



IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN KYRGYZSTAN

**ALL PARTIES MUST
BE INVOLVED FOR
EFFECTIVE
DEVELOPMENT.**

Moreover, we have to
get involved at all
stages: planning,
implementation and
result evaluation.

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Introduction

On March 18, 2020, the first cases of COVID-19 were detected in Kyrgyzstan. On March 22, a emergency situation in the country was declared. And by the end of May 2020, a state of emergency in the country was declared. Kyrgyzstan has suspended all domestic and international flights, like many other countries. In July 2020, public health failed to withstand the pressure due to the large number of infections and deaths. The hospitals were overcrowded. Day and night patient facilities were opened. A shortage of medical personnel and pharmaceuticals forced the country to turn to other countries for help.

Due to the closure of borders and quarantine, tax and customs fees for the formation of the country's budget have been significantly reduced. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic was forced to turn to international financial institutions for financial assistance to support the country's budget.

During the quarantine, the government, business sector and civil society began to help families in need. We collected and distributed help. Information about those individuals and organizations that helped the public can be found in the video prepared by us:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=km-8VS4zcVY>

Content analysis, comparative analysis, polls, interviews, questionnaires were used in the preparation of the video.

The first chapter describes the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Kyrgyzstan. Real socio-economic indicators of Kyrgyzstan for January - June 2020. Results of a mini-survey with CSO representatives and activists. The situation with the coronavirus. Also what can be said about the following expectations of COVID-19 aftermath in Kyrgyzstan.

The second chapter is devoted to the description of foreign aid and official development assistance (ODA). Visually the infographics show how much external assistance was attracted; how many loans and how many grants; which sectors are targeted.

The third chapter "Analysis of the EDC Principles in Response to COVID-19" describes what plans there are to combat COVID-19 in Kyrgyzstan. Existing facilities aimed at response to COVID-19 in the Kyrgyzstan; transparency and accountability; result orientation.

The fourth chapter, "CSO best practices in using EDC principles in responding to COVID-19" provides examples. Real cases involving civil society that contributed to fight COVID-19 in Kyrgyzstan.

Chapter 5 outlines best practices for improving response to COVID-19.

I Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz government has declared state of emergency to contain the spread of the virus. The pandemic has caused disruptions to socio-economic disturbances in Kyrgyzstan. The main external and internal causes of the disturbances are:

External:

- 1 closing borders,
- 2 trade measures (bans on the export and import of goods and products),
- 3 prices on the international market and
- 4 the consequences of the pandemic in other countries.

Internal :

- 1 health effects of COVID-19 ,
- 2 quarantine,
- 3 exchange rate disturbance; som depreciation;
- 4 and other measures taken by the government of Kyrgyzstan.
- 5

Kyrgyzstan is a small country. And it is very dependable For example, the country depends on:

- international trade. Export is around 32%. And import is 67%
- the inflow of migrant remittances, which is about 30% of GDP
- foreign aid and foreign direct investments.

The main Kyrgyz macroeconomic indicators, which were indicated in the draft budget for 2020 are:

	2020 forecast in the budget of the Kyrgyz Republic[1]
Nominal GDP, billion Kyrgyz soms	667.1
Real GDP growth rate,%	105.0
GDP structure[2], billion Kyrgyz soms	
Industry	124.1
Agriculture	72.2
Building	62.2
Services	314.7
Net taxes on products and imports	93.8
Industry,% of GDP	18.6
Agriculture,% of GDP	10.8
Construction,% of GDP	9.3
Services,% of GDP	47.2
Net taxes on food and imports,% of GDP	14.1
Inflation (% to December of the previous year)	103,7

Export of goods, millions USD	2 060.0
Import of goods, millions USD	5 500.0

Real socio-economic indicators of Kyrgyzstan for January - June 2020

The USD exchange rate increased by 9.35% compared to the end of June 2019 and at the end of June 2020 was at 75.9887 per 1 Kyrgyz soms.

The number of officially registered unemployed at the end of June 2020 amounted to 78.6 thousand people and decreased compared to the corresponding period of 2019 by 4.9% (an increase of 26.8% in January-June 2019).

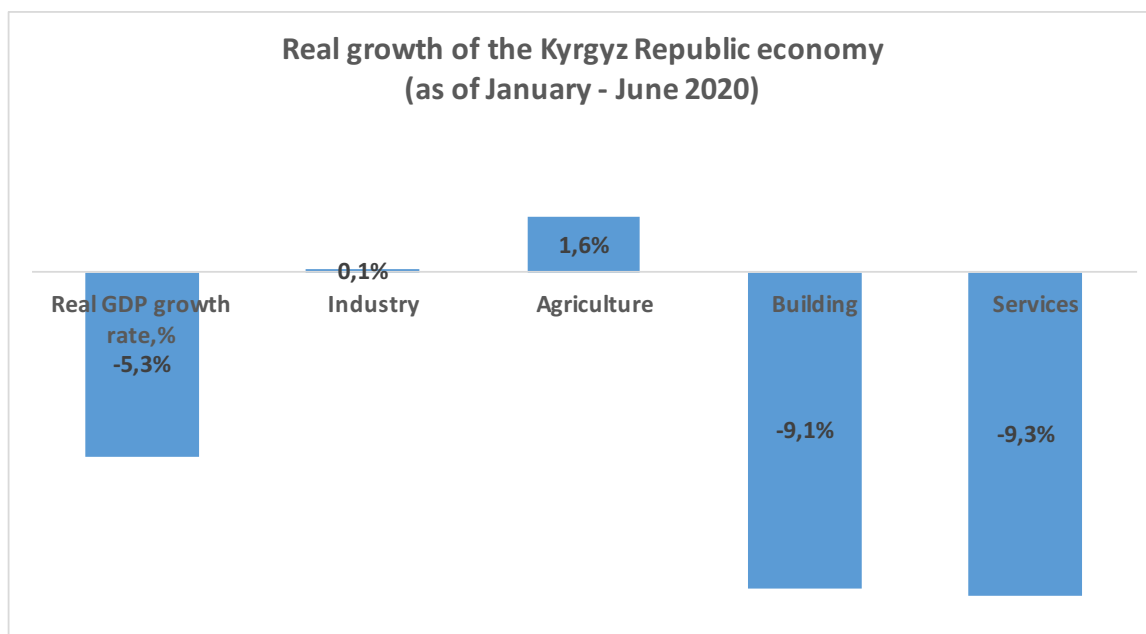
The real growth of the average monthly salary in January - May 2020 amounted to 4.6%, in nominal terms, the average monthly salary was 17,727 Kyrgyz soms.

According to preliminary data of the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic^[3] in January - June 2020, there was a negative real GDP growth at the level of 5.3%, which is 11.7 percentage points lower than the level of the corresponding period of 2019, and the nominal volume of GDP was formed at 228.3 billion Kyrgyz soms.

The key sectors of the Kyrgyz economy are trade and consumer services (18% of GDP), manufacturing (14% of GDP), agriculture (12% of GDP) and construction (10% of GDP).

The economic downturn, excluding Kumtor mining company (gold mining company), amounted to 6.9% (an increase of 2.2% in January-June 2019).

