



U N I T E D N A T I O N S A Z E R B A I J A N  
P A R T N E R S H I P F R A M E W O R K 2 0 1 6 - 2 0 2 0

# Progress Report 2018

# Contents

**About the cover photo:** Pictured is Yegane Eldarova, a local carpet-weaver in the Ismayilli region of Azerbaijan. After joining a group of villagers who were receiving support from the Azerbaijan Service and Assessment Network (ABAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), she was able to establish a business of her own, which now employs about 100 local people. The joint UNDP-ABAD initiative aims to create alternative sources of income for farmers in mountainous communities of Azerbaijan.

Published by United Nations Office in Azerbaijan  
© UN Office Azerbaijan 2019

All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may be freely used and copied for educational and other non-commercial purposes, provided that any such reproduction is accompanied by an acknowledgement of UN Office in Azerbaijan as the source.

Tel: (012) 498 98 88. Email: office.az@one.un.org. Baku, 3, UN 50th anniversary street

**Editing and design:** Small World Stories and badhatharry.com.au

**Photo credits:** Cover photo: UNDP Azerbaijan/ Andrea Egan; Inside cover: UNO Baku; page 4: UNDP Azerbaijan/ Ulvi Badalov; page 9 : Ministry of Agriculture/Elkhan Guliyev; page 17: UNO Baku/Zaur Zeynal; page 19: UNO Baku; page 22: UNO Baku; page 25: on top right and bottom left UNDP/Elmar Mustafayev; page 25: bottom middle and right European Union; page 27 (on top left side); Ministry of Agriculture/Elkhan Guliyev; page 27 (on the right side): FAO/ Vuqar Bashirov; page 28: top left UNDP Azerbaijan; page 28: bottom right Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies; page 29: top right ANAMA; page 29: bottom left IOM/ Anar İskəndərov; page 32: UNICEF Azerbaijan/Bell; page 33: UNHCHR Azerbaijan; page 34: OHCHR Azerbaijan; page 36: Elchin Muradov; page 38: shutterstock; page 41: UNYAC; page 42: Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies; page 43: UNICEF Azerbaijan/ Zeynalov; page 45: UNFPA Azerbaijan; page 46: top right UNICEF Azerbaijan/Pirozzi; page 46; bottom right UNO Baku; page 47: UNFPA Azerbaijan; page 49 : UNO Baku; page 51: OHCHR Azerbaijan; page 52: UNHCHR Azerbaijan; page 53: UNO Baku; page 55 : FAO/ Tofiq Babayev; page 59: Gizilaghaj National Park; page 61: UNDP Azerbaijan/ Andrea Egan.



<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	5
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	6
<b>SECTION 1: CONTEXT</b> .....	8
THE DEVELOPMENT PICTURE IN AZERBAIJAN .....	10
ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS-AZERBAIJAN PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK.....	13
TOP HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2018 .....	14
<b>SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS</b> .....	16
TOWARDS AGENDA 2030.....	18
STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA ONE: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, UNDERPINNED BY INCREASED DIVERSIFICATION AND DECENT WORK.....	23
STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA TWO: STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES.....	30
STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA THREE: IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE TO HAZARDS AND DISASTERS.....	35
EMPOWERING YOUTH.....	40
EMPOWERING WOMEN .....	44
HUMAN RIGHTS.....	50
<b>SECTION 3: LOOKING AHEAD</b> .....	54
NEW PARTNERSHIPS .....	56
THE YEAR AHEAD.....	57
<b>SECTION 4: PARTNERS AND FINANCIALS</b> .....	60



# Foreword



I am pleased to share with you the Annual Progress Report of the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (2016-2020) covering the third year of implementation. The report highlights the results of our joint efforts with the Government and other national actors, including, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector.

In 2018, in close collaboration with our partners, we contributed to boosting employment opportunities and skills development for non-oil sectors, empowering women, youth and vulnerable communities, strengthening national capacities to design better policies and broaden the range of services and support mechanisms for citizens.

In addition, supporting compliance with international standards in the area of human rights, advancing gender equality, strengthening the public health systems, promoting modern

and sustainable agriculture, as well as protection of the environment and reducing risk to natural disasters were at the center of our joint work in 2018.

During 2018, we continued our support to the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development in its efforts to prioritise and nationalise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a result, the Government issued a list of prioritized goals and targets for accelerated achievement towards the end of the year.

Our strong focus on policy formulation and implementation helped shape strategies in agriculture, health and social service sectors. The National Employment Strategy (2019-2030) which was developed with UN support was approved by the President of Azerbaijan in October 2018 whereas the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of Azerbaijan entered into force in July 2018.

With UN support, the First Marine National Park was established in Azerbaijan with an area of close to 100,000 ha along the coast of the Caspian Sea, which will help protect the authentic heritage of this coastal wetland.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights (UDHR), we launched a three-day exhibition in Baku city while the results of Universal Periodic Review were broadly communicated to the national partners.

The UN Country Team in Azerbaijan is proud to have contributed to these and many other development priorities of the country through provision of expert advice and other resources. The UN Country Team will continue to support Azerbaijan's ambition of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

I hope this report presented to the public will help readers to gain a deeper understanding of our joint work, results and impacts.

I would like to thank the Government of Azerbaijan and all our other development partners for working with us to achieve these joint results for the benefit of the people of Azerbaijan. My gratitude also goes to all our UN staff and experts for their commitment and hard work in order to make a difference in the lives of Azerbaijani people across the country.

**Chulam Isaczai**  
**United Nations Resident Coordinator**

# Executive summary

Azerbaijan has seen significant economic and social changes since gaining independence in 1991. The economy has grown rapidly and human development indicators, such as life expectancy and years of schooling have grown. The challenge now is securing continued growth that benefits everyone.

