for a period of up to 15 years at an annual interest rate of 3 percent, with mandatory co-financing from businesses of at least 20 percent, of which a minimum of 10 percent must be in cash.<sup>104</sup>

The conditions for exemption from the recycling fee have been simplified for producers and importers that have their own waste recycling systems.

The current state of responsible consumption and production is gradually being reflected not only in policy and business practices, but also in the actions of youth, which is striving to contribute to a sustainable future.

<sup>100</sup> BNS ASPR RK

<sup>101</sup> [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc\\_id=33523068#activate\\_doc=2](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=33523068#activate_doc=2)

<sup>102</sup> BNS ASPR RK

<sup>103</sup> Materials of MENR RK

<sup>104</sup> Materials of MENR RK



## A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



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*The problem of garbage is not just a mountain of waste in a landfill, it is a symptom of the deep unhealthiness of our society, consumerism and disregard for the future of the planet. My personal contribution is not just a set of rules and habits, but a conscious commitment to a greener lifestyle, inspiring others to make positive changes.*

*First, I start with myself, with personal consumption. «Reduce, reuse, recycle» is not just a slogan, but a guide to action. I try to avoid impulse purchases by choosing products with minimal or no packaging. For example, instead of disposable plastic bags I always take a reusable bag, and instead of water in plastic bottles I carry a flask. It may seem like small things, but if each of us makes such a simple choice, the effect will be enormous.*

*Secondly, I actively support the system of separate waste collection. In my city, fortunately, there are recycling points, and I carefully sort waste so that it doesn't end up in a landfill, but gets a second life. Paper, plastic, glass – all can be recycled and used to make new goods. This not only reduces the burden on the environment, but also saves resources.*

*Third, my family tries to minimize food waste. Planning weekly menus, storing food properly and using leftovers to make new meals are simple but effective ways to prevent food from rotting in the trash. Plus, it saves money.*

*Emilia Aliyeva, 10th grade student  
School-gymnasium №47, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

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Overall, Kazakhstan's waste management policy focuses on expanding access to appropriate infrastructure and financial support measures, strengthening financial support mechanisms, and enhancing the active participation of all segments of the population.

### *The business sector and sustainable consumption and production*

In Kazakhstan sustainable consumption and production in the business sector is at an early stage of institutionalization. Today the country has well-established institutions actively supporting «green» projects. In particular the subsidiaries of the Baiterek Holding promote the development of green energy through financing, subsidies, leasing and guarantees. As of 1 January 2025, the total volume of support for green projects amounted to ₸573.5 bn.<sup>105</sup> Specifically:

- With the support of Development Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, 9 renewable energy investment projects are being implemented with loan amounts totaling ₸214.4 bn.
- Several green energy projects with a total funding of about ₸11 bn are being implemented with the support of Qazaqstan Investment Corporation JSC.

<sup>105</sup> <https://baiterek.gov.kz/en/about-holding/sustainable-development/green-projects/how-baiterek-holding-s-subsidiaries-support-green-projects>



- The Damu Fund supported 137 green projects in 2024 with a total amount of ₸234.7 bn.
- The Industrial Development Fund JSC provided support totaling ₸53.4 bn for 14 green projects in 2024.
- The Agrarian Credit Corporation JSC supported 90 green projects with over 60 billion tenge in financing as of 1 January 2025.

A government resolution expanded Kazakhstan's green taxonomy, which now includes projects related to the production of electricity and heat from gas, the transition to gas fuel and projects of nuclear energy.

Some companies are implementing comprehensive measures to enhance the environmental and resource sustainability of their operations.

### Samruk-Energy's 2023 drive for efficiency and sustainability

In 2023 «Samruk-Energy» JSC implemented a comprehensive set of measures aimed at improving production efficiency, reducing environmental impact and promoting the rational use of resources. As part of its energy-saving programme, 61 initiatives were introduced, resulting in energy savings of 10,043,000 GJ. Electricity generation from renewable energy sources increased by 32.8 percent, reaching 554.4 million kWh, which accounts for 8.1 percent of the country's total renewable energy generation. The company also certified 19,533 MWh of green energy through the international I-REC system, ensuring transparent tracking of its origin.

To transition to more environmentally friendly technologies, Samruk-Energy is modernizing existing facilities, including the gasification of CHP-2 and CHP-3 in Almaty, and is planning the construction of new wind and solar power plants with energy storage systems. These projects are financed through the issuance of sustainability bonds totaling ₸236.9 bn, verified by the AIFC Green Finance Centre, with key performance indicators directly linked to environmental outcomes, including emissions reductions.

The company has also strengthened its control over the generation and disposal of waste, particularly ash and slag at coal-fired power plants, and is introducing measures for their reuse and safe disposal.<sup>106</sup>

However, most enterprises are focused solely on collecting and compacting recyclable materials, which are typically exported abroad. There are still few companies in the country engaged in waste processing and the production of finished goods, although such businesses do exist.

<sup>106</sup> [https://ar2023.samruk-energy.kz/files/se\\_ar2023\\_tom1\\_eng.pdf](https://ar2023.samruk-energy.kz/files/se_ar2023_tom1_eng.pdf)





## Waste paper circular packaging production

«KZ Recycling» LLP – is a leading paper waste recycling enterprise and a producer of paper, cardboard, and corrugated packaging in Kazakhstan. The company processes over 50,000 tons of wastepaper annually and produces more than 59,000 tons of paper and 118 million square metres of corrugated products. The production is entirely zero-waste, located on a 16-hectare site in the Almaty Region, and provides employment for over 800 people.

The product range includes four-flap boxes, trays, self-assembly boxes, corrugated sheets and packaging for food and industrial products. The company operates its own nationwide wastepaper collection network and utilizes a fleet of 76 vehicles for logistics. KZ Recycling is certified under ISO 9001, 14001 and 45001 standards and adheres to sustainable development principles.<sup>107</sup>

In Kazakhstan sustainable consumption and production in the business sector is receiving increasing institutional support through the development of ESG practices, green financing and specific industrial initiatives. However, it remains at the stage of forming a systematic approach.

## Sustainable procurement

Kazakhstan's economy faces high emissions, inefficient resource use and a growing volume of waste. In response to these challenges, the country is introducing green public procurement (GPP) approaches and extended producer responsibility (EPR) mechanisms.

Several national companies have begun integrating ESG approaches into their procurement processes. However, GPP is still at an early stage of implementation.

<sup>107</sup> <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/37-new-solid-waste-treatment-plants-to-be-launched-in-kazakhstan-27502>



## Integrating sustainable criteria into procurement policies

«KazMunayGas» National Company» JSC has integrated sustainable procurement into its Low Carbon Development Programme for 2022–2031.

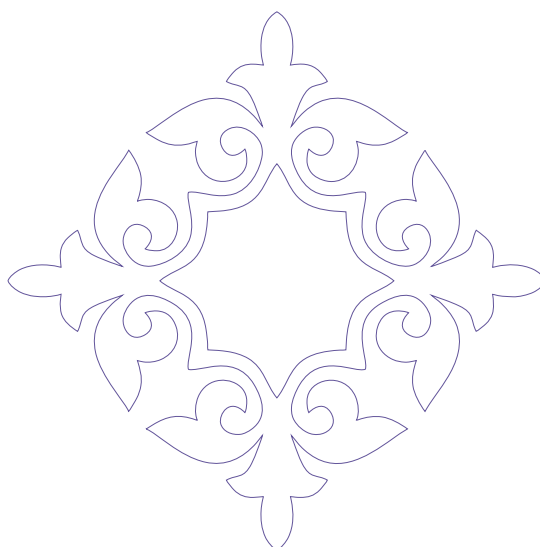
The programme requires suppliers to comply with environmental and social responsibility criteria and supports the improvement of energy efficiency in operational activities. These requirements are directly incorporated into procurement contract terms and include compliance with legislation on labour rights, occupational safety and environmental protection.

As part of its participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), KMG also monitors Scope 3 emissions, which cover the entire supply chain – from raw material procurement to product disposal. The company regularly updates minimum energy efficiency requirements for procured goods and services, prioritizing low-carbon technologies.

To support the implementation of sustainable practices, KMG developed a Model Regulation requiring all subsidiaries to monitor contractors' compliance with social and environmental standards. The company is also working on proposals to evaluate suppliers based on sustainability indicators and aligns its procurement policy with SDG 12 and national decarbonization goals.

The Public Procurement Law<sup>108</sup> (2024) includes the principle of sustainable procurement, although in practice there are no mandatory environmental criteria. The new procurement regulations have yet to incorporate «green» criteria, and sustainable procurement has not been integrated into budgeting processes.<sup>109</sup>

Therefore to achieve a systemic impact, further institutionalization of sustainable approaches, increased business engagement and the expansion of local initiatives are necessary.



<sup>108</sup> <https://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/Z2400000106>

<sup>109</sup> [https://www.switch-asia.eu/site/assets/files/4401/gpp\\_assessment\\_kazakhstan.pdf](https://www.switch-asia.eu/site/assets/files/4401/gpp_assessment_kazakhstan.pdf)



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- The Public Procurement Law was adopted, incorporating the principle of sustainable procurement.<sup>110</sup>
- The «Taza Qazaqstan» Concept was adopted, aimed at fostering environmental awareness and increasing the waste recycling rate.
- In 2024 green projects received ₸573.5 bn in financial support.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 12

- The current legislation provides limited support for promoting products with eco-labels, low carbon footprints and local circular production offering only minimal incentives in areas such as public procurement, taxation and subsidies.
- Sustainability principles are not integrated into budget planning and procurement procedures.
- Producer engagement in implementing responsible consumption practices remains low.



## Prospective steps

- Explore options for introducing additional mechanisms to attract investors to the waste recycling sector.
- Develop separate waste collection and transportation practices in rural areas.
- Promote eco-labeled, low-carbon and locally cycled products through preferential procurement policies.
- Strengthen environmental education from an early age and through media, using behavioural approaches (FEAST) to build sustainable habits among the population.



## Civil society assessment



- Kazakhstan has integrated SDG 12 indicators into the national monitoring system and adopted several strategies and regulatory acts, while civil society actively contributes to promoting sustainable practices.
- The waste recycling rate has declined (from 40 percent to 30 percent in 2023), separate waste collection and recycling facilities are lacking in many regions, and environmentally hazardous landfills remain widespread.
- The majority of enterprises do not use green technologies and do not disclose environmental reports.
- The enforcement and compliance monitoring system requires improvement.
- There is a need to raise public awareness and culture of responsible consumption, waste reduction practices and careful use of resources.
- The economy continues to rely heavily on extractive industries, contributing to environmental pollution and degradation. Without the effective implementation of existing regulations, greater business involvement, enhanced environmental oversight and widespread public education, there is a risk that SDG 12 will not be achieved by 2030.



## Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

*Kazakhstan is already experiencing the serious consequences of climate change, including glacier melting, declining water resources, reduced crop yields and pasture productivity, and an increase in wildfires and floods. Adapting to these challenges will help reduce the vulnerability of the economy and population, strengthen food and water security, preserve biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and attract climate investments while stimulating the development of clean technologies and sustainable economic sectors.*

### Climate change adaptation

The weather anomalies of the past decade indicate that Kazakhstan's climate is changing. One of the main trends of this change is the increase in average annual temperatures, which in 2023 reached record levels for the entire observation period since 1941. The deviation from the norm was +2.58°C. This temperature rise was recorded across all regions of Kazakhstan, with some areas experiencing temperatures exceeding +40°C to +44°C, and heatwaves lasting more than 30 days, and in some places over 60 days.<sup>111</sup>

One key measure for climate change adaptation in Kazakhstan is the Strategy on Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060. The Strategy sets a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent by 2030.

Kazakhstan is implementing climate adaptation measures across six key sectors: agriculture, water resources, industry, forestry, eco-tourism and disaster risk management.

As part of the Agro-Industrial Development Concept for 2024–2030, in 2024 water-saving technologies were introduced on 157,900 hectares and soil carbon potential assessments were conducted. In addition, carbon stock maps and a digital platform, AgriTech, were developed. The government increased subsidies by up to 80 percent for infrastructure and equipment, while cost compensation for irrigation water reaches up to 85 percent, depending on the tariff.

Moreover, sustainable practices are being implemented, including zero tillage (with a target of 8 million hectares by 2030), drip irrigation and laser land levelling. Under the Carbon Neutrality Strategy to 2060 and the Adaptation Plan for 2025–2034 the focus is placed on soil restoration and erosion control (24.2 million hectares). Experts estimate these measures could reduce emissions by over 141 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year – about 40 percent of national emissions – and attract foreign agro-investments.

However, the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture remains limited in scale.

<sup>111</sup> National report on the state of the environment on the use of natural resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana, 2024.



To reduce climate risks, more than 1,100 flood prevention measures have been established, including the construction and reinforcement of 558 km of dams and the reconstruction of canals and drainage systems. Additionally, in early 2025 a pilot project on the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI-DRM) was launched with support from UNICEF, aimed at protecting children and families from climate threats. This index will help the country identify vulnerable regions, enhance adaptation to climate risks and inform policy based on accurate data, while also involving children and youth in climate solutions.

Kazakhstan continues to take climate adaptation measures in the field of eco-tourism. In 2024 the country developed 8 new eco-trails, 4 viewing platforms and 3 visitor centers within the national parks Altyn-Emel, Kolsai Lakes, Charyn and Ile-Alatau. Zoning was carried out in 5 specially protected natural areas, and digital systems for tracking and monitoring tourist flows were introduced. These measures contributed to a more than 15 percent increase in the number of eco-tourists compared to 2023, while also ensuring the preservation of natural ecosystems.

Active efforts are also being made to reduce industrial emissions and pollution. Since 2024 «Kazakhmys Smelting» LLP has been implementing a sulfuric acid plant project at the metallurgical plants in Zhezkazgan and Balkhash. The introduction of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and the Integrated Environmental Permit system has also begun, with 5 permits issued in 2024. As a result of these measures, the 10 largest enterprises in the country achieved a 6 percent overall reduction in emissions compared to 2022 levels, equivalent to a reduction of more than 17,500 tons of pollutants.

Kazakhstan is advancing climate finance through the development of the green finance market. By end 2023 more than ₸150.2 bn worth of green bonds and loans had been issued to support low-carbon development. Key participants include international banks (EBRD), domestic institutions (Development Bank of Kazakhstan, Damu Fund), and the AIFC Green Finance Centre, which provided external reviews for 60 percent of the issuances.<sup>112</sup> Despite this progress, green loans account for only 1.15 percent of bank portfolios, highlighting the need for improved ESG reporting, greater private sector engagement and the adoption of new financial instruments.<sup>113</sup>

Given the country's continued reliance on coal and the low share of renewable energy, Kazakhstan must accelerate the development of sustainable financing mechanisms. In this context, a significant step forward was the introduction of exchange-based trading of environmental certificates.

<sup>112</sup> <https://aifc.kz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/3.3-green-finance-market-of-kazakhstan.pdf>

<sup>113</sup> <https://aifc.kz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/3.3-green-finance-market-of-kazakhstan.pdf>



## Climate finance

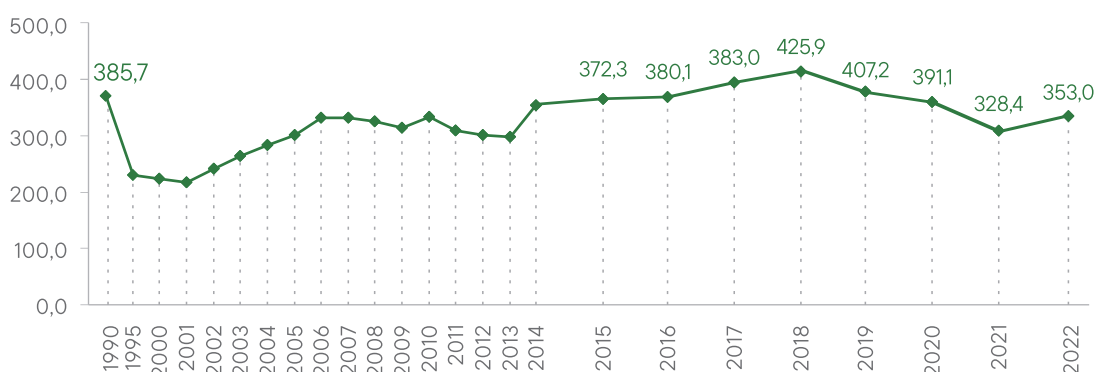
In 2024 the Astana International Exchange (AIX) launched trading of International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-REC) becoming the first platform in Kazakhstan to support exchange-based trading of environmental instruments. The first transaction involved the sale of 1,000 I-REC certificates by «Samruk-Green Energy» LLP to an international carbon asset trading company.