Infographics #1



At the end of January - June 2020, industrial production in real terms increased by 0.1% (an increase of 20.5% in January - June 2019) due to an increase in mining by 9.8% and the energy sector by 0,1%.

In the service sector, in January - June 2020, there is a decline in real growth of 9.3% (an increase of 1.6% in January - June 2019).

In January-June 2020, the volume of agricultural, forestry and fishing products amounted to 64,646.4 million Kyrgyz soms, an increase of 1.6% (an increase of 2.0% in January-June 2019).

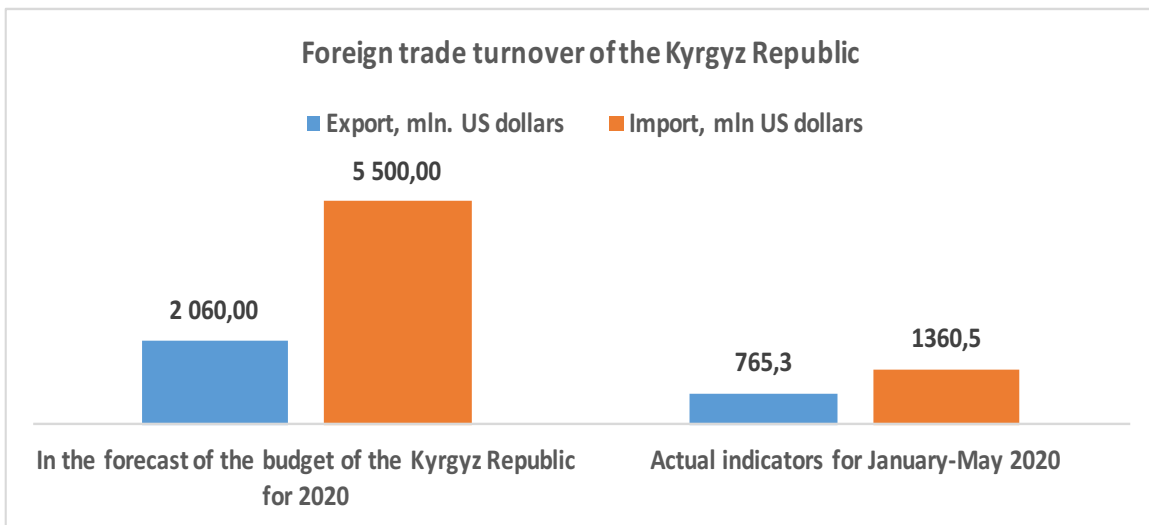
The total volume of gross construction output in January-June 2020 amounted to 43,485.2 million Kyrgyz soms with a decline of 9.1% (an increase of 5.8% in January-June 2019).

Agricultural sector. Movement restrictions made it difficult to start the planting season on time. Difficulties with access to irrigated water rose to 25% in 2020. Lack of timely provision of irrigation services in the state of emergency imposed throughout the country. Agricultural producers, that were counting on sales proceeds, were forced to turn to the financial sector for loans to cover the operating costs of the spring field work.

Industrial sector : About 45% of industrial production in Kyrgyzstan is provided by gold mining companies. Temporary production stoppages. The manufacturing sector in Kyrgyzstan is dominated by garment production, which accounts for 10% of the total employment in the country. Other industrial subsectors such as food processing, power generation, water supply, etc., were only marginally affected by the pandemic.

"The volume of foreign and mutual trade in goods of the Kyrgyz Republic, according to preliminary data, in January-June 2020 amounted to 2 557.4 million US dollars and, compared with January-June 2019, **decreased by 22.4 percent** ."

Infographics # 2



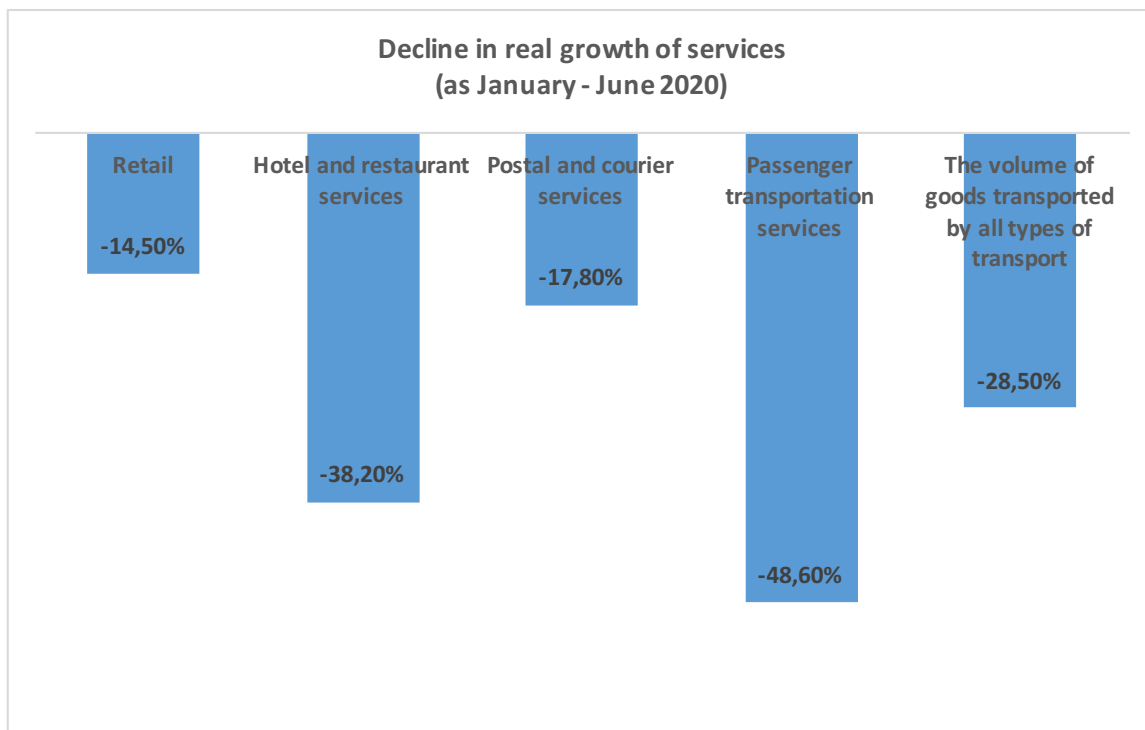
According to the official data of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, foreign trade turnover in January-May 2020 amounted to 2,125.8 million USD and decreased

compared to January-May 2019 by **22.7%**, including export - 765.3 million USD (an increase of 1.2%) and imports - 1,360.5 million USD (a decrease of 31.8%).

Due to the outstripping growth of imports over exports, the negative trade balance amounted to 595.2 million USD.

Service sector. The trade and consumer services sector in the Kyrgyz Republic has been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. This sector is concentrated mainly in the central cities. The quarantine paralyzed retail and wholesale trade in non-food products, as well as domestic services such as car and home repairs, hairdressing, dry cleaning and others. The hotel and restaurant business are also expected to experience a significant and prolonged decline.

Infographics # 3



The decline in retail trade was 14.5%.

In January-June 2020, hotel and restaurant services decreased by 38.2% (an increase of 6.4% in January-June 2019).

