SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024

FIRST EDITION

MNU

MIND
MAQSUT NARIKBAYEV UNIVERSITY

СЕНАТ
ПАРЛАМЕНТА
РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН

AQMOLA
REGION

PUBLIC REPORT of MIND Accelerator on UN Sustainable Development Goals

August 2024

IMPACT

INNOVATIVE MEASURES AND PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS IN CAPACITY TRANSFORMATION

2024

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Acknowledgments

The “SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024” is the culmination of the 100-day MIND Accelerator program, aimed at achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This collective effort has brought together the contributions of numerous industry experts, representatives of government agencies, private companies, and civil society organizations, whose input has been invaluable.

We express our gratitude to the leadership and members of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan for their unwavering support of sustainable development at the national level. Their involvement has played a key role in aligning the project's overall efforts with the national and global agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals.

We would like to specifically acknowledge the contribution of the leadership and experts of the UN Coordinator's Office in Kazakhstan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Their active collaboration helped to define the project's strategic directions and ensure a high level of stakeholder participation.

It is also important to emphasize the significant role of the Akmola Region leadership, thanks to which the sustainable agenda was successfully implemented at the regional level.

Maqsut Narikbayev University and its MIND Applied Research and Analytical Center served as the primary driving force behind the project. Their commitment to innovation and research excellence enabled the project to achieve a high level of practical significance.

We are grateful to “Kazzinc Corporation” and “Eurasian Resources Group” (ERG) for their financial support, which demonstrates their commitment to Kazakhstan's sustainable development.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the energy, enthusiasm, engagement, and proactiveness of our volunteers – members of the research and development teams. Their commitment to the values of sustainable development is undoubtedly at the heart of this project's success.

We gratefully welcome any feedback and suggestions that will help improve the report in the future and will be a valuable contribution to achieving the United Nations' global agenda.

Executive Summary

This report examines Kazakhstan's progress in achieving key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of the 100-day MIND accelerator program, eight research and development teams conducted an analysis of existing gaps between the current and desired state of progress towards achieving six SDGs. The teams' efforts were focused on areas such as healthcare, education, economic growth, sustainable settlements, the quality of the legislative process, and effective local governance.

Under the mentorship of members of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, eight research and development teams working on six SDGs developed proposals to improve legislation. The teams, with the support of the Akmola Region administration, actively engaged with representatives of government agencies, businesses, and civil society to test research hypotheses and pilot initiatives.

KEY FINDINGS:

BSDG 3 "Good Health and Well-being": The penitentiary system faces persistent healthcare challenges, including unequal access to medical services and a shortage of specialists.

SDG 4 "Quality Education": Despite national support for gifted students, significant regional disparities in education levels persist in rural areas.

SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth": **Initiatives in rural tourism** and agriculture have potential but face infrastructure difficulties and insufficient coordination.

SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities": Closer coordination between government agencies and local communities is necessary for the development of creative hubs and participatory budgeting mechanisms.

SDG 13 "Climate Action": A systemic approach and the development of effective policies are required to achieve climate neutrality, including financial investment, technological innovation, and the formation of sustainable partnerships.

SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions": There is a need to improve the legislative process, including regulatory impact analysis and expanding communication channels with stakeholders for the coordination of legislative acts. Systematic measures are necessary to further improve anti-corruption legislation and enhance the role, status, and effectiveness of local representative bodies – Maslikhats.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Healthcare:** Increase investments in healthcare infrastructure in rural areas and penitentiary institutions within the next year to reduce the shortage of medical personnel by 2025 and improve the quality of medical services.
- **Education:** Facilitate the modernization of school infrastructure in rural areas, enhance teacher training, and implement continuous professional development programs for educators to reduce regional disparities.
- **Economic Growth:** Work to improve transportation and digital infrastructure in rural areas to support tourism and agricultural development, and strengthen coordination between government agencies.
- **Sustainable Cities:** Expand the involvement of local communities in projects related to the development of creative hubs and participatory budgeting, and raise public awareness to encourage more active participation.
- **Climate Agenda:** Strengthen measures to address the threat of climate change, enhance the country's ability to cope with the consequences of climate change through financial investment, technological breakthroughs, and the formation of sustainable partnerships at the national level.
- **Governance:** Continue working on legislative reforms to improve the quality of the legislative process, enhance anti-corruption measures, and strengthen the role of Maslikhats – local representative bodies of government.

Without the implementation of these proposed measures, Kazakhstan risks slowing its progress towards achieving the SDGs. For sustainable development and the realization of the 2030 Agenda goals, all stakeholders must work together to address the identified challenges.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

JSC	–	Joint Stock Company
RIA	–	Regulatory Impact Assessment
PIB	–	Participatory Budgeting
NBS	–	National Bureau of Statistics
GDP	–	Gross Domestic Product
VSAT	–	Share of Gross Value Added Directly in Tourism
GVA	–	Gross Value Added Created in Tourism Sectors
HEI	–	Higher Education Institution
GIS	–	Geographic Information Systems
STEM	–	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
EU	–	European Union
LRI	–	Institute of Legislation and Legal Information
IIN	–	Individual Identification Number
IS	–	Information Systems
CI	–	Creative Industry
NSC	–	National Security Committee of Kazakhstan
LC	–	Large Cattle
CTO	–	Capital Current Review
PEC	–	Penitentiary Executive Committee
MIA	–	Ministry of Internal Affairs
IWG	–	Interdepartmental Working Group on Road Safety Issues
MOH	–	Ministry of Health
MDPR	–	Ministry of Information and Public Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MADO	–	Monitoring of Educational Achievements of Learners (MADO) – 2023
SMB	–	Small and Medium Businesses
M&E Base	–	Material and Technical Base
MLSS	–	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population
NJSC	–	Non-Commercial Joint Stock Company
NIT	–	National Information Technologies
NGO	–	Non-Governmental Organization
NED	–	National Educational Database
LRA	–	Legal Regulatory Act
NCEML	–	National Center for Expertise in Medicines
UN	–	United Nations
SHI	–	Mandatory Social Health Insurance
OECD	–	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RK	–	Republic of Kazakhstan
SMS	–	Social Health Insurance
MSM	–	Mainstream (mass) media
SPC	–	Agricultural Production Cooperative
MSW	–	Municipal Solid Waste
TOR	–	Terms of Reference
LLP	–	Limited Liability Partnership
PEC	–	Penitentiary Executive System
CC	–	Criminal Code
FAP	–	Feldsher-Obstetric Point
SDGs	–	Sustainable Development Goals
UNESCO	–	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
COVID-19	–	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CO_2	–	Carbon Dioxide
ERG	–	Eurasian Resources Group
GAP- analysis	–	A method of strategic analysis used to identify steps to achieve a given goal
IMPACT	–	Innovative Measures and Project Achievements in Capacity Transformation
ISO	–	International Organization for Standardization
KPI	–	Key Performance Indicators
MIND	–	Maqsut Narikbayev Institute for Network and Development
PhD	–	Doctor of Philosophy degree or other specialties not related to philosophy
SMART	–	An approach to goal setting that helps to choose a formulation of the desired result: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound

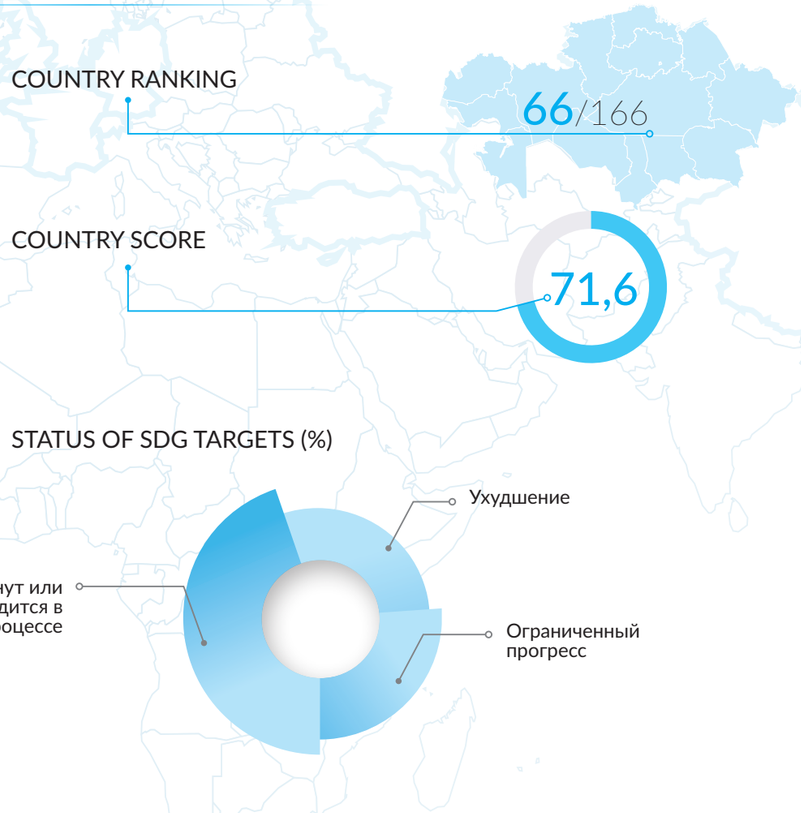
SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024

PART I.

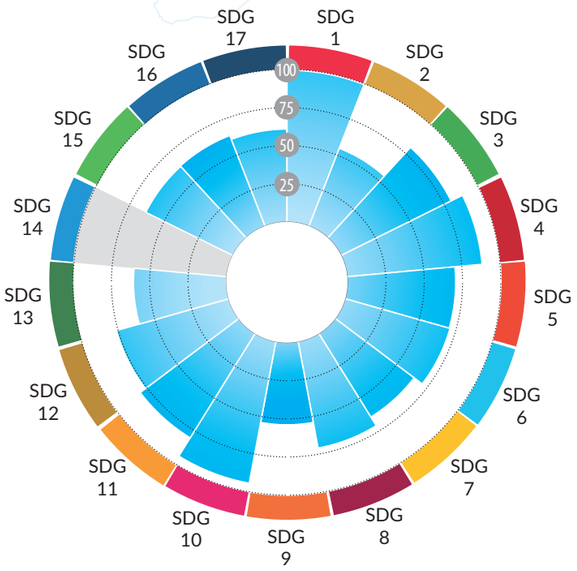
KAZAKHSTAN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1.1 Kazakhstan and Sustainable Development

• OVERALL PERFORMANCE

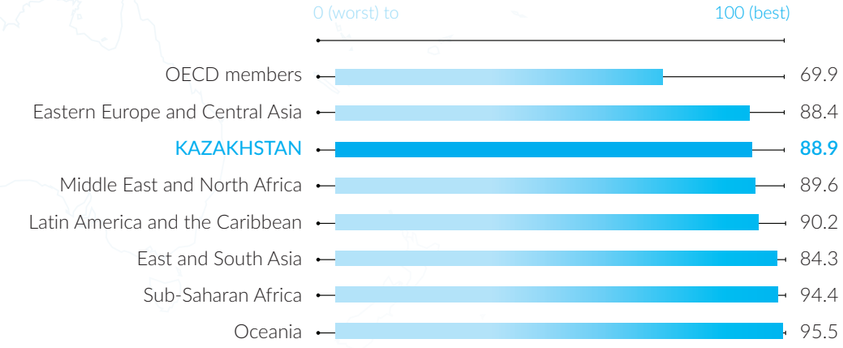


• AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



• SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

• INTERNATIONAL SPILLOVER INDEX



• STATISTICAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

• MISSING DATA IN SDG INDEX

2%

	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
SDG1 – No Poverty				
Poverty headcount ratio at $2.15/day (2017 PPP, %)	0.6	2024	●●	↑
Poverty headcount ratio at $3.65/day (2017 PPP, %)	0.9	2024	●●	↑
SDG2 – Zero Hunger				
Prevalence of undernourishment (%)	2.5	2021	●●	↑
Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age (%)	8.0	2015	●●	●
Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age (%)	3.1	2015	●●	●
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% of adult population)	18.4	2022	●●	↓
Human Trophic Level (best 2–3 worst)	2.4	2021	●●	↓
Cereal yield (tonnes per hectare of harvested land)	1.4	2022	●●	→
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index (best 0–1.41 worst)	0.8	2018	●●	→
Exports of hazardous pesticides (tonnes per million population)	NA	NA	●	●
SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being				
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	13.4	2020	●	→
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	4.7	2022	●	↑
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	9.7	2022	●	↑
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	78.0	2022	●	→
New HIV infections (per 1,000 uninfected population)	NA	NA	●	●
Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease in adults aged 30–70 years (%)	22.4	2019	●	↑
Age-standardized death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	83	2019	●	●
Traffic deaths (per 100,000 population)	12.2	2021	●	↑
Life expectancy at birth (years)	69.4	2021	●	↓
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19)	19.7	2022	●	↑
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.9	2018	●	●
Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	99	2022	●	↑
Universal health coverage (UHC) index of service coverage (worst 0–100 best)	80	2021	●	↑
Subjective well-being (average ladder score, worst 0–10 best)	6,3	2023	●	↑
SDG4 – Quality Education				
Participation rate in pre-primary organized learning (% of children aged 4 to 6)	80,5	2023	●	↓
Net primary enrollment rate (%)	95,6	2023	●	→
Lower secondary completion rate (%)	92,2	2022	●	→
Literacy rate (% of population aged 15 to 24)	99,9	2020	●	●
SDG5 – Gender Equality				
Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (% of females aged 15 to 49)	73,2	2018	●	→
Ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received (%)	100,4	2022	●	↑
Ratio of female-to-male labor force participation rate (%)	84,8	2023	●	→
Seats held by women in national parliament (%)	19,4	2024	●	↓
SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation				
Population using at least basic drinking water services (%)	95,4	2021	●	→
Population using at least basic sanitation services (%)	97,9	2022	●	↑
Freshwater withdrawal (% of available freshwater resources)	34,1	2021	●	→
Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	27,5	2020	●	●
Scarce water consumption embodied in imports (m3 H2O eq/capita)	2,248.3	2024	●	→
SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy				
Population with access to electricity (%)	100,0	2021	●	↑
Population with access to clean fuels and technology for cooking (%)	93,9	2021	●	↑
CO_2 emissions from fuel combustion per total electricity output ($MtCO_2$/TWh)	2,3	2022	●	↗
Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption (%)	1,8	2020	●	→
SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth				
Adjusted GDP growth (%)	-2.1	2022	●	●
Victims of modern slavery (per 1,000 population)	11.1	2022	●	●
Adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (% of population aged 15 or over)	81.1	2021	●	↑
Unemployment rate (% of total labor force, ages 15+)	4.6	2024	●	↑
Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed (worst 0–1 best)	0.54	2022	●	→
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (per 100,000 population)	0.9	2018	●	↑
Victims of modern slavery embodied in imports (per 100,000 population)	53.8	2018	●	●