In 2016, the Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations developed and agreed on the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (UNAPF) 2016-2020. Building on previous cooperation, this Partnership Framework is aimed at helping everyone across the country to have equal opportunity and access to quality education and health services, find decent employment, and to live in a clean, safe environment.

## Key results

In 2018, a number of significant results have been achieved under the Partnership Framework across its key areas of work.

## Towards Agenda 2030

Work advanced with the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development and other institutions to identify policy and programming actions that can accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Azerbaijan. Engaging different groups, including the private sector, media, parliamentarians and the public, among others, in understanding the Goals and the actions they can take also saw many events, workshops and other activities take place across the country.

## Strategic priority area one:

*Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development, underpinned by increased diversification and decent work*

Job seekers and employees are set to benefit from new national strategies and frameworks finalized through the Partnership in 2018, while thousands of young people, women and those living in rural areas gained

new skills and employment opportunities. With a key element of the Government's development vision involving a more diversified economy, in 2018 the Partnership Framework helped make important progress in high-potential sectors such as agriculture and information communication technologies (ICTs). New opportunities for people affected by conflict and persecution were also delivered.

## Strategic priority area two:

*Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services*

E-governance took several steps forward with the trialling of the 'Mobile Signature' to improve public service delivery, while new online features now provide easier access to information and services for foreigners and Azerbaijanis alike as they cross the country's national borders. In 2018, the Partnership Framework also continued to support the Government in its efforts to ensure that social services are available to all members of society including children, women, and people with disabilities. This included finding more effective and innovative ways of reaching those who are displaced, refugees or otherwise vulnerable, for example

through mobile legal aid clinics, or better coordinated systems for child protection.

## Strategic priority area three:

*Improving environmental management and resilience to hazards and disasters*

The Partnership Framework continued to back Azerbaijan as it strives to slash its greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per cent by 2030<sup>1</sup>. This involved supporting the government to take stock of current emissions, providing decisionmakers with critical information to inform the most effective policies and actions to counter climate change. It also involved working with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) to showcase how the private sector can take action. Meanwhile, environmental protection and management of forestry, marine and national park areas were improved, with new laws developed with United Nations support coming into force, measures taken to improve sustainable forest management, and the opening of Azerbaijan's first marine park.

## Empowering youth

The Partnership Framework continued to empower young people to act as positive social change agents. In 2018 this involved supporting them to engage their peers in action on social issues and the sustainable development goals, promoting a positive image of young people with disability, and providing opportunities for youth to enhance their skills.

## Empowering women

Advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment gained momentum in 2018 under the Partnership Framework with the development and launch of a number of important activities. These included campaigns for women's rights, and support to new studies and action plans to help policy makers and others to take positive action towards empowering women.

## Human rights

The Partnership Framework boosted the ability of stakeholders from government, civil society and the legal community to better implement human rights in Azerbaijan. Advocacy efforts promoted the rights of children, while the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provided a moment to reflect and celebrate the history and fundamental importance of human rights.

<sup>1</sup> Compared to the base year (1990)

# Section 1: Context

*The development picture in Azerbaijan*

*About the United Nations-Azerbaijan  
Partnership Framework*

*Top highlights for 2018*



## The development picture in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has undergone significant economic and social changes since gaining independence in 1991. Having transitioned to a market-based economy, it has transformed itself into an upper middle-income country, and made significant human development gains. The challenge now is consolidating these gains for the long-term benefit of all citizens.

### **The economic picture**

Azerbaijan's economy has enjoyed an energy-fuelled boom over the last two decades. It remains one of the world's fastest-growing economies and, in a few years, has gained an increasingly assertive presence on the regional arena<sup>1</sup>. According to the World Bank's 'Doing Business' report, the country's position moved by 32 places and reached 25th place<sup>2</sup>. In the 'Global Competitiveness Report 2018' by the World Economic Forum, Azerbaijan ranks 69th out of 140 countries. Economic growth was spurred by the exploration of oil and gas reserves, high levels of public expenditure, and reforms to support a market-based economy.

Despite this robust progress, the national economy remains dependent upon the extraction and production of

fossil fuels. The country was affected by the latest dramatic decline of global oil prices and broader economic slowdown<sup>3</sup>. Following the recession and stagnation of the economy in 2015-2017, Azerbaijan saw 1.4 per cent growth in 2018, driven mainly by the non-oil sector<sup>4</sup>.

Understanding the challenge with a heavy reliance on the extractive industries, the Government has started fundamental reforms of the financial sector. There is a stronger focus on promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable non-oil economic expansion (particularly in agricultural, tourism and IT sectors), alongside export-oriented growth<sup>5</sup>.

### **The challenge now is consolidating these gains for the long-term benefit of all citizens**

### **The human development picture**

Azerbaijan's human development index score for 2017 was 0.757, ranking the nation 80 out of 189 countries and territories and placing it in the high human development category. Over the last decades, life

expectancy increased by 7.3 years, while the mean years of schooling increased by 0.5 years, and the expected years of schooling increased by two years<sup>6</sup>. Azerbaijan also met the Sustainable Development Goal of bringing under-five mortality rates to no more than 25 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The country created and continues to build on the successful Azerbaijan Service and Assessment Network centres (ASAN) model for delivering services through 'one-stop-shops'. This model has dramatically reduced bureaucracy, corruption and peoples' waiting times.

Despite these positive trends, inequalities still remain a

challenge. This is evident when taking a closer look at the country's human development statistics.

Labour markets in Azerbaijan are characterized by significant structural challenges such as supply-demand mismatches, high levels of vulnerable and informal work, and regional labour market disparities.

