

**Socio-economic Development Centre
“SABR”
Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

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UZBEKISTAN

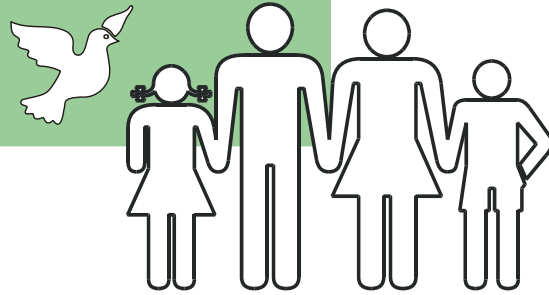


- **Total land area of Uzbekistan is 447,800 sq.km**
- **Population 27.5 mln.**
- **Urban population – 40 %**
- **Dominant religion: Islam – 80 %**
- **Population younger than 30 years old – 68 %**

Samarkand oblast

Total territory – 16.77 th.sq.km
Population 2322 th. people
Administration centre – Samarkand city
– 2750 years old





Socio-economic Development Centre “SABR”

Socio-economic Development Center “SABR” – is a voluntary non-governmental organization , which was founded in 1996.

Mission statement:

The organization works to improve the socio economic situation and protect the interests of most vulnerable layers of the society - women and children. It provides these groups with support, encouragement and opportunities for an independent life and a safe environment.



CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Psychological, social, legal and medical support to women and children in crisis**
- **Training and education activity**
- **Development and conduction of sociological and socio-psychological research, methodological manuals publication**
- **Practical and methodological support to other NGOs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.**
- **Micro-lending program realization to low-income, active layers of population so that to improve their socio-economic situation.**
- **Development of a new experimental model of socio-economic support of low-income layers of population**

Social program

The long term goal of “SABR” is to create an experimental model of socio-economic protection of most vulnerable layers of population.

Main objectives:

- Offer psychological and advisory support to the population;
- Deliver training and education activity;
- Disseminate information, organize and deliver campaigns and surveys directed towards the prevention of domestic violence and discrimination of women and their dependent children;
- Vocational training for girls and young women from low-income families



Psychological and advisory support to the population

«SABR» renders psychological, legal and medical support by counseling over two trust telephone lines and internal counseling.

Newly-married couples have conversations with “SABR” psychologists about matrimonial relations psychology, marriage hygiene, other issues regulated by Family legislation.

The following number of respondents addressed “SABR” since the moment of its creation 1996 - 2008:

18014 people - over the trust telephone line, 75% of them were women and children

5098 respondents - internally, 78% of them were women and children

3624- newly-married couples

Trainings and educational activity

Social program's independent direction – delivery of field trainings in rural area of Samarkand oblast, in communities and educational institutions of the city to raise awareness of population about the relevant aspects of Center's activity

Training topics:

- **Reproductive health, women's reproductive rights protection**
- **Family relations' psychology**
- **Domestic violence and its prevention**
- **Advocacy**
- **Gender and gender equality**
- **Preventive medicine and healthy way of life**

422 seminars and informational meetings were delivered for the period from 1996 to 2008, with 10030 of participants.



Awareness raising activity

- Informational booklets on women's and children's rights, domestic violence problem, healthy way of life publication
- Media and advocacy campaigns against domestic violence delivery
- Various events delivery (conferences, concerts, contests, round tables, socio video films release)
- Sociological surveys on relevant problems delivery



Vocational training for girls and young women from low-income families

To solve social and economic problems of young women and girls from low income families (unemployment, early marriages, domestic violence) three professional-training centers were established.

Girls are trained professional skills (sewing, embroidery, hair dressing) for 2-3 months. Simultaneously with professional trainings girls participate in social trainings on leadership, business skills, successful communication, preventive medicine and healthy way of life, domestic violence and gender issues.

Graduates can receive loans at SABR's micro finance program to develop their small business.

More than 533 girls and young women were trained in the vocational-training centers for the period from 2003 – 2008.

