“Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan: Status, Problems and Prospects for Development”
Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan: Status, Problems, and Prospects for Development

Authors: Mr. Tatybaev Aziz, Candidate of Science (History)  
Mr. Atadjanov Farkhad, sociologist  
Mr. Sysina Tatyana, sociologist

The present document has been developed under the auspices of the “Enhancement of Living Standards in the Republic of Karakalpakstan” Project of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, implemented with financial support from the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This report reviews the current status of civil society organizations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the main trends in their development and their relationship with public authorities. This publication is aimed at a general public, as well as specialists who work in the third sector and are involved in the formation of civil society in Uzbekistan.

The views expressed in this brochure do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the United Nations Development Programme, its executive Board or UN member States. This brochure is an independent publication commissioned by the Enhancement of Living Standards projects in Karakalpakstan and Namangan region. It is the result of a collaborative effort by the project team in Karakalpakstan and a number of consultants, advisers and authors coordinated by the ELS Programme. The boundaries and names shown and the designation used on the maps presented in the brochure do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Commission and/or the United Nations.
SUMMARY .................................................................................................................................................. 4
INFORMATION ON THE REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN ..................................................................... 6
INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................................................ 8
  Goal and objectives of the study .................................................................................................................. 9
  Methodological approaches ......................................................................................................................... 10
  Data Collection Methods .......................................................................................................................... 10
  Data Analysis and Processing Technique .................................................................................................. 11
CHAPTER 1. RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW OF TRADITIONAL TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN KARAKALPAKSTAN .......................................................................................................................... 12
CHAPTER 2. GENERAL INFORMATION ON STRUCTURE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN KARAKALPAKSTAN ........................................................................................................................................ 15
  Main segments of civil society at present .................................................................................................... 15
  Legal framework of activity of civil society organizations ........................................................................ 17
CHAPTER 3. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs) IN KARAKALPAKSTAN .............................................. 21
  Identification of CBO as “Civil Society” Institution .................................................................................... 21
  Formation Mechanism and Main Directions of Activities of Local self-governing Institutions .......... 23
  Organizational Capacity of CBOs ............................................................................................................... 26
CHAPTER 4. MAIN TRENDS OF DEVELOPMENT OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) IN KARAKALPAKSTAN ........................................................................................................ 27
  General Information on NGOs ................................................................................................................ 27
  Organizational Capacity of NGOs ............................................................................................................ 29
  Main Initiatives Involving NGOs in Karakalpakstan .................................................................................. 30
CHAPTER 5. DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) IN KARAKALPAKSTAN .................................................. 34
  Characteristics of Social Partnership in the Republic of Karakalpakstan .................................................. 34
  Information Support for Social Partnership Processes ............................................................................. 36
  Prospects for Cross-Sectoral Interaction .................................................................................................. 38
CHAPTER 6. ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN KARAKALPAKSTAN ............................... 40
CONCLUSION ............................................................................................................................................... 44
Summary

The aim of this report is to analyze the current status of civil society in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and trends in its development, through an investigation into the conditions of and environment for operation and interaction between its main actors (nongovernmental organizations, mahallya, village and rural community assemblies and Homeowners Associations).

The structure of civil society in Karakalpakstan can be divided into the following components: traditional institutions; public organizations from the Soviet period; nongovernmental, nonprofit organizations, which emerged as a result of the increasing involvement of citizens; and economic, political and other organizations and associations.

An analysis of the historical situation helps to provide a better understanding of how the modern Karakalpak community functions and the main principles behind the formation of these communities, which are based on traditional patriarchal-tribal relations. At the same time, community assemblies are currently the most popular and influential parts of civil society, enjoying both the support of the state and the trust of the majority of the population.

Nongovernmental, nonprofit organizations constitute an important segment of civil society in Karakalpakstan. Having faced the difficulties of the transition period, many citizens began to look to the creation of nonprofit organizations for resolving delicate social problems. Most nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) need assistance and support in such areas as management, institutional building and development, fundraising and attraction of resources and planning and designing.

During the past few years, much has been done to establish real mechanisms of social partnership between civil society organizations (CSOs) and public authorities and government agencies.

A mechanism to encourage the activities of nonprofit organizations through direct contract competitive financing of NGO projects and programmes from the public budget, has not yet been introduced. Moreover, in the absence of an appropriate regulatory and legal framework, it is not possible to establish a mechanism for introducing public contracts. The adoption of laws containing principles and rules of formation, placement and execution of public orders for social programmes on a contractual basis, would provide an additional stimulus for further intensification of a social partnership system in Karakalpakstan.
### Information on the Republic of Karakalpakstan
(as of 1 January, 2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative centre</td>
<td>City of Nukus (1,255 km from Tashkent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>In the North-West of Uzbekistan, at the lower course of Amudarya river and southern coast of the Aral Sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>166,600 square km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political System</td>
<td>In accordance with the Constitution, there are legislative, executive and judicial branches of power in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Legislative authority is exercised by the Zhokary Kenges of the Republic of Karakalpakstan – the highest public representative body consisting of deputies elected in territorial districts on a multi-party basis for a five-year term. The highest executive authority is exercised by the Council of Ministers approved by the Zhokary Kenges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Judicial power of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, which acts independently from legislative and executive authorities, political parties and other public associations, consists of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Economic Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan elected for five-year terms, Military and Economic Courts of the city of Nukus, districts and towns elected for the same five-year period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Continental with very hot summer and cold winters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>There are large deposits of mineral resources: natural gas, granite, crude oil, concrete stone, kaolin, marble, phosphoric metals with impregnation of precious stones and metals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1,572,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>urban</td>
<td>763,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rural</td>
<td>808,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>men</td>
<td>787,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women</td>
<td>785,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>9.4 people per square km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

One of the principal officially declared priorities of development of modern Uzbekistan is the formation of basis of civil society that forms a natural foundation of political democracy without which the latter is simply impossible or ineffective. In this regard, private property constitutes an economic basis of civil society, because the ability of the society for self-organization can be implemented only in the presence of certain economic conditions, namely – economic freedoms, diversity of patterns of ownership and market relations.

A huge corpus of publications on civil society presents various methods of classification and systematization of groups, structures and organizations of civil society. Some of the methods were used by the team implementing the study for development of methodology. In particular, classifications proposed in a number of works by Russian researchers Mr. A.Galkin and Mr. Y.Krasin were taken into consideration. One of such classifications focuses on a criterion of origin of civil society, according to which there are two notable types of organizations. Firstly, those are public organization of the Soviet period, which during the period of reforms had to change the old type of relationship with the state (subordination and custody); second type includes organizations of the “new community” that emerged in new conditions and have a status of nongovernmental organizations from the very beginning.

Another classification is based on “structural levels” (or “spheres”) of civil society. In this classification there are three levels of civil society and its component organizations: those that are connected with the economic sector; those of the true social sector; and those from the intellectual and ideological sector. They differ, both in the interests of their participants and in their relationship with the state.

With the support of the public and business sectors, civil society organizations (CSOs) aim fundamentally, to perform multiple socially-useful functions, including the following:

- Social protection of the most vulnerable groups of the population.
- Involvement of the population in the development and implementation of social programmes.
- Enhancement of responsibility of public authorities, through monitoring performed by voluntary organizations.
- A developed system of CSOs that ensures a balance of power between social groups, business and government.

With the collapse of the administrative command system and development of market relations in Uzbekistan, old Soviet-type public organizations began to adapt.

---

process included the formation of civil society institutions that were a new phenomena for post-Soviet countries.

This process is underway in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, with international organizations, programmes and projects providing assistance in the development of civil society institutions through training, grant aid and technical support and assistance in the development of social partnership.

Projects include the “Enhancement of Living Standards in the Republic of Karakalpakstan” (ELSRK), a project of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, implemented with the support of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is aimed at activating local communities and encouraging active and positive dialogue between CSOs and the government at regional and local levels, in order to promote mutual understanding and trust.

In order to accomplish the successful implementation of project goals and objectives, it is necessary to analyze the development of civil society in Karakalpakstan.

The research was focused to study relationship between civil society organizations, public and business structures, as well as international organizations carrying out their activity on the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Issues related to the structure of civil society in Karakalpakstan were fundamental in the planning of the study. The study team proceeded from the fact that “civil society” represents an interaction of individuals and various social and population groups regulated by the civil law. Ideally, it is a system of public institutions and interactions that are independent from the state, which is designed to provide an environment for self-actualization of individuals and groups and accomplishment of private interests and demands.

