



ANALYSIS OF THE PRACTICE OF IDENTIFYING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND PROVIDING TARGETED ASSISTANCE TO THEM.

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 6 th March 2024 Accepted: 4 th April 2024	In the article, the number of people in need of social protection in the regions, the number of families with many children, the number of families with persons with disabilities, the number of families in the region and the funds allocated to them in the state budget for social benefits, the number of low-income families and the funds allocated to them, as well as the work carried out in the field of social protection of the population and the analysis of their practice is given

Keywords: *State social policy, social protection, social services, pension provision, social benefits, material assistance, disabled people, pensioners, pregnant women, dependents, low-income families.*

1. INTRODUCTION. In recent years, systematic work has been carried out to strengthen the social protection of the population, to expand the scope and types of social services provided by the state to citizens. Since 2017, poverty in our country has halved due to policies aimed at increasing the standard of living of the population. It is planned to reduce it to 7 percent by 2030. We support the initiative "Global Accelerator for Job Creation and Social Protection" put forward by the Secretary General of the United Nations. In order to share experience within the framework of this initiative, in 2024, under the auspices of the United Nations, it was decided to hold the world conference "Social protection: the path to sustainable development" in our country. It is aimed at the results achieved in the protection of human rights, the complete abolition of forced and child labor in the country¹.

In Uzbekistan, the national model of the neighborhood, which differs from other foreign countries, is being implemented to increase the well-being of the population, develop entrepreneurship, ensure employment and reduce poverty, address social protection issues directly in the residential areas (neighbourhoods). "According to the United Nations (UN), by 2050, for every child under 5 years old, there will be two elderly people over 65 years old." This situation seriously affects the financial stability of the pension system and creates the need to provide the pension system with additional financial resources.

¹ The 78th session of the UN General Assembly at the headquarters of the United Nations Organization in New York by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev. September 19, 2023.

2. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Full provision of citizens in the society from a social point of view, providing financial assistance to the segments of the population in need of social protection, is an important and inseparable part of the state's social policy. From the beginning of human civilization to the present day, a system has been formed in society to ensure that the elderly, disabled, minors and other people in need of social security can enjoy the material benefits created by society as equal members of society, and even in the current era, the system of social security and pension provision is very important.

Through the system of centralized financial social protection of the population carried out by the state in Uzbekistan, social protection of the classes of the population in need of social financial support from the negative effects of the market, such as the disabled, pensioners, pregnant women, those separated from their breadwinners, women who have given birth, those who are separated from work, families with many children, those who have lost the ability to work since childhood, the elderly who are left alone, those who cannot compete in the labor market are using the financial and material support provided by the state, and because these classes of the population are financially helpless, they have been using the support of the state and enterprises and other charitable organizations for a certain period of time. As in any country, we have underprivileged sections of the population.

Social protection is an important component of ensuring the well-being and dignity of people in need of protection. Financial assistance plays a crucial role in providing people with the means to meet their basic



needs and access basic services. International standards serve as a guiding principle for countries in developing and implementing financial support programs for people in need of social protection. It is necessary to analyze the international standards regulating the financial support of the population in need of social protection, to study the contribution of both international and Uzbek scientists in this field. It is necessary to have an understanding of effective strategies for supporting the population in need of social protection and to widely promote it in practice.

Admittedly, effective and consistent reforms are being implemented in the directions of improving the social protection system of the population, increasing the amount of funds allocated to this area from the State budget, attracting additional resources, and introducing additional mechanisms aimed at expanding the scope of programs.

In particular, the information system "Unified register of social protection" was introduced in order to identify low-income families and provide them with targeted assistance. The number of pensioner families has quadrupled in the last three years to 1.9 million. The coverage of allowances paid for the care of children in low-income families has been expanded, and the age of children taken into account for the allocation of allowances has been set from 14 to 18 years. The payment period has been increased from 6 to 12 months, and the amount of allowance has been increased by an average of 1.5 times. The minimum amounts of unemployment benefits have been increased by 3.2 times, and more than 20 new instruments aimed at ensuring employment of the population have been introduced.