Postal and courier services in January - June 2020 decreased by 17.8% compared to the corresponding period of 2019.

Passenger transportation services in January - June 2020 decreased by 48.6%. The volume of goods transported by all types of transport decreased by 28.5% (an increase of 2.7% in January-June 2019).

The pandemic has affected also on the fiscal situation in the country . In comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year, the revenues of the state budget of Kyrgyzstan **decreased by 10.1%, or 8.6 billion Kyrgyz soms.** According to preliminary data from the

Central Treasury, state budget revenues for January-July 2020 amounted to 76.3 billion Kyrgyz soms, the target was fulfilled by 89.6%, or 8.9 billion Kyrgyz soms did not go to the state budget revenues.

The volume of tax revenues for January-July 2020 amounted to 53.4 billion Kyrgyz soms, or 80.5% of the planned indicator, that is, tax revenues in the amount of 12.9 billion Kyrgyz soms were not received. Compared to the same period of the previous year, tax revenues decreased by 16.8% or 10.7 billion Kyrgyz soms "[4].

**We conducted a small survey of 13 CSO representatives and 20 civil society activists.
The poll results look like this:**

Infographics # 4

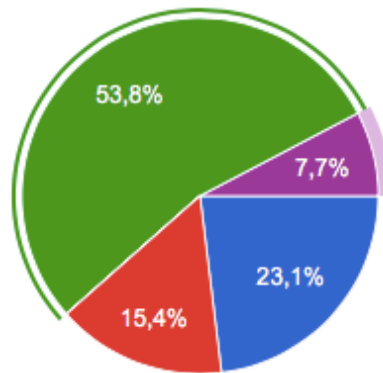
Has your income or salary remained at the same level as before the coronavirus, or has it changed?

53.8% - lower income

23.1% - at the same level

15.4% - lost their job

7.7% - other

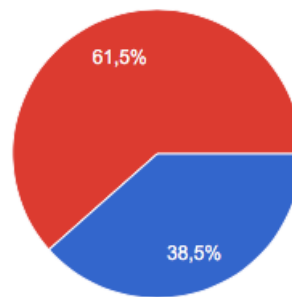


Infographics # 5

Have you or your relatives or friends applied for social support in order to get access to social protection? (in case you lost income or work)

38.5% - Yes

61.5% - No



● да
● Нет

Infographics # 6

Do you think the number of poor people in the Kyrgyz Republic has increased or decreased?

100% answered increased



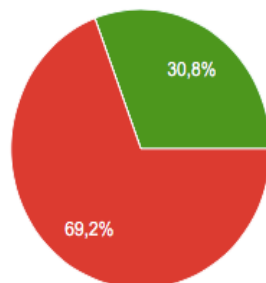
● увеличилось
● уменьшилось
● осталось на таком же уровне

Infographics # 7

Do you think there is enough food provision in the Kyrgyz Republic?

69.2% answered no

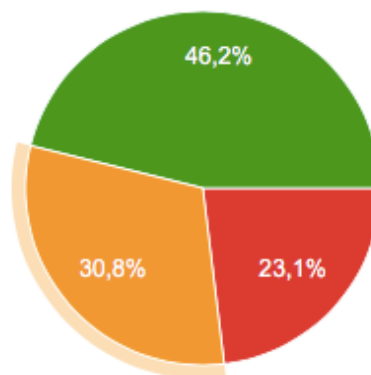
30.8% answered that it will probably be provided by external assistance



- да
- нет
- в бюджете денег нет
- возможно будет обеспечиваться за счет внешней помощи

Infographics # 8

How did the situation affect women, youth / students, internal migrants?



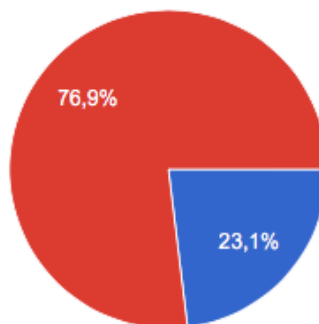
- никак не повлияла
- очень повлияла
- потеряли работу
- не получили качественное образование

Infographics # 9

Have you come under pressure from government agencies for your comments on social media or anywhere else this year?

23.1% - yes

76.9% - no



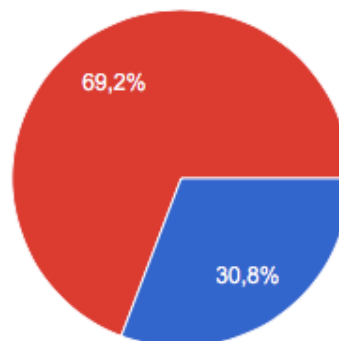
- да
- нет

Infographics # 10

Did you contact the hotlines with complaints or suggestions?

30.8 % answered yes

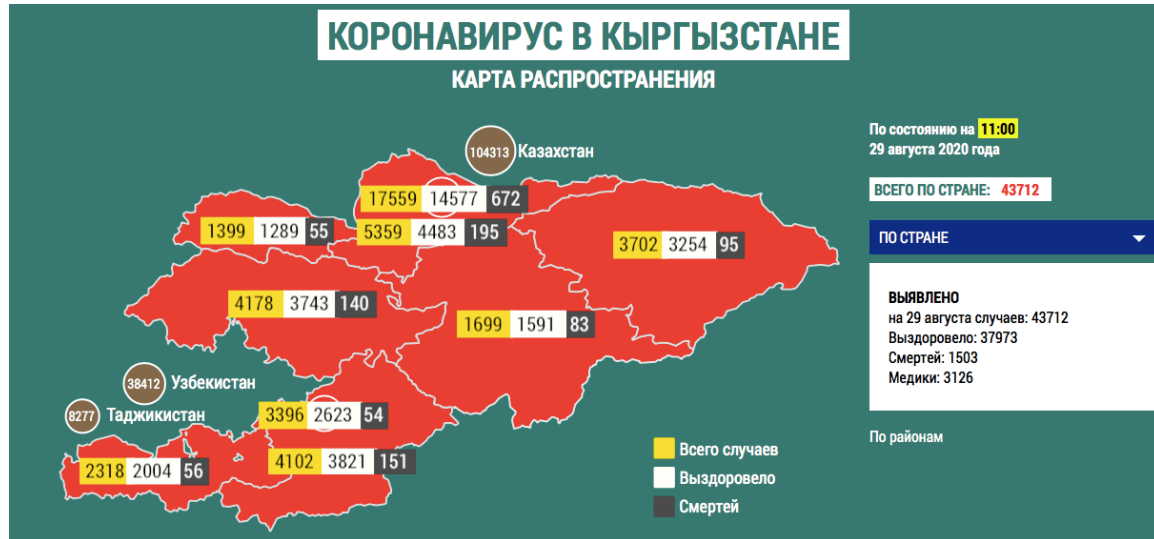
69.2% answered no



- да
- нет

Coronavirus in Kyrgyzstan

The picture below shows that as of August 29, 2020 the number of cases was only 43,712 people. 37,973 people recovered. 1,503 died. The number of sick doctors is 3,126 people.



An official portal <https://covid.kg/ru> was created, where all data on COVID-19, humanitarian and financial assistance, volunteer assistance, hospitals and hospitals is collected.