**Goal and Objectives of the Study**

**Goal:**

Analysis of the current status of civil society in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and trends and issues related to civil society organizations (CSOs).

**Objectives:**

- To study the legal acts regulating the activity of CSOs in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.
- To identify the main initiatives put forward by CSOs and the difficulties and problems they face in their daily activities.
- To identify the priority needs of CSOs, including those in knowledge and skills.
Introduction

- To study the current conditions in the Republic of Karakalpakstan with respect to development of social partnership between CSOs, public and business structures, as well as possible cooperation between CSOs and international organizations.

- To identify the main international organizations working in the region and to review the directions of their activities.

Methodological Approaches

In accordance with the goals and objectives, appropriate methodological approaches have been developed to accomplish the study:

- Collection of quantitative and qualitative data from all accessible sources.
- Comprehensive content-analysis of all qualitative data collected.
- Triangulation, i.e. cross analysis and verification of data.
- Use of imprecise qualitative rating scale.
- Comparative method for analysis and assessment of situation in the civil society sector.

Data Collection Methods

In accordance with the goals and objectives of the study, the following methods were used:

- Collection of qualitative information through in-depth interview.
- Collection of quantitative information with the use of a standard questionnaire, through face-to-face interview.
- Analysis of secondary data and legal documents.

The in-depth interview method, used for collection of qualitative information, elicited the opinions and attitudes of various branches of regional authorities and international organizations. The total number of interviews included eight representatives at different levels from public authorities and 15 international organizations. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with experts, including journalists, scientists, party activists, businessmen and heads of the five most advanced NGOs in the region.

Qualitative information was collected with the use of method of face-to-face interview based on standard questionnaire. Questionnaires were developed for three categories of respondents; (see Table 1 for general information about the respondents).
Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>Category of respondents</th>
<th>Interview Sites</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Representatives of community-based organizations (CBOs) – <em>makankenes</em>, village and rural assemblies, Homeowners Associations</td>
<td>City of Nukus, Nukus, Kegeli, Chimbai, Takhiatash, Khodjeyli, Shumanai, Karauzyak, Tokhtakupyr, Amudarya districts</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leaders and activists of nongovernmental, nonprofit organizations</td>
<td>City of Nukus, Shumanai, Kegeli, Chimbai, Tokhtakupyr districts</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Community members</td>
<td>Shumanai, Kegeli, Karauzyak districts</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Random-probability and quota sampling was used during the study.

For the selection of representatives from CBOs, a cluster system was used, which combined Nukus city and nine districts into five clusters by their geographical characteristics. Sampling computation was based on data provided by the “Mahallya Foundation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan”. In general, CBO interviews covered 28.4% of the entire population for Karakalpakstan.

The selection of NGOs was implemented using the “Snowball” method. The total number of interviewed respondents was 35, representing about 20 percent of the total number of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations registered in Karakalpakstan.

Interviews were conducted with community members in three target districts of the ELSRK Project (Shumanai, Kegeli and Karauzyak), on the basis of quota sampling (according to the type of location and sex). Computation of the sampled population was made on the basis of data provided by the Statistics Department as of 1 January, 2005.

**Data Analysis and Processing Technique**

All collected qualitative and quantitative data was analyzed and after encoding, filed in a database. Quantitative data was processed with the use of specially designed software and the frequency tables obtained have been transformed into diagrams.

Qualitative data obtained through interviews with representatives of public authorities, international organizations, NGOs and experts was analyzed and categorized.

In accordance with the methodological approaches used, the status of CSOs was assessed on the basis of an analysis of the results from data processed.
Modern Karakalpakstan has a centuries-long history. A brief retrospective journey into the history is quite important in the light of a great role played by centuries-old behavioral stereotypes and life-styles specific for entire Central Asia.

Historical approach involves analysis of historical sources of current situation in order to identify vital elements of historical heritage that still govern baseline conditions and main development trends of the region. Strong fundamental cultures that still have very tangible influence, underlie the historical heritage.

Even today, Karakalpaks retain a strong influence from the tribal structure that goes back centuries. This structure is characterized by the division of all tribes and kin groups into two main branches (arys\(^2\)): on-tort-uruu arys (14 kin groups) and konyrat arys.

On-tort-uruu arys is largely situated on the right bank of the Amudarya river, within present-day Chimbai and Kegeli districts. They were traditionally involved in farming and cattle breeding.

The tribes and kin groups of Konyrat arys are mainly concentrated in the northern part of the Amudarya delta, on the lands adjacent to the Aral Sea, now Muinak, Takhtakupyr and Kungrad districts. They were traditionally engaged in fishing, cattle breeding and farming.

The community of on-tort-uruu consists of the ktai, kypshak, keneges and mangyt tribes, whilst Konyrat arys is divided into shulluk and tauyngyr. Shulluk unifies eight tribes: ashamaily, koldauly, kostamgaly, balgaly, kandekli, karamoyin, kyat and muiten. Taungyr is not a tribe but a kin group that includes seven kins. Each kin is further divided into smaller groups\(^3\). The names of many Karakalpak kin groups reflect their ethnic history, coinciding with the names of vanished tribes and kins that for many centuries had been contributing to the formation of the present-day ethnicity of Karakalpaks.

Virtually, before the beginning of XX century the majority of the above kin groups were isolated: they occupied certain territories with their own irrigation canals and pastures. Each tribe or separate kin was headed by a well-born leader, or biy who wielded a great power.

Biy\(\)s had the right to settle disputes between individual kin or tribe members and they represented their kin or tribe in the neighborhood. Many biy\(\)s passed their power to heirs. Along with biy\(\)s, a significant role within each community was played by aksamals (deans) and by the Muslim religious class, which included mullas, ishans, and khodjas.

\(^{2}\) Arys – literal meaning of the word “shaft”

\(^{3}\) People of Central Asia and Karakalpakstan, vol.1, M. 1962, pages 409-410
Total number of Karakalpak tribes reached twelve, and that of kin groups (*uruu*) reached 100. There even more large (*tire*) and small (*koshe*) kin subgroups. Each tribe occupied certain territory. As already stated above, within such territory kin groups had their own irrigation canals and adjacent lands (arable lands and pastures), which legally belonged to tribal land-and-water communities.

Karakalpak agricultural populations settled in *auls* whose inhabitants belonged to the same kin group or sub-group. Inside *auls* there were scattered farmsteads. This type of settlement dates from the early Middle Ages and is a legacy of the stable extended families (ancient and medieval *ked*) that settled in reinforced farmsteads, called *haulis*. *Haulis* were built on land plots of separated families and did not create compact *kishlaks*.

Those Karakalpaks who retain division by tribal principle, remain of large family were peculiarly mixed with tribal structures: they had closely-related groups – *koshe*, which were considered the smallest kin subgroup. Members of one *koshe* settled close to each other⁴. Therefore, Karakalpak *aul* is usually clearly divided into *koshes* scattered all over the place along small *aryks* (irrigation ditches) and represented by a group of dwellings (yurts and houses) and extensions located close to each other. In northern parts, predominantly cattle-producing and fishing areas, type of settlement was somewhat different. *Auls* here were more compact: yurts and houses were located along continuous strip. However, *auls* here were also divided into *koshes*, and its closely-related families always settled near each other.

Unlike Uzbeks, who used to live in large households with undivided families, Karakalpaks usually had small families. Such families, however, were not at all isolated but lived in kin groups – *koshe*. These groups of close relatives can be considered as peculiar form of household large-family community. Karakalpaki *koshe* was the smallest kin subgroup of their complex multistage tribal structure and it retains traditional features of the previous patriarchal kin group – *uruu*. Small *koshes* unified truly close blood relatives, descendants of one man consisting of three-four generations. *Koshe* was named after the name or nickname (*laqab*) of that man; this name was assumed by all tribesmen identifying their relative unity⁵. As mentioned above, in addition to territorial unity *koshes* had households being a part of, or sometimes an entire water-agricultural community with strictly regulated water consumption. *Koshe's* cattle were in private possession of each family but grazed at community pastures. Similarly to patriarch of the kin – *biy*, *koshe's* dean was called *koshe-biy*; sometimes he was called *katkuda* – a term that was popular in Khorezm from ancient times. Close economic relations, family and traditional household community ties of each *koshe* were so strong that they determined and governed all morals and manners of Karakalpaks who outwardly had quite independent and individual small family. Public opinion of relatives, neighbors, and populations of *auls* mostly expressed by the elders’ judgments, is still extremely important for ideology and life-style of all generations. Viability of family-tribal groups, which mainly retained their integrity up-to-date, promotes sustainability of both religious and domestic customs and ceremonies that are hardly ever violated by anyone in fear of almighty “public opinion” and condemnation of relatives.

