



UNITED NATIONS
AZERBAIJAN

Annual Report 2019

UNITED NATIONS-AZERBAIJAN
PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK
2016-2020



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Often, the UN Office in Azerbaijan hosts school students to raise awareness on the history, values and goals of the United Nations, as well as the work done by the UN entities in Azerbaijan.

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FOREWORD



I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report on activities by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Azerbaijan, under the 2016-2020 United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework.

The report showcases our support to Azerbaijan's efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This is an ambitious agenda that Azerbaijan has been seeking to achieve through a range of public policies in the social, economic and climate change spheres. The report uses concrete examples of UNCT's contributions to policies, strategies and actions that strengthened Azerbaijan's human and institutional capacities in 2019. Our efforts were conducted in close collaboration with our partners in Government, civil society and the private sector. We also engaged our development partners in various ways, creating new opportunities for the people of Azerbaijan - particularly the most vulnerable - to enjoy the benefits of sustainable development.

The report has been put together at a time Azerbaijan is playing an increasingly important role in international peace and development. In 2019 Baku hosted several high-level UN events, such as the 43rd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the United Nations Public Service

Forum, the 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, and the 110th Session of the Executive Council of The World Tourism Organization. The city also hosted several honorary guests, such as the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the Under Secretary-Generals for Economic and Social Affairs and for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, and the High-Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. These are all signs of advanced cooperation between the UN system and Azerbaijan in promoting global solidarity and multilateral action.

These values have recently come under threat with a few rising voices against multilateralism and for the protection of national interests and identities. Yet the global response to the recent COVID-19 outbreak has shown that isolationism undermines rather than protects nations. At the UNCT we are proud that cooperation modalities were established very early on with the Government to address the immediate effects of this crisis, including through the exchange of international expertise, advocacy and technical support. We ensured that vital medical supplies were procured, prevention messages were broadcast, and the best technical advice was made available to our national counterparts. We will continue working with the Government and

people of Azerbaijan in the next years to ensure the country stays on track of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda despite the disruption caused by COVID-19.

As I invite you to learn more about the full range of our activities and accomplishments in 2019, I would also like to express, on behalf of the UNCT, my sincere appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan, our development partners, and our staff and experts whose work was very instrumental in achieving these results.

Ghulam Isaczi

United Nations Resident
Coordinator in Azerbaijan



TOP HIGHLIGHTS



National Information Portal on the SDGs was launched- introduces an interactive dashboard which tracks and monitors progress towards the SDGs in real-time (UNDP)



Amendments to the Law on the State Registry of the Population were adopted by the Parliament and approved by the President



Allows Convention refugees to be recognized as officially residing in the country, which gives them access to legal employment and other social services (UNHCR)



The country's first Data Centre - a data storage facility was established in Yevlakh district, makes Azerbaijan the fourth ex-Soviet country with a Data Centre, extends the reach of the ICT to the most remote parts of the country and improves information security for telecommunications operators, businesses and IT companies (UNDP)



At Azerbaijan's first ever Inclusivity Hackathon - 16 teams worked relentlessly for 48 hours and developed a wide range of prototypes and open source code solutions to tackle challenges facing people with disabilities (UNDP)



National Sustainable Energy plan was developed- provides analysis and recommendations to increase energy efficiency and reduce the negative environmental impact of energy use by developing appropriate and sustainable policy frameworks (UNECE)



A Vision document for Primary Healthcare (PHC) was developed- aims to develop the best PHC model for Azerbaijan (WHO)

National Action Plan on Prevention of and Response to Gender Biased Sex Selection (GBSS) was developed-when endorsed, it will present the comprehensive roadmap for the effective intervention strategies to reduce the phenomenon of the GBSS in Azerbaijan (UNFPA)

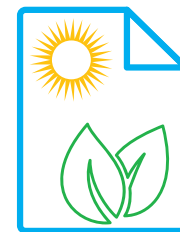


National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Action Plan was finalized helps the Government strengthen its health and surveillance systems to prevent and manage antimicrobial resistance (WHO)



The **first maternity hospital adopted international Baby-Friendly Hospital standards** promotes breastfeeding and other good infant health and nutrition practices (UNICEF)

An Agreement was reached with the National Bar Association to provide free legal aid to the victims of domestic violence and pro bono legal services to refugees and asylum seekers (UNRCO, UNHCR)



Azerbaijan adopted a new ten-year national forestry programme, ensures sustainable management and efficient use of the forest resources, protection of forest reserves and biodiversity, and climate change adaptation (FAO, UNECE)



DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Around
3000

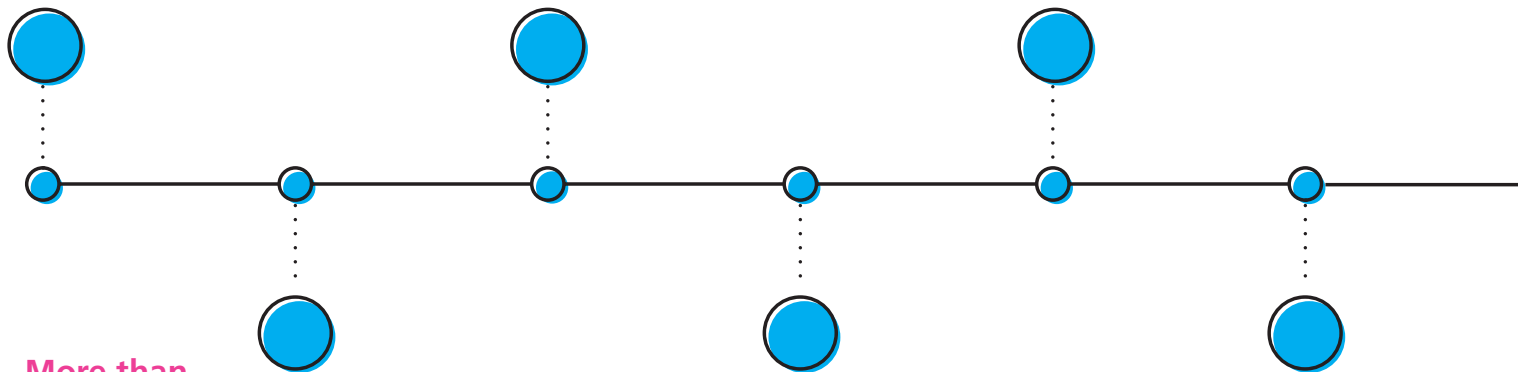
people benefited from free legal services (UNDP, OHCHR, IOM)

Around
14000

patients (of Hepatitis C, drug-sensitive tuberculosis and HIV) accessed high quality reagents and medicines (UNDP)

2,400

IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from free of charge vision screening tests and received eyeglasses and other vision and hearing items (UNHCR)



More than
3,600

young people aged 12-24 in six districts benefitted from the Basic Life Skills and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality programmes, legal and psychological counselling through the Joint Government-UN Youth Houses Initiative (UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNV and the UN Youth Advisory Council)

Around
500

health professionals in 30 districts can better review and analyse the near-missed cases, screen cervical cancer, and support family planning (UNFPA)

More than
100

rural households (66 women-led) established or enhanced their small family businesses (UNDP, IOM, FAO)

78

regional employment centres apply ILO SIYB methodology-one of the largest global business management training programmes to help small-scale entrepreneurs start and grow their business



60

public and private extension service providers throughout country now provide quality technical advice to farmers (FAO)



More than 5000

primary school teachers in 7 districts educated on teaching standards to deliver inclusive education for children with disabilities (UNICEF)

Nine

joint alternative reports and joint inputs for List of Issues were submitted by civil society representatives and members of the lawyers' community to UN Treaty Bodies, including CESCR, CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, and CAT. (OHCHR)

320

community-based Early Learning Centers for 3-to-4year-old children serves more than 6,000 children in 32 districts (UNICEF)



Nearly 7 mln

cubic metres of gas previously released into the atmosphere now is collected and delivered to more than 600 households in 15 villages who previously used wood from the forests to heat their homes and cook (UNDP, State Oil Company (SOCAR))





