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ABOUT MIGRATION TRACKING MATRIX

Migration Tracking Matrix (MTM) is a system based on the IOMs Global Displacement tracking matrix - DTM, and is aiming to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. MTM collects and analyzes information about mobility and vulnerabilities of displaced and mobile populations. This system allows to systematically grasp and spread the better context and information on the needs of these populations to key decision makers.

OBJECTIVES

Quarterly migration reports provide government and key stakeholders with the data appropriate for policy-making on migration patterns, including the data on migration flows estimates. Relevant information can inform key actors about trends related to mobility solutions, fragility, vulnerabilities, and other areas of interest.

This quarterly report is dedicated to the second quarter of 2023. It is designed to demonstrate the updates on the most recent migration developments and trends in Kazakhstan. These updates include information on migration flow, number of temporary residence permits, issued visas, and volume of remittances.

METHODOLOGY

The quarterly report is developed by combining secondary data obtained from the different sources, including government agencies, international organizations, non-profit entities, and other types of organizations. More specifically, the report on the second quarter of 2023 was derived from data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Bureau of National Statistics, and Border Service of Kazakhstan. The data was compiled through a combination of published sources and direct requests to the partners and government agencies.

1. LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

In May 2023, The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on mutual exemption from visa requirements was signed in Xi'an during the visit of the President of Kazakhstan to China¹. During the visit of the President of Kazakhstan to China, an agreement on the exchange of information regarding their citizens was signed by the two countries.

The draft resolution on approval of the rules for determining temporary settlement points during a massive influx of asylum seekers, reception and placement was developed in accordance with paragraph 92 of Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 19 April, 2023 "On introducing amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on issues of administrative reform in the Republic of Kazakhstan"². The purpose of adopting the draft is to introduce a mechanism to identify points of temporary settlement in case of mass influx of asylum seekers, reception and accommodation.

The order of the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Kazakhstan on the voluntary resettlement of persons to increase labour mobility" was developed in April 2023 in connection with the adoption of the Social Code of Kazakhstan³. The Social Code provides for the inclusion of employers to participate in measures to promote voluntary resettlement.

¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Decree "On the Agreement between Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China"

² Ministry of Labour and Social protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Decree "On introducing amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on issues of administrative reform in the Republic of Kazakhstan"

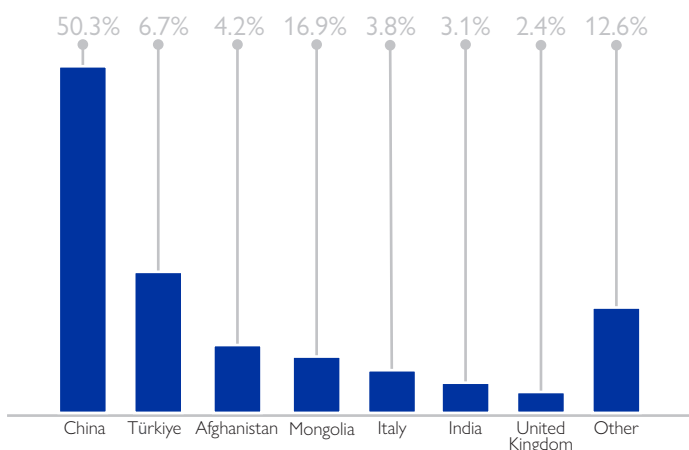
³ Ministry of Labour and Social protection of Population, Decree "On approval of the Rules for voluntary resettlement of persons to increase labour mobility"

2. MIGRATION FLOWS

2.1. OVERVIEW

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a total of 1,653 visas were issued in the second quarter of 2023. Majority of visas were issued for the nationals of China (50.3%), Türkiye (16.9%), Afghanistan (6.7%), Mongolia (4.2%), Italy (3.8%), India (3.1%), and the United Kingdom (2.4%), and for other nationals (12.6%)⁴.

