



## REFORMS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION OF POOR FAMILIES IN NEW UZBEKISTAN: BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND STABILITY

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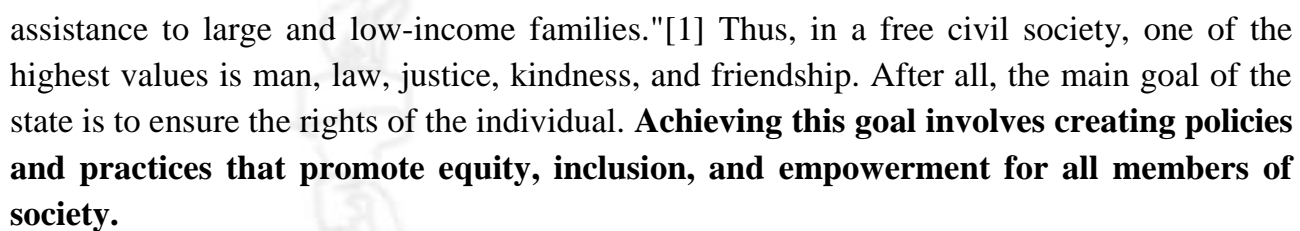
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**Abstract:** *This article analyzes political and philosophical approaches aimed at strengthening the institution of the family and providing social support to low-income families in the context of New Uzbekistan. The family is interpreted as the foundation of social stability, and the need for its comprehensive support is substantiated as a priority direction of state policy. Through the analysis of the priority tasks set in the Development Strategy 2022-2026 and the "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy, the author reveals the social protection system as an idea based on justice, equality, and human dignity. The article also highlights modern approaches to poverty reduction based on Amartya Sen's "capability approach." Key aspects of ensuring social justice are discussed, including neighborhood-based systems ("mahallabay"), unified social registers, targeted assistance, social partnership, and state-society cooperation.*

**Keywords:** *New Uzbekistan, family, social policy, low-income families, social justice, employment, development strategy, unified social protection register, civilization, registry of poor families.*

**Introduction.** In the context of today's globalization and social changes, strengthening the institution of the family in New Uzbekistan has become one of the priorities of state policy. Because the stability of society, its development, and the upbringing of future generations begin precisely in the family. Therefore, it is no coincidence that the family, an important institution representing the individual, their life, values, and well-being, is at the center of social policy. As is known, the family is valued as the cornerstone of society, the basis of social stability. The healthier and stronger the family, the more stability and progress are observed in society.


**Objective and its justification.** In the context of New Uzbekistan, it is relevant to reveal the essence of state policy aimed at ensuring the stability, well-being, and social justice of society by strengthening the institution of the family and especially supporting low-income families. "The essence of such social policy is not to proceed along the path of distribution and equalization. Based on the essence of social policy, firstly, it is necessary to create equal conditions for those engaged in labor activity to support themselves and their families, to show initiative, to be entrepreneurial, to apply knowledge, etc.; secondly, it will be necessary to pay people with fixed wages, i.e., those working in the budget sector, depending on the level of inflation. Thirdly, it is necessary to provide social protection for pensioners, students, and the unemployed. And finally, it is necessary to provide material



The social and economic life of society are closely interconnected, and these two spheres complement and interact with each other. Economic development allows solving social problems, and social factors play an important role in the sustainable and consistent development of the economy. As a result, the well-being, standard of living, and quality of life of the population will increase. In particular, in the formation and development of socially oriented market relations, ensuring strong social protection of the low-income population is of particular importance. Ignoring social problems poses a serious threat to social stability in society. Therefore, political, economic, organizational, and legal measures aimed at supporting segments of the population who are financially disadvantaged due to various reasons, such as economic or health problems, disability, and job shortages, are of great importance. At the heart of such social policy is the principle of social justice. The existence of social justice, in turn, is one of the main indicators of a civilized society. "What is a civilized society? This is a society based on freedom, justice, reason, and law" [2].

In modern society, cases of family crises, poverty, unemployment, social inequality, and vulnerability are increasing. The weakening of the institution of the family threatens stability in society. Problems in the system of social protection of low-income families, in particular, remain an urgent scientific and practical issue. Strengthening the institution of the family is one of the key factors in the development and well-being of society. This requires a systematic approach aimed at improving the state's social protection policy, especially supporting families in need, and promoting healthy family relationships. Family problems and crises negatively affect the whole society. From this point of view, ensuring the stability of the family requires not only economic support, but also strengthening its spiritual and moral foundations. In Eastern culture, the family has long been recognized as a sacred value. Preserving it, strengthening its social role, and ensuring its stability has always been a pressing issue. Today, the issue of the family is considered not only as a personal problem, but also as a socio-political issue of state importance. Concrete and consistent social programs are being implemented in this direction.

