



UNITED NATIONS  
AZERBAIJAN



# 2022 Annual Results Report



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Refugee children in process of writing their New Year wishes to Santa Claus in a New Year party organized for them. Photo credit: UNHCR/ 2022

Caption for cover photo: Participant at a Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) flashmob held at public to educate the public about the importance of CPR and how to perform it correctly to save lives. Photo credit: WHO/Alex Asgerzadeh/2022



## FOREWORD

Dear friends,

2022 was a special year. We celebrated the 30th anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership in the United Nations. Over the course of three decades, the collaboration with Azerbaijan has transitioned from assistance to partnership-based cooperation. We remembered the many stories that accompanied that journey through exhibitions, planting of three thousand trees, launching TV programme series on the SDGs, social media campaign, charity bazaars and discussions with young people.

There is now another story unfolding across the country. It's a story of the people of Azerbaijan, who have marshalled their resources to move the country forward, to recover from both COVID-19 and the protracted conflict.

In 2022, we continued working with the Government and other partners to support national development priorities and the SDGs focusing on five pillars - inclusive growth and decent work, effective public and social services, data and policy analysis, climate action, and gender equality, which are all interconnected and contribute to the overall goal of a prosperous and peaceful Azerbaijan. In the centre of all this work were the people of Azerbaijan, particularly women, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, internally displaced people, refugees, migrants and victims of trafficking.

In support of the SDG acceleration agenda, in 2022 we - together with the Government - launched a multi-stakeholder high-level policy dialogue platform, the SDG Dialogue series, with the first SDG Dialogue focusing on Green Transformation. We also kick-started stakeholder consultations on the availability of SDG data for Azerbaijan and gaps in SDG progress. Sustainable financing agenda benefited from the studies on development finance, SDG Investor Map and the Impact Investing Ecosystem. Fourteen new members joined the UN Global Compact, and ten new companies became signatories to the Women's Empowerment Principles in 2022.

Our support to post-conflict recovery continued in 2022, including mine action, skills development and livelihood support to IDPs and returned IDPs. National mine action capacities were enhanced, and mine risk education reached over 40,000 children. Over 9,000 people in conflict-affected areas benefited from healthcare support and 1,500 people received life sustaining humanitarian assistance. Following the EU-UN-WB Joint Recovery Needs Assessment Scoping Mission in March 2022, we are exploring options to further scale-up support to the Government-led and people-centered multi-sectoral recovery in conflict-affected areas.

We also continued to work extensively on COVID-19 recovery, providing learning recovery support for 900 school students, training and guidance for around 3,000 healthcare workers, delivery of equipment, educational campaigns on vaccination reaching about 275,000 people and the development of national guidelines on infection prevention and control.

Through targeted support for MSMEs and rural value chains UN promoted job creation and improved labour market outcomes: 287 new small businesses were created, over 1,400 young people participated in skill-building sessions.

Country's efforts to provide quality education, health services, social protection, access to justice were also supported: 35,000 children and over 9,000 pregnant women were covered under home visits, 371 refugee and asylum-seeker children and 205 children with disabilities had access to education, while the number of inclusive schools increased from 12 to 22. With UN support, 4,500 people received free legal assistance.

On climate action and the environment, we helped to publish the Third Environmental Performance Review, a comprehensive legal review of climate change adaptation policies and policy briefs on coastal areas, water, agriculture and sustainable bioenergy options. National capacities were built on monitoring and management of locusts and mitigation of pesticides, as well as on the food control and safety mechanisms to protect human health and environment.

To advance in gender equality, we supported the implementation of CEDAW recommendations, with stronger focus on response to gender-based violence with launch of referral pathways, legal and psychosocial support to survivors. Targeted advocacy and campaigns on the value of a girl child and building skills in STEM for young girls and women were also our focus in 2022. A technical review of the Azerbaijan Labour Code was conducted to promote non-discrimination in employment and occupations which led to the reduction of prohibited professions for women from 674 to 204 by the Parliament. Together with a coalition of partners, including bloggers, artists, filmmakers, painters, psychologists, and sociologists, a momentous 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign was carried out in 16 districts of Azerbaijan, reaching nearly 2,700 people.

This report further details our work in 2022 and we, as a whole UN family, look forward to continue with partners building an ever more peaceful and prosperous Azerbaijan.

**Vladanka Andreeva**  
UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan

# UN COUNTRY TEAM IN AZERBAIJAN



# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN IN THE COUNTRY

In 2022, the UN worked in partnership with various stakeholders in Azerbaijan, including government agencies, civil society organizations, international organizations, the private sector, academia, and social media influencers to promote sustainable development and human rights in the country.

The Government of Azerbaijan was a key partner of the UN in 2022, providing financial, human, and administrative resources to implement development initiatives, with a strong focus on policymaking.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) were key partners of the UN to promote development, human rights, gender equality, and citizen participation.

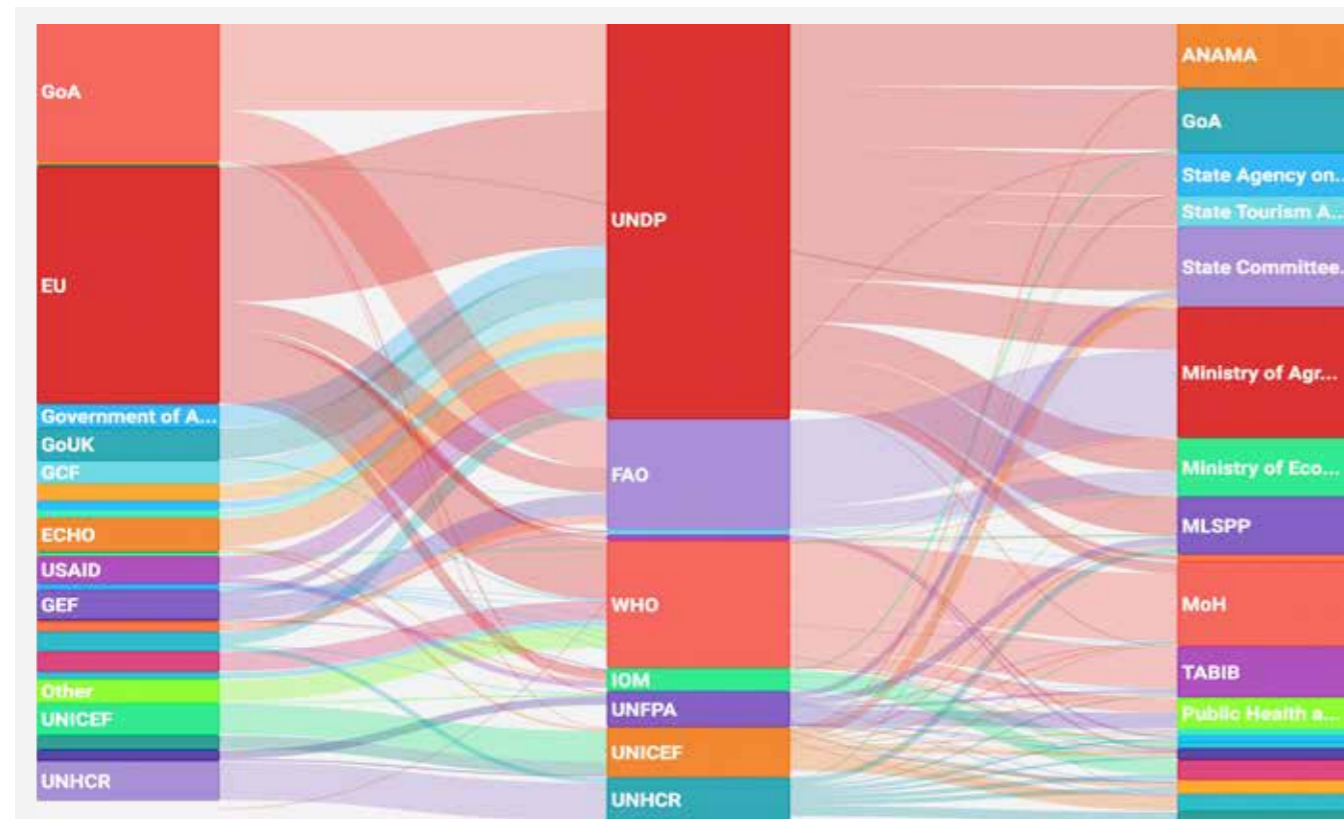
The UN partnered extensively with the private sector in 2022 to promote sustainable economic development and encourage responsible business practices, as the private sector plays a critical role in creating jobs, generating income, and promoting innovation.

The UN's work with academia advanced research and analysis to inform policymaking and built the capacities of young people and professionals through training, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

The UN's collaboration with social media influencers, including during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, helped educate and activate the public on social and development issues.

Linking Contributing Partners, UN Agencies, and Implementing Partners. View the live graph on [UNINFO.ORG](https://www.uninfo.org)

Contributing partners



- |  |                             |  |                          |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
|  | United Nations              |  | Lukoil                   |
|  | Azerbaijan                  |  | The Netherlands          |
|  | European Union              |  | Norway                   |
|  | Global Environment Facility |  | Slovenia                 |
|  | Green Climate Fund          |  | Türkiye                  |
|  | Japan                       |  | United Kingdom           |
|  | Republic of Korea           |  | United States of America |

# 1 COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

## National policies and the 2030 Agenda

In 2022, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved two important policy documents: the *Socio-Economic Development Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2022-2026)* and the *State Programme for the Great Return to the Liberated Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2022-2026)*.

These documents guide the implementation of the vision set forth in *Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development* and the strong commitment from the Government to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Socio-Economic Development Strategy outlines five national priorities:

1. Sustainably growing competitive economy
2. Dynamic, inclusive, and equitable society
3. Competitive human capital and modern innovations
4. The great return to the territories liberated from occupation
5. Clean environment and “green growth” country

A total of 32.7 billion Azerbaijani manat (USD 19.2 billion) is expected to be required for implementation of the Strategy, 58.7 percent of which towards the implementation of the State Programme for the Great Return.

## Economic Overview

The economy expanded by 4.6% in 2022. While the energy sector contracted by 2.7% from the previous year, non-energy sectors grew by 9.1% in comparison to 2021. Among the main drivers of growth were tourism, accommodation and public catering, transport and warehousing, information and communications, and construction.

The war in Ukraine has not caused major disruptions on Azerbaijan’s trade. The surge in global energy prices has boosted external revenues and pumped up the country’s foreign exchange reserves and fiscal buffers.

Inbound remittances grew at a remarkable rate: by the third quarter of 2022, the level was already 2.5 times more than that of the entire previous year. However, dependence on food imports from abroad, coupled with soaring global commodity prices and supply chain disruptions, have driven up prices in the country, resulting in an overall annual inflation rate of 13.9 percent, including a food inflation rate of 19.5 percent in 2022.

Effective 1 January 2023, the government introduced a series of fiscal policy measures, including the increase of the minimum wage, pensions, and subsistence minimum, in order to limit the impact of higher prices on vulnerable groups. Despite GDP growth and solid fiscal buffers, Azerbaijan’s economic transition performance is lagging behind the regional average—especially in resilience and competitiveness—as noted in the transition quality report of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

## Structural reform developments

In April 2022, the President approved the National Action Plan to Strengthen the Fight Against Corruption for 2022-2026, which aims to increase government transparency, prevent corruption, and strengthen public accountability. In parallel, the authorities launched new portals to encourage citizens’ e-participation in decision-making.

Financial inclusion has been strengthened. In March 2022, the Central Bank of Azerbaijan enabled banking products and services to be sold by third parties to offer better access to financial services for people in areas with little coverage by bank branches.

In June 2022, amendments to the tax code to form a favourable tax regime in the capital markets came into force. Dividends and interest income from publicly traded shares and bonds are exempt from income tax for five years, starting in February 2023.

In early 2022, construction began on a 240 MW wind power plant and a 230 MW solar power plant, marking an important step towards boosting the use of renewable energy in the country following the commitments made at COP26.

## Post-conflict recovery

Demining, reconstruction, and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have remained among Azerbaijan’s top priorities since 2020. The Government has initiated a range of institutional mechanisms, extensive land use planning, physical reconstruction, and engagement with IDPs and the business sector for integrated recovery and rehabilitation of conflict-affected districts.


## National progress towards the SDGs

In 2022, Azerbaijan’s ranking in the “SDGs Index” moved up to 50th place (from 55th in 2021) among 163 countries, achieving 73.5 points out of 100, which is higher than the regional average of 71.6 points for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Azerbaijan has made progress on the SDGs related to poverty, nutrition, education, clean water, and sustainable cities and communities. However, the report highlighted challenges in such areas as health, water, renewable energy, and research and development.

## Human development

Azerbaijan’s [Human Development Index \(HDI\)](#) value for 2021 was 0.745, putting it at 91 out of 191 countries and territories. However, when adjusted for inequality, the HDI fell to 0.685. The Gender Inequality Index—which measures gender inequalities in reproductive health, empowerment, and labour—showed a value of 0.294, ranking the country 70 out of 170 countries.