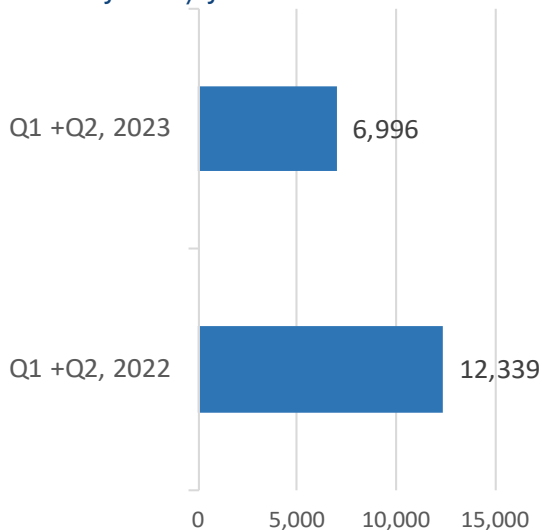
Visas issued in the second quarter of 2023 (in %)



2.2. MIGRATION OUTFLOW

According to the Bureau of Nationals Statistics, in the first half of 2023, the number of departures in the country was of 6,996 people. Compared to the same period in 2022, the number of departures from Kazakhstan decreased by 56.7% (equal to 12,339 departures)⁵.

The comparison of migration outflow, January-June 2022 and 2023



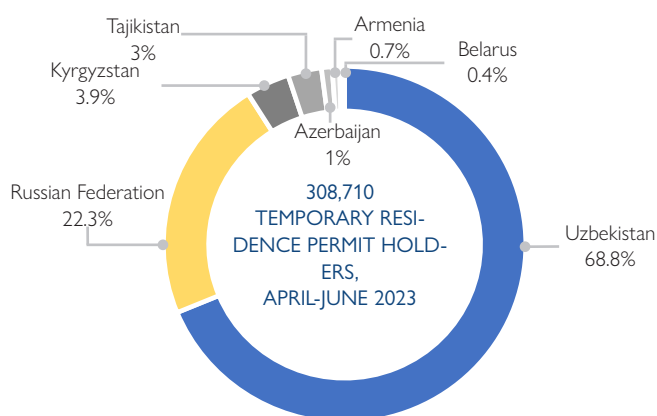
⁴ Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2023

⁵ Bureau of National Statistics, 2023

2.3. TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS

According to the Migration Service Committee, in Q2 of 2023, 308,710 individuals received the temporary residence permits in Kazakhstan. Majority of them were nationals of Uzbekistan (68.8%), the Russian Federation (22.3%), Kyrgyzstan (3.9%), Tajikistan (3%), Azerbaijan (1%), Armenia (0.7%) and Belarus (0.4%)⁶.

Temporary residence permits, April-June 2023



The number of temporary residence permits in Q2 of 2023 increased by almost four times compared to Q1 of the same year (equal to 82,000 of temporary residence permits). The total number of temporary residence permits for the first half of 2023 is 390,710⁷.

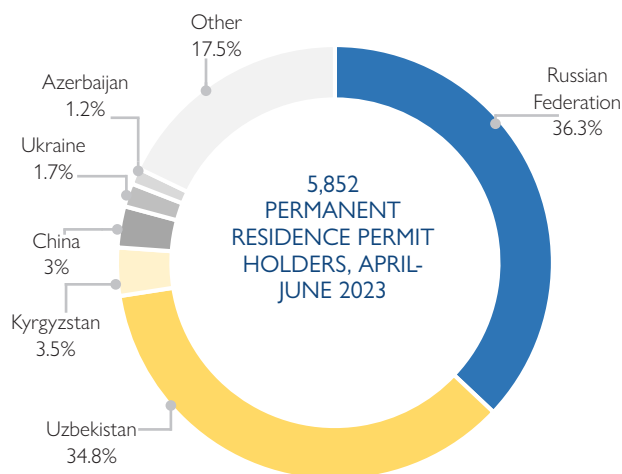
⁶ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2023

⁷ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2023

2.4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS

According to the Bureau of National Statistics, in Q2 of 2023, 5,852 residence permits were issued. The majority of permanent residence holders were nationals of the Russian Federation (36.3%), Uzbekistan (34.8%), Kyrgyzstan (3.5%), China (3%), Ukraine (1.7%), Azerbaijan (1.2%), and of other nationalities (17.5%)⁸.