SECTION 1 CONTEXT

Development picture in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is an upper-middle-income country with a GDP per capita of \$USD 4722. Supported by stable oil production and a modest acceleration in domestic demand, real GDP expanded by 2.2 percent in 2019¹. The² non-oil economy expanded by 3.5 percent,

reflecting greater dynamism in most economic sectors. Several positive amendments to the tax code (Presidential decree of 20 December, 2018) were introduced to promote entrepreneurship, address tax evasion and the shadow economy, broaden the tax base, improving tax administration and increase the efficiency of tax deductions. Fourth State Program on the socio-economic development of the regions of Azerbaijan was launched. In the World Bank's Doing Business report 2020², Azerbaijan achieved

1. Ministry of Economy

2. World Bank's Doing Business report 2020



AZERBAIJAN IS AN UPPER MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRY WITH A GDP PER CAPITA OF \$USD 4722

the highest results in the field of credit availability. The year 2019 also saw the launch of the European connection of the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP), marking a further step towards the transportation of Azerbaijani gas to Europe. Azerbaijan continued reforms in the agrarian sphere in 2019. The State Program on ensuring of food safety in the Republic of Azerbaijan was launched. The Agency for Agrarian Services was established to provide farmers with services on a 'single window' principle. Moreover, the electronic agricultural information system (EAIS) was launched, and a single database on farmers was created. Azerbaijan has also established a mechanism of agrarian insurance based on Turkey's model.

Social protection was among the top priorities of the Government in 2019, as wages and social benefits were increased during the year for over 4.2 million people. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection paved the way for the issuance of a decree doubling the minimum wage and increasing the minimum pension by 72% for 660,000 pensioners in the country. The Government also supported around 900,000 people affected by the 2015 devaluation with their loan payments.

The notable increases in the 2019 budget allocations for education (up by 13 percent) and health care (by 44.5 percent) are important in terms of improving human capital. A new State Program kicked off on the enhancement of international competitiveness of the higher education system. A new Employment Programme was also set up by

the Government to reduce the unemployment rate to 4 percent in Azerbaijan by 2030, as well as to bring the unemployment rate among women and youth to a minimum. Further actions were taken to counter bullying and violence against children and youth. But further efforts are needed to align budget spending with development needs, including through strengthening medium-term budgeting and the public investment management system.

Significant legal and judicial reforms were carried out to strengthen the justice system. Following the entry into force of the Law on Mediation, new mediation rules have been adopted, and the electronic court system has been improved. As well, a new State Program on the development of justice and Strategy on the development of civil service were adopted. With a Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.754, Azerbaijan is classified as a country with a high human development. While the country ranks 87th among 189 countries assessed, inequality has widened in relations to income and gender equality and women empowerment.

In terms of environmental footprint³, 98.4 percent of total energy consumption is sourced from fossil fuels. The share of renewables in total final energy consumption is only 2.3 percent, while for Europe and Central Asia, the average is twice higher. Although carbon dioxide emission is smaller, it has been on upward trajectory since 2010. In May 2019, Azerbaijan joined the international Bonn Challenge on forest landscape restoration and committed

3. HDR 2019



THE COUNTRY CONTINUED HOSTING HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, SUCH AS THE **18th SUMMIT OF THE NON- ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN BAKU ON 25-26 OCTOBER**, THE 43RD SESSION OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, THE UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE FORUM AND THE 5TH WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

to restoring 170,000 ha of forests by 2030⁴. This commitment increased the visibility for the country's efforts to improve and sustainably manage forests, which is also the main target in the country's new forestry programme.

Political and peace picture

In recent years Azerbaijan has consistently experienced political stability and improved security, recording substantial gains in indicators concerning state fragility, the security situation as well as the strength of state institutions (Fragility State Index, 2019; Global Peace Index 2019). Starting from early 2019, President Ilham Aliyev made significant changes in the Government structures replacing post-independence public officials, merging or liquidating some agencies, as well as setting up new institutions. These included the nomination of a new Prime Minister and the appointment of several key ministers

in charge of education, tax reform, agriculture and rural development, the environment, and energy. The new Government has been tasked with continuing the reforms in key sectors to induce economic growth. Although no women were appointed to ministerial positions, women candidates and youth representatives actively took part in the municipal elections of 23 December 2019.

In late 2019, the ruling party appealed to the President with an initiative to dissolve the parliament with the aim of carrying out his reform agenda and modernizing Azerbaijan's legislative branch. Consequently, the President signed an order to hold a snap parliamentary election on February 9, 2020.

The country has been active in preparing and submitting periodic reports to different UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies. In 2018, Azerbaijan completed the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Of the 259 recommendations it received, the Government accepted 179 for implementation and 66 for further

4. An additional 100,000 ha conditional upon receiving funding



H.E. Tijjani Muhammed-Bande, President of the United Nations General Assembly met with students at the event dedicated to the celebration of the "United Nations day" in Baku, Azerbaijan.

review. In July 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the set-up of a National Mechanism for Follow-Up and Reporting on the implementation of the UPR recommendations, bringing together the representatives of various ministries, state agencies and public sector organizations.

At the same time, recent reports by the UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures highlight shortcomings in areas such as freedom of expression, association and assembly, independence of the judiciary, criminal and administrative prosecution, and cultural rights. Notable improvements in civic space include the rallies against domestic violence that were organized on the occasion of International Women's Day, which were the first of their kind in Azerbaijan.

The country continued hosting high-level international events that were attended by senior UN officials in 2019. The president of the 74th session of the General Assembly and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs attended the XVIII Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku on 25-26 October.

During the first half of 2019, negotiations over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under the auspices of the Minsk Co-Chairs generated a positive momentum as several high-level engagements resulted in new security measures, a substantial decrease of tensions along the Line of Contact as well as a stated commitment "to prepare populations for peace". However, progress on substantive issues remained stagnant.

In May 2019, Azerbaijan joined the international Bonn Challenge on forest landscape restoration and committed to restoring **170.000 ha** of forests by 2030



An intensive 48-hour non-stop Inclusivity Hackathon, the first of its kind organized by the UNDP in Azerbaijan, introduced new value-added technology solutions to break down barriers and expand access to quality living for people with disabilities.

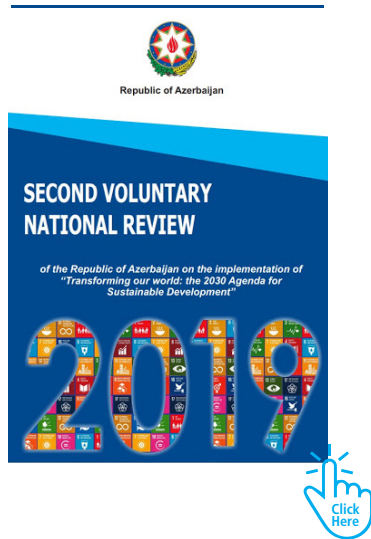
SECTION 2 KEY RESULTS

Towards Agenda 2030

In 2019, UN agencies in Azerbaijan continued to provide technical support and policy advice to build the capacities of state institutions for realizing the SDGs and to make these institutions effective, transparent, accountable and inclusive.

Data, Monitoring and Reporting

- The Government of Azerbaijan has produced **its second Voluntary National Review (VNR)** of SDGs and presented it at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New-York in July 2019. Its preparation was technically and financially supported by UNDP with inputs from other UN organisations, in close consultation with the private sector and youth groups.
- Another product of cooperation with UNDP was the **launch of the National Information Portal on the SDGs**. The portal introduces



an interactive dashboard, which collects consolidated data on the SDGs from designated government institutions and tracks and monitors progress towards the SDGs in real-time.

- In line with the new (2019-2030), the State Statistics Committee acquired greater ability **to produce quality data** with methodological support from FAO on food-related SDG indicators, from UNICEF on child-related data and from UNFPA on developing and integrating new sex-disaggregated indicators⁵ into the national statistical database. To this effect, **a first data analysis course** was hosted by a local University, a realisation of an initiative with UNICEF support where the staff of the Committee acquired new skills on the visualization of complex data.