	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure				
Rural population with access to all-season roads (%)	72.5	2024	●	●
Population using the internet (%)	92.3	2022	●	↑
Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 population)	96.2	2022	●	↑
Logistics Performance Index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (worst 1–5 best)	2.5	2023	●	↓
The Times Higher Education Universities Ranking: Average score of top 3 universities (worst 0–100 best)	28.4	2024	●	●
Articles published in academic journals (per 1,000 population)	0.3	2022	●	↗
Expenditure on research and development (% of GDP)	0.1	2022	●	↓
SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities				
Gini coefficient	27.8	2018	●	●
Palma ratio	1.1	2020	●	↓
SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities				
Proportion of urban population living in slums (%)	0.8	2020	●	↑
Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (µg/m³)	17,7	2022	●	→
Access to improved water source, piped (% of urban population)	99,0	2021	●	↑
Satisfaction with public transport (%)	41,2	2020	●	●
SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production				
Municipal solid waste (kg/capita/day)	0.8	2012	●	●
Electronic waste (kg/capita)	9.2	2019	●	●
Production-based SO2 emissions (kg/capita)	9.2	2024	●	→
SO2 emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	3.9	2024	●	↗
Production-based nitrogen emissions (kg/capita)	45.4	2024	●	→
Nitrogen emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	15.9	2024	●	↗
Exports of plastic waste (kg/capita)	0.4	2022	●	→
SDG13 – Climate Action				
CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production (tCO_2/capita)	14.1	2022	●	→
CO2 emissions embodied in imports (tCO2/capita)	0.9	2018	●	↑
CO2 emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/capita)	16,200.3	2020	●	●
SDG14 – Life Below Water				
Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	NA	NA	●	●
Ocean Health Index: Clean Waters score (worst 0–100 best)	NA	NA	●	●
Fish caught from overexploited or collapsed stocks (% of total catch)	NA	NA	●	●
Fish caught by trawling or dredging (%)	NA	NA	●	●
Fish caught that are then discarded (%)	NA	NA	●	●
Marine biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million population)	0.0	2018	●	●
SDG15 – Life on Land				
Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	28.5	2023	●	→
Mean area that is protected in freshwater sites important to biodiversity (%)	20.5	2023	●	→
Red List Index of species survival (worst 0–1 best)	0.88	2024	●	→
Permanent deforestation (% of forest area, 3-year average)	0.0	2022	●	↑
Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million population)	3.2	2022	●	↑
SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions				
Homicides (per 100,000 population)	3.2	2020	●	↑
Unsentenced detainees (% of prison population)	0.79	2022	●	↑
Population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city/area where they live (%)	20.3	2022	●	→
Birth registrations with civil authority (% of children under age 5)	99.7	2015	●	●
Corruption Perceptions Index (worst 0–100 best)	39.0	2023	●	↗
Children involved in child labor (% of population aged 5 to 14)	NA	NA	●	●
Exports of major conventional weapons (TIV constant million USD per 100,000 population)	0.0	2006	●	●
Press Freedom Index (worst 0–100 best)	41.1	2024	●	↓
Access to and affordability of justice (worst 0–1 best)	0.61	2022	●	↑
Timeliness of administrative proceedings (worst 0–1 best)	0.60	2022	●	↗
Expropriations are lawful and adequately compensated (worst 0–1 best)	0.46	2022	●	↓
SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals				
Government spending on health and education (% of GDP)	6.8	2022	●	↗
For high-income and all OECD DAC countries: International concessional public finance, including official development assistance (% of GNI)	NA	NA	●	●
Other countries: Government revenue excluding grants (% of GDP)	12.3	2021	●	↓
Corporate Tax Haven Score (best 0–100 worst)	0	2021	●	●
Statistical Performance Index (worst 0–100 best)	78.2	2022	●	↑

Introduction

Kazakhstan, encompassing an area of 2.7 million square kilometers, boasts abundant natural resources, forming the foundation of its economic development model. With a population exceeding 20 million, 62.2% of whom reside in urban areas, Kazakhstan is a dynamically developing state rapidly integrating into the global economy.

As a member of the United Nations, Kazakhstan has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The country has integrated 87 key SDG indicators into its national planning system, incorporating them into National Projects and Regional Development Programs, demonstrating the government's systemic approach.

In 2015, Kazakhstan reaffirmed its commitment to fulfilling the SDGs by developing the "National Plan for the Implementation of the SDGs until 2030," encompassing all aspects of sustainable development. Kazakhstan has also declared its intention to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 within the framework of the ratified Paris Agreement.

Analysis of progress on SDGs

Overview

Kazakhstan has made significant strides towards achieving the SDGs, particularly in areas such as poverty eradication, ensuring access to quality education, and promoting gender equality. However, challenges remain that require additional effort, especially in the areas of environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation.

According to the UN, in 2023, Kazakhstan ranked 66th out of 166 countries in the Global SDG Index, scoring 71.65 out of 100. This result reflects the progress made by the country, despite challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily slowed the attainment of some goals.

Economic Aspects

Kazakhstan's economic stability is directly linked to its ability to diversify its economy and transition to sustainable forms of development. The Kazakh government has taken steps to synchronize its State Planning System with budgetary processes to achieve the SDGs by 2030. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has emphasized the need for implementing a block budget to enhance the accountability of budgetary program administrators. In recent years, considerable attention has been paid to developing a "green economy," which opens up new opportunities for the country in terms of sustainable growth and improving the quality of life for its people.

Social Aspects

Kazakhstan has achieved significant progress in education, healthcare, and social protection. The country provides universal access to primary and secondary education, as well as a high level of support for socially vulnerable groups. Particular emphasis is placed on developing human capital, which is a key factor in achieving all SDGs.

However, challenges remain related to the quality of education, the accessibility of healthcare services in rural areas, and gender inequality in the labor market. To achieve the SDGs, it is necessary to continue investing in human capital development and further enhance the effectiveness of social programs.

Environmental Aspects

Kazakhstan faces serious environmental challenges related to climate change, land degradation, and air pollution. The country has undertaken several environmental protection initiatives, such as developing renewable energy and introducing green technologies in industry.

Nevertheless, to achieve the SDGs, Kazakhstan needs to accelerate its transition to a low-carbon economy, implement more effective methods of natural resource management, and increase public awareness of environmental issues.

Challenges and Obstacles

The primary challenges facing Kazakhstan in its pursuit of the SDGs are:

- Economic dependence on natural resource extraction and the need for diversification;
- Insufficient funding for certain SDGs, such as climate change mitigation and ecosystem conservation;
- Lack of a centralized mechanism for monitoring and evaluating progress on the SDGs;
- The impact of global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and rising living costs, on achieving the SDGs.

To overcome these challenges, Kazakhstan needs to strengthen interagency coordination, attract additional financial resources, and establish an effective system for monitoring and evaluating progress on the SDGs.

Conclusion

Kazakhstan has made significant strides towards achieving the SDGs, but many obstacles remain on the path to their implementation. The country demonstrates a strong commitment to these goals, but further progress will depend on the successful implementation of reforms, the development of international cooperation, and the attraction of additional resources.

Effective monitoring and analysis of the results achieved will play a key role in Kazakhstan's continued success in implementing the SDGs.

1.2 IMPACT as a core of MIND Accelerator Methodology

IMPACT is not simply about "influence" but rather signifies a non-standard approach, an innovation in the field of sustainable development.

Within the framework of achieving sustainability in the accelerator, innovative ideas and solutions from various participants were systematically compiled under a specific task, creating an interdisciplinary environment for developing project solutions.

The MIND IMPACT methodology (Innovative Measures and Project Achievements in Capacity Transformation) represents a unique approach developed to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative and structured measures at the regional level within the framework of specific research-driven initiative projects.

Innovative Measures:
The Accelerator sought to find new approaches to problem-solving, including the development and implementation of unique initiatives and projects capable of bringing real change.

Project Achievements:
The Accelerator not only generated ideas but also transformed them into real projects, achieving tangible results and measurable achievements in the field of sustainable development.

Capacity Transformation:
The Accelerator aimed not only to address specific issues but also to develop human capital, contributing to the growth of expertise and knowledge in the area of SDGs among participants.

The methodology is based on a two-stage process focused on a thorough analysis of existing gaps and the implementation of specific project solutions.

MIND Accelerator Methodology

1. Analysis and Planning (GAP-analysis)

In the first stage, the teams, who are the owners of ideas and projects, conduct an in-depth analysis of the current state of the system. Using the "GAP-analysis" method, teams identify key gaps between the current state and desired results. This allows for precise identification of areas requiring attention and the development of a detailed action plan, including the distribution of responsibilities, setting deadlines, and calculating necessary resources. The analysis is conducted based on the study of best practices and case studies, which form the basis for identifying gaps and determining possible solutions.

2. Project Implementation and Management

In the second stage, the teams transition to implementing their developed plans in accordance with the principles of project management. A critical aspect of this stage is stakeholder management and the application of the SMART methodology to ensure clarity of goals and their achievability. The involvement of volunteer experts and participation of members of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan strengthened the effectiveness of the projects, ensuring interaction with government agencies and improving coordination of actions.

Figure 1 ▸ Life Cycle of the MIND Accelerator

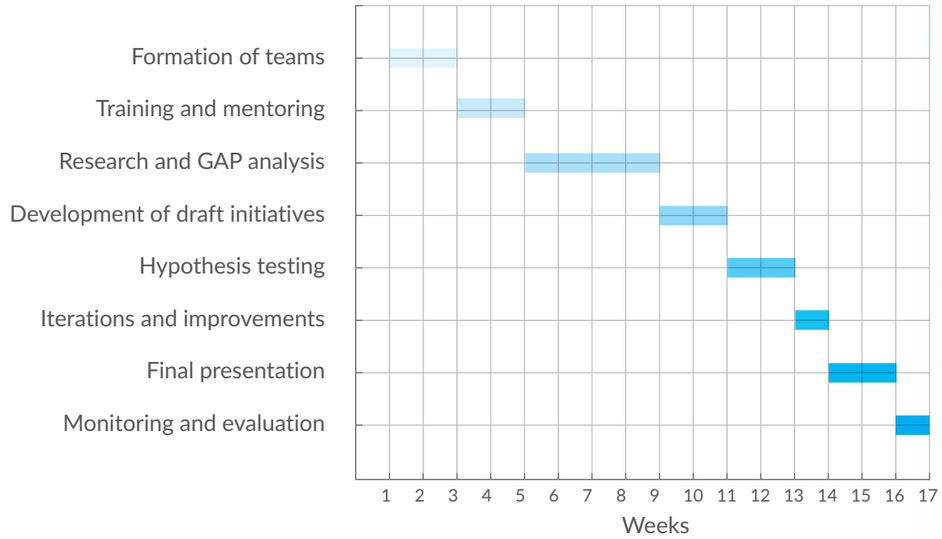
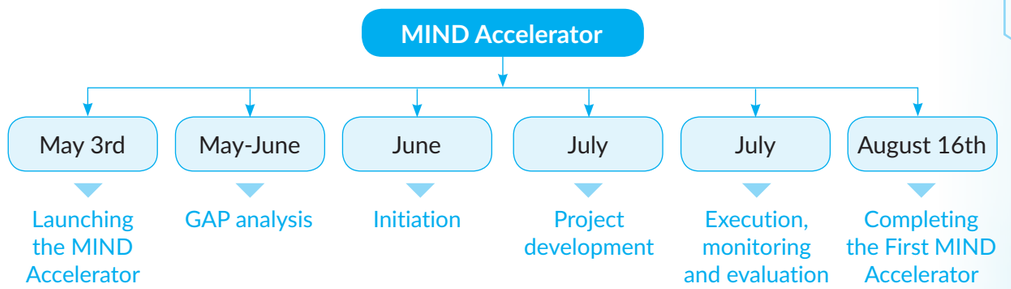


Figure 2 ▸ MIND Accelerator Roadmap



The MIND approach has demonstrated its effectiveness in transforming the potential of various projects, as reflected in the following key achievements:

1. **Повышение осведомленности целевых групп**
Raising Awareness Among Target Groups. Through the MIND methodology, the target groups involved in the projects significantly increased their awareness of the challenges and opportunities associated with the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. **Developing and Testing Innovative Solutions**
Utilizing the results of GAP-analysis, the teams were able to develop and test innovative solutions that directly contributed to addressing the identified gaps. These solutions included new technologies, work methods, and organizational changes that were adapted to the specific conditions of each project.

3. **Piloting Successful Projects**
The implementation of the two-stage methodology allowed the teams to conduct successful piloting of the developed solutions, confirming their effectiveness and viability in real-world settings. Pilot projects formed the basis for further scaling and implementation at the organizational level.

4. **Creating Sustainable Partnership Collaborations**
The use of stakeholder management tools and the participation of representatives from the public sector contributed to the creation of strong partnerships between various organizations. These collaborations became an essential element in ensuring the sustainability and long-term success of the projects.

The MIND Accelerator methodology serves as a tool for achieving sustainable development goals, combining innovation with a structured approach. Through its two-stage process and active stakeholder involvement, the methodology not only identifies and addresses existing gaps but also creates conditions for sustainable growth and development. In the future, the MIND methodology can become the foundation for implementing a broad spectrum of projects aimed at improving the social, economic, and ecological environment.

PART 2.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TEAMS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2.1 SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Kazakhstan has made significant progress in implementing national goals to achieve SDG 3 at the national level. However, the effectiveness of current government policy can be enhanced by addressing "bottlenecks," which can significantly expand mechanisms to support various vulnerable categories of citizens. Within the framework of SDG 3, the project team focused on examining current standards and practices of medical care for inmates in penal institutions, which is a crucial step toward ensuring equal access to quality medical services throughout the country.

