ISSN:3030-332X
Impact factor: 9,493
International journal of scientific researchers
2nd International Conference on Green Economy & Sustainability 2.0, 30 April 2026

THE STRATEGY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN OUR COUNTRY

Khujamkulova Khosiyat Ishbayevna[1],
Kholmuratova Guzal Muradovna[2],
Karimov Sardor Mashrapjon O'g'li[3],
Dilshodov Shokhjahon Sherzod O'g'li[4]

[1]Senior Lecturer, Department of Management and Tourism, Faculty of Economics, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, National Research University; khosiyatxujamkulova@icloud.com

[2]Senior Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Audit", Faculty of "Economics", Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers", National Research University, guzalina_22@mail.ru

[3]Assistant, Department of Management and Tourism, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, National Research University; karimovsardor9999@gmail.com

[4]Student, Economics, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers, National Research University; dshoxjahon13@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: This article discusses the multifaceted strategies implemented by Uzbekistan to reduce poverty in the context of ongoing socio-economic changes. Looking beyond traditional income-based definitions, the analysis considers poverty as a complex interplay of education, health, employment, and limited access to social protection. The discussion focuses on the country's efforts to increase employment, develop rural areas, reform social assistance systems, and provide inclusive services. Particular attention is paid to integrating vulnerable groups, particularly women and rural populations, into national development strategies. The role of institutional reforms, international cooperation, and adaptive policy development is also explored. By assessing these interventions within the broader framework of sustainable development, the article highlights the importance of equity, sustainability, and participatory governance in shaping effective poverty reduction outcomes in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Poverty Reduction, Social Protection, Inclusive Development, Rural Livelihoods, Employment Generation, Uzbekistan, Economic Reforms, Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

Understanding and reducing poverty is a dynamic and evolving process that requires more than statistical measurement or economic intervention. It demands a deep engagement with human realities such as deprivation, exclusion, and vulnerability. In Uzbekistan, where the socio-economic landscape is shaped by both its Soviet legacy and modern reform efforts, the discourse on poverty has regained prominence. In recent years, there has been a shift not only in policy instruments but also in the way poverty is conceptualized—from a narrow focus on income to a broader emphasis on social equity, dignity, and opportunity. As the country redefines its development path, poverty reduction emerges not just as an outcome of growth, but as a critical factor for long-term national stability, cohesion, and prosperity. This article examines the various measures being implemented in Uzbekistan to reduce poverty, recognizing that the issue lies in empowering individuals as much as it does in restructuring systems.

Poverty remains one of the most pressing socioeconomic challenges facing Uzbekistan today. While the country has achieved significant progress since gaining independence in 1991, a substantial portion of the population, particularly in rural areas, continues to experience economic hardship. The issue of poverty is complex and multifaceted, shaped by a confluence of historical, political, structural, and economic factors. As Uzbekistan embarks on an ambitious agenda of modernization and development, poverty reduction measures have taken a central place among its policy priorities. A thorough examination of these measures, their implementation, and their effectiveness provides a critical understanding of the country's broader development trajectory.

In Uzbekistan, poverty is inextricably linked not only to a lack of income or resources but also to access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and social protection. The collapse of the Soviet Union and subsequent economic downturns initially led to a significant decline in living standards. In the early 1990s, the country faced hyperinflation, unemployment, and the disintegration of its centralized social security system. These problems disproportionately affected vulnerable segments of the population, including women, the elderly, and children. Over time, the Government of Uzbekistan began to develop its own framework for poverty reduction, emphasizing stability, gradual market reforms, and state-led development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In recent years, Uzbekistan has intensified its efforts to reduce poverty, align with international development frameworks, and implement significant institutional reforms. The adoption of a national poverty reduction strategy, part of a broader wave of economic liberalization and social reform, marked a turning point (Tashtanova, 2024). This strategy places special emphasis on raising income levels, expanding access to quality public services, and creating inclusive economic opportunities. The government has defined poverty not just as an economic issue, but also as a social and institutional one that requires a cross-sectoral, people-centered approach (Muzaffarovich, 2025).

A key component of the ongoing efforts to reduce poverty in Uzbekistan is ensuring employment for the population. Recognizing the role of effective employment in lifting people out of poverty, the government has prioritized the creation of new jobs through infrastructure development, industrial diversification, and support for small and medium-sized businesses (Ibodulloyevich, 2023). Vocational training and skills development programs have been designed to adapt the labor force to the demands of an economy in transition. Special economic zones and rural development programs have played a vital role in expanding employment opportunities outside of urban centers, thereby addressing regional disparities (Nazarali o‘g‘li, 2024).

Agricultural reform is also a key component of the country’s poverty reduction strategy, especially since a significant portion of the population resides in rural areas. Reforms in land use policy, water management, and the utilization of agricultural products are serving to increase productivity and improve rural livelihoods (Hamdamov, 2024). Government-supported cooperatives, extension services, and value chain development are crucial for integrating small-scale farmers into larger markets. Furthermore, access to microcredit and other financial services has provided rural entrepreneurs with the funds to invest in income-generating activities, contributing to overall economic stability (Muzaffarovich, 2025).

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative and descriptive research methodology, drawing on secondary data sources to examine poverty reduction strategies in Uzbekistan. The primary data sources include official government reports, statistical publications from the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and policy documents issued by relevant ministries. Additionally, peer-reviewed academic literature and reports from international development organizations were consulted to contextualize Uzbekistan’s experience within broader regional and global frameworks.