Because of Azerbaijan's 'youth bulge', young people constitute the majority of the unemployed in many parts of the country<sup>7</sup>. Until recently, social welfare programmes have been predominantly focused on cash assistance, rather than providing integrated social services. However, the new government initiative of establishing 31 centres for Sustainable and Operational Social Security will, in the coming years, significantly improve social services to the most vulnerable population. The notable recent increases in the budget allocations for education (up by 13 per cent) and health care (by 44.5 per cent) are important in terms of improving peoples' opportunities. But further efforts are needed to align budget allocation and spending with prioritized Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

Generally, people with disabilities of all ages face social exclusion – in terms of education, employment and recreation. Azerbaijan adopted a new law on the rights of people with disabilities in 2018. This provides a legal basis for eliminating discrimination based on disability, it also promotes social inclusion and involving people with disabilities in decision-making process related to their lives. It also underscores the rights and freedoms of people with disabilities based on equal opportunity. Meanwhile, a new state programme on inclusive education, unveiled in 2018, focuses on the importance of quality education for children with disabilities in the mainstream school sector.

Evidence from the most recent overview of the demographic situation in the country highlights several areas of progress on gender equality that include longer life expectancy for both men and women as well as higher literacy rates among women. The research

also suggests that women are now more likely to marry at an older age, have fewer children, and have nearly equal chances of residing in either rural or urban areas. They are also more engaged in income-generating activities outside of the household. Nevertheless, a series of barriers at the individual, institutional and structural levels continue to severely impede gender equality reforms<sup>8</sup>. Despite some significant milestones, progress towards gender equality in Azerbaijan faces a number of challenges. Many of these challenges are similar to those featured in the global trends in gender equality<sup>9</sup>.

### **Because of Azerbaijan's 'youth bulge', young people constitute the majority of the unemployed in many parts of the country**

# About the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework

## The environmental picture

Azerbaijan is not a major greenhouse gas contributor. Even so, given Azerbaijan's reliance on hydrocarbon production, defining new pathways to reduce the carbon footprint of economic development, especially in the energy sector (responsible for 75.9 per cent of emissions) is critical<sup>10</sup>.

Azerbaijan is also highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly given the scarcity of freshwater resources and location on the coast of the Caspian Sea<sup>11</sup>. The country is part of all major United Nations conventions related to environmental protection,

**Azerbaijan is also highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly given the scarcity of freshwater resources and location on the coast of the Caspian Sea**

including three of the most important on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Land Degradation. Azerbaijan ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1995 and in December 2015 joined the Paris Convention.

## The peace picture

At an early stage of independence, the country experienced a massive displacement crisis as a result of the armed conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. As a result, more than one million people fled their homes becoming refugees or internally displaced people (IDPs). Over two decades later, an estimated 620,000 (as of 31 December 2018) from the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the seven surrounding occupied districts remain internally displaced, according to government statistics. Despite a fragile ceasefire, displacement remains a major challenge for the country, while no political solution has been reached, and a durable solution is yet to be achieved.

In 2016, the Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations developed and agreed on a new Partnership framework. The United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (UNAPF) 2016-2020 is aimed at supporting everyone across the country to have equal opportunity and access to quality education and health services, find decent employment, and to live in a clean, safe environment.

The Partnership aims to achieve this by marshalling the complementary skills, resources and efforts of the United Nations behind Azerbaijan's national development agenda. This agenda is articulated in the 'Azerbaijan - 2020: The Vision of the Future' Development Concept and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Partnership also involves the private sector and civil society.

## Our approach

The Partnership supports Azerbaijan in achieving its development ambitions in three strategic priority areas where the combined, complimentary efforts of the United Nations can achieve the following results.



*Sustainable and inclusive development to diversify the economy and create decent work opportunities, especially for young people, women and those living in rural or conflict affected areas.*



*Better public and social services that are transparent and ensure that no-one is left behind.*



*Good environmental management that promotes a safe climate and protects Azerbaijan's unique natural heritage, while also ensuring that people and their communities are resilient against hazards or disasters.*

Promoting everyone's fundamental human rights as well as equality between women and men cut across all of the Partnership's work as these are essential for achieving Azerbaijan's development ambitions and meeting its international commitments. A vital element of this Partnership also involves supporting the government to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Our process

To ensure success, the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework gets strategic guidance from a Steering Committee made up of senior government officials and United Nations Agency co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and Minister of Economy. Meanwhile, three results groups have been established (one per strategic area outlined above) to coordinate and facilitate joint United Nations and government efforts. In addition, a Gender Thematic Group, Human Rights Thematic Group, Communications Group and Operations Management Team are contributing to implementing the Partnership.

Finally, a Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, involving representatives from UN agencies and the Government involved with the Partnership tracks progress. They capture achievements and lessons learnt so that its implementation is continually improved.

# Top highlights for 2018

In 2018, approximately 70 government and non-government agencies worked with 10 United Nations agencies, together investing US\$ 15,952,711 and achieving significant progress. These are the top highlights achieved under the Partnership framework in 2018.



Strategic priority area one: Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development, underpinned by increased diversification and decent work

The National Employment Strategy (2019-2030) was approved by the President in October 2018, enabling better management of Azerbaijan's labour resources, employment, and social protection.

The highly successful Women's Resource Centres, which help rural women to realize their business ideas expanded to three more districts and supported over 1,000 women in 2018, bringing their total up to 6,000 women supported across the country.

A certification system on organic agriculture was introduced, opening up new future opportunities for farmers across the country.



Strategic priority area two: Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services

E-governance took significant steps forward with a new initiative called 'Mobile Signature' to improve public service delivery, while foreigners and Azerbaijanis now have easier access to information and services as they cross national borders.

A key step towards a fully comprehensive approach to child protection was taken in 2018 with the piloting of a new child-centred and equity-focused integrated social service package.

The one-year pre-school attendance rate for five-year old children has increased from 14.2 per cent in the 2014 school year to 75 per cent in 2018.