2.1.1 Key Findings

1. **Healthcare Challenges in Kazakhstan's Penal Institutions.** The medical care system for inmates does not meet international standards. Key challenges include unequal access to medical services, low quality of care, a shortage of specialists, and limited resources. These deficiencies are attributed to insufficient funding, a lack of qualified personnel, weak infrastructure, and inadequate coordination between agencies.

2. **Shortcomings in Providing Medicines, Equipment, and Medical Services.** The absence of a drug formulary, 24/7 medical care, overwork among specialists, and staff shortages exacerbate systemic problems. Procurement of equipment for medical clinics under the PEC demands a review of NCEML requirements for conducting CTO for equipment. Increased funding, expansion of the medical staff, and improved working conditions for specialists are necessary.

3. **Centralization and Interagency Collaboration.** To improve coordination and the quality of medical care, it is necessary to establish a Department or Directorate within the Ministry of Health responsible for medical care for inmates. It is also important to consider the issue of SHI for inmates and to establish collaboration with the Ministry of Labor for their employment.

4. **Developing Uniform Standards and Analyzing Mortality Rates.** The system lacks a unified standard or methodology for providing medical care to inmates, requiring the development of a standard for medical clinics under the PEC. Reforms in inpatient treatment for inmates are also necessary, as well as improvements in conditions for foreign nationals and individuals without an IIN, analysis of mortality causes, and a review of the commission's work on releasing inmates for health reasons.

2.1.2 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

1. Due to the Ministry of Health's (MOH) insufficient competence regarding medical care for detainees and the change in preventive measures for severely ill patients under investigation or conviction, it is proposed to amend the Republic of Kazakhstan Code "On Public Health" and Order No. 58. It is necessary to analyze the status of "detainee" in all related regulatory legal acts (LRAs) to introduce changes to the conceptual apparatus and the scope of medical services. An analysis of amendments to the Republic of Kazakhstan Criminal Code (CC) of March 17, 2024, regarding the right to deferral for convicted persons with cancer, is required.

2. There are problems with patient registration, which necessitates an analysis of the package of amendments to Orders No. 61 and No. 194 initiated by the MOH.

As a result, amendments are proposed to the following regulatory legal acts:

- Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 30, 2022, No.-61 "On Approval of the Rules for Providing Medical Care to Individuals Detained in Investigative Isolators and Institutions of the Criminal Executive (Penitentiary) System" Regarding the provision of remote services, the organization of 24-hour beds in medical organizations located in PEC institutions.
- Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 30, 2022, No.-58 "On Approval of the Rules for Medical Examination of Convicted Persons Submitted for Release from Punishment Due to Illness, and a List of Diseases That Are Grounds for Release from Punishment" Regarding revising the list of diseases that are grounds for release from punishment and the procedure for medical examination of convicted persons submitted for release from punishment due to illness.
- Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 13, 2020, No.-194/2020 "On Approval of the Rules for Attaching Individuals to Healthcare Organizations Providing Primary Healthcare" Regarding adding the words "Extract from the Centralized Automated Database of the MIA PEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan."
- Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 15, 2022, No.-262/2020 "On Approval of the Rules for Applying Coercive Medical Measures" Regarding revising the Procedure for Applying Coercive Medical Measures.

2.1.3 Overview of Project Initiatives

1. Implementing Telemedicine in Medical Clinics Under the PEC.

The implementation of telemedicine in medical clinics under the PEC aims to significantly improve the quality and efficiency of medical care for inmates in Kazakhstan's penal institutions. The project includes analyzing technical resources and equipment for remote consultations, studying the experience of pilot projects in the Karaganda region, and assessing the current state of medical services provided by specialists. A crucial step will be establishing collaboration with the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan (NSC) and JSC "NIT" to provide the necessary internet traffic and conduct a pilot consultation, which will assess the effectiveness of telemedicine within the PEC.

Implementing this project has the potential to significantly improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare for inmates, positively impacting their overall health and reducing the burden on visiting specialists. Telemedicine implementation will also allow for the redistribution of budgetary funds and enhance social impact by providing timely medical services, which aligns with the goals of improving healthcare under SDG 3.

2. Employment of Convicted Persons Serving Sentences in Open Colonies for Paying for SHI.

The project to employ convicted persons serving sentences in open colonies to pay for SHI aims to integrate inmates into the workforce and ensure their social protection. The project plans to analyze convicted persons based on gender, age, and employment status, as well as to determine the need for labor at nearby enterprises. This will create conditions for employing convicts and their participation in the mandatory social health insurance (SHI) system.

Key stages of the project include assessing minimum security requirements and potential risks for employers, as well as organizing a meeting with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population (MLSS) to discuss a pilot project in the Akmola region and its subsequent scaling nationwide. Implementing this project contributes to the social rehabilitation of convicts and improves their access to medical services.

3. Assigning Regional Hospitals to the PEC.

The project to assign regional hospitals to the PEC aims to improve the organization of inpatient treatment for detainees and convicted individuals. The project will analyze the current process of inpatient treatment in penal institutions and examine the availability of inpatient facilities in regional hospitals that can provide necessary services to inmates.

A key stage is organizing meetings with chief physicians of regional hospitals that provide medical care to detainees and convicted individuals to discuss the possibility of assigning these healthcare facilities to the PEC. This will enhance the quality and accessibility of inpatient treatment for inmates and improve coordination between the penitentiary system and healthcare.

The research and development team has worked with key stakeholders and held a series of meetings with participants in the business process of organizing medical care for detainees and convicted individuals. The results of this work led to the signing of a Plan of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Ensuring the Right to Health Protection and Guaranteed Medical Care for Individuals Detained in Investigative Isolators and Institutions of the Criminal Executive (Penitentiary) System for 2024 at the level of the Ministers of Health and Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The plan includes items for amending regulatory legal acts in the healthcare system, creating a more effective medical monitoring system for detainees and convicted individuals.

Also, following the completion of this work, a pilot project will be launched on August 1 of this year at Institution No. 5 in the city of Stepnogorsk to organize medical consultations for convicts via telemedicine, involving experts from the Stepnogorsk Multidisciplinary Hospital.

2.2 SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

The research and development team focused on secondary education as a key area under SDG 4.

2.2.1 Key Findings

The relatively successful national model of secondary education with a focus on gifted children, institutional mechanisms for supporting talent and "social elevators," should be balanced with policies to eliminate educational inequality within schools and across regions. Eliminating educational inequality is a priority for the Government.

1. Despite varying regional situations across different areas, a number of common institutional and systemic challenges facing the education system stand out. Key factors contributing to the persistence of inequality in education include inadequate material and technical resources and a shortage of qualified teachers. The positive demographic dynamics and increasing "youth bulge" could pose fundamental challenges for state policy at all levels of the education system.

2. Maintaining the status quo in education across different regions could have serious long-term consequences for the region and the country as a whole. Low educational performance limits students' opportunities for further education and career development. This leads to a decline in the qualifications of the workforce and restricts the region's economic prospects. Amidst growing student numbers and a shortage of student places, insufficient funding and weak infrastructure can exacerbate educational inequality. This is particularly critical in the context of a direct correlation between educational and economic inequality, which could lead to a slowdown in Kazakhstan's growth and development.

3. Akmola region is among the top six regions with the lowest Math scores, lagging behind the national average by 6 points and by 53 points from the OECD average. The region is characterized by the most significant gap in results between urban and rural students: 44 points in reading, 37 points in science, and 28 points in Mathematics literacy. In 2023, the deficit of student places amounted to 17,300 units, which is 4,400 more than in 2021.

4. Based on the results of the MADO-2023, the Akmola region demonstrates performance below the national average: 53% achievement in grade 4 and 39% achievement in grade 9.

   None of the target schools has an achievement rate exceeding 45% among grade 9 students, while only 41% to 58% of tasks were completed among grade 4 students.

Figure 3 Achievement Gap Between Urban and Rural Students in the Akmola region

(in points)

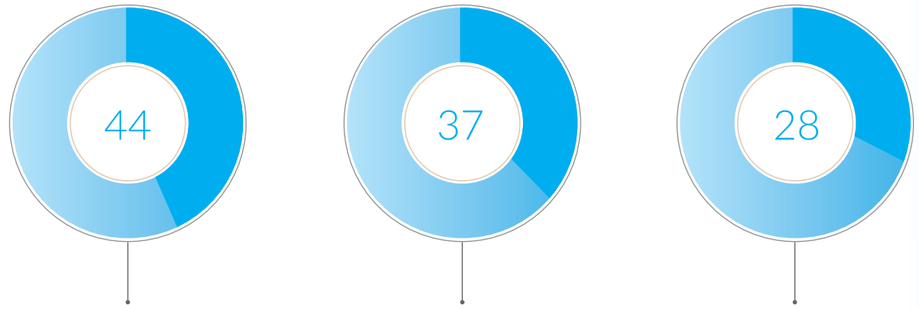


Table 1 MADO Results for Underperforming Schools by Region/ Literacy Areas

Year	Name of Educational Institution	Average Score Grade 4			Average Score Grade 9		
		Reading Literacy	Math Literacy	Science Literacy	Reading Literacy	Math Literacy	Science Literacy
2023	General Education School No. 1, Zeren, Zerendinsky District	5,85	6,77	4,38	11,57	3,29	9,65
	General Education School, Baiterek, Zerendinsky District	4,86	3,71	3,86	15	3,17	8,33
	Basic Secondary School, Lozovoe, Astrakhan District	5,8	4,8	4,6	11,92	2,42	8,59
2022	General Education School No. 2, Bestobe, Stepanogorsk City	5,84	7,49	4,07	16,66	4,64	12,6

5. Factor analysis revealed common challenges in the target schools: A lack of gymnasiums, libraries, interactive whiteboards, and modern classrooms; a significant shortage of student places; the schools' classification as small-staffed schools; a low level of teacher qualifications; a high demand for teaching personnel; and a low level of knowledge among teachers based on teacher knowledge assessments, particularly among primary school teachers and those teaching STEM subjects.

6. The high concentration of schools with low educational performance carries risks of increasing educational inequality between students from different schools and regions within the country, lowering the overall level of education, hindering economic development, and restraining the country's innovative and technological potential.

Overview of Proposed Solutions:

1. Developing an Adapted System for Managing Educational Institutions

It is recommended that the methodological department of the Akmola Region Education Department develop individual work plans for each target school.

- Monitor the implementation of individual plans for target schools to evaluate effectiveness, embodying a complete cycle of change implementation – from development and implementation to monitoring and evaluation.
- Evaluate and adjust individual work plans for target schools at least once a year based on the data obtained from monitoring.
- Ensure the participation of target schools in programs and projects implemented in the region.

2. Investing in Continuous Professional Development for Teachers

- Legally establish the concept of "Continuous Professional Development for Teachers," which, alongside traditional professional development courses, will include diverse forms of support for teachers' professional competence, including online courses, on-the-job training, coaching, mentoring, participation in educational communities, and others.
- Include forms of continuous professional development for teachers in the types of expenses covered by the per-student funding standard.

3. Modernizing Infrastructure and the Educational Environment

- Refine the per-student funding mechanism by incorporating a coefficient for target schools. This implies financing not only based on the number of children in the school but also on the results of external assessments of student achievement. As a result, the standard for target schools will increase for improving M&E Base and other learning conditions.

4. Strengthening Interaction with Parents and the Local Community

- Mandate the provision of individual progress reports for students to parents every quarter. This measure will allow parents to receive personalized reports on the challenges and opportunities for student development.
- Include interaction with local communities in the individual work plans of target schools.

2.2.2 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

Within the framework of the proposed draft law "On Amending and Supplementing Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Education," amendments are proposed to two key laws: "On the Status of a Teacher" (5 amendments) and "On Education" (9 amendments).

The main changes relate to the introduction of new concepts and mechanisms. The central novelty of the legislative initiative is based on the introduction of the concept of "continuous professional development for teachers," which implies the introduction of mechanisms to stimulate professional growth among teachers. These amendments aim to address existing gaps in legislation that limit teachers' opportunities for professional development.

The introduction of the concept of academic integrity, which is enshrined at the level of school education, is also proposed. The amendments introduced will be aimed at fostering a culture of academic integrity among teachers and students, which is a crucial step in ensuring quality education and a fair learning process.

The legislative initiative proposes the introduction of mandatory educational achievement monitoring systems, which will allow for more accurate evaluation of the quality of education at all levels and the implementation of targeted measures for its improvement.

2.2.3 Overview of Project Initiatives

The project "Quality Education for Everyone: Strategies to Support Schools with Low Educational Performance" aims to address the problem of educational inequality in the Akmola region, focusing on schools with low performance. The project's primary goal is to ensure equal access to quality education for all students through the development and implementation of support strategies for five pilot schools that demonstrate the lowest educational performance in the region. These schools were selected based on MADO data and represent key sites for testing new approaches.

The project includes developing individual improvement plans for each pilot school, systematically monitoring their implementation, and adjusting them based on the data obtained. A crucial aspect is teacher professional development, which will include diverse forms of support, such as online courses, mentoring, and coaching. Measures to improve school infrastructure, the psychological climate, and reduce bullying are also included, aiming to create a more favorable learning environment.

The project also emphasizes the involvement of parents and local communities in the educational process. This will be achieved through providing parents with individual progress reports for their children and developing mechanisms for schools to interact with local organizations. Ultimately, the project aims to create more equitable learning conditions and enhance the quality of education in the region, which should lead to improved educational outcomes and the creation of opportunities for the further development of all students.

2.3 SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Within the framework of this SDG, the research and development team focused on three areas that contribute to the sustainable growth of rural territories.

Rural tourism development

Approximately 38% of the population lives in rural areas, where wage levels are significantly lower than those in urban agglomerations. Employment and unemployment rates are higher, with no prospects for decline. Rural residents primarily engage in animal husbandry and agriculture with low productivity levels. At the same time, rural tourism has significant potential for scaling in Kazakhstan, which could become a new driver of development for rural territories.

2.3.1 Key Findings

1. Rural tourism has a multiplier effect on other sectors of the economy, contributes to the development of local businesses, and improves infrastructure. Without substantial resources, it is possible to address the issue of employment and reduce poverty in rural areas by creating new jobs and income sources for local residents.

2. The Republic of Kazakhstan has a legal framework for tourism activities, but it is not fully implemented. There are a number of problematic issues in the conceptual and terminological apparatus, statistical accounting of tourists, investment potential, the use of specially protected natural areas, and preferences for farmers in the form of permission to engage in agritourism on their land.