## Macroeconomic Indicators



<b>GDP per capita (2021)</b>	USD 5,388.00
<b>Government Budget Expenditure (2021)</b>	23.1% on social protection 4.6 % on health 10.7 % on education
<b>Unemployment Rate (2021)</b>	6% total , 4.9% (men), 7% ( women)
<b>Labor force participation rate (15-64) (2019)</b>	72.0 % (Total) 75% (male) & 70% (female)

## Demographic & Social Indicators



<b>Population (1 January 2023)</b>	10,127,145
<b>Life expectancy (2020)</b>	67
<b>Poverty rate (national) (2021)</b>	5.9%
<b>Maternal mortality rate (2021)</b>	17.8%
<b>Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births) (2021)</b>	17
<b>Enrollment Rate (% gross) (2021)</b>	46% pre-primary; 94 % primary and secondary; 38% tertiary
<b>Proportion of women in managerial positions (2021)</b>	36.2 %

## Selected Global Rankings



<b>Rule of Law Index (2022)</b>	Overall Score: 39.4 Global Rank: 103/150
<b>Human Development Index (2021)</b>	Score: 0.745 Global Rank: 91/190
<b>Economic freedom Index (2023)</b>	Score: 61.4 Global rank: 75/176 Regional Rank: 37/44
<b>SDG Index (2022)</b>	Score: 73.5 points Global Rank: 50/163
<b>Global Gender Gap Index (2022)</b>	Score: 0.69 Global Rank 101/146
<b>Environmental Performance Index (2022)</b>	Score: 38.6 Global Rank 104/180





## 2 | UN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

### 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The UN in Azerbaijan works with partners in all sectors to support the Government's efforts on national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This work spans a variety of issue areas such as economic development, public services, climate action, health, gender equality, and data and policy analysis. In reality, these areas of work are all related to one another, and they serve the greater cause of a thriving and peaceful Azerbaijan.

Following is a summary of some of the highlights of outcomes achieved with the support of the UN in Azerbaijan. After this summary is a detailed discussion of work in each of these areas.

**Post-conflict recovery:** The UN is supporting Azerbaijan in its post-conflict recovery, committing USD12 million for mine action efforts in 2021-2024. In 2022, the UN supported the information management capacity of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action; a mine risk educational initiative that reached over 40,000 children; distribution of 200,000 educational materials on mine safety; and mine surveys of nearly 1,300 km<sup>2</sup> in 99 villages. In other post-conflict recovery work, the UN supported training for 2,000 schoolteachers and 200 school psychologists in children's social and emotional learning skills, and health-care provision to over 9,000 people in conflict-affected areas.

The map below displays the number of activities per location. Visit [UNINFO.ORG](https://uninfo.org) to navigate on the map and to get a summary description of the various activities.

Where we work: UN activities in 2022 reached to 176 across the country.

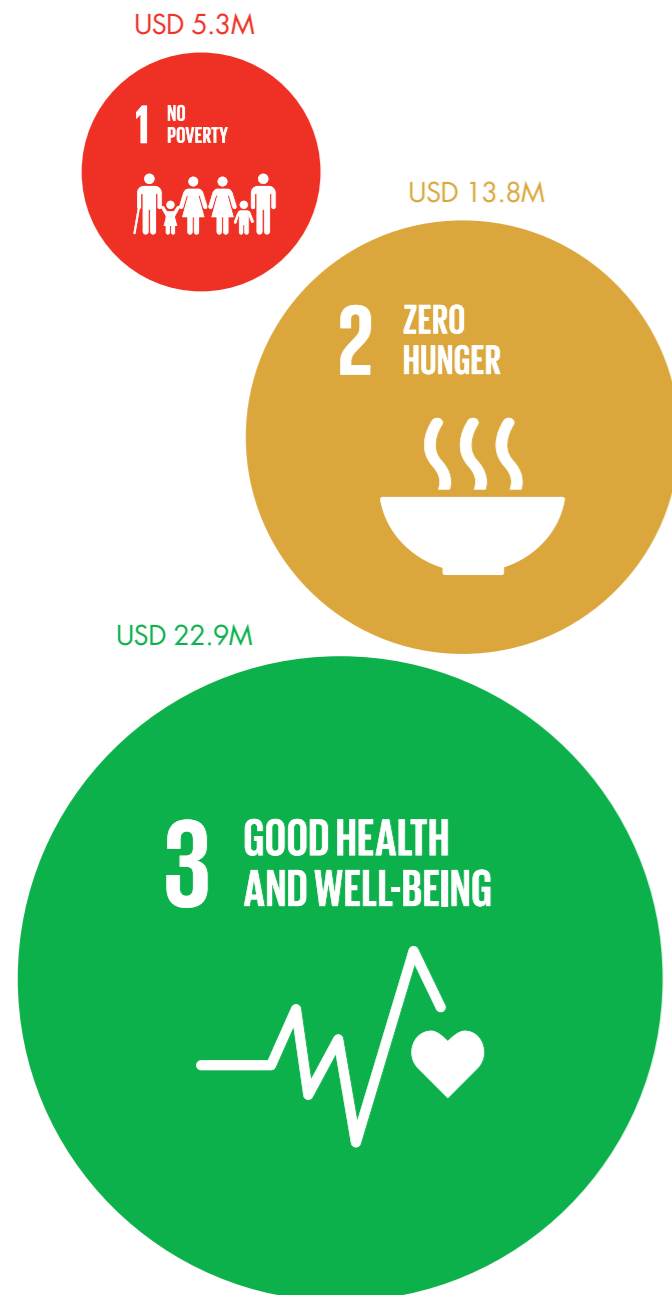


## OUTCOME 1.1

### Inclusive growth and decent work

In 2022, the UN supported micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including the creation of nearly 300 new small businesses (83% led by women); Women's Resource Centers that linked 1,000 women to network, support each other and learn; skill-building sessions for 1,400 young people; an online employment platform; a campaign on vocational training that reached over 46,000 people; agricultural equipment for 250 women; 12 supply contracts between local food producers and buyers; and technical guidance for public policy to promote decent work and financial inclusion.

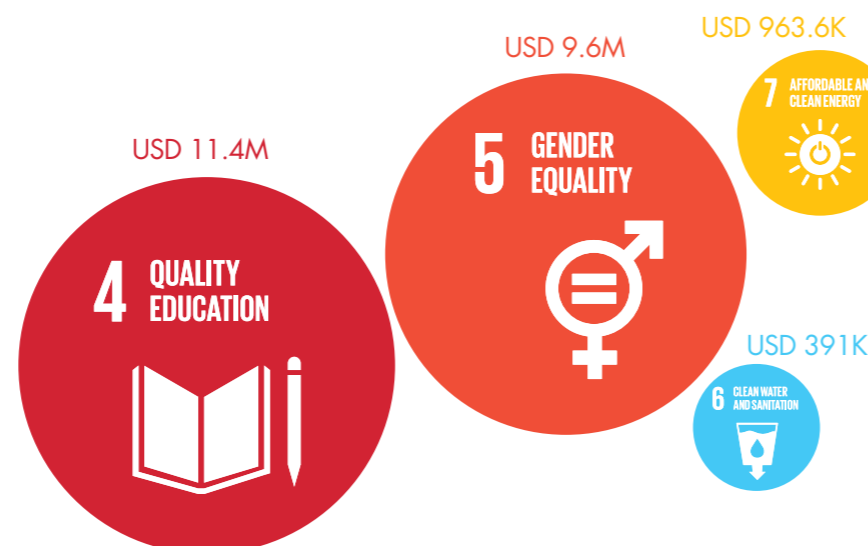
How the UN contributes to the SDGs: the graphic illustrates resource allocations towards each SDG goal, based on the available resources for 2022



## OUTCOME 2.1

### Social protection and quality public and social services

The UN has supported Azerbaijan's efforts to provide quality education, health services, social protection, access to justice, effective governance, and other services. In 2022, the UN worked extensively on COVID-19, supporting learning recovery support to some 900 students; advocacy and counselling for nearly 400 refugee and asylum-seeker children; training for 100 hospital administrators on infection prevention and control measures; guidance for 250 healthcare workers on the treatment of long-term effects of COVID-19; delivery of 260 information technology devices to the Government, as well as 6,000 units of cold-chain equipment; a national guideline on strengthening immunization service; educational campaigns on COVID-19 that reached 275,000 people. In the area of quality and inclusive health services, in 2022 the UN supported the creation of a roadmap on an emergency management system; over 500 psychological counselling sessions; training for 84 doctors on mental health care in conflict-affected areas; the launch of a mental health self-help website; a nurses' home visiting model that reached over 35,000 children and 9,000 pregnant women; training for 380 healthcare workers in 16 maternity wards on the promotion of breastfeeding; a neonatal health screening initiative that reached 6,400 new-borns; a school nutrition program in 30 schools in Baku; and a national strategy on food loss and waste. In other areas, in 2022 the UN supported the National Child Helpline, which received over 1,600 calls from children during the year; the pilot of a child safeguarding system in 25 schools that covered more than 27,000 children; free legal aid to nearly 4,500 vulnerable people; training for close to 300 lawyers and civil society groups on human rights; resources on career learning and personal development for 20,000 young people.



## OUTCOME 2.2

### Data for decision-making and policy

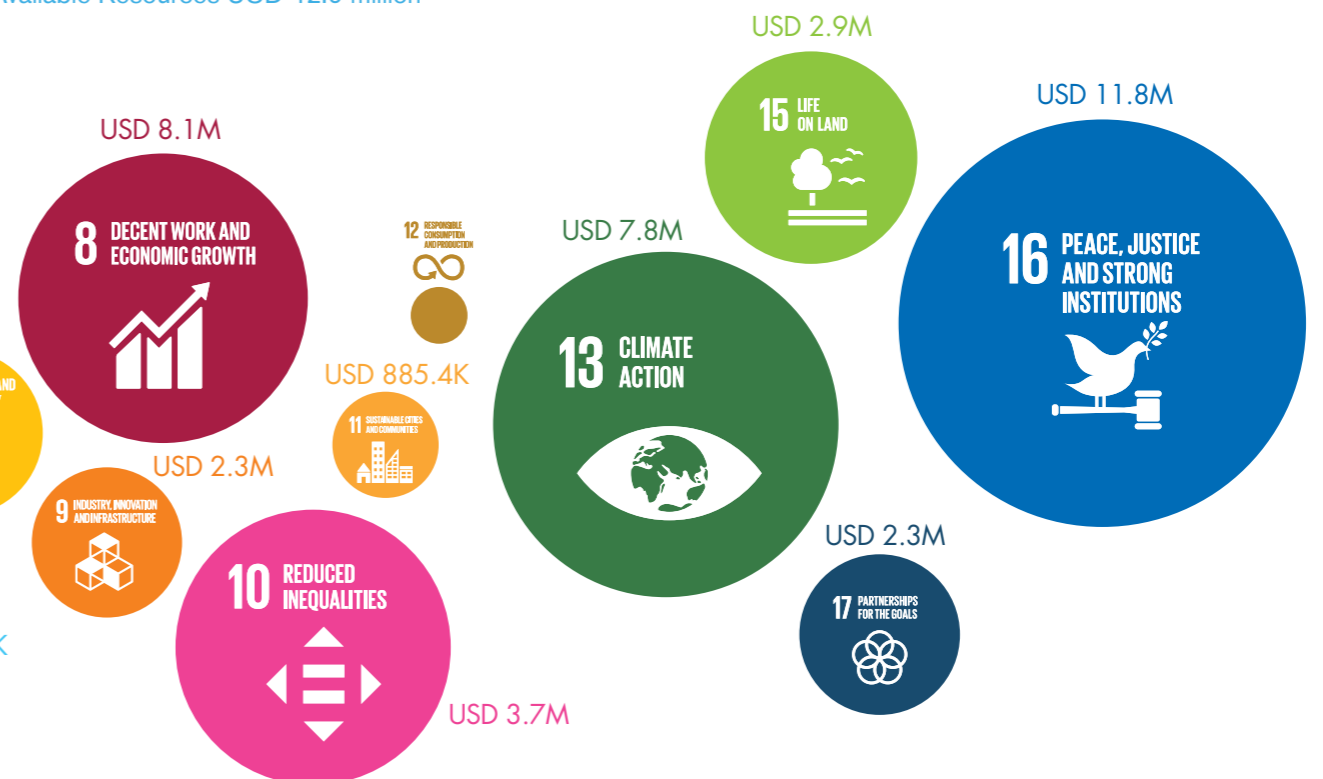
In 2022, the UN supported preparations on data collection for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS); completion of an analysis of child poverty in the country; and an assessment on social protection mechanisms, which will be used in adapting systems to shocks.

## OUTCOME 3.1

### Climate action and the environment

In 2022, the UN supported a comprehensive legal review of climate change adaptation policies in Azerbaijan; introduction of the Climate Change Vulnerability Index; Government efforts to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy; the disposal of persistent organic pollutants, and the safeguarding of 160 tons of obsolete pesticides; development and adoption of guidelines on emissions production and gender equality in energy policies; and an assessment and recommendations on water management in the Kura River area.

Available Resources USD 42.9 million



## OUTCOME 4.1

### Gender-equitable society

In 2022, the UN advanced gender equality in Azerbaijan by supporting implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Azerbaijan; the first-ever web portal providing referrals to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); the launch of "safe spaces" and provision of free legal and psychosocial support at Women's Resource Centers around the country; vocational training for 235 survivors of GBV; integration of gender-mainstreaming into the National School Improvement Plan; a "Men for Gender Equality" platform targeting faith-based communities on social media that reached some 40,000 people; community-based trainings and information sessions on gender equality and religion for over 1,000 people; an online campaign on gender equality and women's empowerment that reached 10,000 people around the International Day of the Girl Child; college and school discussions on gender-based violence and discrimination that reached more than 1,000 young people; information sessions on reproductive health and the prevention of violence and harmful practices, reaching more than 5,000 adolescent girls; and a STEM mentorship programme for girls that engaged 300 mentees and mentors.



## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes, and outputs

### Post-conflict recovery response

A joint high-level meeting between the Government and the UN on post-conflict and post-pandemic recovery in early 2022 helped pave the way for a productive relationship between the UN and its partners to support humanitarian work, recovery, and sustainable development in Azerbaijan.

In 2022, the UN in Azerbaijan teamed up with the European Union (EU) and the World Bank (WB) to outline its post-conflict recovery response. The response will include a joint recovery needs assessment (JRNA), technical assistance, and data and analytics support in the areas of (i) institutional support and inclusive planning; (ii) social services and sustainable returns; (iii) resilient economic development; (iv) environmental recovery and sustainable energy transformation; and (v) gender equality and social inclusion.