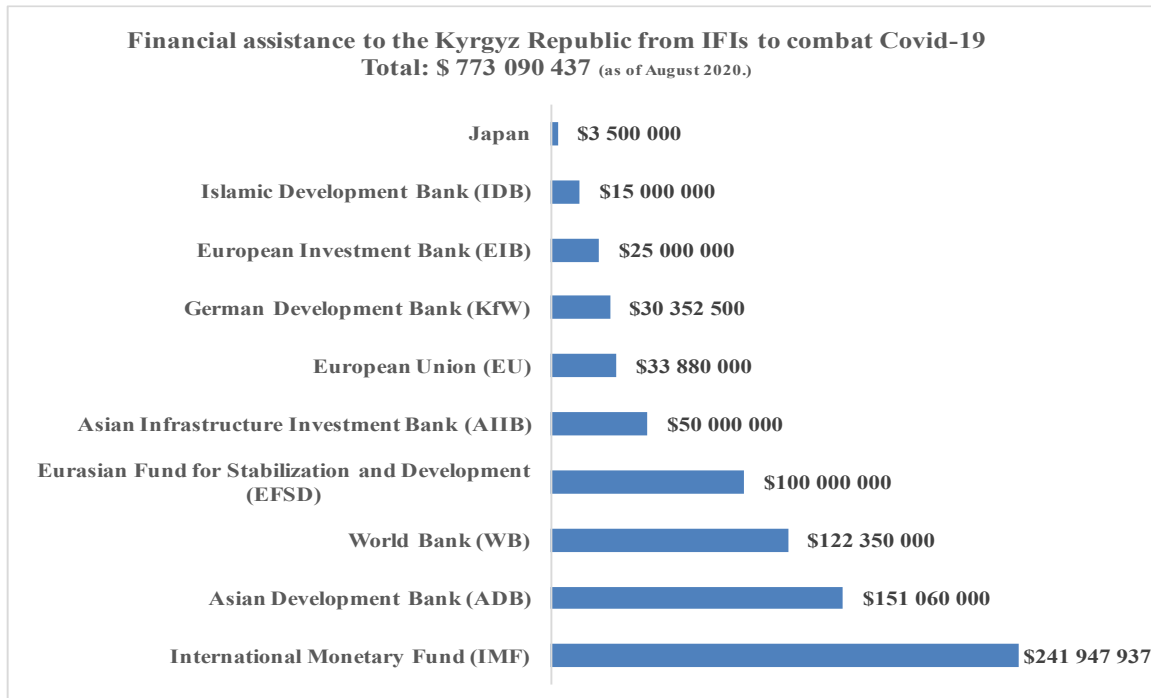
Due to the consequences of the coronavirus, the following expectations can be predicted in Kyrgyzstan:

- that the inflow of remittances will be sharply reduced due to a decrease in the number of Kyrgyz migrants working abroad and a decrease in their income;
- a significant possible increase in concessional lending from international financial institutions and grants from donors;
- reduction of tax and customs fees;
- reduction of unprotected items in the KR budget. In fact, in half a year, they have already cut it by 10%. The funds saved from the reduction of unprotected items (1.2% of GDP) are used to finance health care expenditures and other higher priority needs.
- Increase in health care costs. Almost 2.5 billion KGS (0.4% of GDP) compared to the approved initial budget of the country.
- Appeal of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on debt restructuring to IFIs and bilateral donors.
- Measures in fiscal and monetary policy;
- general banking and financial crisis due to loan defaults (or its difficulties) from small and medium-sized businesses.
- Possible growth of information and communication technologies, but limited funding for their development.

II Summary and Description of Official Development Assistance (ODA)

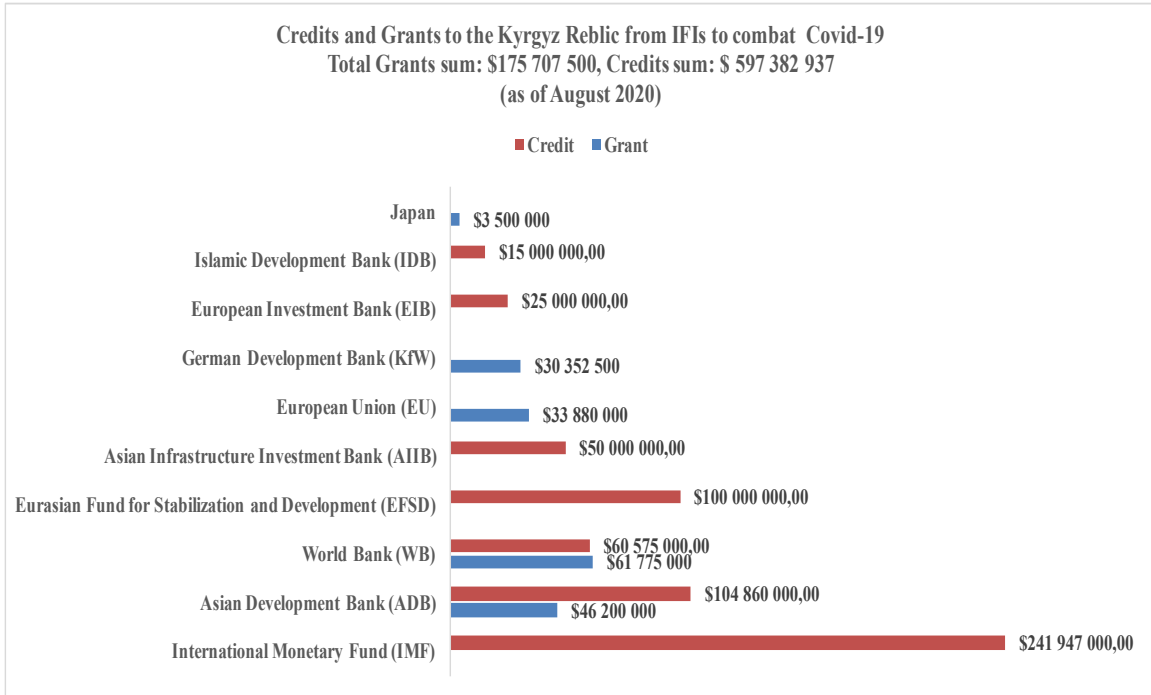
As of early August 2020, the Kyrgyz government has attracted more than \$773,090,437 external assistance to combat COVID-19. The infographic below shows that the most loans and grants were given by the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Infographics # 11



The infographic below shows that about 77% of the funds raised are loans and about 22.7% are grants.