3. Rural tourism has significant potential for development in Kazakhstan. Comprehensive work will help make rural tourism an important part of the country's economy, contributing to the development of rural regions and improving the well-being of the population, addressing poverty issues, and increasing the country's GDP. This economic sector provides opportunities for sustainable development across all SDGs.

2.3.2 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

1. Promoting a legal norm regarding the provision of opportunities for farmers to engage in agritourism on agricultural land and the corresponding amendment to the Entrepreneurial Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

2. Introducing tax benefits for new tourism facilities and improving existing ones;

3. Legally establishing (country-level) regional tourism brands and integrating them into promotion mechanisms;

4. Implementing an international mechanism for collecting and monitoring relevant statistical information on tourism types (including agritourism);

5. Updating all laws and regulations related to the development of tourism activities, taking into account national reforms aimed at improving business conditions and simplifying bureaucratic procedures;

6. Legally establishing the responsibility of local executive bodies for the development of rural tourism;

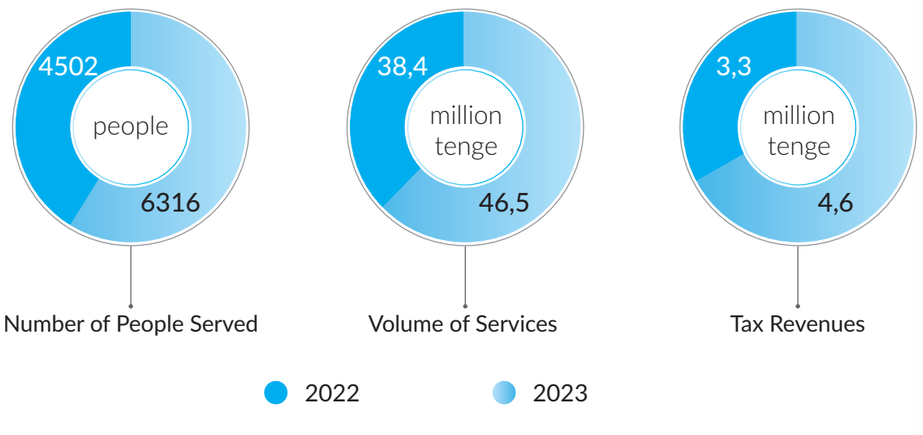
7. Coordinating the work of the government, local executive bodies, and quasi-state sector organizations in addressing tourism issues;

8. Monitoring the performance of executive bodies of government based on tourism indicators.

2.3.3 Overview of Project Initiatives

In 2023, accommodation facilities in the Bulandinskiy district served 6,136 people (residents – 6,086, non-residents – 50), showing a 136% increase compared to 2022 (2022 – 4,502 thousand people, including 94 non-residents). The volume of services increased by 121% and reached 46.6 million tenge (2022 – 38.4 million tenge). Tax revenues from tourism activities amounted to 4.6 million tenge (139% growth, 2022 – 3.3 million tenge).

Figure 4 Key Tourism Indicators in the Bulandinskiy District



Negative factors hindering tourism development opportunities have been identified:

- **At the national level:** Imperfections in the regulatory framework for tourism, lack of targeted funding programs for the tourism sector;
- **At the regional level:** Absence of a targeted program for developing tourism activities and infrastructure; lack of an information campaign to promote the region's brand, tourist appeal, and specialized tour operators; low level of attractions and poor differentiation of tourism products.

- **Insufficient infrastructure:** The weak development of rural tourism due to a lack of infrastructure and services, such as excursions and local cuisine.
- **Uneven funding:** Unfair distribution of funding hinders the development of tourism in different districts of the Akmola region and leads to the closure of tourism businesses.
- **Insufficient coordination:** Poor coordination between natural areas, local authorities, and residents hinders the creation of high-quality tourism products.
- **Low professionalism:** The lack of qualified guides and tour guides lowers the quality of tourism services and hinders tourism development.
- **Legal restrictions:** Existing legal barriers, for example, the prohibition of constructing guest houses on agricultural land, limit the development of agritourism.

Cluster development

2.3.4 Key Findings

Kazakhstan's agricultural sector is a vital part of the economy, but its contribution to GDP is declining. Despite significant commercial potential driven by the country's vast arable land, agriculture's contribution to GDP has decreased in recent times. While the overall workforce is 15.5%, agriculture's contribution to GDP fell to 4.7% in 2023. In neighboring countries, this figure is several times higher than in Kazakhstan.

The share of agricultural product exports in total exports is also small, reaching 5.3 billion tenge in 2023, or 6.8% of total exports. Despite its agricultural potential, vast land resources, and significant government support for agriculture, Kazakhstan continues to be a net importer of food products.

In 2023, food imports amounted to 10.1% of total imports, while exports reached 6.8% of total exports. Wheat is the most important crop (the country is among the top ten global wheat exporters), but yield indicators are low by international standards. Other crops, such as potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons, also have high yields but are primarily grown on small areas in warm southern regions of the country.

The primary challenge lies in insufficient coordination between various government agencies and stakeholders. To achieve sustainable development, it is crucial to establish closer cooperation between government institutions and local communities. This will enable the effective utilization of resources and the achievement of set goals.

Infrastructure in rural areas requires significant improvement. The inadequate development of roads, communications, and other infrastructure facilities limits opportunities for attracting tourists and leads to reduced regional competitiveness. It is essential to focus on developing programs and initiatives aimed at supporting entrepreneurs seeking to develop agritourism. These programs should include grants, tax breaks, and concessional loans that will help improve infrastructure and create a favorable business environment.

2.3.5 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

1. **Amending legislation to support agritourism.** It is proposed to amend the legislation regulating the use of agricultural land to permit the construction of guest houses and other facilities related to agritourism. These changes will enable farmers and entrepreneurs to more effectively utilize their resources, developing tourism destinations that will attract more tourists and enhance economic activity in rural areas.
2. **Introducing tax incentives.** To stimulate the development of rural tourism, it is proposed to introduce tax breaks for new tourism facilities and the modernization of existing ones. This will reduce the tax burden on entrepreneurs, contributing to their activity and supporting the long-term development of the industry.
3. **Concessional loans for entrepreneurs.** To support local entrepreneurs, it is proposed to develop a concessional loan program with interest rates ranging from 2% to 4%. This program will be implemented in collaboration with local financial institutions, such as SPC and Damu Bank, and will allow entrepreneurs to access financial resources for developing tourism projects.
4. **Creating a grant program.** To support agritourism and other rural tourism destinations, it is proposed to create a grant program. The program proposes allocating grants for modernizing tourism facilities and improving infrastructure. Grants will be available to farmers and entrepreneurs who want to develop tourism facilities on their land.

2.3.6 Overview of Project Initiatives

Establishing a Pilot Meat Cluster in the Bulandinskiy District of the Akmola Region

In terms of agricultural production volume compared to other districts in the region, the Bulandinskiy district occupies an average position, leading only in poultry processing due to the presence of the Makinsky Poultry Farm in the district.

The district has sufficient potential for developing livestock farming:	• availability of arable land; • presence of local population expertise.

It is proposed to establish a pilot meat cluster in the form of mini-farms, whose task will be to ensure breed transformation, increase livestock numbers in the region, and provide a raw material base for fattening facilities and processing enterprises.

The main problems in the district are the low level of wages in livestock farming and insufficient infrastructure for quality living in rural areas, which exacerbates population outflow.

The district faces challenges in producing high-quality feed, which reduces livestock productivity. Veterinary services also leave much to be desired: the lack of systematic monitoring and control over the quality of services provided leads to a decrease in livestock numbers. These factors create significant barriers to the development of livestock farming and require a systemic approach to solving them.

Selective breeding in a small-scale production environment is a complex task, but improving the hereditary qualities of agricultural animals is a key tool for increasing livestock efficiency. Organizing regional clusters that bring together enterprises throughout the production chain for finished products can significantly increase the industry's efficiency. Clusters contribute to cost reduction, improved logistics, and technology transfer, creating additional opportunities for innovative development and strengthening human capital.

Creating a cluster in the Bulandinskiy district has clear advantages, such as the availability of raw materials and proximity to major sales markets, including Astana and the Burabai tourist zone.

Introducing a cluster structure implies not only economic advantages for participants but also the creation of conditions for deeper cooperation between enterprises, allowing them to jointly address issues related to logistics, primary processing, and product storage.

This also contributes to the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of enterprises within the cluster.

For the successful implementation of the meat cluster, it is necessary to:

- Coordinate various rural development programs through a single center;
- Amend legislation to simplify access to agricultural land;
- Engage international experts to analyze existing subsidy mechanisms.

As a result, the introduction of a pilot project to create a meat cluster, including mini-farms, will ensure breed transformation, an increase in livestock numbers, and the creation of a sustainable raw material base for processing enterprises.

Sustainable development of support villages

2.3.7 Key Findings

1. Each region should conduct an analysis of the state of villages, including support villages, to determine the real picture of the region. We recommend that, when conducting the analysis, consider a number of indicators that can influence the selection for implementing the proposed concept (engineering and road infrastructure, housing and communal infrastructure, the presence of rural economic diversification, opportunities for residents to obtain quality education and healthcare, statistical data on the number of residents, territorial location, and other regional characteristics).
2. Review and update the criteria for determining rural settlements (Order of the Ministry of National Economy No. 81 of September 13, 2019).
3. Conduct familiarization and explanatory work with potential investors in the business environment, offering a joint launch and implementation of a project to develop support villages in their region. This work will reduce the government's burden on implementing the support village development project and will provide an opportunity for businesses to demonstrate social initiative, as exemplified in the Bulandinskiy district of the Akmola region.
4. Pilot the support village development project and scale up this experience in other regions of Kazakhstan.
5. Implement systems for continuous monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of implemented programs and initiatives in rural areas.

Support Villages of the Bulandinskiy District

2.3.8 Overview of Project Initiatives

A pilot project (2024-2027) is currently being implemented in the Bulandinskiy district aimed at the sustainable development of support villages. There is an order No. 85 of December 14, 2023, from the Acting Akim of the Akmola Region on the establishment of a working group for the development of support villages in the Bulandinskiy district.

Within the framework of the project, the following has been accomplished:

- A comprehensive plan for the development of support villages has been developed and approved.
- Strategic partners have been engaged.
- Necessary resources have been concentrated.
- A study of migration trends is underway.

Based on the results of the pilot project, it is expected that

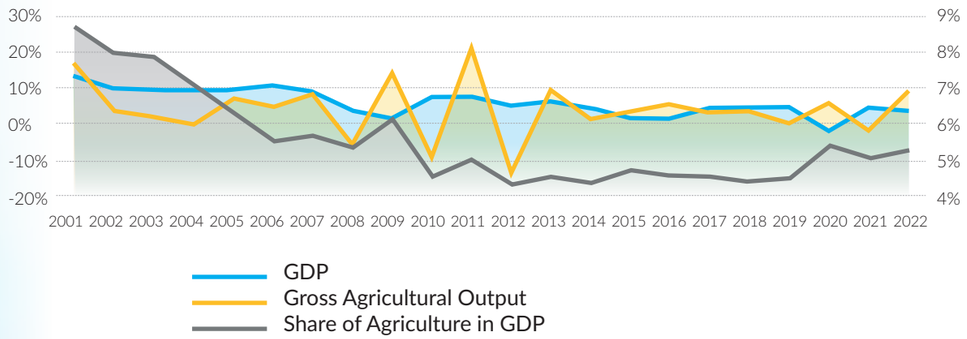
95% of the district's population (about 30,000 people) will reside in a rural environment with a high standard of living and urban amenities, which implies:

- High employment in agribusiness, tourism, and SMBs;
- 100% provision of centralized water supply and heating;
- The presence of urban-level schools, new-format kindergartens (a project to build 7 new schools and 9 kindergartens is being developed);
- Construction of 1 central hospital, 3 medical clinics, and 3 FAPs with modern equipment.

Table 2 Key Indicators of Tourism Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gross Value Added Created in Tourism Sectors (GVA), billion tenge	2 454,6	2 771,0	2 185,5	2 871,0	3 270,1
Index of GVA Created in Tourism Sectors, % change from the previous year	109,7	108,5	76,1	125,3	101,8
Share of Gross Value Added Created in Tourism Sectors (GVA) in GDP, %	4,0	4,0	3,1	3,4	3,2
Index of Labor Productivity in Tourism Sectors, % change from the previous year	104,7	107,0	78,1	124,1	96,5
Gross Value Added Created Directly in Tourism (VSAT), billion tenge	784,0	821,5	410,5	572,5	1 001,0
Index of GVA Created Directly in Tourism, % change from the previous year	107,2	100,4	49,5	131,5	151,8
Share of Gross Value Added Directly in Tourism (VSAT) in GDP1), %	1,3	1,2	0,6	0,7	1,0
Number of visitors entering Kazakhstan, thousand people	8 789,0	8 515,0	2 034,8	1 330,2	4 728,8
Number of visitors leaving Kazakhstan, thousand people	10 646,0	10 707,3	2 865,0	3 501,4	7 670,0
Number of legal entities registered in tourism sectors, units	48 750,0	51 482,0	39 816,0	42 301,0	47 905,0
Number of people employed in tourism sectors, thousand people	463,7	469,9	458,3	463,1	488,6
Share of tourism employment in total employment, %	5,3	5,4	5,2	5,3	5,4
Index of change in the number of employed in tourism, % change from the previous year	104,8	101,3	97,5	101,0	105,5
including breakdown by gender::					
Men	104,0	101,4	100,5	100,0	189,0
Women	105,4	101,3	95,1	101,9	35,2

Figure 5 GDP and agriculture growth rates (2001-2022)



Source: BNS (Bureau of National Statistics)

2.4 SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The research and development team for SDG 11 proposes to identify creative hubs and the participatory budgeting mechanism as instruments for Kazakhstan's sustainable progress in creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements. Creative hubs not only support economic development by generating new jobs and attracting investment but also contribute to cultural enrichment and social interaction, which improves the quality of life in cities and strengthens their resilience.

The emphasis on creative hubs and participatory budgeting is due to their ability to not only support economic development and social well-being but also create cities that serve the interests of all their residents.

2.4.1 Key Findings

1. Modern urbanization in Kazakhstan faces a number of challenges that require a comprehensive approach and active involvement of various stakeholders. Key problems include insufficient citizen participation in urban planning processes, low public awareness of existing initiatives, and weak integration of creative industries into the city's economy.