Permanent residence permits, April-June 2023

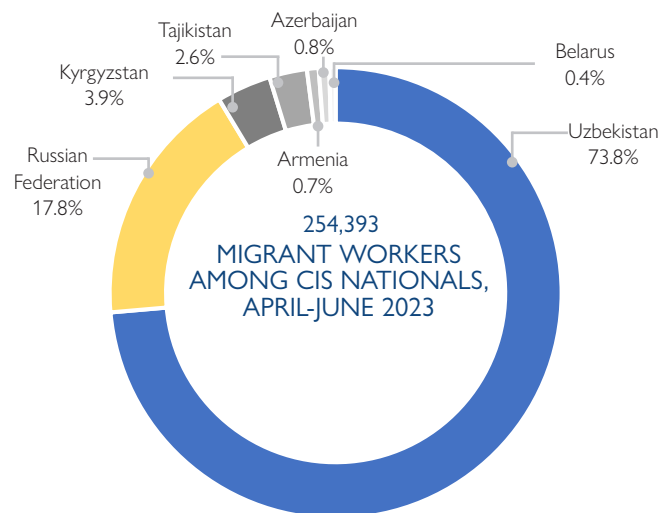


In the first half of 2023, 13,652 permanent residence permits were issued in Kazakhstan. The number of permanent residence permits issued in the first half of 2023 increased by 87.3 percent compared to the same period in 2022 (7,289 permits)⁹. Compared with Q1 of 2023, the number of issued residence permits decreased by 25 percent in April-June 2023, from 7,800 in Q1 to 5,852 in Q2¹⁰.

2.5. LABOUR MIGRATION

The Migration Service Committee recorded a total of 254,393 migrant workers among Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) nationals. Majority of officially registered migrant workers included nationals of Uzbekistan (73.8%), the Russian Federation (17.8%), Kyrgyzstan (3.9%), Tajikistan (2.6%), Azerbaijan (0.8%), Armenia (0.7%), and Belarus (0.4%)¹¹.

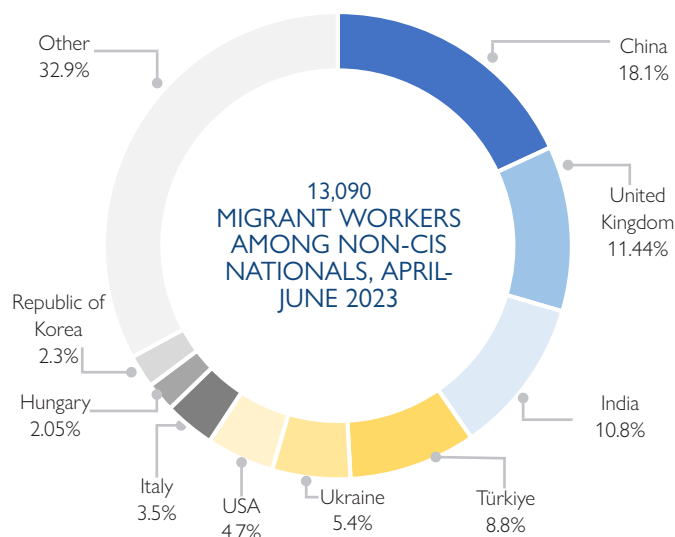
Migrant workers among CIS nationals
April-June 2023



The number of registered migrant workers among CIS nationals in the Q2 of 2023 increased by almost four times compared to Q1 of the same year (equal to 63,400 migrant workers). The total number of registered migrant workers among CIS nationals for the first half of 2023 is 317,793¹².

According to the National Security Committee, 13,090 non-CIS nationals arrived for labour migration in Q2 of 2023. Majority of them were nationals of China (18.1%), the United Kingdom (11.44%), India (10.8%), Türkiye (8.8%), Ukraine (5.4%), the USA (4.7%), Italy (3.5%), Hungary (2.05%), the Republic of Korea (2.3%), and of other countries (32.9%)¹³.