A National Reproductive Health strategy (2017-2020) was prepared.



Strategic priority area three: Improving environmental management and resilience to hazards and disasters

The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of Azerbaijan entered into force in July 2018 and the Government is now preparing six pieces of secondary legislation to implement it.

The first Marine National Park was established in Azerbaijan with an area close to 100,000 hectares along the coast of the Caspian Sea.

Azerbaijan's ability to manage locust outbreaks was boosted with a new monitoring system and training for responsible officials.

For the first time since independence, the government will use Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators for application in forestry inventory and management planning.



Empowering Youth

To reach out to youth, 17 young leaders were selected as SDG ambassadors and equipped with the necessary skills and tools to promote the Goals among their peers.

A UN-Government joint initiative strengthened existing Youth House functions to better deliver youth engagement activities.

A cutting-edge robotics lab opened its doors to students for the first time in Azerbaijan.

The first national Master's degree course was launched to prepare professional youth workers to support youth development.

Everyone was a winner when hundreds of children and adolescents with disabilities competed in the fourth Paralympic games in Azerbaijan.



Empowering Women

Hundreds of thousands of people were engaged in campaigns to promote girls' and women's rights as well as action against gender-based violence.

New research into the barriers women face in achieving success in the private sector provides new insights for action.

An action plan to prevent gender-biased sex selection is set for implementation.



Human Rights

Thousands of school children learnt about how to guard against human trafficking.

National Master Trainers on child rights are now equipped to facilitate training on child rights in the country.

70 years of the Universal declaration of human rights was marked with artistic expressions and a call for everyone to stand up for human rights.

# Section 2: Key results

*Towards Agenda 2030*

*Strategic priority area one: Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development, underpinned by increased diversification and decent work*

*Strategic priority area two: Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services*

*Strategic priority area three: Improving environmental management and resilience to hazards and disasters*

*Empowering youth*

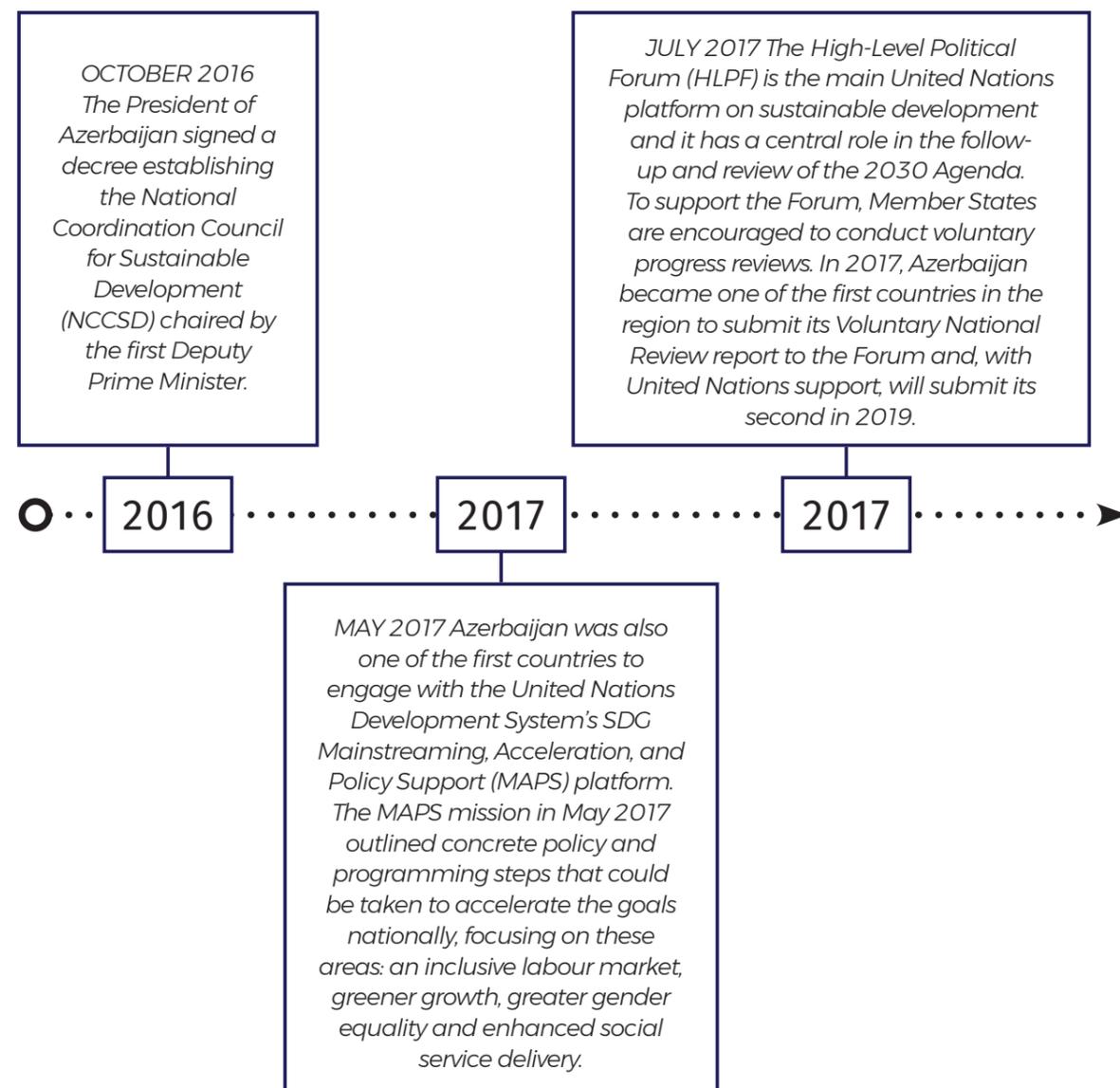
*Empowering women*

*Human rights*



## Towards Agenda 2030

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. It provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At the Agenda's heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These ultimately aim to improve people's access to health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. Over the last three years, Azerbaijan has demonstrated its firm commitment towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.