2. Limited funding opportunities for sustainable projects and the absence of clear mechanisms for implementing SDG 11 are hindering the potential of Kazakhstan's cities to become inclusive, safe, and sustainable. Programs aimed at improving quality of life, such as participatory budgeting, require further scaling and adaptation to local conditions, which will enhance public trust in government institutions and improve the urban environment.

3. Creative industries play a crucial role in creating sustainable and inclusive cities. They contribute to economic development by generating jobs and attracting investment, which, in turn, improves urban infrastructure and the quality of life of citizens. International experience shows that investments in creative industries can lead to significant improvements in urban infrastructure, economic growth, and social development.

2.4.2 Overview of Proposed Solutions

1. **Strengthening coordination between government agencies and local communities.** To achieve SDG 11, it is necessary to improve coordination between central and local government bodies, as well as actively engage civil society in decision-making processes. Creating platforms for dialogue between the state, business, and the population will allow for more effective solutions to urban development challenges.

2. **Expanding public awareness and participation.** Regarding the Creative Industries (further referred to as CI), involving more representatives of relevant communities and representatives of local executive bodies in the work of the proposed pilot project to create a Creative Hub in the Kokshetau city.

A public awareness campaign is needed to inform the public about government policies in the field of CI:

- Organizing professional courses and training for current specialists to enhance their skills;
- Encouraging the exchange of experience and joint projects with international creative companies and organization;
- Holding international festivals, forums, and conferences on creative industries in Kazakhstan.

3. **Integrating creative industries into the city's economy.** Creative industries can be a driver of innovation and sustainable development. Developing these industries, including the creation of creative hubs and clusters, will not only generate new jobs but also enhance the cultural level of cities, contributing to their attractiveness for both local residents and investors.

2.4.3 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

Within the existing legislation, all necessary norms and mechanisms for regulating the creative industry have been introduced and can be successfully implemented.

However, the main factors hindering the development of the creative industry are:

1. Low awareness among CI representatives of measures taken by the state to develop this industry
2. Insufficient involvement of local executive bodies in implementing this initiative due to the absence of relevant KPIs.

Based on desk research, focus groups, and meetings with city activists (Kosshy, Kokshetau, Atbasar), it was revealed that the potential of "Participatory Budgeting" in Kazakhstan is not being fully utilized.

To more actively involve residents in participatory budgeting procedures, it is proposed to consider an approach focused on regular acceptance of applications from residents. This will allow local executive bodies to be more flexible in responding to residents' applications and to select projects before budget refinement quarterly.

To achieve this, it is necessary to amend the deadlines for submitting and considering applications in the Rules for Developing Local Budget Projects, Order of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 31, 2014, No. 470 *(registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan on December 10, 2014, No. 9950 "On Approval of the Rules for Developing Local Budget Projects").*

2.4.4 Overview of Project Initiatives

1. Creating and Developing Creative Hubs

Within the framework of implementing SDG 11, it is proposed to launch pilot projects for creating creative hubs in the cities of Kokshetau, Karaganda, and Astana. These hubs will be modern multifunctional spaces that bring together creative professionals, entrepreneurs, and civil society. The main areas of activity of the hubs will be design, architecture, music, film, art, and new media. The creation of such hubs will develop the cultural and economic potential of the regions, as well as attract investment in the creative industries.

The creation of creative hubs will contribute to the development of the regional economy, creating new jobs and attracting investment. It is important that these hubs include educational components, such as professional development programs, master classes, and courses on creative industries. This will ensure continuous learning and the development of skills necessary for success in the creative economy, as well as strengthening the positions of regions on the international stage through participation in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities program.

2. Creating a Unified “People's Participation Budget” Portal.

Developing and implementing a pilot project in the form of a separate internet resource for managing the participatory budgeting process will ensure order and transparency in all stages of the program. Such a resource will allow not only to expand the list of projects and increase the number of applications from residents but also to flexibly respond to the needs of local communities, implementing projects in the current year during budget refinement.

For a more effective implementation of the participatory budgeting mechanism, it is proposed to gradually expand the list of projects, including solutions to environmental problems and other social initiatives. Local executive bodies should strengthen the methodological and informational support for the program, popularizing it in the regions. It is also recommended to amend regulatory legal acts to provide for the possibility of financing participatory budgeting projects from non-budgetary sources.

A vivid example of business involvement in local community development programs is the ERG group of companies' case.

For several years now, the STEP project – The School of Active Citizens – has been implemented. This is a school where ordinary citizens learn to improve their city using funds from the city budget. Residents are given the opportunity to implement various ideas to improve their neighborhoods within the framework of the project.

The STEP project is a significant initiative that ensures the involvement of local communities, forming sustainable partnerships aimed at developing the country's settlements. Since 2021, over 250 people have been trained under the STEP project, and 107 projects have been implemented in the cities of Aksu, Aktobe, Lisakovsk, Pavlodar, Rudny, Ekibastuz, and Khromtau.

2.5 SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

A research and development team focused on regional planning and management processes related to climate change was formed within the framework of SDG 13.

Kazakhstan ranks 11th globally in terms of carbon intensity of GDP based on 2018 data and is among the top 15 countries in terms of CO2 emissions per capita.

2.5.1 Key Findings

In 2023, Kazakhstan joined the Global Methane Pledge, which aims to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels. The main sources of methane in the country are the oil and gas sector, coal mining, agriculture, and landfills of solid household waste. Methane, being a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO2, significantly contributes to global warming. In the EU, more than half of anthropogenic methane emissions come from agriculture, primarily beef production, while only 19% come from the energy sector.

1. Within the framework of the Global Methane Pledge, Kazakhstan is developing a roadmap to reduce methane emissions, including drafting legislation and conducting emissions inventories. Key barriers identified by SDG 13 experts include an insufficient level of monitoring and control over methane emissions and the absence of clear methodologies and standards for measurement and reporting. This hinders emissions assessment and management, which is also reflected in discrepancies between the data provided by the country and satellite data.

2. High methane emission concentrations can lead to an increase in respiratory diseases, an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease and mortality. In turn, from an economic perspective, this increases medical expenses and places a heavier burden on the healthcare system. For Kazakh citizens with low incomes; those working in unsafe industries; in agriculture; and those living in remote rural areas, timely access to healthcare is a pressing issue.

3. Kazakhstan's Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality states that to develop its own low-carbon infrastructure in the production sector and reduce dependence on foreign technologies and best available techniques, training of domestic specialists will be provided, including within the framework of public-private partnerships.

4. The specifics of the climate agenda are such that virtually all sectors have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions or are themselves experiencing the effects of climate change. Issues such as renewable energy, building energy efficiency, clean transportation, new climate-related technologies and startups, cross-border agreements and obligations, and public engagement in environmental culture require awareness and a professional approach from relevant ministries and agencies, a review of educational programs in universities, and the involvement of civil society.

5. To rapidly build competencies, it is necessary to conduct short-term training for involved ministries. To train personnel, it is necessary to develop climate-related training modules for various university disciplines: energy, construction, agriculture, economics and management, law and public administration, international relations. To engage civil society in mitigating climate change, it is necessary to include climate-related events in the Concept for the Development of Environmental Culture among the Population.

6. The main problems are related to the limited financial resources and the absence of coordinated mechanisms for accounting and reporting on carbon sequestration. There is also a shortage of qualified specialists and technologies for effective implementation of afforestation programs.

2.5.2 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

1. It is proposed to introduce a number of amendments to the Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Article 350 should be amended to state that the landfill operator must take measures to reduce methane emissions by implementing methane capture and utilization technologies, creating appropriate infrastructure, introducing biogas complexes, and reducing the volume of biodegradable waste disposal.

Article 351 should be supplemented with provisions obligating local executive bodies to organize events to reduce methane emissions by implementing methane capture and utilization technologies, creating infrastructure for the production of biofuels and organic fertilizers.

Amendments to Article 388 provide for the addition that the extended producer responsibility operator should finance not only disposal operations but also afforestation projects, the creation of nurseries for growing seedlings, and one-time projects for mass tree planting.

It is proposed to add subparagraph 9 on financing afforestation projects. This includes the creation of private nurseries for growing seedlings and the organization of one-time projects for mass tree planting. This amendment aims to use disposal fees to implement afforestation activities, which aligns with the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan's directive to plant 2 billion trees within five years. Implementing this proposal will provide an additional contribution to the country's ecology, improving air quality and supporting biodiversity.

2. To effectively manage afforestation and increase its contribution to climate change mitigation, it is necessary to **develop and implement mechanisms** for financing and incentivizing afforestation. This will ensure the sustainable development of afforestation projects and attract investment to this important area. Additionally, it is necessary to create regulatory frameworks for accounting and reporting on carbon sequestration, which will ensure the transparency and accuracy of data on the impact of afforestation on reducing carbon levels in the atmosphere. This will help assess the effectiveness of such projects and fulfill climate obligations.

3. **Developing programs for training specialists and advancing technologies in the field of afforestation** is also an important measure. This will create qualified personnel and introduce innovative solutions to optimize afforestation processes. Finally, it is important to include afforestation in national and international climate programs. This will ensure the integration of afforestation efforts into a broader context of climate change mitigation and allow access to additional resources and support on the international stage.

4. It is proposed to **develop a policy for the beneficial use of methane at abandoned coal mines**. This could include afforestation activities, which aim to improve the environmental situation at abandoned mines and utilize methane to create forest stands. This contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the state of ecosystems.

2.5.3 Overview of Project Initiatives

1. Project "Dialogue Platform for Interaction between Business, Government, and Scientific and Research Groups on Climate Issues.".

Creating a platform for dialogue between business, government, and science on greenhouse gas emissions, with a focus on methane, will be an important step towards addressing climate challenges. The goal of this platform is to inventory technological and methodological tasks, including accounting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane.

The outcome of this dialogue platform will be a register of tasks for developing industry methodologies and technologies related to climate change. This register will serve as a basis for focusing research institutes and universities on planning research tasks and will be a guideline for startups and development institutions.

2. Developing dietary guidelines for government institutions – such as educational and medical institutions, correctional facilities, and enterprises of various forms of ownership – to reduce beef consumption. It is possible to maintain the necessary balance of nutrients while utilizing alternative protein sources such as chicken, turkey, mutton, and horse meat. This will not only reduce methane emissions associated with beef production but also reduce health risks associated with red meat consumption, such as diabetes, cancer, high cholesterol, and atherosclerosis.

3. It is important to implement the production of biofuels and organic fertilizers in livestock and crop farming, which will help reduce methane emissions during the conversion of organic waste. In the oil and gas and coal industries, as well as other sectors, it is necessary to develop environmental policy standards to reduce methane emissions. This includes reducing direct methane emissions and leaks, minimizing the discharge of untreated or poorly treated wastewater, and reducing waste generation, especially organic and food waste.

4. In the field of waste management, it is necessary to implement methane capture and utilization technologies at landfills of solid household waste, create appropriate infrastructure and capacities for the production of methane capture equipment. For all sectors, it is necessary to legally tighten environmental legislation requirements, ensure a systemic approach to waste management and methane leaks, and develop quantitative targets for reducing methane emissions in accordance with global commitments.

5. Developing a draft Concept for the Development of Environmental Culture for 2024-2029

The Action Plan for implementing the Concept should include climate-related issues, such as developing interdisciplinary programs, environmental and climate lectures and seminars, scientific research, conducting environmental olympiads, and creating a dialogue platform for climate-related tasks.

6. It is necessary to organize short-term courses and business games on the climate agenda for employees of the Ministries of Energy, Agriculture, Industry and Infrastructure Development and others. These events will help enhance the qualifications of public officials and improve their understanding of climate issues.

7. Develop climate-related training modules to be included in university educational programs. Training teachers using a climate simulator will ensure high-quality teaching and prepare students for modern climate challenges.

8. To promote knowledge and skills in the field of climate, a National and Central Asian Climate Championship can be held. These championships will help identify and recognize the best climate specialists and contribute to the dissemination of climate knowledge and best practices.

9. Developing a draft Concept for the Development of Environmental Culture for 2024-2029 includes developing interdisciplinary programs aimed at fostering an environmental mindset and sustainable behavior among students. This also includes creating dialogue platforms and holding environmental olympiads, which could cover topics such as afforestation and tree planting. Implementing educational programs on environmental issues contributes to raising environmentally conscious citizens and supporting initiatives to combat climate change. All proposed changes are aimed at activating afforestation activities and mass tree planting.

2.6 SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Within the framework of SDG 16, three research and development teams were formed, focusing on various aspects of legislative activity, the system of public administration, and anti-corruption policy, whose synergy aims to strengthen Kazakhstan's achievements in implementing SDG 16.

2.6.1 Quality of laws

The project's primary objective is to create a high-quality legal framework that will contribute to the long-term and sustainable development of the state, protecting citizens' rights and ensuring the transparency and accountability of government agencies.

The research and development team identified six key areas for improving the legislative process, based on an analysis of the current situation and international experience:

- Including the public and stakeholders in the legislative process;
- Managing changes in legislation and its integrity;
- Expanding the analysis of regulatory impact on legislative initiatives;
- The binding nature and effectiveness of expert opinions and expert reviews;
- Professional lawyers for drafting laws and enhancing the status of the Institute of Legislation;
- The hierarchy of legislative acts and regulation at the level of constitutional law.

2.6.1.1 Key Findings

1. **The need for public involvement in the legislative process.** The involvement of the public and a broad range of stakeholders in Kazakhstan's legislative process is already being implemented through the "Open legal acts" platform, working groups, and public councils. However, there is significant unrealized potential to increase the level of citizen participation, which could significantly strengthen public trust in the legislative process. Strengthening these mechanisms, including raising public awareness and simplifying procedures, can contribute to broader and more active public involvement in discussing and developing draft legislation.

2. Increasing the "stability" of legislation: changes and integrity. Frequent changes to legislative acts in Kazakhstan reflect the flexibility of the legal system in adapting to new conditions, but they also require a more detailed analysis of their consequences and systematization. Establishing minimum deadlines for considering draft legislation and defining clear grounds for making amendments will help create a more stable and predictable legal system, contributing to the confidence of citizens and businesses in the legislative environment.

3. **Expanding and improving the regulatory impact analysis (RIA).** There is potential for more active application of RIA to cover a wider range of public relations and take into account the possible consequences of legislative initiatives for the economy and society. Strengthening the independence of RIA implementation and introducing additional analysis criteria will allow for a more accurate assessment of the impact of legislative changes and will enhance their effectiveness.

