

Country and Government Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is located in Central Asia and has a population of 5.42 million. Its capital is Bishkek. The People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan border the Kyrgyz Republic; more than 90% of the country is covered by mountains, and only about 7% is arable land. The Kyrgyz Republic is a parliamentary–presidential republic and the President is the head of state.

The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report indicates that the Kyrgyz Republic's Human Development Index fell from 1993 by 5.7% and from 1995 by almost 10%. The educational level index for the period under review remained virtually at the same level, but life expectancy declined from 72.5 years in 2000 to 71.5 years in 2007.

In 2003–2007, the annual average gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 5% and, in 2007, GDP was \$4.04 billion. Nominal GDP in 2008 amounted to \$5.1 billion, while real GDP grew by 7.6%. There is a huge disparity between the poverty in Bishkek and the regions: in the capital, the share of extremely poor population accounts for only 0.6%, while in the regions, it is 6.6%. In 2007, 35% of the total population was considered poor, whereas 49.9% of the population in 2003 was considered poor.

Civil Society: An Overview

In Soviet times, there were various public organizations, such as unions of writers, journalists, and composers; sports clubs; societies for scientific research, the protection of nature, and the hearing impaired; trade unions; and so on. The main difference between Soviet public organizations then and today is that during Soviet times, they were politically inactive; that is, they did not participate in the political process and served purely professional interests.

A milestone in nongovernment organization (NGO) development was the arrival of donor organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic in the early 1990s.¹ The government, led by Askar Akayev, the Kyrgyz Republic's first president, supported the commencement of their operations. In the early years of his rule, President Akayev officially supported initiatives to create civil society organizations, which resulted in the active establishment of NGOs. International and donor organizations provided funding to these new NGOs in most cases.

In the 1990s, development of the NGO sector, as a whole, was disorganized and chaotic; in some cases, fly-by-night organizations registered with the purpose of implementing only one project. The large number of NGOs in the country was recognized by the international community as a sign of democratization and development of one of the most important institutions of civil society.

Since the early 1990s, many studies in the Kyrgyz Republic have explored the development and dynamics of NGOs, their classification, problems, sustainability, and impact on social and political development.² Most researchers distinguish several stages of evolution of NGOs:³ the *first phase* (1991–1994), characterized by a rapid growth in the number of NGOs, many of which operated from grant to grant, had no long-term strategic program activity, and were mainly based on grant projects. Most of the NGOs active in this period were financially unstable and were highly dependent on the policies and priorities of international donors.

The *second phase* (1995–2004) was characterized by both quantitative and qualitative changes in the NGOs. Its distinctive feature was the development of civic initiatives using the principles of joint participation of NGOs, creation of partnerships within the sector, and a consolidation of NGOs with common strategic priorities (such as women’s rights, human rights, environmental issues, etc.). NGOs developed partnerships with international organizations and thus became less dependent on the policies of international donors. The number of rural NGOs increased. Strong NGOs formulated their strategic objectives and programs which, in some cases, they implemented on their own. Some of the many networks that were established in this period include the Coalition of NGOs for Democracy and Civil Society, the Association of Civil Society Support Centers, the Network of Human Rights Organizations, the Association of Crisis Centers, and the Association of Independent Scientists–Lawyers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The *third phase* of NGO development (2005–present) is characterized by strong NGOs that not only successfully carry out their project activities and have an impact on various sectors of society, but also know how to lobby for social and political interests at the state level.

Currently, the number of registered NGOs in the Kyrgyz Republic ranges from 8,000 to 12,000, according to various sources.⁴ The range of data is because according to existing regulations, the Ministry of Justice includes in the category “noncommercial organizations” a range of organizations, including political parties. In light of this, there is a dispute whether all noncommercial organizations (NCOs) should be considered as NGOs.

Despite the large number of registered NCOs, there are fewer than 600–700 NCOs operational throughout the country. This statistic is confirmed by studies conducted jointly by the Chamber of Tax Consultants and the State Tax Inspectorate (STI). According to STI, about 600 NCOs throughout the Kyrgyz Republic are registered with, and submit monthly reports, to STI. Of the total, about 400 NCOs operate in Bishkek.

In general, NGOs in the Kyrgyz Republic fall into two broad categories. The first category comprises political and institutional-focused organizations, which advocate for democratization reforms, openness, transparency of public bodies, etc. In general, such organizations operate at the central level in Bishkek and are extremely politicized. These organizations are the authors of a range of reports on international conventions and instruments.

