

**THE ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ENTITIES IN
ENSURING EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
IN SURXONDARYO REGION DURING THE TRANSITION
TO MARKET RELATIONS**

Uktam Saypullayevich Tursunov

Lecturer, Department of Social and Humanitarian Sciences

Termiz University of Economics and Service

e-mail: utursunov089@gmail.com

Abstract: *This article analyzes the role of entrepreneurial entities in ensuring social protection and employment in the Surxondaryo region during the transition to market relations from 1991 to 1999. The article provides examples of the support offered by entrepreneurs and sponsors in collaboration with state and non-governmental organizations in the process of social protection. It examines the details of material assistance, housing construction, and vocational education projects provided to single pensioners, low-income families, persons with disabilities, and rural youth.*

Keywords: *Surxondaryo region, entrepreneurship, social protection, sponsorship, transition to market relations, pensioners, persons with disabilities.*

Introduction.

In the early years of independence, ensuring social protection and employment during Uzbekistan's transition to a market economy became one of the most pressing issues. In Surxondaryo region, while the state's social protection system was being established, the role of entrepreneurs, sponsors, and non-governmental organizations increased. In particular, various projects

were implemented to support low-income families, single pensioners, persons with disabilities, and rural youth.

Results and Discussion.

While the state played a major role in ensuring social protection, the role of non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs, and businesspeople also steadily increased in this process. As a result, the involvement of businesspeople in social protection expanded significantly. For instance, between October and December 1991, on the initiative of the Department for Providing Services to Single Pensioners in the city of Termez, with the assistance of entrepreneur sponsors, the homes of 27 single pensioners were capital renovated, and gas stoves were replaced for 12 citizens of the same category. In the “Kulol” mahalla, four tons of coal were delivered to socially vulnerable individuals such as B. Razzoqov, A. Xudoyqulova, U. Raxmatova, B. Abdullayeva, and S. Otamurodova [1].

In 1992, in Surxondaryo region, 1,717 single elderly pensioners received additional material and financial assistance totaling 412,000 soums from various entrepreneurs and sponsors. The total volume of additional social assistance provided to 1,861 citizens of the same category in the region amounted to 446,000 soums [2].

According to Resolution No. 102 of March 18, 1994, issued by the Governor of Surxondaryo Region entitled “On Allocating Land Plots to Organizations, Institutions, and Enterprises for Construction and Agricultural Use in the Districts of the Region,” land plots were allocated to support low-income populations. Specifically, 7.0 hectares of land located in the “Rabot” state farm of Boysun district were allocated to provide household plots for low-income residents of Boysun town; 3.6 hectares from the territory of the Okhunboboev state farm in Qiziriq district were allocated for internal construction works of the H. Eshonov state farm, including village gasification; and 10 hectares of irrigated land from the Gagarin state farm in Qumqo‘rg‘on

district were allocated to the Society of the Blind of Qumqo'rg'on district for organizing and operating agricultural activities [3]. The allocation of land plots played an important role in economically supporting low-income populations.

At the government level, significant attention was paid to increasing the activity of businesspeople in the social protection of persons with disabilities, single elderly citizens, and low-income populations. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 23, 1994, No. PF-938, "On Measures to Strengthen the Protection of Low-Income Families," emphasized that entrepreneurs could play a special role in providing social assistance to certain segments of the population [4]. Notably, at the beginning of 1994, 6.3 million people were employed in the production sector in the Republic, of whom 3.7 million worked in agriculture, while the remainder were employed in urban areas [5:164].

At the same time, in the early years of independence, the crisis caused by the disruption of economic ties among the former сою3 republics created certain difficulties in protecting low-income populations. Most large enterprises capable of providing sponsorship in the region found themselves in a difficult financial situation. For example, during the first ten months of 1995, industrial production declined by 3.4 percent. In particular, enterprises in the construction materials and food industries were underperforming, and 57 industrial enterprises in the region produced goods worth 211.3 million soums less compared to the same period of the previous year. Specifically, within ten months, the Muzrabort rice processing plant failed to produce consumer goods worth 17.7 million soums, "Surxonoziqovqat" joint-stock company failed to produce goods worth 53.3 million soums, and the Termez Meat Combine failed to produce goods worth 20.4 million soums. During this period, per capita household services amounted to only 11 soums in Angor district, 9 soums in Oltinsoy, 8 soums in Sho'rchi, 7 soums in Qumqo'rg'on, 9 soums in Sariosiyo, and 4 soums in Jarqo'rg'on. Even in the regional center, the city of Termez, the

volume of paid services to the population decreased by 50 percent, and household services declined by 63 percent. In Oltinsoy, Qumqo‘rg‘on, Bandixon, and Qiziriq districts, dry-cleaning facilities were not established at all; in Qiziriq district, with a population of nearly 70,000, there were only three barbershops, and in Bandixon only two. Repair workshops for televisions, refrigerators, and other electrical appliances were not established in Bandixon, Termez, or Oltinsoy districts [6]. This situation led to a reduction in the volume of support for socially vulnerable populations through sponsorship.