5.18 new sex-disaggregated indicators in 2019

Building partnerships for SDGs

To unleash the transformative capacity of the business sector for development and SDGs, the following flagship events were organised:

- **The first Public-Private Sector Dialogue on SDGs** was launched by UNDP, National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development (NCCSD) and the Ministry of Economy. Bringing together over 100 representatives of government, businesses and international organisations, this platform built synergies and paved the way for the development of Azerbaijan's first Roadmap or Action Plan on Public-Private Sector Engagement and Partnership for the SDGs.
- Business leaders discussed embedding **UN Global Compact principles** and SDGs into their operations and strategies at the **joint conference on Responsible Business** co-organised by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UNICEF, UN Global Compact, UN Women and UNDP.
- With UNDESA initiative, **the first National Workshop on "Strengthening National Policy Capacities of Azerbaijan for Jointly Building the Belt and Road towards the SDGs"** provided a space to share experiences in response to the needs for policy research and tools and maximize positive impacts of BRI investment on SDG progress.
- A series of events and seminars were held by UN entities (ILO on decent work, social protection, and sustainable enterprises in Azerbaijan and FAO on food, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry) aimed at a better understanding of SDGs and increase the contribution of the public and private sector to their implementation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA ONE:

Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development, Underpinned by Increased Diversification and Decent Work



Newly renovated and fully-equipped workshops in two vocational education centers in Lankaran and Ganja cities offer

12 new occupations in line with current market demands

To match local capabilities with the demands of the labour market and to bridge education to employment, UNDP in partnership with the EU delegation, the Ministry of Education and the State Agency on Vocational Education strengthened the physical infrastructure, technical foundation, training and operational capacities for vocational education in two big cities of the country, Ganja and Lankaran.

The UN system in Azerbaijan supported the Government efforts to boost employment opportunities, skill development and education of the workforce for non-oil sectors, with a particular focus on the economic empowerment of women, youth and vulnerable communities.

Matching skills with demands

- Newly renovated and fully-equipped workshops in two vocational education centers in Lankaran and Ganja cities started **to offer an updated**

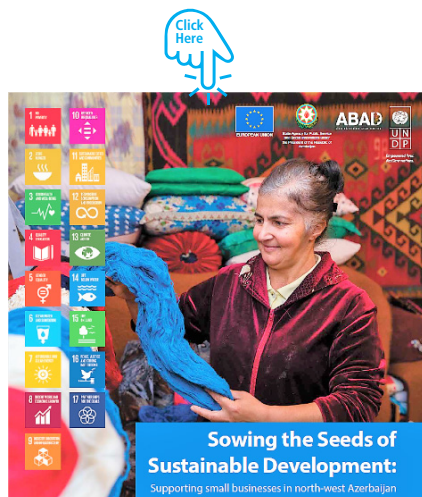
curriculum for 12 new occupations in line with current market demands. It also helped to overcome gender barriers that are especially strong in the southern regions of the country, since, **for the first time in Jalilabad, 21 young women are now registered** in vocational education programmes. In addition with UNDP support, new teaching methodologies, e-university and quality management systems were introduced at the State Tourism University and a self-evaluation

report for the **UNWTO TedQual** audit was prepared—a unique and the only international quality certification issued by UNWTO for higher tourism education, training and research programmes.

- Capacities of around **700 young people in 20+ districts** were built in career development (UNDP), vocational (IOM) and business skills (FAO, ILO).
- The National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations (ASK) has adopted ILO's flagship business management training programme **“Start and Improve Your Business” (SIYB)** and is planning to roll out SIYB trainings as a new service for their members in Azerbaijan. In each of the **78 regional employment centres** a unit on self-employment programs was established and have staff trained on ILO SIYB methodology.

Expanding Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in rural areas

- Around 100 rural households (66 women-led) established or enhanced their **community-based small family businesses** as a result of local business initiatives launched by UN



THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS (EMPLOYERS) ORGANIZATIONS (ASK) HAS ADOPTED ILO'S FLAGSHIP BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME **“START AND IMPROVE YOUR BUSINESS (SIYB)”** AND WILL ROLL IT AS A NEW SERVICE FOR THEIR MEMBERS IN AZERBAIJAN

entities (UNDP, IOM, and FAO). [Read](#) some of the heartwarming human stories.

- Over 1,000 young people living in rural areas benefited from the trainings on new agricultural models that increase productivity and protect the environment, as well as on access to a start-up capital within the **Agrarian Employment Promotion (AMAL)** project, jointly implemented by FAO and the Agrarian Credit and Development Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- At the same time, **Agro Action of Azerbaijani Women** project (AFAQ) was launched with the State Agro Trade Company to strengthen gender-sensitive rural advisory services, support women's self-organisation and access to information networks and to enhance visibility of women and girls' roles in agriculture and rural livelihoods.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF VEGETABLE GROWING **STARTED THE PRODUCTION OF MINI-TUBERS** TO SUPPLY POTATO SEED PRODUCERS WITH DISEASE-FREE PLANTING MATERIALS

Advancing in Agriculture

FAO continued its support to the Government of Azerbaijan through a range of interventions focused on increasing agricultural productivity and contributing to the successful implementation of agrarian reforms.

- Implementation of **National Land Consolidation Programme is one of the examples**, which contributes to the longer-term improvement of the farm structures, addresses structural problems in agriculture caused by land fragmentation, informal and outdated land registry, and agricultural infrastructure.
- In addition, market analyses were conducted for products such as persimmon and garlic and business plans were developed on sustainable fishery which helps the country diversify and increase its **agro-food export potential**. FAO also supported Government efforts to develop a strategy and a framework for sustainable agricultural advisory services to better respond to current and future challenges in the agriculture sector. **Sixty public and private extension service providers** throughout the country (41% women) now provide quality technical advice to farmers to support their agricultural production. As well, **for the first time, the Scientific Research Institute of Vegetable Growing** started producing mini-tubers to supply potato seed producers with disease-free planting materials, a notable step toward local production.
- UNDP has introduced **high-tech farming** in Sheki, Goranboy and Goychay districts of the country within its **Agrobiodiversity** program implemented with support from the Global Environment Facility and in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture. The programme aims to reduce dependency on food imports by increasing domestic food production, diversifying crops and thus improving the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. UNDP works with the National Genetic Institute on **reviving and preserving a range of native species** of wheat, vegetables and forage crops to improve agricultural productivity and reduce land degradation using native crops. As well a **new mobile training and soil-testing laboratory** reaches farmers on spot to inform them about the most successful farming methods to adopt in local conditions. **Small weather stations and SMS notification system** helps farmers make more informed decisions about which crops to plant at what times and when not to use water. [Read a story of Kazim Mammadov](#), a farmer in Shaki who is now utilising more sustainable irrigation and cropping techniques.



Beekeeping business brings financial independence for a village teacher, a member one of the Women Resource Centres set up with support of UNDP and State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs which provides a space for women to grow and thrive in their communities. Read her full story [here](#).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA TWO:

Strengthening Institutional Capacities and Effective Public and Social Services



Now,
5,000
primary school
teachers and
318 university
tutors in 7
districts have
the knowledge
and skills to
make their
classes inclusive
for children with
disabilities

Access to community-based early Learning services for 3-4-year-old children was considerably expanded in 2019 with UNICEF support, with some 320 centers providing learning to more than 6,000 children (estimated 47% girls and 53% boys) in 32 districts. 320 preschool teachers were trained to deliver quality learning, early stimulation and early child development activities for young children

Building on data and research

- UNECE and the Government joined forces to align the customs data, employed at **the Single Window Customs system, with international standards**⁶. Since the country does not belong to any trade bloc, the harmonization standard for data sharing will save time and money.
- ILO produced a **diagnosis report on supporting the transition from the informal to the formal economy** which will be utilized in the implementation of the Action Plan on
- Informal Employment. The report, “Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises” was developed by the Confederation of Employers with ILO support.
- UNFPA supported the assessment of legislation and social policies **to address the phenomenon of son preference and promote the value of a girl child** in Azerbaijan where a skewed sex ratio at birth considerably exceeds the biological norm.
- **The National Transfer Accounts** were

6. United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the European Union’s Customs Data Model and other international standards.

also developed to explore the benefits of the demographic dividend and economic implications of population changes in Azerbaijan.

