

“ANALYSIS OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN’S POLICY AGAINST POVERTY”

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Abstract:

This article discusses the bold policies and consistent reforms of the New Uzbekistan in combating poverty at present. During the analysis, the issue is examined comprehensively, based on statistical data and scientific evidence, with an objective and impartial approach. The policies of other foreign countries in this area are comparatively assessed. As a result, the article analyzes the democratic strategies implemented in recent years in our country to fight poverty and provides objective conclusions.

Keywords: *poverty, social policy, legislation, reform, employment, economic growth, measures taken at the international level.*

Introduction

In today's Uzbekistan, which continues to develop with great determination, growth is clearly visible across every sector — cultural, socio-economic, educational, scientific, and innovative. Progress in each of these areas represents the foundational stage of the country's broader national development. No society or state is perfect; even the most advanced nations exhibit shortcomings in one sphere or another. Poverty serves as a compelling example of this reality. In 2024, the poverty rate in the United States stood at 10.6%¹, while the figure reached 20%² in Japan and 15.5%³ in Germany. Every state naturally strives to address such challenges through continuous reforms and national policy frameworks. In this regard, Uzbekistan has likewise set the elimination of these deficiencies as a strategic objective through its new reforms and democratic national policies, enacting several legislative measures and reforms toward this end.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan *"On Measures to Improve and Enhance the Effectiveness of State Policy in the Areas of Poverty Reduction and Employment"* constituted a significant new step in combating poverty. Furthermore, in accordance with Presidential Decree No. PF-143, dated September 23, 2024, *"On Advancing Poverty Reduction and Welfare Improvement Measures to a New Stage,"* [1] the *"From Poverty to Prosperity"* program was adopted, and its implementation was entrusted to the Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment. This underscores the critical national significance of this issue. Within the framework of the *"From Poverty to Prosperity"* program, the following measures are envisaged:

- **Structural analysis of the labor market, employed and unemployed populations, identification of the unemployed, and maintenance of their records** — conducting structural analysis of the labor market, maintaining targeted records of unemployed individuals, forecasting labor demand in emerging sectors and industries, identifying

¹ U.S.Census Bureau(2024)

² Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus(2024)

³ Anadolu Agency(2024)

structural imbalances in the labor market and preventing their escalation, and engaging in active cooperation with the International Labour Organization;

- **Formulating employment programs, maintaining records of job vacancies, and facilitating the employment of unemployed individuals** — developing annual employment programs across regions, sectors, and industries and coordinating their implementation, maintaining and monitoring records of available job vacancies, organizing the placement of unemployed citizens into employment, and establishing linkages with employers;
- **Poverty reduction** — analyzing the dynamics and composition of poverty, organizing the development of individual plans for lifting families out of poverty and coordinating their implementation, conducting field-based assessments of poverty reduction efforts and their outcomes, and submitting monthly reports to the Republican Commission on the implementation of the *"From Poverty to Prosperity"* program;
- **Coordination of the activities of district governors' assistants** — providing methodological support to the assistants of district (city) governors on matters related to entrepreneurship development, employment provision, and poverty reduction at the mahalla level; conducting ongoing analysis to improve their skills and competencies in working with prospective projects; developing and evaluating key performance indicators; and formulating proposals to address systemic issues identified in their activities;
- **Development of professional standards, vocational and foreign language training, and skills assessment** — developing internationally recognized professional standards in collaboration with foreign experts; formulating state orders for training in high-demand occupations and foreign languages; regulating the market for skills assessment services based on established standards; and promoting broad private sector engagement in the field;
- **Creating decent working conditions, monitoring compliance with labor norms, ensuring labor rights, and occupational safety** — introducing the principles of decent work and international standards; developing effective mechanisms for regulating labor relations; protecting labor rights; and ensuring occupational safety, hygiene, and adequate working conditions.

These priority plans are, by their very nature, oriented toward the overarching goals of poverty reduction and the enhancement of public welfare. The roadmap of the *"From Poverty to Prosperity"* program operates within the framework of all mahallas across the Republic of Uzbekistan, given that it is precisely at the mahalla level that the most direct and sustained engagement with families experiencing such challenges takes place.

The Uzbek government is taking adequate measures in the area of poverty reduction. The growing number of laws, programs, and agreements being adopted in this domain serves as clear evidence of this commitment. Rather than limiting itself solely to the adoption of new domestic legislation, Uzbekistan's engagement in international agreements and the organization of international forums demonstrates that the issue is recognized as one of global significance. The *"From Poverty to Prosperity"*⁴ Third International Forum on Poverty Reduction

⁴ Euronews, From local mahallas to a global strategy: Uzbekistan's fight against poverty, (23.09.2025)

in Uzbekistan, organized at Uzbekistan's initiative, stands as an outcome of its new national policy aimed at addressing the problem in partnership with the global community.