## Accelerating the SDGs in Azerbaijan

In 2018, the United Nations continued to provide technical and policy advice, while also strengthening the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development and other institutions to promote progress towards Agenda 2030.

Building on the findings and recommendations of the 2017 MAPS mission, which identified policy and programming actions that could accelerate the SDGs in Azerbaijan, in 2018, the United Nations hosted several workshops to discuss the Mission's findings and translate these into action. The workshops convened hundreds of government officials, representatives of the private sector, civil society and youth groups. A key outcome of these events was the draft *Baku Principles*, a set of guidelines to further promote the SDGs.

Azerbaijan has been one of the first countries to undertake a MAPS mission (29 May to 2 June 2017) and in October 2018, the country presented its experience at the first *Baku Forum on Sustainable*



Above: The MAPS process identified action on gender equality as one of the key areas where Azerbaijan could see significant progress towards the SDGs, and this is a critical area where the United Nations provides advice and expertise to the Government and civil society organizations. In 2018, UNDP provided tailored workshops to 38 civil society organizations on how to design their projects in response to the 2030 Agenda with a focus on equality between women and men. UNDP followed this up with a call for proposals from civil society organizations in this area. Up to 10 of the best proposal will be funded in 2019.

*Development.* This event, co-hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations, brought together more than 200 regional representatives from governments, civil society and the United Nations. The focus was on translating the 2030 Agenda into action and the role of international stakeholders and parliaments. Azerbaijan's MAPS report and the *Baku Principles* were formally presented and adopted at the event. This landmark event, which will now take place biennially, received substantial technical and financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## Monitoring progress towards the Goals

Vital to implementing the 2030 Agenda is having a strong statistical system that can measure and monitor progress across the Goals. The adoption of the Goals also offers a chance to seize today's data revolution momentum and show the importance of data for development. In 2018, several UN Agencies (FAO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO) worked closely with the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development and the State Statistical Committee and other institutions to make data for monitoring the Goals better.

**In 2018 our work on improving data achieved these six key results**



Sex-disaggregated data became available for 10 more indicators that have been integrated into the national population database.



The Washington Module for collecting disability related data was tested through the National Family Budget Survey in 2018 and will be integrated in the 2019 Census.



Two online platforms were set-up providing a general overview and national statistics on the Goals



Staff of the State Statistics Committee and other related institutions were trained on SDG indicators and data visualization as impactful ways to communicate externally.



In-depth analysis of data collected through Child Deprivation Studies in 2015 and 2017 provided key insights on the impact of the financial crisis on children and their families.



A socio-economic assessment among 83 per cent of refugee households was conducted, providing key information on living condition, food consumption, income and more.

## Advocating for the Goals

Making the sustainable development goals a reality in Azerbaijan will require all parts of society to be aware of the Goals and to understand how they can take action. In 2018, the United Nations made special efforts to engage different groups including the private sector, media, parliamentarians and the public, among others, in promoting the Goals.

### The private sector

A training workshop was organised jointly by UNDP and the American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan, bringing together more than 20 representatives of the country's vibrant business community. This event aimed at helping Azerbaijani companies to integrate the Goals into their business portfolios. Meanwhile, the second round of the National Innovation Contest on the Goals was organized to encourage the development of innovative solutions to national development problems.

### The agricultural sector

In close collaboration with National Coordination Council of Sustainable Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized a national workshop on accelerating the contribution of sustainable food and agriculture to achieving the Goals in Azerbaijan. This involved 180 participants for government, the private sector, civil society and academia. Meanwhile, in close collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy in Ismayilli and Khachmaz districts, FAO brought together local stakeholders involved in food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development to discuss the contribution of local Public-Private-People Partnerships in accelerating the Goals.

### The media

Journalists, writers, bloggers and vloggers participated in a one-day workshop designed to help them find ways to make the sustainable development goals story compelling and interesting for their audiences. This was supported by UNDP and FAO.

### Children and young people

In partnership with IDEA public Union and the Ministry of Education, supported by UNICEF, 20 Azerbaijani schools joined the *World's Largest Lesson* global initiative. This effort brings global issues, with a focus on environment and climate change, into children's daily lives. In Azerbaijan it made the Goals more relevant and meaningful to over 2,400 school children.

Meanwhile, in partnership with the Ministry of Sports and Youth, 17 young leaders were selected as ambassadors of the Goals and equipped with the necessary skills and tools to promote them among young people.

### The public

Baku Boulevard, a major tourist attraction in the city saw the municipality and the United Nations erect billboards in Azerbaijani and English promoting simple action that people can take to support the Goals. A *Global Goals* song was officially launched in October. While representatives of the national partners and UN agencies took to the airwaves on an innovative radio programme about the Goals that ran from February to July on ASAN FM Radio.

A short film on food waste, broadcast on popular TV channels (TV channels AzTV, Ictimai and ATV) for six months also raised awareness about the 'responsible consumption and production' Goal. Produced by FAO, in collaboration with the International

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

Dialogue for Environmental Action (IDEA), the film was also shared across the social media platforms of the United Nations in Azerbaijan, IDEA and Cavan TV.



Above: SDG billboards on display in Baku Boulevard.

More than 300 youth activists, representatives of UN agencies, civil society and the private sector collected around five tons of plastic and other waste during the beach clean-up campaign on the shores of Buzovna beach in Baku.

The event was part of the UN-supported Environmental Week in Azerbaijan and organized by the UN Office in Baku in collaboration with the IDEA Public Union, Clean City Joint Stock Company and Azerbaijani Youth Foundation. Afterwards, a number of other civil society organizations and businesses launched similar campaigns on the shores of the Caspian Sea.