Table 1. Population in need of social protection (2023 y)²

District (city) name	Total number of families (101)		of which: the number of families with children under 18 years of age (102)		Number of families with many children (4 children and more) (103)		Number of single-parent families (families without a father or mother) (104)			Number of families with persons with disabilities (105)
	total	in rural areas	total	in rural areas	total	in rural areas	total	in rural areas	total	in rural areas
Total for the Republic	9 729 961	5 277 972	4 718 680	2 631 349	546 723	367 462	211 354	109 115	444 256	243 405
Republic of Karakalpakstan	473 142	244 535	238 632	111 989	23 304	12 515	10 720	5 083	28 479	13 802
Andijan	893 378	522 956	361 949	242 999	36 523	27 023	14 744	8 297	35 605	22 767
Bukhara	570 033	399 555	298 373	215 002	20 762	15 962	10 931	7 042	34 692	23 425
Jizzakh	343 977	185 367	136 316	76 543	22 419	12 855	9 214	4 260	13 089	6 829
Kashkadar ya	847 530	627 586	429 014	312 459	91 681	68 234	20 189	14 115	35 852	24 452
Navoi	297 933	160 261	157 680	86 094	5 721	3 867	6 771	3 527	22 516	14 111
Namangan	790 641	359 774	402 882	182 228	39 464	19 884	16 686	6 673	41 288	19 948

² It was prepared by the author based on the data of the Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Samarkand	1 012 500	692 799	527 511	364 067	82 044	64 866	23 273	17 508	42 448	29 107
Surkhanda rya	695 853	441 443	376 309	229 345	65 052	42 594	17 710	10 754	32 325	21 116
Syrdarya	237 352	139 269	102 688	64 101	16 642	11 516	7 341	4 229	17 313	9 930
Tashkent	904 414	476 955	377 023	194 188	24 651	15 632	17 485	8 445	36 381	17 116
Fergana	1 124 208	639 506	592 188	319 835	75 337	51 240	24 424	12 107	41 970	22 709
Khorezm	557 669	387 966	325 628	232 499	25 908	21 274	11 316	7 075	27 137	18 093
Tashkent city	981 330	0	392 487	0	17 215	0	20 549	0	35 161	0

From the data of the above table, we can analyze that the largest number of families in our republic corresponds to Fergana region (1,124,208 people), and we can see that the smallest number of families is in Syrdarya region (237,352 people). In general, we can know that the average number of families in our Republic is 694,997 people.

Fergana region (592,188 people) is the leader in terms of the number of families under 18 years of age, and we can see that Syrdarya region (102,688 people) has the lowest number of families under 18 years of age. We can see that the average number of families under the age of 18 in the Republic is 337,048.

According to the number of families with 4 or more children, Kashkadarya region (91,681 people)

and Navoi region (5,721 people) have the lowest number. We can find out that the average number of families with many children is 39051.

Fergana region (24,424 people) is the leader in the number of families without a father or mother, while Navoi region (6,771 people) has the lowest number. On average, we can see that this figure is 15,096 families across the Republic.

The highest number of families with disabilities corresponds to Samarkand region (42,444 people), while the lowest number of families with disabilities corresponds to Jizzakh region (13,089 people). In general, we can know that there are 31,732 families with disabilities in the Republic.