Migrant workers among non-CIS nationals,
April-June 2023



⁸ Bureau of National Statistics, 2023

⁹ Bureau of National Statistics, 2023

¹⁰ Bureau of National Statistics, 2023

¹¹ Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2023

¹² Migration Service Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2023

¹³ National Security Committee, 2023

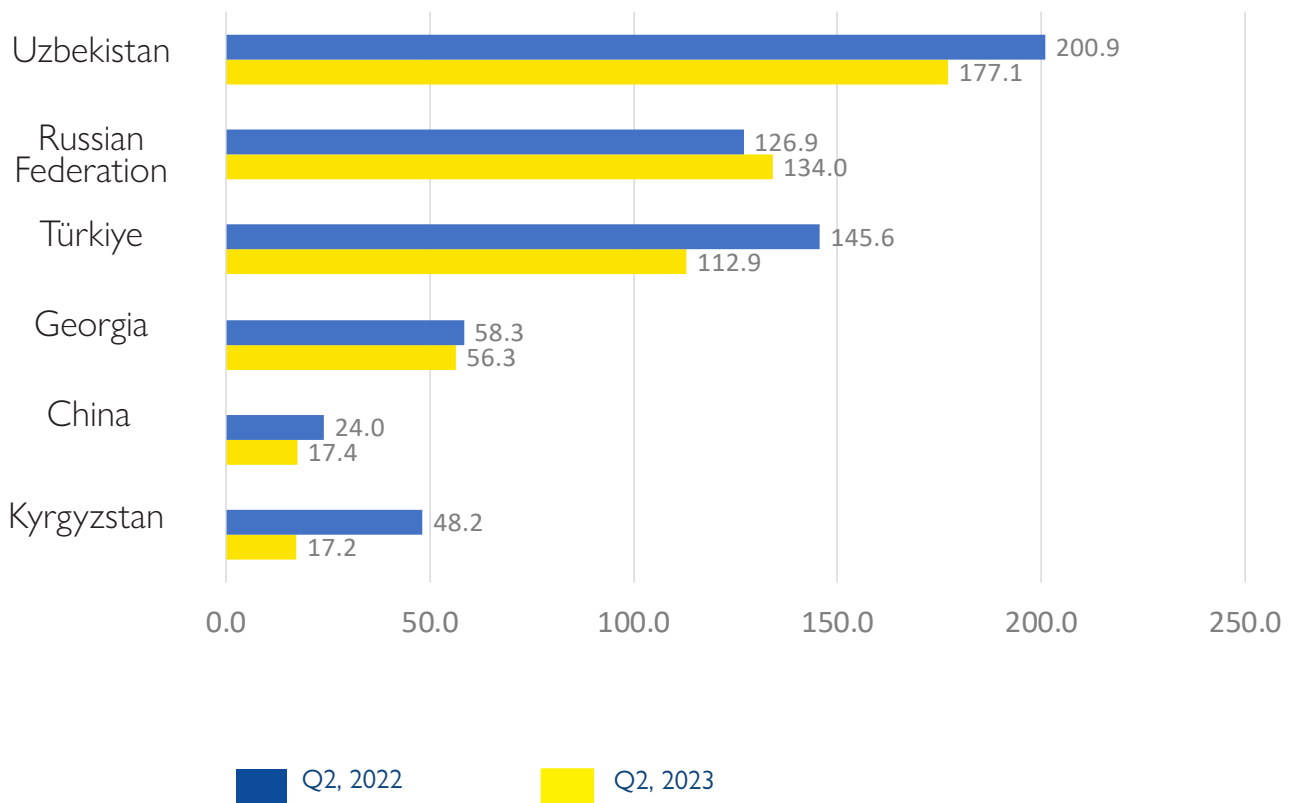
3. REMITTANCES

The volume of remittances outflow sent from Kazakhstan during Q2 2023 is estimated to be over 253.8 billion KZT (or 558.36 million USD): 76.4 billion KZT (168.08 million USD) in April, 89.9 billion KZT (197.78 million USD) in May and 87.5 billion KZT in June (192.50 million USD)¹⁴.

In the Q2 of 2023, remittances outflows from Kazakhstan increased by 38.76 percent (equal to 70.9 billion KZT) compared to Q1 of 2023 (182.9 billion KZT). Compared to the same period of 2022 (306.3 billion KZT/673.86 million USD), the volume of remittances outflow from Kazakhstan (253.8 billion) has decreased by 17.14 percent¹⁵.