***Description and solution of the scientific problem.*** The humanitarian policy of social support for low-income families being implemented today constitutes the essence of a social state. The fact that more than fifty percent of state funds are directed to this sphere is a sign of a social state. The newly adopted constitution further expanded the social obligations of the state. Including ensuring employment, protecting against unemployment, reducing poverty, and others. Also, in Goal 85 of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022-2026: creation of new jobs in the country, increasing household incomes




and thereby reducing poverty by at least 2 times by the end of 2026, kDevelopment and implementation of state programs to reduce poverty, creating opportunities for 2.5 million informally employed citizens to fully enjoy social guarantees and benefits by assisting in the legalization of their employment, reducing the unemployment rate among women by 2 times, vocational training of more than 700 thousand unemployed women at the expense of the state, as well as the implementation of comprehensive measures to attract unemployed women to entrepreneurship and self-employment, establishing a mechanism for conducting social work at the local level (based on the "mahallabay" principle) in the provision of state social assistance and services, creating a unified electronic system for registering families, women, and youth of low-income categories in the context of regions, cities, and districts, eliminating the risk of poverty recovery, developing handicraft activities, covering at least 85 percent of the entire needy population meeting the criteria for assigning social benefits with social assistance programs, providing direct state social assistance to families and segments of the population in need of social protection, as well as citizens temporarily in difficult conditions. The adopted dprogram provides for: automation of the system of targeted work with poor families, integration of the "Iron Notebook," "Youth Notebook," "Women's Notebook" into the "Unified Register of Social Protection," implementation of assistance provided to the poor population and the population at high risk of falling into poverty only through the Unified Register of Social Protection, further improvement and ensuring the targeting of existing instruments in the direction of lifting the population out of poverty"[3]. The tasks defined in the 85th goal of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy are based on the concept of a social state based on social justice, equal opportunities, and human values. According to this approach, poverty is interpreted not only as an economic situation, but also as a social barrier that prevents the full manifestation of human potential. Therefore, this strategy aims to expand the opportunities of every person by ensuring employment, vocational training, stimulating entrepreneurship, and providing targeted assistance to reduce poverty. This approach is consistent with Amartya Sen's idea of a "capability approach," emphasizing that people should have the opportunity to make meaningful choices over their lives, not only available resources.[4] . Social work based on the principle of "Mahallabay," unified registers, and automated systems will serve to organize this process fairly, transparently, and effectively. In general, these strategic tasks represent a humane and moral approach in society, which views poverty not as a natural phenomenon, but as a social problem that needs to be addressed.

The "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy was adopted by Presidential Decree No. UP-158 of September 11, 2023[5] . According to the Decree, the "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy consists of the following 5 priority areas and 100 goals.

- create decent conditions for the realization of each person's potential;
- ensuring the well-being of the population through sustainable economic growth;
- conservation of water resources and environmental protection;
- ensuring the rule of law, organizing public administration in the service of the people;






- Consistent continuation of the policy based on the principle of a "safe and peace-loving state."

The "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy also reflects the following key ideas: achieving a place among countries with above-average income through sustainable economic growth; establishing an education, healthcare, and social protection system that fully meets the needs of the population and international standards; creating favorable environmental conditions for the population; building a just and modern state serving the people; and guaranteeing the country's sovereignty and security. In addition, objectives have been set to radically improve the system of providing professional social services, sharply reduce poverty by 2 times compared to 2022 by 2026 and by 2030, increase the income of 4.5 million people at risk of falling into poverty, and train 500 thousand qualified specialists based on social partnership (Goal 27). Also, to achieve full coverage of all those in need with the social protection system, it is planned to organize the activities of "Inson" social service centers in all districts and cities of the republic for the comprehensive implementation of social services (Goal 22). The "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy is an ideological and spiritual concept aimed at realizing human potential, ensuring social justice, and harmonious development in society. In this document, the recognition of the values, rights, and opportunities of every person is defined as the main direction, which in itself means a development model based on the criteria of humanism and justice. The five priority areas of the Strategy indicate that sustainable economic growth is not just numbers, but a tool that serves to improve the quality of life and human potential. In particular, by reducing poverty, expanding the coverage of social services, and creating "Inson" social service centers, the state strives to implement the principle of "social justice" in practice. In this strategy, development is considered not only in economic, but also in social, moral, and ecological harmony. After all, a prosperous society is a society of spiritually mature citizens. The "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy philosophically represents a responsible partnership between the state and society. In it, a person is considered not just a number or an object, but an active participant in development. Therefore, this strategy is a roadmap based on the principles of social justice, providing for not only economic, but also moral and spiritual renewal. Indeed, "Equality in the standard of living means ensuring that every person, regardless of origin and social status, has a fair opportunity to live well. This includes having sufficient money for groceries and housing, healthcare and education, employment and development opportunities. This means treating each person fairly, providing the necessary assistance for their success, while respecting their rights and dignity. Society is what its values are. Just as values are, so is their regulator"[6].