4. **The binding nature of expert opinions and expert reviews in the legislative process.** In recent years, significant progress has been made in developing the institution of scientific expertise. Expert reviews currently have a recommendatory nature, allowing the initiators of draft legislation to disregard expert recommendations. This leads to a lack of awareness among experts regarding the status of their recommendations, as there is no mandatory feedback on whether their recommendations were adopted. Increasing the timelines for conducting expert reviews and implementing mandatory feedback with the initiators of draft legislation will improve the quality of opinions and their impact on the legislative process, leading to more balanced and informed decisions.

5. **Enhancing the status of the Institute of Legislation and Legal Information and professionalizing the community.** One of the main problems is that the Institute of Legislation and Legal Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan is not a single hub for developing draft legislation. Draft legislation is not always developed by professional lawyers. Currently, the process of developing and amending regulatory legal acts is primarily carried out by employees of government agencies in the field, without proper interaction with stakeholders. Engaging a wide range of experts from various fields and creating a regularly updated single registry of specialists will ensure higher quality and more coordinated lawmaking, consistent with the needs of modern society.

6. **Streamlining the legal hierarchy to improve law enforcement.** Currently, the level of the law is fifth in the hierarchy of legal acts, behind the Constitution, laws amending the Constitution, constitutional laws, and codes. There is no clear definition of the “Legal System of the Republic of Kazakhstan,” creating gaps in understanding and regulating legal relations. There is an opportunity to more effectively hierarchize legal acts for further streamlining and detailing at the level of Constitutional law. This will eliminate existing legal uncertainties and conflicts, ensure clearer and more effective law enforcement.

2.6.1.2 Overview of Proposed Solutions

1. Public and government participation

It is necessary to amend and supplement legislative acts, such as the Constitutional Law "On the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Status of its Deputies," the Law "On Local Government and Self-Government in the Republic of Kazakhstan," and the Law "On Legal Acts." These amendments will ensure a broader and more effective process of public involvement in lawmaking, increasing its transparency and openness:

- Mandatory provision of feedback from the initiators of draft legislation, with responsibility established for a formal approach to proposals;
- Mandatory participation of the regional and republican city Maslikhats, the Akims of districts and cities of regional significance in the Majilis working groups for considering draft legislation before submission to the Majilis;
- Amendments to laws governing public participation in the legislative process to ensure their more active and meaningful involvement.

2. Managing changes in legislation

- Establishing minimum deadlines for considering draft legislation. It is proposed to introduce a minimum consideration period in the Majilis of at least 60 days to ensure a more thorough analysis and discussion of draft legislation. This will avoid rushing into making important decisions and ensure their quality and justification;
- Defining clear grounds for making amendments. This measure will minimize frequent and unjustified changes, improving legal predictability and stability;
- Consistency with the basic principles of legislation. When making changes to laws, it is necessary to ensure their consistency with the basic principles of the legal system. This will allow for the creation of higher quality and more effective legal acts that meet the needs of society.

3. Expanding and ensuring the independence of regulatory impact analysis

- Expanding the scope of RIA. RIA should be extended to all legislative initiatives, including draft legislation initiated by deputies. This will enable more comprehensive analysis of potential consequences, considering all aspects of public life, including the economy, society, and the environment;
- Establishing clear timelines and budgets for RIA. Clear deadlines should be established for conducting RIA, and a separate budget should be allocated, which will prevent delays and ensure high-quality analysis. It is also proposed to implement a system for forecasting the likely outcomes of regulatory decisions, which will increase the accuracy of the assessment and avoid categorical conclusions.

4. The binding nature and extension of deadlines for expert opinions

- Establishing mandatory feedback. It is proposed to legally establish the mandatory consideration of expert recommendations by the initiators of draft legislation, with reasoned responses provided for each recommendation. This will enhance the significance of expert opinions and their influence on the legislative process;
- Extending the timelines for conducting expert reviews. It is proposed to increase the timelines for conducting expert reviews to 30 days, with the possibility of an extension of 15 days if additional research is required. This will allow experts to delve deeper into draft legislation and provide well-founded recommendations.

5. Enhancing the status and optimizing the work of the Institute of Legislation and Legal Information

- Subordinating the Institute of Legislation and Legal Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Government Apparatus. For more effective lawmaking, it is proposed to raise the status of the Institute of Legislation and Legal Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan, making it a central hub for developing draft legislation within the government. This will allow the the Institute of Legislation and Legal Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan to better coordinate the process of developing laws and ensure the quality of legislation;
- Creating a system of legal support at all stages of developing draft legislation, starting from the early stages and up to the point of their adoption. This will ensure uniformity of wording and compliance with existing regulatory standards, which will enhance the quality of adopted laws.
- Forming a single registry of experts. It is proposed to create a single registry of experts who are ready to work on a permanent basis, with long-term contracts. This will ensure responsibility, authorship, and motivation for experts, improving the quality of their work and enhancing the status of the Institute of Legislation and Legal Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

6. Streamlining the legal hierarchy

- Developing a Constitutional law. To clearly regulate legal relations and eliminate legal conflicts, it is proposed to develop a Constitutional law that will define the hierarchy of legislative acts at the level of the Constitution. This will create a more streamlined and understandable legal system, ensuring legal certainty;
- Regulating issues of law enforcement at the level of the Constitution. Introducing clear provisions on the legal nature of the hierarchy of regulatory legal acts at the level of the Constitution will eliminate legal loopholes and enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement practices.

2.6.1.2 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

1. Within the framework of the proposed initiatives, along with the development of Constitutional law, it is proposed to make 16 amendments and additions to 4 regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The proposed legislative initiatives aim to improve the quality and transparency of the legislative process in Kazakhstan.

2. Key changes include establishing a minimum deadline for considering draft legislation in the Majilis, expanding the analysis of regulatory impact (RIA) to all legislative initiatives, actively involving local authorities and the public in discussing draft legislation, and enhancing the role of the Institute of Legislation, which will be responsible for coordinating and professionally developing laws. The process of scientific expertise is being strengthened with an extension of timelines and mandatory consideration of expert recommendations, creating a more stable and effective legal system that supports Kazakhstan's sustainable development.

2.6.3 New mechanisms for combating corruption

The work of the research and development team "New Mechanisms for Combating Corruption" within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the United Nations – "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" – revealed the need to develop and implement effective anti-corruption mechanisms in key industries. Research has shown that corruption is most prevalent in the areas of education, healthcare, road construction, and mineral resource use. The main reasons for this are systemic vulnerabilities, insufficient transparency, and a low level of digitalization in processes. The team concluded that to reduce corruption, it is necessary to implement comprehensive digital solutions, strengthen public control, and enhance transparency. The most important factors for success are political will and the active participation of local authorities and stakeholders.

2.6.2.1 Key Findings

Corruption in Education

Over the past five years, there has been a steady increase in education spending in the state budget, reaching 23% in 2023. However, along with increased funding, the number of embezzlements has also grown: over the past year and a half, 229 criminal cases have been initiated with damages exceeding 15 billion tenge.

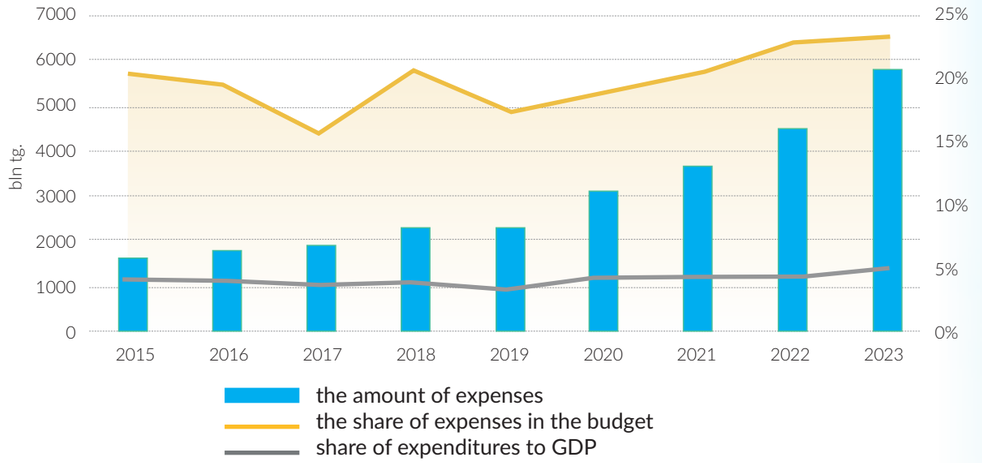
Preschool education:

The main risks are associated with public procurement, overstating the number of pupils, and embezzling funds intended for food.

Secondary education:

Spending on schools accounts for 64% of the total education budget. Key problems include overstating salaries, embezzlement from the payroll fund, and the lack of integration of accounting programs with government databases and the treasury.

Figure 6 Dynamics of the increase in education costs in the structure of the state budget in Kazakhstan



Corruption in healthcare

Corruption in healthcare undermines the efficiency and fairness of the system. Over the past three years, healthcare spending in Kazakhstan has increased from 1.6 trillion tenge in 2021 to 5.8 trillion tenge in 2023. In 2024, more than 2.5 trillion tenge is planned to be allocated, including significant amounts for the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHI).

Procedural violations: State audits revealed violations amounting to over 32 billion tenge, inefficient use of funds totaling 31.1 billion tenge, and financial losses of 11.8 million tenge. The number of unconfirmed cases of medical care provided increased from 21 thousand in 2020 to 52 thousand in 2022. In early 2024, over 440 cases of unprovided services were identified, amounting to approximately 195 million tenge.

Figure 7 Dynamics of health care costs

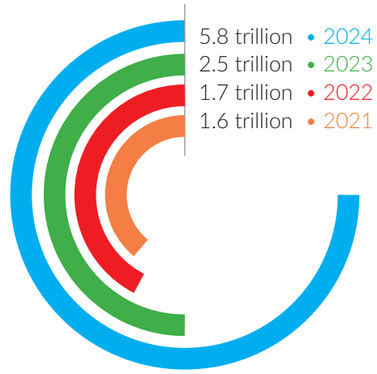
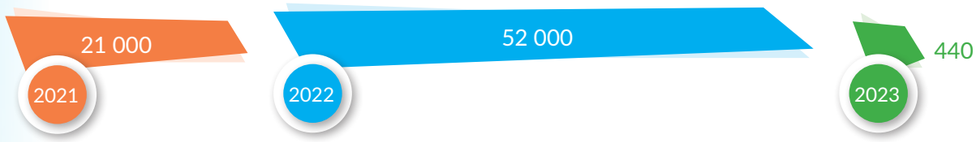


Figure 8 Unconfirmed cases of medical care



Corruption in Road Construction

Planning and construction of roads in Kazakhstan face several challenges that diminish the effectiveness and transparency of road projects.

Funding: Over the past two years, the road construction industry has received approximately 3 trillion tenge; however, road quality and project management suffer due to corruption risks. In the past 3.5 years, 65 corruption offenses have been registered, amounting to about 9 billion tenge.

Planning: Lack of transparency in planning and spending leads to duplication and inflated costs. Insufficient government oversight, legal loopholes, and the absence of public data on ongoing projects limit opportunities for public control.

Low Salaries for Public Servants

Public servant salaries in Kazakhstan are significantly lower than those in the quasi-public and private sectors. This leads to financial difficulties, decreased motivation, deterioration of mental health, and contributes to corrupt behavior.

Activities of Illegal Mineral Resource Users

In Kazakhstan, the problem of illegal mineral resource use is particularly relevant in the Akmola region, which has significant deposits of minerals, creating conditions for illegal extraction.

Seasonality of Information: Space monitoring revealed 2,503 cases of illegal mineral resource extraction, including 77 new cases in 2023. However, no action is taken against violators due to overlapping authorities and a lack of coordination between government agencies.

Compliance in the Quasi-Public Sector

In Kazakhstan's quasi-public sector, there is a lack of understanding of the role of compliance departments. Compliance is primarily perceived as a tool for combating corruption, which limits its functionality and reduces effectiveness in other areas.

Contradictions in legislation: Contradictions in requirements for the independence of compliance departments, especially in organizations where the management is represented by the executive body, hinder the implementation of an independent compliance function.

Limited resources: Creating separate compliance units in small quasi-public organizations is not feasible, leading to a formal approach and reduced effectiveness. The lack of involvement from senior management in creating an anti-corruption culture lowers the overall effectiveness of measures.

Improving Anti-Corruption Legislation

Scope of the private sector: In Kazakhstan's legislation, the emphasis is on combating corruption in government agencies, while the private sector remains outside the scope, creating gaps in the fight against corruption.

Publicity of declarations: Despite the requirements of the Republic of Kazakhstan Law "On Combating Corruption" regarding the submission of declarations of income and assets by public servants, this data is not publicly available, making independent verification difficult. The system of asset and property declaration is not sufficiently effective, limiting its ability to prevent corruption and identify conflicts of interest.

2.6.2.2 Overview of Proposed Solutions

1. Education:

- BImplement voucher financing for preschool education to reduce corruption risks in the public procurement process.
- Integrate information systems for controlling salary calculations, including Face ID for teachers and QR codes for tracking student attendance.
- Develop a centralized digital platform for managing student dormitories, preventing corruption in allocating spaces.

2. Healthcare:

- Implement mandatory biometric identification for patients to prevent fraudulent billing and unauthorized use of medical services.

3. Road Construction:

- Create an automated database and management system for road projects to ensure transparency and reduce corruption.
- Implement mechanisms for public oversight of road projects, especially during the warranty period.
- Tighten requirements for auditing project documentation and expenses.

4. Mineral Resource Use:

- Utilize satellite monitoring to identify illegal mineral extraction and strengthen coordination between government agencies.

5. Public Administration:

- Increase public servant salaries to reduce incentives for corruption.
- Optimize staffing and digitalize administrative processes.

6. Compliance in the Quasi-Public Sector:

- Expand the functions of compliance departments beyond combating corruption, encompassing a broader range of risk management.
- Introduce centralized outsourcing of compliance functions for multiple quasi-public sector entities.
- Increase the application of international standards ISO 37001-2016.
- Enhance the qualifications of compliance department employees and develop a corporate culture.
- Implement a system of open and predictable appointments for board members.
- Implement a two-year ban on former public servants working in commercial organizations if they controlled their activities.
- Engage NGOs in the anti-corruption system.