- **Country-specific dataset on Azerbaijan** is made available on OCHA [Humanitarian Data Exchange portal](#) with maps and population statistics with support of RCO, UNDP, DPPA, and UNFPA.
- Since August 2019, **UNDP Accelerator Lab in Azerbaijan** on-boarded a local team of explorer, mapper, and experimenter to offer an innovative set of services to collaborate with people, the Government, and the private sector. The lab aims to transform the collective approach to development by introducing **new services like sensemaking, collective intelligence, solutions mapping, and experiments**. The team is already on the ground tracking down frontier challenges such as the inclusion of people with disabilities at the grassroots level. It has organized **the first Inclusivity Hackathon** bringing together over 30 industry experts, technology pundits, national innovation labs and people with disabilities to work alongside 16 participating teams to come up with solutions that can substantially improve the wellbeing of people with disabilities.

Inclusive education

Inclusive education is not an option – it is a right, established in the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child and the Rights of People with Disabilities, and now enshrined in a Presidential Decree in Azerbaijan and UN agencies actively support this agenda through teacher trainings, curriculum development and public awareness campaigns.

- With UNICEF support, now, 5,000 primary school teachers and 318 university tutors in 7 districts have the knowledge and skills to make

their **classes inclusive for children with disabilities**. And nine Resource Centres were established in these districts to provide support and access to training and learning resources for teachers and schools. [Read more here](#).

- The new **Inclusive Vocational Arts and Crafts Training Centre**, which was established with UNDP support is home to 111 enthusiasts (including 45 persons with disabilities) enrolled in 6 classes where they learn together and experience life through traditional arts.
- Over 70% of children refugees and asylum-seekers (of 400 in total) now have access to primary and secondary education facilities with the support of UNHCR.

Access to healthcare

- Following extensive advocacy by WHO, a Parliamentary Working Group was formed to draft changes in the national health legislation that **strengthen primary healthcare** (PHC) in Azerbaijan. In August, a policy dialogue bringing together local and international experts contributed to the **development of a vision for primary healthcare** in the country that aspires to universal coverage. This vision will yield into the launch of a PHC Demonstration Project, aiming to develop the best PHC model for Azerbaijan.
- Supported by WHO, two national counterparts from the Analytic Expertise Center were trained and certified as GMP (good manufacturing practices)⁷ who are in charge of the quality of medicines in the country.
- WHO mission visited Azerbaijan to assess the health system in the country and to provide recommendations for a successful roll-out of **Mandatory Health Insurance scheme**.
- Through technical support from UNICEF, the State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance

All refugees now have access to primary health care facilities in Azerbaijan

Primary healthcare is at the spotlight of the country

7. https://www.who.int/biologicals/vaccines/good_manufacturing_practice/en/



2019 marked the 15th anniversary of the humanitarian aid missions of the Japanese Fuji Optical Company to Azerbaijan realised through UNHCR initiative. During the annual missions every year since 2005, optometrist specialists conducted eye-check for internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and other vulnerable people and distributed free of charge eyeglasses, other vision and hearing items more than 31000 people until today.



IRON AND FOLIC ACID SUPPLEMENTS ARE INCLUDED INTO THE NEW INSURANCE BENEFITS PACKAGE, WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE HEALTH OF PREGNANT WOMEN

included **iron and folic acid supplements into the new insurance benefits package**, which will contribute to substantial improvement in the health of pregnant women.

- **Around 500 health professionals in 30 districts** were trained in review and analysis of the near-missed case reviews (perinatal audit), cervical cancer screening, and family planning with UNFPA support.
- **Around 14,000 patients** (of Hepatitis C, drug-sensitive tuberculosis, adults and children with HIV) benefited from the provision of quality healthcare services as a result of a partnership between UNDP and the Ministry of Health through the procurement of reagents and medicines.
- **All refugees now have access to primary health care facilities** after UNHCR successfully lobbied for their admission to the national secondary and tertiary healthcare institutions in case of serious medical emergencies.
- More than **1,550 vulnerable children and their families** were provided with **professional social work services**, supported by UNICEF, and 280 children with developmental delays and disabilities, 200 juvenile offenders, street children and victims of violence and abuse were provided with community-based social rehabilitation services.
- **11 Family Support Centres** have integrated a child development assessment tool that is now used to assess and track the developmental progress of more than 500 children being supported by the Centres.
- A workshop dedicated to Child Protection organised by UNHCR produced a list of recommendations for the Government on how to better protect the unaccompanied and separated children. A cooperation agreement between UNHCR and the Bar Association will allow qualified BAR members to represent asylum-seekers and refugees in courts for significantly lower fees. UNHCR also **reached an agreement with GIZ** (German development agency) to include refugees in the list of potential beneficiaries of its project on employment and entrepreneurship for low-income IDP households; **with Microsoft Azerbaijan** to provide free trainings on computer literacy for refugees at the Refugee Women and Youth Centre including test and certification and with **Azersun company**

Access to legal and social services

- With UNICEF's support, **local child protection coordination mechanisms** were modeled in 3 districts to strengthen integrated response and referral services. An electronic case management system was developed and tested which will help increase the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of government-funded NGO-run social care services.



The Azerbaijan National Paralympic Committee and UNICEF have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming at further developing the Children’s Paralympic Movement in Azerbaijan, thereby contributing to the social rehabilitation, healthy development and social integration of children and youth with disabilities through sport. The Movement will henceforth cover not only the capital of Azerbaijan, but also its regions. Only in 2019, 185 girls and boys with disabilities were able to participate at the Fifth Children’s Paralympic Games. “My daughter loves coming here,” says Dilara Safquliyeva, who’s 13-year-old daughter has been participating in boccia with the Committee for six years. “We are so proud of our children and appreciate this opportunity to show their talents.”

to accommodate several internship slots for refugee and asylum-seeker students.

- In partnership with USAID and the State Committee on Religious Associations, IOM organized a series of workshops to raise awareness on the grim consequences of radicalization and the vulnerabilities that make individuals susceptible to extremist recruitment. It also reached an agreement with the Bar Association, and ASAN Service on the

establishment of Free Legal Aid centers for the vulnerable population in four districts of Azerbaijan.

- Four hundred elderly in Baku, Mingachevir and Lankaran districts benefitted from the state of the art project of the UNFPA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, **to improve the well-being of the elderly persons** and promote the concept of ‘active ageing’.



4837 local and 141 IDP residents of Husulu village in Aghjabedi district have access to clean water with the restoration of "kahriz"-traditional water resource (IOM, KOICA). Also, 1200 children in Barda and Yevlakh districts have access to improved hygiene with the construction of 24 spring wells and 16 toilet facilities (UNDP, EU)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA THREE:

Improving Environmental Management and Resilience to Hazards and Disasters

UN agencies continued working with both industry and Government actors to introduce measures and put in place laws, policies and systems to ensure environmental sources are well managed and shielded from harmful economic activities and are sustainable.