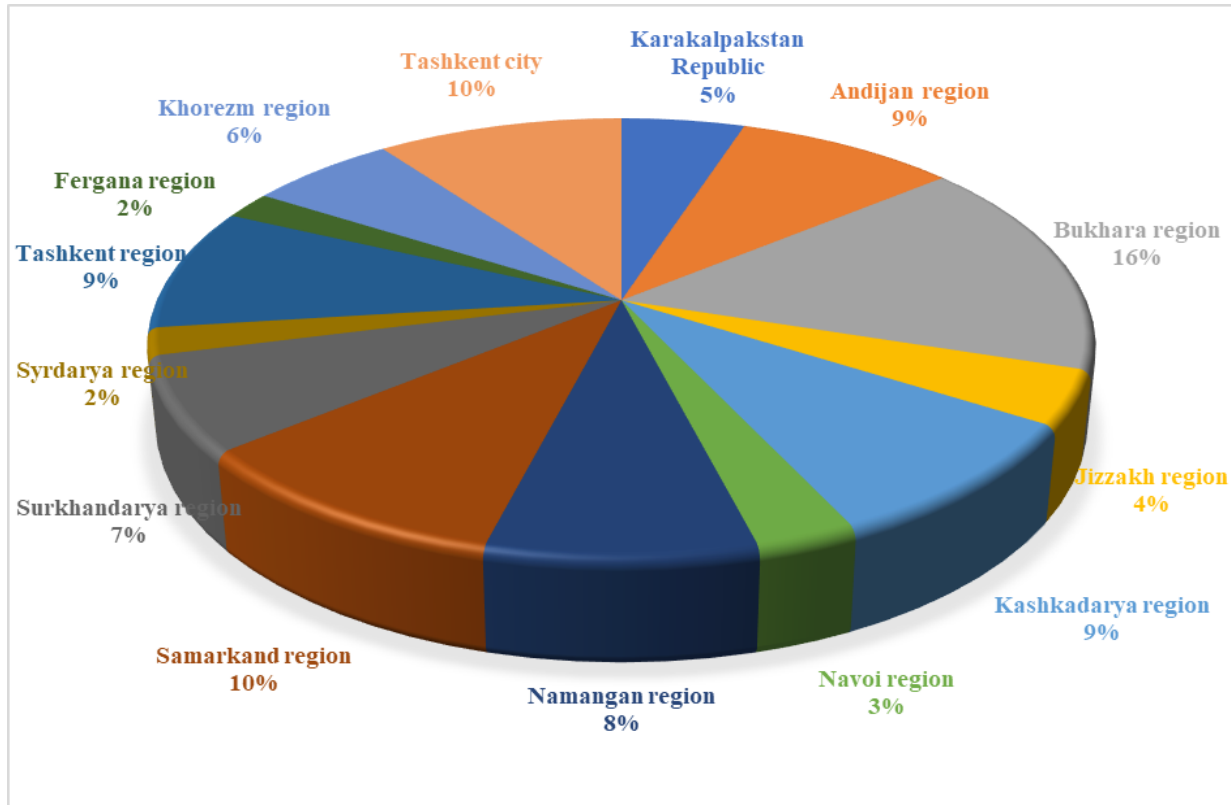


Fig. 1. Number of families in the region³ (percentage)

One of the reasons for the inefficient functioning of the social security system is that neither the community nor the relevant agencies have complete information about who needs help the most. Each state body maintains its own separate list, there is no single, complete system. The absence of a single responsible structure, the absence of a single register of social security recipients, means that people who

really need help do not always get the help they need. In 2024, 18.6 trillion soums are planned for the total costs of social protection of the population (in the form of pensions, material assistance, funeral payments, pregnancy allowances and other compensation payments), of which 10.3 trillion soums will be allocated to the payment of child benefits to low-income families.

Table 2. Funds allocated for social benefits in the state budget in 2018-2023³

Nº		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Total number of families	6158027	8727351	8871412	9424787	9729961
2	Number of social pensions	5332626	5524449	5827877	6087384	6158027
3	Allocated funds (million soums)	2159500	3720700	5056600	11442400	19120200

The number of families in our republic is also increasing every year, as of 2023, the population is 9,729,961, compared to 2019, it has increased by 3,571,934. In 2019, there were 5,332,626 recipients of social benefits. In 2023, it reached 6,158,027 people, compared to 2019, it increased by 825,401 people. Social allowances allocated to the population in 2019 amounted to 2.1 trillion. soums. In 2023,

this figure is 19.1 trillion soums. These indicators are increasing year by year. On the one hand, this is a good indicator, which indicates that the population is well provided with social protection by the state. On the other hand, the state's expenses for social protection are increasing year by year. We can see this in the following diagram.