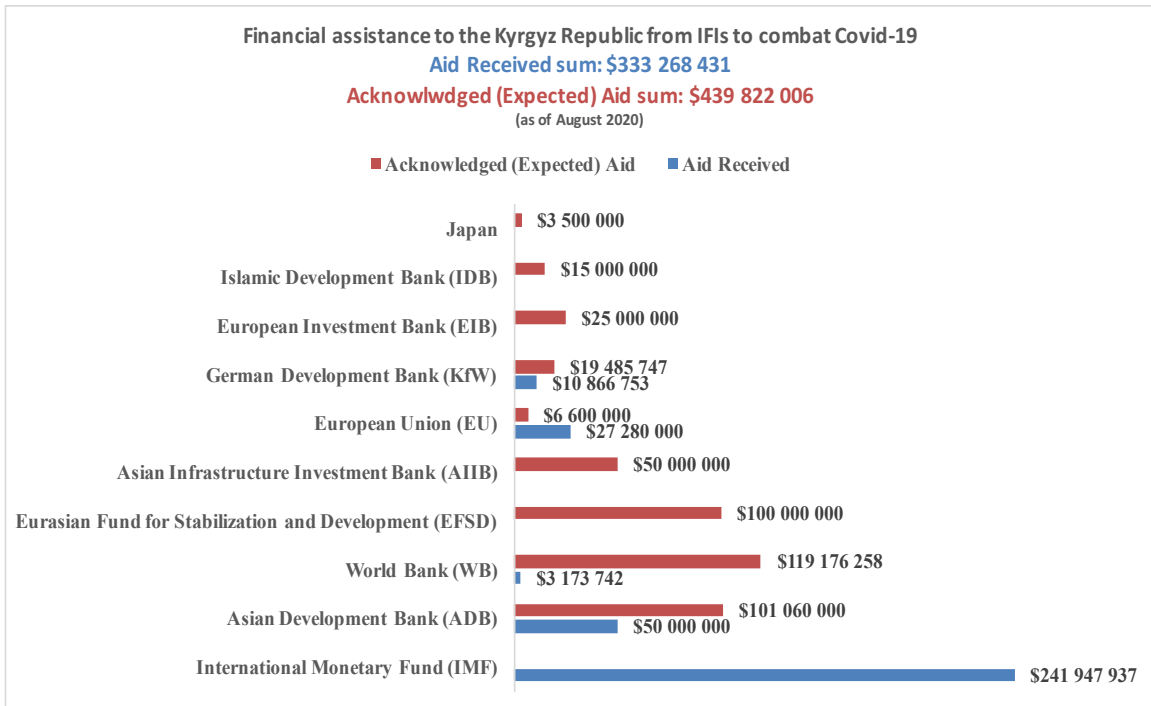
Infographics # 12



At the beginning of August 2020, assistance was received in the amount of \$333,268,431 or 43% from the total.

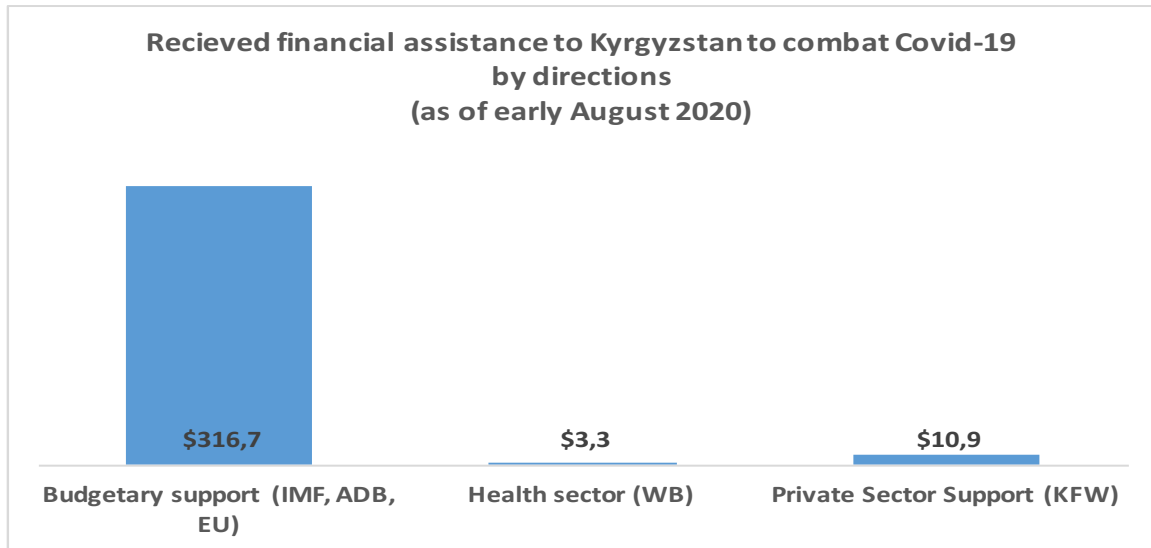
All declared amounts go through the national system, as there are agreements with the Kyrgyz Republic.

Infographics # 13



Due to the difficult social and economic situation, about 95 % of the received foreign aid was directed to “budget support” of the country.
There is no difference between the COVID-19 aid promised by multilateral and bilateral donors and the actual aid provided.

Infographics # 14



III Analysis of EDC principles in response to COVID-19

Kyrgyzstan has developed several strategic plans to combat COVID-19:

- 1 **"High priority measures PLAN to reduce the negative impact on the economic and social stability in connection with the spread of COVID-19, by the government to the Kyrgyz Republic, for 2020"**.[\[5\]](#) Order of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, dated March 30, 2020, No.186.
- 2 **"ACTION PLAN of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to restore economic activity and support the activities of business entities"**.[\[6\]](#) Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated May 6, 2020 No. 162-p .
- 3 **"Response PLAN to coronavirus infection (COVID-19) and early recovery for Cooperation between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Group for the coordination of response to emergencies"**. [\[7\]](#) Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic of May 29, 2020 No. 194-p .
- 4 **The National Emergency Action Plan (NAPAP) for COVID-19** , which was approved on March 18, 2020. Jointly with WHO and other development partners, it was developed by the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 5 **"The framework of environmental and social management measures"** dated April 26, 2020. [\[8\]](#)

The Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic (the parliament) did not participate in the development of the plans of the government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Due to the announcement of quarantine in Kyrgyzstan, civil society and the private sector were unable to actively engage in the development of the above mentioned plans.

Development partners, together with representatives of the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, developed the National Emergency Action Plan (NAPAP) for COVID-19, which was approved on March 18, 2020.

Unfortunately, civil society did not participate in the development and implementation of the abovementioned plans.

COVID-19 response authorities in the Kyrgyz Republic:

- Operational headquarters for coronavirus situation monitoring. [\[9\]](#), created in January 2020. The operational headquarters included specialists from the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic and a number of relevant state bodies. The members of the operational headquarters maintain a constant contact with representatives of the World Health Organization and exchange operational information with its representatives[\[10\]](#).
- The Republican headquarters was created to minimize the consequences of external shocks and stimulate economic development [\[11\]](#). The Republican headquarters is headed by the Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic for the economic block Mr. Erkin Asrandiev. The Deputy Chairmen of the Headquarters are the Head of the Government Staff - Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr.Samat Kylzhiyev (1), as well as Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr.Sanzhar Mukanbetov (2). This headquarters also includes other ministries and authorized representatives .

The above headquarters regularly hold press conferences and live broadcasts. Interested media and citizens can send their questions to which they would like to receive answers in advance.

Consultations with CSOs and multi-stakeholder participation in the official bodies to respond to COVID-19

The government of the Kyrgyz Republic included representatives of CSOs in various commissions and working groups. However, there were no clear criteria for who could be on these commissions.