The I-REC certificates, verified by the national issuer ECOJER, confirm that the electricity was generated from renewable sources. With its international accreditation, AIX joined a group of fewer than 10 exchanges worldwide authorized to organize I-REC trading.

This step is expected to enhance transparency, attract green investments and support Kazakhstan's integration into the global climate finance market. It also lays the groundwork for developing additional tools, including voluntary carbon markets, aimed at accelerating the country's sustainable development and energy transition.<sup>114</sup>

In line with UN frameworks and international agreements, over the past three years has submitted an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and joined the Global Methane Pledge initiative.

The adaptation and sustainable development measures being implemented are reflected in the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions trend, which serves as a key indicator of Kazakhstan's climate policy. By the early 2000s GHG emissions had decreased compared to the 1990 baseline level of 385.7 million tons per year,<sup>115</sup> then peaked by the late 2010s, and in 2021 fell to a record low of 328.4 million tons per year, which is 14.86 percent below the 1990 level (Figure 52).



Source: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Figure 52. Kazakhstan's greenhouse gas emissions trend (mn tons per year)

<sup>114</sup> <https://aifc.kz/news/i-rec-renewable-energy-certificates-trading-launched-on-aix/>

<sup>115</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2023-06/12updated%20NDC%20KAZ\\_Gov%20Decree313\\_19042023\\_en\\_cover%20page.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2023-06/12updated%20NDC%20KAZ_Gov%20Decree313_19042023_en_cover%20page.pdf)





In 2022, emissions rose again to 353 million tons per year, which is 7.8 percent higher than the previous year, yet still 8.49 percent below the baseline level. The sectoral trend for 2020–2022 is shown in (Table 3).

*Table 3. Greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

Name	2020	2021	2022
Energy	77%	77%	80%
Industrial processes and product utilization (IPUP)	7%	8%	8%
Agriculture	10%	12%	9%
Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)	4%	1%	1%
Waste	2%	2%	2%
Total gross emissions	96%	99%	99%
Total net emissions	100%	100%	100%

Source: Kazakhstan's Biennial Transportability Report (BTR)

From 2020 to 2022 energy remained the main source of greenhouse gas emissions in Kazakhstan, accounting for up to 80 percent. This is followed by IPPU (Industrial Processes and Product Use) at 8 percent, agriculture (decreasing from 10 percent to 9 percent), LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry) (declining from 4 percent to 1 percent) and waste (consistently at 2 percent). Despite Kazakhstan's efforts to adapt to climate change, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. This is largely due to the fact that over 70 percent of electricity is still generated from coal, and metallurgy accounts for 58 percent of emissions from industrial processes. Moreover, the country's economic growth strategy is driving increased energy consumption. Infrastructure modernization is urgently needed, as about 13.7 percent of emissions in the energy sector come from unintentional leaks, which is a relatively high figure.

The Emissions Trading System (ETS) covers 47 percent of emissions, but suffers from low carbon prices and weak enforcement. Renewable energy sources remain underdeveloped – in the first quarter of 2025, they accounted for only 5.7 percent of electricity generation, far below the 15 percent target by 2030. In addition, the goals set under Kazakhstan's second NDC (15–25 percent reduction by 2030) are considered moderate, and deficiencies in monitoring, reporting and verification systems hinder effective emission reductions.

Children are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to their developing bodies and increased sensitivity to pollution, yet their needs and voices are still insufficiently considered in climate policy. It is therefore essential to listen to children and support their aspirations for a safe and sustainable future.



## A Youth Perspective

(translated from Kazakh to English)



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*At present humanity is faced with many problems. You may be wondering, which one is the most important? For me the most important issue is the state of our planet. Our planet is facing a serious environmental threat caused by human activities. Air and water pollution, climate change, deforestation, species extinction – all these problems pose a threat to the future of humanity and life on Earth.*

*One of the main reasons for the crisis is the excessive consumption of natural resources. Factories, cars and agriculture emit large amounts of greenhouse gases, which leads to global warming. As a result, glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, the climate is changing and natural disasters – storms, droughts, floods – are becoming more frequent.*

*Ramina Urazbayeva, 8th grade student  
School-gymnasium №32, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

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Kazakhstan is actively adapting to climate change, but achieving sustainable results requires an accelerated transition to renewable energy, strengthened climate finance and a systemic approach.

### Climate education

In Kazakhstan, the reach of climate education and youth inclusion is growing. At the same time, there is a need to strengthen teacher training, curriculum integration, and funding. This is essential for developing green skills and building resilience.

The number of students involved in sustainable development and climate-related programs has significantly increased in educational institutions. The share of students engaged in organized civic activities rose from 75 percent in 2015 to 91.7 percent in 2024.

Currently, climate education is not taught as a standalone subject, but rather within a broader concept of environmental and global competence. It is integrated into the middle school curriculum (grades 5–9) through interdisciplinary modules such as «Environmental Culture», «Ecological Sustainability», and «Responsibility for Environmental Harm». The learning process is designed to address environmental issues not only from a scientific perspective but also through the lens of ethics, culture, and social dimensions, laying the foundation for responsible global citizenship.<sup>116</sup>

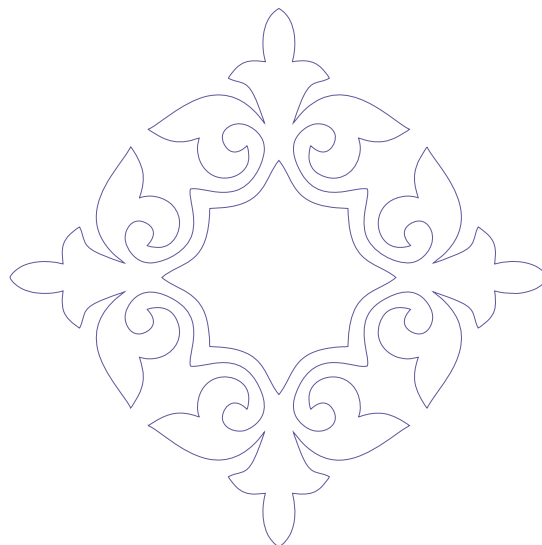
<sup>116</sup> <https://uba.edu.kz/storage/app/media/%D0%93%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%B0%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B5%20%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B8/%D0%A0%D0%A3%D0%9A%D0%9E%D0%92%D0%9E%D0%94%D0%A1%D0%A2%D0%92%D0%9E%20%D0%94%D0%9B%D0%AF%20%D0%9F%D0%95%D0%94%D0%90%D0%93%D0%9E%D0%93%D0%9E%D0%92%205-9%20%D0%9A%D0%9B%D0%90%D0%A1%D0%A1.pdf>



Supporting teacher training across Kazakhstan is one of the core functions of the National Centre for Professional Development «Orleu». The centre offers a range of modular and short-term courses, including courses on education for sustainable development.<sup>117</sup>

However, a number of structural and systemic challenges remain. These include fragmented curriculum content, insufficient funding, limited opportunities for teacher training and a lack of inclusive approaches, particularly concerning rural and vulnerable populations.

Despite active steps toward adaptation, Kazakhstan needs to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, expand climate financing and ensure a cross-sectoral approach. Strengthening climate education and youth engagement remains essential for a sustainable future.



<sup>117</sup> <https://capsunlock.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/climate-change-education-ambition-in-central-asia.pdf>



## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2023 Kazakhstan adopted the Carbon Neutrality Strategy by 2060, which includes phasing out coal, developing renewable energy sources, hydrogen and energy-efficient technologies, organic agriculture, electrification of transport, waste sorting and the planting of 2 billion trees, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15–25 percent by 2030.
- In 2025, a pilot project on the Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI–DRM) was launched with the support of UNICEF, aimed at protecting children and families from climate threats.
- In 2023, more than ₸150.2 bn worth of green bonds and loans were issued.
- Kazakhstan submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), and joined the Global Methane Pledge initiative.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 13

- The adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture remains fragmented and limited in scale.
- The energy sector remains the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 77.6 percent of total emissions, with coal still dominating electricity generation (over 70 percent).
- Due to infrastructure issues, approximately 13.7 percent of emissions in the energy sector are caused by unintentional leaks.



## Prospective steps

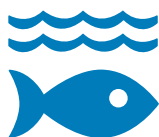
- Ensuring the digitalization of water resource accounting and monitoring.
- Gradual phase-out of coal and modernization of outdated thermal power plants.
- Implementation of energy-efficient technologies.
- Improving the inclusivity of climate education across the country, including for rural and vulnerable groups.



## Civil society assessment

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- The adoption of the Carbon Neutrality Strategy to 2060, the development of a regulatory framework and the stated targets for increasing the share of renewable energy demonstrate Kazakhstan's political commitment to sustainable climate development.
- However, the implementation of climate policy remains slow-coal continues to dominate electricity generation (around 70 percent), businesses, especially SMEs, are not sufficiently engaged and investments and technologies are limited.
- The natural disasters of 2024 revealed the critical unpreparedness of the regions, weak risk management and a shortage of specialists and equipment.
- Adaptation measures are barely implemented in rural areas and in urban infrastructure, while schools, hospitals and other facilities are designed without consideration of climate risks.
- The level of climate awareness in society and government bodies remains low. NGOs play an important role, but their reach is limited.
- Without compliance with the Environmental Code, raising awareness, supporting regions and involving civil society, achieving SDG 13 by 2030 will be seriously at risk.



## Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

*Kazakhstan, as the largest landlocked country in the world, holds a specific position in the protection of aquatic ecosystems. Despite lacking access to open sea coastlines, the country has shorelines along the inland Caspian and Aral Seas, which provide Kazakhstan with water, natural and biological resources. In addition, Kazakhstan is hydrologically connected to the Arctic Ocean through the Irtysh, Yesil (Ishim) and Tobol Rivers. These rivers and seas play a vital role in supplying the country with water resources and food.*

### *Minimization and elimination of negative impacts, including ocean acidification*

#### Caspian Sea

The Caspian Sea in Kazakhstan is under serious pressure due to declining water levels caused by climate change, increased evaporation and reduced river inflows, particularly from the Volga River (which accounts for about 80 percent of the sea's inflow). The shrinking water body threatens local livelihoods, fisheries, coastal infrastructure and biodiversity in the Ural River delta.

The shallow northern region, with depths ranging from 5 to 10 metres, is home to 80 percent of the world's remaining sturgeon population and important wetland habitats. Meanwhile, the deeper middle region, reaching depths of up to 788 metres, plays a strategic role due to facilities such as the Port of Aktau. These zones provide vital ecosystem services and economic benefits, yet face increasing threats from falling sea levels, which are projected to decline by 14–21 metres by 2100,<sup>118, 119</sup> which could lead to the disappearance of up to 80 percent of the Northern Caspian's ecosystems.<sup>120</sup> Caspian seals, sturgeons, sprat and migratory birds will be threatened, as well as ports, water intakes, fisheries and access to the Volga. Dust and salt storms similar to the Aral Sea may intensify, adversely affecting human health and soil conditions.

At 50 coastal points for 2024 in the North Caspian Sea, the value of seawater acidification (pH) ranged between 7.69 – 7.95 (dissolved oxygen: 7.4–8.8 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, BOD<sub>5</sub>: 2.0–3.0 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, COD: 19.0–28.9 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, suspended solids: 54.0–114.0 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, salinity: 1500–4672 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, water temperature: 10.2–25.0 °C). In the Middle Caspian, the value of seawater acidification (pH) ranged between 7.7 – 9.08 (dissolved oxygen: 6.4–9.2 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, BOD<sub>5</sub>: 1.1–3.5 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, COD: 11.5–22.6 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, suspended solids: 11.5–30.4 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, salinity: 7533.6–20,048.7 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, water temperature: 8.05–28.4 °C).

<sup>118</sup> [https://unepdhi.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/11/Caspian\\_Sea\\_working\\_paper.pdf](https://unepdhi.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/11/Caspian_Sea_working_paper.pdf)

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-025-02212-5>

<sup>120</sup> Court et al. (2025)



The causes of increased acidification and rising temperatures in the Caspian Sea include the intensive operation of hydraulic structures on the Volga, agricultural pollution, biomass decomposition, oil spills, dredging and discharge of water for the operational maintenance of oil production facilities. From 2013 to 2022 more than 3,700 satellite radar images and seawater sampling revealed 15 confirmed oil spills, with lengths of up to 89 km and areas up to 38 km<sup>2</sup>.

The country's youth is also aware of these issues and is showing growing interest in preserving water resources.

### A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



“

*Particular attention should be paid to the preservation of such water bodies as the Balkhash and Caspian Seas that possess strategic importance both for Kazakhstan, and neighbouring countries. These water bodies suffer from pollution and overuse of water resources, which can have irreversible consequences for the ecosystem and organisms inhabiting the water bodies. This is how flora and fauna are poisoned. I will continue to offer solutions to problems. It is important to reduce the production of single-use plastic products and increase the level of waste recycling. Everyone should look to the experience of countries such as Germany and Singapore, where effective waste recycling and water purification systems have already been actively implemented and are yielding positive results.*

*Ariana Kenesbek, 10th grade student  
School-gymnasium №17, Astana city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

”

To address acidification and rising temperatures in the Caspian Sea, a number of preventive measures are being implemented.

Under the Tehran Convention restrictions are in place on construction, navigation, waste discharge and incineration, along with regular environmental monitoring. Similar measures are included in Kazakhstan's Environmental Code, under which the country monitors approximately 124,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the Caspian Sea, with 2.67 percent of that area under protection. Additionally, in 2024 Kazakhstan established the Caspian Sea Research Institute to study the causes and consequences of the sea's decline.





## The Caspian Sea: environment, dialogue and responsibility

In 2024 activists in Kazakhstan launched a global movement called «Save The Caspian Sea», focused on three key areas: promoting greater transparency and accountability among oil companies, engaging the international community and advancing investments in nature restoration. Meetings were held with oil companies, dialogue was established with scientists and independent experts, and active recommendations are being made to improve the state of the Caspian Sea.<sup>121</sup> The movement became the first organization from Central Asia to join the international network «Blue Community».

### Aral Sea

Kazakhstan places special importance on the Aral Sea issue and recognizes the scale of its consequences. Since 2018 the total volume of water in the Northern Aral Sea has increased from 18.9 billion cubic metres to 22.1 billion cubic metres by 2025.<sup>122</sup> As of now, the area of the Aral Sea is 3,065 square kilometres, which is 111 km<sup>2</sup> more compared to the beginning of 2022. This has contributed to lower water salinity levels and the recovery of 22 fish species populations.

The use of water-saving technologies and laser leveling of rice fields in the Kyzylorda Region helped save about 200 million cubic metres of water, which was redirected to the Northern Aral Sea.<sup>123</sup> To prevent salt storms, saxaul and halophytes are being planted in the Aral Sea area. In recent years, 4.4 million seedlings have been planted over an area of 475,000 hectares.<sup>124</sup>

At the same time, local civil society initiatives play a vital role in the restoration of the Aral region.

## Women's leadership in restoring the Aral Sea

Public association «Aral Oasis», led by a woman, is developing and implementing innovative reforestation methods in the Aral Sea region, engaging local communities in climate change adaptation and the restoration of ecosystems on the dried seabed of the Aral Sea. With support from the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme and UNDP, «Aral Oasis» has implemented the «100 Micro-Nurseries for Aral Oases» project in three villages. The project has involved 500 local residents (50 percent of whom are women, youth, and the elderly). Three women's cooperatives were established to support the continued development of the nurseries. Residents sow saxaul seeds in bags filled with sand and fertilizer on their own plots. The saplings are transplanted along with the bags, preserving the root system and increasing survival rates to up to 90 percent.<sup>125</sup> A total of 250,000 seedlings have been grown for planting across 300 hectares.<sup>126</sup>

<sup>121</sup> Save the Caspian Sea. (n.d.).

<sup>122</sup> Materials Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

<sup>123</sup> Materials Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

<sup>124</sup> Materials Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

<sup>125</sup> UNDP (n.d.).

<sup>126</sup> 100micro. (n.d.)



From 2024 to 2026 Kazakhstan is chairing the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). Key activities during this period include the use of satellite remote sensing technologies by «Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary» JSC, and also the implementation of various projects, in cooperation with the World Bank, KazAID and other organizations.

