

Forecasting Kazakhstan's future

Sponsored by | UNDP Kazakhstan

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Project Summary

In partnership with UNDP Kazakhstan, the Pardee Institute for International Futures at the University of Denver supported the Government of Kazakhstan in 2024 with a comprehensive scenario-based forecasting study to inform long-term policy planning. Using the International Futures (IFs) integrated assessment modeling platform, the study analyzed Kazakhstan's development prospects in alignment with the country's National Development Plan to 2029 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The analysis began with a Current Path forecast, assessing Kazakhstan's likely trajectory through 2050 if no major policy changes occur. It then explored five alternative scenarios, focused on the economy, human capital, governance, environment, and integrated reform, to evaluate the impacts of different reform strategies. Results showed that while economic-focused policies offer early GDP growth, the Integrated Reform scenario yielded the most balanced and effective outcomes across all dimensions.

Research Question(s)

- What is Kazakhstan's current development trajectory?
- How might different policy reforms affect long-term GDP growth, social outcomes, and sustainable development?
- Which policy scenario offers the most balanced and sustainable progress across dimensions?

Key Findings

Scenario projections:

- The economy-focused scenario delivers strong initial GDP growth, but after 2046, the governance-focused reforms provide long-term economic growth.
- The integrated-reforms scenario delivers both immediate and long-term benefits.

Demographic trends:

- The population aged 65+ is expected to double by 2050, placing demands on elder care and urban infrastructure.
- Moderate poverty (under \$6.85/day) is projected to fall below 3% by 2044.

Core and Related Activities

- Report: Internal Deliverable
- Related Publications: [“Forecasting Kazakhstan's future”](#); [“UNDP Kazakhstan and Pardee Center Collaborate to Shape the Future of Kazakhstan's Development”](#)



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