---

⁴ People of Central Asia and Karakalpakstan, vol.1, M. 1962, pages 430, 446, 462-463
⁵ People of Central Asia and Karakalpakstan, vol.1, M. 1962, pages 491
Summarizing the above, one may draw a definite conclusion that traditional local integrators (tribal and kin groups) retain their power in modern Karakalpakstan society, because deep social structures determined by long-centuries heritage still remain archaic to a great extent.

Certain industrial and urban development during the period of forced Soviet modernization occurred largely as a result of the inflow of material and labour resources from outside in combination with Soviet state paternalism and underdevelopment of market relations had to an extent, preserved the way of life for most of the unurbanized indigenous population. Institutional forms remained in the same extent as the traditional rural way of life: community structures with their tribal and family-kin ties; limitation of independence of individuals; unequal rights of women; and families with many children. The social structures remained hierarchical; social authorities were distributed “vertically”; and family, tribal groups and public authorities served as units of the social structure, each with its share and area of sovereignty. Such a structure is closely linked to local tribal and regional clan roots that remained, to some extent, throughout Central Asia\(^6\).

The Soviet totalitarian system interfered little with the traditional nature of Karakalpak society. On the contrary, it was a similar system of traditional communities being organized by the state and based on vertical distribution of authorities, privileges and sovereignty. While the Russian colonial form of modernization could overcome the stagnation of Karakalpakstan’s agrarian society with great difficulties, the Soviet model of accelerated economic and social modernization, that was more appropriate to the historical conditions of East-Slavic nations of the USSR, had limited application in Karakalpakstan and was introduced largely by the newly arrived Russian-speaking population.

Towards the end the Soviet era, the economies of Karakalpakstan and Uzbekistan as a whole, remained agrarian, backward and ineffective. Principal result of the colonial and Soviet past in the history of Karakalpakstan is incomplete modernization\(^7\). Karakalpak society remained hierarchic and based on completely different principles other than democratic principles of modern civil society that does not recognize any initial internal barriers. It represents a classical example of traditional “vertical” society. This fact used to be and remains as one of the main obstacles for development of civil society in Karakalpakstan.

During the Soviet period, Karakalpakstan achieved almost universal literacy, thereby promoting the expansion of political awareness amongst the population. However, at the same time, ideological practices and strict political censorship by the state, prevented such opportunities from being realized. Official Soviet communist ideology, based on its immanent features, had confirmed high significance of traditional values: obedience, conformism, collectivism, group solidarity and statute hierarchy of authorities, and, on the contrary, had created additional severe obstacles to the process of formation of independent, autonomous and strong-minded individuals. Thus, the Soviet system had undoubtedly launched a mechanism of modernization in Karakalpakstan, but it could not accomplish it.

---


\(^{7}\) Vishnevskiy A. Central Asia: Incomplete Modernization // Vesti Evrazii, 1996 №213, page 138
Chapter 2. General Information on the Structure of Civil Society in Karakalpakstan

Current structure of civil society of the Republic of Karakalpakstan includes following main components: nongovernmental nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, public organizations of the Soviet period, trade unions, political parties.

Main Segments of Civil Society at Present

Nongovernmental, Nonprofit Organizations (hereafter referred to as NGOs)

One of the basic components of civil society is organizations established by the citizens themselves. Their activity is aimed at solving critical social problems facing the society. In Karakalpakstan, many NGOs emerged in the 1990s as a reaction by the population to the difficulties and problems of the transition period (liberalization and the creation of conditions for the development of NGOs was also crucial).

More than 200 NGOs are registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, although only about 70 of them are actually operating at present⁸. Of these, only 30-35 regularly submit their reports, according to the Ministry of Justice.

Local self-governing bodies

According to data provided by the “Mahallya Foundation”, 339 local self-governing bodies are registered in the Republic, of which 188 are makankeneses (Mahallya Committees), 136 are rural assemblies and 15 are village self-governing bodies.

Public organizations from the Soviet period

Republic of Karakalpakstan inherited public organizations from the Soviet period. During the years of Soviet era they were all under tough political and ideological control, and while being additional elements of party-governmental structures they did not play any significant independent role. Some of those organizations remained and continue to work under different names, though they did not change in essence. They still carry out their activity in direct contact with governmental structures and so far do not really prove to be full-fledged civil society institutions. Among others such organizations include scientific-technical organizations, cultural and historic, humanitarian, professional, sports, social organizations and interest organizations.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions are mass social organizations joining workers of certain professions and students on a voluntary basis. The rights of citizens to join trade unions are

⁸ According to data provided by the Civil Society Development Center (CSDC)
vested in the Constitution of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The Law of the Republic of Karakalpakstan “On Trade Unions, Rights and Guarantees of Their Activity” specifies the legal status of these popular organizations. Trade unions are organized on the basis of industrial, sectoral and territorial principles and are associated into the Karakalpak Republican Federation of Trade Unions.

After the proclamation of independence, one of the key objective in the reform of trade unions, was to improve their organizational structure. The principle of democratic centralism was declined and efforts were concentrated on independence and mutual responsibility of all units of the system. At the same time, trade union membership declined. Many people left to work in the nongovernmental sector or voluntarily withdrew from the organization due to unsatisfactory work of organization.

In addressing the challenges of social protection for the population, trade unions have chosen the principle of social partnership as the key and most efficient mechanism. While meeting the challenges of social protection of the population, trade unions have chosen the principle of social partnership as the key and most efficient mechanism; this partnership is seen as a system of relationship between trade unions, employers and the authorities based on regular consultations and negotiations with the view of attainment a consent on most critical issues of social-labor relations and preservation of social peace. The necessary legal framework has been created, in order to promote the social partnership principle. Under this framework, trade unions were granted priority rights to conduct negotiations and conclude agreements and labour contracts. However, trade unions do not pay sufficient attention to the implementation of the policy of social partnership, therefore its opportunities and mechanisms are not being fully used. Besides, trade unions are affected by the fact that many provisions of sectoral and regional agreements and labour contracts are not scientifically adjusted and are of only declarative nature, whilst a mechanism for control of provisions and requirements is not properly developed.

In general, principles of organization and activity of trade unions still carry a hallmark of the Soviet past, when they were a powerless attachment to party and state structures.

Political Parties

Process of formation of multi-party system began on the political arena of modern Karakalpakstan. Today this system is represented by the following four parties:

- People’s Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU) joins a considerable part of public administration officials of all levels, managers of enterprises and representatives from other categories of the population.

- Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (SDPU) “Adolat”. Members of the Party include representatives of scientific and technical intelligentsia.
Chapter 2. General Information on the Structure of Civil Society in Karakalpakstan

- National Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (NDPU) “Fidokorlar” includes white-collar workers, businessmen and farmers.
- Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (LDPU) is mainly based on a broad range of businessmen.

As a result of last elections, parliamentary groups of the Republic consist of representatives of three political parties: 39 deputies represent the Liberal Democratic Party, 36 deputies are members of NDPU, and 10 deputies represent “Fidokorlar” Party, and one deputy is independent.

Unfortunately, so far all those parties are not very active on the political arena. In the opinion of local analysts and experts, such inactivity is explained by the fact that the parties emerged on the political field in the very initial stage of new political system. Lack of experience and developed traditions of participation in democratic process determines the gap in their activity between theoretical objectives and practical work. Existing political parties still do not have sufficiently clear and close links with those groups of population who elected them as their social support. One of the weak points in the activity of those political parties is that they are not active enough in their work with the youth and civil society organizations.