### Irtysh, Yesil and Tobol

Despite lacking the direct access to seas and oceans, Kazakhstan has an important hydrological connection to the Arctic Ocean through its major rivers – the Irtysh, Yesil and Tobol. These water arteries form a significant portion of the transboundary Irtysh River, which flows into the Ob River and eventually reaches the Arctic Ocean, placing a specific ecological and transregional responsibility on Kazakhstan.

Nearly 30 percent of Kazakhstan's population depends on the Irtysh River – the longest transboundary tributary river in the world – which provides 33.5 percent of the country's surface water resources and generates about 10 percent of the country's electricity, including 80 percent of all hydropower.<sup>127</sup> This river supports up to 45 percent of the country's agricultural production, and a wide range of domestic and industrial needs.<sup>128</sup>

The future of the Irtysh River is under water stress due to increased water withdrawals in its upper reaches by China, environmental degradation (such as the drying of Lake Zaysan), saline soils in the Shiderti tributary and the lack of a trilateral agreement between China, Kazakhstan and Russia, which share the Irtysh River. The average water inflow from China to Kazakhstan is 7.2 km<sup>3</sup>/year, while the outflow from Kazakhstan to Russia is 27.9 km<sup>3</sup>/year.<sup>129</sup>

Additionally, plans to construct new hydropower plants, such as the Semipalatinsk HPP and the expansion of the Shulbinsk HPP, pose a risk of reducing the discharge of the Irtysh River into the Ob River, which could impact the Arctic ecosystem. Thus Kazakhstan bears a global responsibility toward the Arctic Ocean.

Key Irtysh tributaries – the Tobol and Yesil Rivers – play a crucial role in the hydrological and socio-economic resilience of northern Kazakhstan and contribute to the Ob basin and the Arctic Ocean's water balance through the Irtysh.

The Tobol River, stretching 1,591 km (with 682 km in Kazakhstan), supplies 11–12 percent of the Irtysh's annual flow and serves more than 1 million people, particularly in the Kostanay Region, where it covers up to 89 percent of industrial water consumption. The Yesil River, at 2,450 km, contributes 3–4 percent to the Irtysh flow, passes through Astana, and is critically important for water supply, flood control and climate adaptation. The Tobol-Torgai basin contains about 20,000 lakes and reservoirs, covering 9,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

However, the resilience of the Tobol and Yesil Rivers is an increasing concern. In the Tobol, levels of heavy metals and organic pollutants have exceeded maximum permissible concentrations, primarily due to industrial discharges and mineral extraction activities. Up to 50 percent of abstracted water is not returned to the river, particularly during dry years, undermining flow reliability. Further pollution is introduced by tributaries originating in Russia.

<sup>127</sup> 10.1038/s41598-019-55662-1

<sup>128</sup> <https://eabr.org/en/analytics/special-reports/the-irtysh-river-basin-transboundary-challenges-and-practical-solutions/>

<sup>129</sup> <https://eabr.org/en/analytics/special-reports/the-irtysh-river-basin-transboundary-challenges-and-practical-solutions/>



In the Yesil River climate change poses the main threat. Over recent decades, regional temperatures have risen by 0.3–0.5°C, leading to reduced spring floods and increased winter flow. The expansion of Astana places additional pressure on stormwater and the treatment infrastructure. Given that both rivers are part of the Irtysh system and ultimately the Ob basin, changes in their flow regimes could impact the water balance and climate processes of the Arctic Ocean.<sup>130, 131</sup>

In 2024, as part of the «Taza Qazaqstan» campaign, 1.3 tons of waste were collected from the Yesil River. In 2025 during the «Clean Games» environmental event, about 3 tons of waste were collected along the Tobol River in the Kostanay district,<sup>132</sup> and under the «Clean Water Bodies» campaign, 15 tons of municipal solid waste were collected from Lake Zaysan in the Irtysh basin.

## Sustainable fisheries management

Fisheries account for 0.2 percent of Kazakhstan's GDP,<sup>133</sup> yet there are several villages in the country whose livelihoods depend entirely on it.

*Coastal communities face challenges such as reduced river inflows from neighbouring countries, industrial pollution, and insufficiently effective participation of local communities in the work of basin councils in allocating water resources between economic sectors. Among them: the village of Tasaral in Aktogay District of Karagandy Region near Lake Balkhash with 500 residents;<sup>134</sup> the village of Karashalan in Aral District of Kyzylorda Region, home to 124 families and 70–80 fishermen working on the Small Aral Sea;<sup>135</sup> the village of Tastubek with a population of about 120 people, which depends on seasonal fishing in the Northern Aral Sea.<sup>136</sup>*

In 2024, as part of the Fisheries Development Programme for 2021–2030, subsidies for aquaculture were significantly increased – to ₸4.5 bn, which is nine times more compared to 2021. This includes reimbursement of up to 25 percent of investment costs, coverage of 30 percent of feed expenses, and subsidies for 50 percent of the cost of purchasing juvenile fish, breeding stock and veterinary drugs. Kazakhstan's key achievement in improving sustainable fisheries management was the adoption of the Law «On Aquaculture» (2025).

As a result, the volume of aquaculture in Kazakhstan increased from ₸14.3 bn in 2021 to ₸27.8 bn in 2024.<sup>137</sup> A total of 461.2 million fish fry were raised, including sturgeon, sterlet, carp, pike perch and grass carp. A total of 14,200 tons of feed were used, 50 percent of which were produced domestically. Regulatory measures were strengthened through the issuance of 222,938 general fishing permits and 37,436 commercial fishing permits. However, catch volumes from natural water bodies remain significantly higher – 45,000 tons, compared to 18,000 tons from commercial fish farming.

<sup>130</sup> DOI:10.1515/jwld-2016-0047.

<sup>131</sup> <https://doi.org/10.3390/su17083405>

<sup>132</sup> [https://arna-news.kz/arna\\_kz/v-kostanajskom-rajone-porjadka-3-tysjach-tonn-sobrali-uchastniki-chistyh-igr-v-ramkah-respublikanskoj-jekologicheskoy-akcii-taza-aza-stan/](https://arna-news.kz/arna_kz/v-kostanajskom-rajone-porjadka-3-tysjach-tonn-sobrali-uchastniki-chistyh-igr-v-ramkah-respublikanskoj-jekologicheskoy-akcii-taza-aza-stan/)

<sup>133</sup> BNS ASPR RK

<sup>134</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-lake-balkhash-shrinking-nuclear-plant-environment/32996779.html>

<sup>135</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-little-aral-sea-fishing-ecology/32620593.html>

<sup>136</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/aral-sea-kazakhstan-photo-report-fishing/33142931.html>

<sup>137</sup> BNS ASPR RK



## Turkistan region – a leader in the fisheries industry

The Turkistan Region faces serious challenges in agriculture due to soil erosion, which affects more than 40 percent of the land.<sup>138</sup> This poses a risk of food insecurity. Despite these challenges, the Turkistan Region remains one of the leaders in commercial fish farming in Kazakhstan.

In 2024 the total value of farmed fish reached ₸3.5 bn, with the area of fish farming water bodies covering only 3.7 hectares.<sup>139</sup> The Turkistan Region is home to 154 fish farming enterprises out of 380 nationwide, making it the leading hub of Kazakhstan's fisheries industry.<sup>140</sup> For example, «Komesh Balyq» LLP operates 17 large and 14 small lakes, with a production volume of up to 50–60 tons of fish per year. The «Alina» farm produces about 500 tons of African catfish, carp and silver carp annually.<sup>141</sup>

In 2024 as part of anti-winterkill measures, more than 140 million juvenile fish were saved across the country. Through artificial reproduction in fishery water bodies, 53.8 million juvenile fish of valuable species (sturgeon, whitefish, carp) were raised and released, including 49.9 million by state enterprises and 3.9 million by private ones.

In 2024 a pilot version of the digital fish catch monitoring system e-fish.kz was introduced to combat the shadow circulation of fish. The system is integrated with government databases and provides transparency, quota control, and data visualization.

As part of this system, a ranking of water bodies, regions and fishery entities was conducted in 2024–2025. The leaders in fish catch were Lake Balkhash (35.23 percent), the Small Aral Sea (19.99 percent), and the Kuandaryn Lake system (10.59 percent). Among the regions, Kyzylorda Region ranked first (38.38 percent), followed by Karagandy Region (34.12 percent) and Kostanay Region (25.87 percent). Among the top-performing enterprises were Kuanysh LLP from Kyzylorda Region (19.99 percent), Qyzyl Qazaq LLP from Karagandy Region (12.75 percent), and Sayushkin LLP from Karagandy Region (12.37 percent). The dominant species in the catch were bream (27.09 percent), pike perch (17.28 percent) and crucian carp (17.06 percent).

Kazakhstan recognizes its responsibility for sturgeon conservation. The species is listed in the Red Book of Kazakhstan that lists endangered species due to population decline, primarily caused by poaching.

In 2024 in Atyrau, Mangystau and West Kazakhstan Regions, as well as in adjacent Caspian Sea waters, the Border Guard Service of the National Security Committee conducted the «Bekire-2024» fish protection campaign. As a result, 90 violators of territorial and internal water regimes, 72 border regime violators and 69 watercraft were detained. More than 263 km of nets and 20,000 hooks were confiscated. A total of 1,085 sturgeons (5,536 kg), 65,474 fish of other species (52,571 kg), and 67 seals were released back into their natural habitat. Administrative fines totaling more than ₸7.3 mn were imposed, 3 criminal cases were initiated, and economic damage of ₸2.3 bn was prevented.

<sup>138</sup> Consolidated analytical report on the state and use of lands of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023

<sup>139</sup> BNS ASPR RK

<sup>140</sup> Materials of the Turkistan region's Akimat

<sup>141</sup> Ibid.



In 2024 Kazakhstan raised 375,100 sturgeon through fish stocking, an increase of 36,200 compared to 2023. A joint interstate commission of Caspian countries coordinates measures by setting quotas and rules for sturgeon population management.<sup>142</sup> Kazakhstan also participates in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and permits exports only of captive-bred specimens from registered farms. Additionally, in 2024, Kazakhstan became the 78th country to adopt the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, supporting the ban on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fishing of overexploited stocks.

Existing support measures for sustainable fisheries management are actively engaging the business community in efforts to restore sturgeon populations.

### The return of sturgeon: stocking the Irtysh and Ural rivers with fish

In 2024 «Ost Fish» LLP from the East - Kazakhstan Region released 500,000 Siberian sturgeon fry into the Irtysh River to restore the population lost after the construction of a hydroelectric power station. The stocking programme is planned to expand to water bodies in the Abai, Pavlodar and East Kazakhstan Regions, demonstrating a systematic and sustainable approach.

Natural resource extraction companies are also actively participating in fish stock restoration activities.

«Tengizchevroil» LLP, together with the Ural-Atyrau Sturgeon Hatchery, has been implementing a programme since 2017 to conserve and restore sturgeon in the Ural River. In 2024 more than 1 million fry, each weighing 3 grammes, were released into the river (only 50,000 were released in 2022). Over recent years TCO has supplied more than 29.8 tons of specialized feed. To support spawning conditions, aerators, water coolers, excavators and other equipment were purchased. Each artificial pond has an area of over 2 hectares and a depth of 2 metres. TCO also conducts technical seminars for hatchery staff. The project demonstrates effective collaboration between business and environmental initiatives in restoring rare fish species and maintaining ecological balance in the region.<sup>143</sup>

The public company Solidcore Resources Plc in the Abai Region is implementing initiatives to restore aquatic biocenoses. In 2024 6,446 adult Siberian sturgeons were released into the Irtysh River near Mukyr village Zhanasemei District.<sup>144</sup>

<sup>142</sup> <https://adilet.zan.kz/kaz/docs/Z1500000332>

<sup>143</sup> <https://azh.kz/news/view/106110#>

<sup>144</sup> <https://www.zakon.kz/6457928>



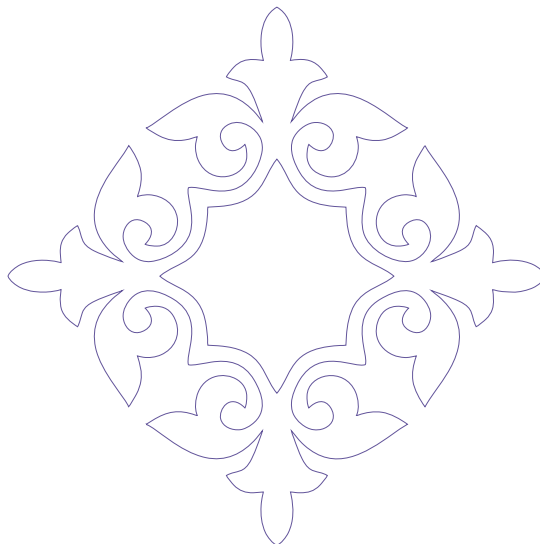
### Conservation of the Caspian Seal

At the beginning of the 20th century, the population of the Caspian seal exceeded one million specimens. Currently, the population has declined by over 90 percent with an 75,000 and 300,000 specimens remaining. Since 2020, this endemic species and the only representative of marine mammals in the fauna of the Caspian Sea, has been listed in the Red Book of Kazakhstan.

Between 2022–2024, cases of mass mortality of Caspian seals were recorded, ranging from hundreds to 2,000 specimens. The population decline is caused by anthropogenic factors (oil extraction in breeding areas, winter navigation, excessive sprat fishing, poaching) and natural-climatic influences (sea level decrease, warmer winters, reduced ice cover, methane emissions during underwater earthquakes, infections from birds).

Over the past three years a significant step forward has been the creation of the Caspian Seal State Nature Reserve «Kaspi itbalygy».<sup>145</sup> The protected area of 108,632.31 hectares covers the Tupkaragan and Beineu districts of the Mangystau Region. Joint monitoring studies of the population and habitat status are being conducted with Russia as part of the 2021–2026 Action Plan. In addition, in 2022 the Institute of Hydrobiology and Ecology published an Atlas of Caspian Seal Haul-out Sites, which contributes to its conservation by raising public awareness.

Although Kazakhstan has no access to oceans, it makes a significant contribution to the preservation of marine and aquatic ecosystems through the protection of the Caspian and Aral Seas, sustainable fishing and transboundary water cooperation.



<sup>145</sup> Chernenko, L. (2024)





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2024, the Kazakh Research Institute of the Caspian Sea was established to study issues related to the Caspian Sea.
- The area of the Aral Sea reached 3,065 km<sup>2</sup>, an increase of 111 km<sup>2</sup> since 2022, which reduced water salinity and helped restore populations of 22 fish species.
- Adoption of the Law «On Aquaculture» (2025).
- In 2024 a pilot version of the digital fish catch accounting system e-fish.kz was introduced to combat the shadow trade in the fish market.
- Subsidies for aquaculture were increased to ₸4.5 bn in 2024, which is nine times higher than in 2021.
- 375,100 sturgeons were raised in 2024 using fish stocking material, which is 36,200 more compared to 2023.
- The Caspian Seal State Nature Reserve «Kaspi itbalygy» was established.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 14

- Due to increased evaporation, reduced inflow (especially from the Volga River, which provides up to 80 percent of the input) and rising temperatures and water acidification, the Caspian Sea is losing up to 80 percent of its ecosystems, particularly in the northern section.
- Pollution from oil extraction (spills, discharges, dredging), agricultural runoff and increased shipping traffic are intensifying the environmental burden.
- Water supply to the Aral Sea via the Syr Darya River is based on temporary agreements, which complicates sustainable planning and ecosystem restoration.
- Reduced Irtysh River flow due to water intake in China, salinization, pollution and climate change may disrupt the sustainability of Arctic ecosystems.
- Monitoring of IUU fishing is insufficient, and the involvement of small fishing communities in fisheries and water resource management is underdeveloped.
- The Caspian seal population has declined by more than 90 percent.





## Prospective steps



- Expansion of the state nature reserve «Akzhayik» in Atyrau region.
- Reconstruction and modernization of irrigation and water supply networks.
- Consideration of creating a multimodal transit corridor «Russia – Kazakhstan – China» using the Irtys River.
- Growth of aquaculture from 6,900 to 270,000 tons per year by 2030.
- Adoption of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Aquaculture».
- Modernization of key fish hatcheries.