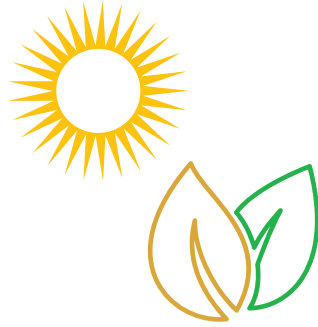
- UNDP partnered with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) to reduce GHG emissions through energy-efficient measures in construction, transportation, and associated gas capturing. This year, as a result of installation of gas compressors at the Siyazan oil and gas fields, nearly 7 mln cubic metres of gas that has previously been vented into the atmosphere every year, will from now on be collected and delivered to approximately 600 households in 15 villages who previously used wood from the forests to provide heat in the homes and to cook. This will result in a **20 % reduction of methane emitted into the atmosphere** by onshore oil fields –which is actually 4.6 million cubic meters of gas.
- UNDP also continued assisting the Government in preparing its **Fourth National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** together with Stockholm Environment Institute. **The Minamata Initial Assessment on Mercury** was also prepared and submitted to the Convention's Secretariat. Within the **Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**, a National Action Plan for the ratification of the

Convention's key Protocols, grounded in the legislative analysis conducted by UNECE and UNDP, was submitted to the Government. With support from UNECE and WHO, **Azerbaijan met its key obligations under the Protocol on Water and Health** in 2019. Within the framework of national policy dialogue on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), a draft **Water Strategy 2030** was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for adoption. In addition, a **National Sustainable Energy plan** grounded in international best practices was developed with UNECE support and guidance. The Ministry of Ecology and National Resources developed a **National Action Plan on Climate Change** with support of UNDP.

- A **"Forest Information Centre"** was formed and made operational through FAO support and the capacities of local foresters were strengthened on forestry management planning, national forestry inventory, and nursery planning. Forest inventory data is being used for the development of the **Multi-functional Forestry Management Plans** developed for two regional forestry units covering more than 90000 ha. FAO also contributed to the multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, improvement in forest and tree resources and their contribution to the improvement of the social welfare of local communities through pilot **reforestation of 50 ha of forest area and rehabilitation of 50 ha pastures**.
- UNDP launched a new initiative with the



Multi-functional forest management techniques introduced by FAO leads to carbon sequestration, better management of forest and tree resources and improvement of the social welfare of local communities



ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASURES TESTED AT THE ONSHORE OIL FIELDS RESULT IN **20% REDUCTION OF METHANE EMITTED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE**

EU to **accelerate the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement** and improve climate policy and legislation in line with the European Union and international standards. It delivered capacity building trainings on strategic approaches to climate change, key risks and key requirements for private sector players to adopt climate change.

- FAO supported the Government in the implementation of **locust control measures** aimed to contribute to food security and livelihoods of the rural population in the Caucasus and Central Asia by anticipating, preventing and limiting the threat posed by locusts. **One hundred plant protection experts** (15% women) were trained on locust management as master trainers and able to train other staff on early warning, prevention, and locust crisis management. FAO has established a multilateral partnership with five ministries and Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency to support the government in the **reduction of the pesticides’ risks** to public health and environment.
- The capacity of the Food Safety Agency was enhanced by FAO to strengthen the **national food safety control system**, which will enable the institution to participate effectively in Codex⁸ activities at global and regional levels.

Azerbaijan met its key obligations under the Protocol on Water and Health

Empowering Youth

- UNICEF together with UNFPA, UNV and the UN Youth Advisory Council led UN's support to a **Joint Government-UN Youth Houses Initiative** which was extended from an initially planned two to six Youth Houses in six districts of Azerbaijan. **More than 3,600 young people aged 12-24 benefitted** from the Basic Life Skills and Reproductive Health and Gender Equality programmes, as well as legal and psychological counselling. The project was implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Foundation, as well as youth and adolescents as participants and partners. In 2019, the initiative was also joined by three local NGO partners to roll out new services, including public relations (PR)/marketing, work preparedness, and social entrepreneurship.
- More than **1,200 young people** (49% female) participated in local youth consultation initiatives, led by the **Azerbaijan Youth Advocacy Programme**. The initiatives, supported by UNICEF, helped develop small-scale youth-led projects addressing critical issues of concern for local youth.
- An online survey titled **“Youth Organizations for Sustainable Development Goals”** covering 9000 youth was launched, which

8. <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/about-codex/en/>



www.i2b.az i2b ideyadan biznesə

An Innovation Summer Camp brought together the winners of the startup tours to discuss the ecosystem of startups and ways to turn their ideas into business within the framework of the project "From Idea to Business", which promotes the forming a startup movement in the country, supporting youth's innovative business ideas, implemented jointly by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies, the Regional Development Public Union of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme, Microsoft Corporation and Azercell.

outlined the state of awareness about SDGs among youth and provided recommendations for various stakeholders on what needs to be done further to actively engage youth at all stages of the SDGs implementation.

- UNDP kept alive the **Model UN tradition** through National Model UN Conference, Model UN Summer School and MUN Clubs functioning in various universities which educates young people on the work of the UN, and equips them with skills on research, negotiation, creative writing, public speaking.
- To complement the strategic interventions of the Government aimed at addressing the issue of son preference and Gender Biased Sex Selection (GBSS), UNFPA together with a Azerbaijan Youth Foundation held summer camps for young people to engage them, through training and

sensitization, as lead advocates and agents of change for promoting the value of a girl child.

- UNDP and the Ministry of Youth and Sport also cooperated in setting up initiatives to enable youth mobilization and engagement for the promotion of SDGs through **SDG Youth Ambassadors**. They work on a voluntary basis to support the work of the state institutions involved with SDGs, assist in spreading information about actions taken at local, national, and international level, and contribute to the preparations of national reports.
- Six universities (5 in the capital and 1 in the districts) began implementing the UNICEF-supported **master's degree programme for youth work managers, making Azerbaijan one of ten countries in the world** to deliver academic programmes at this level.

Empowering Women

- Concerted advocacy efforts were held by UNFPA for the purposes of **informed policymaking on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, domestic violence, and gender-based sex selection**. Initiatives included awareness-raising campaigns, sensitization events in communities and for faith-based organizations, capacity building for health staff, school teachers, gender focal points in ministries and engagement of mass media.
- “Gender-based violence costs the Azerbaijani economy about 1.3 billion manat annually.

This figure is 1.8 percent of the country’s gross domestic product, a conclusion of the study **“Economic consequences of gender-based violence in Azerbaijan”**, which was conducted with the support of the UNFPA and State Committee for Family, Women and Children of Azerbaijan, is now available for the purposes of informed policymaking.

- With UNFPA support, the **Essential Service Packages for GBV response** have been adapted to the local context and public officials were trained to act as the resource people for implementation.
- While UNHCR supported the development of **Standard Operating Procedures** for the national authorities responsible for prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence, UNFPA continued consultations with the Government to reach for approval for the key policy documents - **National Action Plans on Gender Equality, Gender Based Violence and Gender Based Sex Selection and National Reproductive Health Strategy** - which are currently pending approval by the Cabinet of Ministers.
- **Promotion of girls’ rights** was advanced by UNICEF and the Girls Empowerment Academy of the Association of Football Federations through the development of a special version of the **Basic Life Skills program** that reached out to 300 girls in over 25 districts. The educational curriculum of the State Academy of Physical Education and Sport was reviewed to strengthen the focus on gender and disability in the pre and in-service programs and **more than 300 coaches were trained on the inclusion of girls into the regular sports lessons**. UNFPA partnered with the Special Olympics to address the needs of young girls with mental disabilities to SRH and GBV through capacity building and awareness-raising sessions.
- UNDP partnered with EU and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs to launch a **Gender-Based Municipal Academy** in Baku to support women leaders in decision-making

“Gender-based violence costs the Azerbaijani economy about

1.3 billion manat annually, 1.8 percent of the country’s GDP,”-concludes a UN-led study



Since their launch in 2011, nine Women Resource Centers in districts Bilasuvar, Neftchala, Salyan districts, Sabirabad, Masalli, Zaqatala, Qusar and Khazar, provided more than **6,000 women** with free training courses on a range of hard and soft skills – from accounting and financial literacy, computer science, fundraising and women’s human and economic rights to resumé writing, presentation skills and networking. Over the years, nearly 150 women launched their own businesses, with in kind grant support, business development training and mentorship support. The initiative launched by UNDP together with State Committee for Women and Family Affairs expands to wider country with the engagement of partners , including the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development, the Coca-Cola Foundation and, most recently, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Development Agency.