Activity Legal Framework for Civil Society Organizations

The activities of CSOs in the Republic of Karakalpakstan are regulated by a legal framework based on the following laws:

- Law “On Public Associations”
- Law “On Trade Unions, Rights and Guarantees of Their Activity”
- Law “On Self-Governing Institutions”
- Law “On Political Parties”
- Law “On Non-Governmental Nonprofit Organizations”
- Law “On Social Funds”
- Law “On Homeowners associations”

The Law “On Public Associations”, adopted 14 years ago has become out-dated as a result of its conflict with new legislation. Thus, for example, in accordance with the Law “On Public Associations”, public associations included all NGOs except religious organizations and self-governing institutions. At the same time the Law “On Non-Governmental Nonprofit Organizations” constricts the circle of nonprofit organizations that used to be governed by the Law “On Public Associations”. In particular, it does not cover the activity of political parties and trade unions. Public association - as provided for in the Law “On Non-Governmental Nonprofit Organizations” means only one of possible legal organizational form of NGO. All that leads to confusion and arises numerous questions, which require additional explanations and comments.

To date, a new redrafted Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Public Associations” is under discussion at the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. However, in the
opinion of NGO activists, the new draft has a number of essential shortcomings. First and foremost, the restriction of the activities of public associations within territorial areas, remains in the law. For example, if a public association is registered in Nukus as a city organization, its activities can only be carried out within the city limits. One can see inequality of rights. A commercial entity registered in any district, has a right to carry out its activities throughout the territory of the Republic, while a public association, which can also carry out business activity, is restricted in its opportunities to operate outside the city or the region. Currently, when due to decrease of donor assistance many NGOs have to expand the range of their paid services, this problem has a crucial importance for survival of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations.

It is important to note that some laws of the Republic of Karakalpakstan simply replicate similar laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan and are not always sufficiently adapted to local conditions.

Particularly, this can be seen in the provisions of the Law regulating the procedure of registration of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations. Having replicated the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On nongovernmental nonprofit organizations” by rote, this Law has equated NGOs registered in Nukus to the Republican ones. Thus, local NGOs are obliged to pay state registration dues to an amount of 20 minimum wages (the same as organizations registered at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan), while having authorities and privileges as regional organizations, which need to pay state dues for registration to an amount of 10 minimum wages. Since living standards of the population in Karakalpakstan are much lower, these circumstances have negatively affected the process of opening new NGOs. Such legal inconsistencies in the legislation of Karakalpakstan create difficulties in the work of CSOs.

Among NGO interviewees there were no new organizations registered last year.

Diagram 2.1.

Distribution of NGOs by the years of operation from the date of registration
(% of total NGO leaders interviewed)

- 1 to 3 years: 34.3%
- 3 to 5 years: 28.6%
- Over 5 years: 37.1%

Chapter 2. General Information on the Structure of Civil Society in Karakalpakstan

Many representatives of NGOs showed a low legal awareness. A significant number of NGOs (11.4 percent of those interviewed) are not governed by the laws that directly regulate the activity of NGOs, but follow the laws that are related directly to their own specific area of activity (ecology, healthcare and education, for example). One-tenth of NGO activists found it difficult to even name the legislative acts regulating their activity.

The survey showed that NGO activists regard the legal environment for the activity of CSOs, to be in need of further improvement. In particular, 62.9 percent of respondents believe that in order to improve the operations of their NGOs, an additional package of legislative documents is required. This should include laws “On Charity”, “On Social Partnership”, “On Ethics of Officials in Compliance with Norms of Legal Requirements”, “On Noninterference into Financial Activity of Nongovernmental Nonprofit Organizations”, “On Micro-financing” and “On Fight Against Domestic Violence”. At the same time, almost every tenth respondent among NGO employees (8.6%) proposed absolutely unrealistic initiatives in the field of lawmakers (for instance, “to completely eliminate all taxes for all NGOs”).

Most active representatives of NGOs do not limit themselves with discussions over this issue, but for number of times put forward lawmaker initiatives: on official recognition of Karakalpakstan as an ecological disaster area; on proclaiming Karakalpakstan a free economic zone; proposal on amendments to the Law “On Nongovernmental Nonprofit Organizations” of the Republic of Karakalpakstan to comply with the local specific conditions.

As was mentioned above, self-governing institutions are not covered by the Law “On Public Associations”. The legal framework of their activity is included in the special Law of the Republic of Karakalpakstan “On Self-governing Institutions” adopted in 1999. This Law provides self-governing institutions with a status of independence from the state.

In accordance with provisions of the Law “On Homeowners Associations” adopted in 1999, a homeowners association is a new legal form of nonprofit organization, that includes owners of residential houses, for joint management and utilization of houses. In Karakalpakstan, homeowners associations are mainly concentrated in the city of Nukus.

According to the survey, 72.6 percent of CBOs are governed mainly by the Law “On Citizens’ Self-government”. Another 12.6 percent of CBO respondents said that they were governed by the Law “On Homeowners Associations”. Some CBO respondents showed a low legal awareness in claiming that they are mainly governed by the directives of executive authorities of various levels, rather than by laws.
Chapter 2. General Information on the Structure of Civil Society in Karakalpakstan

Table 2.1.

Which legal acts do you follow in carrying out the activity of your organization? (% of total number of CBO leaders interviewed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Assemblies</th>
<th>Homeowners Associations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law “On Citizens’ Self-government”</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law “On Homeowners Associations”</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential Decrees, Resolutions of the cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrees of local authorities</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/No answer</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As one can see from the Table 2.1, leaders of assemblies and homeowners associations have mainly named those very laws that regulate their activities.

Leaders of CBOs found it difficult to answer the question: “What laws in your opinion could create favorable legal environment for the activity of your organization?” Over one-third of respondents (35.8 percent) thought that the current laws concerning CBOs were adequate, and 6 percent thought it necessary to introduce only minor amendments to existing laws.

In conclusion, although there is a legal framework that regulates the activity of CBOs in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, some laws require further improvement to make them more appropriate to the existing local conditions.
Chapter 3. Community-based Organizations in Karakalpakstan

Community-based organizations (CBOs) are one of the components of civil society that has direct influence on its development. CBOs are perceived as a certain type of formal management structure that incorporates citizens for solving social and economic problems within a specific territory.

The structure of CBOs in the Republic of Karakalpakstan consists mainly of Mahallya Committees (makankenes), village and rural assemblies, homeowners associations, groups of citizens with a particular focus and agricultural cooperatives (shirkat).

This Chapter looks at the current status of CBOs in Karakalpakstan from the viewpoint of leaders of citizens’ assemblies, homeowners associations and ordinary community members.

Identification of CBOs as “Civil Society” Institutions

The idea of “civil society” came into regular use with the development of new social relations and the formation of a law-governed, democratic state. At the beginning of the 1990s, the population was unaware of what “civil society” was, but today, most citizens have at least heard of it. This fact is backed by the results of this study.

The overwhelming majority of those interviewed, both CBOs leaders and community members, are acquainted with the term “civil society”, although CBO leaders have better knowledge (obviously, due to the activity they exercise) compared to ordinary citizens of communities.

Chart 3.1.

Have you ever heard of the term "civil society"?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of CBO leaders and community members who have heard of the term "civil society".]

Recent social studies show that that the main source of information for the majority of the population is Republican Television, which is regularly watched by over 90 percent of the country’s population.\(^\text{10}\)

\(^\text{10}\) Which of the mass medium is most popular? / Narodnoe Slovo, № 119, 23.06.05
CBO leaders of Karakalpakstan obtain information not only from mass media, including TV (46.3%), newspapers (7.4%), but also in the course the various events organized by public authorities (22.1%). In particular, NGOs play certain role in providing information to mahallya employees. Specifically, 7.4% of the interviewed CBO leaders have for the first time heard the term “civil society” in the course of events arranged by NGOs.

However, despite the majority of both CBO leaders and ordinary citizens having heard the expression “civil society”, not all of them have a clear idea about its meaning.

More than one in three CBO leaders (35.8 percent) understands “civil society” as a “community of citizens with advanced civil consciousness who take active part in the life of the country”. Almost the same share (31.6 percent) thought it to mean a “democratic, law-governed society, where all citizens have equal rights”. In the opinion of 15.8 percent of respondents, civil society means “residents of makankenes”. More than one in four CBO leaders (16.8 percent) found it difficult to express their understanding of “civil society”.

For ordinary community members the notion of “civil society” is even less clear: 41 percent could not give a definition of the term, while 37 percent understand “civil society” to mean “organizations that exercise administration in communities” and 22 percent think it is associated with “people’s self-governing”.

