



KAZAKHSTAN ACTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Kazakhstan Actions Against Trafficking in Children (KATCH), a three-year project funded by the United States Department of State (USDOS), works to improve identification of child trafficking in persons (TIP) survivors and accompanying children of migrant laborers (ACML), and support them with appropriate, comprehensive care in southern Kazakhstan.

As a transit and destination location for migrants from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan — Central Asia’s largest country — faces increased domestic and international migration, exacerbated by economic turmoil from the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Thousands of undocumented migrants transit into Kazakhstan each day via informal border crossings for seasonal labor. These individuals and their accompanying children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons due to their irregular immigration status.

KATCH Objectives

KATCH will protect child TIP victims and ACML through two objectives:

1. Service providers have the capacity and resources to identify and assist child TIP victims and ACML in a child-sensitive, trauma-informed manner.
2. Child protection and victim identification systems are proactive, coordinated, and accountable to child TIP victims and ACML.

Winrock’s Strategic Approach

Child Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Champions

KATCH will work with Child CTIP Champions, individuals with community influence and a strong commitment to CTIP and child protection, to conduct quarterly outreach activities in project oblasts, facilitate enactment and improvement of existing child TIP protocols and guidelines, and broaden local child CTIP networks. The cohort of Child CTIP Champions will foster accountability and shared learning.

Survivor Inclusive

Because child TIP prevention and protection projects are most effective when informed and implemented by those who have survived it, KATCH will engage adult

survivors of child TIP by forming a Survivor Advisory Group (SAG). On a voluntary basis, SAG members will provide recommendations related to policies, services, and decisions related to survivor identification, referral, and assistance; child protection services, prevention strategies, and policy reform. SAG members will also participate in or lead KATCH activities, contribute to the selection of project partners and Child TIP Champions, and provide input into Winrock’s monitoring of project effectiveness.

Sustainable

To ensure that KATCH objectives continue to be achieved beyond the life of the project, KATCH will prioritize working directly with key government entities and local organizations to promote local ownership and build political will to advance activities. KATCH will:

- ✓ Create sustainable change in individual and organizational systems by training service providers to deliver child-sensitive, trauma-informed care, thereby expanding the pool of local organizations in southern Kazakhstan with such capacity.
- ✓ Mobilize a network of Child CTIP Champions to sustain pressure on national policymakers to address identified issues.
- ✓ Clarify government inter-agency roles and responsibilities related to child TIP to increase the efficiency, quality, and volume of survivor identification and protection beyond the life of the project.
- ✓ Integrate the lived experience of adult survivors of child TIP into the CTIP discourse to ensure that long-term solutions are aligned with their needs.

Partnerships

KATCH will partner with key government entities at all levels of government, including the Ministry of Education Committee on Child Protection and the Interagency Commission on TIP, the Human

Rights Commission under the Office of the President of Kazakhstan, and representatives from the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Health, and Labor and Social Protection. KATCH will also collaborate with specialized child TIP and protection non-governmental organizations and award micro-grants to expand the network and scope of local organizations to identify and support child TIP survivors and ACML.

KATCH will coordinate with Winrock International’s USAID Safe Migration in Central Asia (SMICA) activity by integrating child-specific considerations into cross-border referral mechanism initiatives and use SMICA’s regional NGO network of service providers to facilitate safe repatriation of child TIP victims and ACML.

Geographic Focus

KATCH will operate in Turkistan, Kyzylorda, Almaty, Jambyl, and Jetisu oblasts and Almaty and Shymkent cities in southern Kazakhstan, where economic opportunity and proximity to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic borders attract high numbers of migrants.



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This document was funded by a grant from the United States Department of State. The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of State.