Imagine a girl whose name is “ENOUGH”



Azerbaijan has **one of the highest sex ratio imbalances** today in the world. Sex selection can distort the composition of a country's population for generations. Over time, these skewed ratios translate into missing girls, missing women and missing elderly women. Sex ratio imbalances can exacerbate problems of gender-based violence, including rape, coerced sex, sexual exploitation, trafficking and child marriage—all of which are human rights violations. Considering this, UNFPA launched “**Missing Girls**” campaign in Baku, and the regions with the highest sex ratio at birth, to increase public awareness on the negative consequences of the sex selection abortions as well as addressing son preference malpractices.

processes. The Academy is a non-formal education platform for women to increase their knowledge and skills in areas such as local governance, leadership and election observation.

Human Rights

- **High-level human rights experts** visited Azerbaijan in 2019, including the **Special advisor to the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS** for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food** which helped to promote international human rights norms and standards and ensure Azerbaijan's continued commitments to protect vulnerable groups.
- 111 representatives from civil society and legal communities (51% women) now has the knowledge and skills in human rights monitoring techniques, including the collection and analysis of information, legal analysis, documentation and reporting, which were realised through OHCHR capacity building interventions.
- In addition, UN entities (OHCHR, IOM, UNHCR, and ILO) built capacities of the national institutions (the Justice Academy, State Migration Service, National Bar Association, State Labour Inspection Service) on the international standards and UN human rights mechanisms in the administration of justice.
- UNICEF entered into new agreement with the ASAN volunteers programme to raise awareness and understanding of child rights.



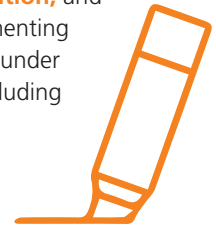


Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): a milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world. Every year UN in Azerbaijan also observes the day with a specific theme and uses it as an opportunity to promote Human Right in the country. This year's theme was "Youth Stand Up for Human Rights" to celebrate the potential of youth as constructive agents of change, amplify their voices, and engage them in the promotion and protection of rights.



In preparation of the review of **4th Periodic Report of Azerbaijan to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, in August 2019, UNCT made a joint submission of their inputs for the List of Issues (Lols) for the Committee's pre-session.

The submission highlighted major issues on the **implementation status of the Convention**, and the progress in implementing the recommendations under the Committee's Concluding Observations in 2016.



UNFPA provided support to the Government with the development and finalization of the **VI CEDAW Periodic Report** which was officially submitted to the Committee and is scheduled for hearing at the end of 2020.



UNFPA joined efforts with OHCHR to update the monitoring table of the assessment on the **implementation status of the UPR recommendations** on sexual and reproductive health rights which to be further utilized to inform policymaking and support the Government with the development of the **Beijing+25 National Review Report**. As well, UNDP supported the Government in the Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland to present country's main achievements in promoting rural women entrepreneurship.

OHCHR increased public **accessibility to the key human rights publications** by developing number of training and education materials, translating 20 human rights documents into Azerbaijani language and distributing in over 4500 copies. These included compilations of the General Comments and Recommendations of CERD, CAT, CCPR, and their recent Concluding Observations on Azerbaijan, as well as "OHCHR Practical Guide for Civil Society: Funds, Grants and Fellowships" and "OHCHR Fact Sheet on Human Rights Defenders: Protecting the Right to Defend Human Rights".



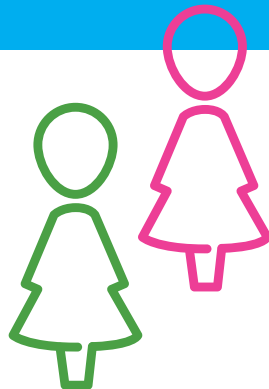
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UN agencies contributed to the “**16 days of activism**” campaign against Gender-Based Violence. The campaign was led by UNFPA (the Gender Thematic Group chair) in close collaboration with UNCT, Government and CSO partners.



The 2019 campaign also marked the initiation of the long-term partnership between the UN, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the Bar Association as regards GBV prevention and response efforts in Azerbaijan.

Based on the **Memorandum of Understanding** signed between the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and the Bar Association, the Association will provide free legal aid for the victims of domestic violence and join the UNCT advocacy efforts, led by UNFPA, on amendments to the law to make free legal support to the victims of Gender Based Violence an obligation of the Government.



This year's campaign was also successful in securing the **engagement of the Faith Based Organisations** – inclusion of the messages on GBV prevention into two Friday khutbas (prayers) in the mosques across the country. Series of publications including FAQs on **Istanbul Convention** were produced and disseminated. Partnership with was built with the shelter “Tamiz Dunya” to provide integrated services to GBV victims.

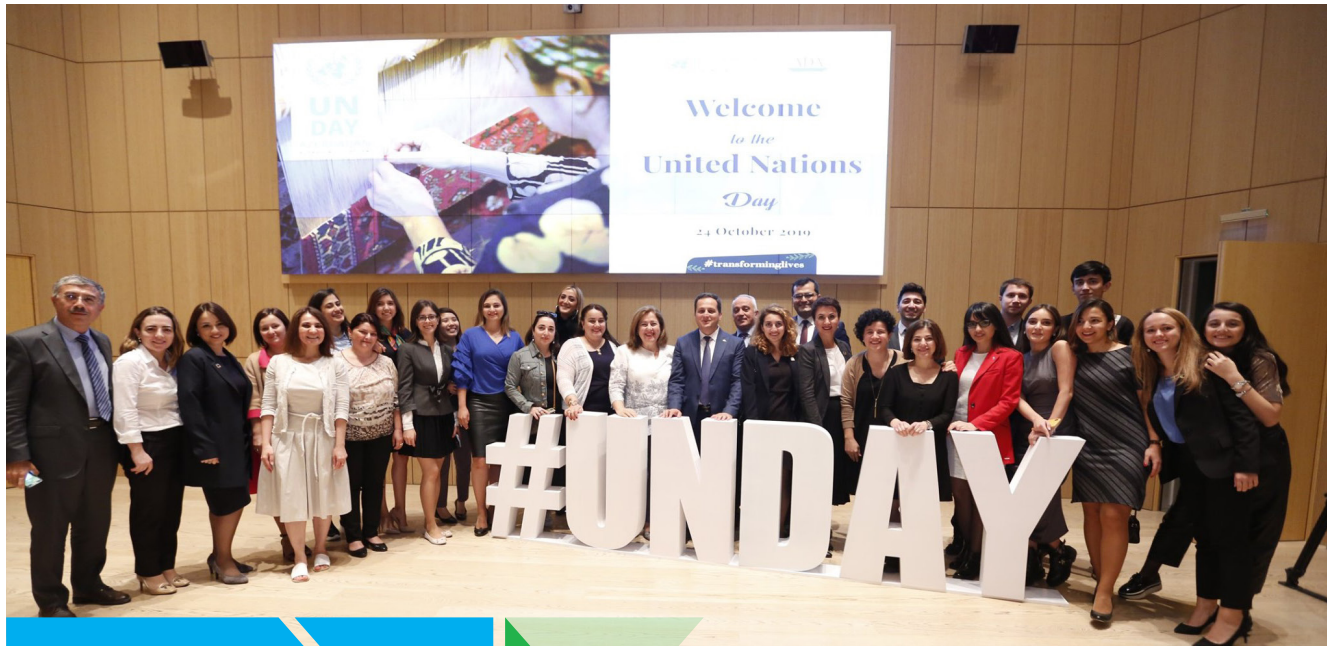


Popular bloggers were engaged to produce provoking and impactful messages to stir up public discussions and increase awareness on the issue.

Within the framework of this year's campaign, **series of video materials were produced to spread the campaign's messages** including video messages from the UN Resident Coordinator, Chairs of the State Committee for Religious Associations (SCRA) and State Committee for Women, Family and Children Affairs.



District level publicity was secured through posters (info on GBV helplines) installed on bus stations across 5 districts (Guba, Mingechevir, Gabala, Lankaran, Ganja) as well as in Baku city.