The second type of NGO in the Kyrgyz Republic is focused on practical action at the local level; these are

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mainly rural and regional NGOs. These NGOs do not address the problems of institutional change; their goals include addressing socioeconomic problems of the community or a particular social group.

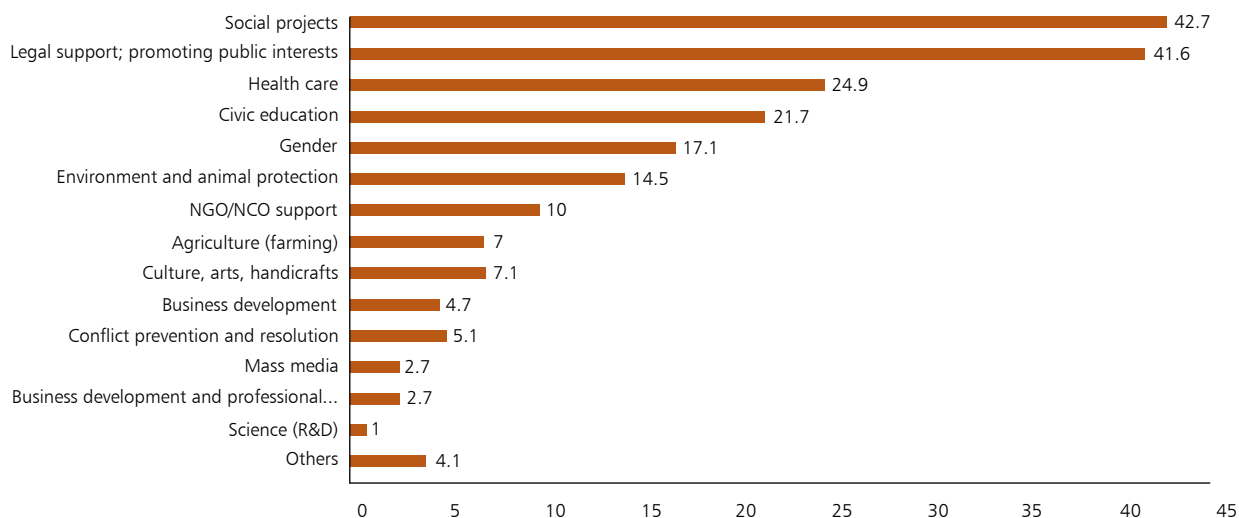
Research conducted by the Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan⁵ shows that nearly nine out of 10 NGOs that operate in the country are either voluntary associations or a public foundation (87% of all NGOs). Associations of legal entities (associations, unions) cover about 5% of all NGOs, and 3% are nongovernment institutions. Another 3% underscored that they do not belong to any of the above-mentioned as they are not officially registered.

The United Nations Development Programme classifies NGOs in the Kyrgyz Republic into the following five categories: associations for protection of the rights of particular groups; associations by interests; charitable organizations; associations for the protection of the rights of national minorities; and development organizations. The government allows the registration of a range of organizations in a single category, however.⁶

According to the study, “Corporate Social Responsibility in the Kyrgyz Republic, Case Study of Bishkek,” conducted by the El-Pikir Center for Public Opinion Research and Forecasting, NGOs have the leading position in the ranking of socially responsible institutions in the country. Kyrgyz NGOs are trusted by 77% of respondents to act for the benefit of social development. By comparison, figures from the same study indicate that 62% of respondents do not trust the ability of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to act for the benefit of social development. More than half of the respondents (54%) do not trust the media to act for the benefit of social development.

The Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan reports the following areas of NGO activities⁷ in the Kyrgyz Republic: in nearly every active NGO (43%) working in the Kyrgyz Republic, one of the main areas of activity is social, such as poverty reduction, social protection, or social assistance to the vulnerable population. Nearly half of all active NGOs (43%) are engaged in human rights

Breakdown of Main Areas of Activity of NGOs in the Kyrgyz Republic



Source: Report *NGO Sector: Facts and Figures, NGOs in Kyrgyzstan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*: Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan, ACSSC, Allavida. Bishkek. 2006. p. 38.

activities. Other popular areas of NGO activity are health care (25%), civic education (22%), gender (17%), and environment (15%). Every ninth NGO is engaged in supporting NGOs/NCOs (10%).

In the last decade, NGOs in the country have supported law enforcement bodies and participated in resolving and preventing conflicts. NGO participation in such a complex problem for the country as corruption of state power, unfortunately, is virtually nonexistent in the Kyrgyz Republic except for a few analytical reports and studies prepared by the El-Pikir Center for Public Opinion Research and Forecasting. Even though very few NGOs, such as the NGO Citizens Against Corruption, were officially registered with the Ministry of Justice and have declared that their mission is prevention of corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic, their efforts are yet to make an impact despite being operational over the last 5–6 years.