Although almost all CBO leaders (96.8 percent) recognize mahallya, village and rural assemblies as CSOs, they have different opinions as to their principal functions. Two out of three (64.2 percent) believe that they must “be involved in self-governing jointly with citizens”, whilst almost one in three (31.6 percent) think that the objective of local self-governing institutions is “to govern and direct the people”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events organized by public authorities</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO organized events</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From friends</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t remember</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/no answer</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To summarize, the majority of CBO leaders identify citizen's assemblies as CSOs not only by their name, but also by their conceptual and legal content. However, many believe that the main objective of mahallya and rural assemblies is “to govern people”. This can be explained by the low level of legal awareness of some CBO leaders, together with a lack of sufficient experience of independent work and rather low activity of community members.

**Mechanism of Formation and Main Activities of Self-Governing Institutions**

An important feature of CSOs is a democratic principle in formation of managing bodies, which must ensure legitimacy and transparency of its activities. This particularly applies to local self-governing institutions, which should treat all its members fairly, in solving issues related to community life.

Historically, the process of resolving the key problems in Karakalpak communities was exercised under the strong influence of their traditional institution, “koshe biy”, which expressed the opinion of the entire community. At that, residents could express only their attitude, and the “koshe biy” expressed their opinion. After the introduction of the mahallya system, “koshe biy” (head of the street) became a representative of the street, or aul. Therefore, the election of a chairman of the assembly, does not involve direct voting, but happens indirectly, through “koshe biy”, who was informally delegated powers on behalf of residents.

A modern self-governing institution is not, however, absolutely identical to a historically established, traditional mahallya. One of the distinctive features is availability of financial and material support from public authorities. Therefore, over 40% of CBO leaders and ordinary residents (45.3% and 41% correspondingly) to various extents recognize the fact that opinion of the khokimiyat was taken into account during election of managing body. At the same time, while only 7.7% of homeowners associations leaders believe so, half (50%) of chairmen of citizens’ assemblies recognized it.
Chapter 3. Community-based Organizations in Karakalpakstan

Do you think that opinions of leaders of authorities (khokimiyat) about merits of a candidate was important during election of a leader for your organization (makankenes, association)?

Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to state that local authorities interfere in all communities’ activity areas. Being dependent on the state in terms of personnel and financial affairs, mahallya committees and rural assemblies independently identify their problems and prioritize solutions.

How do you define priority problems that require an immediate resolution in your mahallya (association, shirkat, initiative group)?

Problems solved by mahallya, village and rural assemblies are very diverse. Their activities are aimed at such areas as development of social and economic infrastructure in the community (building, construction of roads, water and gas pipelines), solution of unemployment issues, settlement of conflict situations, land improvement and planting of greenery. In carrying out their activity, CBOs get support from various international organizations. Such support does not exceed that
Chapter 3. Community-based Organizations in Karakalpakstan

provided by the state, because it is difficult to translate institutional and ideological resources that are obviously more available in domestic area into financial terms.

*Bar chart 3.5.*

**What organizations render support to solving problems of communities?**

(\% of total number of CBO leaders interviewed)

In spite of the fact that during the election of governing bodies, some citizens’ assemblies are guided by the opinions of representatives from governmental bodies, they still enjoy a high level of confidence among the population. Ordinary people believe that leaders of their self-governing institutions, elected by the majority of the population, protect their interests efficiently.

At the same time, in the opinion of every fourth resident interviewed, less than half of residents of the community took part in the election of leaders of their territorial self-governing bodies.

*Table 3.1.*

**Approximately, what is the share of residents in percentage who participated in the elections of governing body of your organization (makankenenes, association)?**

(\% of total number of respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>CBO leaders</th>
<th>Community residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 50%</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 70%</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71 to 80%</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 to 90%</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 91%</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / No answer</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 3. Community-based Organizations in Karakalpakstan

Institutional Capacity of CBOs

Human Resources. Human capital is a key resource of CBOs. Thus, a majority of community residents are always ready to assist voluntarily to solve problems.

Most CBO leaders interviewed are aged between 30 and 49 (65.3 percent), including respondents with higher education, 57.9 percent of men and 13.7 percent, women.

CBO leaders are much more critical than ordinary community members in assessing the skills of their employees, and are clear about the need for acquisition of additional skills and knowledge in areas such as management and law. Every tenth of them believes that it is necessary to arrange seminars and training courses for development of communities.

Chart 3.6.

What additional knowledge and skills do employees of civil society organizations need?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Skills</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>CBO Leaders</th>
<th>Community Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of politics, law</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special knowledge</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of management</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars on community development</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful experience of other organizations</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of social marketing</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not need any additional knowledge</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know / no answer</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Material and technical resources. The state budget is the main source of financing for mahallya, village and rural assemblies. However, funds obtained from the budget are mainly disbursed to maintain administrative staff. Social programmes in communities are implemented with the financial support of public institutions, international, commercial organizations and individuals.

The majority of CBOs lack not only modern office equipment, such as computers, printers, copying machines, scanners, fax machines and furniture, but even properly functioning typewriters. All they normally have is office space, a telephone and old furniture. There is a great need for vehicles, particularly as many communities are located far from district centres and are difficult to access by public transport.

In conclusion we would like to note, that in spite of limited resources, as successors of centuries-long traditions, mahallya committees, village and rural assemblies, are managing to solve many social problems arising in territorial communities. This institution is enjoying confidence of the majority of populations and identifying itself as one of civil society institutions.
Chapter 4. Main Development Trends of Nongovernmental Nonprofit Organizations of Karakalpakstan

A significant role in solving critical issues of civil society formation is played by nongovernmental nonprofit organizations, which form the so-called third sector to indicate its importance along with the other two sectors representing the state and the business structures.

Main development trends of nonprofit sector in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, its achievements and potential are reviewed in this Chapter through experts’ assessments.

General Information on NGOs

In the past 15 years, nonprofit sector in the Republic of Karakalpakstan has risen from single instances of civil initiatives to formation as an independent institution. A little over two hundred nongovernmental nonprofit organizations are currently registered in Karakalpakstan, of which, according to various estimates, only 30-40% are actually operated.

In Karakalpakstan, similarly to other regions of Uzbekistan, number of organizations in nonprofit sector greatly differs in various areas. Most of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations are focused at administrative centers, while the rest of them are dispersed over other cities of the Republic, and only very insignificant part of them operate in rural areas. Such trend was reflected in the results of interviews of NGO leaders. Majority of them (82.9%) represented nongovernmental organizations located at Nukus.

Nongovernmental nonprofit organizations of Karakalpakstan may be divided into following four groups by the nature of their origin:

- *First group* includes nongovernmental organizations that were established during the Soviet period and are currently being reformed.

- *Second group* is represented by NGOs established by the initiative and with a support of Republican governmental bodies. They mainly operate in close contact with public authorities.

- *Third group* includes self-supported NGOs created in the beginning of 1990s. Today these organizations are one of the most stable and well-known nongovernmental organizations of the region.

- *Fourth group* comprises NGOs that were originally created for certain foreign projects and grant aids. They feature inconsistency and instability. Generally, after project completion they stand idle or shut down operations.

Most NGOs are registered with justice institutions as public associations. To a large extent it is a result of this fact, that the special Law “On Public Funds” was adopted
Chapter 4. Main Development Trends of Nongovernmental Nonprofit Organizations of Karakalpakstan

recently, while the Law “On Institutions” has not been adopted yet. Therefore entities with such organizational legal forms are not that common.

Diagram 4.1.

The activities of NGOs in Karakalpakstan are aimed largely at solving social problems and meeting the demands of the most vulnerable sections of the population. According to results of interviews with NGO leaders, most of NGOs are women’s associations (22.9 percent) or perform their activity in sectors of the medicine and healthcare sector (22.9 percent). A smaller number operate in the sectors of education and science, law and ecology. Others focus on such social groups as young people, disabled people or at-risk groups of the population.

Chart 4.1.

Interviews revealed that a degree of professionalism is being developed in the NGO sector, which is particularly expressed in the strengthening of resource centres that provide training courses for NGO workers and improvement in the quality of services offered to the population.
Institutional Capacity of NGOs

One of the main indices of maturity of nonprofit sector that has a potential to significantly contribute to development of civil society is availability of stable material and technical base and professional personnel. Results of the study showed that most of NGO in the Republic of Karakalpakstan are characterized by modest institutional capacity, particularly in respect to human resources.

Human resources. Nongovernmental nonprofit organizations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan generally consist of small staff. Interview of NGO leaders revealed that the majority of organizations have a staff of up to 10 people. This figure includes not only permanent staff members and contracted employees, but volunteers as well.