The conflict has left behind a significant number of landmines and unexploded ordnance, posing a serious threat to the safety of communities in the affected areas. The UN continued working with the Government to build capacities to clear unexploded ordnance and educate local communities on mine risk. With support from development partners, the UN has mobilised over USD 12 million for the period 2021-2024 to support the Government's mine action efforts, as noted in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) 2022 update.

The capacity of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) was enhanced on information management including recent and historic mine and victim location data, usage of satellite imagery, remote sensing data and drones. Profiles for seven conflict-affected districts were developed with estimates of resource requirements and expected duration of mine action. ANAMA was supported with the application of National Mine Action Standards (NMAS), and the introduction of an international information and quality management system (IMSMA Core), a computerized decision support tool for the coordination and management of operational activities. In addition, four local NGOs were engaged to support the return of internally displaced persons, as well as surveys and advocacy campaigns for a mine-free South Caucasus. Fully-equipped mine clearance teams surveyed nearly 1,300 km<sup>2</sup> in 99 villages.

The International conference on mine action, "Humanitarian Mine Action and the SDGs," provided a space for experts from 37 countries to exchange experiences

and make strategic recommendations in support of mine action in Azerbaijan.

The Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Programme trained over 1,000 teachers in nearly 100 schools and over 500 community leaders and volunteers in 10 conflict-affected districts to facilitate community and school-based activities that reached over 40,000 children (42% girls). A public awareness-raising campaign promoting safe behaviour included six billboards on highways and 75 billboards in conflict-affected villages. 200,000 educational materials including games, copybooks, colouring books, and stickers were printed and distributed to make the information easily absorbable for children.

The UN also helped to convene the First National Urban Planning Forum, on the theme "SDGs and the New Urban Agenda as drivers of post-conflict recovery and reconstruction." The forum served as a multistakeholder platform to strengthen commitments to a greener, smarter, more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urbanization in the context of ongoing reconstruction and recovery efforts in the regained territories.

The UN continued supporting schools' capacity to deliver quality mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to children and adolescents in nine conflict-affected districts. Over 2,000 schoolteachers and 200 school psychologists now have the capacity to support children's social and emotional learning skills. The needs of girls, children with special needs in education, and other vulnerable children were at the center of these programmes.

The UN supported local efforts to enhance health-service provision and capacity-building in conflict-affected districts: over 9,000 people (about 35% women, 47% children) were examined and received medical support from five mobile medical teams, including neurologists, therapists, pediatricians, and psychologists in Aghdam, Barda, Tartar, Aghjabadi, Fuzuli and Ganja.

To further support livelihoods in conflict-affected communities, the needs of 194 families in Fuzuli and Tartar districts were assessed, and 74 families (70% women and 5% persons with disabilities) were given assistance to engage in animal husbandry. In addition, 1500 people (22% women, 36% elderly and 21% young persons) received life sustaining humanitarian assistance.

69-year-old Tamilla Huseynova residing at Ahmatalilar village of Fuzuli district affected by the conflict was one of the beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance by the UN. Photo credit: UNHCR/Elsevar Aghayev/2022





# OUTCOME 1.1 INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

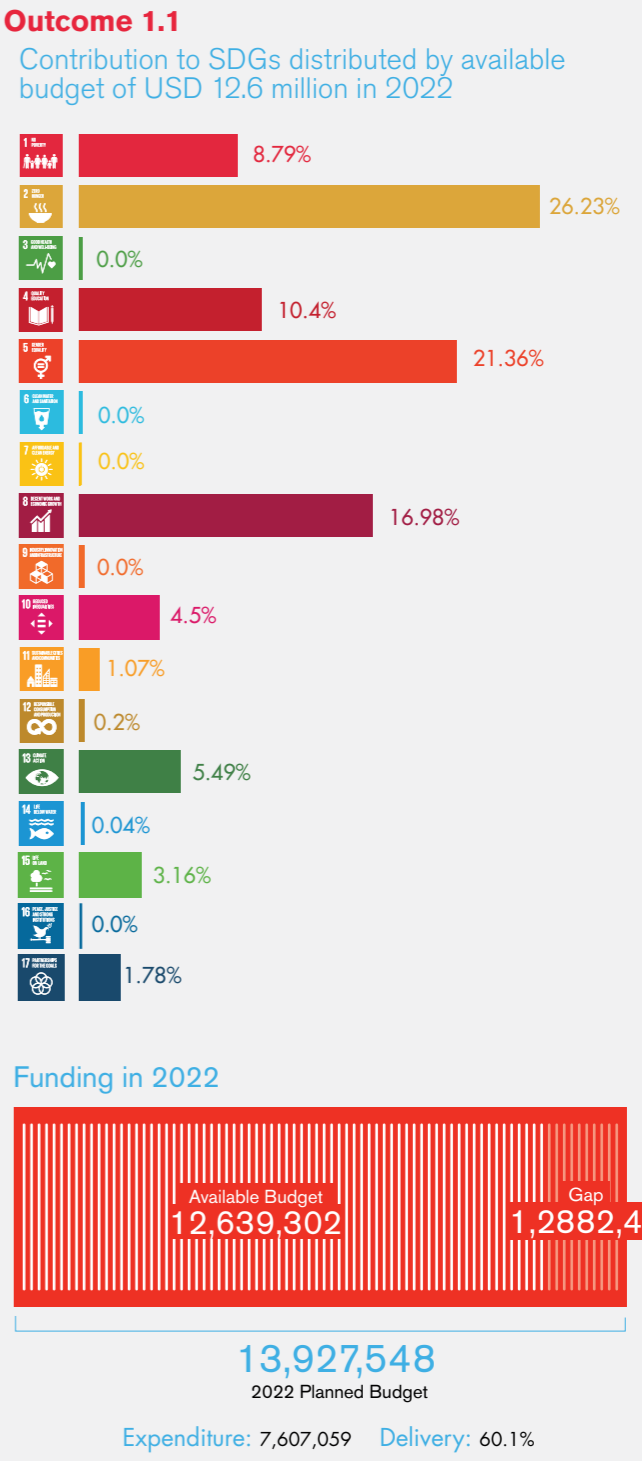
People furthest behind participate in and benefit from a diverse and innovative economy encompassing a future-oriented labour market and access to decent work

While the country has made progress in recent years in terms of economic growth and diversification, unemployment rates remain high (6%), particularly among young people aged 15-29 (10.1%) and women (7%, as compared to 4.9% for men). Furthermore, many workers continue to work in the informal sector without adequate social protection, and there are significant disparities in wages and working conditions across different industries and regions. MSMEs and social enterprises, including women-owned businesses, face significant challenges such as limited access to finance (only 8.2% of enterprises have access to credit, according to the World Bank's Enterprise Survey 2021), insufficient skills and knowledge to adapt to the changing business environment, and regulatory hurdles. Agriculture remains the primary source of income for many rural households, but the sector is often characterized by low productivity, outdated technology, and limited market access.

In 2022, the UN continued to work with national partners to address these challenges through programs aimed at promoting job creation and improving labour market outcomes, targeted support for MSMEs, vocational education and training and targeted support in rural value chain development.

### Support for MSMEs

The UN helped to set-up and sustain micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which are key drivers of employment. In 2022, 287 new small businesses were created (83% led by women, 3% by survivors of trafficking, 6% by persons with disabilities, and 8% by internally displaced persons). Building on the success of the Women's Resource Centers, this work expanded to three new districts in 2022, namely Jalilabad, Barda, and Sumgayit. These Centers bring together more than 1,000 members to support women-led entrepreneurship and employment. In 2022, the Centers held six sales exhibitions and 30 networking events.



OUTCOME 1.1 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



Samira Shabanzada, who successfully expanded her beekeeping business in Zagatala district, proudly presents her products  
Photo credit: UNDP/2022



Sadagat Babayeva, one of the beneficiaries of women empowerment project, enjoys the harvest of her garden after expanding it with new skills and knowledge. Photo credit: FAO/2022

A report and roadmap with policy recommendations on social entrepreneurship was presented to the national stakeholders involving social entrepreneurs, government officials, experts, innovation labs, and international organizations.

### Skill-building and vocational education

UN interventions built human capital and a skilled workforce to boost employment opportunities for the most vulnerable segments of population, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, refugees and others. In 2022, over 1,400 young people (611 women) participated in skill-building sessions with UN support. Among the participants were refugees (65), internally displaced persons (23), persons with disabilities (61), and survivors of trafficking (26). In addition, the online job platform [PROGRO](#), established with UN support, continued to connect job-seekers and employers, including over 2,000 young job-seekers (66% increase since September 2021) and 20 companies.

The UN continued to work with a broad range of national partners to improve the quality of vocational education in Azerbaijan. A campaign to promote vocational training and education reached over 46,000 people in nearly 200 schools and complemented Open Door Days organized by the State Agency of Vocational Education (SAVE). Three Boards of Trustees (BoTs) were established for the State Vocational Education Centers (SVEC) with the engagement of 72 representatives of private-sector companies, including leading hotels, restaurants, and retailers. This contributed to the joint review and update of the curriculum of vocational education and training (VET) centers in 2022. In addition, four Career Support Centers were established in VET schools in Baku and Ganja. The UN also enhanced the capacities of VET schools to develop digital learning resources and deliver online training courses. A Competence Center for Teacher Training was established at the VET on Industry and Innovation and the range of modules extended to new areas such as maintenance of TV studios, drones, and robotics. In total, 1,441 students benefited from career guidance and learning programmes, and over 4,600 people accessed 51 online lessons on vocational training subjects in 2022.



**287**

**NEW SMALL BUSINESSES** were created (80% led by women, 3% by survivors of trafficking, 6% by persons with disabilities, and 8% by internally displaced persons).



**1,400+**

#### YOUNG PEOPLE

participated in skill-building sessions with UN support. Among the participants were 611 women, 65 refugees, 23 internally displaced persons, 61 people with disabilities and 26 survivors of trafficking.



**250+**

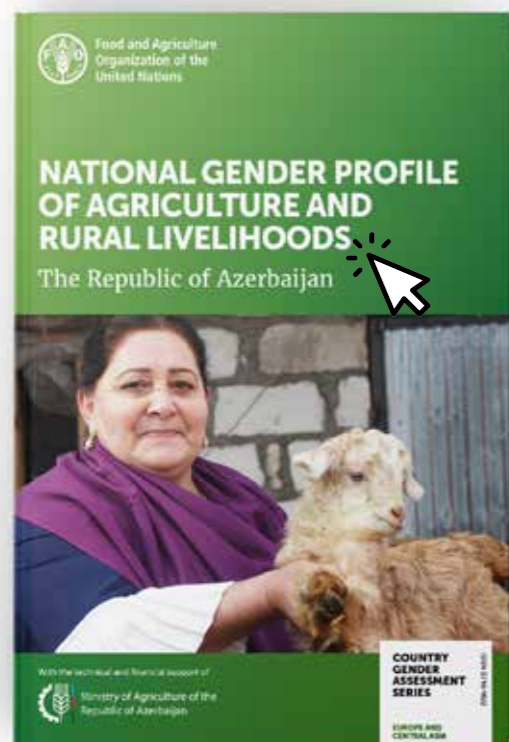
#### WOMEN

from 12 districts received agricultural equipment and tools for beekeeping, dairy, poultry, and horticulture.



### Rural livelihoods and agriculture

The UN's interventions for improving rural livelihoods targeted women, as they make up about 45% of the agricultural labour force in the country, with many of them working on small-scale family farms. Over 250 women from 12 districts received agricultural equipment and tools for beekeeping, dairy, poultry, and horticulture. The findings



Click to read

and recommendations of [Country Gender Assessment](#) was widely communicated to national stakeholders to inform gender-sensitive policy-making in agriculture. A study was conducted on gender-sensitive credit schemes that includes recommendations to integrate gender perspectives into decisions on resources provided to smallholders and farmers, especially rural women.

Value chain development for fruit and vegetable production and animal husbandry was supported with capacity-building for farmers and service providers, focusing on community-driven collaboration including farm associations and unions. To improve agricultural production, the technical capacities of research institutes and laboratories on vegetable farming and seed production were enhanced for disease diagnostics and eradication. A total of 45 advisory service providers (50% women), were trained in mainstreaming gender in their action plans.

The UN also facilitated 12 supply contracts between 23 local food production groups and buyers. The capacities of rural people were built in better farming and marketing techniques: 708 farmers (17% women) in hazelnut production, 100 women in business development, animal husbandry, and fruit cultivation, and 223 households in sustainable farming of native crops.

The first Ideathon on Agrinnovation in Lankaran engaged 74 youth (28% women) to put forward innovative ideas in the cultivation and processing of fruits and vegetables.



## HUMAN STORY

### New opportunities for vocational graduates in Azerbaijan: how to start your career at 17

This year, one VET graduate who managed to find a good job shortly after graduation is 17-year-old Malahat Azizova (in the left photo). After successful training as a cook at VET school No.5 (Buzovna village near Baku), she was assigned for a work internship at one of the famous restaurants.

Having proved herself in the kitchen, Malahat was hired as an assistant cook in the summer. Now, she has a steady job, decent earning, and promising career prospects.

“Being a cook didn’t seem to me very serious, as anyone can cook something, one way or another. Spending two years to learn how to cook— back then, it seemed to me a strange idea,” Malahat recalls with a smile on her face.

But when she started her first classes at the school, Malahat discovered that cooking had many interesting nuances.

“The courses revealed to me the entire world of various culinary styles, methods, sophisticated sauces and techniques to achieve the wanted crust type, ideal softness and so on. I would never have thought there was such a variety of soups alone! That’s when I got an interest in the profession. I realised there was a lot to learn, and that there is always room for growth,” she says.

Malahat shares this advice to young people on the early stages of their careers: “Don’t waste your emotional resources to get the approval of others, be open to new things, don’t be afraid to make mistakes, and always believe in your own potential.”

