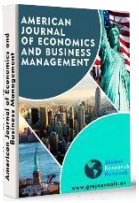

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Article

Statistical Study of Provision of the Social Protection System in the Region

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Abstract: This study examines the processes of ensuring the social protection system in the Kashkadarya region based on statistical analysis. The research focuses on identifying the structure, mechanisms, and effectiveness of social protection policies implemented at the regional level during 2022–2025. The study analyzes some of the best available national statistical sources and indicators as well as international reports regarding the poverty rate, social assistance coverage, employment and public expenditures on social protection. Results show that the social protection system in the region has expanded substantially over the last years, reaching more vulnerable populations and leading to lower poverty levels. In particular, targeted social support mechanisms (Unified Social Register and social registries) such as Iron Notebook, Women notebook, and Youth Notebook – have greatly enhanced the efficiency and transparency of the allocation process. Moreover, the study notes that socio-economic sustainable development requires social assistance not to be done in isolation, but rather in connection with active labor market policies. Although the report sees positive elements in the current system, it calls for better regional differentiation, more efficient allocation of resources, and the application of more advanced statistical and econometric methods. This study suggests some practical lessons for improving these regional social protection systems.

Keywords: Social protection system, regional development, poverty reduction, social assistance, employment, statistical analysis, Kashkadarya region, social policy, econometric modeling, public expenditures.

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Introduction

In today's conditions of globalization and economic transformation, the social protection system is one of the important institutional mechanisms ensuring the sustainable development of any state. In particular, the effectiveness of the social protection system is of great importance in supporting socially vulnerable segments of the population, reducing poverty, increasing employment, and ensuring social equality. In this regard, a statistical analysis of the social protection system by region is an urgent scientific and practical task. In 2024-2025, large-scale reforms were implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan to develop the social protection system. In particular, mechanisms for identifying needy segments of the population and providing them with targeted assistance were improved based on programs developed by the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As per social benefits and material assistance recipients in 2024, their number was more than 2.2 million, representing about 8-10% more compared to 2023. By 2025, it is expected to expand its figure to about 2.5 million people. The priority of

socially oriented policies is reflected in the share of social protection expenditures: according to statistics, social protection expenditures made approximately 28–30 percent of the state budget in 2024. In particular, the amount of pension and benefits paid out reached 70 trillion soums in 2024, in 2025 this amount is projected to be equal to 85 trillion soums. For example, the share of social assistance recipients in the Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya and Namangan regions is relatively high, which indicates the presence of problems related to employment levels, incomes and demographic factors in these regions. At the same time, the poverty rate in the republic was recorded at an average of 11 percent in 2024, and in 2025 it is aimed to reduce it to 9-10 percent [1].

At the modern stage, the role of digital technologies in improving the social protection system is increasing. In particular, the processes of identifying and supporting citizens in need of assistance are being automated through the "Unified Social Registry" information system. This serves to increase the transparency and efficiency of the provision of social services. Therefore, in this research work, the processes of providing the social protection system in the region are analyzed based on statistical indicators, and existing problems and ways to eliminate them are scientifically substantiated.

Literature review

The report "World Social Protection Report 2024-26", published by the International Labour Organization in 2024, assesses the social protection system on a global scale based on a comprehensive statistical analysis [2]. It considers pension, social assistance, unemployment benefits and health care systems as the main components, and analyzes their coverage and effectiveness through statistical indicators. According to the results of the report, almost half of the world's population is not fully covered by social protection, which indicates the need for an in-depth statistical study of this system in developing countries.

Nikolai Mikhailovich Rimashevsky, a representative of the Russian scientific school, assesses the social protection system as an important state mechanism that ensures the well-being of the population [3]. In his research, he relies on statistical indicators such as the poverty rate, income differentials and state social expenditures to determine the effectiveness of the system. The author emphasizes the importance of statistical analysis, justifying the possibility of reducing economic inequality through the social protection system. Modern researcher Tatyana Mikhailovna Maleva, studying the social protection system in a territorial context, shows that its effectiveness varies significantly across regions [4]. According to her conclusions, these differences are related to the level of economic development of the regions, employment and infrastructure. In this regard, the above approaches scientifically justify the need for a comprehensive statistical assessment of the social protection system at the regional level.

Research methodology

The paper present an aggregate analysis of the regional social protection system using a set of statistical methods. The analysis is derived from data of the State Statistics Committee, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan, as well as the International Labour Organisation (2023–2025) [5]. These include the poverty rate, the share of social benefit recipients in the total population, social expenditures as a percentage of GDP and employment and population income.

To evaluate system effectiveness, a multifactor regression model and an integrated index approach were applied. The regression model measures the impact of social expenditures, employment, and income on poverty reduction, while the index method enables a comparative assessment across regions. This methodology provides a basis for in-depth statistical analysis and supports evidence-based conclusions on improving the social protection system.

Results and Discussion

The social protection system in Kashkadarya region has been fundamentally improved in recent years, and modern mechanisms for identifying needy segments of the population and providing them with targeted assistance have been introduced [6]. The institutional basis of this system is an integrated management system with local khokimiyats, employment and poverty reduction bodies, as well as the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the State Statistics Committee. The main mechanisms of the social protection system are address lists such as “Iron Book”, “Women's Book” and “Youth Book” and the “Single Social Register” information system.