Most of local NGOs are small organizations employing fewer than five people (62%). Fourteen percent employ only three people and 19% employ only two people. However, 6% of organizations have a staff of more than 20 people. Altogether, active NGOs in the country employ 3,600 people, or 0.1%–0.2% of the total economically active population. As for NGO staff gender composition, women prevail.⁸

The biggest problem NGOs face at present is their continued financial dependency on grants from foreign foundations and international organizations. However, the legal structure and low living standards of the population do not allow local NGOs to use donations of the citizens, as in other countries.

Government–Civil Society Relations

In Soviet times, the civic sector and government had a strong relationship; at the same time, civic organizations that were overshadowed by the state had little autonomy.

Until the late 1990s, the government’s stance on the emergence and activities of the NGO sector was passive observation. A. Tretyakov, analyzing development of the NGO sector in this period,⁹ noted the following issues of relations of authorities and the state in the country: lack of trust on both sides; potential partners not understanding the “language of activities and presentations of each other;” impossibility to manage public and business activities through administrative methods; propensity to act on behalf of the people by either party; and the mostly pretentious nature of the relationship. These problems led to a situation where

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“the development of the NGO sector is largely funded by donors and, most importantly, in the paradigm of confrontation against state authorities, rather than cooperation. Hence, the claims of NGOs for total control and invective rhetoric. Neither party builds images of the future or collective future. Individual and group values prevail over the system of civic goals and values. Survival strategy relevant to most members of society complicates application of partnership arrangements.”

By the end of the 1990s, all three sectors of society were formed in the Kyrgyz Republic: governmental, commercial, and civil, but the government continued to dominate and, in many respects, cooperation among sectors was formal.

At the beginning of the 2000s, NGOs began to emerge in the political arena. They participated in discussions of sociopolitical and economic development. In 2004, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the Concept of Cooperation between the Government and NGOs. However, the mechanisms for translating this concept into action have not been developed; thus, it was not financed by the state. In general, although the concept was declarative, it had a positive impact. Interactions between NGOs and government agencies began to develop with support from other financial institutions.

The main forms of cooperation are consultation, information sharing, and addressing social issues. To better reflect the views of the civil society, NGO representatives were included in the public National Councils to the President on health care reform,

development of science and education, and issues of persons with disabilities; and in the interagency councils to the government on the implementation of national development programs. Nevertheless, many important decisions, particularly relating to government regulation of taxation, or of social or environmental safety, were made with minimal participation of civil society. Often, NGO participation was superficial.

The authorities, sensing the growing influence of the NGO sector in politics, repeatedly tried to take the NGO sector under control. For example, the government successfully used a policy of creating and maintaining “pocket” NGOs that peremptorily support its decisions, report the positive changes taking place in the country at international forums, and oppose criticism from their colleagues in the sector. “Pocket” NGOs provided a good simulation of the involvement of civil society in the decision-making process.

The next President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, also made attempts to control the NGO sector and to prohibit NGOs from participating in political life. For example, in 2006, a number of journalists and media received warnings from the prosecutor for distribution of false defamatory information against President Bakiyev, affecting his honor, dignity, and reputation. In 2009, President Bakiyev’s team drafted amendments to the Law “On Noncommercial Organizations,” which essentially prevented local NGOs from participating in political activities; it also envisaged a number of measures to control the activities of NGOs. At the same time, the government increasingly criticized NGOs. NGOs were accused of not representing the groups for whom and on whose behalf they worked, that they represented certain interest groups, that they generally engaged in business. There were more radical accusations that NGOs were “grant-eaters,” “promoting the interests of foreign states.”

Despite all the attacks from the government, the NGO sector increasingly gained political weight. NGOs and the opposition movement collaborated in their campaign against the methods of President Bakiyev. According to the study “The Mood of the Country” (October 2006) commissioned by the International Republican Institute, 65% of the population considered NGO activities as positive. The influence of NGOs increased especially after the April and June 2010 events that led to the resignation of President Bakiyev. During this time, there were outbreaks of ethnic conflicts in Mayevka village, in Osh and Jalal-Abad. Militants appeared in the streets and burned the houses of peaceful civilians. The residents spontaneously united into community teams to defend their respective territories. The Movement of



the Volunteer People's Patrol, composed of residents and youth, emerged. After the events of June 2010, the NGO sector was particularly active in stabilizing the situation in the south by providing humanitarian assistance for affected persons.