## REACHING THE FURTHEST BEHIND



### Labour rights and inclusion

A technical review of the Azerbaijan Labour Code was conducted to promote non-discrimination in employment and occupations, in line with the ILO fundamental principles and rights at work and the comments of the Committee of Experts on Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR).

In October 2022, the Parliament adopted a law ‘On amendments to the Labour Code of Azerbaijan’ that reduced the prohibited professions for women from 674 to 204, while keeping the ban only for pregnant women and women with children under the age of one year.

With the aim of supporting financial inclusion and use of digital financial services among emigrants, migrants, and

➤ The UN continued to promote the right to work for all with continuous advocacy and policy interventions. Now refugees from other countries and asylum-seekers have the right to work with the issuance of PIN codes from the State Migration Service, making them eligible for official employment. The arrangement put these vulnerable groups on equal footing with citizens of Azerbaijan in terms of hiring procedures, taxation, registration of the contract and salary scale. However, in practice refugees still face challenges in benefiting this breakthrough. UN piloted several initiatives in this direction including internships with private sector companies, vocational courses and info sessions on career orientation. In 2022, 12 young refugees were involved as interns in local companies with perspectives for legal employment.

➤ 100 persons with disabilities were engaged in inclusive VET programmes.

remittance recipients in Azerbaijan and abroad, an assessment was carried out on current remittance flows, related practices and services, and existing national legislative frameworks and policies. A working group of 29 government and non-government institutions was created to follow up on the implementation of the report recommendations to improve digital solutions for remittance flow.



OUTCOME 2.1 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



# OUTCOME 2.1 SOCIAL PROTECTION AND QUALITY PUBLIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES

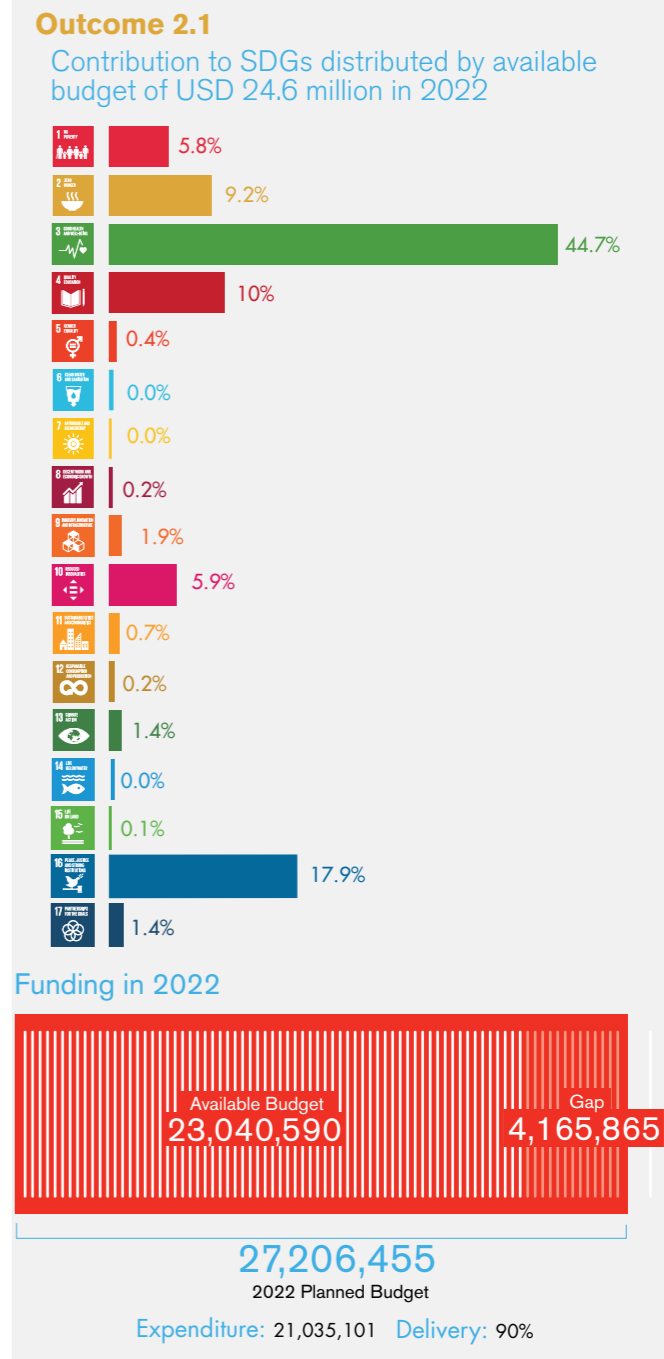
People furthest behind benefit from enhanced national capacities and governance structures for social protection and quality public and social services, in line with Azerbaijan’s international commitments

### Access to quality education and training

Azerbaijan prevails in access to quality education and training, with a high overall literacy rate (99.7% for 15 years and older people according to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics), and enrollment in primary and secondary education (94.31 and 93.86% respectively). However, challenges remain in ensuring equal access to education for all children and reducing the urban-rural and socioeconomic gaps in education outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges, including the need for remote learning and continued access to education for all students. The UN continued working with a range of partners in 2022 to help the Government to address these challenges.

To respond to learning recovery needs, the UN’s Learning Recovery Support programme continued work in the six districts with the lowest learning assessment results in the country. Nearly 900 primary and secondary school students (46% girls) received targeted learning recovery support by schoolteachers that enhanced learning results by up to 50%. As well, 75 teachers received continuous professional development support through an individual mentoring scheme piloted in the selected schools of these six target districts.

A study on the quality of preschool education services provided a comprehensive review, analysis, and a roadmap to support systemic improvements of early childhood care and education (ECCE) system and services in Azerbaijan. The study will inform the national ECCE reform that promises integrated services in early childhood education with a focus on gender equality, climate resilience, and inclusion.



## Access to quality and inclusive health services

### COVID-19 response and immunization

In 2022, Azerbaijan's COVID-19 response made significant progress in its vaccination campaign, with over 13 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered and over 5 million people fully vaccinated as of March 2023. The government has expanded its healthcare infrastructure, including the recruitment of medical personnel and increasing healthcare resources. 209,959 cases and 1,662 deaths were registered in 2022. The UN continued to support Government's response efforts in 2022 through technical and advisory assistance for the country's vaccination campaign.

An Intra-Action Review of Azerbaijan's response to COVID-19 helped to identify lessons in coordination, surveillance, case investigation and management, contact tracing, and infection prevention and control. This informed the COVID-19 response and strengthened the country's preparedness for future epidemics.

A national Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) working group was established, and 100 hospital IPC committee members from 50 hospitals were trained on core components such as monitoring and evaluating IPC measures. The group developed an IPC work plan for medical facilities.

Over 2,100 healthcare workers were enrolled to the "Leadership and Program Management in IPC" course on the [OpenWHO platform](#), which was launched in the Azerbaijani language. The campaign promoting the course increased enrolment tenfold to 18,000 by March 2022.

Technical assistance was provided to a working group in Azerbaijan to update the national guidelines on COVID-19 case management. 250 healthcare workers enhanced knowledge on covering the long-term effects of the disease and rehabilitation. A guide on "[Support for Rehabilitation: Self-Management after COVID-19-Related Illness](#)" was distributed to healthcare facilities.

To support strengthening of data management systems, 260 IT devices were given to the Government. The "Data for Action" initiative promoted the effective use of statistics and research outcomes to develop tailored strategies to achieve a high uptake of COVID-19 vaccines.

17,600 hand hygiene stations, disinfectant, belt clips, and 16,000 risk communication materials were distributed to 100 healthcare facilities, including in five conflict-affected districts.



A little girl symbolically "kicks away diseases" by receiving vaccinations at the #Eurovillage 2022 festival—a stand displaying EU-UN collaboration on promoting public health and wellness. Photo credit: WHO /Anar Bayramli/2022

More than 6,000 units of cold-chain equipment were given to the Government, including freeze tags, vaccine carriers, vaccine refrigerators, log tags, cold boxes, and others. For the first time, vaccination delivery facilities used vaccine refrigerators and electronic temperature monitoring devices—replacing traditional domestic fridges and mercury thermometers.

1,500 health workers enrolled in the Azerbaijan Health Worker Vaccine Effectiveness Study and a health and vaccine status database created. Around 300 healthcare workers and epidemiologists were trained in the use and maintenance of vaccines, and around 150 staff of regional hygiene and epidemiology centers were trained and used the online platform on cold chain inventory.

A national guideline was developed on strengthening immunization service and Government was supported in forecasting and procurement of vaccines as per the national immunization calendar including vaccines against tuberculosis and polio. 378 children of 0-10 years age received routine vaccines (62% of them had incomplete or uncertain immunization status) and 78 adults received COVID-19 vaccine in six rural villages with low performance.

## REACHING THE FURTHEST BEHIND

- As a result of the UN's continued advocacy and counseling, 371 refugee and asylum-seeker children had access to free-of-charge general education on an equal footing with the locals in over 96 public schools. They were also supported with additional language and math courses. As well, 62 refugee students continued their higher education with scholarship support.
- Over 200 children with disabilities (46% girls) were enrolled in primary and secondary education, while the number of inclusive schools increased from 12 to 22. As well, 430 schoolteachers, 375 school leaders, and 22 school psychologists were trained on how to deliver quality inclusive educational services for all children, and specifically those with disabilities. That was accompanied by communications campaigns addressing stigma, stereotypes, and negative social norms on gender and disability.

### HUMAN STORY

## Opportunities for girls to be self-reliant in Azerbaijan

Ten years ago, Zeynaddin Nilab's family fled their home country Afghanistan to found asylum in Azerbaijan. Despite the many obstacles she faced as a newcomer in a foreign country, Nilab remained determined to achieve her dreams and she succeeded.

Her hard work and dedication at school paid off as she was accepted into medical college. Nilab was thrilled to be given the opportunity to study medicine, as it had been a dream of hers since she was a little girl.

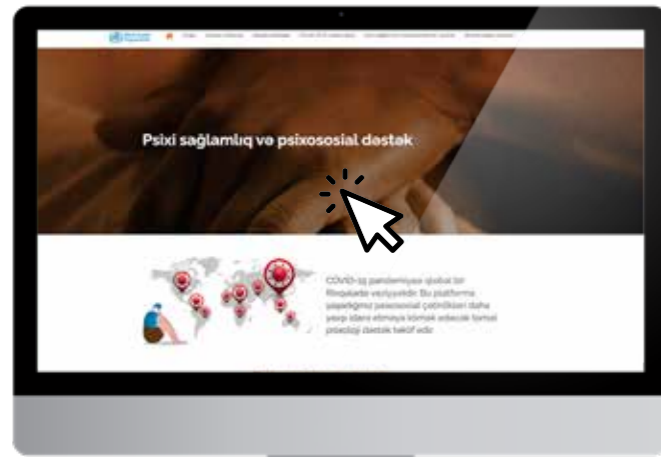
Upon graduation, Nilab started her career as a nurse working at "Leyla medical center" in the perinatal department. She quickly fell in love with her work, finding it to be both rewarding and challenging. "I love my colleagues for their support and guidance throughout my journey. Their willingness to share knowledge and expertise has allowed me to improve and expand my skills" says Nilab.



Through hard work, dedication, and a passion for her work, Nilab achieved success in a foreign country where she began her journey as a refugee. She is proud of her accomplishments and grateful for the opportunities that UN and Azerbaijani society had given her. Nilab knows that her journey is far from over, but she is excited to continue learning and growing as a nurse, providing the best possible care for her patients.

Through radio broadcasts, print materials, and other communications, about 275,000 people were sensitized on COVID-19 vaccination and/or routine immunizations.

In recent years, Azerbaijan has made significant progress in ensuring access to quality and inclusive health services, including mandatory health insurance, primary healthcare, and nutrition systems. The country has implemented a mandatory health insurance program that covers over 90% of



Click to view

A mental health self-help website [mhps.psm.az](https://mhps.psm.az) was launched in Azerbaijani language

the population, and more than 400 new primary healthcare centers have been established. Additionally, Azerbaijan has implemented several nutrition programs targeting vulnerable populations, including pregnant women and children. However, challenges remain in ensuring equitable access to healthcare services for all citizens, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to further strengthen the healthcare system, including increasing the availability of critical care resources.

In 2022, the UN focused on strengthening the emergency care system in Azerbaijan. The assessment of Emergency Response Information Management System (ERIMS) mapped current information systems and existing processes. A roadmap was developed based on the results and recommendations and 13 actions have been prioritized based on cost, potential impact, urgency, and feasibility. In addition, World Antimicrobial Awareness



A patronage nurse Gunel holds three-month-old baby Raul during a home visit in Ganja district. Photo credit: UNICEF/Aliyev/2022

Last year the UN expanded its support to the Government in delivering mental health services. The war of 2020, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, led to increased stress, trauma, and psychological distress. Stigma surrounding mental health also remains a challenge, with many individuals reluctant to seek help.

The UN helped to raise awareness about mental health and reduce stigma, and provided resources and training to healthcare professionals to better diagnose and treat mental health issues. Nearly 200 patients (46% women) received psychological consultations in 510 sessions in two major mental health hospitals. Thirty mental health professionals were trained in advanced therapy methods, including on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As well, 84 primary health care doctors in the post-conflict areas expanded their skills in mental health.

A mental health self-help website (<https://mhps.psm.az/>) was launched in Azerbaijani language and a [Mental Health Gap Action Programme \(mh-GAP\) manual](#) was introduced to national stakeholders, which will help scale up mental health services in the country.

### Maternal and child health

In 2022, the UN continued focusing on improving access to quality maternal and child health services, providing technical assistance, training health care providers, and promoting community engagement to improve health literacy and awareness. Though Azerbaijan has made significant progress in improving maternal and child health in recent years, challenges remain, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Maternal mortality ratio is triple in the rural areas with 27.3 per 100,000 live births vs 7.4 in urban areas. The universal progressive home visiting model covered nearly 35,000 children and over 9,000 pregnant women in four districts. This model strengthens services provided by patronage nurses during home visits and supports parents by assessing the environment in which their children live. The model was adopted by the national health services and a new guidance on home visiting services was endorsed. Over 700 healthcare workers are currently providing services. Ten online training modules are now available on a digital resource hub on early childhood development ([www.eudi.az](http://www.eudi.az)) for home visitors and primary health care workers.