7. Improving Anti-Corruption Legislation:

- Ensure the publicity of declarations of income and property for public servants.
- Expand the definition of corruption in legislation, including the private sector.
- Increase measures of public control.
- Relax the prohibition on engaging in other paid activities for public servants, develop mechanisms for preventing conflicts of interest.
- Strengthen whistleblower protection.
- Include declaration analysis in anti-corruption monitoring.

2.6.3 The "Effective Maslikhat"

The "Effective Maslikhat" research and development team conducted research aimed at improving legislation, developing and implementing the e-Maslikhat information system, and creating professional development programs for Maslikhat deputies. These initiatives aim to reform local self-governance, enhance the effectiveness and transparency of the management system, meet citizen needs, and support the sustainable development of regions.

2.6.3.1 Key Findings

GAP-анализ выявляет ключевые проблемы эффективности маслихатов: ограниченные полномочия в финансах и бюджетировании, зависимость маслихатов от исполнительных органов, недостаточное финансирование, низкий уровень квалификации депутатов, отсутствие механизма ответственности и бюрократизация.

1. To improve the local self-governance system, it is necessary to expand the authority of Maslikhats, improve funding, enhance deputy qualifications, implement accountability mechanisms, strengthen citizen participation, and reduce bureaucracy.

2. Kazakhstan lacks a unified digital platform that provides comprehensive automation of the activities of Maslikhats and their deputies. Currently, there are separate websites for various Maslikhats, which mostly provide fragmented information.

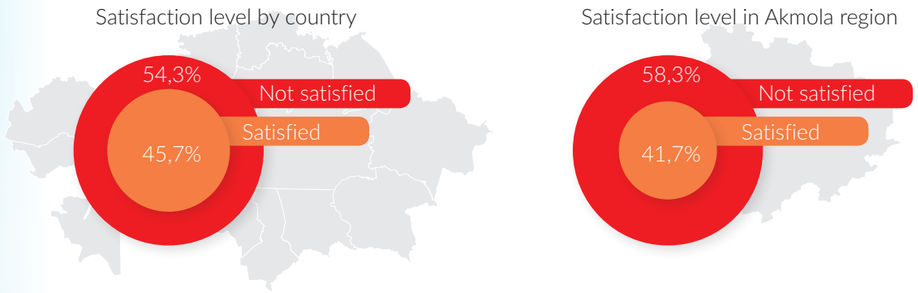
One of the key challenges is the lack of up-to-date information on deputies, such as their "passport" and information about pre-election programs. There are no updatable reports on the employment and effectiveness of deputies' work, nor integration with state information systems, such as eOtinish. This creates difficulties for citizens and businesses who are forced to seek information through social media and the personal pages of deputies.

3. The Concept of Digitalization of Representative Bodies, approved on August 23, 2023, partially covers issues of Maslikhat digitalization but lacks a plan for its implementation. To address these problems, it is necessary to develop a unified technical specification for automating the activities of Maslikhats and integrating them with existing state information systems. This will simplify access to information, ensure transparency, and increase the effectiveness of deputies' work.

4. The main problems identified by deputies in surveys include road conditions, providing quality drinking water, corruption, as well as issues related to education and healthcare. The level of satisfaction with the work of Maslikhats is 45.7% nationwide and 41.7% in the Akmola region. The main reasons for dissatisfaction include bureaucracy, corruption, and a lack of financial resources.

5. An assessment of the Law "On Local Government and Self-Government" showed that over 40% of deputies consider it insufficiently effective and requiring amendments. Recommendations for improving the work of Maslikhats include expanding their authority, strengthening the status of local authorities, and improving the professionalism of deputies. These findings confirm the need to optimize the work of Maslikhats and improve their interaction with the population and executive authorities.

Figure 9 The level of satisfaction with the work of Maslikhats



2.6.3.2 Overview of Legislative Initiatives

It is necessary to amend and supplement a number of regulatory legal acts. These changes will improve the work of local authorities, increase their powers, transparency, openness, and citizen engagement. Key changes include expanding the powers of Maslikhats, adding new functions, such as monitoring the decisions of Akims, determining citizen rewards, and controlling participatory budgeting. The right of Maslikhats to impose disciplinary sanctions on the chairmen of audit commissions is also being introduced to improve control over the observance of the law at the local level.

1. Changes in the activities of Maslikhat apparatuses and regulations:

The staffing levels of the apparatuses are being increased, which is related to the increasing number of deputies and the need to ensure the effective operation of the apparatus. It is also proposed to clearly define the division of responsibilities between the chairman of the Maslikhat and the head of the apparatus.

2. Increasing the transparency of the work of Maslikhats:

It is proposed to introduce a mandatory requirement to invite media representatives to open sessions and meetings of standing committees, which is aimed at making information accessible to the public. Deputies are also proposed to be granted new powers to participate in budget committees and working groups at the Senate. Implementing the obligation to hold offline meetings with the population.

3. Improving the qualifications of deputies in licensed educational organizations,

which will help prevent monopolization and improve the quality of training. The rules for reimbursing travel expenses for deputies are being clarified to prevent abuse.

4. It is proposed that, in the event of early termination of powers, the apparatus should continue to function until a new composition of deputies is elected.

It is advisable to consider the possibility of purchasing certain types of work from non-governmental organizations within the framework of government. It is proposed to adjust measures for the procedure for providing information by audit commissions to Maslikhats in order to improve control over budget expenditures.

5. Approving the Concept of Digitalization of Maslikhat

Activities to create a modern information system for Maslikhats (IS) e-Maslikhat. This system should be able to provide comprehensive support for the activities of Maslikhats in a digital society, including business process management, planning and analysis of activities, as well as interaction with citizens and other government bodies.

2.6.3.3 Overview of Project Initiatives

1. The **e-Maslikhat** project involves developing a conceptual model of the system, which will include the functional architecture and modules of the system, as well as defining external information systems for integration. The main products of the project include the created conceptual model and a draft letter to the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

2. **A catalog of courses on the e-Maslikhat platform** is advisable for posting a wide range of educational programs for Maslikhat deputies aimed at enhancing their professional qualifications and work efficiency.

3. **A draft of the Training Program for Maslikhat Deputies within the Adaptation Course has been developed.** The project covers a wide range of topics necessary for effectively performing deputy duties. Over a period of three months, both online and offline classes are proposed, which include studying key aspects of state and local government, legislation, ethics, communication, and management.

PART 3.

LESSONS LEARNED

3.1 Scope of Application

In this section, the "SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024" project team describes the project's scope, its limitations, which may affect the interpretation of project outcomes and the application of its findings. A key area was the formation of lessons learned to further refine the Accelerator program.

Scope of Coverage

The "SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024" from the MIND Accelerator provides a detailed overview of how the project to achieve specific Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan was implemented. This report is based on the results of project-research work by over 200 volunteers who, in 8 teams over 100 days, engaged in research, development, and piloting project initiatives. The report also describes the project methodology with a particular focus on partnerships between government agencies, the private sector, and civil society.

3.2 Scope of Limitations

Despite the broad scope, there are some limitations to consider:

1. Assumptions: We based the report on the assumption that the collected and analyzed data are accurate and reflect the situation in Kazakhstan. However, if the data proves inaccurate, this could affect the results.

2. Data Availability: Data is not always equally accessible or of the same quality across regions and sectors, which could have led to some bias in the analysis.

3. Generalizability: The conclusions we reached are based on the specifics of Kazakhstan and the SDGs on which the research and development teams focused their efforts. Therefore, these results may not be fully applicable to other countries or regions with their unique conditions.

4. Methodological limitations: While we used reliable methodologies, they cannot always account for all the complexities of interactions between different SDGs. This can limit the completeness and accuracy of our conclusions.

5. Limited resources: Our capabilities were limited in terms of time, budget, and access to stakeholders, which could have affected the depth of analysis and the implementation of some initiatives.

3.3 Lessons Learned

The outcomes of the first MIND Accelerator on Sustainable Development Goals provided a unique opportunity for conducting detailed analysis and forming lessons learned. The research and development team identified two key areas for further improvement of the Accelerator program: efforts and measures to achieve the global sustainable agenda, as well as organizing communications with the teams.

The Role of Partnerships

Effective partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society, and international organizations are crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Successful case studies and international initiatives clearly demonstrate that collaboration and pooling resources contribute to the successful implementation of comprehensive programs. The project team intends to devote more attention to strengthening international and cross-sectoral partnerships to mobilize resources, share knowledge and technologies, and improve coordination of actions at all levels.

SDG Integration

The interconnectedness between Sustainable Development Goals highlights the need for their integration into national and regional development strategies. Achieving one goal can have both positive and negative impacts on other goals. For example, success in sustainable economic growth (SDG 8) directly influences poverty reduction (SDG 1) but can negatively impact environmental sustainability (SDGs 13, 14, 15) if managed inadequately. As part of improving the methodology, the project team will focus on developing strategies that take into account systemic interrelationships and ensure a balanced approach to implementing the SDGs.

Systemic Approach

A systemic approach to implementing Sustainable Development Goals, considering interrelationships and potential trade-offs between goals, has proven effective. For example, assessing interactions between SDG 3 (Health) and SDG 4 (Education) shows that improving one sector leads to improvements in the other, creating a positive cycle. The project team plans to strengthen the research stage, using advanced data analytics tools to increase accuracy.

Implementing software solutions that process big data will help us better understand the current state and more accurately predict the future.

In the future, the project team intends to use tools of systemic predictive analytics to forecast and develop policies that will consider both short-term and long-term effects of implementing sustainable development strategies.

Monitoring and Evaluating Progress

Insufficient monitoring and evaluation of interactions between Sustainable Development Goals can lead to inefficient resource allocation. Regularly assessing progress, considering interrelationships between goals, helps identify and address potential problems at an early stage. In the future, the project team intends to implement integrated monitoring systems to track progress across all interconnected goals simultaneously, thereby ensuring more effective resource management and adjustment of strategies.

Communications

The second area of lessons learned is related to communications.

To improve the stage related to project implementation, it is important to:

1. Apply a flexible project management methodology (Agile) to ensure flexibility and iterative progress.
2. Divide projects into small sprints with regular reviews and adjustments.
3. Implement a robust risk management system to assess and mitigate risks at all stages of project implementation.

In interacting with stakeholders, it is important to:

1. Improve the feedback system, conduct stakeholder mapping to understand their influence and prioritize.
2. Develop comprehensive communication plans that define the level, dynamics, and content of stakeholder engagement processes.
3. Utilize digital platforms to facilitate communication and collaboration with stakeholders, including online forums, regular webinars, and interactive dashboards.

Team Structures and Internal Roles

To optimize team structure and internal roles, it is recommended to:

1. Develop a detailed job description for each role.
2. Expand the mentoring program, establishing clear guidelines for supporting teams.

Continuous Improvement

To advance the philosophy of continuous improvement, the project team intends in the future to:

- Implement a robust feedback mechanism, define clear performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the accelerator methodology.
- Develop and publish case studies of successful projects, highlighting best practices and lessons learned to guide future teams.
- Create a visual timeline of accelerator stages and weekly sprints, using color coding that corresponds to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Develop interactive tools and dashboards that allow teams to track progress, manage tasks, and visualize results.
- Provide teams with standardized templates for all project-related documentation, action plans, and reports to ensure consistency and completeness.
- Ensure the enhancement of awareness and competencies of research and development team.
- Involve qualified experts as mentors for project-research teams to ensure high-quality research and analytics.
- Conduct regular training to improve team member skills, especially in project management and data analysis.
- Improve data collection methods, implementing advanced analytical tools and establishing standard protocols for all regions;
- Check how our findings can be applied in other regions or countries with similar goals to understand the universality of our solutions;
- Conduct regular assessments and monitoring to study the long-term impact of our initiatives on Kazakhstan's sustainable development;
- Use more sophisticated tools for analyzing the interrelationships between different SDGs, which will help us better plan and implement projects in the future.

The results of the first MIND Accelerator on Sustainable Development Goals have demonstrated the importance of a systemic approach and the integration of various aspects of sustainable development.

Lessons learned have emphasized the need for cross-sectoral partnerships, flexible and innovative project management methods, and continuous monitoring and evaluation of progress.

Embracing the philosophy of continuous improvement and partnership in project management processes will be a key factor in the success of future initiatives. Applying these lessons and approaches in the future will allow us not only to achieve the set goals but also create a solid foundation for the country's long-term sustainable development.

SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024

PART 4.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORK INTERACTION

4.1 Philosophy of Partnership

Partnership, enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17), plays a key role in strengthening the global synergies and cooperation necessary to achieve all the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This chapter emphasizes the importance of partnerships, collaborations, and interactions that have become the foundation for the success of the MIND Accelerator program.

SDG 17 focuses on building sustainable partnerships that bring together the efforts of states, the private sector, academia, and civil society. These partnerships enable the development of comprehensive solutions to global problems based on the experience and knowledge of all involved parties.

The MIND Accelerator Program has embodied the principles of SDG 17 in practice, creating a unique platform for interaction between representatives of government agencies, the private sector, academic institutions, and public organizations. The program was focused on an interdisciplinary approach that allowed experts from different fields to unite in addressing six key SDGs.

Within the framework of the program, over 30 government and private organizations worked together to develop and implement projects to improve the quality of education, healthcare, and other priority areas.

The result of these efforts is the public report "SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024," which summarizes the best practices and achievements of the program. This report is a prime example of how joint efforts and effective collaboration can contribute to Kazakhstan's sustainable development.

The process of creating the "SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024" demonstrated the critical importance of active participation by all stakeholders. Through synergy and coordinated interaction among program participants, it was possible to develop strategies and recommendations that will contribute to long-term development. The program not only achieved significant results in a short period but also laid the foundation for future initiatives, ensuring sustainable progress in Kazakhstan.

This chapter highlights the crucial role of network interaction and partnership in achieving the SDGs. In the future, the project team plans to expand the program, engaging even more participants and international partners to continue working towards achieving the SDGs in Kazakhstan. Active collaboration among all stakeholders will remain the foundation for achieving long-term sustainable development goals.

4.2 Partners and Stakeholders

The MIND Accelerator project on the UN Sustainable Development Goals is a multifaceted initiative aimed at accelerating progress in achieving the SDGs through innovative approaches, partnerships, and knowledge sharing. The success of this project was made possible thanks to the significant support and close cooperation with our partners and stakeholders, each of whom made a unique contribution to fulfilling our mission.