Above: Buzovna beach clean-up in Baku.

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

### Strategic priority area one:

*Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development, underpinned by increased diversification and decent work*



The Government's 2020 Vision aims to create a more diversified and highly competitive economy, powered by a skilled workforce and where financial growth is balanced across the nation's regions. In 2018, the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework saw progress in support of this ambition with improvements in employment sector management, gains made towards diversifying the economy, and marginalized people given new skills and employment opportunities.

### 2018 highlights



The National Employment Strategy (2019-2030) was approved by the President in October 2018, enabling better management of Azerbaijan's labour resources, employment, and social protection.



The highly successful Women's Resource Centres, which help rural women to realize their business ideas expanded to three more districts and supported over 1,000 women in 2018, bringing their total up to 6,000 women supported across the country.



A new national strategy on adopting and promoting organic agriculture has been drafted, while a certification system is now finalized, opening up new future opportunities for farmers across the country.

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

### The employment sector makes gains

Job seekers and employees are set to benefit from new national strategies and frameworks finalized through the Partnership in 2018. Thousands of young people, women and those living in rural areas gained new skills and employment opportunities.

### New national strategy set to improve employment sector management

The National Employment Strategy (2019-2030) developed with International Labour Organization (ILO) support was approved by the President in October 2018. As a result, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population will be better able to manage labour resources, employment, and social protection. Under the employment strategy, 530 Ministry staff responsible for job placement, training, retraining and vocational guidance gained important new skills through ILO-supported training. This will enable them to provide better services, particularly to young job seekers.

Meanwhile, in the vocational education sector, UNDP

supported the development of a legal framework, which, once implemented, will enable people to be recognized for competences they gained through informal and non-formal learning for the first time in Azerbaijan. This will improve many job seekers prospects for employment.

### New vocational education courses offered to meet market demand

Azerbaijan's Vocational, Education and Training system has a critical role to play in producing a qualified workforce that meets the growing demands of the labour market. UNDP is working with Ministry of Education and State Agency

### Enrolments rose by 22 per cent in Jalilabad and 9.5 per cent in Ganja.

on Vocational Education in two priority centres (Jalilabad and Ganja) to demonstrate how other centres, and the sector overall, can be improved to produce job-ready people who enter a labour market where their skills are sought after. Building on the labour market surveys carried out in 2017, both centres now offer courses in six new occupations in line with what the market needs. The new courses,

which cover such growing industries as wine making, tea and strawberry production have attracted new students' attention. Enrolments rose by 22 per cent in Jalilabad and 9.5 per cent in Ganja.

### Rural youth gain new skills and income opportunities

Supporting young people (close to 30 per cent of the population) in Azerbaijan to gain skills and find income opportunities, especially in regional areas, is an important element of the Partnership Framework. In 2018, the Systems Laboratory for Innovation and Employment (SYSLAB) method used at two UNDP-supported

centres continued to reap results. The SYSLAB method uses modern job-seeking techniques, promotes entrepreneurship, and person-to-person networking and office skills. Since 2016, the two centres have trained 275 youth. Fifty-five per cent of participants were female and 66 per cent of graduate found employment. In 2018, eighty-six young people

undertook training (53 per cent female) and 64 of them found jobs. The SYSLAB services were also expanded to a third district (Zagatala). And, to reach out to more youth in surrounding regions, a new Mobile SYSLAB was launched. This reached 100 youth (41 per cent female) in five districts.

### Rural women supported to realize their business ideas

Giving women spaces to meet, network, exchange ideas, forge partnerships, attract capital, gain confidence and grow professionally can have transformative impacts. In rural and remote areas especially, such spaces can be instrumental in helping women to learn more about their rights, discover untapped potential, and overcome obstacles that once seemed insurmountable.



### Meet some of the inspiring alumni from Azerbaijan's Women's Resource Centres

Above: Gulnar opened her rural town's first gym for women. It has almost 30 clients as regular members. Her nearest women's resource centre worked with Gulnar to turn her idea into a business plan, and also helped her to buy her first fitness equipment and renovate the premises. "I made a lot of friends and contacts at the Centre with women from other villages and towns," she says. "I think it changed all of us in how we see ourselves as women in this society."



Above-left: Rashada Asadova pictured at work in her tailor shop says: "It seemed so simple. I never really thought I could create a business plan. But they took me seriously and I started the training." | Above-centre: Rena Mekhaliyeva set-up a pre-wedding ceremony business | Above-right: Govahr Khanhuseynova's new bakery is thriving.

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

The Women's Resource Centres in Azerbaijan are doing precisely this, equipping women in rural areas with tools and resources to help them launch their own businesses.

Since their launch in 2011, the Women Resource Centres have 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. In 2018, UNDP continued providing financial and technical support along with its other partners (the European Union, USAID, the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Austria) to strengthening the organizational capacities of these important, life-changing Centres. This enabled the service to expand into three more districts (Khazar, Zagatala, Gusar) and a total of eight Centres are now operating throughout the country, benefiting 1,106 women (48 per cent from villages and 20 per cent under the age of 25). The project is gaining widespread recognition and was showcased by the European Union in Brussels (June 2018).

### *Diversifying the economy*

With a key element of the Government's development vision involving a more diversified economy, in 2018 the Partnership Framework helped make important progress in high-potential sectors such as agriculture and information communication technologies (ICTs).

#### ***New national strategy and legislative framework re-opens door to organic farming opportunities***

Azerbaijan is home to a wide range of crops. Even so, agricultural productivity and profitability remain low, undermining agricultural growth, sustainable agri-food production and the incomes of rural people. Almost a decade ago, in parallel with the growth of organic markets in Europe, a grassroots movement formed in Azerbaijan and legislation on organic agriculture was formulated. But, gaps in the overall governance of the national organic system, as well as the

### *A certification system is now finalized, opening up new opportunities in this area for farmers across the country.*

law and accompanying regulations were not implemented. Through the joint efforts of FAO and relevant ministries, a new national strategy on adopting and promoting organic agriculture has been drafted, while a certification system is now finalized, opening up new opportunities in this area for farmers across the country.