## Civil society assessment



- Kazakhstan participates in regional initiatives to protect the Caspian Sea and has stabilized part of the Northern Aral Sea through the Kokaral Dam, demonstrating a commitment to preserving aquatic ecosystems.
- An important step was the establishment of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, which initiated large-scale reforms in the water sector.
- Key threats include oil pollution, accidental discharges, declining water levels and loss of biodiversity in the Caspian Sea; degradation and dust storms in the Aral region; and the worsening condition of Lake Balkhash due to reduced inflow, industrial pollution and public concern over the planned construction of a nuclear power plant, which may pose risks to the region's ecosystem.
- Across the country, pollution of rivers, lakes and irrigation canals with waste and plastics is observed, along with weak monitoring and control and a low level of implementation of international environmental commitments.
- Fisheries face risks of species extinction and habitat degradation amid poor compliance with established limits.
- Institutional weakness constrains progress in this area.
- Without strengthened transboundary water cooperation, effective environmental monitoring, scientific support, transparent planning and an ecologically sound approach to infrastructure projects, including the construction of nuclear power plants, the achievement of SDG 14 by 2030 will remain seriously at risk.



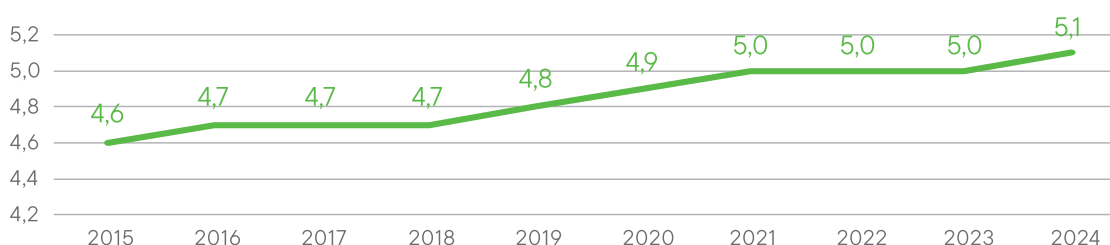
## Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

*Kazakhstan's terrestrial ecosystems are under pressure from arid climate, land degradation and climate change. However, the country is making steady progress in forest restoration, biodiversity conservation and land rehabilitation. Sustainable improvements in land management can contribute to food security, ecosystem resilience, climate change mitigation and the improved well-being of rural populations.*

### Forest resources and reforestation

Amid an arid climate, vulnerable natural systems and the increasing impacts of climate change, Kazakhstan is making significant efforts to protect and restore its forests, pastures, soils and biodiversity.

In 2024 the forest fund of Kazakhstan totalled 13.9 million hectares, covering 5.1 percent of the country's territory (Figure 53).<sup>146</sup>



Source: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Figure 53. Forest area as a percentage of total land area

The forest fund increased by 1.2 million hectares and reached 13.9 million hectares. Growth occurred in the Almaty, East Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda and Zhambyl regions, while in the western regions, expansion was limited due to natural conditions.

Nevertheless, the forest coverage remains low, and fires in certain regions reduce biomass stocks and highlight the need for enhanced environmental protection measures. To address this situation, an early forest fire detection system is being implemented, covering 1.3 million hectares. A fire hazard map is also available on the platforms [mchs.gharysh.kz](http://mchs.gharysh.kz) and [tabigat.gov.kz](http://tabigat.gov.kz).

<sup>146</sup> BNS ASPR RK



In addition, as part of the programme of planting 2 billion trees by 2027, 306 million trees were planted in 2021-2024 on an area of 205,200 hectares.<sup>147</sup> As part of the «Taza Qazaqstan» campaign in 2024 more than 1.6 million trees were planted.

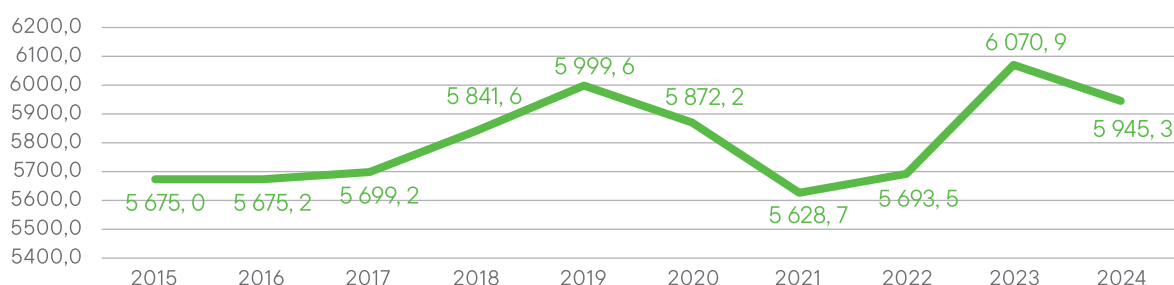
The share of specially protected natural areas in Kazakhstan has also increased. In 2015 it was 9.3 percent, and by 2024 it had reached 11.4 percent or 30.8 million hectares (Figure 54). The largest growth was recorded in nature reserves (51 percent) and state-level wildlife sanctuaries (43.8 percent).



Source: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Figure 54. Share of specially protected natural areas in the total area of the country (%)

From 2015 to 2024, the share of protected mountain areas important for biodiversity increased from 19.4 percent to 26.5 percent or 5.9 million hectares (Figure 55).



Source: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Figure 55. Trends in mountain forest area, thousand hectares

Climate adaptation measures are being implemented, including the restoration of water resources in the mountains and the fight against desertification. The area of protected mountain territories important for biodiversity increased from 19.4 mn hectares to 26.5 mn hectares (2015–2023).

The mountainous territories of Kazakhstan stretch for 2,500 km along the southern and southeastern edges, with isolated low-mountain areas in the center and west (Karkaraly, Ulytau, Mugodzhar). They are characterized by vertical soil zonation, reflecting variations in climate, terrain and vegetation with increasing altitude. As elevation rises, conditions become colder and wetter, leading to a gradual transition in vegetation types – from steppes and shrubs to alpine meadows and tundra ecosystems.

<sup>147</sup> Report on the Green Economy Concept



## Combating erosion and restoring land

The area of eroded agricultural land is 29.3 million hectares. High rates are recorded in Almaty (42.7 percent), Turkistan (40.3 percent), and Zhambyl (32.6 percent) regions.

For agroforestry and land reclamation, the Institute for Land Survey Work was established in 2023. A Roadmap for Soil Fertility Improvement for 2024–2030 has been developed, with similar documents prepared in the regions taking into account local specifics. District-level budget expenditures for pasture restoration have been made for pasture restoration, while international initiatives are also underway to support and enhance broader land restoration efforts.

### Forest as capital: carbon credits and sustainable development in action

The «Janartu» project for 2022–2027 is being implemented with EU support. It covers the Enbekshikazakh and Zhambyl districts of the Almaty region, and aims to restore degraded pastures through the introduction of sustainable management models involving rural communities, small farmers and local authorities.

The project goals include engaging 400 small farmers, creating 10 pasture user associations comprising 120 civil society representatives and 80 public officials, developing 8 sustainable pasture management plans, as well as proposing amendments to legislation.

Currently, 6 legislative proposals have been prepared and 11 advocacy events to protect the interests of farmers have been held. In Zhambyl district, a District Coordination Council has been established, and a digital pasture monitoring system is being implemented.<sup>148</sup>

## Biodiversity

The flora of Kazakhstan includes more than 13,000 species, including over 5,700 species of higher vascular plants, about 5,000 fungi, 485 lichens, more than 2,000 algae, and about 500 bryophytes. In order to legislate all issues related to the protection, reproduction and use of plant world resources, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On the plant world» was adopted in 2023.

Kazakhstan has achieved significant success in the reintroduction of rare species. In 2024, as part of a programme to restore the population of the Przewalski's horse, extinct in the wild since the 1960s, the first 7 specimens were brought in from the Prague Zoo. Another 40 specimens are planned to be imported by 2029.<sup>149</sup>

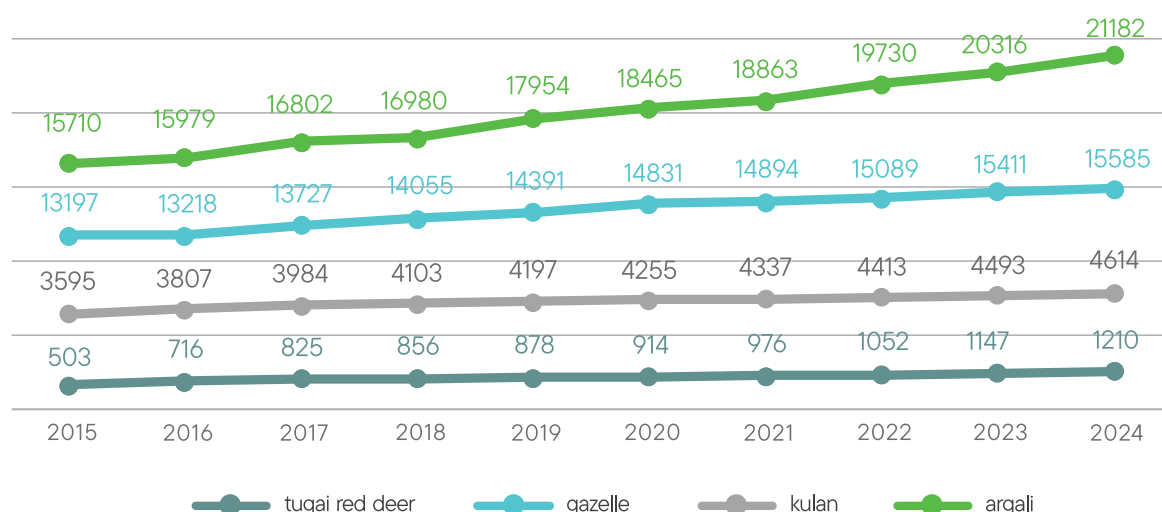
<sup>148</sup> <https://janartu-project.kz/>

<sup>149</sup> Reference materials of MENR RK



Kazakhstan has also made significant progress in conserving the tugai red deer from 503 specimens in 2015 to 1,210 specimens in 2024, the gazelle from 13,197 specimens in 2015 to 15,585 specimens in 2024, the kulan from 3,595 specimens in 2015 to 4,614 specimens in 2024, and the argali from 15,710 specimens in 2015 to 21,182 specimens in 2024 (Figure 56).

This progress is a result of the creation and expansion of specially protected natural areas, restoration of the forage base and resettlement of animals, use of modern technologies (photo traps, satellite telemetry, digital monitoring of pastures) and development of international co-operation (Czech Republic, Netherlands, Russia and UAE).



Source: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Figure 56. Population trends of rare and endangered ungulates (specimens)

However, a number of problems remain, which hampers the effective protection of rare and endangered animal species. Specialised wildlife protection organizations have not yet been established in 9 regions of the country, as a result of which 14.8 million hectares of reserve fund lands remain unprotected. Akimats do not conduct systematic scientific work on reproduction and protection of animals at the appropriate level, which reduces the effectiveness of conservation measures.

From 2015 to 2024 the number of saigas increased tenfold, from 295,000 to 2.8 million. This allowed the International Union for Conservation of Nature to upgrade the status of the species from «critically endangered» to «near threatened» in 2024. Kazakhstan is now home to 99 percent of the world's saiga population, reinforcing the country's global responsibility. Also in 2024, the «Altyn Dala» initiative to restore steppe ecosystems and conserve saiga populations won the prestigious «Earthshot Prize» in the field of ecology.

In addition to government initiatives, environmental activism is playing an increasingly important role in protecting valuable ecosystems.



## Citizen initiative to protect urban biodiversity

«SOS Taldykol» public association established in 2020 in Astana, brought together over 150 activists committed to preserving the Taldykol lake system in Astana as an important element of urban biodiversity. More than 12,000 signatures were collected in support of lake protection, and appeals were sent to the courts. In 2023, of the case review confirmed, the need to preserve the natural value of the lakes, was confirmed and the Akimat was advised to establish water protection zones. The lakes play a significant ecological role as a habitat for 168 bird species, including rare ones. At the same time, the proposed plans to establish an ecopark in this area continue to generate public interest and discussion.

In 2024 Amur tigers from the Netherlands were introduced to the Ile-Balkhash reserve to restore an extinct population of Turan tigers formerly inhabiting the southern regions of Kazakhstan.<sup>150</sup> UNDP is also actively supporting efforts to restore the Turan tiger population.

## Restoration of the Turan tiger population

Since 2021 UNDP, together with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, has been implementing a biodiversity conservation project in the Ulytau National Park and Ile-Balkhash Nature Reserve aimed at the reintroducing the Turan tiger. As part of the project, specialized vehicles and fire-fighting equipment were provided, the SMART patrol system was introduced, tugai forests and populations of wild animals were restored, including the relocation of 100 kulans. Trainings on ecotourism are also being conducted, along with the creation of tourist trails and jobs for rural residents.

Over the past decade Kazakhstan has made significant progress in the conservation of the snow leopard thanks to the UNDP and GEF project. As a result of efforts to improve the material and technical base of protected areas, installing camera traps and thermal imagers, as well as conducting field research and satellite telemetry, the snow leopard population in the country has doubled and reached 152–189 individuals, 70 percent of whom inhabit protected areas. The species was recorded for the first time in new locations, including Zhambyl Region and the Altyn Emel National Park. Migration routes of leopards to China and Kyrgyzstan were identified, forming the basis for the creation of new and expansion of existing protected areas. In 2024 a memorandum on transboundary cooperation between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan for snow leopard conservation was signed.<sup>151</sup>

<sup>150</sup> Reference materials of MENR RK

<sup>151</sup> <https://www.undp.org/kazakhstan/stories/achievements-kazakhstan-conservation-snow-leopard>



To preserve the great bustard population and release them into their natural habitat, a Houbara Bustard Breeding Centre was established in the Turkistan Region under an agreement with the UAE. From 2009 to 2024 more than 73,000 houbara bustards bred at the Centre were released into the wild.

Youth are also aware of the importance of nature conservation. One of the participants of the essay contest shared an experience of creating and observing the bird houses. This experience is similar to the concept of «birdwatching», which presents an accessible way to better engage people in understanding the role of birds in the ecosystem.

### A Youth Perspective

(translated from Kazakh to English)



“

*How beautiful is the nature of our region! In spring, everyone admires the first flowers.*

*Many of these flowers are listed in the Red Book. Bees, butterflies, birds need flowers. If they disappear, it will not only be bad for them, but also for humankind. Without them, a part of our planet's beauty would be lost.*

*Winter. A period of intense cold At this time of year, when birds especially need our help. Every year I make bird feeders and watch the birds. My winged friends fly to the feeder, peck grain and bread crumbs and seem to thank me for my help. Even though it is a small matter, my soul is filled with joy.*

*I live in the countryside. I hold rural life very close to my heart. I want my native land to be beautiful. That's why I help our lesser brothers as well.*

*Anastasia Akhmetshina, 7th grade student,  
Valeryanov General Secondary School, Kostanay Region,  
Participant in the national student essay competition*

”

Kazakhstan has experienced a positive trend in the amount of funding for environmental protection: total environmental expenditures increased from ₸174.6 bn in 2015 to ₸610 bn in 2023, which is 0.49 percent of GDP. However, only ₸2.6 bn of this amount was allocated to biodiversity conservation – significantly lower than in EU countries, where spending on environmental purposes reaches 0.8 per cent of GDP on average. Thus Kazakhstan should increase its financial capacity and also attract investment.

Kazakhstan continues to strengthen efforts to reforestation, combat land degradation and protect biodiversity through national programmes and international cooperation. Long-term sustainability will depend on an integrated approach, strengthened regional implementation and increased investment in nature-based solutions.





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

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- In 2021–2024 306 million trees were planted on 205,200 hectares under the programme for planting 2 billion trees by 2027, and in 2024, more than 1.6 million trees were planted during the «Taza Qazaqstan» campaign.
- A fire danger map and a system of early detection of forest fires were introduced covering 1.3 million hectares.
- In 2023 the Institute for Land Surveying was established and the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On the plant world» was adopted.
- In 2024 7 Przewalski's horses were imported from the Prague Zoo.
- Between 2015 and 2024 the number of saigas in Kazakhstan increased tenfold, from 295,000 to 2.8 million, raising the status of the species to «Near Threatened».
- In 2024 Amur tigers from the Netherlands were introduced into the Ile-Balkhash reserve to restore the extinct population of Turan tigers.
- In 2024, as part of an agreement with the UAE, a centre for the reproduction of the great bustard was established in Turkistan Oblast.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 15

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- Low level of forest coverage and active forest fires.
- High share of degraded and eroded lands, especially in the southern regions.
- Presence of specialized wildlife protection bodies only in some regions.