We would like to extend special recognition to the partners who provided us with material support, securing the financial foundation for implementing our initiatives. These partners are:

- The United Nations Development Programme
- LLC "Kazakhmys Corporation"
- LLP "Eurasian Resources Group"

We are deeply grateful to all the organizations and institutions that supported the project at various stages of its development and implementation. We express special gratitude to our partners who were among the first to believe in us. Among them are:

- The Kazakhstan Association of Healthcare Managers;
- The Rural Sustainable Development Fund;
- Chapter Zero Kazakhstan;
- Association of business process management professionals Kazakhstan Chapter;
- The Union of Mechanical Engineers of Kazakhstan;
- Public Association "Adildik Joly" and others.

The research and development teams express their gratitude to the stakeholders and partners who supported them throughout the journey.

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

- The Committee of the Penal Enforcement System;
- The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- The Health Department of the Akmola region.

SDG 8 : Decent work and economic growth

- Akim of Bulandyn district Smailov A.D.;
- Akim of Korgalzhyn district Zhanbaev B. A.;
- Head of the Strategy Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Moldybaeva S.;
- Chairman of the Association of legal entities "Meat Union of Kazakhstan" Baktibaev M.B.;
- Representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations by Musina L.

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

- To the deputy akim of Akmola region Zharkeshov E.S.

SDG 16: New mechanisms for combating corruption

- LLP Clockster;
- LLP “Biometric vision”;
- LLP “KDS Franchising”;
- LLP “Student Life” ;
- LLP “ALAQAN TECHNOLOGIES”;
- The Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

SDG 16: Quality of laws

- The UNDP Office:
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

SDG 16: The effective maslikhat

- To the UNDP Office;
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- The Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- The Institute of Parliamentarism;
- LLP “BDO Digital Qazaqstan”;
- LLP “Big Knowledge”.

Each of our stakeholders plays a key role in creating an ecosystem conducive to achieving the SDGs. Their logos not only visually represent their organizational identity, but also symbolize the value and support they bring to our common path to a more sustainable future.

4.3 The research and development teams

PARTICIPANT STATISTICS FOR PROJECT TEAMS

The MIND Accelerator project on the UN Sustainable Development Goals brought together over 200 participants, representing a wide range of sectors and possessing a high level of expertise. These participants are true change agents working for the benefit of society and actively promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Composition of Project-Research Teams:

Figure 10 ▸ Distribution of participants by sector

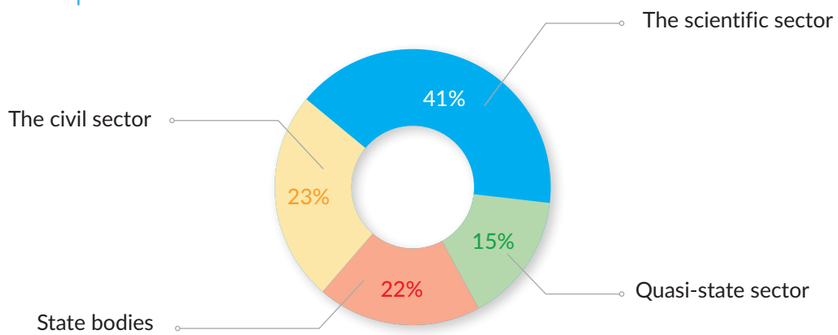
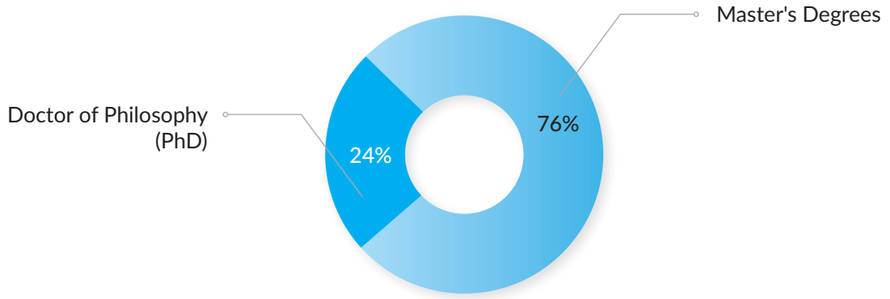


Figure 11 ▸ Distribution of participants by gender

The level of education:

- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):** 30% of the participants have a PhD degree, which indicates a high level of their academic training and research skills.
- **Master's Degrees:** 95% of the participants have a master's degree, which emphasizes their professional competence and deep knowledge in their field.

Figure 12 ▸ Distribution of Participants Educational Leve



These data demonstrate that our project has attracted participants with diverse experience and qualifications, which allows us to approach the tasks comprehensively and effectively. We are proud that such highly qualified specialists are involved in the project, and we are confident that their contribution will contribute to achieving the goals set.

4.4 Call to collaboration

Join the MIND Accelerator: Shape Kazakhstan's Sustainable Future

In May 2024, a large-scale initiative was launched under the leadership of the Public Project Office of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in partnership with MIND Maqsut Narikbayev University and the Akmola Region Administration. This ambitious project, aimed at achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), brought together over 200 volunteer experts from the government, business, and society to work on eight key SDGs.

Become a Part of Change

Starting on May 3, 2024, eight project teams consisting of graduates of the Senate Parliament School of Analytics, faculty of Maqsut Narikbayev University, and representatives of the Akmola Region Administration, commenced their mission. Utilizing the MIND Accelerator methodology and the powerful "GAP-analysis" tool, the teams identified gaps and outlined strategic solutions for Kazakhstan's sustainable development. Specific proposals have been prepared for improving legislation, along with a list of project initiatives. But our journey does not end here. The synergy created through collaboration with various local and international institutions and organizations has been the driving force behind our success.

Join Today

We invite businesses, academia, and government agencies to join this ambitious initiative. Your participation is crucial in building a sustainable future for Kazakhstan and beyond. Together, we can achieve incredible results, harnessing the power of synergy and innovation.

Join us on this exciting journey towards a better world!

Contribute to Kazakhstan's sustainable future by utilizing your expertise, resources, and passion.

SDG IMPACT REPORT 2024

APPENDICES

COMPARATIVE TABLES

PROJECT DOCUMENTS

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

To make amendments:

1. Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 30, 2022 No. 61;
2. Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated June 30, 2022 No. 58;
3. Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 13, 2020 No. 194/2020;
4. Order of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 15, 2022 No. 262/2020.

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

To make amendments:

1. The Law On Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 27 July, 2007 No. 319-III;
2. The Law On the status of a teacher of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 27, 2019 No. 293-VI;
3. The Law On Social and Medical Pedagogical Correctional Assistance for Children with Disabilities of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 11 July 2002 No. 343.

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

To make amendments:

1. Land Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 20 June, 2003 No.442;
2. Entrepreneur Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 29, 2015 No. 375-V;
3. The Law On touristic activity in the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 13 June, 2001 No. 211;
4. "Rules for the provision of portfolio subsidies for part of the remuneration rate and partial guarantees for loans/micro-loans of small businesses, including microenterprises", approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic Kazakhstan "On some measures of state support for private entrepreneurship" (the draft of the new version of these Rules is being approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan,the old version of the Rules became invalid by Resolution of the PRK dated 01/18/2024 No. 18)
5. Order of the Minister of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On approval of the Rules for the formation and maintenance of the register of national tourist brands"dated September 27, 2021 No. 291;
6. Order of the Minister of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On approval of the Rules for the formation and maintenance of the State Register of tourist routes and trails" dated February 27, 2015 No. 255;

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

To make amendments:

1. Land Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 20 June, 2003 No.442.

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

To make amendments:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 2, 2021 No. 400-VI;
2. Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 2, 2021 No. 400-VI;
3. Regulatory legal acts, rules, drafts, instructions and other documents
4. Project Concept for the Development of Environmental Culture for 2024-2029

SDG 16: THE QUALITY OF THE LAWS

To make amendments:

1. The Constitutional Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 16, 1995 "On the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Status of its deputies";
2. The Entrepreneurial Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 29, 2015
3. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 23, 2001 "On Local Government and Self-government in the Republic of Kazakhstan";
4. To the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated April 6, 2016 "On Legal acts";

SDG 16: NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION MECHANISMS

To make amendments:

1. Budget Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 4, 2008 No. 95-IV;
2. Budget Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 4, 2008 No. 95-IV;
3. Labor Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 414-V dated November 23, 2015;
4. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated May 13, 2003 "On Joint-Stock Companies";
5. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 18, 2015 "On combating Corruption"

SDG 16: EFFECTIVE MASLIKHAT

To make amendments:

1. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated January 23, 2001 "On Local Government and Self-government in the Republic of Kazakhstan";
2. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated November 12, 2015 "On State Audit and Financial Control";
3. Constitutional Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 28, 1995 "On Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan";
4. Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 3, 2013 No. 704 "On approval of the Standard Regulations of maslikhats";
5. Order of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated March 17, 2015 No. 179 "On approval of the natural standards for providing state bodies with official and duty vehicles, telephone communication, office furniture and areas for housing the apparatus of state bodies";
6. Order of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 1, 2021 No. 633 "On approval of natural standards of material and technical support of state bodies";
7. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated March 28, 2023 No. 269 "On approval of the Concept of Digital Transformation, development of the industry of information and communication technologies and cybersecurity for 2023-2029";

Project Documents

SDG 3: "GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING".

- Project: Medical remote diagnostics in penitentiary institutions.

SDG 4: "QUALITY EDUCATION".

- Project: Secondary education.

SDG 8: "DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH".

- Project: Development of rural tourism.

SDG 11: "SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES".

- Project: Sustainable urbanization through creative hubs and participatory budget mechanisms.
- Project: Creative hub as a driver of sustainable urbanization and regional development.

SDG 13: "CLIMATE ACTION"№

- Project: Dialogue platform for interaction between business, government, and scientific research communities on climate issues.
- Project: National climate championship "Carbon Neutrality Scenario".

SDG 16: "PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS" EFFECTIVE MASLIKHAT.

- Project: e-maslikhat.

MAQSUT NARIKBAYEV UNIVERSITY has a 30-year tradition of striving for excellence in education and possesses significant expertise in developing educational policies and practices that foster innovation and leadership.

The university offers 42 educational programs across all levels of study, delivered through four schools. The Law School, the oldest, focuses on legal studies. The International School of Economics specializes in economics, finance, management, and auditing. The School of Humanities, the newest, covers linguistics, tourism, and psychology. The Business School provides master's and doctoral programs in business management. In 2021, the university launched a successful program, "Journalism: Analysis and Investigation," and is now establishing the School of International Journalism in collaboration with the Television and Radio Complex of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and international media partners.

The university has undergone the International Quality Review (IQR) by the British Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). The university has been awarded programmatic and institutional accreditation from FIBAA since 2016 and successfully completed re-accreditation in 2021. Some educational programs are accredited by IAQAE, ACCA, ICAEW, CIMA, and have been recognized by GARP and CFA.

MIND is an applied "think-to-do tank," serving as a platform for dialogue and acceleration, as well as a generator of independent ideas. Its work focuses on achieving sustainable development goals, solving societal, governmental, and business challenges, and developing and implementing innovative solutions.

As the Public Project Office of the Senate and MNU, MIND plays a vital role in bringing together experts to promote well-being and sustainable development in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and globally. The center's activities are guided by values such as independence, innovation, partnership, ethics, openness, and engagement.

MIND actively collaborates with government and international organizations, commercial entities, embassies, NGOs, research centers, and individuals.

SDG 3: "GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING"

Kanat Tossekbayev, Altimir Kim, Sayat Tolukbayev, Indira Sadvakassova, Nurdanat Berkingali, Gulziya Bidatova, Daulet Zhakipbayev.

SDG 4: "QUALITY EDUCATION"

Aigul Nurpeissova, Aida Akhmetzhanova, Saniya Zhumazhanova, Rizagul Syzdykbayeva, Assel Kenzhetayeva, Fariza Duisenbayeva.

SDG 8 "DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH"

Aliya Aubakirova, Elvira Idrissova, Assylym Nurmukhanbetova, Veronika Nurpeissova, Tomiriz Arystanova, Zifa Yakupova, Ainura Rakhmataliyeva, Sayat Toksanbayev, Dinara Kultasova, Mariya Titova, Maksat Kuzembayev, Gulnara Musina, Ainur Gabbassova, Dina Burpiyeva, Dastan Zainolda, Daulet Daut, Dauren Aubakirov, Daniyar Nurpeissov, Gaukhar Abdukarimova, Ainur Ishimgaliyeva

SDG 11 "SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS"

Irina Kharitonova, Altynai Nurkeeva, Shahzada Shogelbayeva, Fariza Baimanova, Leyla Shora, Ayazhan Uteuova, Alexandra Kharitonova, Dina Beysembayeva, Daniyar Aktanov, Eldar Dusetaev

SDG 13 "COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE"

Sabit Mukhanov, Natalia Bachinskaya, Olga Bulavkina, Akbota Nauryzova, Elena Efimova

SDG 16 "NEW MECHANISMS FOR COMBATTING CORRUPTION"

Zhanna Assanova, Erlaz Zhaiykbaev, Samira Taitenova, Igor Plyusnin, Dmitry Savelenko, Askar Japarov, Aida Khamzina, Dauren Akshalov, Beibit Turabaev, Sandugash Baigunusova, Gulnara Isenova, Diar Nugumanov

SDG 16 "QUALITY LAWS"

Sauryk Abirbek, Asylbek Kaparov, Ainur Zhunusova, Diana Asmagambet, Alisher Ibrayev, Kanat Eleusizov, Rakhimbek Konlimkos, Sara Idrysheva, Indira Aubakirova, Aliya Orazbayeva, Bagdat Rakhmetullina, Nurgazy Anuarbekov, Sanzhar Utemisov, Dinara Salykova, Vladimir Volkov, Saule Isabekova, Zhanna Aimasheva

SDG 16 "EFFECTIVE MASLIKHAT"

Bibigul Zheksenbay, Gulzhan Bekmagambetova, Aigerim Abdrashitova, Kuanysh Mubarov, Yermek Zhumagulov, Saule Samidin

MIND

Altair Akhmetov, Nurzhan Nurlumbayev, Aidyn Abay, Margulan Zhumagali, Gulzhan Audanbay, Dina Berik, Dana Ordabayeva, Abylaykhan Nurmukhan