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Original Article

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## MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AMONG THE KARAKALPAKS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND NATURAL DISASTERS

*The study examines the tradition of mutual assistance among the Karakalpaks during natural disasters. The collected field materials demonstrate the importance of mutual assistance in the life of the Karakalpaks during periods of natural disasters, floods, fires and droughts. Special focus is placed on mutual assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unity and cooperation were manifested in the willingness to share money, food, medicine and during various family events such as funerals, weddings and others. Despite the strict quarantine imposed by the state, family events among the Karakalpaks continued to be held according to conventional norms. The paper describes in detail how, during quarantine, relatives, neighbors and friends provided assistance to people undergoing difficult situations.*

**Keywords:** *Karakalpaks, natural disasters, tradition of mutual assistance, pandemic, quarantine*

**Author Info:** *Khojaniyazova, Gulshana M.* — Basic Doctoral Student, Department of Ethnography, Karakalpak Research Institute of Humanities, Karakalpakstan Branch of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences (Nukus, Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan). E-mail: [gulshanx@internet.ru](mailto:gulshanx@internet.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-0732-507X>

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