CSO representatives were in:

- Commission for the distribution of funds received from caring citizens for the fight against coronavirus infection[12]. The commission is formed from representatives of state bodies, deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh and the civil sector (5 CSOs).
- Commission for the distribution of humanitarian aid. (Representatives of Osh CSOs were actively involved in this activity).
- Commission for monitoring the distribution of food aid to those in need in Kyrgyzstan, organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The actual role of CSO representatives in such commissions depended on the CSO representatives themselves. Some CSOs were active, gave their suggestions and recommendations[13]. They published the results of their activities in social networks. And some representatives of CSOs must admit they were rather passive.

In Kyrgyzstan, CSOs are legally entitled to have access to relevant government information for effective participation in consultations with the government on policy, on the strategies over COVID-19. However, in reality, due to the imposed quarantine, there were restrictions on CSO participation.

“The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on non-commercial organizations it states in Article 5:

“The State guarantees to non-commercial organizations the conditions for fulfilling their statutory tasks. State bodies and officials ensure the observance of the rights and legitimate interests of non-profit organizations in accordance with the Constitution and legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic and support their activities.[14]”

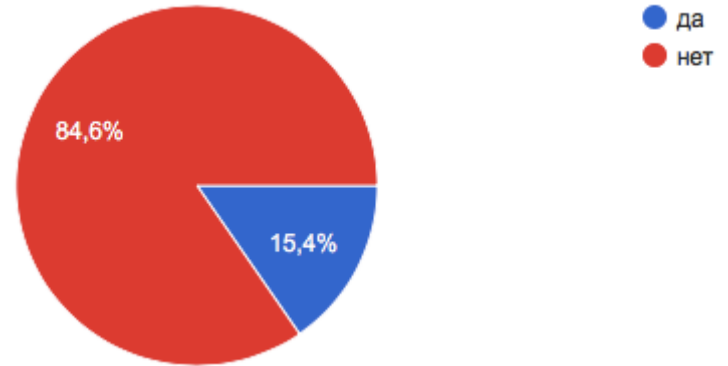
However, during the quarantine, the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic (the parliament) organized discriminatory hearings on the draft law in an attempt to limit the power of CSOs by introducing additional reporting forms. CSOs criticized the draft law and boycotted the hearings[15]. Later, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic returned the bill for revision.

Below are the answers from CSO representatives and active citizens:

Infographics # 15

Have you been invited to working groups by government agencies this year?

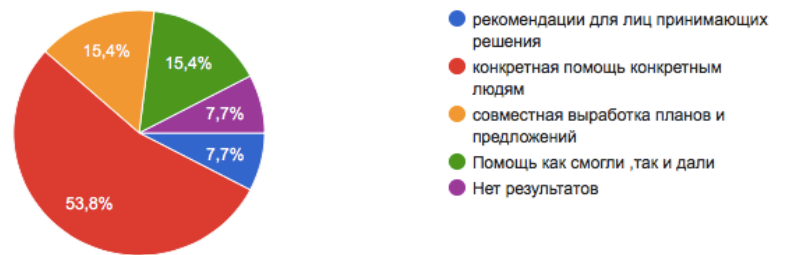
15.4% answered yes
84.6% no



Infographics # 16

What are the results of the efforts of public organizations?

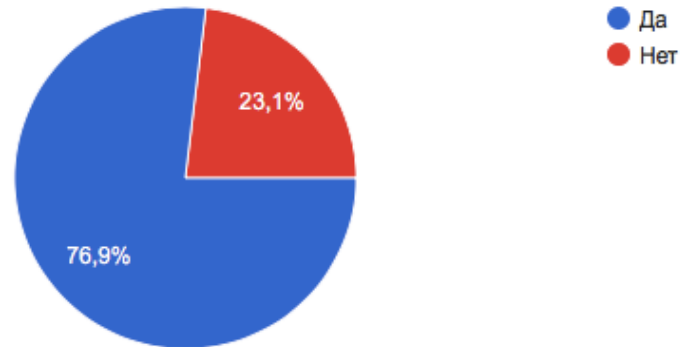
53.8% - answered specific help to specific people,
15.4% - joint development of plans and proposals,
15.4% - they did what they could,
7.7% - recommendations for decision-makers,
7.7% - no results



Infographics # 17

Are you satisfied with the activities of public organizations during the pandemic?

76.9% answered yes
23.1% answered no.



When asked what difficulties or problems public organizations faced in their activities, they basically answered as follows:

- Lack of transparent and accessible information from government agencies,
- Corruption in the healthcare system,
- Society is not ready for the challenges of the pandemic,
- Consciousness and thinking of the people,
- Bad government,
- Lack of beds, medicines, concentrators, etc.,

- Restriction of movement,
- Lack of medicines and food for doctors,
- There is no support from government agencies.

Unfortunately, donors and government are inviting only a limited number of CSO representatives to become part of task forces, committees or other multilateral bodies to respond to COVID-19. Also to those CSOs with whom there is already an established relationships. However, there is no widespread awareness and invitation to discuss strategic documents and plans with a wide range of CSOs from their side.

Transparency and accountability

There are oversight, complaint investigation and reparation mechanisms that are specific to the response to COVID-19, such as hotlines. On the website <https://COVID.kg/ru> you can ask questions through various polls and hotlines.

This mechanism was created by the Republican headquarters.

CSOs often initiate their own involvement.

Unfortunately, the strategies and policies for responding to COVID-19 do not fully reflect the position of CSOs and other sectors / entities, as there is no broad CSO involvement in the development.

The degree of other participants in the development process and how they participated in the mutual assessment of strategies and policies for responding to COVID-19, the society learns only through the media and POST FACTUM.

The reaction plans to COVID-19 are available on the Internet.

Reports on the implementation of the response plan to COVID-19 are published regularly.

Unfortunately, there is no publicly available real-time database, nor there is full information on commitments and donor transfers. But, the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic regularly (every week) publishes and updates data on foreign aid on the website of the state body. Also, the Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic has pages in social networks where it publishes information required by the society[16].

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic uses management information systems to collect information related to COVID-19. The data can be found at <https://COVID.kg/ru>

The information included in the system is publicly available.

The validity of the information contained is checked through queries.

The information in the system is used by the government as official data.

In the public domain there are government reports on the costs of development assistance and humanitarian aid [17]. Visit <https://COVID.kg/ru> .

Result orientation

High priority measures PLAN to reduce the negative impact on the economic and social stability in connection with the spread of COVID-19, by the government to the Kyrgyz Republic, for 2020 describes:

- Events,
- Responsible executors,
- Terms of implementation,
- Implementation form.

However, the abovementioned plan does not describe the expected results.

The “Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19) Response and Early Recovery Plan for Interaction between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Emergency Response Coordination Group” describes:

- Current situation,
- Tasks,
- Expected results,
- Sector activities and budget.