In respect to qualitative characteristics of NGO human resources, it should be noted that the most active founders and participants of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations are people with higher education. Thus, according to results of the interview almost all 100% of respondents have higher education. NGO leaders testify that people who come to work to the third sector are notable for clear stand on the question of citizenship and personal responsibility for the situation in the country, are interested in achieving social compliance and are keen to work hard to contribute to improvement of life in the region.

At the same time, NGO leaders critically assess the professional level of their staff and sometimes consider it as moderate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What additional knowledge and skills does your organizations' staff need?</th>
<th>% of total interviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special knowledge</td>
<td>22.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal awareness</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful experience of other organizations</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social marketing</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not need at all</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know /no answer</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen from the Table 4.1 above, in the opinion of NGO leaders, their staff employees are lacking knowledge and skills in management, social marketing and law, as well as in specialized knowledge in the areas of activity of NGOs themselves (e.g., ecology, healthcare, etc.). Some of respondents stressed the necessity in continuous exchange of experience with other organizations including leading NGOs.
Chapter 4. Main Development Trends of Nongovernmental Nonprofit Organizations of Karakalpakstan

According to NGO leaders, one of the most critical problems for nongovernmental organizations is "employee turnover". Quite often there are two categories of employees at NGOs. Employees in the first category can be called "migrants", in case they do not get paid in this organization, they move to work to another organization. Second category employees include those who, in spite of any problems, are ready to support ideas of their organization. However, after having gained the experience, they anyway leave: they either move to work to international organizations, or open their own NGOs. This may serve as evidence to the fact that quite frequently the NGO leaders themselves do not possess adequate managerial skills and can not build a proper personnel policy.

Material and technical resources. Generally, according to international practice, budget of nonprofit organizations is formed by donations of private individuals and commercial companies, membership fees, own funds, contributions from international funds, social orders.

In Karakalpakstan, the share of membership fees and private donations among potential sources of financing is insignificant: majority of citizens have neither ability, nor desire to donate even little amounts to the activity of nongovernmental organizations. Another evidence of low level of involvement of citizens in the activity of NGOs is the fact that less than half (43%) comes from membership. Besides, 40% of them have up to 10 employees, and 33.4% - from 11 to 30 employees.

Relationship between businessmen and nongovernmental organizations of Karakalpakstan are also far from being ideal: philanthropy (charity) of businessmen today is the exception rather than the rule. Under such circumstances, the only hope is for international grant aid, however such expectations are not always met. Generally, Karakalpak NGOs turn out to be dependent on international foundations grant aids and their priorities.

As for technical means of NGOs, it may be noted, that they differ from one district to another, and from one town to another. However, considerable part of organizations has at least one computer.

Initiatives Involving NGOs in Karakalpakstan

In most cases activity of NGOs in social sector turns to be more efficient compared to business or state structures, which is proven by the experience of not only many countries, but the Republic of Uzbekistan as well. Nonprofit organizations have an advantage of offering new, rational and cheaper approaches to solution of crucial problems. Essential savings of budgetary funds is achieved due to the fact that many employees of NGOs work for free and attract sufficient material and technical resources from off-budget sources. Besides, nonprofit organizations manage to achieve targeted social assistance thanks to knowledge of actual demands and difficulties of local communities and direct involvement in their life. Many people come to work to NGOs because they themselves had once faced this or that problem and know it inside out. All those factors attain special importance for Karakalpakstan in the context of insufficient funding of social programs throughout the country.
Results of the study show that in a number of districts of Karakalpakstan such problems as: support of socially vulnerable groups (children, youth, women, families, veterans, refugees, disabled persons); huge number of environmental problems and protection of the rights of citizens for sound environment; set of issues related to local self-governing; organization of leisure-time activities, awareness increase/enlightenment, education, professional retraining, social rehabilitation would be difficult to solve without NGO involvement.

For instance, 54.3% of nongovernmental organizations are currently carrying out their project activities in accordance with their original mission. They are mainly involved in solving social problems (36.8%), such as enhancement of living standards of the population, including increase of income of poor families, labor migration issues and trafficking. Every fourth organization (26.3%) focuses its efforts on creation of jobs for women, offering them legal and economic assistance. Share of NGOs involved in environmental issues and healthcare (supply of drinking water, irrigation water, reproductive health issues) is 15.8%. Same number of organizations (15.8%) offers their help in a form of legal advice and is involved in legal enlightenment of the population. Other 5.3% of nongovernmental organizations are aimed at providing assistance to private farmers.

The study showed that a majority of NGOs carry out their activities in both urban and rural areas, whilst only 5.3 percent of NGOs are focused on specific target groups, irrespective of territorial location (see Chart 4.3 below).

**Chart 4.2.**

What is the specific problem that your project is aimed at?

(% of total number of NGO leaders interviewed)

- solution of social problems: 36.8
- solution of gender problems: 26.3
- provision of legal assistance: 15.8
- solution of environmental problems: 15.8
- support of private farmers: 5.3

The study showed that a majority of NGOs carry out their activities in both urban and rural areas, whilst only 5.3 percent of NGOs are focused on specific target groups, irrespective of territorial location (see Chart 4.3 below).

**Chart 4.3**

Where is your organization currently implementing its projects?

(% of total number of NGO leaders interviewed)
Chapter 4. Main Development Trends of Nongovernmental Nonprofit Organizations of Karakalpakstan

As a result of their work in communities quite large share of residents (34.4%) is aware of activity of nongovernmental organizations. However, there is still great unemployed capacity for the third sector in this regard.

It is significant that leaders of CBOs are more aware of NGO activity (62.1 percent) than ordinary community members. Those organizations that are widely known include: “Perzent”, “Daulet”, Karakalpakstan Business Women’s Association, Civil Society Development Center, “Renaissance” and others.

The efficient development and sustainability of NGOs greatly depend on such factors as a timely response to daily problems and the ability to solve them. The study showed that in carrying out their activities, NGOs in Karakalpakstan face problems of both material and organizational nature (lack of premises, shortage of financial resources, inability to efficiently plan activities and interpersonal communication problems).

**Chart 4.4.**

Please name main problems that your organization is facing in carrying out its activity?

(\% of total number of NGO leaders interviewed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Category</th>
<th>% of Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic problems</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureaucratic problems</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological problems</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical problems (lack of premises)</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No problems</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nature of problems determines their solution method. Thus, almost one-third of NGOs solve their problems on their own, utilizing their potential and own efforts (31.4 percent). Leaders of more than one in ten NGOs (11.4 percent) resort to the help of khokimiyats, whilst 17.1 percent of organizations are not in a position to solve their problems on their own. Only one third of NGOs have internal resources for solving problems, while others are weak in legal and organizational capacity.
In general, analyzing current status of nonprofit sector of Karakalpakstan and its development trends, the following can be stated: nongovernmental nonprofit organizations do exist, but it is too early to speak about the developed third sector. In the opinion of many experts, one of the weakest points of Karakalpakstan NGOs is that they are financially insecure and the number of self-financing NGOs is very limited. The financial base of nongovernmental organizations is mainly formed on the basis of grant aids by international funds. It leads to instability and project based approach in rendering services. Besides, legislation on donations and social orders does not exist to date, which hampers financial contributions made by business structures and public authorities for development through NGOs.

Despite the problems referred to above, NGOs are an important structural part of Karakalpak society and their activities greatly contribute to social development (including environmental, women’s, information and research, legal, professional, youth, children’s and others). Among their strongest points are the intellectual capacity, enthusiasm and high moral values followed by the employees of employees.
Chapter 5. Development of Social Partnership between Governmental Bodies and Civil Society Organizations in Karakalpakstan

Although since August 1991, Uzbekistan has been existing in the conditions of political independence and market economy in transition, relationship between governmental executive bodies and the population and civil society still remains largely vague and obscure. Namely:

- Some governmental executive bodies at various levels still do not have any clearly formulated obligations towards civil society organizations (CSOs).
- Civil society entities still do not have any specific formulated proposals to governmental authorities.
- Civil society entities, as representatives of the interests of various social groups, still do not have any clearly defined and recognized criteria and methods to assess the efficiency of government executive bodies and their activities.