Today, Kyrgyz NGOs play an important role in the country; they form a responsible civil society, participate actively in political life, and provide a wide range of social services. NGOs providing social services and assistance to vulnerable groups, solving environmental problems, and protecting the rights and interests of citizens enjoy a good reputation both among the people and the authorities. Leaders of NGOs are involved in the supervisory boards being created by each ministry.

The following list illustrates some of the primary areas of NGO influence in the Kyrgyz government:

- *Research.* NGOs often conduct studies and surveys necessary to carry out project activities. The results of such studies are useful as a source of alternative information for government agencies.
- *Cooperation with international institutions.* Women's NGOs have successfully prepared both public and internal reports on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which have been successfully presented in international forums. Using international institutions, NGOs have a real opportunity to lobby NGO interests.
- *Activities through mass media.* NGOs have extensive experience in using media to raise awareness, educate, or protest. Activities through mass media draw the attention of the local and international communities to the problem, increase supporters of a cause, and mobilize officials to cooperate.
- *Conducting joint events.* NGOs host and facilitate conferences, roundtables, workshops, charitable activities, mass cultural campaigns, and training sessions on social issues.
- *Lobbying of draft laws.* One of the most successful examples of lobbying a draft law was a campaign



organized by the women's movement for the adoption of the Law "On Social and Legal Protection from Domestic Violence." So far, this is the only law passed at the initiative of civil society. Another successful example is the amendment of the Election Code, where Article 72 now requires the party lists to have no more than 70% of people of the same sex.

- *Appeals, organizations of peaceful picketing, and other public actions.* An example of using this method is the NGO statements during the discussion of the draft Constitution of 2010. Due to the efforts of NGOs, the text kept the concept of "secularism." In 2011, NGOs have repeatedly made appeals to the President regarding the transition period, the leaders of political parties, and parliamentary factions, and have actively participated in the discussion and adoption of the republican budget for 2011.
- *Participation in advisory government bodies.* In February 2011, the President issued a Decree "On Changes and Amendments to the Presidential Decree (*Ukaz*) "On improvement of Interaction between Government Bodies and Civil Society dated

29 September 2010." The decree stipulates the establishment of public supervisory boards (whose acronym is ONS) for each ministry, which will actively involve NGO representatives. The objectives of creating public supervisory boards are ensuring participation of citizens in managing state affairs, carrying out public control over activities of bodies of the executive branch, establishing effective collaboration of these bodies with the public, and considering public opinion in formulating and implementing state policy.

The Legal Framework for Civil Society

The main legal framework for NGO activities in the Kyrgyz Republic comprises the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Civil Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Law "On Noncommercial Organizations" dated 10 January 1999, the Law "On State Registration of Legal Entities" with amendments introduced in 2007, and the Tax Code. Other regulations of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as international acts and agreements

that are recognized and ratified by the Kyrgyz Republic, also affect NGOs.

In accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, each person has the right to freedom of association. Citizens are entitled to create public associations on the basis of free will and unity of interests for implementation and protection of their rights and freedoms, as well as satisfying political, economic, social, labor, cultural, and other interests. However, the right of association is not confined to the creation of a registered public association. The constitutional right is much broader and also includes the right to form associations without registering an organization as a legal entity. On the other hand, the propagation of national, ethnic, racial, and religious hatred; or gender; and other social supremacy, which constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility, and violence, is prohibited.

There are two types of taxes that NGOs are required to pay: the social and retirement fund for all employees, and the personal income tax. For certain activities, simplified taxation (based on the *patent form*) is permitted. However, there are a number of legislative barriers relating to the taxation of NGOs. For example, the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic provides for exemptions from the profit tax for income received as membership and entrance fees, grants, endowments, and humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, Article 9 of the Tax Code defines the membership fees as “the assets transferred by a person when entering a membership-based nonprofit organization, in the amount and in the manner provided for in the constituent documents of this organization provided that such transfer is not conditioned by the cross-provision of services to a member of this organization free of charge or at the price lower than the cost.” Such a contradiction in practice leads to the fact that the tax authorities require, for example, NCOs, such as water users’ associations or garage cooperatives, to pay a 4% tax for the provision of paid services from membership fees and recognize the membership fees of these NGOs as income from services rendered.

In calculating the income tax on legal entities (profit tax), the Tax Code does not provide for a separate accounting of revenues and expenses related to taxable and nontaxable income, which is mandatory when a taxpayer has different tax regimes for income from different sources. The Law On Philanthropy and Charitable Activity, approved on 6 November 1999, deprives NGOs involved in charitable activities of the opportunities to enjoy the tax preferences (Part 3 of the Tax Code, Article 112) provided for charities.