In terms of remittances outflows from Kazakhstan in Q2 of 2023, the highest amount was transferred to Uzbekistan (80.5 billion KZT or 177.10 million USD), followed by the Russian Federation (60.9 billion KZT or 133.98 million USD), Türkiye (51.3 billion KZT or 112.86 million USD), Georgia (25.6 billion KZT or 56.32 million USD), China (7.9 billion KZT or 17.38 million USD), and Kyrgyzstan (7.8 billion KZT or 17.16 million USD)¹⁶.

The comparison of remittances outflow from Kazakhstan in Q2 2022 and Q2 2023 (USD million)



¹⁴ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, April-June 2023

¹⁵ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, April-June 2023

¹⁶ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, April-June 2023

3. REMITTANCES

In Q2 of 2023, Kazakhstan received 296 thousand transactions worth 80.9 billion KZT (or 177.98 million USD) through money transfer systems: 26.3 billion KZT (57.86 million USD) in April, 28 billion KZT (61.60 million USD) in May and 26.6 billion KZT (58.52 million USD) in June¹⁷.

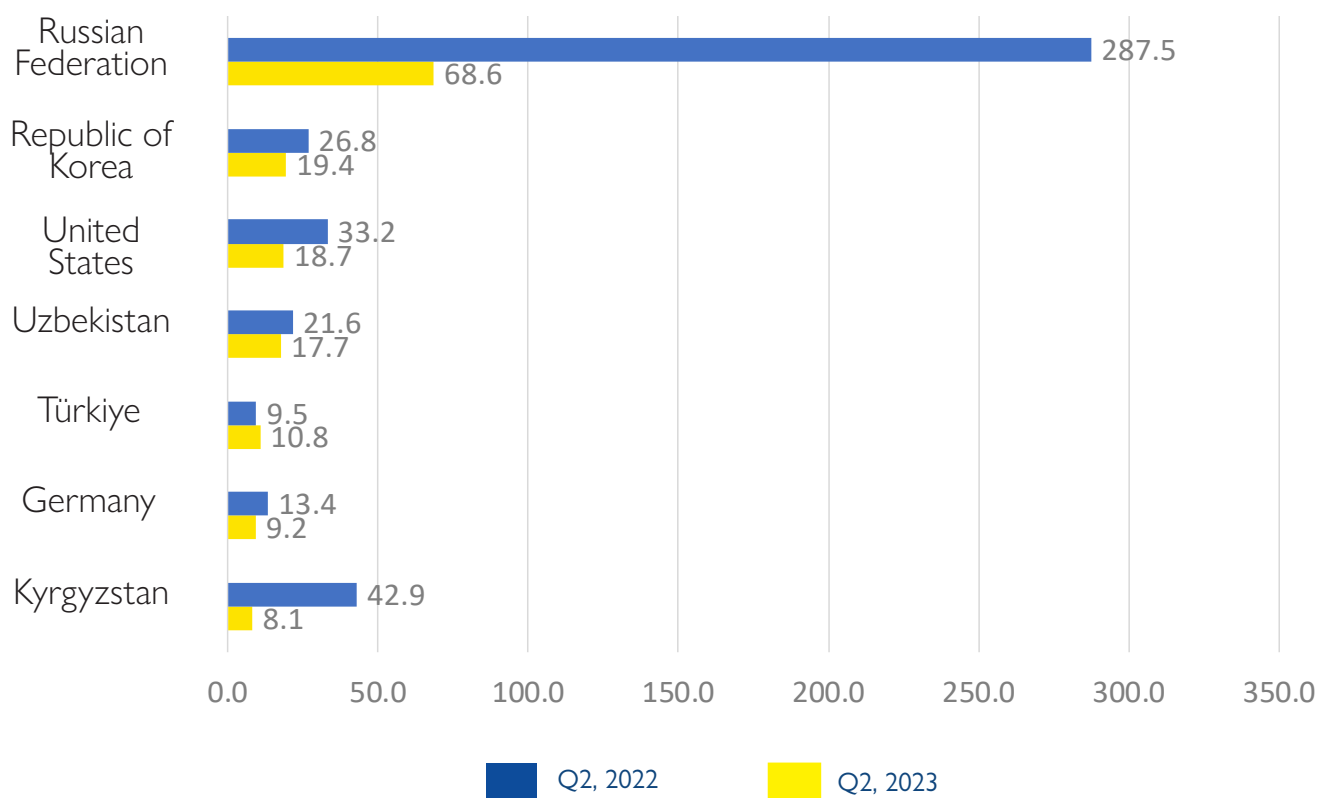
The majority of remittances inflow was received from the Russian Federation (31.2 billion KZT or 68.6 million USD), followed by the Republic of Korea (8.8 billion KZT or 19.4 million USD), the USA (8.5 billion KZT or 18.7 million USD), Uzbekistan (8.06 billion KZT or 17.73 million USD), Türkiye (4.9 billion KZT or 10.8 million USD), Germany (4.2 billion KZT or 9.24 million USD), Kyrgyzstan (3.69 billion KZT or 8.12 million USD), and other countries.