In 2007 The Fate Trust granted SABR with modern embroidery-sewing machine which is used in Samarkand centre for production of staff for future selling and support of SABR's activity.





Micro finance program in rural regions of Samarkand oblast

The program aims at income generating activity of low income families of the target regions of Samarkand oblast by means of appropriate conditions for private entrepreneurship creation, small business development by way of group responsibility according to micro finance schemes. Micro finance program of ‘SABR’ started its work through financial support of the NOVIB Fund (Netherlands) in 2001.

In November 2006, micro finance program was registered as a Daughter Enterprise ‘Microcredit organization of SABR’ .

Target group: Economically active low income layers of population in the rural regions of Samarkand oblast (Urgut, Ishtihan, Payarik, Taylak, Djambay regions).



Micro finance methodology and statistics

Methodology main components.

Group responsibility (groups of 3 – 7 clients)

- Interest rate - 6% monthly for the residual amount
- Loan size: first – up to 100 \$ and further on up to 300 – 1500 \$
- Loan period: 3 - 6 months
- **64 % of clients are women**

Since the beginning of the program from the year 2001 till May 2008, the total number of loans constituted 9368 , cumulative amount disbursed – 1.657.980 US \$.

To improve primary business skills of the clients, 316 business trainings were conducted by the staff of the training program of “SABR”.

“SABR”

Informational and resource center



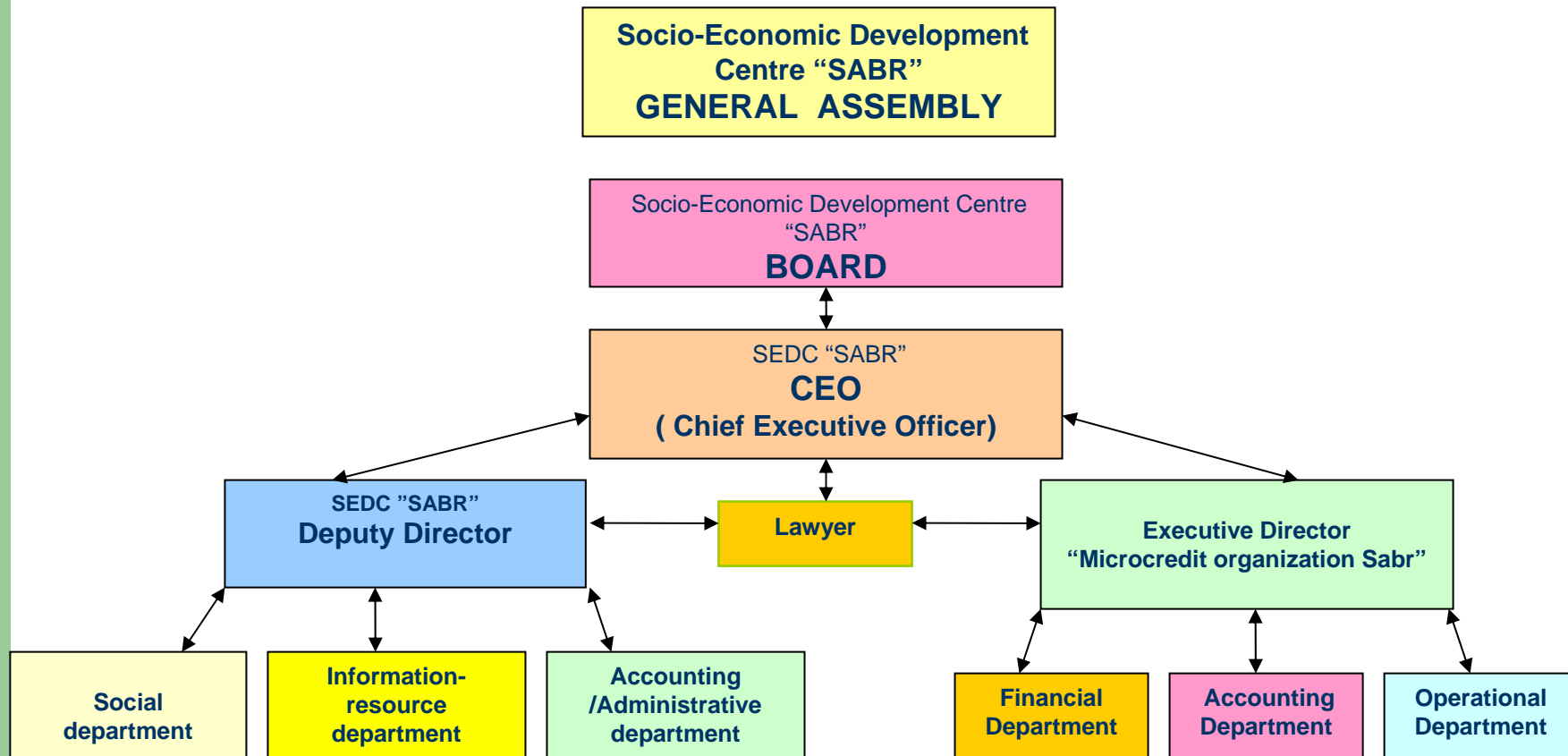
For the period of its existence “SABR” Center has accumulated considerable methodological and practical experience. “SABR” has been working as an informational and resource center since the year 2000. This activity is considered as one of the most important for awareness raising and building of multi agency approach in decision of domestic violence problems and is realized also in the framework of partnership with English colleagues.