Figure 1. Social Protection System in the Kashkadarya Region: Structure, Mechanisms, and Key Indicators.

Through these mechanisms, the income level, employment status and social needs of the population are individually assessed, and the system for providing assistance by the state is automated.

The structure of the social protection system in the region can be divided into three main areas: social assistance (pension and material assistance), social insurance (pensions and compensations), and mechanisms for ensuring employment. According to the results of 2024, more than 320 thousand citizens in the Kashkadarya region were covered by various types of social benefits and assistance, which is about 9-10 percent of the total population of the region [7]. Of these, more than 180 thousand people received social support through the "Iron Book", about 90 thousand citizens through the "Women's Book", and about 50 thousand young people through the "Youth Book". In 2025, this figure is projected to reach 350 thousand people (Table 1).

Table 1. Social protection system indicators in Kashkadarya region (2022-2025).

№	Indicators	2022 year	2023 year	2024 year	2025 year
1	Number of social assistance recipients (thousands)	260	290	320	350
2	Of which “Iron Notebook” (thousands)	150	160	180	200
3	“Women's Notebook” (thousands)	70	80	90	100

4	"Youth Notebook" (thousands)	40	50	50	55
5	Poverty rate (%)	16,0	14,0	11,5-12,0	10,0-10,5
6	Those involved in employment (thousands)	70	85	100	120
7	Those with permanent employment (thousands)	20	25	35	45
8	Social protection expenditures (trillion s)	1,2	1,5	1,8	2,2
9	Coverage rate relative to the population (%)	8,0	8,5	9-10	10-11

The analysis of practical results shows that the social protection system plays an important role in reducing poverty in the region. In particular, while in 2023 the poverty rate in the region was approximately 14 percent, in 2024 this figure decreased to 11.5-12 percent [8]. At the same time, more than 100 thousand people were employed through employment programs in 2024, of which 35 thousand were placed in permanent jobs. The amount of funds allocated to social assistance and employment programs exceeded 1.8 trillion soums in 2024, and this figure is expected to reach 2.2 trillion soums in 2025. Also, as a result of the introduction of the "Single Social Registry" system, the level of transparency and accuracy in the distribution of social assistance has increased. Consequently, the proportion of misallocated benefits has fallen appreciably, while the scope of the genuinely needy has been wider. The relatively high share of social assistance in remote districts of the region confirms there are sociocultural issues with the economic activity and infrastructure in these areas [9]. The existing mechanism of the social protection system in Kashkadarya region has proved its efficiency, and currently it has become an important factor in ensuring social protection of the population, poverty reduction, and support for regional development. But to achieve a new and improved functionality, it would also be needed more detailed statistical analysis of the regional disparities and broader application of integrated assessment methods.

The results obtained show that the social protection system in Kashkadarya region has been developing consistently in recent years, increasing its coverage and effectiveness. In particular, the increase in the number of social assistance recipients from 260 thousand to 350 thousand during 2022-2025 indicates the expansion of the system. This process, on the one hand, indicates the improvement of mechanisms for identifying the needy population, and on the other hand, the activation of social policy [10] [11]. At the same time, the reduction in the poverty rate from 16 percent to 10 percent confirms the practical effectiveness of the social protection system. The analysis shows that the effectiveness of the social protection system is directly related to its integrated implementation with employment policy. In particular, the increase in the number of people involved in employment from 70 thousand to 120 thousand in 2022-2025 indicates the transition of social assistance from a passive form to active economic support mechanisms [12]. The increase in the number of permanent jobs also has a positive impact on the stabilization of incomes and poverty reduction. This means that the social protection system is not limited to providing assistance, but is being formed as an instrument that stimulates economic activity.

Financial indicators are also an important factor in the effectiveness of the system. The increase in social protection expenditures from 1.2 trillion soums to 2.2 trillion soums indicates increased state support for the social sector. However, in this process, increasing the efficiency of the use of funds is of great importance. In particular, there may be certain imbalances in the distribution of resources across regions, which indicates the need to further improve the social protection system [13].

Also, the introduction of digital technologies in the social protection system (for example, the "Single Social Register") has increased the ability to provide targeted distribution of assistance and ensure transparency. As a result, incorrectly assigned benefits are decreasing, and the coverage of truly needy groups is expanding. However, limited infrastructure and employment opportunities in some remote areas remain a factor affecting the effectiveness of the social protection system [14][15]. Overall, the results obtained indicate the need to develop the social protection system taking into account regional characteristics, strengthen integration with employment programs, and improve statistical monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to improve its effectiveness.

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that the social protection system in Qashqadaryo region has undergone significant improvement over the period 2022–2025, both in terms of coverage and effectiveness. The number of beneficiaries has been increasing steadily, from around 260 thousand in 2022 to around 350 thousand in 2025, which shows that the support system is expanding while becoming more targeted. Simultaneously, the national poverty rate has dropped from approximately 16 percent to almost 10 percent, validating the support from social protection measures.

Additionally, linking social assistance together with employment programs has proven pivotal in strengthening long term socio-economic stability. The rise in employment levels and the number of permanently employed individuals suggests that the system is shifting from passive support to active inclusion. Additionally, increased government expenditures on social protection and the implementation of digital tools such as the Unified Social Register have improved transparency, efficiency, and targeting accuracy.

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