#### ***Barriers to greater agricultural productivity addressed in new strategy***

Excessive land fragmentation and small to average farm sizes represent one of the structural barriers to realizing the agricultural sector's potential. In 2018, FAO provided technical assistance to the Government to develop a National Land Consolidation Strategy, which will help address this issue. This work included preparing a re-allotment plan in Shorsulu pilot



*Above: Under the Partnership Framework farmers are supported to increase productivity.*

village. In addition, the capacity of Ministry of Agriculture and other related institutions was built on policy monitoring and analysis as well as agricultural policy modelling.

#### ***New export market potentials explored***

UNDP made considerable contributions to the South Caucasus Regional Trade Study. This landmark study explored how trade policy and trade facilitation can be used to expand regional trade, contributing to growth and poverty reduction. Based on the Report's findings, it will explore opportunities on further use of study results.

Meanwhile, the FAO helped boost the Government's capacity in plant diagnostics, inspection and relevant procedures related to imported and exported agricultural products. This involved modernization of the National Phytosanitary Laboratory and Republic Quarantine Expertise Centre with modern laboratory equipment, the development of a management plan, and multiple trainings and study tours to Europe, Russia and Turkey for the laboratory personnel. A computerized

database/Unified Automated Management System was also set-up in Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency (AFSA).



*Above: FAO carried out training on export certification of plants and plant products (Baku and Khachmaz)*

#### ***Family businesses gain skills and equipment to reach bigger markets***

Many of the rural Azerbaijani families selling homemade products such as agro-foods, or arts and crafts for their livelihoods experience barriers to getting their wares to larger-scale markets. In 2018, UNDP partnered with the ABAD Public Legal Entity to demonstrate how families can overcome these barriers. The two organizations worked with 44 selected families in six districts (Balakan, Gakh, Gabala, Oghuz, Sheki and Zaqatala) to help them grow their businesses. The families gained training in areas such as packaging and logistics, financial literacy, branding and sales. They also got support to develop business plans and gained equipment. Of the 44 families, 23 involved women-led businesses,

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS



*Above: The family businesses supported by this effort specialise in an array of industries, ranging from traditional carpet weaving nurtured by Karabakh artisans in Balakan's displaced community, to dried fruit production and much more.*

while 12 had lost their homes to war and were displaced. By year-end, 23 families were ready to move forward with their new production and manufacturing plans. Their experiences will be used to help other rural families to also boost their businesses in the future.

### **Innovative ideas showcased and supported to help diversify the economy through ICTs**

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) play a crucial role in Azerbaijan's efforts to diversify its economy. ICTs also enables development of other sectors and the delivery of more effective public services. The United Nations is helping to further grow this sector and to support innovators, especially those based outside of the main cities, to develop, pitch and bring their technologies to the market.

With UNDP support, 2018 also saw the launch of a challenge to regional technology start-ups to pitch their concepts in the 'From Idea to Business Start-up Tours' competition.

The Tour visited seven districts (Mingachevir, Lankaran, Guba, Sumqayit, Shaki, Ganja and Baku) and more than 1,000 entities took the opportunity to showcase their ideas. The Tours generated widespread interest in the start-up movement and allowed participants to not only present their ideas, but also to get feedback to further improve them. The Tours will be expanded to more regions in 2019.

Azerbaijan also hosted the first International Innovation Week with support from UNDP and other partners including, Cyber Sport Federation, Keepface (influencer marketing platform), and the Microsoft Corporation in 2018. At the event, four reports produced by UNDP, which point to ways that high-technologies can be used to further stimulate the economy, were presented. The event also featured a series of conferences, forums, exhibitions and innovation competitions.



*Above: The 'Gonex' project by the Baku Engineering University won first place in the 'From Idea to Business' competition, with a new online platform. Meanwhile 'Smart Reactor' from Sumqayit city took out second place with an initiative that produces energy from waste, and third place was taken by 'Noahland' from Nakchivan with a platform for extreme sports and camping tourism.*

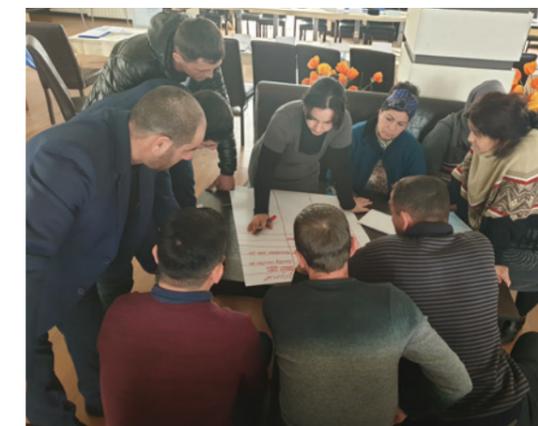
### **New opportunities for people affected by conflict and persecution**

In 2018, the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) marked 20 years of successful operations, with over 533 million square meters of Azerbaijani land now completely mine-free, enabling people in those areas to rebuild their lives and resume economic activities. Nearly 800,000 mines and other explosive weapons have been totally eradicated. And, ANAMA created safe conditions for more than 160,000 people who had been displaced from their hometowns as a result of war to resettle.