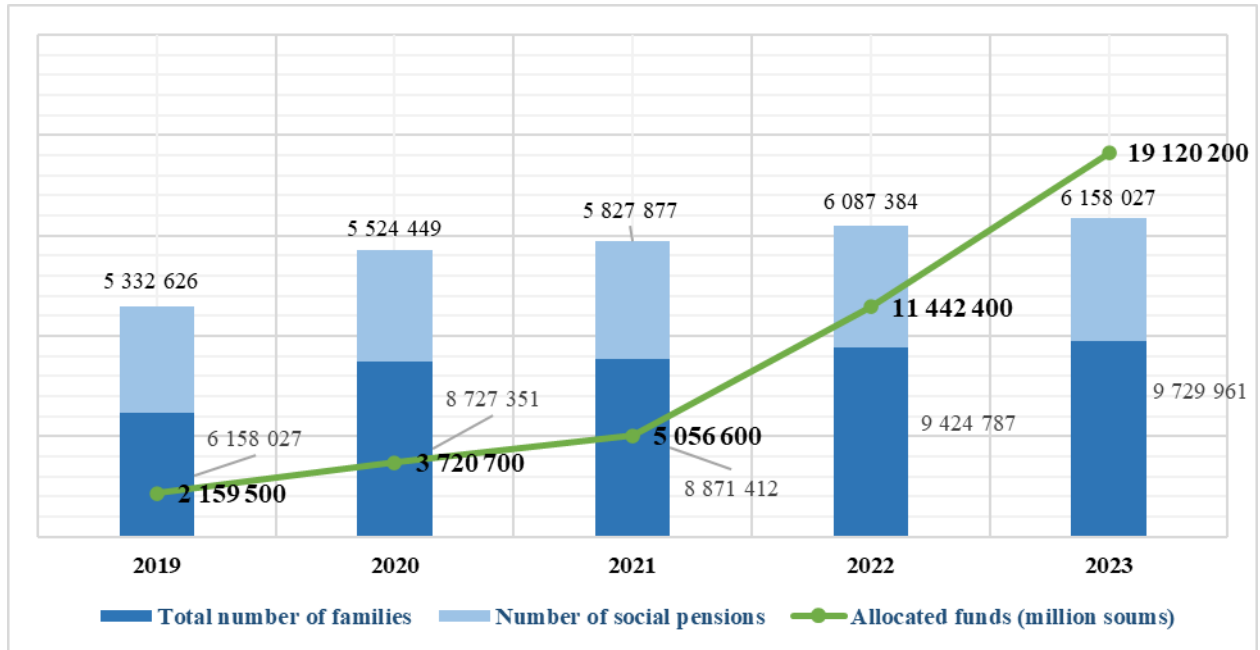


Fig. 2. For social benefits in the state budget allocated funds³

³ Formed by the author based on the information of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.



At the moment, family members who need help in order to receive social benefits must submit a number of references and documents to the neighborhood assembly. After submitting the documents, the income of the applicant and his family members will be calculated. The material and property situation of the family is studied and presented to the special commission at the meeting of citizens of the

neighborhood. The commission considers the conclusions and makes a decision to award or reject the award of social allowance to the family. In this process, there is a lack of transparency at the level of demand, and there is a large influence of the human factor on the decision to assign (or not assign) a social benefit.

Table 3. Information on the number of families receiving social benefits and financial assistance and the amounts paid in 2023⁴

Area	Funds paid to pensioner families (million soums)	Number of pensioner families	Number of families living in the area
Tashkent city	204801,9	35202	981330
Khorezm region	703649,1	129529	557669
Fergana region	1369040	246862	1124208
Tashkent region	551451,7	96709	904414
Syrdarya region	324477,6	58578	237352
Surkhandarya region	1341119,5	237097	695853
Samarkand region	1544541,1	271810	1012500
Namangan region	1334691,7	241931	790641
Navoi region	249584,1	47479	297933
Kashkadarya region	1518526,3	270367	847530
Jizzakh region	621896,9	109849	343977
Bukhara region	493835,6	91696	570033
Andijan region	1222839,7	218117	893378
Karakalpakstan Republic	812554,5	153754	473142

⁴ It was repaired based on the information of the National Social Protection Agency under the President of Uzbekistan..



From the above data, we can see that the number of families receiving social allowances and material assistance and the amount of money paid are presented in the cross-section of regions. The total number of families in regions is 97,229,960 of which Fergana region has the largest number of families (1,124,208). The smallest number of families corresponds to Syrdarya region (237,352 people). The region with the largest number of pensioner families is Samarkand (271,810 people, the allocated amount is 1,544,541.1 soums). The smallest number of families receiving benefits corresponds to the city of Tashkent (35,202 people, allocated funds 204,801.9 soums).