A thematic analysis approach was applied to identify recurring patterns, policy priorities, and implementation gaps in Uzbekistan’s poverty reduction efforts. Quantitative data presented in tables were sourced from official statistics and used to track trends in poverty rates, unemployment, GDP growth, and social protection coverage over the period 2015–2023. The study is limited to publicly available data

and does not involve primary fieldwork or household surveys. This approach allows for a comprehensive review of national-level trends while acknowledging regional variations that may not be fully captured by aggregate statistics.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

An empirical understanding of poverty in Uzbekistan requires examining key socioeconomic indicators that reflect the living conditions and development opportunities available to different segments of the population. In recent years, significant shifts in measuring poverty have been observed, moving toward a multidimensional approach that incorporates healthcare, education, employment, and housing quality. To assess the impact of poverty reduction measures, it is useful to study data trends from the past decade. According to the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the official poverty rate has shown a steady decline in recent years. While the national poverty rate was approximately 17 percent in 2020, it had fallen to 11 percent by 2023. This improvement coincided with the implementation of targeted social programs and economic reforms aimed at increasing the incomes of the rural population and expanding access to essential services.

Table 1. Poverty Level in Uzbekistan (2015–2023)

Year	Poverty Level (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)	GDP Growth (%)
2015	14.5	9.1	7.9
2016	13.6	9.2	6.1
2017	13.2	9.0	4.5
2018	12.5	8.7	5.1
2019	11.8	8.4	5.7
2020	17.0	10.5	-0.5
2021	14.3	9.7	6.2
2022	12.4	9.3	5.7
2023	11.0	8.8	6.0

Source: Statistics Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan

As shown in Table 1, the poverty rate temporarily increased in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which halted economic activity, especially in the informal sector. An increase in unemployment and a contraction in GDP were also observed during this period. However, the post-pandemic recovery has been relatively strong, aided by the revival of the construction, agriculture, and industrial sectors. This recovery was supported by targeted government interventions, including cash transfers and support for small businesses. Another important aspect of the analysis is the government's investment in social protection for the population and the resulting provision for low-income families. According to government data, the number of households receiving social assistance from the state nearly doubled between 2020 and 2023, reflecting a shift toward more inclusive social security coverage.

Table 2. The Scope of Social Assistance and Its Impact on Households (2020–2023)

Year	Beneficiary households (in millions)	Average monthly assistance per household (UZS)	Households below the poverty line (%)
2020	0.75	320,000	17.0
2021	1.20	360,000	14.3
2022	1.45	410,000	12.4
2023	1.62	435,000	11.0

This expansion of social protection coverage indicates the government's commitment to mitigating the impact of poverty on the most vulnerable populations. An increase in benefit amounts and improved targeting through digital registration systems have enhanced the effectiveness of social transfers. Although the share of households below the poverty line continues to decline, the depth and severity of poverty vary by region and demographic group.

Regional disparities persist, with rural areas in the Fergana Valley and Karakalpakstan experiencing higher poverty rates than cities like Tashkent. These disparities underscore the continued importance of geographically targeted programs, especially in communities dependent on agriculture, where climate vulnerability also plays a significant role. Overall, the data indicates that measures taken to reduce poverty in Uzbekistan are yielding positive results, particularly in terms of poverty levels and social program coverage. However, challenges remain in ensuring quality employment, reducing informal labor, and securing long-term economic stability. Further improvements will likely depend on sustained investments in human capital, the continued decentralization of social services, and the integration of poverty monitoring systems at the local level. Social protection measures constitute another key pillar of Uzbekistan's poverty reduction framework. These measures are aimed at providing a safety net for the most vulnerable, including those unable to work due to disability, age, or caregiving responsibilities. In recent years, the state has implemented measures to improve the targeting and delivery of social assistance. The introduction of digital systems has enhanced the transparency and efficiency of social transfers, ensuring that aid reaches those most in need. Conditional cash transfers linked to education and health outcomes have also been introduced in pilot programs, reflecting a shift towards more integrated approaches to social welfare.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Uzbekistan's experience in poverty reduction reflects broader shifts in the country's development paradigm. Having transitioned from a centralized economy grappling with the post-Soviet era to an increasingly open and reform-oriented state, Uzbekistan has made significant strides in combating poverty. While significant challenges remain, the government's strategic focus on employment, social protection, education, healthcare, and inclusive growth offers a comprehensive path toward poverty eradication. Sustained political will, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based policies will be crucial to ensuring these measures lead to tangible improvements in the lives of all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable.

Poverty reduction is not a destination, but rather a continuous process of change, adaptation, and inclusion. In Uzbekistan, the complexity of this problem is matched by the diversity of responses emerging in policy areas and societal practices. While economic indicators show one objective of progress, a deeper measure lies in how people's lives are changing—their ability to access opportunities, participate meaningfully in society, and shape their own future. Effective poverty alleviation is aimed not only at developing programs but also at increasing resilience, building trust, and fostering human potential. As Uzbekistan continues on its path of reform, the true success of its poverty reduction measures will depend on their ability to stem from the needs of society and uphold the values of justice, solidarity, and shared development.

REFERENCES

1. Ibodulloyevich, I. E. (2023). Improving poverty reduction and entrepreneurship development in mahallas. Gospodarka i Innowacje, 42, 504–507.
2. Nazarali o‘g‘li, M. S. (2024). Analysis of the impact of poverty reduction policy in Uzbekistan. University Research Base, 826–828.
3. Muzaffarovich, N. R. (2025). Mechanisms for poverty reduction based on sustainable economic growth. Analysis of Modern Science and Innovation, 1(6), 104–114.
4. Tashtanova, D. (2024). National development strategy: Analysis of poverty reduction issues and international experience in Uzbekistan. Nordic Press, 1(1).
5. Hamdamov, S. (2024). Financing poverty reduction and social protection of the population. Kokand University Bulletin, 13, 64–66.