SECTION 3 COORDINATION RESULTS

UN Development System Reform

- The Resident Coordinator held several high-level meetings and briefings with State counterparts, international development partners, journalists, members of the private sector, civil society and academia on the key components of the reform and the benefits it will bring to partner countries both in terms of operational efficiency and development impact. **The Government welcomed the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system and the reform** to bring collective response to national needs and achievement of the SDGs, as well as to establish system-wide accountability at

the country level. In this regard, UNCT's move to produce **a joint annual report** of its development activities obviating the need for multiple requests for reporting from various Government agencies has been welcomed both by the Government and by development partners. The reform promise on providing support to countries through analysis, policy options, and technical expertise was also welcomed by national actors. Development partners also acknowledged the benefits of the reform and supported the idea of working with a **"unified" UNCT that delivers on multi-sectoral, multi-faceted issues in a comprehensive,**

collaborative and coherent manner.

- As the reform implementation unfolded this year, there was a **marked increase and improvement in inter-agency collaboration** in the UN Country Team. The UNCT welcomed greater engagement in its work from the non-resident and smaller specialized agencies. They particularly leveraged the RC Office to advocate for particular issues such as **a joint statement on GBV, a supplementary protection system for refugees, as well as access to development data** which was raised with the Government as a key concern for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- While the UN system in Azerbaijan worked well as a team prior to the roll-out of the reform agenda, **the reform gave new impetus and strength** to inter-agency collaboration on a range of issues both of operational and programmatic nature. The strengthened RCO accelerated work on inter-agency initiatives that had been put on hold due to capacity constraints. The Operations Management Team accelerated its work on **the implementation of the first Business Operations Strategy (BOS)**, harmonising and streamlining several inter-agency functions such as **banking, procurement and Human Resources**. The reform also provided an opportunity to reengage with the Government on the establishment of common premises for the UN house. Several UN entities based outside of the country (**UN Women, UNDRR, UNIDO, UN-Habitat**) responded positively to the RC request to support the development of a new Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

UNAPF Implementation

- UNCT made significant progress on the implementation of UNAPF and the SOPs during 2019 through a concerted approach. **Three Result Groups** reported against the 2018 targets through the **Joint Work Plans**



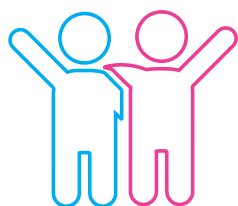
UNITED NATIONS AZERBAIJAN
PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK 2016-2020
Progress Report 2018



and developed a new cycle of **joint annual plans for 2019-2020** with the support of the interagency Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group. **A Joint Annual Review** was convened in February 2019, and the **Annual Progress Report for 2018** was developed, published and shared with the national stakeholders. **The Joint Steering Committee** met for the third time and approved the plans, reviewed the findings and recommendations of the annual review and Mid-term Review. An independent consultancy was engaged to carry out the **final Evaluation of UNAPF** which was finalized in December.

- **Thematic Groups on Gender, Human Rights and SDGs** closely monitored the application of key principles in the design and implementation of the programmes and projects and joined efforts to realize several joint initiatives to advance in related thematic areas.
- The Roadmap for preparation of a **new programming cycle** in accordance with the UN reform agenda and revised guidelines for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in the penultimate year of the UNAPF was undertaken. **Common Country Analysis (CCA)** for the new cycle was drafted.





UN REFORM IS WELCOMED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTNERS

Development Partners' Coordination

- The Resident Coordinator's Office continued to convene and support development partners coordination to ensure synergies and coherence in the development agenda. **Three plenary meetings** following the meetings of the **five thematic coordination groups** were held to discuss sector-specific policy issues. The development **group on education, health, social protection** issues co-chaired by UNICEF and WHO mapped all the youth empowerment activities implemented by the development partners and presented it to the Presidential Administration to inform and engage the Government partners and ensure that their activities is aligned with the Government's Youth Development Strategy. **The Agriculture group** co-chaired by FAO, EU and the Ministry of Agriculture supports the Government's agriculture policy and uses the platform to create inclusive partnerships, and improve results on agriculture sector. **The Energy and Environment group** led by UNDP and ADB held regular meetings with the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to improve transparency, accountability, and strengthen coordination in these sectors.
- The RC office had several consultations with the Global Compact Office on promoting the **UN Global Compact's Ten Principles** to encourage the private sector to bring scale and power for achievement of SDGs in the country. A strategy group comprised of representatives of RCO, UNICEF, Ernst&Young and Pasha Holding was

First Joint UN Program on women and disabilities launched

tasked with developing a Global Compact Strategy in Azerbaijan. Several outputs of the Strategy such as promoting the Global Compact, building the capacity of local journalists in responsible business practices, building partnerships with regional Global Compact networks have been achieved in 2019. The majority of attendees of the conference on **"Responsible Business in Azerbaijan"** expressed interest in signing the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, the Children's Rights and Business Principles (UNICEF) and the Women's Empowerment Principles (UN Women).

Joint Resource Mobilisation

- UNFPA and UNDP with RCO support jointly mobilized Government cost sharing for a project **"Addressing rights and well-being of women with disabilities and veterans of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict"** and implemented in close partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and several other government bodies, and NGOs. The joint program aims to complement the Government efforts to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities with a specific focus on women and war veterans of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Joint Communication

- **The UN Communication Group** organized a series of awareness-raising events and advocacy activities to encourage the active participation of people in delivering the 2030 Agenda in Azerbaijan. These activities included a beach clean-up event in Baku with more than a thousand participants to celebrate **World Environment Day**; a friendly football match with the participation of UN officials, representatives of diplomatic missions and female players from Azerbaijani national football team to **promote gender equality** and others.
- UN organisations in Azerbaijan also organised training sessions for **journalists** on their role in

24 October has been celebrated as **United Nations Day** since 1948. It marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United

Nations officially came into being. The **United Nations (UN) Office in Azerbaijan** organised a special event commemorating the UN Day in 2019 highlighting the **human stories on how the organization transformed lives in Azerbaijan.**



"My path to gender activism"



"Finally feeling peace in Azerbaijan"



"Life skills as means to empower young people"



"WHO Collaboration centre as a best practice in combating infectious diseases in prisons"



"Reducing inequalities through integration of vulnerable people into the society"



"We say No to desertification by afforestation"



“Empowering women through business opportunities”

“Tripartite committees as a best partnership case”

promoting sustainability among businesses (RCO), preventing violent extremism and radicalization (IOM), on primary healthcare reporting (WHO), gender-sensitive journalism (UNFPA), promoting environmental protection among population (RCO), and others.

Crisis preparedness and post-crisis transition

- Following the development of an inter-agency contingency plan for conflict escalation scenario and establishment of an early warning mechanism in 2018, the **team of the Peace and Development Advisor** under the RCO, deployed by the joint UNDP-DPPA global programme regularly **monitored and reported on security-military, political, and social-economic indicators relevant for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict** with the support of UNDSS Azerbaijan. In addition, **Azerbaijan country profile** was set up for UNDP’s global **Crisis Risk Dashboard** that aggregates comprehensive data and trends for more effective monitoring, regular assessment, and understanding of crisis-related risks.
- During instances of increased tensions in relation to Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the RCO and DPPA in New York supported the **Secretary**

General’s conflict prevention agenda through direct political engagement with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders, as well as public messaging.

- In October, the RC hosted a **sub-regional retreat of Resident Coordinators** in Baku, to discuss current political dynamics, ongoing activities, and further joint sub-regional programming for 2020. As an outcome, DPPA and PDA team developed options for possible **UN support to peace efforts in the South Caucasus** at national and sub-regional levels. At the country level, the RC with support of UNDP, UNFPA, and FAO continued organising **sub-regional SDG civil society roundtables**, under the broad concept of **“preparing populations for peace”**, and continued **social media monitoring** of early warning and opportunities for peacebuilding programming.
- UNDP continued supporting **Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA)** in 2019 to conduct further **mine clearance activities** (60 mln sq.m) and offer mine action solutions for affected states. ANAMA’s mine risk education programmes reached over 52,000 schoolchildren in 2019. The year 2019 marked 21 years of successful



The Regional Earthquake Response Exercise of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) in Africa- Europe-Middle East in Baku provided an excellent opportunity for UNCT to test its emergency preparedness and coordination of the crisis response with the Government of Azerbaijan and the international and local partners.

operations of ANAMA with UNDP support resulting in over **539 million square meters of Azerbaijani land completely mine-free** and enabled people to rebuild their lives and resume economic activities in their homelands. ANAMA created **safe conditions for more than 160,500 displaced people to resettle.**

- UNCT, supported by OCHA and in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, developed an inter-agency contingency plan including **cluster-specific responses for an earthquake scenario.**
- RCO in cooperation with OCHA organized a series of capacity building activities for UNCT and humanitarian partners on **joint inter-agency emergency response** within the first 10 days of an emergency and crisis communication and public messaging in various emergency situations.
- RCO also provided expertise for the Azerbaijani

Red Crescent Society in training 120 staff members of the **Ministry of Emergency Situations' Urban Search and Rescue Team** on international principles of humanitarian operations.