REMITTANCES

Compared to the same period of 2022 (213.5 billion KZT), Q2 of 2023 demonstrated a decrease in the volume of remittances inflow by 62.11 percent¹⁸.

Compared to the same period of 2022, the volume of remittances inflow and outflow decreased in Kazakhstan. After the start of the Russian war in Ukraine in February 2022, the migrant inflow from the Russian Federation to Kazakhstan increased rapidly and began to decrease throughout the year, as majority of Russian migrants left Kazakhstan¹⁹.

The comparison of the remittances sent to Kazakhstan, Q2 2022 and Q2 2023 (USD million)



¹⁷ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, April-June 2023

¹⁸ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, April-June 2023

¹⁹ The National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, International Money Transfer System Report, April-June 2022

4. TRAINING AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

On April 5-6, 2023, a two-day online training on migration data was organized with the participation of local authorities from the Akimats and police departments. The program, organized by IOM Central Asia with the support of SDC, is aimed to enhance understanding of the topic of migration data and improve the ability to effectively collect, analyze, and utilize it. The training program covered various aspects of migration data and was conducted by national MTM consultants²⁰.

On April 12, 2023, the regional project "Assistance to the governments of Central Asian states in the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM)" was officially launched²¹.



On June 8-9, IOM took part in the panel sessions at the AIF fields in Astana, Kazakhstan. In the questions and answers session moderated by Ms. Afaf Saoudi (Al Jazeera) Dr. Jaime Calderon, Regional Migration and Health Specialist at the IOM Regional Office in Vienna covered key points essential to safeguarding migrants' and communities' health²².

On June 16, IOM in Kazakhstan, the NGO "Korgau Astana", and Kazpost JSC conducted financial literacy Training for Migrants. The training was conducted as part of the ongoing project "Labor Migration Program - Central Asia, Phase I", funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)²³.

On June 19, Kazpost and the International Organization for Migration in Kazakhstan signed an agreement of mutual understanding. The purpose of this agreement is to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and further digitalization of money transfer services for migrants and their families²⁴.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Quarterly report on migration situation in Kazakhstan demonstrates the following trends:

- in Q2 of 2023 the majority of visas in Kazakhstan were issued for the nationals of China and Türkiye;
- citizens of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation, and other CIS nationals continue to constitute the majority of migrant workers in Kazakhstan. From non-CIS countries, citizens of China outnumber other countries in migration flows in this quarter. Following the agreement between Kazakhstan and China on the exemption of visa regime, there is a high probability that this tendency will continue in 2023;
- compared to Q2 of 2022, the volume of remittances inflow and outflows have decreased in April-June 2023. However, the Russian Federation continues to be the leading country for sending remittances to Kazakhstan, as it was in 2022.

6. KEY TERMS

Migrant worker: a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.

Migrant flow (international): the number of international migrants arriving in a country (immigrants) or the number of international migrants departing from a country (emigrants) over the course of a specific period.

Labour migration: movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment.

**The definitions are used in conformity with IOM Glossary on Key Migration Terms and that the key terms above are used for operational purposes for this specific exercise ²⁵.*

²⁰ IOM Kazakhstan, 2023

²¹ IOM Kazakhstan, 2023

²² IOM Kazakhstan, 2023

²³ IOM Kazakhstan, 2023

²⁴ IOM Kazakhstan, 2023

²⁵ Glossary on Migration. International Migration Law No. 34, IOM, Geneva

The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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