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 125[7] Adopted. According to it, assistance to poor families will be provided on the basis of a social contract. According to the terms of the contract, able-bodied family members are obliged to be employed, effectively use their household plots, learn professions and foreign languages, monitor their health, and keep their homes clean. If the conditions are not met,




social assistance and services may be suspended (except for social benefits). Starting March 1, 2025, it will be piloted in the Khavast district of the Syrdarya region. It will be implemented in all regions from May 1, 2025. In case of non-compliance with the agreement, material assistance to low-income families may be reduced by up to 30% (by a collegial decision of the "Mahalla Seven"). According to the resolution, the Regulation on the procedure for concluding a social contract for providing assistance aimed at lifting families out of poverty was adopted. According to the Regulation, measures of assistance to a poor family, including each of its able-bodied members, are indicated with the condition of fulfilling the following obligations stipulated in the social contract concluded in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Regulation: ensuring the employment of able-bodied members of the poor family; ensuring regular attendance of classes by members of the poor family studying in educational organizations; maintaining the sanitary condition of the housing belonging to the poor family; effective use of the household plot belonging to the poor family (sowing); targeted use of material and technical resources and funds allocated on the basis of benefits established by legislative acts. The new system sees social assistance not only as assistance, but also as a mechanism that encourages a citizen's responsible attitude towards their life. That is, to receive help, the person (or family) must demonstrate not only a need, but also a readiness for action, change. Contractual assistance is the achievement of a balance between human freedom and social responsibility. This is reminiscent of the idea of the "philosophy of existentialism": man gives meaning to existence through his choices. In order to receive assistance, family members must demonstrate through their behavior that they deserve it.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-84 dated May 15, 2025, families included in the Register of Poor Families and at risk of entering this register will be divided into "red," "yellow," and "green" categories, and social support measures will be provided depending on their category.

**"Red"** category - families whose average monthly income per family member is less than the minimum consumer spending and meets one of the following criteria:

- at least 1 of its members is unable to work due to health reasons;
- has a dependent member, including a child with a disability;
- consists of a single person living alone or a single elderly person or a person with a single disability in need of outside care;
- a family that has lost a breadwinner or whose breadwinner is in a correctional institution;
- **"Yellow"** category - families whose average monthly income per family member is less than the minimum consumer spending and whose members are able to work due to their health condition.
- **"Green"** category - families whose average monthly income per family member is from 1 to 1.5 times the minimum consumer spending and meets one of the following




criteria: the family has been excluded from the "red" or "yellow" category; the family has a high probability of being included in the Register of Poor Families.

The above decrees and resolutions are based on the principle of a social state. **"A social state means that every citizen of the state has a decent quality of life, and the material wealth in this state is distributed fairly"**[1]. **A social state is a state that prioritizes the social protection and well-being of its citizens.**

**Conclusion.** In the current era of globalization and social changes, strengthening the institution of the family and comprehensive support for low-income families have become a priority of state policy in New Uzbekistan. Family, as the foundation of society, is the basis not only of spiritual and moral stability, but also of economic development and social justice. Along with material assistance, a healthy social environment, inclusive policy, and conditions for realizing potential play an important role in ensuring family stability. In particular, it will be possible to provide assistance to the most vulnerable segments of the population by establishing a targeted and fair social protection system based on modern information technologies. The goals set in the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy - poverty reduction, employment growth, vocational training, support for women, targeted organization of social services through a mahallabay approach - embody progressive ideas aimed at realizing justice, human dignity, and social potential. This means that these political approaches are aimed not only at helping, but also at creating the necessary opportunities for citizens to qualitatively change their lives, become active and effective participants. This is an important step towards building a stable and just society not only for today, but also for future generations.

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