

## FORMATION TRENDS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

**Kamalov Shukhratbek Botiraliyevich**

Department of Economics, Andijan state university

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### Abstract

This paper examines the evolution and current trends in the development of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) in Uzbekistan. Drawing on legislative analysis, statistical data, and comparative studies, it explores how NGOs have transformed from small voluntary groups into influential actors in social, environmental, and human rights domains. The research identifies three key phases of NGO growth—initial formation, institutional expansion, and modernization. Findings indicate that while the sector has grown substantially, challenges remain in ensuring autonomy, financial sustainability, and effective state–civil society partnerships.

### 1. Introduction

Since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has undergone profound social and economic reforms aimed at building a democratic state governed by the rule of law. Non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) have become central to this process, serving as intermediaries between the state and citizens. As Howard (2003) notes, 'The post-Soviet states demonstrate that civil society development is a decisive factor in sustaining democratic reforms.' Similarly, Carothers and Brechenmacher (2014) emphasize that NGOs act as accountability agents, ensuring transparency and civic participation.

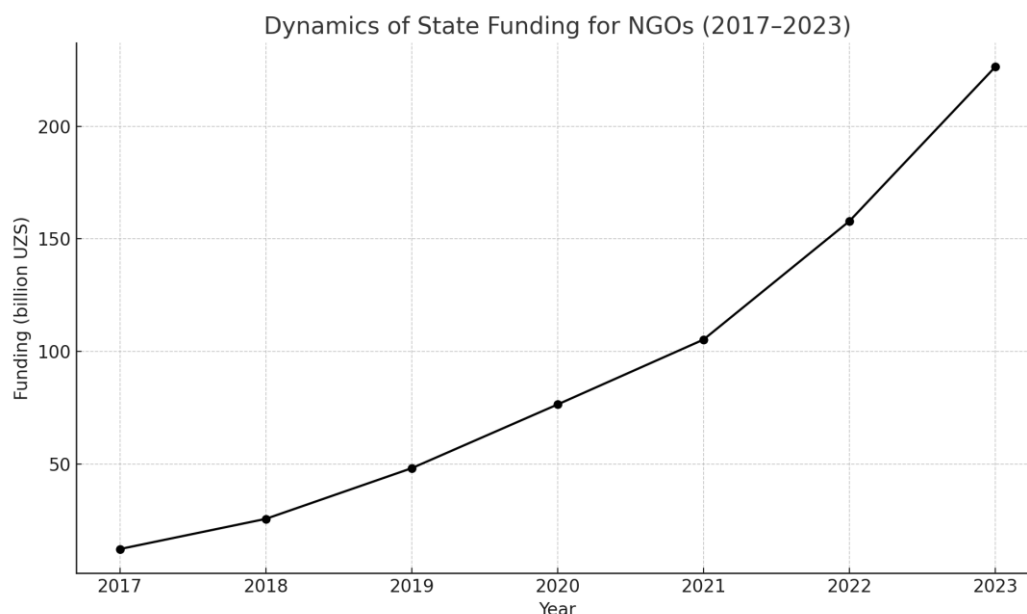
### 2. Historical Stages of NGO Formation

Table 1 below presents the quantitative growth of NGOs in Uzbekistan between 1991 and 2024.

Year	Number of NGOs	Growth Rate (%)
1991	95	—
2000	2,585	+2619%
2010	5,100	+97%
2016	8,417	+65%
2024	10,000+	+18%

**Table 1. Growth in the Number of Registered NGOs in Uzbekistan (1991–2024)**

As shown in Figure 1, the volume of state funding allocated to NGOs has grown significantly since 2017.



**Figure 1. Dynamics of State Funding for NGOs in Uzbekistan (2017–2023)**

### 3. Institutional and Legal Framework

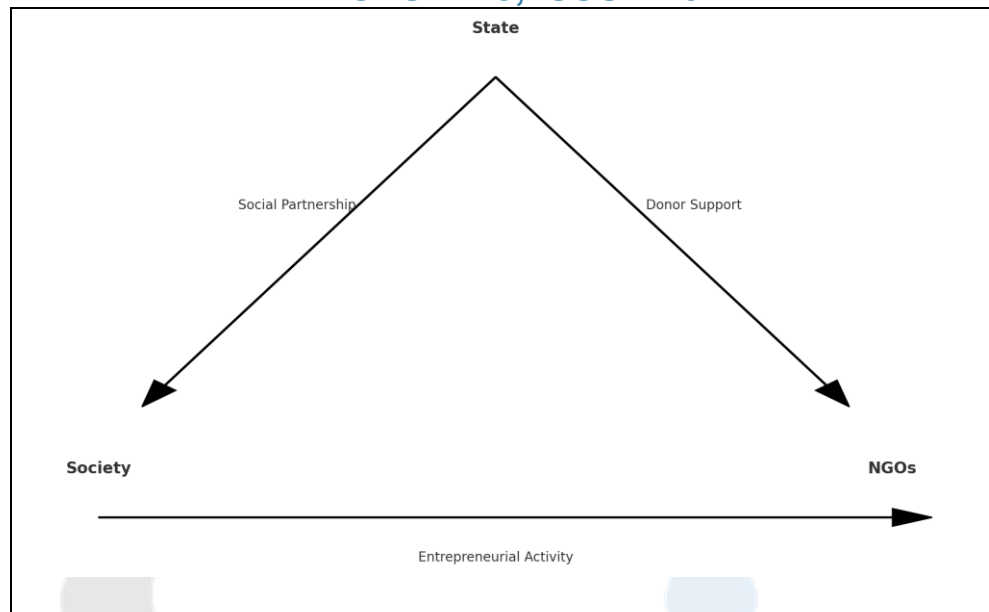
The 2023 Constitution of Uzbekistan introduced a new chapter dedicated to 'Civil Society Institutions,' recognizing the legal and social significance of NGOs. The 'Concept for the Development of Civil Society Institutions (2021–2025)' outlines priorities such as simplified registration, expansion of state social orders, and the establishment of NGO Houses.

Table 2 illustrates the distribution of NGOs across major sectors in Uzbekistan as of 2024.

Sector	Share of Total NGOs (%)	Example Organizations
Social Protection	25	“Soglom Avlod Uchun” Foundation
Environmental Protection	18	“Ekosan” Foundation
Gender Equality	15	Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan
Youth Development	20	Youth Union of Uzbekistan
Legal & Human Rights	10	“Ezgu Amal” NGO
Other	12	—

**Table 2. Main Sectors of NGO Activity in Uzbekistan (2024)**

Figure 2 illustrates the institutional model of NGO development in Uzbekistan, emphasizing interdependence between state, NGOs, and society.



**Figure 2. Institutional Development Model of NGOs in Uzbekistan**

#### 4. Conclusion

The evolution of NGOs in Uzbekistan reflects not only quantitative expansion but also qualitative transformation. Over the past three decades, they have become crucial actors in social policy, human rights protection, and environmental initiatives. Sustained success will depend on fostering autonomy, digital transformation, and inclusive governance.

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