On September 17–18 of the current year, the *"From Poverty to Prosperity"* Third International Forum on Poverty Reduction in Uzbekistan was held in the city of Namangan. [2] The forum brought together international experts, senior officials, and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev.

The forum established several key ideas and objectives:

1. **Strengthening global and regional cooperation;**
2. **Forming and developing a national model;**
3. **Consolidating sustainable income, employment, and human capital;**
4. **Emphasis on inclusive infrastructure and mahalla-level initiatives:** multidimensional poverty reduction through infrastructure projects targeting mahallas, underdeveloped areas, and low-income families;
5. **Regulated targets and monitoring:** during the forum, it was noted that the national poverty rate stood at 8.9% in 2024, [3] with a target set to reduce it to 6% by the end of 2025.

At the opening ceremony of the forum, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev delivered an address. In his opening remarks, President Mirziyoyev stated:

"Due to anticipated climate change, water scarcity, and pandemics, we are confronted with grave and formidable challenges. Since 2015, global economic growth has averaged approximately 3 percent, representing a slowdown compared to the preceding decade.

As a result, whereas some 650 million people worldwide were living in poverty five years ago, that figure has now exceeded 800 million.

This situation places new and pressing demands before all states, international organizations, and the global community at large, requiring the swift adoption of decisions aimed at finding effective solutions.

The fact that our economy has doubled over the past period, with per capita income projected to reach 3,500 USD by year's end, serves as a significant contributing factor in this regard.

Having tested new initiatives and approaches, we have created the New Uzbekistan model for poverty reduction..."⁵ — he emphasized. [4]

At the forum, ongoing efforts, outcomes, and new objectives were outlined across 7 key directions. In addition, 12 panel sessions were organized within the framework of the forum:⁶

1. The role of market-relevant skills in poverty reduction.
2. New opportunities of Islamic finance in poverty reduction.
3. The social protection system in transition — global experiences in enhancing inclusivity.
4. Creating sustainable employment opportunities.
5. Investment in human capital — leveraging demographic dividend opportunities in the fight against poverty.
6. Business inclusivity: pathways to poverty reduction through private sector development.

⁵ Review.uz,(2025)

⁶ Euronews, From local mahallas to a global strategy: Uzbekistan's fight against poverty,(23.09.2025)

7. Green growth in poverty reduction: climate-compatible solutions and green jobs.
8. Human capital development and ensuring inclusive growth in the age of digital technologies.
9. Global cooperation and partnership: the role of international organizations and regional collaboration in poverty reduction.
10. Creating permanent jobs through the development of the textile industry and stimulating exports and investments.
11. Measuring and monitoring poverty: developing reliable data systems and methodologies for evidence-based policymaking.
12. Master plan development: the importance of infrastructure modernization in achieving sustainable growth.

Through these sessions, the measures taken in our country to reduce poverty were discussed and views were exchanged. The goals of ensuring public welfare, economic growth, and sustainable development were identified and given particular attention. Furthermore, more than 10 agreements and memoranda valued at 495 million USD were signed at the forum.⁷

In short, the *"From Poverty to Prosperity"* Third International Forum on Poverty Reduction in Uzbekistan, together with New Uzbekistan's Development Strategy through 2030 and the *"From Poverty to Prosperity"* national program, are the products of our country's sound domestic policy on poverty reduction. They equally reflect an open foreign policy aimed at addressing this challenge in consultation with the global community, as demonstrated within the framework of the forum itself.

Countries around the world are pursuing various solutions and measures in response to this global challenge — some have already identified effective approaches and have even begun implementing them in practice. The CIS member states have likewise developed their own solutions and proposals. The Republic of Kazakhstan, [5] for instance, is reducing poverty through social assistance by means of the following measures:

- Increasing compensation payments to low-income families;
- Introducing vocational training and retraining programs through employment centers;
- Facilitating home purchases through the *"Baspana Hit"* mortgage program;
- Introducing direct allowances for large families;
- Subsidizing small businesses and farming enterprises in rural areas.⁸

According to current statistical data, the poverty rate in Kazakhstan presently stands at 8.2%.⁹

The Russian Federation [6] has implemented the following measures, with the current poverty rate standing at 7.4%:

- The *"Fair Social Assistance"* system: subsidies and utility payment support for low-income families;
- *"Maternal Capital"* — substantial financial assistance provided to families upon the birth of a child;
- Raising the minimum wage;

⁷ Euronews, From local mahallas to a global strategy: Uzbekistan's fight against poverty, (23.09.2025)

⁸ World bank – Kazakhstan poverty & equity assessment(2024)

⁹ World bank – Kazakhstan Overview(2024)

- Rural small business subsidies and preferential credit allocation.¹⁰

The Kyrgyz Republic [7] has adopted the following approaches:

- "One Child, One Benefit" — development of a universal child allowance;
- Provision of food, fuel, and cash transfers to low-income families;
- Support for labor migration, primarily through agreements with the Russian Federation;
- Introduction of microcredit schemes in mountainous regions.¹¹