The Plan identifies six priority sectors:

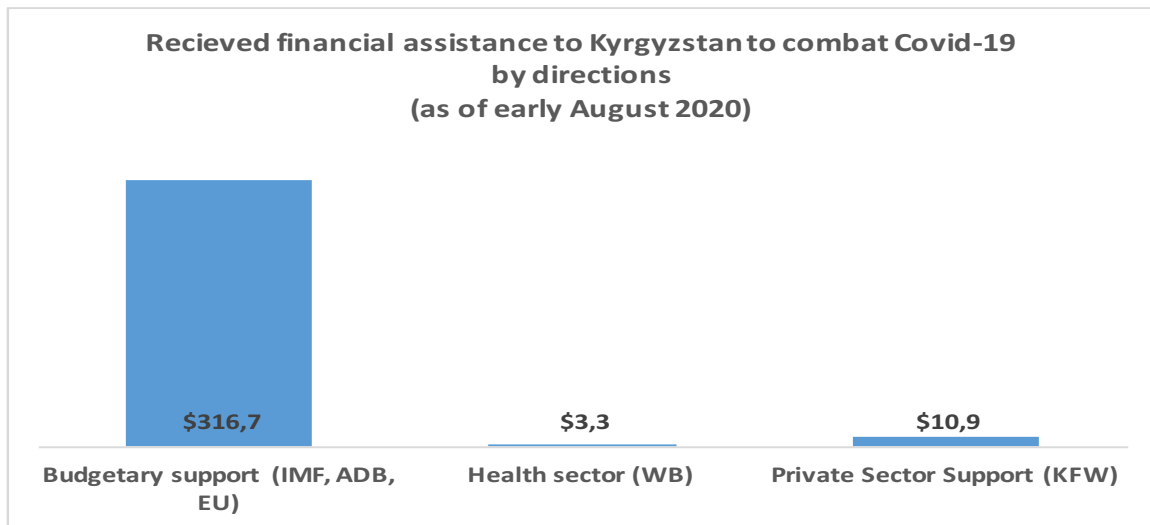
- early recovery,
- education,
- food safety and logistics,
- healthcare,
- protection and
- joint sector on sanitation and hygiene of water and non-food products.

All plans were developed 3-4 months ago. We see interim reports on the progress of the plans only in scraps through the media. However, no official reports have yet been provided to the public.

On August 26, 2020, the Eurasian Economic Commission released “ Monitoring of the measures taken by the EAEU member states to overcome the negative consequences of the spread of coronavirus infection (COVID-2019) ”. This material describes all the actions of the states: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation aimed at overcoming the negative consequences of the spread of coronavirus infection (COVID-2019) .

However, Kyrgyzstan does not have an established mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the response to COVID-19. Anyone can monitor the implementation of the Plans from open sources.

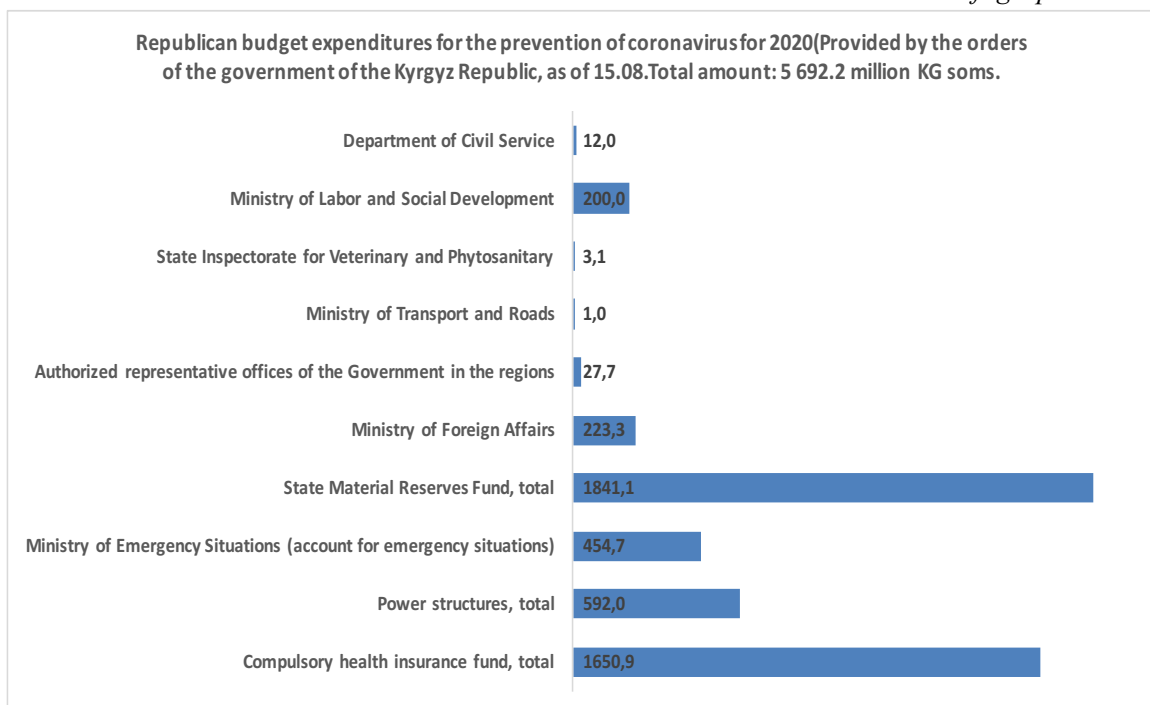
Sectors that are financed under the assistance against COVID-19 of the received funds is as follows:



Aid results of the development assistance so far are only in the short term. Since about 95% of the funds received are directed to budget support.

Basically, Kyrgyzstan takes soft loans. Interest rate are from 0.75% to 2% per annum.

More than 5 692.2 million Kyrgyz soms were allocated from the republican budget for the prevention of coronavirus[18].



The human rights movement "Bir-Duino - Kyrgyzstan" notes the human rights situation below [\[19\]](#):

“During the coronavirus pandemic, due to the restrictions imposed, the human rights situation in closed institutions has deteriorated significantly. In accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Decisions of the Republican Commandant's Office, the movement of citizens, including lawyers, was prohibited, and by the order of the State Penitentiary Service, visits and monitoring of closed institutions were prohibited, such prohibitions were received by national human rights institutions: NCPP, the Ombudsman institution. To visit a pre-trial detention center, lawyers are required to have a COVID-19 negative test certificate issued only in Bishkek and valid for several days, which made it impossible for lawyers in the regions to visit their clients. During the pandemic, the issue of access to medical care turned out to be the most problematic due to the unwillingness of the State Penitentiary Service, which focused on self-isolation, to fight the coronavirus.

...

There are many recorded cases when citizens, the same doctors, dissatisfied with the inaction of the authorities, expressing critical remarks about them or openly talking about problems, were forced to publicly reject their words, repent and apologize. And people, experiencing humiliation, were still forced to go for it, fearing losing their jobs or fearing persecution against themselves and their families. Bloggers expressing their opinion about problems or criticizing officials on social networks have become more and more persecuted by law enforcement agencies, even summoning them for interrogations to the appropriate authorities. "

The Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan notes: “Currently, every third woman in Kyrgyzstan is subjected to violence every day and only 17% of women participate in decision-making processes ”[\[20\]](#).