Registration Requirements for NCOs and NGOs

Registration of NCOs and NGOs follows the requirements of the Law “On State Registration of Legal Entities” in the version dated 12 July 2005, No. 104. State registration of NCOs is declarative in nature, and includes an assessment of the organization’s founding documents, the issuance of a state registration certificate with an assigned registration number, and the entry of data of the legal entities to the centralized state registrar system. The Law stipulates that the founding documents of an NCO shall be the decision of the founder, the foundation agreement and (or) the charter (regulations), depending on the organizational legal form, in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. The state registration of a legal entity, including NCOs, should be made not later than 10 days after filing an application and the required documents.

Umbrella and Coordinating Bodies

The **Association of Civil Society Support Centers (ACSSC)** is a national, open, independent, noncommercial, nongovernmental network created by nine organizations. Their goal is to create opportunities, provide services, and mobilize resources to develop a dynamic, effective, and sustainable civil society in the Kyrgyz Republic. (www.acssc.kg)

The **NGO and NCOs’ Association** was established in 2000 by participants of the first Republican Meeting of Representatives of Civil Society. It protects the interests of NGOs and NCOs and creates authority that is capable of constructive dialogue with all branches of government and businesses in the name of peace and accord in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The **Women’s Congress** is a public organization established in May 1993 to expand the role of women as representatives and participants of social development, to assist in providing equal opportunities for women in the full realization of their abilities, and involving women in politics and decision making at all levels of power. (congresswomen@totel.kg)

The **Assembly of People’s Representatives of Kyrgyzstan** strengthens interethnic accord, unity and peace, and stability of society and creates conditions for joint productive and creative work. (ankkg07@mail.ru)

The **Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society** was founded in 1996 to ensure favorable conditions for



strengthening democracy and building civil society. (www.coalition.kg)

Interbilim International Center was established in 1993 with the goal of strengthening and developing the civic sector through strengthening NCOs working with vulnerable groups, and to create an environment favorable for the development of the third sector. The Interbilim International Center is offering training, providing information, giving advice, and conducting research. (www.interbilim.org.kg)

The **Association of Crisis Centers of Kyrgyzstan (ACC)** was founded in 2001 to decrease gender-based violence, promote human rights and freedoms of

women, and promote the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. (www.acc.web.kg)

Civil Society Directories

In the Kyrgyz Republic, there is no single directory of NGOs containing basic information about the members of the nongovernment sector in the country. However, there have been individual attempts to create a database of NGOs by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Counterpart Consortium, United Nations agencies, and the Yellow Pages directory. These efforts did not become an annual event and were adapted to the specific objectives of each creator. The databases

of the State Tax Service and the National Statistics Committee are not available to external users. Several networks maintain information about the civic sector in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Civil Society Funding

According to the estimates of experts, 90%–100% of NGOs are financed by international organizations which, after independence in 1991, played a major role in forming the Kyrgyz Republic’s civic sector. The major international organizations and donors, including the United Nations Development Programme, the Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan, the National Democratic Institute, the United States Agency for International Development, the Global Environment Facility, and others came to the Kyrgyz Republic with their own mandates and priorities. Therefore, the development of the NGO sector, as well as its funding, was largely dependent on those areas that are supported by a particular donor. The issue of harmonization of donor assistance has been on the agenda during the last 5 years, but still it has not been resolved.

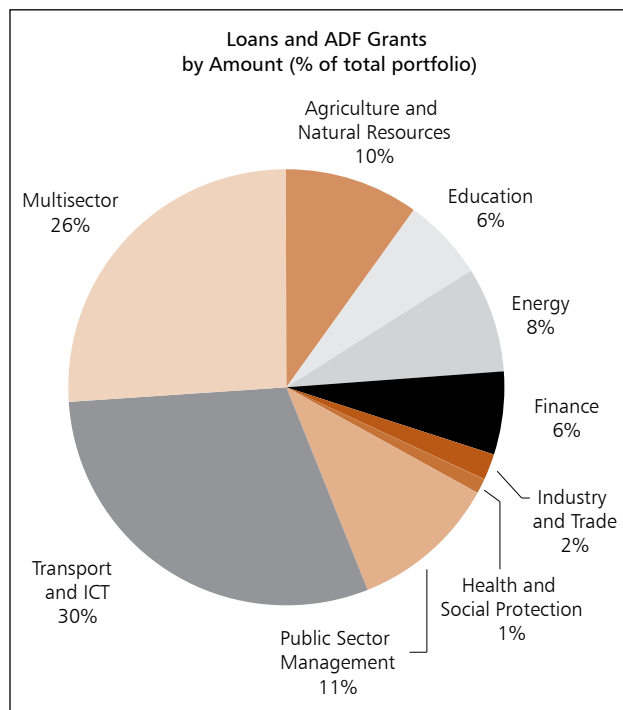
There are no accurate statistics of financial flows in the NGO sector in the Kyrgyz Republic, but according to assessments by independent experts, about 40% of NGO funding goes to human rights themes, about

