

## **PROJECT SUMMARY AND VISION**

Kazakhstan Actions Against Trafficking in Children (KATCH) is a project [01 April 2023 - 30 September 2025] funded by the United States Department of State (USDOS), works to improve identification of child trafficking in persons (TIP) survivors and socially vulnerable migrant families, and support them with appropriate, comprehensive care in southern Kazakhstan. KATCH is the first-ever project

in Kazakhstan that focuses exclusively on the prevention of trafficking in children and the protection of child victims and children at risk. At the request of the donor, the project geographically covers only the south of Kazakhstan: Turkestan, Kyzylorda, Almaty, Zhambyl and Zhetysu regions and the cities of Almaty and Shymkent.



From 18 September 2023 to 30 June 2025, The "Combating Child Trafficking in Kazakhstan" 302 children of target groups were provided with training modules were developed, tested and published services. Services included safe shelter, support for in Kazakh and Russian languages. It collects best families undergoing repatriation, legal assistance, international practices in approaching children psychological counseling, and medical care victims of trafficking, explains the concept of (including for children born to migrant mothers). trafficking in children, gives an overview of both the international and domestic legal frameworks, Additionally, support was provided for restoring identification documents describes identification and post-screening (such as birth certificates), obtaining procedures, etc. A pool of trainers has been residence permits, enrolling children instructed on how to deliver this training course. in kindergartens and schools, and meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, shoes, and medicine. During the period of October - November 2023, September - November 2024, KATCH has trained 473 specialists in health, education, and social protection sectors, as well as NGOs in five oblasts of southern Kazakhstan During the period of February 1 - 22, 2024, on identifying, referring, and providing the KATCH Project Team organized consultative child-sensitive, trauma-informed care workshops with Akimats of southern regions to child TIP victims and socially of Kazakhstan to improve the effectiveness vulnerable migrant families. of child trafficking (TIP) support services. During this review, workshop participants identified gaps in policies and procedures that hinder rescue, reintegration KATCH partnered with five local nonand rehabilitation child victims governmental organizations to expand of trafficking. KATCH leveraged trauma-informed services for child various platforms, including trafficking survivors and socially those hosted by government vulnerable migrant families. agencies and international These NGO partners conducted organizations, to present awareness campaigns to educate these findings and at-risk populations about the advocate for stronger dangers and indicators of identification and trafficking, as well as the protection measures. support services available in their communities. Some campaigns were organized jointly with the newly established inter-**ACHIEVEMENTS** agency mobile groups to identify potential victims among vulnerable children. KATCH trained 60 Child CTIP Champions In collaboration with volunteers, KATCH launched a bilingual (project volunteers), equipping them with Instagram-account (@katchproject) knowledge and skills in counter-trafficking in Kazakh and Russian languages. advocacy, outreach, media engagement, This platform regularly shares and social media awareness campaigns. educational content for teenagers, young These Champions developed action plans people, and parents, raising awareness to guide their efforts in raising awareness and about the risks of child and human advocating for improved identification and trafficking and providing guidance on protection of child TIP victims and vulnerable how to protect oneself and loved ones migrant families in southern Kazakhstan. from becoming TIP victims. Over the past two years, they have created and published 351 social media posts/ articles and promoted 213 events organized jointly with local authorities. Additionally, project-affiliated lawyers provided legal Child trafficking remains an under-researched issue aid to trafficking victims and served in Kazakhstan. There was only one national study as public defenders in court cases. commissioned by UNICEF and USAID in 2012 "Rapid Assessment of Children's Vulnerabilities to Risky Behaviors, Sexual Exploitation, and Trafficking in Kazakhstan". But since then a lot has changed. To bridge this gap, KATCH conducted a Rapid Situational Assessment on the Because child TIP prevention and protection projects **Child Trafficking Context and Response in** are most effective when informed and implemented Southern Kazakhstan which enabled more by those who have survived it, KATCH established effective targeting and planning for project a Survivors Advisory Group and engaged adult interventions. This research investigated factors survivors of child TIP to advise on decisions related

to improved identification of victims, their referrals,

assistance to them, and ensuring their rights.

contributing to the vulnerability and resilience

major gaps in the identification and referral of TIP survivors to police and their access to special social services offered by the relevant state and NGOs.

of children to child trafficking and identified