Samarkand region has the largest number of children in terms of child allowance for low-income families (264,757 people, the allocated amount is 1,512,210.7 soums). The lowest number of children

receiving child benefits for low-income families corresponds to the city of Tashkent (34,598 people, 2,020,17.6 soums according to the allocated funds).

Namangan region has the largest number of families (13,188 allocated funds amounting to 60,290.3 soums) in terms of financial assistance to low-income families. Tashkent city has the smallest number of families (604 the allocated amount is 2784.3 soums) in terms of financial assistance to low-income families.

Surkhandaryo region (34 percent) and the Republic of Karakalpakstan (32.5 percent) have the largest share of families receiving benefits in relation to the total number of families living in the regions. Jizzakh region (31.9 percent), Kashkadarya region (31.9 percent) and the smallest share corresponds to the city of Tashkent (3.6 percent).

Table 4. The number of low-income families receiving child benefits in a section of the territory and the funds allocated to them⁵

Areas	Families living in the area	Low-income families receiving child benefits	Amounts paid to low-income families receiving child benefits
Karakalpakstan Republic	4,9	5,4	6,4
Andijan region	9,2	9,9	10,0
Bukhara region	5,9	4,1	4,0
Jizzakh region	3,5	4,9	5,0
Kashkadarya region	8,7	12,3	12,4
Navoi region	3,1	2,1	2,0
Namangan region	8,1	10,7	10,7
Samarkand region	10,4	12,4	12,7
Surkhandarya region	7,2	10,8	11,0
Syrdarya region	2,4	2,7	2,7
Tashkent region	9,3	4,4	4,5
Fergana region	11,6	11,3	11,3
Khorezm region	5,7	5,9	5,7
Tashkent city	10,1	1,6	1,7
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

⁵ It was prepared based on the information of the National Social Protection Agency under the President of Uzbekistan.



Fergana region (11.6 percent), Samarkand region (10.4 percent), and Tashkent city (10.1 percent) are the regions with the largest number of families living in the region. According to the number of low-income families receiving child benefits, Samarkand region (12.4 percent), Kashkadarya region (12.3 percent), Fergana region (11.3 percent).

Samarkand region (12.7 percent), Kashkadarya region (12.4 percent), and Fergana region (11.3 percent) correspond to the funds paid to low-income families receiving child allowance. The above indicators are the regions with the highest spending of funds paid to low-income families by region.

In the republic, the regions with the smallest share of the number of families living in the region correspond to Syrdaryo region (2.4%), Navoi region (3.1%), Jizzakh region (3.5%). The regions with the lowest share of low-income families receiving child allowance are Tashkent city (1.6%), Navoi region (2.1%), Syrdarya region (2.7%).

The areas where funds paid to low-income families receiving child allowance are less allocated correspond to Tashkent region (1.7 percent), Navoi region (2.0 percent), Syrdarya region (2.7 percent).

Currently, the state provides various assistance to low-income families. However, the procedure for identifying families in need of these supports is not defined in any legal documents. There is no single database on which family received state aid and for how much. The single registry will become such a database, and through this database, it will be possible to automatically identify all families in need of social assistance and provide them with targeted assistance.

3. CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, it is necessary to intensify the systematic work on strengthening the social protection of the population in the regions, expanding the scope and types of social services provided by the state to citizens. In particular, in order to ensure the fulfillment of the state's constitutional obligations to assist persons with disabilities to get a job and receive education, it is required to introduce a system of effective coordination of the measures implemented in this direction. In our country today, due to the increase in the average life expectancy of people, fertility, unemployment and other socio-economic and demographic factors, special attention is paid to finding a scientifically based solution to the effective organization of attracting additional financial resources for pension provision. In the regions, it is necessary to introduce a system of retraining and upgrading the

skills of the employees of the social protection system, to create a comfortable environment for people with disabilities to live, as well as to further increase the level of coverage of the population with social insurance mechanisms, to monitor the standards of providing social services guaranteed by the state and their implementation.

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