In order to fully determine the status of civil society in Karakalpakstan, it is important to study issues of coordination between CSOs and public authorities and public institutions. At the same time it should be noted, that the most problematic issue is cooperation within the nonprofit sector, rather than between CBOs and public authorities. This is related to the virtue of their origin, status and functional responsibilities. Therefore, this Chapter is mainly focused on analysis of the situation in respect to development of social partnership between NGO and governmental bodies.

Features of Social Partnership in the Republic of Karakalpakstan

Legal framework. Formation of legal framework regulating all aspects of social partnership is currently under the process of development. At the Republican level, NGOs are governed by laws regulating their activity and specific mechanisms of interaction with public structures. However, the existing legal framework does not provide for social partnership as a continuous process. Appropriate regulations will define the main principles of social partnership, mechanisms of its implementation and responsibilities of parties.

Structures ensuring social partnership. At present, there is no governmental executive body at Republican level that has an objective to develop interaction with NGOs, and to implement principles of social partnership and social dialogue.

There are special structures (sections, departments) within governmental authorities that are responsible for public relations. In each specific case their authority is defined by the management or regulated by specific provisions of the mission statement for governmental institution, which they belong to.
Chapter 5. Development of Social Partnership Between Governmental Bodies and Civil Society Organizations in Karakalpakstan

There are no organizational structures within the third sector that are able to represent its interests before the government and public authorities (NGO coordination council, League of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations, universal association or a group of such organizations incorporating large blocs of NGOs, etc). Need for such structures and their authority is also not generally recognized, although one of the first ever effective initiatives has been put forward for the development of partnership cooperation between nongovernmental associations and public structures in the form of the Public Board under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. In the long term this Board may promote open discussions and joint activity of civil society organizations and public structures, in solving social problems.

Implementation mechanisms. Forms of social partnership in Karakalpakstan do not vary much from those in other regions of Uzbekistan. The most efficient forms include:

- regular information sharing;
- target meetings for discussing specific problems, projects, programmes, proposals;
- public examination of laws and regulations at regional and local levels;
- support for activities and actions of nongovernmental associations;
- development and implementation of joint programmes.

At the same time, practice of coordination has no obligatory feature for governmental structures, which greatly vary both in their attitude and the level of their involvement in social partnership processes. On the other hand, sector of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations does not have any mechanism of its representation to public structures, there is no properly developed coordination of actions among CSO, and there are serious problems in institutional development of nongovernmental organizations.

Priority directions. The priority directions for social partnership in Karakalpakstan are:

- issues related to employment and development of private entrepreneurship;
- development of public health and solution of environmental problems;
- development of cultural, sports, youth and children’s organizations;
- civil and legal education;
- problems of disabled persons and other vulnerable sections of the population;
- gender equality.
Public opinion. Existence and useful activity of many nonprofit organizations aimed at solution of specific social problems is known to the population, to its various groups and communities. At the same time, one can hardly believe that understanding of social partnership as a necessary condition of efficient social policy is fully realized by the public and recognized as an important parameter of civil society requiring an active support.

Successfully operated NGOs enjoy such support in certain cases and can rely on it. But in general mechanisms of direct dialogue between the third sector and citizens are not properly developed.

Thus, in Karakalpak society there are certain signs on influence of nongovernmental organizations on the processes of development, adoption and execution of decisions as a result of development of social partnership. There are positive results of such cooperation both in certain districts and in certain governmental organizations. However, currently established cooperation can not be recognized equitable. It is not stable, i.e. actually doable and well established in the general practice of social partnership policy.

Information Support of Social Partnership Processes

Existing experience and the most accepted practice in respect to information component of social partnership speak well on restricted informational field and its insufficiency to support and encourage social partnership. For example, information booklets published in Karakalpakstan and containing issues related to partnership have small circulation and are inaccessible to wide range of stakeholders. Besides, there is a widespread opinion that NGO bulletins do not provide full information but contain only references to other information sources.

The mass media do not show particular interest in covering this subject. Access to mass media by partnership parties is limited, due to a lack of or shortage of financial resources. Coordination of actions of the CSOs themselves, aimed at consolidation of efforts and resources for promotion of informational support is not properly developed.

The study includes an estimation of the readiness of the mass media (TV, radio and printed media separately) to resolve social problems in cooperation with NGOs/CBOs. As can be seen from Diagram 5.1, NGO leaders, as compared with CBO leaders, positively assess the readiness of the mass media to cooperate. The level of their assessment is undoubtedly influenced by such factors as experience of cooperation and interest in covering the problem. Nonprofit sector, by virtue of its status and need for survival, is in continuous seek for partners for solving problems of its target groups. And it finds such partners among mass media. Community based organizations that operate within the framework of directives of governmental organizations, do not need to involve mass media in resolving community problems.

11 The index has the following features: It reaches maximum value, equal to 1, when all respondents give the highest assessment regarding readiness of mass media for interaction. And it gets minimum, equal to -1, when all respondents give the lowest assessment. It is equal to 0, when total number of positive assessments equals to negative.
Diagram 5.1.

Indices of readiness of mass media to resolve social problems of society in cooperation with NGO/CBO

The problems addressed by CSOs are covered more frequently by television programmes, compared to radio and the periodical press (see Chart 5.1 below).

Chart 5.1.

Frequency of coverage of NGO/CBO problems by mass media

Amongst the information provided by television channels, both CBO and NGO leaders remember KKTV1 programmes primarily (49.3 percent and 57.4 percent respectively). Regarding printed publications, NGO leaders named socio-political newspapers of the Republic, such as "Vesti Karakalpakstana" and "Karakalpakstan Jaslari", more frequently, whilst CBO leaders named their Foundation newspaper "Mahallya", together with district papers "Amudarya Khakykaity", "Nokus Khakykaity" and others.
Chapter 5. Development of Social Partnership Between Governmental Bodies and Civil Society Organizations in Karakalpakstan

As per opinion of representatives of civil society organizations, TV is the most effective information source. Such opinion is shared by 74.3% of NGO leaders, and 88.4% of CBO leaders.

![Chart 5.2. Which type of mass media is more efficient for solving problems that you are dealing with?](image)

The capacity of an information component for promotion of social partnership, has not been fully explored and this is a serious obstacle to progress.

**Prospects for Cross-Sectoral Interaction**

Civil society organizations are ready to cooperate with public authorities. However, to date only community based organizations implement their projects by joint efforts (by virtue of their origin and formation they are guided by social policy of the state), while nongovernmental organizations do not effect such cooperation to the full extent. Only 71.4% of projects of nongovernmental organizations are always implemented in collaboration with local authorities, while the rest of them inactively cooperate with public authorities or do not cooperate at all. However, for successful activity and development of civil society there is a need for permanent coordination.

Closer attention of representatives of local authorities would promote further growth of dynamics of social partnership. This opinion is shared by the majority of activists interviewed (83.3%) whose organizations do not implement joint projects.

Almost all NGOs in Karakalpakstan assess their experience of cooperation with executive authorities of any level, more positively compared to representative authorities. This opinion is also reflected in the assessments of CBO and NGO leaders as to the readiness of public authorities to cooperate with CSOs.

A majority of both CBO and NGO leaders positively assess the readiness of *khokimiyats* to cooperate, largely as a result of the existing relationship, based upon the support that Khokimiyats already provide (such as financial and material, including office premises, equipment, etc).
Table 5.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Absolutely ready</th>
<th>Mainly ready</th>
<th>Yes and no</th>
<th>Mainly are not ready</th>
<th>Not ready</th>
<th>Don't know / no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>CBO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliament</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of the Republic</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, district khokimiyat</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahallya committee</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is significant to note that activists of NGOs assess the level of readiness of CBOs to cooperate with NGOs in finding solutions to community social problems, three times higher than CBO leaders assess the readiness of NGOs.

In order to further develop social partnership in the Republic of Karakalpakstan it is necessary to pay more attention to the following problems:

- low level of trust between CSOs;
- insufficient political and legal training for CSO activists;
- low self-esteem, disunity, lack of awareness of the situation in which they operate and in many cases, loss of prestige of CSOs;
- strict control and limitation of CSO activity by public structures;
- unsound competition, lack of trust between CSOs;
- financial instability;
- lack of transparency in the work of CSOs;
- low level of awareness and involvement of the population in CSO activities.