The Republic of Tajikistan [8] has pursued the following measures:

- Introduction of social welfare payments;
- Rural infrastructure development in partnership with international organizations;
- Assistance programs for families of labor migrants;
- Vocational training for youth at professional training centers.¹²

The Republic of Azerbaijan [9] has implemented the following:

- Targeted social assistance — direct cash transfers to families whose income falls below the minimum standard;
- Subsidies for gas, electricity, heating, and utility payments;
- Financing of social funds through revenues generated by the oil sector.¹³

The Republic of Belarus [10] is combating poverty through the following measures, which are already yielding tangible results:

- A state-administered social assistance system;
- Needs-based allowances for families with children;
- Job creation through agricultural subsidization;
- Utility concessions for low-income families.¹⁴

While the social assistance programs and poverty reduction initiatives outlined above are producing and have begun to produce meaningful results, the measures adopted by more developed nations — such as the United Kingdom, Germany, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore — tend to operate with somewhat greater speed and a considerably higher degree of effectiveness.

The United Kingdom [11] and **Germany** [12] maintain stronger systems of targeted income transfer and employment integration. Under the "Conditional Cash Transfer" model, parents are required to ensure their children attend school regularly or enroll in vocational training as a condition for receiving benefits.

In countries such as **South Korea, Japan, and Singapore**, the following approaches are notable:

1. **Technology-based assistance systems.**¹⁵ Singapore [13] and South Korea have well-developed digital wallet and mobile payment systems that enable rapid financial support for low-income families.

¹⁰ IMF – Russia's social protection2024

¹¹ UNICEF – Kyrgyzstan social protection2024

¹² World bank – Tajikistan Targeted social assistance(2024)

¹³ United Nations VNR Azerbaijan(2024)

¹⁴ On State targeted social assistance2024

¹⁵ "Digital Access Programme: DigitalAccess@Home", 2024

2. **Labor market stimulation.**¹⁶ In Japan [14] and South Korea, subsidizing small businesses to generate employment is more straightforward and efficient, which contributes directly to poverty reduction.
3. **Integration of education and vocational training.**¹⁷ South Korea [15] has developed and is currently implementing a long-term poverty reduction strategy centered on directing youth and women toward STEM and technology-related professions.
4. **Comprehensive programs linking health and housing.**¹⁸ Singapore's poverty reduction programs integrate housing, education, healthcare, and financial support into a unified framework — distinguished by their operational efficiency and responsiveness.

It is, of course, appropriate for each state to determine its own measures, proposals, domestic policy programs, and priority action plans for poverty reduction based on its specific circumstances. However, addressing this challenge collectively — in partnership with the global community, through cooperation and exchange of experience, and by drawing on the best practices of more developed nations — may prove more effective and attainable. This is because poverty is not a problem belonging to any single state or nation; it is a challenge that concerns all of humanity. Should adequate measures fail to be taken, the near future may bring with it an array of far graver consequences: a rise in crime rates, economic recession, declining consumption, public health crises, and mounting pressures from migration and urbanization, among numerous other challenges. In such circumstances, the global community must unite, and the role of organizations such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the Commonwealth of Independent States in fostering that unity must be meaningfully strengthened.

Conclusion

In closing, I wish to draw the following conclusion: poverty today is a challenge of global proportions. Failure to address it constitutes a direct threat to human progress, for as long as this problem remains unresolved, development will continue to slow. It is true that the problem cannot be eliminated entirely. However, reducing it to the greatest extent possible is both a worthwhile and attainable objective — one that would stabilize societal wellbeing and prosperity. As discussed throughout this article, Uzbekistan, alongside other CIS member states, has developed priority programs and domestic policies aimed at poverty reduction. The reforms implemented and programs developed have demonstrated effective and sustainable performance. Regular assistance provided to families in need, social welfare payments, actively functioning vocational training centers, and the provision of preferential credits and subsidies all serve as clear evidence of this. Each of these measures, without exception, is directed toward reducing poverty, ensuring the welfare of citizens, and extending unconditional support to those segments of the population most in need of social assistance.

In this, my first article, I also wish to put forward several personal recommendations regarding poverty reduction: developing a fair, precise, and responsive social assistance

¹⁶ Investing in youth: Japan2017, Strengthening the social safety net in korea2022

¹⁷ Cheong, chapter 6 Digital Government in the republic of Korea2023

¹⁸ Ministry of social and Family development (Singapore), ComCare Financial Assistance (2025)

system; supporting the Islamic finance model¹⁹ [16] within the broader economy; strengthening and increasing the transparency of systems for working with socially vulnerable families at the mahalla level; and expanding the number of preferential credits and subsidies available to small business owners and agricultural producers as a means of improving livelihoods and creating employment opportunities. It is my sincere hope that these measures may serve as a cornerstone for far-reaching reforms in the fight against poverty.

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¹⁹ Central Asian academic journal ISSN:2181-2489

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