## Prospective steps



- Expansion of the system of early detection of forest fires and strengthening of control over the survival rate of forest plantations.
- Re-seeding of unused pastures with fodder grasses, followed by their integration into agricultural use.
- Development of a draft law on the development of game breeding aimed at restoring the number of rare species, reducing pressure on natural populations, preserving the gene pool and maintaining ecosystem balance.
- Development of the Concept on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

## Civil society assessment



- Kazakhstan is taking positive steps towards the protection of terrestrial ecosystems: the network of protected areas has been expanded to cover about 9.6 percent of the country's area; a programme to plant 2 billion trees is being implemented; and cases of restoration of rare species, such as saiga, have been recorded.
- The fight against poaching continues and individual conservation projects are being implemented.
- Environmental problems persist in the country: land degradation and desertification, deforestation, fires, overgrazing, especially in pasture and mountainous areas.
- Mountain ecosystems, coastal areas and forests are under threat, including from water pollution and climate change.
- Government support for scientific institutions remains limited, while human resource capacity and inter-institutional coordination continue to be weak.
- Without the adoption of a systemic ecosystem approach, support for science and conservation organizations, sustainable land use and reforms in governance and financing, the implementation of SDG 15 by 2030 will be seriously challenged.

### 3.5. The power of partnership for justice: building peace through effective institutions and global cooperation

Over the past three years significant progress has been made in strengthening legal institutions and ensuring equal opportunities for citizens in access to justice. At the same time, a multi-vector, pragmatic and proactive foreign policy is being implemented, which is contributing substantively to the formation and implementation of the global and regional agenda in the areas of security, cooperation and development.

SDG 16 and SDG 17 play a system-forming role in the architecture of sustainable development, as, unlike other goals, they encompass and reinforce all three key components of sustainability – social, environmental and economic.

- **SDG 16 «Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions»** provides the foundation for the implementation of the social component (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10) through the protection of human rights, fair access to resources, justice and inclusive governance. At the same time, strong institutions are essential for effective environmental protection (SDGs 6, 13, 14, 15) and fair regulation of economic processes (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12).
- **SDG 17 «Partnerships for the Goals»** acts as a catalyst for achieving all other goals, forming a sustainable platform for mobilizing resources, technologies, knowledge, and investments. This goal coordinates efforts between states, international organizations, businesses, and civil society.



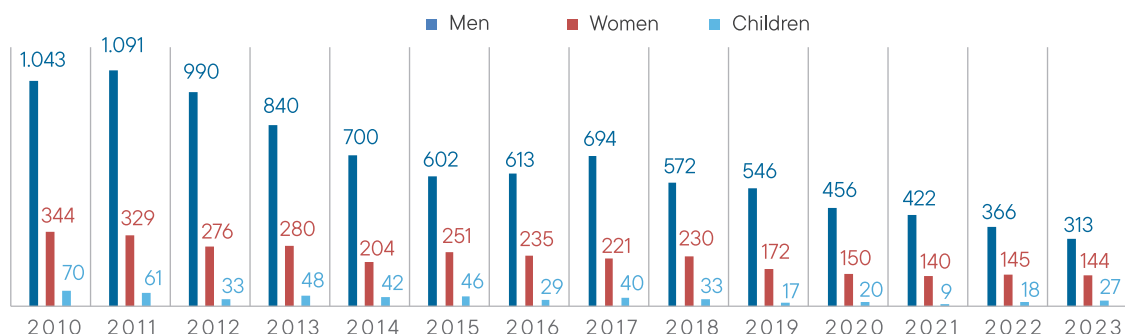


## Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### *Reduction of all forms of violence and abuse, including against children*

The adoption of the Law on Women's Rights and Child Safety in 2024 was an important step in strengthening the institution of the family and preventing domestic violence.

To provide comprehensive assistance on family issues and the protection of women's and children's rights, Kazakhstan has a single contact centre at 111. The service's «here and now» approach helps to organize assistance to individuals in remote regions and to restore law and justice. The measures taken are reflected positively in the statistics. As a result, the number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 people is showing a downward trend, with there are positive changes observed across all population groups (Figure 57).



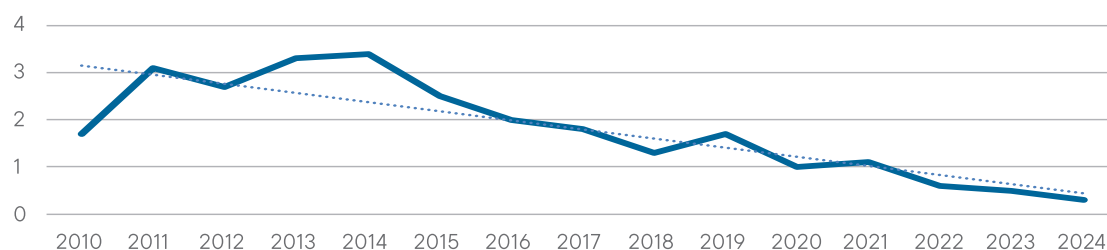
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

*Figure 57. Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 persons, disaggregated by men, women and children*

Among men, the number of homicide victims decreased from 602 cases in 2015 to 313 in 2023 – a reduction of 48 percent. While these figures may reflect progress in improving women's safety, the current indicators still highlight the need for continued efforts to prevent violence, particularly against men. In order to ensure the protection of children's rights, a Comprehensive Plan for the Protection of Children from Violence, Prevention of Suicide, and Ensuring Their Rights and Well-being for 2023–2025 has been adopted, consisting of a package of measures aimed at creating a safe environment for children.



Systematic efforts to combat human trafficking have led to a reduction in the number of victims (Figure 58).



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

*Figure 58. Number of identified human trafficking victims per 100,000 persons*

In particular, state bodies are implementing the Action Plan for the prevention, suppression and combating of human trafficking crimes, 2024–2026. An Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Human Trafficking is currently active.

A key milestone in the development of the legal system was the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Combating Human Trafficking» in 2024, which provides support to Kazakhstani citizens who have fallen victim to this crime.

### *Promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice*

In order to improve the efficiency of the judicial system and ensure the rights of persons are protected, work continues on implementing of legal reforms that contribute to sustainable development and strengthening the rule of law. During 2022–2024 key initiatives took place in the following areas:

#### **1. Expanding access to justice and effective protection of violated rights**

In 2022 extraterritorial jurisdiction in civil cases was introduced. With the consent of the parties, claims are now automatically and randomly assigned to courts across the republic, regardless of the territorial location of the dispute. This practice also applies to administrative cases, but at the plaintiff's choice, who is initially weaker than the defendant – a state body. The implementation of such measures eliminates corruption risks, doubts about the impartiality of the local court and will contribute to increasing trust in the judiciary.

A significant reform was the establishment of «family courts» which provide for expanding of the jurisdiction of juvenile courts, where the interests of the child are paramount. Since 2023 juvenile courts have begun to consider almost all cases and disputes if they affect the legal rights and interests of minors. Courts handle all disputes related to divorce and children's rights, including issues of alimony, visitation time with children and division of property.



## 2. Implementation of measures to strengthen the independence of courts and judges as a key condition for fair and impartial trials

A new funding model has been introduced establishing the minimum court budget by law as a fixed percentage of total government expenditures. Budget allocation is carried out by a judicial self-governance body composed of delegates from courts at all levels. This financial autonomy is expected to strengthen the independence of the judiciary from other branches of government.

The Higher Judicial Council plays special role in ensuring the independence of judges. The Supreme Court assigns this Council with the training of judicial candidates, advanced training, extension of the age limit and the suspension and termination of the powers of sitting judges.

An important step towards strengthening the genuine independence of the judiciary was the modernization of judicial administration system. A new central state body – the Judicial Administration – was established to lead this effort. Its responsibilities include formulating state policy in the field of judicial administration and driving systemic reforms aimed at enhancing the judicial system and the functioning of the courts. Thus, judicial administration has been institutionalized as an independent branch of state governance, and all interactions between of any instance and legal entities or individuals are now conducted strictly within the framework of procedural law.

## 3. Digitalization of the judicial system

According to by the the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe use of IT technologies in judicial systems, Kazakhstan ranks 4th among 47 member states.

Kazakhstan is introducing convenient and understandable tools for the population, allowing them to comfortably interact with the courts at any convenient time. Through the electronic service «Judicial Cabinet» 95 percent of document flow is carried out without visiting the courts. The service allows online payment of state duties, access to case materials, receipt of court decisions, verification of their authenticity, among other actions. All functionality is available via smartphone from anywhere in the world.

According to official data from the Agency for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market, institutions of the banking, insurance and microfinance ombudsmen are operating to resolve disputes between financial organizations and their individual clients. Ombudsmen consider disagreements on bank loan agreements, mortgage loans, insurance contracts and microloans. Their decisions are binding on banks, microfinance organizations, collection agencies and insurance organizations if the client agrees with the proposed decision.

Overall, the ongoing reforms to digitalize the judicial system are aimed at enhancing the accessibility, independence and efficiency of justice. However, rising legal awareness among the population on the judicial system, and society rightfully continues to demand improvements to the judicial system.



## Reducing the scale of corruption and bribery

Kazakhstan is gradually improving its institutional mechanisms for combating corruption. In 2022-2024 several key normative legal acts were adopted to combat corruption and improve anti-corruption policy. A key important steps was the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Policy Concept for 2022-2026, which outlines a strategy to reduce corruption in daily life and to develop in the public and private sectors. Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan «On Combating Corruption», which entered into force in 2023, mandated the establishment of anti-corruption compliance services within state and quasi-state institutions, while also increasing accountability for non-compliance with integrity standards.

The Anti-Corruption Agency's project «Anti-Corruption Volunteering», aimed at involving concerned citizens in anti-corruption activities, is of particular importance in combating corruption.

### Volunteering on the anti-corruption front

The Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan has launched the initiative “Anti-Corruption Volunteering” starting from 2023. The project’s aim is to involve citizens in the active fight against corrupt practices. The project covers four main areas: public control, anti-corruption education and research, pro bono (providing professional assistance on a pro bono basis) and corporate volunteering, where each area has its own unique objectives.

The total number of volunteers was 2,500 people and their activities were aimed at identifying the mismanagement of budget funds. Their work prevented the overpricing of goods and services worth more than ₸15 bn. Overall the activities of anti-corruption volunteers contributed to public oversight efforts focused on addressing socially significant issues affecting of the population.

The year 2024 marked an important stage in the Moreover, Kazakhstan holds a leading position among Central Asian countries. According to Transparency International, Kazakhstan has shown a significant increase in the rating – gaining 11 points since 2016, rising from a score of 29. During this period there was an active introduction of innovative mechanisms and strengthening of international cooperation, which allowed significant results to be achieved in the fight against corruption.

In 2024 a bill was submitted to the Majilis of the Parliament proposing the introduction of professional integrity testing – referred to as the «Integrity Check» – for personnel in law enforcement and civil protection agencies. This mechanism involves assessing an employee’s response to simulated situations in order to evaluate their resistance to corruption and their propensity to breach official duties. In addition, pilot projects on «colouring money» are being implemented through the «Digital Tender» platform Thanks to this tool the embezzlement and misuse of budget funds will be minimized.





As a result of the measures taken, Kazakhstan's position in Transparency International's global corruption perception rating is improving. According to the rating of the Corruption Perception Index 2024, Kazakhstan took 88th place, scoring 40 points out of a possible 100. This result is historically the best.

### *Reducing illicit financial flows*

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To address the prevention of illicit financial flows and to strengthen the system for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, a set of measures is being implemented to enhance the transparency of the financial system, minimize risks, reduce illegal circulation of funds and adapt national legislation to international standards.

In 2022 the Concept for the Development of Financial Monitoring for 2022–2026 was approved, with a focus on adapting to emerging challenges related to the use of cryptocurrencies and other digital assets.

In order to reduce illicit financial flows, pursuant to the Concept, a national coordinator for asset recovery has been established. Responsibilities include the development of asset return policy, formation of the legal framework necessary for its implementation and the development of international cooperation. The establishment of such a coordinating body fosters trust and alignment between Kazakhstan's jurisdiction and those of most developed countries with similar institutions.

Alongside the delegation of powers and the introduction of a new coordinating body, joint efforts are being undertaken by relevant government agencies to combat the illegal outflow of capital. A methodology for calculating the volume of illicit financial flows is being developed, with plans for its integration into regular monitoring practices. Centralized collection of statistical data on all seized, frozen, confiscated, and repatriated assets is underway. Additionally, financial monitoring agencies have introduced a register of public officials and their close relatives.

The General Prosecutor's Office analyses data on more than 1,000 properties in Kazakhstan and more than 150 properties abroad. The analysis also covered securities worth ₸600 bn, established more than 200 bank accounts in the country and 140 abroad, suspicious transactions worth about ₸2 tn.

Based on the results of the ongoing work, the commission approved agreements and legal actions for the recovery of assets totalling over ₸325 bn to the state, including ₸272 bn in cash. These funds will be directed towards the implementation of major social and economic development projects.



## *Documentation of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan*

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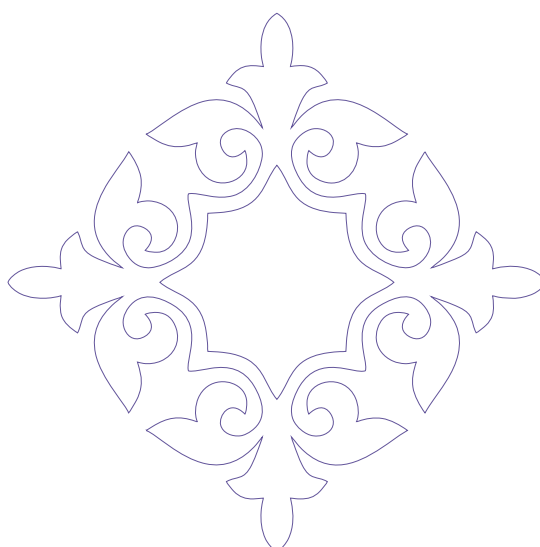
The provision of identity documents is one of the most in-demand and socially significant services. Up to 2 million persons are documented annually at Public Service Centres.

The population documentation service has become more automated: the photographing function is carried out through the information system directly during processing and free of charge. Additionally, the service has incorporated the principle of extraterritoriality meaning that citizens can apply for documents at any Public Service Centre in the country, regardless of their place of residential registration. The online payment service for the government fee is carried out via QR code and directly when submitting an electronic application for a passport and identity card, which in turn reduces service time for the public.

The integration of the documentation system of the Mol with the Ministry of Justice's information system, «ZAGS IS», for obtaining information on civil status records has been completed. Now migration service employees receive all information about changes to personal data from the system, eliminating the need for paper correspondence with civil registry offices to confirm the issuance of documents regarding name changes or other data. It also allows for the identification of forged birth certificates, name changes and other data.

As part of the future improvement of service automation, a project to issue passports and ID cards through terminals is planned. A pilot project for issuing passports and identity cards to citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan through documentation terminals with biometric identification, located in the front offices of the NJSC 'State Corporation 'Government for Citizens', is scheduled to run from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Access to information on obtaining identity documents is considered unrestricted. Citizens of Kazakhstan actively use both paper and digital formats of these documents.





## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2024, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Women's Rights and Child Safety was adopted.
- The contact centre «111» providing assistance on family issues, women's and children's rights is officially established.
- In 2024, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Combating Human Trafficking was adopted.
- The Concept of anti-corruption policy for 2022-2026 was adopted, anti-corruption compliance services were created in state and quasi-state institutions, and the project «Anti-corruption volunteering» was launched.
- A national coordinator for asset recovery was formed, and agreements and claims for the return of assets worth over ₸325 bn to the state were approved.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 16

- The relatively high number of male victims of intentional homicide is 661 per 100,000, compared to 223 per 100,000 for female victims.
- The growing legal awareness of the population is placing on the judicial system, and society is rightly continuing to call for further improvements.
- Kazakhstan ranked 88th out of 180 in Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index, scoring 40 – up from 97th place and a score of 39 in 2023.



## Prospective steps

- Revision of the quality audit system for law enforcement activities.
- Improvement of the system of educational institutions that train personnel for law enforcement agencies.
- Provision of additional measures of social support to law enforcement officers and their families.