However, there are positive aspects of social partnership and CSOs do have the capacity to solve problems in this sector, for example:

- CSOs have a potential to involve the population in solving social problems;
- some stable CSOs have good technical and human resources;
- some CSOs have extensive experience of working with international organizations;
- advocacy capacity for various groups.
Chapter 6. Activity of International Organizations in Karakalpakstan

Karakalpakstan is a region that is actively supported by a variety of international organizations. Tentatively, they could be classified into (i) those that are based on the territory of Karakalpakstan (with a representative office) and are focused on specific target districts and (ii) those that are aimed at all districts, whilst being located outside the region. The first group includes such organizations as "Central Asia Free Exchange" (CAFE), "International Joint Development Association (JDA) and " Save the Children”, whilst the second includes NOVIB, the K. Adenauer Fund and the F. Ebert Fund.

Over one third of community based organizations (40.7%), interviewed during the study, have received tangible assistance in solution of community problems. Most frequently, CBO leaders mention the cooperation with organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Counterpart International, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Table 6.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of organization</th>
<th>Reference frequency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counterpart International</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konrad Adenauer Fund</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IREX</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crosslink International</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAFE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared to leaders of rural CBOs, population of urban communities is more aware of the activity of international organizations.

Table 6.2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you know anything about the activity of international organizations?</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>65.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>56.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the same time, knowledge about an international organization by communities does not necessarily mean that such organizations have carried out their activities in
that community. Only 40.7 percent of CBO activists aware of the activity of international organizations in Karakalpakstan, have confirmed involvement of international organizations in their communities. In other cases they learnt about international organizations from the mass media (23.8 percent), friends (15.2 percent) or from conversations with representatives from other communities (5.1 percent).

Table 6.3.

Where do you know about international organizations from?
(% of those who are aware about their activity)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>From friends</th>
<th>Heard about their actions in other communities</th>
<th>They effected actions at our community</th>
<th>From mass media</th>
<th>Don't know / no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International organizations work in various sectors: public health, education, urban and rural social and economic development. Generally, assistance to communities is not provided directly, but through local NGOs, although some international organizations do work directly with the population, for example, JDA and CAFE.

Other activities of international organizations include disbursement of micro-credits to the population, training, development of the social infrastructure (including repair of schools, health institutions, gas pipelines, supply of water and irrigation water) and provision of humanitarian aid.

Below is the list of some international organizations based in the Republic of Karakalpakstan that are currently (or were until recently) carrying out their activity:

**Central Asia Free Exchange (CAFE)**
- Resources for small farming (January 1998 – March 2006);
- Contributions to social development (January 2001 – March 2006);
- Cattle breeding at Miyualy (March 1999 – March 2004);
- Agro-forestry project (July 2000 – March 2006);
- O’Conner Family Center (July 2003 – March 2006);
- Water and Soil Analysis (January 1999 – March 2004);
- Local Culture and Arts (January 2002 – December 2004);
- Language and Culture Programme (March 2001 – December 2004);
- Environmental Improvement Project (March 2002 – December 2004);

**TACIS European Union**
- Improvement of Regional Services in Uzbekistan (September 2002 – November 2004)

**International Joint Development Association (JDA)**
• Training on Basic Computer Skills (January 2003 – in progress);
• Development of Micro-entrepreneurship (December 2002 – in progress);
• Programme for Micro-credit at Muinak (January 2001 – in progress);
• Programme for Awareness Increase in Sanitary “Neighbourhood” (October 2002 – June 2005);
• “Aquaponiks” Pilot Project, phases 1 and 2 (November 2002 – May 2005);
• Repair of Roof of TB dispensary at Nukus (November – December 2003);

**Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) (Doctors Without Borders)**


**World Health Organization (WHO)**

• Enhancement of Primary Care and Access to Drinking Water in Karakalpakstan (September 2002 – February 2004).

**Sabyr International Shymbar**

• Rehabilitation and Development of Underground Waters in Karakalpakstan.

**Save the Children**

• “PEAKS” Project: Expression of Parents’ Interest in Their Children Study (February 2005 – in progress)

**Institute of Asian Culture and Development**

• Mobile Medical Service (April 2003 – April 2004);
• English Courses (September 1996 – September 2004);
• Provision of Textbooks (January – August 2003);
• Computer Centre (September 2001 – in progress).

**Counterpart International**

• “Healthy Communities” Program (May 2002 – in progress)

**Crosslink International**

Chapter 6. Activity of International Organizations in Karakalpakstan

Map of international Organizations

[Map of international Organizations showing the distribution of international organizations in Karakalpakstan with respective numbers of donors and rayons labeled.]
Conclusion

A situation analysis of the status and main development trends of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and their cooperation with public institutions, international organizations and mass media, provides the following conclusions:

It is important to use a principle of historical approach that enables to identify surviving elements of historical heritage and their significant influence on the formation of civil society in the region. Even a brief excursion into the medieval and Soviet history indicates that by the time of gaining the independence Karakalpak society remained hierarchical, based on completely different principles other than democratic principles of modern civil society. This society is penetrated with vertically built traditional patriarchal tribal community structures. Such circumstance has been the main obstacle to the positive development of civil society institutions in Karakalpakstan.

There are several segments in the current structure of the civil society inherited from the Soviet times. They include public organizations, which were formed during the Soviet era, as well as trade unions. Their current status makes it difficult to recognize them as valuable factors of formation and development of civil society institutions, since they in fact still remain an appendage of public structures and in essence are not a product of independent civil initiatives.

As of today, only four out of five political parties officially registered in Uzbekistan are functioning in Karakalpakstan, but they, unfortunately, do not approve themselves as full-fledged actors on the political arena and practically do not cooperate with civil society organizations.

Distinctive feature of current legal environment in the Republic of Karakalpakstan is that some laws regulating the activity of civil society institutions are not adequately adapted to the existing regional peculiarities. These circumstances create certain difficulties for stable activity of civil society organizations, and first of all nongovernmental nonprofit organizations.

Community based organizations in Karakalpakstan are mainly represented by mahallya, village and rural assemblies, and to a lesser extent by homeowners associations. In essence, this segment is the most influential, massive and stable, enjoying the largest support from public structures of all levels and constitutes a part of civil society. Such fact determines rather high level of confidence of ordinary residents of communities regarding these civil society organizations. However, it would be an exaggeration to highly assess the current level of human resources capacity of these organizations in the context of their understanding of the essence and principal directions of development of full-fledged civil society institutions.
Local authorities have an influence on the process of formation of personnel and financial support of community based organizations; however, it would be a mistake to state that they control all aspects of activity of communities. In many cases makhallya and rural assemblies independently identify their problems and prioritize solutions, especially in respect to daily social issues.

Although nongovernmental nonprofit organizations do not constitute the most powerful and influential segment of the civil society of Karakalpakstan, they make a significant contribution to the development of valuable independent civil environment with developed level of individual and collective self-consciousness.

It is a regional particularity that main civil initiatives focused on addressing gender problems, public health, education and science and support of socially vulnerable population are directly connected with drastic deterioration of environment inhabited by major share of population.

NGOs of Karakalpakstan possess the strongest human resources compared to other civil society organizations.

It is important to note that a very positive trend of the development of CBOs as an evidence of the professionalism of nonprofit sector is their great need for new knowledge, advanced skills and techniques. Observations show that the sector has rather developed and highly motivated needs pattern, particularly in management, legal literacy, social marketing, specialized knowledge, positive experience of successful CBOs.

The most negative factor affecting the development of NGOs is their financial instability, excessive dependence on international grant aids and financial assistance of donors. The only practicable way of solving these problems is transition of nonprofit sector to principles of financial independence and self-sufficiency. However, this process is still extremely embryonic and by no means is a determinant for development trend of the third sector in current conditions in Karakalpakstan. This circumstance is determined by a set of objective and subjective reasons. Namely, process of formation of an appropriate legal framework is still in progress and managerial skills and experience in strategic planning among NGOs themselves still remain at fairly low level.

Typical trend of development of community based organizations and NGOs is clear awareness of their fundamental significance for successful development of civil society, formation of social partnership system, including civil society institutions, private capital and public authorities of all levels. Main difficulty is that not all representatives of governmental bodies are adequately aware of the urgency of this problem.
Conclusion

Up to now there are no effective nongovernmental and public institutions in Karakalpakstan that are capable of encouraging the process of formation of social partnership systems.

At the same time, both informational and ideological components of cooperation between CBO and public and business structures are very limited and inadequate for the purposes of support and development of social partnership in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.