In addition, the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, a global effort to promote breastfeeding, was expanded in 2022, with 16 maternity wards and 380 healthcare workers trained to

### HUMAN STORY

## A breath of fresh air: equal opportunities to integrate vulnerable children in Azerbaijan

Shahin Guliyev started attending the Centre for Inclusive Education and Child Development in the Agjabadi district of Azerbaijan in 2015 when he was 13. Shahin has Down syndrome, and, at the time, his perceptual, social, self-care and motor skills were those of a three-year-old.

Six years later, his social skills have developed to a level appropriate to his age. "I have always wanted Shahin to have friends and be able to earn his living," says his mother Firangiz Guliyeva. "Now, Shahin can freely leave home by himself and go to work, use transport, and go shopping. Our house is near the university, Shahin goes there in his free time, spends time with students, and tries to learn something new from them."



The Centre in Agjabadi district was set up in 2013 with the aim of expanding the opportunities for inclusive education for children with special needs living in the regions. Since 2018, it has benefited from UN support on community and family-based integrated social services.

Shahin, now 19, is an example to other children and their parents. "After coming to this centre, Shahin became a phenomenon," says the centre's coordinator, Rada Gafarova. "He is invited to many events as a role model. This was our aim when we first created the centre. To demonstrate that all people have equal opportunities and to make them feel that they are a part of this society."

advance these practices in hospitals. The neonatal screening programme that identifies conditions that can affect a child's long-term health or survival was rolled out, and 6,400 newborns have received a heel prick test since June 2022.

### Nutrition and food

While the country has made progress in improving its nutrition systems, challenges remain, such as limited access to nutritious food and inadequate knowledge and awareness about healthy eating habits. Malnutrition, anaemia, and obesity remain significant public health issues in the country, particularly among children and women<sup>1</sup>. To address this, the UN continued to provide technical assistance, funding, and expertise to help the Government to address these challenges and improve nutrition outcomes for its citizens.

Data collection began for measuring trends in overweight and obesity among primary school-aged children to inform policy and practice. Research is also underway on advertising of foods and beverages high in fat, sugar, and salt (HFSS) to strengthen monitoring and evaluation on advertisement policies. The technical capacity of primary care physicians was built on the management of obesity in children and adolescents. A school nutrition project was initiated in 30 schools in Baku to train school marshals on healthy and safe nutrition. The assessment revealed positive results as the number of children not eating breakfast reduced from 20% to 7%, not eating dairy was reduced from 15 to 5%, and eating sweets daily was reduced from 36% to 13%. At the policy level, national capacities were enhanced on the [Food Control System Assessment Tool](#) and the [Codex Alimentarius](#), or "Food Code," which is a collection of standards, guidelines,

## REACHING THE FURTHEST BEHIND

- Refugees and asylum seekers were supported with access to health care services: 421 (192 women) accessed medical examination and treatment under Mandatory Health Insurance; 600 (282 women) received essential medicines and 43 received psychological assistance.
- 592 potential victims of exploitation (43% women, 34% girls, 23% boys) received psychological assistance and accessed other health services.
- In 2022, the UN worked together with national stakeholders to strengthen the national healthcare procurement system and improve the treatment of tuberculosis and HIV, covering nearly 8,000 people. In addition, nearly 1,300 prison population has access to Hepatitis C treatment.

and codes of practice to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade.

The UN also supported the Government in developing a National Strategy on Food Loss and Waste (FLW) Prevention, Reduction, and Monitoring that outlines the actions and tools needed to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030 and reduce food losses along supply chains.

### Access to inclusive social protection services

Promoting the Azerbaijan National Child Helpline (NCH) increased public awareness of violence against children and strengthened public attitudes towards reporting cases of violence and getting appropriate support. 1,622 children contacted the helpline in 2022 to report violence and ask for support. 240 mediators received training and supervision on child rights and child-focused approach in mediation procedures during family conflicts and divorces to prevent violence against children. The Child Safeguarding (CS) system was piloted in 25 schools of Baku, covering more than 27,000 children, where trained CS teams in schools are responsible for identifying, reporting, and responding to cases of violence against children, including gender-based violence.

The UN built the capacity of 46 public and social service providers (43% women) from 31 government institutions and 15 NGOs in Baku, Ganja, Lankaran, and Guba districts to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and forced labour. With UN support, ten NGOs in the field of social assistance and social protection for vulnerable women and children were trained in fundraising. Around 160 healthcare workers also increased their knowledge on how to better deliver assistance to victims of trafficking. In addition, the UN launched a two-month public information campaign around the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, to raise public awareness and encourage people to report cases to the helplines.

## REACHING THE FURTHEST BEHIND

- 200 children repatriated from Iraq and Syria and their extended family members received psychological support.
- Around 140 children in conflict with the law (under probation or in pre- or post-trial detention) and their families received social work, mental health, psychosocial, and legal aid support.
- Nearly 150 migrants from Ukraine (88% women) received urgent humanitarian assistance, including housing, food, medical and administrative support. In addition, 2,000 copies of publications in the Azerbaijani and Ukrainian languages were distributed, raising awareness on personal safety, gender-based violence, human trafficking, migration, and emergency contact details.
- 64 women who were victims of trafficking received support for rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.



One of video series dedicated to the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons featuring victims or potential victims of trafficking and available support services to raise awareness in the public. Video credit: IOM/ 2022



1. 2022 Global Nutrition Report

Click to play video

11 years old Fakhri learns through play with his teacher Ulduz at the Inclusive School No: 246 in Baku city. Photo credit: UNICEF/Aliyev/2022



## Access to justice and participatory mechanisms

The UN continued its work with national partners to strengthen policies and mechanisms to protect human rights, increase access to justice and participatory mechanisms, and sustain social cohesion.

One of the interventions increased the capacity of legal professionals and civil society organizations to protect the rights of the vulnerable groups (e.g. persons with disabilities, internally displaced people, refugees and migrants, victims of trafficking, war veterans) in accordance with international standards. Nearly 4,500 people (54% women) received free legal assistance in issues such as social security rights, property and housing rights, labor rights, domestic violence, and civil and administrative disputes. Support included guidance, referrals, litigation, appeals, and legal representation in court.

The UN continued training national actors on UN human rights mechanisms. 148 lawyers and 144 representatives of 103 civil society organizations were capacitated on the principles and obligations of UN human rights treaties and participants' role in monitoring. In addition, 23 knowledge products on human rights were published online and in print in the Azerbaijani language, including practical guides and fact sheets on civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

## Effective governance mechanisms

The [Mayors for Economic Growth](#) initiative was launched in Azerbaijan, part of a global initiative that supports mayors and local authorities to promote sustainable economic development and job creation in their municipalities by providing technical assistance, training, and networking opportunities. Six selected local authorities in Mingachevir, Naftalan, Khirdalan cities, Sabail district, Urva village, and Baku Icherisheher Administration are working on initiatives in the areas of energy efficiency, social and economic inclusion, local production, tourism and heritage management.

## Cross-border and regional initiatives

In 2022, the UN continued working on cross-border and regional initiatives to address common challenges that require coordinated efforts and collective action across borders.

One of the focus areas was migration, a complex process that requires regional partnership. The UN helped in the formation of a [Regional Training Center on Migration](#) in Azerbaijan to strengthen educational capacities in Be-



More than 200 young people met with UN colleagues and discussed SDGs, UN action in Azerbaijan and more at a youth camp in Shamakhi. Photo credit: UNIC/2022

larus, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. In 2022, a detailed action plan on establishing the Training Center was developed. A regional training curriculum on migration, consisting of eight key modules, was introduced to 22 trainers from 10 countries as a pilot, and was rolled out in Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan for migration officials.

The UN has also made strides in using digital technology to modernize international road transport (known as TIR). The first electronic TIR (eTIR) transport in line with the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of the TIR Convention took place between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in December 2022. This marks a new digital era of the TIR system and is the result of long efforts by the UN to modernize international transport.

## Advancing a youth agenda

The UN supported the government in developing a new State Youth Programme for 2023-2027, by giving guidance on results-based management and by engaging with national stakeholders. [A study on youth and climate action in Azerbaijan](#) formed a basis for the development of a strategy and guidance.

Nearly 900 young people (58% girls) acquired tools and skills through the [Basic Life Skills Education programme](#), now available at 15 Youth Development and Career Centers and 23 Youth Houses across the country. In addition, 20,000 young people (48% girls) also learned from the Personal Development and Career Planning module of the curriculum at Vocational Education and Training Institutions. 124

members (52% girls) of local Youth Advisory Councils implemented community-based interventions on environmental and explosive ordnance risk education, reaching 1,500 peers (52% girls) in five districts, including in such conflict-affected districts as Tartar, Barda, and Goranboy.

A dedicated UN Week for 200 youth activists in a summer festival provided a space to engage with young people to discuss the UN's national and global priorities and how they relate to youth. In addition, a Model United Nations conference brought together 15 universities and high schools to engage with UN mechanisms on pressing global issues such as cybersecurity, forced displacement, climate change, and food security.





# OUTCOME 2.2 DATA FOR DECISION-MAKING AND POLICY

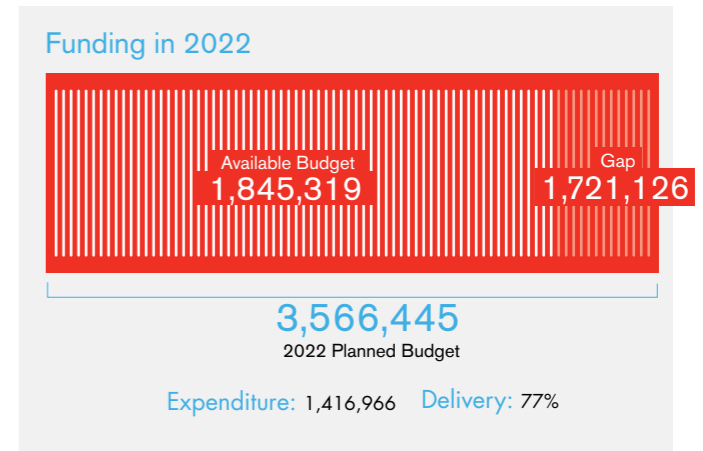
Quality, disaggregated and timely data is available and used to inform decision-making and policies that leave no one behind

While statistical performance index for Azerbaijan stood at 68.1 (out of 100) with 7% of data missing (2019), SDG data availability has improved since then. The recent UNESCAP dashboard shows that out of total 247 global SDG indicators, on 140 there is sufficient data, on 33 there is insufficient data and on 74 SDG indicators there is no data available. While national SDG platform publishes SDG data on annual basis, there are inconsistencies and differences between the global datasets which needs to be explored further<sup>2</sup>.

The UN continued to strengthen institutional capacities to improve monitoring, reporting, and data availability on the SDGs to inform evidence-based policies and decision-making.

One of the major initiatives supported by the UN is the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which will make data available on 21 SDG indicators with disaggregation, particularly in regard to women and children. A high-level steering committee with members from 18 ministries and committees at the deputy minister level has been established to oversee the work of the MICS. Throughout 2022, stakeholder capacity was built in preparation for the launch of the survey in 2023.

With UN support, the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) was completed in 2022, providing quality data on child poverty in the country. It analysed the patterns leading to deprivation, such as the gender of the child or the head of household, region, education level of parents, and household size.



The UN conducted an assessment to support the Government in elaborating shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) mechanisms. The findings and recommendations of the assessment will be used in adaptation of social protection programmes and systems to cope with changes in context and demand following large-scale shocks that affect a large proportion of the population simultaneously. In addition, a System of Health Accounts was introduced to national partners to support data collection and the analysis of health care costs.

The trends, challenges, and opportunities for deployment, regulation, and application of digital technologies and the use of artificial intelligence in data collection was introduced to national stakeholders to promote a culture of data privacy and protection from a human rights-based approach.

2. According to the National Statistics Committee, data is available for 112 out of 248 global indicators (45.2 percent) and for 86 out of 119 nationalized indicators (72.3 percent). Disaggregation is available for 76 out of 112 global indicators (67.9 percent). 38 are fully disaggregated, 38 are partially disaggregated work is undergoing for the rest 20 indicators, as no disaggregation is required for 16 indicators.

## OUTCOME 2.2 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



A nursing student monitors the blood pressure of an elderly woman during Immunization Week  
Photo credit: WHO/ Javid Gurbanov/2022



**OUTCOME 3.1 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES**



A cleaning campaign at a Shuvelan beach on the occasion of the World Environment Day and the 30th anniversary of the UN-Azerbaijani partnership  
Photo credit: UNIC/2022

# OUTCOME 3.1 CLIMATE ACTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

People, including those left behind, benefit from climate strategies and environment protection policies that ensure natural resources are sustainably managed, livelihoods are protected, and resilience strengthened

“Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development” and the “Strategy of Socio-Economic Development in 2022-2026” identified a clean environment and country of “green growth” as one of the five priority directions of the country’s development through 2030. The country has updated its environmental legislation by adopting several new laws and amending existing legislation on energy resources and energy efficiency. A national water strategy (2021-2038) has been drafted and a two-year action plan to ensure the efficient use of water resources was approved.