## Civil society assessment

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- Kazakhstan has made some progress in the digitalization of public services, making it easier for people to access basic services and documents, especially in urban areas.
- Anti-corruption initiatives and educational programs are being introduced, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been ratified, self-help groups and the National Preventive Mechanism are operating.
- Systemic problems remain, such as issues of judicial independence and limited involvement of individuals in decision-making processes.
- Justice is not sufficiently transparent, the majority of sentences are convictions, access to protection of rights is limited, especially in rural areas and for vulnerable groups.
- To achieve SDG 16 by 2030, it is recommended to establish an independent judiciary, expand civic space, ensure genuine public participation and strengthen anti-corruption measures.



## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

*Kazakhstan implements a multi-vector, pragmatic and proactive foreign policy, which makes a significant contribution to the formation and implementation of the global and regional agenda of security, cooperation and development. With its strategic location in the heart of Eurasia, the republic is actively involved in cooperation with international organizations in a wide range of areas. Kazakhstan's representation in five key international organizations provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate its achievements and initiate new projects in the international arena by strengthening partnerships.*

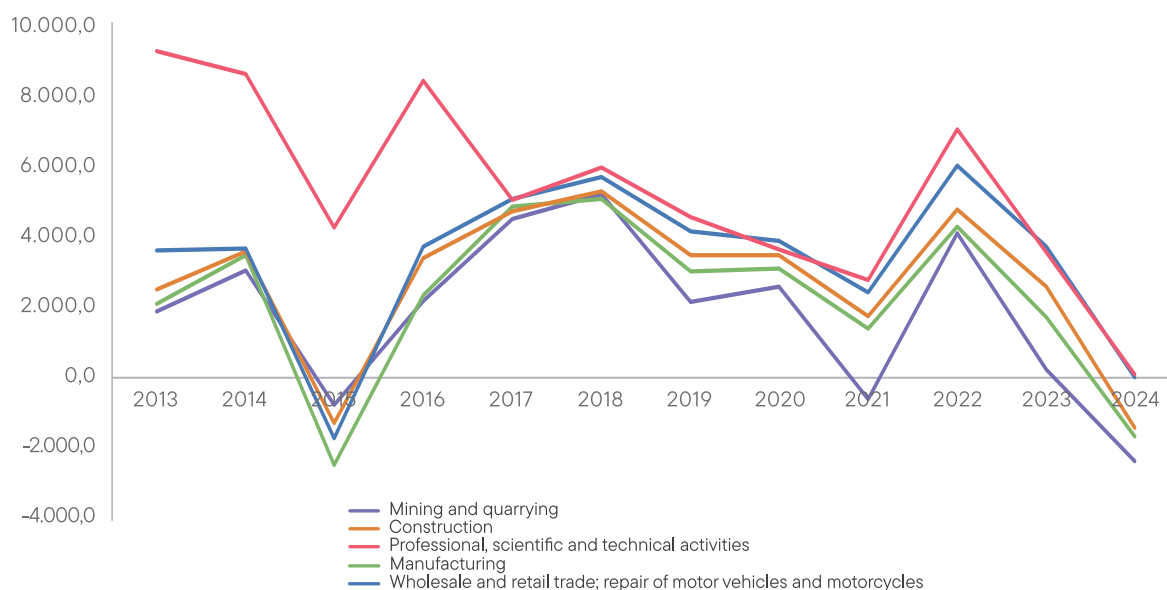
### Mobilizing additional financial resources from a variety of sources

#### **Foreign direct investments, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a percentage of gross national income**

Kazakhstan remains highly attractive for foreign direct investment, with inflows totaling: \$28.1 bn in 2022, \$23.9 bn in 2023, \$17.1 bn in 2024. The main sources of FDI consistently include the Netherlands, the USA, Switzerland, Belgium, Russia, South Korea, China, France, the UK and Germany consistently form the main share of FDI.

In 2024 the net inflow of FDI has a negative value, a trend is associated with a decline in FDI in key sectors of the economy that account for a large share of investment: mining and quarrying industries, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, scientific and technical activities, construction and manufacturing sectors (Figure 59). Trends in the investment environment shows fluctuations with the peak of investment occurring in 2022 for all sectors.

In 2022 the volume of FDI inflows amounted to \$6, 54 bn, which is 1.9 times higher than in the previous year. By sector, a significant share is accounted for by mining and quarrying – \$4,06 bn; manufacturing – \$1.85bn; construction – \$4.94 bn; wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorbikes – \$1.23 bn; professional, scientific and technical activities – \$94.4 mn. FDI attraction declined in the subsequent years and by 2024, this resulted in a negative value.



Source: National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Figure 59. Net inflow of FDI by major economic activity of resident enterprises

The reduction of FDI inflow is related to the global trend caused by economic uncertainty. Globally, the decline was 8 percent and developing countries lost an average of 2 percent. The next reason is the completion of major investment projects in the commodities sector (which accounted for 38% of FDI in 2024), including the completion of the active investment phase of the future expansion project at the Tengiz field.<sup>152</sup>

**Official Development Assistance (ODA)** is recognized as an effective foreign policy instrument both for Kazakhstan and other donor countries. Assistance is prioritized for the development of Afghanistan and the countries of Central Asia. Such provision is carried out within the framework of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Official Development Assistance”.

According to official data, Afghanistan is a priority recipient of aid for Kazakhstan, which has a strong trade interest in accessing nearby high-capacity markets such as Pakistan, India, and the Middle East. Official assistance is being provided in a comprehensive manner, and includes the provision of flour, wheat, sunflower oil, rye, flax seeds; shipments of medicines, fertilizers and rolled products have been stabilized. Export potential of supplies to Afghanistan totalled \$500 mn in the food, petrochemical, metallurgical, light and machine-building sectors. For 2022 the mutual trade turnover between the countries reached \$1 bn and, in the future trade, volumes are projected to reach \$3 bn.<sup>153</sup>

<sup>152</sup> <https://kz.kursiv.media/2025-04-07/zhzh-investotvet/?ysclid=manl23xdug773473716>

<sup>153</sup> <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mti/press/news/details/597308?lang=ru&ysclid=manr550q8s409487650>



In the context of assistance to Central Asian countries, support is noted for projects in agriculture and food security; environmental protection, rational use of natural resources; combating illegal drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, including trafficking in human beings; education and science, health care; improvement of public administration and support for entrepreneurship.<sup>154</sup>

### Volume of remittances (in US dollars) as a percentage of total GDP

Total volume of money transfers conducted through international money transfer systems for 2024 was ₸1.05 tn, which is 21 percent lower than in 2023 (Table 4). 97 percent of all transactions carried out through international money transfer systems without opening an account are cross-border transfers between Kazakhstan and other countries.

Table 4. Remittance flows, 2023-2024

№	Name	2023	2024
1	Aggregate volume of money transfers conducted through international money transfer systems	1,33 tn	1,05 tn
2	Share of cross-border transfers between Kazakhstan and other countries	95%	97%
3	Volume of remittances sent abroad	961,4 bn (72%)	788,9 bn (77%)
4	Average amount of one transfer from Kazakhstan to abroad	373,600	372,200
5	<b>Main remittance-receiving countries:</b>		
	Uzbekistan	27.5%	29.7%
	Russia	25.1%	29.4%
	Turkey	23.1%	19.8%
	Georgia	9.6%	6.8%
	Kyrgyzstan	3.4%	3.7%
6	<b>Main remittance sending countries:</b>		
	Russia	35.3%	26.1%
	USA	11.0%	13.7%
	South Korea	10.7%	10.3%
	Uzbekistan	11.0%	10.0%
7	Turkey Main transfer system: Zolotaya Korona and Western Union	6.4%	8.6%

Source: National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan

<sup>154</sup> <https://informburo.kz/stati/gumanitarnaya-diplomatiya-zacem-kazaxstan-pomogaet-drugim-stranam-razvivatsya?ysclid=mas6gpjx2758941812>





Demand for international money transfer systems, which allow one to send and receive money without having a bank account, is falling. Russia and Uzbekistan are the main remittance-receiving countries, while Turkey, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan receive remittances in relatively smaller proportions. The decline in remittances from Russia to Kazakhstan in 2024 is attributed to the outflow of Russian citizens.

### *Enhancing North-South and South-South cooperation, as well as triangular regional and international cooperation in science, technology and innovation*

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Kazakhstan is strengthening South-South cooperation for sustainable development. In 2023 the fifth Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation was held. The forum was attended by heads of official development assistance agencies from Azerbaijan, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The forum discussed the current challenges and opportunities for co-operation and access to advanced technologies to enhance sustainable development targets, to bridge the digital divide and to consolidate the efforts of operators to provide technical assistance.

**Increasing of science, innovation and technology** on the international arena takes place in cooperation between representatives of the Science Foundation, experts in R&D management with EU governmental organizations, financial agencies and leading European scientific organizations. The collaboration aims to introduce tools, including intellectual property and evaluation methods, to harmonise the R&D system with EU programmes. Domestic scientists took part in the 5th meeting of the national coordinators of the EU Framework Programme. The volume of its financing totalled about Euros 100 bn per year.<sup>155</sup>

### *Ensuring the functioning of the technology bank and the science, technology and innovation development mechanism*

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Kazakhstan has approved priority directions of science development for 2024-2026. The meeting of the Higher Scientific and Technical Commission identified six key areas that will be developed in the coming years.

Among the key topics, particular attention will be focused on the rational use of water resources, preservation of soil quality, energy security, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the development of renewable energy sources. Research will also be supported in construction, mechanical engineering, industry, robotics, artificial intelligence, medicine, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and agricultural product processing.

Kazakhstan was ranked among the top three innovative economies in the Central and South Asia region according to the Global Innovation Index 2023, which is compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organization.<sup>156</sup>

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<sup>155</sup> <https://24.kz/ru/news/social/628376-kazakhstan-es-razvitie-nauki-i-innovatsij>

<sup>156</sup> <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo-pub-2000-2024-exec-en-global-innovation-index-2024.pdf>



## *Supporting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization*

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Within the framework of the WTO, the Republic of Kazakhstan implements measures to develop the trading system aimed at improving access to foreign markets, increasing the competitiveness of domestic goods and services and settling trade disputes. 2024 saw the first Trade Policy Review since the country's accession to the WTO. The review provided an opportunity for WTO members to assess Kazakhstan's trade policy in detail, its transparency and compliance with international standards, and to offer recommendations for further progress.

As a key element of the development strategy, a rapid and comprehensive transition to e-government has been made, and a favourable business environment created. Considerable attention is being paid to upgrading infrastructure on the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, which links China, Kazakhstan and Europe, as a complement to the Northern Corridor (via the Russian Federation), through which more than 80 percent of Kazakhstan's oil is currently exported.

## *Strengthening the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships*

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### **Strengthening partnership within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

In 2024, with the active support of all SCO participants, under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan, the SCO organized about 150 events at various levels, including digital, tourism, energy and business forums, and the SCO Youth Council. The treaty base of the Organization was enriched by 60 new documents, including the Anti-Drug Strategy, the Plan for the Implementation of the Economic Cooperation Strategy, the Agreement on Environmental Protection, the Energy Cooperation Development Strategy and others.

The growth of mutual trade is becoming a general trend, and Kazakhstan's trade with the SCO countries grew by 6.5 per cent by end 2023. Considering that the SCO members possess a solid technological base and an impressive market for the development of all sectors of the economy, the Kazakhstani side has put forward a proposal to establish the SCO Economic Preference Base and to create a single platform for the discussion and approval of investment projects.

Special attention was paid to strengthening cultural and humanitarian ties, a number of anchor projects were launched, including "Spiritual Shrines of the SCO countries", the first international music festival, "SCO Silk Road", and 10 tourist territories were identified for the implementation of joint projects. Almaty has become the cultural and tourist capital of the SCO. Thus, during the year of its Chairmanship, Kazakhstan presented its balanced proposals for transforming the Organization into an even more effective multilateral co-operation mechanism.



### **Strengthening partnership within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States**

Kazakhstan assumed the chairmanship of the Organization of Turkic States in 2023 at the 10th summit of the organization. The presidency was conducted under the motto, “The Turkic Era!” or “TURKTIME!”, which stands for the organization’s eight priorities: traditions, unification, reforms, knowledge, trust, investments, mediation and energy. These priorities are designed for the short- and medium-term, covering a ten-year period until its 20th summit.

During leadership consultationos in the organization, trade and investment cooperation, development of the “green finance market”, development of new energy sources, energy modernization and diversification of transport routes were identified as important objectives. In this regard, an investment fund of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was established at the initiative of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, and the Fund’s effective operation has become a significant step towards deepening the integration of Turkic countries. The main focus of the fund’s work is to support joint projects in various sectors: infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, IT and others. For 2024, the mutual trade turnover exceeded \$45 bn.

During its chairmanship, the organisation has implemented a number of projects and organized more than 80 events. In 2024 Astana hosted the V World Nomad Games, which clearly demonstrated to the world the rich nomadic civilization of the Great Steppe. A historical event was the approval of a unified Turkic alphabet.

### **Strengthening partnerships within the Collective Security Treaty Organisation**

In 2024 Kazakhstan chaired the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO). During the Chairmanship, some 70 events were held in Kazakhstan and other CSTO member states, including joint command-staff exercises to counter extremism, terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal migration; scheduled military exercises, preventive and special CSTO operations were organized; and meetings of the Organization’s subsidiary and working bodies.

In 2024 Astana hosted the main event of the CSTO – the session of the Collective Security Council with the participation of the heads of member states and the Secretaries-General of the CSTO, CIS, and SCO. As a result of the CSTO Summit, a number of documents were adopted aimed at the comprehensive implementation of Kazakhstan’s priorities and the further development of cooperation within the organization. In particular, two protocols were signed to the agreements on the status of formations and assets of the CSTO collective security system and on the transportation of military and other formations, their movable property and military products. Additionally, the CSTO Target Interstate Programme to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border and the CSC Decision on further strengthening allied relations within the CSTO were adopted.



### **Strengthening partnerships within the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia**

From 2022 to 2024 Kazakhstan held the chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). One of the key developments during Kazakhstan's mandate was the development and adoption of a Roadmap for transforming the Conference into a fully-fledged regional international organization in 2022.

The second priority of Kazakhstan's chairmanship was the establishment of the CICA Council on Sustainable inter-connectivity, as well as strengthening Asia's transport and logistics potential. Enhancing counterterrorism cooperation, including through the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the Sixth CICA Summit to support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, also remained among the country's top priorities.

The successful establishment of bilateral consultations between CICA and the Islamic Organization for Food Security during Kazakhstan's chairmanship was of particular importance. The aim was to explore mechanisms for ensuring food security across CICA member states.

In the cultural and humanitarian sphere, 2024 saw the hosting of the CICA Volunteer Leaders' Forum aimed at promoting intercultural understanding and fostering cooperation across the Asian continent. The Kazakh side also took steps to create a partnership network of leading universities from CICA member states to promote cooperation among educational institutions, academic exchange and joint research projects between universities in Asia.<sup>157</sup>

### **Strengthening the role and authority of Kazakhstan in the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea**

From 2024 to 2026 Kazakhstan serves as the Chairman of IFAS. In 2024 the First Board meeting was held, where a detailed Work Plan of 10 directions and more than 40 measures on realization of instructions of the Heads of State-Founders and IFAS President was proposed. Priority directions of the Fund are the further implementation of two large-scale projects: the Action Program on Assistance to the Aral Sea Basin Countries, under which 35 projects are being implemented in the region, and the Regional Programme on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia.

Thus during its chairmanship Kazakhstan intends to deepen cooperation with Central Asian countries and with other international organizations and financial institutions to address the environmental problems identified by the water body.

In addition to the measures taken, the participation of youth in SDG initiatives contributes to their involvement in addressing global challenges.

