DYNAMICS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN NAMANGAN AND ANDIJAN REGIONS (2022–2026)

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Abstract: This paper examines official data on non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) in Namangan and Andizhan regions of the Ferghana Valley. It compares the structure of Namangan’s NGOs in 2022 and 2026, describes the state oversight of their activity, and outlines the funding mechanism available to NGOs in Andijan through the Public Fund under the Oliy Majlis (Parliament). The paper also notes the limits of the available regional statistics.

Keywords: non-governmental non-profit organizations; civil society; Ferghana Valley; Namangan region; Andizhan region; state support; Public Fund.

Studying non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) at the regional level makes it possible to refine nationwide data on civil society institutions. This paper analyzes the available official data for two regions of the Ferghana Valley, Namangan and Andizhan.

According to the Namangan Regional Justice Department, in October 2022 there were 543 NGOs operating in the region: 355 were state-registered and 188 were registered for record-keeping purposes. Public associations made up 445 of them (82.0 percent) [1]. By the first half of 2026 the number had reached 643, of which 465 were state-registered and 178 were registered for record-keeping; 540 (84.0 percent) were public associations [2]. Thus, over four years the total number of NGOs grew by 18.4 percent and the number of state-registered NGOs by 31.0 percent, while the number registered for record-keeping fell by 5.3 percent.

In the first nine months of 2022 the justice department carried out inspections in 66 organizations and identified 1,990 cases in which NGOs failed to comply with labor law or the requirements of their charters [1]. This shows that, alongside state support, a system of oversight remains in place.

In Andizhan region, 11 projects were financed by the Public Fund in 2023–2024 for a total of 1.185 billion soums, and in the following grant competition 10 projects were supported with 1.243 billion soums [3]. The average amount per project rose from 107.7 million to 124.3 million soums. Presidential Decree No. PF-124 of 26 August 2024 provided for the establishment of a single Fund and its regional divisions [4].

It is noted that in 2017–2024, 64 regulatory legal acts were adopted aimed at directly supporting civil society institutions and increasing their effectiveness, and NGO houses were established in each region. The next stage in this process was Decree No. PD-124 of August 26, 2024. The decree merged public funds for supporting civil society institutions, and on their basis it was envisaged to establish the Public Fund for Supporting Civil Society Institutions under the Oliy Majlis and its separate divisions in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and the city of Tashkent. It was decided to launch a single electronic platform that ensures transparency in the allocation of state subsidies, grants and social orders, to grant state bodies the right to finance civil society institutions’ initiative social partnership projects up to 1,000 times the base calculation amount without competitions, and to reduce income tax and social tax rates by 50 percent for a period of 3 years within the framework of state grants and social order projects. Thus, state support has now become a system linked not only to financial assistance, but also to project selection, transparency and effectiveness criteria. The issue of determining the long-term perspective has reached a new stage in 2026. Decree No. PD-21 of February 16, 2026, established the priority areas of

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the country's development until 2030, and its annexes provide for the development of a strategy for the development of civil society until 2030 by May 2026. This marks the end of the concept period for 2021-2025, and the beginning of the phase of determining the further development directions of the industry.

Along with the achieved results, unresolved problems remain in the field. Studies have noted that the abundance, fragmentation, and inconsistency of the regulatory framework regulating the activities of NGOs negatively affect their effective functioning, and proposals are being put forward to develop a single code, introduce new articles and definitions into the Law "On NGOs", and replace the term "NGO" with the term "public organizations". Other researchers also emphasize the need to systematize regulatory legal acts regulating cooperation with NGOs. The issue of the code is not new: it is known that civil activists objected to the draft code proposed by the Ministry of Justice in 2020, and alternative codes were prepared. Also, the incomparability of the above statistical data requires the formation of indicators that reflect not the number of NGOs, but their actual activity (number of reports, projects, participation in state grants and social orders).

As regional infrastructure, "NGO Houses" accommodate 22 NGOs in Andizhan region and 25 in Fergana region; at the same time, public monitoring has noted problems with funding and staffing of these houses [5].

The analysis shows that the number of NGOs in the valley is growing and that public associations remain the dominant form. However, no comparable regional statistical series is available for 1991–2016, and the registration of an organization does not by itself indicate its actual activity. Future research should therefore examine indicators of real activity, such as annual reports, implemented projects, and participation in state grants.

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