25% to health, and 20% to education. The rest of the funding (15%) is related to gender issues, environmental protection, and conducting sociological research.

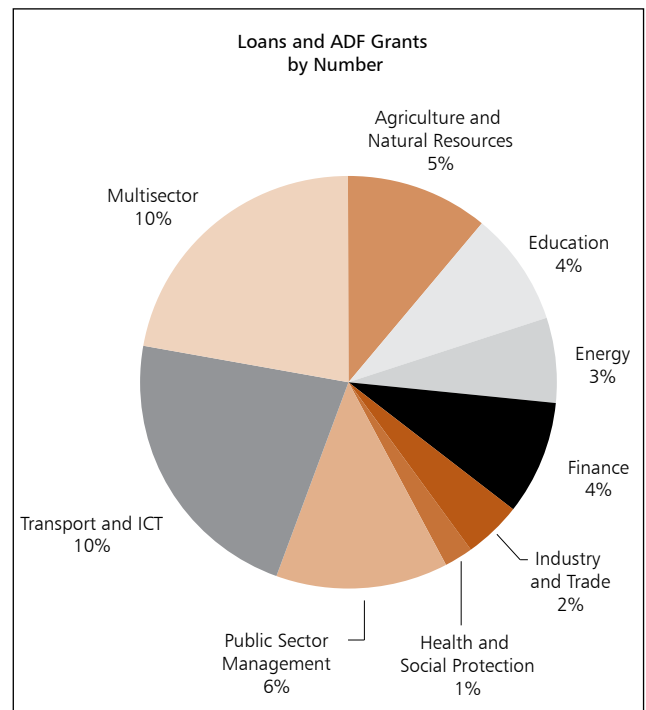
ADB–Civil Society Cooperation in the Kyrgyz Republic

ADB began its operations in the Kyrgyz Republic in 1994. In April 2000, ADB established a Resident Mission in Bishkek, which has significantly improved policy dialogue, program development, and project implementation. The Kyrgyz Republic was selected as one of the pilot countries during the High-Level Forum on Harmonization in Rome in February 2003. Recognizing the contribution of ADB to the development of the country over the last 15 years, in 2009, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic awarded ADB the state order, “Danaker.” Danaker is awarded to institutions and individuals for their contribution to strengthening peace, friendship, and cooperation between nations.

The strategic thrust of the ADB program for 2008–2011 is to support both soft and hard public infrastructure, which will contribute to creating a favorable environment for sustainable growth led by the private sector, thereby generating more jobs and income.



Source: ADB.



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Specifically, ADB will continue to support the following:

- Roads and transport to promote inclusive growth and regional cooperation. The focus will continue to be on rehabilitating key road and transport networks that have regional and national strategic importance
- Urban infrastructure and services to promote major growth centers
- Economic and financial sector reforms to improve investment climate and business environment

Since joining ADB in 1994, the Kyrgyz Republic has received 31 loans and 14 grants from the Asian Development Fund (ADF) worth \$985.3 million, and technical assistance grants worth \$42.7 million. The country has received seven grants from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) worth \$7 million.

ADB grants and loans focus on transport and information and communication technology (30%); public sector management (11%); and agriculture and natural resources (10%).

All of the funds allocated to the Kyrgyz Republic are directed to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, ADB's strategic partner. However, civil society is often

involved in ADB-supported projects in the Kyrgyz Republic. To enhance collaboration with NGOs, ADB

- conducts public consultations involving experts from local NGOs;
- enters contracts for the services of strong NGOs (through government departments) for implementation of specific programs of ADB;
- involves NGOs in monitoring performance of ongoing ADB programs; and
- has established and supports the Group for Implementation of Investment Projects (whose acronym in Russian is GRIP) to organize more effectively the work to coordinate, manage, monitor, and evaluate all aspects of investments. Through GRIP, ADB seeks to meet its principles of openness and transparency.