● *Types of services:*

- Counseling services
- Training activity for other crisis centers’ staff
- Informational and resource support (to NGOs staff, students and lecturers of higher educational institutions)
- Sociological surveys delivery
- Training delivery to teachers, judicial bodies, health service and mass media representatives

- *71 staff member from crisis centers of Uzbekistan were trained by the methodology of “SABR”*
- *206 judicial bodies, health service, public education and mass media representatives were trained at “SABR” as to the prevention of Domestic violence against women and children.*

SABR's GOVERNING STRUCTURE



Board structure



In accordance with legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan the supreme body of NGO is the General Assembly. Members of the Board realize their activity between General Assembly meetings. The Board consists of five members and two associated members, who are selected by General Assembly for the period of five years.

Board members



The Board can include:

- Representative of international organization;
- Representative of public development organization or NGO, realizing its activity on the territory of Uzbekistan, etc.
- Representative of bank / financial or business organization;
- Public representatives;
- Representatives of legislative bodies or executive authorities functioning on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Benefits of International partnership

SABR has been cooperating with The Haven Wolverhampton since 1996. After analysis of the impact of partnership with the Haven Wolverhampton the Board drew a conclusion that it led towards the improvements in:

- Organizational and institutional development of organization;
- Improvement of quality and diversity of services provided;
- Increasing of professional level of staff;
- Establishment and strengthening of partnership links with local authorities and republican level authorities;
- Strengthening of technical base of organization;
- Establishment of links between two countries and dialogue between governmental and nongovernmental sectors;
- Development and strengthening of civil society in Uzbekistan by means of establishment of coalitions and networks between women's NGOs;
- And what is most important - improvement of socio-economic situation of women and reduction of domestic violence in the society.

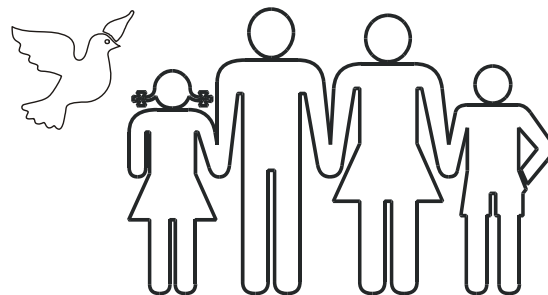
SABR's Board members would like to express their gratitude to The Haven for the opportunity of getting acquainted with the activity of the Haven's Board, whose experience was kindly represented by Mrs. Gill Atkins during her last visit to SABR.

Thank you for your attention and for fruitful and effective cooperation.

Faces of women we work with.



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