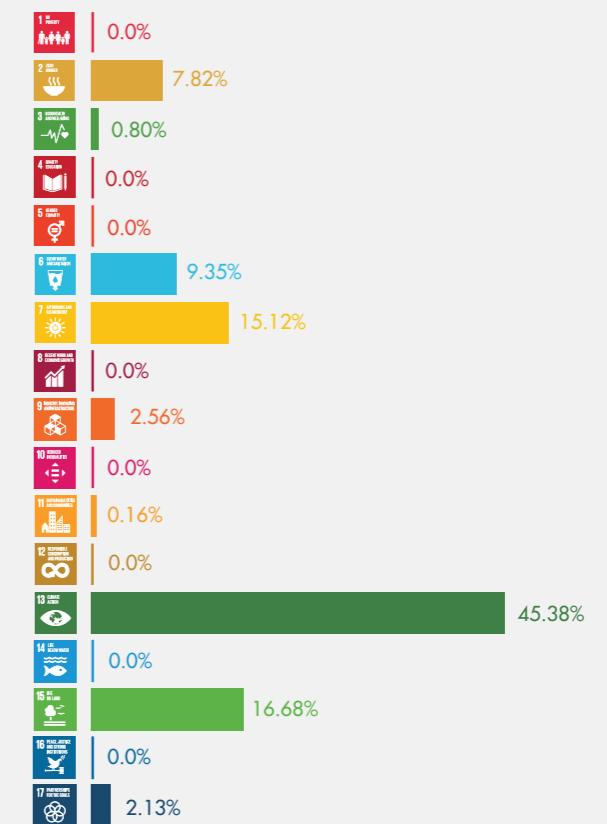
In 2021, Azerbaijan signed the COP26 declaration on accelerating the transition to zero-emission cars and vans and, since 2021, tax rebates for electric cars and chargers, as well as public transport equipment, have been implemented. Despite these efforts, there is still significant room for improvement to address climate change and environmental sustainability. A World Bank [climate risk analysis for Azerbaijan](#) indicated that temperatures are projected to rise faster than the global average, which will amplify the impacts on human health, livelihoods, and ecosystems in the country, affecting poorer communities. The [Environmental Performance Index \(EPI\)](#) assessing global performance on climate change, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality ranks Azerbaijan 104 out of 180 countries. While the national environmental monitoring system has been improved over the past years, including in data collection, production, and reporting, gaps remain that need to be addressed. The UN continued working with the Government and national partners to address these challenges.

### Climate action

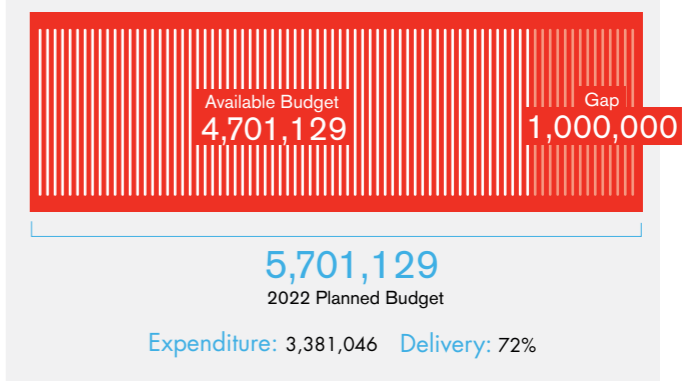
In 2022, the UN continued to strengthen institutional capacities to plan, track, and report on climate change, and to access climate finance and technologies.

### Outcome 3.1

Contribution to SDGs distributed by available budget of USD 4.7 million in 2022



### Funding in 2022



The [Third Environmental Performance Review](#) covered important national issues of legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, air protection, water and waste management, and biodiversity and protected areas. It also examined the efforts of the country to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the energy, industry, agriculture, and health sectors.

The need for a systematic and effective environmental assessment remains pressing in all the countries in the region and beyond. Azerbaijan is now taking steps towards acceding to a [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#), which is an effective tool to help achieve the country's sustainable development, climate, and health objectives. In 2022, a pilot project was kicked off to conduct the SEA of a draft master plan for Ganja city. Once it is finalized, in 2023, the pilot will serve as a reference for the application of SEA to spatial planning in Azerbaijan, and it will support the country to green its investments and make infrastructure sustainable and climate-proof.

The UN helped the Government to undertake a comprehensive legal review of climate change adaptation policies in Azerbaijan and produced a list of recommendations for the adoption or update of certain regulations and laws. To encourage women's participation in this sector where they are underrepresented, a gender-mainstreaming work plan was developed. Policy briefs were developed on climate change adaptation in coastal areas, water, and agriculture. A financing strategy was developed to evaluate options for investments, as were risk-screening tools to assess the climate impacts on public investment in agriculture, water resource management, and coastal zones.

To build public knowledge on climate action, a set of recommendations were introduced on how to integrate climate change adaptation studies into the curriculum of civil service education and specialized courses in universities and vocational schools. A public information portal on Climate Change in Azerbaijan was introduced, that will facilitate coordination between government agencies and stakeholders where real-time information on climate conditions, adaptation policies, risks, and vulnerabilities will be available.

The Climate Change Vulnerability Index was introduced in Azerbaijan, based on international best practices to help design future adaptation strategies for the country's most vulnerable areas. Local and international scientists came together to discuss fluctuations in the level of Caspian Sea, its ecosystem and biodiversity in the context of climate change, and possible forecasts and adaptation measures.



Farmers learn how to better cultivate hazelnut, also a promising area in bioenergy production. Photo credit: FAO/2022

### Energy efficiency and renewable energy

The Government has stepped-up efforts to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in recent years with two laws, adopted in 2021, on (i) the rational use of energy resources and energy efficiency, and (ii) the use of renewable energy sources in the production of electricity. The country has set a target to increase the installed capacity of renewable energy to 30% of the overall energy balance by 2030. For this purpose, the plan is to create a total of 1,500 MW of new generation capacities, including 440 MW in 2023, 460 MW in 2023–2025, and 600 MW in 2026–2030.

The UN supports energy efficiency and renewable energy development in Azerbaijan as part of its broader efforts to promote sustainable development and address climate change.

With UN support, Azerbaijan conducted a gap analysis on current energy-efficiency standards and their implementation against the [Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings](#). The gap analysis addresses barriers to adopting and implementing high-performance standards in housing with a focus on financing energy-efficiency measures in and maintenance of multiapartment housing.

Guidelines on integrating gender and climate change into energy policies were also introduced.

The [Renewable Energy Status Report](#) produced by the UN examines the evidence about the vast potential of renewables and their benefits in the country with the most recent statistics and trends, their assessment and interpretation, at both the country and the regional level.

National capacities were built on a [Bioenergy and Food Security Approach \(BEFS\)](#) that offers tools and guidance in designing and implementing sustainable

bioenergy policies and strategies. A study was conducted to evaluate sustainable bioenergy options in the hazelnut value chain and analyse production practices in the country. In addition, recommendations were prepared for a tariff system for heat supply to ensure efficient, reliable, and quality services, which would address social concerns in the conflict-affected Barda region.

### Addressing environmental hazards and pollution

Azerbaijan faces significant environmental challenges, including air, land and water pollution, as well as hazards related to oil and gas exploration and agricultural activity. The UN is actively addressing these challenges as part of its efforts to protect human health and the environment.

In 2022, the UN continued its work with Government to build national capacity on the lifecycle management of pesticides and disposal of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and assess and revise the related legal frameworks. A detailed investigation of two pilot POPs-contaminated sites in Ujar and Salyan districts and a baseline assessment of the empty container management system (CMS) were carried out, and options for disposal of POPs in cement kiln have been studied. In 2022, 160 tons of obsolete pesticides were safeguarded.

The UN supported the Government in mitigating the impact of locust control operations on human health and the environment. National capacity was built on monitoring and management of locusts and mitigation of pesticides, as well as on automated data collection through technical trainings and equipment support.

The UN supported the Government in developing and adopting guidelines on setting criteria and standards on emission production for enterprises in the energy and industry sectors. A set of recommendations and policy guidelines were produced by the UN that, when fully implemented, would effectively increase the share of natural gas in road transportation and hence reduce the carbon footprint of this critical sector.

Because pollinators such as bees, butterflies, birds, and bats play a critical role in environmental protection, protecting them is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and protecting human health and well-being. In Azerbaijan, as part of an effort to integrate pollinators into Sustainable Forest Management Plans, a crop database was compiled and a simple tool was created to estimate the economic value that pollinators provide to agriculture and non-wood forest products. Also developed were an inventory of 'bee plants' (plants known to provide forage resources for honeybees



Rehabilitation works expands in ancient kahrizes- traditional, sustainable water supply systems. Photo credit: IOM/2022

and other pollinators), a methodology for monitoring pollinators, and a protocol to assess benefits linked to pollinators in forested landscapes for multiple groups (such as beekeepers, foresters, farmers, and users of medicinal plants).

### Water management

A hydrogeological assessment was carried out for the Kura River highlighting the potential impacts of salinization on the water supply, people's health, and the environment. Alternative methods of water provision

in the regions were identified for use during periods of increasing salinization. Findings and recommendations were shared with the Government and selected stakeholders.

Following the establishment and handover of *kahrizes*—a traditional, sustainable water supply system—the list of recommendations on the legal ownership, maintenance and utilization were presented to the national authorities, and is expected to become part of the National Water Management Strategy.

### HUMAN STORY

## Is this household waste? No, it's a piece of art!

Fidan Manafova was interested in household waste upcycling and started a blog on social media when she was on maternity leave. She describes the DIY ("do it yourself") concept as a storm of different feelings and emotions when you see the outcomes of your efforts. "Concrete pumpkins were the first items made based on the "recycle DIY" concept. I created them with my daughter at our country cottage. Later, we started sharing videos on the production of home decoration items using different types of household waste," Fidan says.

Shortly after she became interested in producing decoration items using reusable materials, she got an opportunity to show her handicrafts to professionals. She joined the contest "Özün Yarat" ("Do It Yourself") held by UN annually since 2021 to promote innovative solutions on household waste upcycling. Her work received an award in the category "The best wood handicraft" out of 250 entries. Fidan adds that the award greatly inspired her: "I understood that I should develop my work."



"People are interested in this topic and want to learn more. I'm happy and proud when I receive messages from people saying that my works have motivated them to have the same hobby," Fidan says.

Fidan also trains others to upcycle obsolete items. Now, she is making plans to hold her own workshop, where people could learn more about upcycling.



# OUTCOME 4.1 GENDER-EQUITABLE SOCIETY

Women and girls, including those furthest behind, benefit from enhanced national mechanisms that ensure they are protected from discrimination and violence and empowered to participate in all spheres of life

Azerbaijan was ranked 101st out of 146 countries, with a score of 0.687 on the [2022 Global Gender Gap Index](#), which looks at indicators such as economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

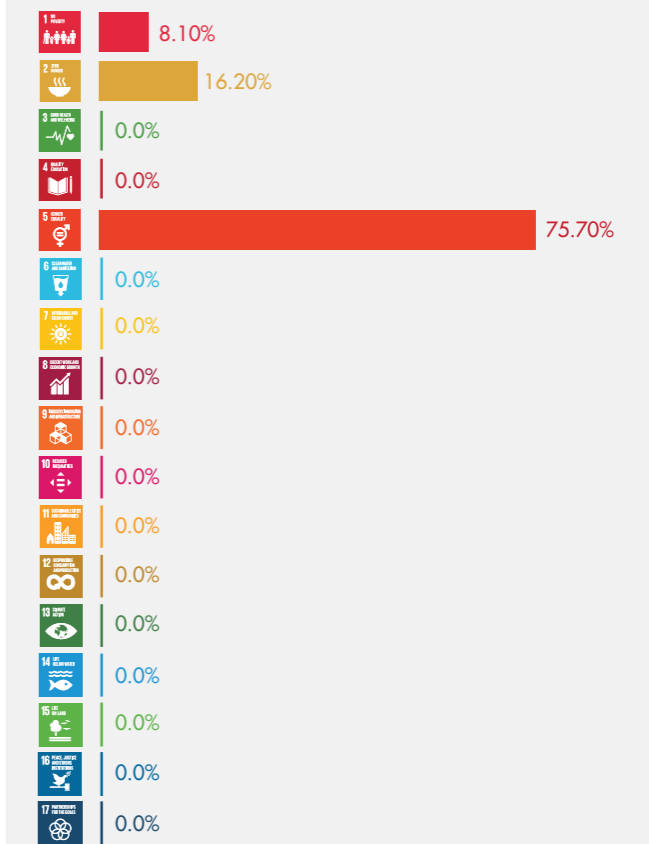
There are multiple factors that contribute to gender inequality in Azerbaijan. These include harmful social norms, which limit women's access to education, and employment. The prevalence of gender-based violence severely undermines women's health, well-being, and autonomy. Additionally, gaps in national laws, policies, and institutional mechanisms further restrict women's rights and opportunities, affecting women's mobility and the unequal distribution of inheritance.

Addressing these underlying factors requires a multi-dimensional approach to societal attitudes, legal frameworks, and women's empowerment. The UN in Azerbaijan continued its work with partners to eliminate gender-based discrimination and ensure equal opportunities for women and men.

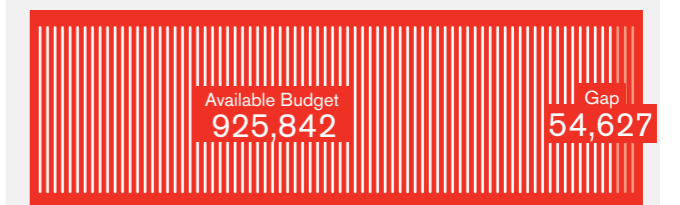
The UN focused its strategic interventions on building effective legal and policy frameworks for addressing gender-based violence and discrimination. A mock session of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was held for national stakeholders to better understand the procedures of CEDAW review and to support implementation of the Convention in Azerbaijan. The National Action Plan on gender equality was revised and is currently pending approval.