One of the greatest obstacles to expanding ADB cooperation with local NGOs is the composition of the nongovernment sector, where there are virtually no professional technological NGOs; advocacy and human rights NGOs dominate the civil sector in the Kyrgyz Republic. However, civil society is playing an increasing role in ADB-funded projects (*for a summary of some recent examples, see table below*).

ADB-Supported Activities Involving Civil Society

Project Title	Project Goal and Involvement of Nongovernment Organizations and Civil Society Organizations
Grant/Loan: Emergency Assistance for Recovery and Reconstruction (\$100 million) Approved September 2010	This project funds the incremental cost of the national budget as a result of the April and June 2010 emergencies and will rebuild destroyed homes and improve essential public infrastructure of Osh and Jalal-Abad cities. Nongovernment organizations (NGOs) provided advice and guidance during project preparation and implementation.
Issyk-Kul Sustainable Development Project (\$30 million) Approved September 2009	Civil society organizations (CSOs) were actively involved in the project concept development and preparing project documentation. The project improves water, sanitation, and solid waste management in the cities of Issyk-Kul. CSOs will be involved in project monitoring and evaluation. ADB expects that environmental NGOs will actively participate in implementing and monitoring environmental aspects of the project.
Grant: Community-Based Infrastructure Services Sector (Supplementary) (\$30 million) Approved November 2008	The project improved delivery of drinking water supply and sanitation services in the villages of Osh, Jalal-Abad, Batken, and Chui oblasts. CSOs were actively involved in the project development and preparation. CSOs also regularly participated in the work of the Project Steering Committee, tender commission, and monitoring and evaluation of construction of water supply and sanitation facilities. CSOs were also involved in the process of consultation and decision making on key project and sector issues. CSOs participated in the project as consultants working with communities and beneficiaries.
Grant 0084: CAREC Regional Road Corridor Improvement Project Approved October 2007	NGOs campaigned to raise local communities' awareness of traffic regulations and road safety in this project, which rehabilitated 136 kilometers of the road between the villages of Sary Tash and Karamyk.
Grant 0074-KGZ: Vocational Education and Skills Development Project (\$10 million) Approved January 2007	The project assisted the government in reforming the primary vocational education system and increasing skills training opportunities for adults and out-of-school youth. The National Confederation of Employers, the Union of Entrepreneurs, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Guild of Directors, and the Civil Association Forum of Education Initiatives composed the Steering Committee of the project. Industry representatives and NGOs participated in the project steering committee and were involved in the selection committee to identify schools to be included in the project.

Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction

The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) is an untied grant facility established by the Government of Japan and ADB in May 2000. From an initial contribution of \$90 million, the Fund has grown to well over \$445 million. This assistance involved NGOs in the Kyrgyz Republic and has been channeled mainly to the following projects:

Project Title	Amount (\$ million)	Completion Date	Work with NGOs
Improving Access to Quality Basic Education for Children with Special Needs http://pid.adb.org/pid/LoanView.htm?projNo=40359&seqNo=01&typeCd=2&projType=GRNT	\$1.0	September 2011	Save the Children Federation, Inc. provided consultant services for capacity building and public awareness campaign. Association of Parents of Disabled Children was selected and included in the expert group of the project. This NGO, as an expert, provides the project with valuable knowledge of the needs of disabled children, purchase of special equipment, and designing and production of learning materials. Moreover, this NGO provides consultation in production of different public awareness materials, such as video clips, posters, brochures, etc. Community-based organizations Elnaz, Shintsu, Baystan, and Bars-m were involved to conduct roundtables devoted to the discussion of the problems of disabled children, their access to basic education, and issues of care for children with special needs.
Improving Livelihoods of Rural Women through Development of Handicrafts Industry http://pid.adb.org/pid/LoanView.htm?projNo=40539&seqNo=01&typeCd=2&projType=GRNT	\$2.0	July 2010	30 Field Handicrafts Units (FHU) were established from existing associations, NGOs, and public units. FHUs were selected from throughout the country.
Reducing Neonatal Mortality http://pid.adb.org/pid/LoanView.htm?projNo=32143&seqNo=03&typeCd=2&projType=GRNT	\$1.0	March 2009	NGOs provided beneficiaries nutrition education and disseminated information.
Reducing Vulnerability of the Poor to Natural Disasters in the Kyrgyz Republic http://adb.org/Documents/JFPRs/KGZ/jfpr-KGZ-38047.pdf	\$1.0	November 2008	NGOs, including Shoola-Kol Public Union, and the Association of Civil Society of Support Centers, carried out the training component of the project.
Rural Livelihood Development Project http://adb.org/Documents/ICMs/KGZ/38098-KGZ-ICM.pdf	\$1.0	October 2008	Mekhr-Shavkat, Agricultural Foundation for Development, Chernobylyc of Nookat of the 21st Century, Alga, Darshaim, and RDC-Elet implemented the activities relating to the development of economic opportunities and livelihoods, largely through building on and expanding successful participatory programs.