- WHO built capacities of the staff of the Ministries of Health, Emergency Situations, Internal Affairs, Agriculture and Defense on emergency response, risk communication and strategic risk assessment. It also held **After Action Review** on the response and management of the **2019 measles outbreak** which helped to identify and put in action the best practices.
- UNFPA jointly with the Ministry of Health held a series of simulation exercises in 3 districts of Azerbaijan on applying Minimum Integrated Service Package (MISP) in health through addressing the emergency health response to crisis in areas of reproductive health and gender-based violence.



FAO, International Dialogue for Environmental Action (IDEA) and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources launched an initiative of planting 312 walnut trees on an area of 2 hectares and handing over to low-income families to earn income and improve their well-being.

SECTION 4 WAY FORWARD

- Since 2016, the Government has taken a number of preparatory steps such as- submission of two Voluntary National Review reports, fielding of a Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission, undertaking of a Rapid Integrated Assessment, and launch of several advocacy events towards nationalization of the SDGs. As a result, the Government has prioritized 88 Targets and 119 indicators. While much has been done in terms of assessment and planning, more efforts will be required in the future to link policies, budgets and state programmes to SDGs targets and indicators in order to effectively monitor and report on the country's progress. Similarly, **costing of the SDGs** using the UN and World Bank methodology of Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) needs to be undertaken to understand the resource gaps for realization of the SDGs. UN stands ready to support the Government's commitment of developing a **2030 SDG**

vision document that can serve as a long-term national SDG strategy responding to the Decade of Action. Considering Azerbaijan's **upper middle income status**, the issue of financing of the SDGs needs close attention by the Government how best to (1) allocate their resources to support sustainable development; (2) use the development finance architecture and related cooperative platforms to fund and finance these projects, and (3) tap into and marshal private sources for sustainable development.

- While Azerbaijan has made significant efforts to improve the quality of data related to SDGs and its targets, significant gaps remain in terms of **disaggregated data** as in many other countries. The UN will continue its support to the Government to improve the quality and accessibility of data for **effective SDG monitoring and reporting**.
- The UN reform offers an entry point to ensure that policy support to Azerbaijan is integrated, which will help avoid a sectoral or agency-specific response to national development challenges. Starting from 2020, the UN will make a gradual shift from downstream programming **to upstream policy support** given Azerbaijan's upper middle-income status from across the UN system in an integrated fashion. UNCT will also support the government **to strengthen civil society** that would in turn strengthen government accountability and transparency with regard to the implementation of policies and programmes.
- The UN will continue to capitalize on existing opportunities to support national policies in support of SDG implementation. For instance, there is scope to enhance **the management of natural resources** in the context of climate change, focusing on strengthening Protected



UN WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DATA FOR EFFECTIVE SDG MONITORING AND REPORTING

Areas network and climate technology solutions in agricultural and forestry sectors. Other areas for UN technical support include **legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, reducing pollution, water and waste management and biodiversity**. Plans are also in place to set up a **UN Network on Migration in Azerbaijan** that will include UN, Government and Civil Society Organisations to implement the objectives of **the Global Compact for Migration (GCM)** in a strategic and resourceful manner.

- UNCT will continue its work on the finalization of the **UN Azerbaijan Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025** which will be fully anchored in national efforts to achieve the SDGs.



SECTION 5 PARTNERS AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial Overview

| United Nations Organisations | Total (USD) |
|--|-------------|
| Food and Agriculture Organization | 2,611,029 |
| International Labour Organization | 335,000 |
| International Organization for Migration | 1,035,391 |
| Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | 80,000 |
| United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees | 2,337,000 |
| United Nations Development Programme | 9,930,629 |
| United Nations Economic Commission for Europe | 93,000 |
| United Nations Fund for Children | 2,013,495 |
| United Nations Population Fund | 667,610 |
| World Health Organization | 92,725 |

Funding Partners

| | |
|---|---|
| Government of Azerbaijan |  |
|  | Embassy of Netherlands |
| The British Embassy in Azerbaijan |  BRITISH EMBASSY |
|  | European Union |
| Global Environment Facility |  |
|  | Green Climate Fund |
| KOICA –Korean development agency |  Korea International Cooperation Agency |
|  | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| United States Agency for International Development |  FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE |

Implementing Partners

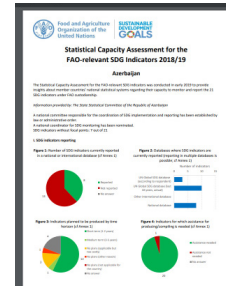
| | Government | | | | NGOs | | Academia | Private sector |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| ASAN Support to Family Business Public Legal Entity | Ministry of Economy | National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations | State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs | Against Addictions | ECO-TES | Ruzigar | ADA University | Coca-Cola Foundation |
| Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency | Ministry of Education | National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development | State Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons | Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan | EduHub | Social Progress Public Union | Academy of Justice | Ernst & Young Azerbaijan |
| Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action | Ministry of Emergency Situations | National Paralympics Committee | State Customs Committee | Azerbaijan Bar Association | Eurasian Partnership Foundation | Support to Health | Academy of Public Administration under the President | Pasha bank |
| Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation | Ministry of Energy | Office of the Ombudsman | State Migration Service | Azerbaijan Micro-finance Association | International Dialogue for Environmental Action (IDEA) | Support to Women Social Development in Neftchala | Azerbaijan Medical University | PricewaterhouseCoopers Azerbaijan |
| Azerbaijan Youth Foundation | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Parliament | State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic | Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society | International Eurasia Press Fund | Uluchay Social-Economic Innovation Centre | Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University | Social Innovation Lab |
| Baku Transport Agency | Ministry of Health | Public Health and Reforms Centre | State Statistics Committee | Clean World Public Union | Junior Achievement Azerbaijan | Union of Disabled People Organizations | Baku Nursing College N 2 | |
| Cabinet of Ministers | Ministry of Internal Affairs | Special Olympics Committee | State Tourism Agency | Constitution Research Foundation | Local Governance Assistance Public Union | United Aid for Azerbaijan | Ganja State University | |
| Heydar Aliyev Foundation | Ministry of Justice | State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance | Agency for Sustainable and Operational Social Security | DAN International Youth Public Union | National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan | Women for Development of Municipalities Public Union | Institute of Education | |
| Ministry of Agriculture | Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population | State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations | | Ecolex Law Public Union | National Paralympic Committee | Youth Education Centre | State Pedagogical University | |
| Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources | Ministry of Youth and Sports | State Agency on Vocational Education | | Eco-Renaissance Public Union | Regional Development Public Union | Y-PEER Azerbaijan Network | Sumgayit State University | |



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



Early Childhood Development in Azerbaijan, UNICEF, 2019 (ENG and AZE)



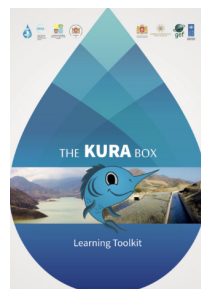
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Advancing Integrated Water Resource Management across the Kura river basin through implementation of the transboundary agreed actions and national plans-Learning Toolkit (UNDP, GEF)(ENG, AZE, GEO)



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