## Outcome 4.1

Contribution to SDGs distributed by available budget of USD 925.8 thousand in 2022



## Funding in 2022



980,469

2022 Planned Budget

Expenditure: 911,112 Delivery: 98%

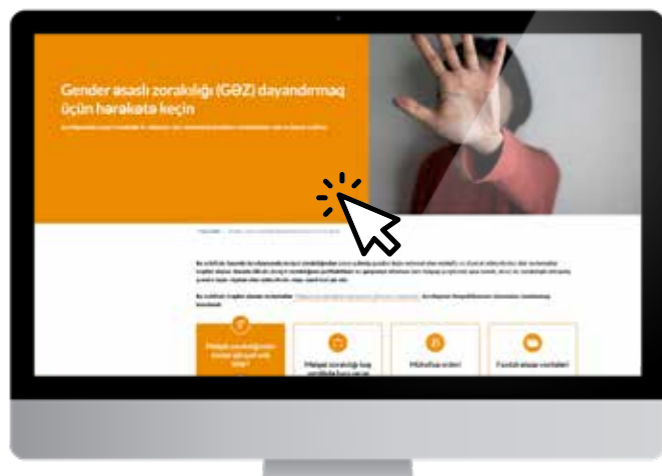
### OUTCOME 4.1 CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



Afag Karimli (mentor, standing) and Laman Gasimova (mentee), participants of STEM Mentorship program for women and girls  
Photo credit: UNDP/2022

## Response to gender-based violence (GBV)

To improve support services to the victims of GBV, a set of communication products were developed and disseminated on GBV referral pathways, addressing both the general population and service providers. The first-ever online [GBV referral pathway portal](#) was launched to provide information on protection and support services currently available for survivors of gender-based violence in Azerbaijan. The legal support was added to a range of services offered by the national three-digit GBV helpline (860), as well as psychological support, crisis intervention, and referrals. This helps to ensure Government fol-



The first-ever online GBV referral pathway portal was launched

low-up on the cases that require lifesaving intervention for the survivors of GBV. A set of standards and guidelines was developed for shelters providing support services to women affected by GBV. In addition, draft legislation proposals for juvenile justice included the hiring of women in the justice sector to respond to the needs of the victims of GBV. A pilot mechanism for Child Safeguarding included the ethical protocols for prevention of GBV against children.

One of the mechanisms to support the survivors of GBV are the "safe spaces" launched at the Women's Resource Centers that offer free legal and psychosocial support. By helping 100 survivors in 2022, Sumgait WRC also joined this practice alongside nine other centers in the country.

Monthly "open doors" in cooperation with government partners and remote community visits help promote GBV services more widely in the community. The WRCs also conduct regular information sessions on reproductive health, selective abortion, and other gender-sensitive topics in cooperation with government-led Support Centers to Children and Families. 235 GBV survivors in the regions received vocational courses to sustain their economic well-being.



Fathers' Camp challenged traditional roles in the family with several role plays. Photo credit: UNFPA/2022

## Challenging discriminatory gender norms and practices

The UN engaged with the government, civil society, women and youth organizations, community members, media, and the private sector on communications and advocacy campaigns to address discriminatory gender norms and practices that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and violence, gender-biased sex selection (GBSS), and other harmful practices.

The project on gender-responsive content and teaching focused on the review of educational resources (12 textbooks, 12 workbooks and 10 methodological guides) alongside a set of recommendations to address the gaps identified. The reviewed textbooks on the Azerbaijani language and Mathematics for grades III-IV and Nature for grade V are now being piloted by the Institute of Education. In addition, a group of experts was trained to deliver trainings to book publishers and pedagogical staff of the selected schools on gender-responsive content and teaching. Gender mainstreaming was integrated into the National School Improvement Plan to ensure a gender-sensitive approach in planning, class management, in-school assessment, and an enabling environment in schools.

The concept of responsible fatherhood and an egalitarian family model was promoted during the first-ever celebrations of the International Father's Day in Azerbaijan, and at the International Family Day. Initiatives such as "Fathers' Camp" and "Youth Camp" created a space for learning and reflecting on the role of men in tackling gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices, women's rights, gender-based discrimination, and other topics.

In addition, 480 fathers and fathers-to-be benefited from the information sessions organized at Papa Schools in eight districts of Azerbaijan. The UN built support for paid paternal leave policies and a legal amendment that is expected to come into force in 2023.

The UN targeted faith-based communities through a virtual "Men for Gender Equality" platform on social media, reaching some 40,000 people. More than 1,000 participants directly engaged in community-based trainings and information sessions held in 20 districts of Azerbaijan. More than 300 young people benefited from "Men Talk for Gender Equality" sessions on the issues of gender and religion.

## HUMAN STORY

### Fathers break stereotypes in Azerbaijan to ensure their children grow up in gender equitable environment

Sahil Aliyev, a 28 year-old father-to-be joined the Papa School with deeply entrenched patriarchal norms : "At home, at school, at work, we are being taught that men should be masculine. I remember my mother saying that men should have the final word on everything in the family, even if he is not right".



By actively participating in every session, he believes that he gained more insights into the topic he had never discussed before. "I found myself talking about gender, sex and family relationships - topics that I have never openly discussed with strangers. To be honest, now I admit that I was violent towards my ex-girlfriend by limiting her access to some possible opportunities or imposing restrictions on the way she dressed.

But I really wasn't cognizant about this until participating in the Papa School sessions on gender-based violence. I cannot say that I have managed to get rid of all these stereotypes over the course of these past eight weeks, but I can confidently say that I feel sorry for the way I behaved before. And what I'm sure of now is that having been able to reflect on many of these issues, I'll do my best to treat my current partner with empathy and full respect."

During the eight-week Papa School courses, the trained experts and facilitators delivered a range of sessions on gender-based discrimination and violence related issues in Azerbaijan. Alongside this, the participants were also given a chance to explore the concepts of family planning and reproductive health, intimate partnerships, abortions, femicides, lack of women's participation and benefits of women's empowerment.

## Empowering young persons to act

Making girls' voices heard was the motto of the campaign for the International Day of the Girl Child. The awareness-raising campaign on gender equality and women's empowerment reached 10,000 people nationwide. In addition, 22 girls aged 12-17, including those from disadvantaged families and communities, met decision-makers in government institutions and private companies to discuss the challenges they face as girl children.

More than 1,000 young people from over 40 colleges and schools around the country participated in discussions on gender-based violence and discrimination.

More than 5,000 adolescent girls were reached with information sessions on reproductive health and the prevention

of violence and harmful practices. Public awareness raising campaigns in eight districts, including through traditional and social media channels, promoted the value of girls in society.

In partnership with the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), the UN promoted girls' participation in sports through "3x3 Girls" football tournament involving 120 girls aged 11-17.

**Girls in STEAM:** The UN continued its initiatives to enhance girls' skills and talents on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), ICT and digital literacy that benefited 125 girls in 2022. Engineering Hubs for Girls were established in STEAM Centers in general education schools in five districts of Azerbaijan. A STEM mentorship program engaged 300 women mentees and mentors in 2022, a tenfold increase over the previous year.

### HUMAN STORY

## More women and girls in Azerbaijan are getting involved in science

"Thanks to the Women in STEM mentoring program, my activities in the STEM field and the number of people I interact with in this field have increased. The support of my mentors played a significant role in increasing my self-confidence," says mentee Sabina Mammadova, a graduate of biology. She adds that she considers her participation in this project as one of the most important steps for her career.

Sabina, (left in the photo) who joined the mentoring program in 2021, was awarded the title of Microsoft Innovative Education (MIT) Expert (2021-2022), chosen as a Global Schools Advocate for UNESCO's Global Schools

Program, representing Azerbaijan among 330 representatives from more than 75 countries; was selected as Global Youth Ambassador by Theirworld organization and is active in the EU4Youth Alumni Network. Currently, she works as a Science teacher, a supporting teacher in the "STEM center", and a laboratory assistant in the Science department at the European Azerbaijan School.

Sabina's advice to other young women: "Be determined to keep learning and growing in STEM! Communicate with professionals in this business and learn from them. This will help you reach your goals faster!"



## 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

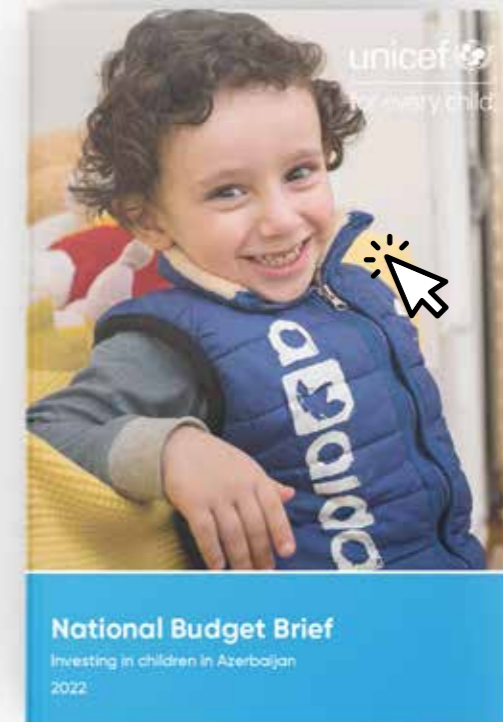
### Sustainable financing

The Government of Azerbaijan has launched several strategic initiatives that could positively influence the country's SDG financing agenda. Reforms have been initiated under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) program to strengthen the efficiency, strategic orientation, and transparency of public expenditures in Azerbaijan. The "Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2022-2026" presents a monitoring and evaluation framework with a set of key performance indicators and targets until 2026, linking them to SDG targets. An important development has been the drafting of an action plan for a sustainable finance roadmap by the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, a key step in supporting the sustainable growth agenda.

Since 2020, Azerbaijan has embarked on the development of its first Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to manage and mobilize financing towards sustainable development and ensure inclusive and green growth that leaves no one behind. Supported by the UN Joint SDG Fund, the Government finalized the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and initiated the SDG Investor Map and the Impact Investing Ecosystem Study in 2022. The studies help to identify investment opportunities and areas where private capital can be channelled to achieve SDG targets.

The UN engaged with private-sector stakeholders to promote the [UNEP Finance Initiative \(UNEP FI\)](#), a UN-convened network of banks, insurers, and investors accelerating sustainable development, in the framework of the conference on "Sustainability and the Banking Sector: ESG Banking" at the 2022 Baku FIN-TEX summit. [Principles for Responsible Banking](#) were introduced to 30 bank executives in Azerbaijan that encourage them to take action to align their core strategy, decision-making, lending, and investments with the SDGs and international agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement.

Building upon the MoU signed earlier between the UN and the Entrepreneurship Development Fund of Azerbaijan, the Fund's sustainability policy was reviewed and a round of bilateral discussions were held with the Azerbaijan Banks Association on the prospects of commercial banks mainstreaming environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards and Principles for Responsible Banking.



[Click to read](#)

The first public budget brief was published by the UN as an entry point to the Public Finance for Children (PF4C) initiative. The brief explores the extent to which the national budget addresses the needs of children, based on datasets from 2018-2022 in the sectors of health, education, and social protection.

### SDG dialogues on green transformation, data, and peace

In support of the SDG acceleration agenda, the UN and the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development (NCCSD) launched a multi-stakeholder high-level policy discussion platform, the SDG Dialogue series, in 2022. [The First SDG Dialogue on Green Transformation](#) was held in November 2022, and reviewed the country's progress on green growth indicators. Building on the commitments voiced during the dialogue, a policy brief was produced that provides a summary of the analysis of green growth progress and offers a set of policy recommendations.

The UN also kick-started stakeholder consultations on the availability of SDG data for Azerbaijan and gaps in SDG progress, together with the NCCSD and the State Statistics Committee. A set of concrete actions were identified to address inconsistencies and methodological issues across global and national databases, improve data collection for the indicators lacking data, and achieve real-world progress on the indicators.

A regional roundtable on the SDGs was convened for South Caucasus countries via an inter-agency effort dedicated to women's and youth empowerment and their role in peace. Representatives of civil society partners of three countries shared their experiences and best practices. The Peace Innovations Platform for the South Caucasus brought together young civil society representatives to carry out digital peacebuilding initiatives to explore responses to disinformation across the region, discuss new approaches to peacebuilding, and develop narratives that promote co-existence.

### Corporate sustainability

Azerbaijan was chosen as one of the [UN Global Compact \(UNGC\)](#) pilot countries in 2022, prompted by the persistent UN work on promoting corporate sustainability. In 2022, 14 new members joined the UN Global Compact.

Also in 2022, 10 new companies became signatories to the [Women's Empowerment Principles \(WEPs\)](#), a primary vehicle for corporate delivery on gender equality. The UN provided technical assistance in preparation for Gender Gap Analyses and WEPs Action Plans to ensure the successful integration of the WEPs into company policies and operations.

Business and human rights was also on the agenda of the UN and the Ombudsperson's office to identify key challenges and actions to advance social and economic rights, promote equality in the workplace, and expand access to justice in the business environment. A partnership was established with the Danish Institute of Human Rights to elucidate policies and regulatory frameworks to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector. An International Business Forum on Business and Human Rights provided a space for exchange of practices among 140 representatives of national and international human rights institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders. In addition, 25 legal experts, lawyers, and human rights defenders were capacitated on preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights linked to business activity and promoting corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

In addition, two guidance notes on "[Gender Dimensions of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)" and "[Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts](#)" were published in a local language to serve as tools for legal experts, lawyers, think tanks, and advocates on the business and human rights agenda.

### 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

The 30th anniversary of the UN's presence in Azerbaijan provided a valuable opportunity to foster cooperation among UN agencies through joint campaigns and events promoting peace, climate action, a youth agenda, and human rights. Various interagency groups brought together the rich expertise of UN agencies to plan, monitor, and report on UN programming, and to promote further collaboration and coordination among the agencies in and out of the country.