Endnotes

¹ The term “nongovernment organization,” widely used in the Kyrgyz Republic, is not defined at the legislative level. There is a legal concept of “noncommercial organizations”; all of them, in fact, are nongovernment organizations (NGOs).

² Some of these studies include

- *Comprehensive study of civil society development in Central Asia* by INTRAC in 1999–2002: *The Development of Civil Society in Central Asia*. Janice Giffen and Lucy Earle, with Charles Buxton. INTRAC *NGO Management and Policy Series* No. 17. United Kingdom. 2005.
- *Annual Human Development Reports*, UNDP in Kyrgyzstan.

- Compendium, Interbilim Center: *NGOs of Kyrgyzstan: Democracy Top Down* (2002), *Civil Society: Problems and Perspectives* (2003), *Civil Society and NGOs in Kyrgyzstan: Insider View* (2005).
- Publications in the *Third Sector*, a popular science magazine on development of civil society in the Kyrgyz Republic, published by the Association of Civil Society Support Centers (ACSSC).
- *Review of the History of Establishment and Development of the NGO Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic*. Bishkek. 2006. Head of group of authors: E. Shishkaraeva.
- *NGO Sector: Facts and Figures, NGOs in Kyrgyzstan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*: Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan, ACSSC, Allavida, Bishkek. 2006.
- *NGOs in Kyrgyzstan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*: AUCA Social Research Center, A. Musabaeva. Bishkek. 2011.

- ³ Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan, ACSSC, Allavida. 2006. *Review of the History of Establishment and Development of the NGO Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic*. Head of group of authors: E. Shishkaraeva. Bishkek.
- ⁴ In 2010 alone, more than 1,500 new associations; NGOs; and associations, including political parties, were registered, as well as 142 media outlets, says news agency 24.kg, referring to the data of the Ministry of Justice.
- ⁵ “NGO Sector: Facts and Figures.” Information-analytical campaign “NGOs in Kyrgyzstan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow!”: Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan, ACSSC, Allavida. Based on results of the survey of NGO leaders in the Kyrgyz Republic. Bishkek. 2006. p.13.
- ⁶ The list includes public associations, foundations, establishments, associations of legal entities (associations and unions), noncommercial cooperatives, religious organizations, homeowners’ associations, stock exchanges, political parties, credit unions, unions (associations) of water users, *jamaat* (community-based organizations), trade unions, and employers’ associations.
- ⁷ Report *NGO Sector: Facts and Figures, NGOs in Kyrgyzstan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*: Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan, ACSSC, Allavida. Bishkek. 2006. p. 36.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 15.
- ⁹ A. Tretyakov. 2005. Civil Society and Government. Culture of Relations. *Third Sector*. September. p. 38.

For more information on ADB’s work in the Kyrgyz Republic, visit www.adb.org/publications/kyrgyz-republic-fact-sheet

Definition and Objectives of Civil Society Collaboration

Civil society is a very important stakeholder in the operations of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its borrowers and clients. It is distinct from the government and the private sector and consists of a diverse range of individuals, groups, and nonprofit organizations. They operate around shared interests, purposes, and values with a varying degree of formality and encompass a diverse range—from informal unorganized community groups to large international labor union organizations. Of particular relevance to ADB are nongovernment organizations, community-based organizations and people’s organizations, foundations, professional associations, research institutes and universities, labor unions, mass organizations, social movements, and coalitions and networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) and umbrella organizations.^a

ADB recognizes CSOs as development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector, and who play a significant role in development in Asia and the Pacific. ADB has a long tradition of interacting with CSOs in different contexts, through policy- and country strategy-level consultation, and in designing, implementing, and monitoring projects.

In 2008, ADB launched Strategy 2020, which articulates the organization’s future direction and vision until 2020.^b Above all, Strategy 2020 presents three complementary strategic agendas to guide ADB operations: inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. These agendas reflect the recognition that it is not only the *pace* of growth, but also the *pattern* of growth, that matters in reducing poverty in the region. In this new strategic context, partnerships with a range of organizations, including CSOs, will become central to planning, financing, implementing, and evaluating ADB projects.

^a ADB. Forthcoming. *Strengthening Participation for Development Results*. Manila.

^b ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

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