<sup>157</sup> [https://www.s-cica.org/ru/index.php?view=page&t=forthcoming\\_events&id=2033&ysclid=m9fmr7qrh183362574](https://www.s-cica.org/ru/index.php?view=page&t=forthcoming_events&id=2033&ysclid=m9fmr7qrh183362574)  
[https://www.s-cica.org/ru/index.php?view=page&t=forthcoming\\_events&id=2033&ysclid=m9fmr7qrh183362574](https://www.s-cica.org/ru/index.php?view=page&t=forthcoming_events&id=2033&ysclid=m9fmr7qrh183362574)  
<https://wiedergeburt-kasachstan.de/slyot-liderov-volontyorskikh-dvizhenij-svmda-2024/?ysclid=m9fmrbbbyqd655949013>



## A Youth Perspective

(translated from Russian to English)



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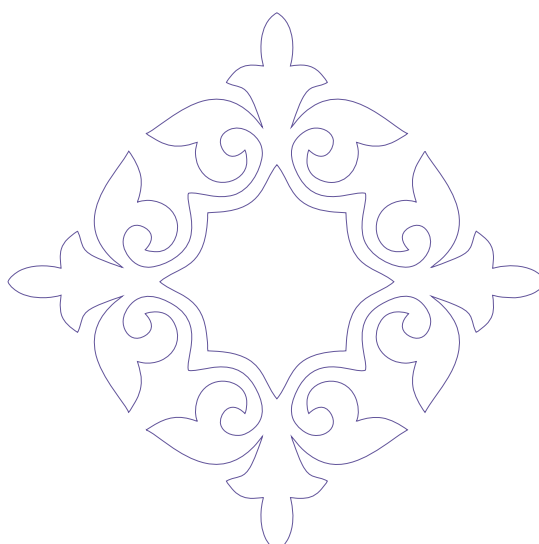
The modern world is changing rapidly and the interconnections between countries is becoming more and more significant and tangible. Global problems, such as environmental disasters, economic crises, poverty and epidemics, are not confined to individual nations. They affect the entire planet, so they require the joint efforts of all humankind. In the current circumstances, mutual assistance between States is not just an act of goodwill, but a necessity for a stable future for humankind.

So why is international co-operation an indispensable tool for solving the world's problems? Above all, it promotes the rational use of resources. Developed countries can provide technology, investment and expertise to help less affluent regions move towards sustainable development. However, inter-State cooperation makes a key contribution to environmental security and political stability, which benefits all regions of the world equally. Many international agreements and initiatives, such as the UN SDGs, have already proven to be effective. Therefore the main task in the future will be to promote the ideas of international mutual assistance and their implementation through the structures of the UN or other organizations. That said, the responsibility to support each other lies not only with States, but also with each one of us. Solving global problems and achieving a stable future is possible only if each person feels responsible for others and is ready to help them unselfishly.

I want to believe that in 20 years' time, international co-operation and mutual responsibility will be the norm. In such a world, poverty, ethnic conflict and environmental problems would be a thing of the past, giving way to lasting co-operation and development. Of course, for this world to stop being a fantasy, it takes a lot of hard work. But if we start embodying the values of charity and mutual aid today, the world will be a little better tomorrow.

Rolan Tuspai, 11th grade student,  
School-gymnasium №8, Almaty city,  
Participant in the national student essay competition

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## Key achievements in 2022–2024

- In 2022 the volume of FDI inflows amounted to \$6.54 mn, which is 1.9 times higher than in 2021.
- 60 new documents were signed within the framework of the SCO chairmanship (2024).
- The investment fund of the Organization of Turkic States was established; the implementation of joint projects in RES, ICT, tourism, agriculture was ensured; and mutual trade turnover – totalled \$45 bn (2024).
- A roadmap for transformation of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia into a full-fledged regional international organization was adopted (2022).
- Initiative to create a university network for scientific cooperation in Asia was launched (2024).
- Kazakhstan chairs the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.



## Key challenges on the path to SDG 17

- Decline in FDI, particularly in the resource sector.
- The need for significant investment in the development and implementation of digital technologies.
- Changes in the international environment and the positions of key countries affecting the sustainability of «North–South» cooperation.
- Reduction in cross-border remittances.



## Prospective steps

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- Engaging international expertise and resources to support structural economic transformation including digitalization, the green transition and the growth of non-resource-based industries.
- Strengthening Kazakhstan's role as a regional hub for ODA and coordinating partnerships in Central Asia and Afghanistan.
- Promoting the restoration and strengthening of trust in international relations based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
- Intensifying the search for comprehensive solutions to regional security issues in Asia, including the promotion of initiatives within the framework of CICA and SCO.
- South-South and North-South cooperation enhanced through multilateral platforms, with the participation of the private sector and international institutions.



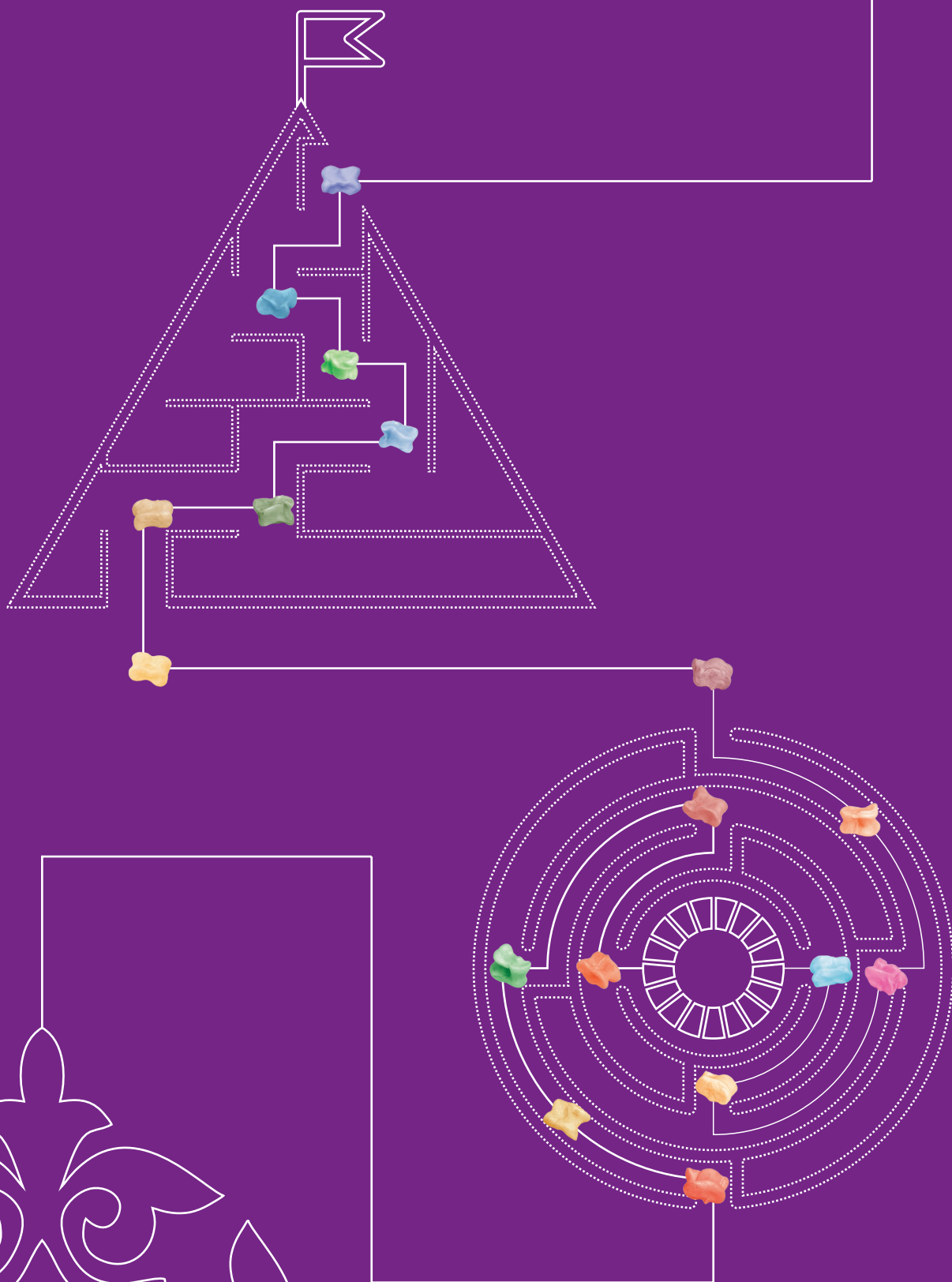
## Civil society assessment

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- Kazakhstan demonstrates commitment to international cooperation: SDG Coordination Council uniting the government, business and NGOs; a Parliamentary Commission for SDG monitoring; partnership with the UN and donors; introduction of digital monitoring tools; and support for green technologies have been established.
- Remaining systemic challenges include low awareness and lack of understanding of the relevance of the Agenda among the population and local authorities, problems with resource mobilization, debt burden and limited access to investment reduce the potential for sustainable development.
- Achieving SDG 17 requires increased civil society participation, transparent monitoring, international support and strengthened institutional collaboration. This goal serves as the foundation for all other SDGs and, in turn, requires strategic efforts from all sectors of society.



## 4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs IN KAZAKHSTAN



Over the past three years, Kazakhstan has strengthened its institutions and tools for achieving the SDGs, launched new strategic initiatives and placed greater emphasis on localizing the goals. Key **achievements** include:

- **Creation of the Parliamentary Commission on the SDGs:** In 2023, Kazakhstan established a special parliamentary commission to monitor the implementation of the national targets on sustainable development under the leadership of the Speaker of the Senate. The Commission has become a platform for dialogue with the participation of parliamentarians, experts, NGOs and international organizations, where key issues are discussed.



Figure 60. First meeting of the Parliamentary Commission on SDG Monitoring

- **Development of SDG monitoring platform for Central Asian countries:** The Economic Research Institute, with UNDP and EU support, has implemented a project on creating a **Digital SDG Platform** for Central Asia. This platform provides an interactive monitoring dashboard that brings together an extensive data set (about 1,500 indicator linkages) enabling to track the progress of countries in the region on the SDGs. The tool visualizes how progress on one goal influences the achievement of others, linking trend analysis with corresponding policies and funding allocations.



Figure 61. Regional discussion of SDG Monitoring Platform results with representatives from Central Asian countries

- **Carbon Neutrality Strategy until 2060:** As part of its contribution to the global climate agenda, Kazakhstan has developed and approved a long-term decarbonization strategy. In February 2023, the President officially approved a **document that** outlines a deep transformation of the economy – from a shift to renewable energy sources and improved energy efficiency to the gradual phase-out of hydrocarbons. The adoption of such a strategy was an important step in the implementation of the SDGs on climate (SDG 13) and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. At the international level, Kazakhstan has thus joined a number of countries committed to achieving **net zero** by the middle of the century, strengthening its leadership in the region on the climate agenda.<sup>158</sup>
- **Updating national SDG indicators, taking into account interlinkages and progress:** In order to adequately track the achievements of the SDGs, Kazakhstan has revised the national list of indicators based on an analysis of the interlinkages between the goals. As a result the national monitoring system has been updated: today it includes 200 indicators, including 25 localized ones.
- **Approval of the methodology for localization of the SDGs and regional indicators:** The principle of "thinking globally – acting locally" is reflected in the development of methodological frameworks for the implementation of the SDGs at the regional level. In 2024 the **SDG localization methodology** was developed and approved, which created the framework for working with SDGs at the local level.
- **The first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of Almaty city:** A landmark achievement was the preparation of the first-ever VLR on the SDGs. In 2023 Almaty became the first Kazakh and Central Asian city to report on achieving the SDGs at the urban level.<sup>159</sup> This step demonstrates a commitment to the principle of localization: the city evaluates its contribution to national goals, compares urban projects with SDG targets, and identifies areas for improvement. In a broader context, Kazakhstan supports the trend of global practices, where dozens of megacities (New York, Tokyo, among others) are already publishing VLRs, strengthening the role of cities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Despite the progress achieved, a number of systemic and institutional problems remain in the implementation of the SDGs in Kazakhstan. The key **challenges** to achieving the SDGs can be grouped as follows:

- **Insufficient disaggregation of certain data:** A lack of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data makes it difficult to monitor the SDGs and formulate effective policies. The National Statistical System does not yet fully provide data on a number of global indicators, especially for vulnerable groups and regions. According to the UN, the lack of access to detailed data is a serious barrier to inclusive policies and reducing inequality.<sup>160</sup> In Kazakhstan, the implementation of the «Leave no one behind» principle is complicated by the limited availability of data on individual social groups such as people with disabilities, rural residents, and others, as well as territorial disparities.

<sup>158</sup> SDGs: Kazakhstan presented interim results for 10 years <https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/economy/press/news/details/903196?lang=ru#>

<sup>159</sup> Almaty will strengthen its position at the international level <https://almatydc.kz/press/news/almaty-usilit-svoi-pozicii-na-mezhdunarodnom-urovne#>

<sup>160</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Country Kazakhstan Year 2021-2025 <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-08/UN%20Sustainable%20Development%20Cooperation%20Framework%202021-2025.pdf#:~:text=government%20agencies29,SDG%20targets%20in%20the%20national>

Despite the expansion of the list of indicators within the framework of the BNS ASPR RK, significant gaps remain. It is necessary to strengthen the capacity to collect and analyse disaggregated data, including the use of modern digital SDG monitoring tools developed jointly with partners, to address these issues.

- **Low awareness of the SDGs among the population:** Most Kazakhstanis still have limited awareness of the 2030 Agenda, which constrains public support and participation. According to global estimates, on average, only from one third to half of the population in different countries have heard of the UN Goals,<sup>161</sup> and Kazakhstan is no exception. The lack of awareness is reflected in the fact that the topics of sustainable development remain abstract to the general public. For example, surveys of youth and NGOs indicate that the term «SDGs» is understood mainly by experts. The lack of a mass understanding of goals leads to passivity – individuals and businesses are not fully involved in achieving them. This challenge is systemic in nature: an active communication campaign is required, the integration of the SDGs into educational programmes and the popularization of successful projects. Raising public awareness will help to mobilize "national" support for the SDGs and strengthen the demand for accountability from the authorities.

The awareness of government agencies is also heterogeneous. An institutional framework for the implementation of the SDGs is being formed at the national level, but knowledge about their content, integration into programmes and monitoring methods remains limited to a number of regions and departments. This makes it difficult for interagency coordination and localization of SDG targets locally.

- **Implementing the principle of «Leave no one behind»:** Despite the stated commitment to inclusive development, its implementation remains a challenge in practice. Social and regional disparities persist: the urban population has better access to services, there is a gender imbalance in employment, and vulnerable groups face barriers.

The situation of girls and women with disabilities, who are more likely to be subjected to violence than men or persons without disabilities, is of particular concern. Their low legal literacy, limited access to information and assistance, and lack of adapted infrastructure make them particularly vulnerable to various forms of violence, exploitation, and deception.

In accordance with article 16 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, member-states are required to take measures to protect themselves from violence, including the establishment of age- and gender-sensitive support systems. However, in Kazakhstan there are no specialized psychological assistance services and helplines with trained specialists able to work with people with disabilities.

Domestic violence prevention programmes rarely address the specific needs of this group, and the lack of information in accessible formats exacerbates their isolation. Women and young people with disabilities often do not have access to knowledge about their rights and protective mechanisms.

<sup>161</sup> What People Know and Think About Sustainable Development <https://sdg-communicator.org/data/#:~:text=Data%20,AESEC%27s%20Youth>



In general, the principle of «Leave no one behind» requires that all segments of society feel the benefits of development. Although support measures are being implemented in the country (for example, targeted assistance, rural programmes), their scope and effectiveness are still limited. The situation is complicated by the lack of disaggregated data – it is difficult to determine exactly who is being "left behind." To promote the principle, it is important to consider the needs of vulnerable groups when planning and removing barriers to their participation in sustainable development.<sup>162</sup>

Kazakhstan is currently in a transitional phase – moving from a fragmented approach towards a more systemic and universal understanding of inclusivity. This requires a review of policies, improved data disaggregation, and the introduction of mechanisms to assess the impact of sustainable development measures on different social groups.