#### Building on joint expertise

The UN joined technical expertise to produce several analytical documents in 2022. An Inter-agency Task Force was formed to assess the potential socioeconomic implications for Azerbaijan of the war in Ukraine and subsequent sanctions on Russia. The report produced policy recommendations targeting UN agencies and national partners about mitigating the negative impact of the crisis and tapping emerging opportunities. Another Inter-agency Task Force carried out the Common Country Analysis (CCA) annual update with close involvement of the UN Gender Theme Group to further enhance the gender analysis of the original CCA. The annual progress assessment was initiated by UN in 2022 to spur progress towards meeting and exceeding UNCT-SWAP minimum performance requirements, including through the implementation of action points noted in the Scorecard Action Plan for 2022.

#### Acting together on a normative agenda: human rights, gender equality, and civil society engagement

In 2022, the UN human rights thematic group (HRTG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ombudsperson's Office to establish a joint working group to undertake actions to promote the universal values of human rights, the principles of gender equality, and all aspects of the rule of law in the country. The action plan for 2022 prioritized monitoring and following up on recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms and institutional capacity-building.

The HRTG, together with the Bar Association and regional offices of the Ombudsperson, organized a monthly free legal aid campaign for members of vulnerable groups in Baku and surrounding districts, reaching over 500 people. In collaboration with the Ombudsperson's Office and Baku State University Law School, the HRTG launched a year-long campaign to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration



UN day was celebrated with staff and partners. Photo credit: UNIC/2022

of Human Rights and launched [www.humanrightsday.az](http://www.humanrightsday.az), an online platform that provides access to human rights educational resources and publications, and which will be managed by students.

A momentous 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign was carried out in sixteen districts of Azerbaijan, reaching nearly 2,700 people (70% women and girls), most of them aged 16-30. Fifteen bloggers, artists, filmmakers, painters, psychologists, and sociologists were engaged in the campaign to augment the reach of the campaign to broader audiences. This year's campaign examined social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination and disseminated information on preventing GBV, especially against those left furthest behind.

The UN High-Level Advocacy Group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) put a spotlight on challenges such as gender-based violence and women's economic empowerment, through joint TV interviews, visits to the Women's Resource Centers, and joint conferences and workshops. The adoption and possible modalities of implementation of the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (WPS), the role of women in mediation and security were the focus of the series of high-level events and capacity building programs in 2022, including national policy dialogue and international conference on WPS.

A Declaration of Intent (DoI) was signed between the UN and the Agency for State Support to NGOs in 2022, to collaborate on enhancing capacities for a vibrant and diverse civil society that represents and supports people most left be-

hind. The UN supported a comprehensive capacity-building programme combining training with individual mentorship for 50 civil society organizations (CSOs) that covered topics on climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, community-based climate policy projects, policy analysis and formulation, communication, advocacy, and alliance-building. The Agency for State Support to NGOs replicated this programme, multiplying its effect.

#### 30 years of strong partnership

A year-long celebration kicked off on 2 March 2022 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership in the United Nations. One hundred high-impact photos illustrating the history of the UN-Azerbaijan partnership were exhibited in the busiest part of the city, Baku Boulevard, for 30 days. All revenue from the International Charity Bazaar to celebrate UN Day was donated to psychological support for children with disabilities. Three thousand trees were planted to celebrate UN Day, which will create a legacy for the UN, serving as a powerful symbol of the importance of taking action to protect our planet and build a sustainable future for all.

"UN-Azerbaijan – Towards the Sustainable Development Goals" TV programme was launched in 2022, hosting high-level guests from the UN and Government to discuss achievements, challenges, and joint action to achieve the SDGs.

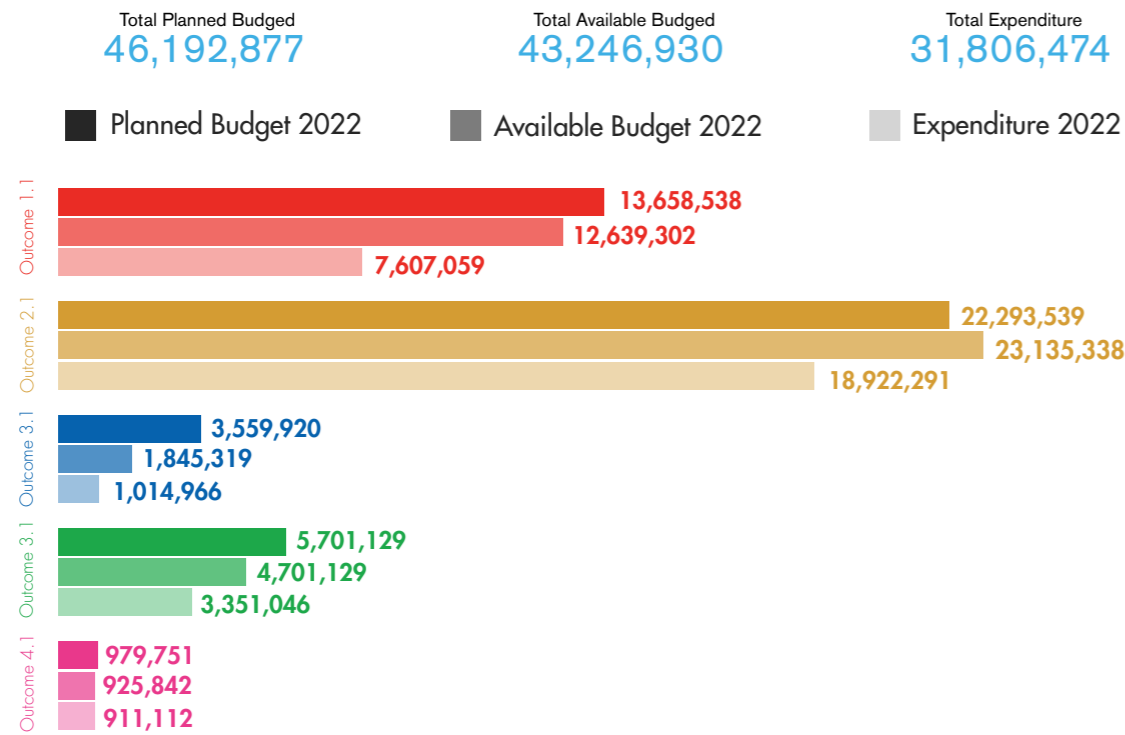
The "Humans of the UN in Azerbaijan" social media campaign brought UN employees closer to the public, featuring 30 staff members sharing their experiences and inspirations.



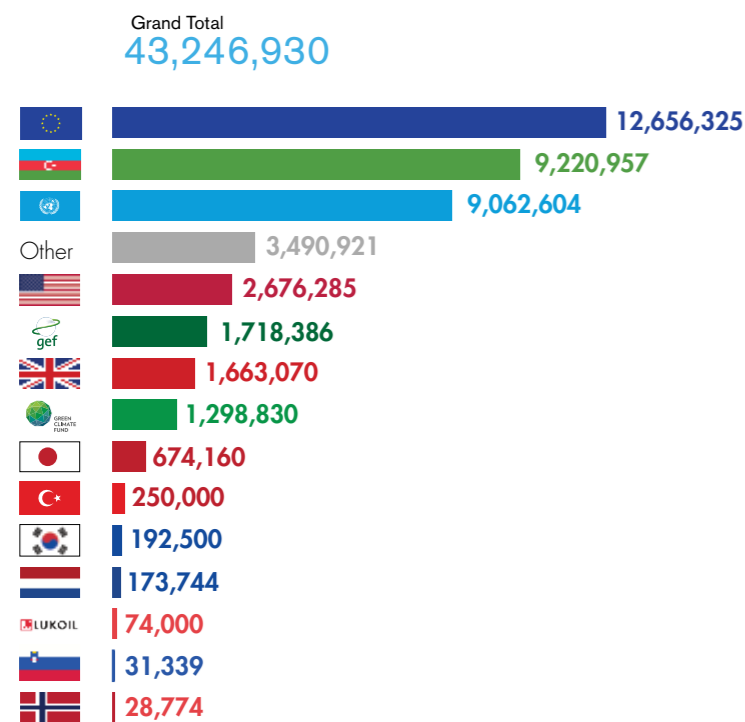
## 2.5. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

### 2.5.1. Financial Overview

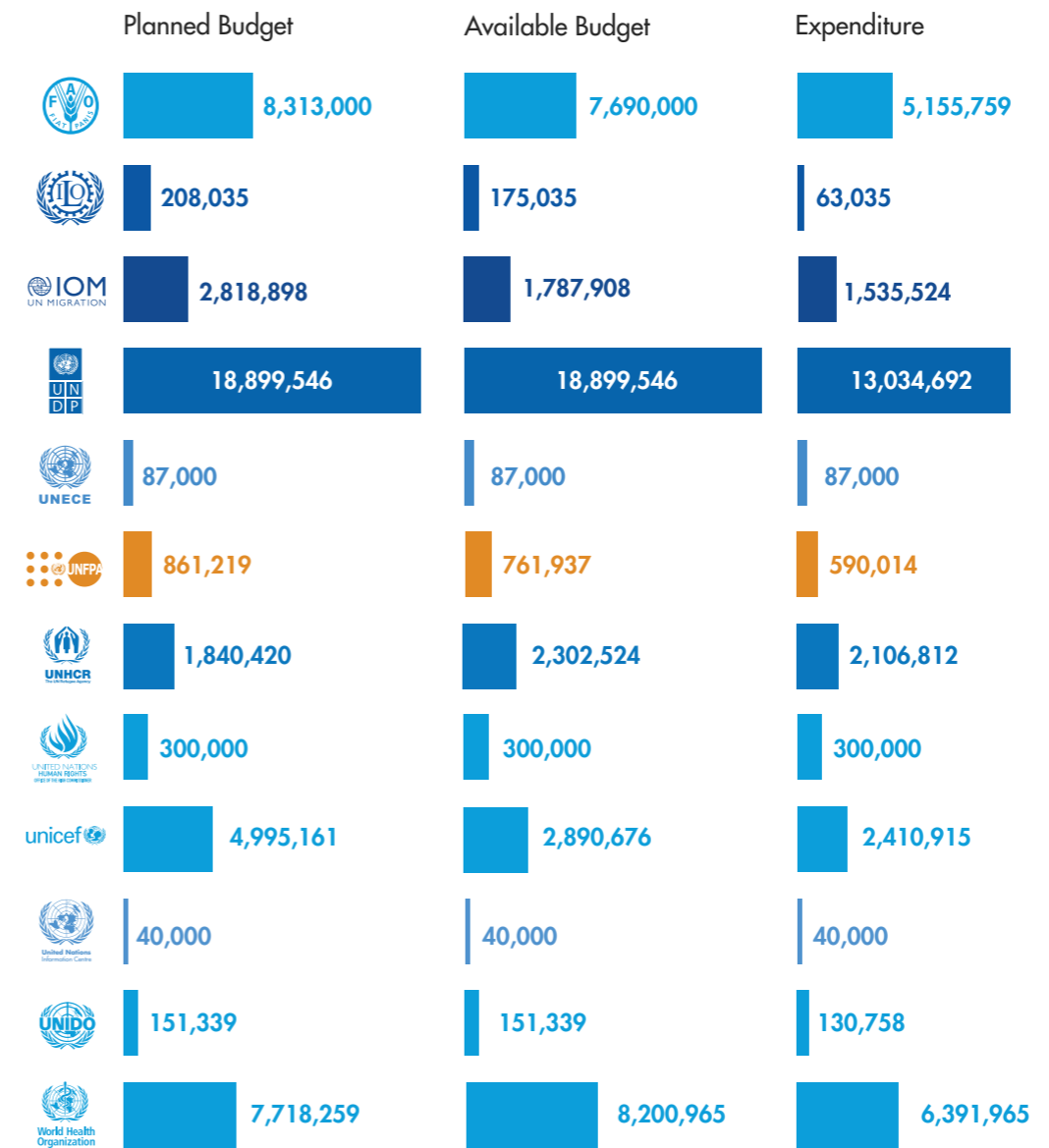
#### By Outcome (USD)



#### By funding source (USD)



#### By UN agency (USD)



### 2.5.2. Resource mobilization and quality of funding

The UN has enhanced its joint approach to partnership building and resource mobilization through the UN Partnerships and Development Finance Task Force, which served as a platform for knowledge-sharing on partnerships and resource mobilization.

The Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Strategy (PRMS) and the accompanying 2023 Action Plan was developed, providing strategic guidance on delivering coherent partnerships to support the implementation of UNSDCF priority areas and outcomes. The PRMS was

based on the funding framework and analysis of the country context and will help determine how the UN can address the UNSDCF funding gap and accelerate multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The PRMS represents a significant step towards greater collaboration for joint resource mobilization and UN-wide partnerships. Addressing the diverse modalities of engagement with international development partners, the private sector, government, civil society, and academia, the PRMS lays out concrete actions for the short- and medium-term to be prioritized by UN in its annual action plans.



## 3 | UN KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

A Joint Recovery Needs Assessment, conducted together with the EU and the World Bank, will kick off in 2023. This Assessment will further shape the UN efforts to scale up support to the Government-led and people-centered multi-sectoral recovery in conflict-affected areas, including mine action and support for the sustainable return of internally displaced persons.

Having learned important lessons from the COVID-19 response, the UN will support the Government in strengthening primary healthcare, as well as education, and social protection systems.

The UN will also continue to support the economic recovery of MSMEs, young people, workers in the informal sector, and those whose livelihoods are at risk, including in rural and conflict-affected areas.

Furthermore, to support the Government's efforts to accelerate economic diversification, the UN will provide joint economic policy advisory and analytical support, focusing on priority non-oil sectors.

To support the Government to fulfil its obligations from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, including strengthening the use of alternative energy sources and protecting biodiversity, the UN will continue to support the National Adaptation Plan process and the finalization of the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The UN, working with partners in civil society and other sectors, will continue to support the Government to finalize and adopt the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The UN will jointly support the Government to improve SDG data collection and analysis through expanded partnerships.

Through these and other efforts, the UN in Azerbaijan will continue to support the national development priorities and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



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