IV CSO Best Practices in Using EDC Principles in Response to COVID-19

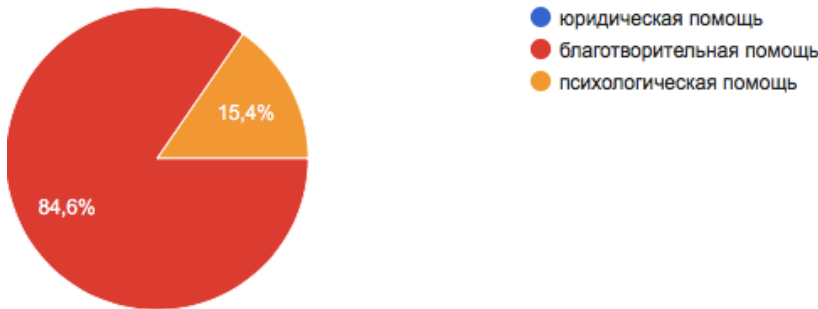
During the quarantine period, when there was no money in the country's budget and the state was forced to turn to international financial institutions for support in order to provide pensions, salaries, benefits, etc. Volunteers and CSOs mobilized. First of all, for the support of socially unprotected segments of the population, as well as for better compliance with the self-isolation regime.

We conducted a small survey of 13 CSO representatives and 20 civil society activists. Mostly CSOs were involved to provide charitable assistance to the population.

The poll results look like this:

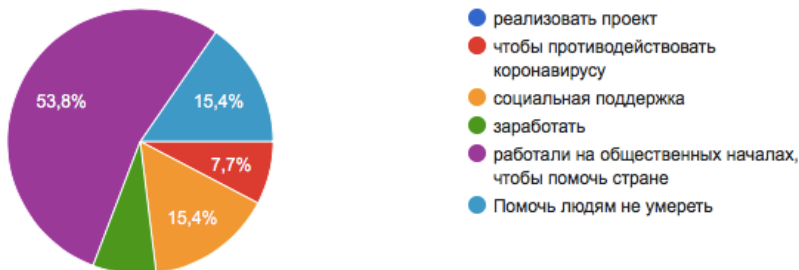
Infographics # 20 .

What help did public organizations provide during the quarantine period?
84.6% answered - charitable assistance,
15.4% - psychological assistance.



Infographics number 21.

What do you think was the purpose of public organizations that were involved in the quarantine period?
53.8% answered - worked on a voluntary basis to help the country,
15.4% - help people not to die,
15.4% - social support



One of the illustrative cases of civil society engagement that contributes (contributed) to fighting against COVID-19 are the following organizations:

- **Charity movement "Biz barbyz"**[\[21\]](#).

A distinctive feature of this movement is that they were organized during a pandemic. Several young people mobilized a movement that helped those in need. Their mission is to help society in the difficult situation caused by the coronavirus.

The Biz barbyz movement organized a crowdfunding campaign, collected funds and other non-material assistance from patrons and sent them to support the population, for those in dire need.

We organized a public hotline where those in need sent applications.

During the quarantine they gave food for charity.



After the weakening of the situation and the quarantine regime, after some time, public health could not withstand the stress. Hospitals were overcrowded, and the death rate was increasing. And this movement organized crowd funding and collected about 8 million Kyrgyz soms, which is almost 104 000 dollars US .

Approximate items of expenditure are as follows:

- 5 105 482 Kyrgyz soms - 200 oxygen concentrators for hospitals;
- 500 000 Kyrgyz soms - purchased and transferred PPE to the medical staff of various hospitals and hospitals in the country;
- 140 000 Kyrgyz soms was spent on hot meals for medical staff from various hospitals and inpatient facilities in the capital;
- 147 040 Kyrgyz soms - expenses for the creation of mobile teams with oxygen concentrators;
- 2 244 Kyrgyz soms - expenses for bank and communication.

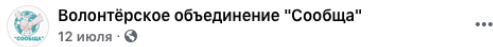
The purchase of PPE and products for organizing hot meals for medical staff continues.



- **Volunteer movement called “Soobshya”(Together),**

Slogan of the movement on social networks : "We have volunteers from Bishkek! Helping doctors fight COVID-19! We are waiting to join us and hope for your support! "[22]

This movement provided invaluable assistance, helped doctors, volunteered in hospitals. We went to the patients who needed oxygen concentrator.



Вот так все начиналось!
 Мы может не знали, как помочь в первый день.
 Но сейчас нас неравнодушных все больше и у нас есть свои волонтеры-координаторы, которые в тесной коммуникации с врачами и знают, что им не хватает.... Ещё



- **Public Charitable Foundation Elim Barsynby[23]**

This Fund also did not stand aside. During quarantine and this difficult situation, they also helped those in need[24].

This Fund has been active for a long time. They have charity boxes in almost all shopping malls where everyone can donate money.

But, this year, in connection with the difficult situation in the country, they direct all the funds raised from charitable piggy banks to fight the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

They continue to raise funds for the purchase of necessary medicine for those who needs them.



- **Religious public association "Adep Bashaty"** [\[25\]](#)

Religious public organizations did not stand aside either. One of them is "Adep Bashaty".



- **Public Foundation Nash Vek** [\[26\]](#)

Public Foundation "Nash Vek" initiated the creation of a monitoring group for the distribution of food aid through the Coordination Council of state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic; organized a working group on public monitoring of foreign aid, which set such advocacy tasks as control, monitoring, transparency, and accountability of foreign aid.

The objectives of the initiative of the "Nash Vek" were the monitoring of documents in the field of foreign aid, such as credit, financial, project agreements, action matrices, assessments (intermediate, final) and other documents. The established working group is considering such issues as relevance and the need for external assistance; quality of project implementation (loans, grants, TP).

PF "Nash Vek" used strategies such as an online appeal to activists and experts from CSOs to

create a working group on this topic. In response to an online call from the Nash Vek, 30 representatives of Kyrgyz CSOs initially signed up for the working group, 7 of them remained to actually do the work. Currently there are regular biweekly group discussions. Answers to requests, data analysis, working with documents; data on foreign aid are studied.

The working group has just started its work. The group members plan to use the monitoring results to conduct advocacy work to enhance the effectiveness of external assistance.

A number of problems appear in the work of the working group. Due to the lack of public access to all necessary documents related to external assistance to Kyrgyzstan, one of the problems is access to official documents. Other challenges for this initiative are the number of CSOs participating in the working group, insufficient experience of the group members in monitoring external assistance. There is a need for capacity building for the activists involved.

All of the above organizations regularly publish information about their activities in social networks and on their websites.

V Recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the response to COVID-19

Ownership

- Building the capacity of CSOs and local activists;
- Conduct large-scale information and involvement of all stakeholders to formulate a long-term anti-crisis plan.

Inclusive partnership

- Strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement with all stakeholders,
- Engage IT specialists and CSOs to develop information systems that will be convenient for the public,
- Actively involve CSOs in developing plans and strategies.

Transparency and accountability

- Attract finance for additional automation of state systems ,
- Develop and implement a public finance portal,
- Upgrade the external aid portal or develop a new, more efficient one,
- With proof create mechanisms to monitor policies and plans.

Result orientation

- In all subsequent plans, include “expected results”,
- Plans to clearly formulate quantitative and qualitative indicators for assessing the result.

Leave no one behind

- Emphasis on equity and fairness in plans and national documents,
- A unified approach in the developed documents, anti-crisis plans and actions at the national, regional and local levels ,
- Strengthen access to services, ensure continuous delivery of services,
- Engage partners and stakeholders,
- Concerted action to reduce inequality.
- Promote collaboration.

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