- **The risk of a formal approach under insufficient analysis of progress:** There is a danger that the SDG reporting process will become a formality – an emphasis on ticks and quantitative indicators without a deep understanding of qualitative changes. Such an **imbalance between achievements and problems** is already visible: Kazakhstan deservedly celebrates its successes (growth of positions in the rating, fulfilment of certain indicators), but some pressing issues remain in the shadows. For example, the country's leadership recognized that along with general progress, *"the problems of declining water resources and social inequality remain unresolved"*.<sup>163</sup> Significant challenges remain for a number of SDGs, such as **SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 6 (clean water), SDG 10 (inequality)**, and others, where the indicators are far from the target values. If only positive trends are taken into account in the preparation of national reviews, there is a risk of missing the accumulation of critical gaps. The formal approach is also expressed in the predominance of descriptive reports over analytical ones: measures are implemented, but their effectiveness is not sufficiently analysed. To overcome this challenge, Kazakhstan needs to ensure more **meaningful monitoring** – independent assessments, scientific research on the impact of the measures taken and an open exchange of concerns. International experience (for example, **Peer Review** mechanisms in global forums) shows that a frank analysis of obstacles brings more benefits than embellishing successes. A balance between recognizing achievements and identifying challenges is key to accelerating progress on the SDGs.
- **Insufficient integration of the SDGs into strategic and budgetary planning:** Despite the availability of strategic documents linking national priorities with the SDGs, in practice, the **harmonization of plans and budget with the SDGs** remains on an insufficient level.<sup>164</sup> The Government has a Coordinating Council for the SDGs, and the goals are regularly integrated into strategic documents, but the link to the budget process requires further development. The first VNR (2019) indicated that it is necessary to improve the **logistics and budgeting** of SDG implementation – that is, to provide resources and clear coordination. Similar conclusions follow from

<sup>162</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Country Kazakhstan Year 2021-2025 <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-08/UN%20Sustainable%20Development%20Cooperation%20Framework%202021-2025.pdf#:~:text=government%20agencies29,SDG%20targets%20in%20the%20national>

<sup>163</sup> Kazakhstan Climbs 12 Spots in SDG Index in Three Years <https://astanatimes.com/2023/06/kazakhstan-climbs-12-spots-in-sdg-index-in-three-years/#:~:text=Maulen%20Ashimbayev%2C%20the%20chairperson%20of,are%20yet%20to%20be%20addressed>

<sup>164</sup> Sustainable Development Goals: A Snapshot of Kazakhstan's Progress <https://www.caspianpolicy.org/research/economy/sustainable-development-goals-a-snapshot-of-kazakhstan-progress>

the experience of other countries: without direct allocation of resources for goals and without the inclusion of SDG indicators in the KPIs of government agencies, there remains a gap between declarations and real actions. In Kazakhstan, we may observe that individual SDG projects are funded (for example, climate initiatives), but **budget planning as a whole is not "labeled" under the SDGs**. This creates certain challenges in assessing whether enough funds are being allocated to education, healthcare, and the environment to achieve the target indicators. The solution could be the introduction of SDG *integrated national financing mechanism* (INFM).<sup>165</sup> The task is to link the state budget and regional budgets with the priorities of the SDGs, and to implement monitoring of expenditures and results by goals. Increasing integration will allow Kazakhstan to use resources more efficiently and avoid duplication of efforts, ensuring the sustainability of the results achieved.

Kazakhstan is demonstrating a sustained commitment to the SDGs by strengthening institutional mechanisms and implementing systemic tools, from strategies to monitoring platforms and local reviews. These steps form a solid foundation for further progress and bring the national agenda closer to the global one.

However, in order to move forward confidently, it is necessary to close the remaining gaps: improve the statistical base, raise public awareness, strengthen policy targeting for vulnerable groups, and ensure the real integration of the SDGs into plans and budgets.

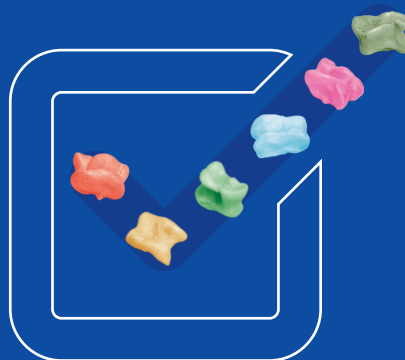
The institutional architecture of SDG implementation has become more holistic and sustainable, including due to the launch of the Parliamentary Commission for Monitoring the implementation of national goals and targets for sustainable development.

In order to effectively localize and organize the monitoring process, an updated list of national SDG indicators was approved, considering the current situation and challenges, and a draft indicator for the regions was also developed.

Strategic documents of long-term and medium-term planning have been adopted, aimed at ensuring sustainable foundations for the development of the country's economy.

The involvement of civil society, business, independent experts and volunteer organizations in the SDG implementation process is growing.

<sup>165</sup> The project to create the Platform for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Central Asia has been completed [https://eri.kz/ru/Celi\\_ustojchivogo\\_razvitija/Sobytiya\\_CUR/id=6613#](https://eri.kz/ru/Celi_ustojchivogo_razvitija/Sobytiya_CUR/id=6613#)



## 5. CONCLUSION AND FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Third VNR of the Republic of Kazakhstan represents an important stage in the revision of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. During the preparation of the Review, the key principles of inclusivity and partnership, the main principle of the implementation of the SDGs, were consistently observed. Special attention was paid to the participation of stakeholders, taking into account gender and age diversity. Realizing that it is today's children and youth who will soon become active participants in the labour market, Kazakhstan has ensured their broad involvement in the process of defining priority goals.

The process of preparing the Review was coordinated by the government apparatus of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The discussion of the draft document at the regional level took place with the active participation of the Ministry of National Economy of RK, as well as akimats of regions and cities of republican significance.

To analyse the current situation, data from government agencies on the implementation of the SDGs, national reports on key areas of the country's development, as well as research results conducted in 2022-2024 by the Economic Research Institute, UN agencies in Kazakhstan, other international and non-governmental organizations were used.

The analysis that was conducted showed that the process of nationalization and localization of the SDGs, which had previously slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been significantly intensified.

Since the second review was presented, Kazakhstan has achieved significant results. The measures taken to implement the SDGs have contributed to a steady and positive trend in the country's socio-economic development.





Progress in achieving national goals is reflected in sustained economic growth, the development of new industries and the improvement of the labour market situation. Thus, in 2024, thanks to the policy of economic diversification, the gross domestic product grew by 4.8 percent. Real GDP per capita increased from 125.5 percent in 2010 to 171.4 percent in 2024 compared to 2005 level.

Measures aimed at promoting employment have helped reduce the unemployment rate from 4.9 percent in 2022 to 4.7 percent in 2024, the lowest in the country's recent history.

According to the World Bank's assessment, Kazakhstan has moved into the category of upper-middle-income countries. This was achieved due to a reduction in the poverty rate from 5.2 percent to 5.0 percent between 2022 and 2024, and to improvements in the population's quality of life.

Despite the progress achieved, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan remains committed to further improving efforts to achieve the SDGs, with a particular focus on sustainability and inclusive development.

Based on the review of the current status of SDG implementation, several priority areas have been identified.

## **1. Accelerating the process of SDG localization**

To enhance coordination at the local level, efforts will continue to establish and ensure the effective functioning of working groups within akimats, involving relevant government departments civil society representatives and the business community. These groups will coordinate the implementation of the SDGs in the relevant areas and monitor progress.

In addition, a list of regional sustainable development indicators is planned for approval, taking into account the unique social and economic characteristics and priorities of each region.

## **2. Improving the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs**

A logical next step in integrating the SDGs into Kazakhstan's state planning system is a systematic analysis of their implementation.

Methodological approaches for monitoring and evaluating progress will be developed, taking into account the specific features of the country's strategic planning framework.

## **3. Increasing public understanding and awareness of the SDGs**

Raising public awareness remains a key mechanism for the effective realization of the SDGs. Efforts in this area will continue to be strengthened going forward.

The possibility of integrating the foundations of sustainable development into educational programs at all levels will be explored.

The mass media's potential will be actively leveraged to broaden public understanding of the SDGs.

Initiatives of NGOs, especially youth and volunteer projects, will also be supported.



#### 4. Creation of a transparent database on contributions from businesses and NGOs

To enable a systematic analysis of the contributions of NGOs and businesses to SDG implementation, it is advisable to establish a dedicated database containing information on activities and financing related to sustainable development. This will increase transparency, allow for the exchange of successful practices, and serve as a basis for including relevant information in regional and national reports.

#### 5. Accelerating the integration of sustainable development principles into budget planning

To enhance the effectiveness of SDG implementation, active measures will be taken to assess opportunities and identify the optimal mechanisms for SDG budgeting – linking each budgetary area to a specific sustainable development goal.

Special attention will be given to gender-sensitive budgeting, which considers the needs of different social groups, regardless of gender, age, vulnerability or other status. The initial step will be the adoption of a methodology for gender budget analysis.

Systematic support and coordination from central government agencies, international organizations and the non-governmental sector remains a key condition for sustainable progress. Consistent implementation of the above steps will allow Kazakhstan not only to achieve tangible results in achieving the SDGs, but also to present a model of sustainable development based on partnership, transparency and responsibility in the international arena.

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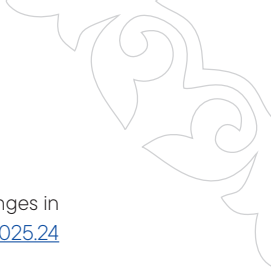
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# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF FORMATION OF THE VNR

## Central government agencies:

- Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- National Center for Human Rights
- Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Civil Service Affairs
- Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Protection and Development of Competition
- Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Industry and Construction of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Enlightenment of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Information and Public Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan

## Local executive bodies:

- Akimat of Astana
- Akimat of Almaty
- Akimat of Shymkent
- Akimat of Akmola region
- Akimat of Aktobe region
- Akimat of Atyrau region
- Akimat of Almaty region
- Akimat of East Kazakhstan region
- Akimat of West Kazakhstan region
- Akimat of Karaganda region
- Akimat of Kostanay region

- Akimat of Kyzylorda region
- Akimat of Mangystau region
- Akimat of Pavlodar region
- Akimat of Zhambyl region
- Akimat of the North Kazakhstan region
- Akimat of Turkestan region
- Akimat of Abai region
- Akimat of Zhetisu region
- Akimat of Ulytau region

## International organizations:

- Office of the Permanent Mission of the United Nations
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN Women in Kazakhstan
- United Nations Office of Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- World Bank's Country Office in Kazakhstan
- Asian Bank's Country Office in Kazakhstan
- Islamic Development Bank's Country Office in Kazakhstan
- Eurasian Development Bank's Country Office in Kazakhstan
- UNESCAP Sub-Regional Office for North and Central Asia
- UNEP Sub-regional Office for Central Asia
- Representative Office of the European Union in the Republic of Kazakhstan
- International Labour Organization in Kazakhstan
- WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- United Nations Volunteers in Kazakhstan
- International Organization for Migration
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Central Asia

## Academic and scientific sector:

- AEO "Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools"
- AEO "Nazarbayev University" (SDSN Kazakhstan)
- Al-Farabi Kazakh National University NJSC
- K.Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University NJSC
- Karaganda Industrial University NJSC
- Abylkass Saginov Karaganda Technical University NJSC
- Sh.Ualikhanov Kokshetau University NJSC
- Semey Medical University NJSC
- Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University NJSC
- Institution "Turan University"
- RSBSE "Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan"
- "National Center for Research and Evaluation of Education "Taldau" named after A.Baitursynuly" JSC
- Kazakh-British Technical University JSC

- Maqsut Narikbayev University JSC (research center MIND)
- Institute of Geography and Water Security JSC
- Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry named after U.U. Usmanov
- Institution “Ahmad Yasawi International Kazakh-Turkish University”
- Educational institution “Alikhan Bukeikhan University”
- Educational institution “Kazakh-German University in Almaty”
- RSI “Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan”
- Kazakhstan Institute of Social Development NJSC
- Foreign Policy Research Institute JSC
- NGO “Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan”
- Institution “Institute of Hydrobiology and Ecology”
- Institution “Central Asia Regional Ecology Center”
- Scientific and Educational Center “Green Academy” LLP

### Quasi-public and private sector:

- Baiterek National Managing Holding Joint Stock Company
- Sovereign Wealth Fund Samruk-Kazyna JSC
- National Company KazMunayGas JSC
- National Company “Kazakhstan Temir Zholy” JSC
- National Company “Kazakhstan Garysh Sapary” JSC
- National Company “Kazakh Invest” JSC
- National Company “Kazakh Tourism” JSC
- Center for Human Resources Development JSC
- Almaty City Development Center JSC
- Center for Support of Civil Initiatives JSC
- Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund JSC
- Qazaqstan Investment Corporation JSC
- Astana International Financial Center
- Industrial Development Fund JSC
- Agrarian Credit Corporation JSC
- Kegoc JSC
- Samruk-Energo JSC
- Zhasyl Damu JSC
- Development Bank of Kazakhstan JSC
- Central Asian Electric Power Corporation JSC
- ArcelorMittal Temirtau JSC
- Aircraft Repair Plant No 405 JSC
- Kamaz Engineering JSC
- S.M.Kirov Plant JSC
- Republican Center for Space Communications JSC
- International Technology Park of IT Startups “Astana Hub” Corporate Fund
- National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Atameken”
- Eurasian Resources Group S.à r.l.
- Tengizchevroil LLP
- Kazakhturkmunay LLP
- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Ost Fish LLP

- Qazaq National Parks LLP
- BEST Vision Technologies LLP
- Yandex.Taxi Corp LLP
- Wolt Technologies Kazakhstan LLP
- Glovo Kazakhstan LLP
- Internet Delivery LLP
- Arbuz Group LLP
- Tengry Tyres LLP
- QazTehna LLP
- Silk Road Electronics LLP
- Primus capital Almaty LLP
- Techno-Karaganda Plant LLP
- Saran Industry LLP
- OptimTech LLP
- Agrofirma Akzhar Ondiris LLP
- Turar LLP
- Kazygurt Intellectual School LLP
- Maker-KLMZ LLP
- Southwestern Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and Crop Production LLP
- Santechprom LLP
- Dezinfectsiya LLP
- "Karaganda Machine-Building Plant named after Parkhomenko" LLP
- Kazprom Avtomatika LLP
- KMG Engineering LLP
- KZ Recycling LLP
- Kazakhmys Smelting LLP
- Novo-Prirechnoye LLP
- Kuanysh LLP
- Kyzyl Kazak LLP
- Sayushkin LLP
- Petropavlovsk Electrotechnical Plant LLP
- Biny Holding Ltd. Private Company
- Farm "Murat"

### Political parties, non-governmental organizations, and independent experts:

- Republican Union of Trade Unions "Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic of Kazakhstan"
- Republican Public Association "National Alliance of Professional Social Workers"
- Association of Individual Entrepreneurs and Legal Entities "National Association Qazaq-Oner"
- Samruk-Kazyna Trust Corporate Fund
- PF "Sustainable Rural Development Fund"
- PF "Kameda"
- PF "Executive Directorate of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in Kazakhstan"



- PF "Vostochnaya molodezh"
- PF "Osobennyi mir"
- PF "Assotsiatsiya intellektualnoy molodezhi"
- PF «Roditeli detey s narusheniem razvitiya»
- PF "Sustainable Development of Katon-Karagay district"
- PF "Meirimdi zhol"
- PF "Mangystau zhergilikti bastama ortalygy"
- PF "Parasatty urpak ushin"
- PF "Yel senimi"
- NGO "Istok balalar zhane zhastar shygarmashylyk ortalygy"
- PF "Kulturnyi fond imeni Nurpeyisa Baiganina, narodnogo akyna Kazakhstana"
- ALE "Kazakhstan Association for Waste Management "KazWaste"
- ALE «Association for the Development of Civil Society «ARGO»
- ALE "Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan"
- NPO "Chapter Zero Kazakhstan"
- NPJSC "Kazakhstan Agency for International Development "KazAID"
- NPJSC "National Hydrogeological Service "Kazhydrogeology"
- Public Association "AMANAT Party"
- NGO "Center for Public Diplomacy"
- NGO Karaganda Regional Ecological Museum
- NGO "Kazakhstan Sectoral Trade Union of Healthcare Workers "Aqniet"
- NGO "Assotsiatsiya bezopasnosti dorozhnogo dvizheniya "Obshchaya doroga"
- NGO "Rukh Til Zhangyru"
- NGO "Zhenskii Luch"
- NGO "The Last Hope"
- NGO "Aral Oasis"
- Public Association "Sos Taldykol"
- NGO "Obshchestvo invalidov Ostrov Nadezhdy"
- ALE "Association of Environmental Organizations of Kazakhstan"
- ALE "Coalition for "Green Economy" and development G-Global"
- ALE "National Volunteer Network"
- ALE "Almaty Azamattyq Alliance"
- IPO "Soltustik Festival"
- Public Student Association "Qazaqstannyn bolaşaqtaǵy zhastar kozgalysy"
- Civil movement "Save the Caspian Sea"
- Nationwide Volunteer Project "Birgemiz"
- Analytical portal "Central Asia Cronos"
- Project "Platform for Management of Water Resources and Climate Change in Central Asia"
- Project "ZHANARTU - Enhancing the role of associations of pasture users and their associations for the effective organization of new forms of local self-government and the sustainability of the pasture system in the Almaty region", funded by the European Union
- The Altyn Dala Environmental Initiative is a partnership between the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, the Government of Kazakhstan, representatives of fauna and flora, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.





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