Under these circumstances, supporting low-income populations, especially rural youth, became extremely important. Taking this into account, on July 29, 1995, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. 296 “On Measures to Change the Direction of Vocational Education for Rural Youth in Line with the Requirements of Market Reforms” [7]. Based on this resolution, on August 17, 1995, the Governor of Surxondaryo Region approved Resolution No. 241, which endorsed a regional program to change the vocational training directions of vocational schools.

In 1998, a “Targeted Program” of the Surxondaryo regional administration was approved to ensure housing construction for socially vulnerable populations, and plans were developed to provide timely financing for socially oriented construction projects. A total of 477 million soums of budget funds were allocated for housing construction for low-income populations. In addition, in the 1998–1999 academic year, 54,179 first-grade pupils in Surxondaryo region were provided with textbooks worth 45,121,376 soums from centralized funds. Textbooks worth 3,087,280 soums were obtained from regional “Kitobsavdo” organizations and distributed locally to pupils from low-income families with the assistance of sponsor organizations [8].

In order to develop entrepreneurship, on March 24, 1998, a nationwide special trade exhibition “Golden Oasis” was organized in the city of Termez.

A total of 128 organizations, firms, and dehqan-farmer enterprises from the region and the Republic participated in the exhibition, and 10 major and minor contracts were concluded. In addition, at the Republican stage of the “Initiative-98” competition held for the President’s Prize, the winner of the regional stage in the “Best Entrepreneur” category was the private firm “Rahmon Lukov” from Sherobod district; in the “Best Farmer” category, the “Kamol” dehqan-farmer enterprise from Uzun district; and in the “Best Craftsman” category, Qudrat Asrorov from Sherobod district participated [9].

In 1998–1999, the development of small and private business slowed somewhat. This was related to the increased investment activity of the state during the second stage of economic reforms, which led to the redistribution of financial resources in favor of the public sector. In addition, income levels from intermediary activities for small businesses declined significantly. On the one hand, this was influenced by achievements in the microeconomic sphere; on the other hand, by the strengthening of state regulation of imports. As a result, in 1998 alone, the activities of 172 enterprises in the region were suspended. Nevertheless, efforts to create new jobs did not stop. In 1999, documents of seven enterprises that applied for preferential loans from the Regional Business Fund were submitted to Tadbirkorbank for financing. In addition, the private enterprise “Xurram” in Termez was financed by Tadbirkorbank with 1 million soums. The project of the private enterprise “Ravshan” was recognized as eligible for credit by the management of the Republican Business Fund. As a result, enterprises that received such preferential loans created a total of 1,048 jobs and produced goods worth 151.8 million soums. Enterprises in Surxondaryo region that received loans from the regional branch of Tadbirkorbank created 938 jobs, produced consumer goods worth 118.9 million soums, and provided services worth 12.3 million soums [10].

Conclusion.

The research results indicate that during the transition to a market economy, cooperation between the state and entrepreneurial entities in Surxondaryo region played a crucial role in ensuring social protection. Through sponsorship, material assistance was provided to low-income populations, persons with disabilities, and pensioners, while housing construction and vocational education projects were implemented. At the same time, the economic crisis and financial difficulties of industrial enterprises negatively affected sponsorship activities. Nevertheless, entrepreneurial entities made a significant contribution to improving the living standards of the population by fulfilling their social responsibility.

REFERENCES:

1. Surxondaryo Regional State Archive, Fond 45, Inventory 1, File 4485, pp. 18–20.
2. Surxondaryo Regional State Archive, Fond 1091, Inventory 1, File 13, p. 6.
3. Surxondaryo Regional State Archive, Fond 1091, Inventory 1, File 198, p. 162.
4. Ўзбекистон Республикаси Олий Кенгашининг Ахборотномаси, 1994 й., 8-9-сон, 237-модда // <https://lex.uz/docs/196343>
5. Каримов И. Биздан озод ва обод Ватан қолсин. Асарлар тўплами. 2-жилд. –Тошкент: Ўзбекистон, 1996. –Б. 164.
6. Surxondaryo Regional State Archive, Fond 1091, Inventory 1, File 280, pp. 150–152.
7. Ўзбекистон Республикаси Вазирлар Маҳкамасининг 1995-йил 29-июлдаги 296-сон “Бозор ислохотлари талабларини ҳисобга олган ҳолда кишлоқ ёшлари касб-хунар таълимининг йўналишини ўзгартириш чоратadbирлари тўғрисида”ги қарори // <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/-525057>



8. Surxondaryo Regional State Archive, Fond 1091, Inventory 1, File 707, p. 197.
9. Surxondaryo Regional State Archive, Fond 1091, Inventory 1, File 750, pp. 59–60.
10. Surxondaryo Regional State Archive, Fond 1091, Inventory 1, File 893, pp. 61–64.