UNDP continued supporting ANAMA in 2018 to conduct further mine clearance activities (60 mln sq.m) and to offer mine action solutions for affected states. ANAMA's mine risk education programmes now reach over 50,000 children in schools. With support



*Above: With UNDP support, ANAMA has evolved from a fledgling organization into a national institution, which is well-equipped with the knowledge and cutting-edge infrastructure required to clear mines, provide risk education and assist survivors of mine and munition explosions. It has provided aid to national mine action programmes in other countries, including Georgia, Turkey and Afghanistan.*



*Above: Trainings on small businesses were organised by IOM with USAID support to improve self-employment opportunities for vulnerable groups and to boost their resilience.*

from the other line ministries, survivors of mine accidents are provided with medical care and are offered physical rehabilitation programmes. ANAMA also manages a micro-credit initiative to improve the livelihoods of victims and their families and leads craft business development efforts such as carpet-weaving workshops that foster new skills.

Meanwhile, while a Roadmap recommendation to integrate refugees in Azerbaijan was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers, refugees do not have the legal right to work. In 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued its advocacy efforts to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers from third countries and stateless people can gain decent employment.

## Strategic priority area two:

*Strengthening Institutional capacities and effective public and social services*



Azerbaijan is seeing rapid socioeconomic changes, with wide-ranging reforms, including the modernization of its public services. In 2018, the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework supported this critical process by enhancing the ability of institution to design laws, policies and action plans informed by evidence and implemented transparently. The Partnership Framework also helped strengthen the ability of national institutions and their staff to deliver social services, and to secure Azerbaijan's borders. Work to ensure that services reach vulnerable people continued, with innovative ways of supporting those on the margins trialled or expanded.

### 2018 highlights



E-governance took significant steps forward with a new initiative called 'Mobile Signature' to improve public service delivery, while foreigners and Azerbaijanis now have easier access to information and services as they cross national borders.



A key step towards a fully comprehensive approach to child protection was taken in 2018 with the piloting of a new child-centred and equity-focused integrated social service package.



The one-year pre-school attendance rate for five-year old children has increased from 14.2 per cent in the 2014 school year to 75 per cent in 2018.



A National Reproductive Health strategy (2017-2020) was prepared.

### *Institutions strengthen their capacity to provide effective and transparent services*

#### **E-governance takes a step forward**

The Government is pioneering a new initiative called 'Mobile Signature' with UNDP support. This will help to provide public services to citizens through transparent, operational and resource-saving electronic services, a process which contributed to accelerating the transition to digital government.

#### **Institutions build their capacity to address important health issues**

A National Reproductive Health strategy 2017-2020) was prepared with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNFPA funded training of health care providers, plus logistics for the draft document presentation events (May 2017). WHO provided an international expert who coordinated with the local working groups on developing the strategy document and action plan. These was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval.

Meanwhile, UNFPA helped build the capabilities of over 200 duty bearers through training and access to resource packages on reproductive health. And, WHO, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, organized a series of training and advocacy events to enhance the ability for a national response on invasive bacterial meningitis, polio, rotavirus AEFI, and effective vaccine management.

#### **Gearing up for census 2019**

In the lead-up to the 2019 census, in 2018, UNFPA provided the government with crucial support, delivering a series of training

and workshops for national personnel, plus gearing-up to help roll out key advocacy and awareness raising efforts. For example, to boost people's awareness about the purpose and implications of the census, several promotional activities (such as billboards, posters, documentaries) were prepared. These will be used nationwide to motivate people's active participation in the census. UNFPA also supported the State Statistical Committee to conduct a pilot census in Gabala.

### *Equitable access to public and social services boosted*

In 2018, the United Nations continued to support the Government in its efforts to ensure that social services are available to all members of society including children, women, and people with disabilities.

#### **Children's early education and health care opportunities expand**

UNICEF continued to support early childhood education to improve children's access to pre-primary education. As a result, the one-year pre-school attendance rate for five-year old children has increased from 14.2 per cent in the 2014 to 75 per cent in 2018. An in-service teacher training programme for more than 4,600 teachers from 61 regions contributed to this, reaching some 103,000 children. Meanwhile, another community-based early learning programme implemented in the 100 early learning centres across 15 districts reached about 3,000 children (aged three to four years).

Meanwhile, on the children's health front, UNICEF supported more than 600 Azerbaijani professionals working in primary health care to gain new skills in monitoring children's growth. This is an example of the kind of support that has seen the number

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

of children referred to specialist services jump by 31 per cent (from 2015 to 2017), which indicates a likely increase in early development delays and disabilities being better identified.

At the same time, the revitalization of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative in Azerbaijan got underway, with updated guidelines produced by UNICEF and WHO, and the establishment of a dedicated working group within the Ministry of Health. This Initiative will establish key standards and practices to support early infant care amongst health professionals and parents.

### **Important progress is made to support people with disabilities, especially children**

In May 2018, a National Action Plan on Early Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Disabilities was approved by Presidential Decree. This aims to reduce the prevalence and severity of disabilities among children through early detection of risk factors and diseases at antenatal, post-natal and later stages of childhood.

Meanwhile, UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Education to implement the State Programme on Inclusive Education endorsed

by the President in December 2017. Building on the existing pilot underway since 2015, a more comprehensive approach towards inclusive education was developed and implemented with a teacher education package for pre- and in-service teacher training on inclusive education. In support of the inclusive education programme, a study on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices towards children with disabilities was finalized in 2018. A comprehensive Communication for Social Change Strategy is under development with the objectives to reduce stigma, discrimination and isolation of children with disabilities and help build a more inclusive society.

At the same time, with UNDP support, around 30 civil society organizations reached out to people with disabilities. There were many results of this work, but a key impact saw the Shirvan Regional Child Mental Health Department being able to provide a wide range of psychological and development services to about 100,000 disadvantaged children and their families from Shirvan and seven surrounding regions.



### **Breastfeeding campaign reaches hundreds of thousands of people**

Above: With UNICEF's technical and financial support, 2018 saw a large-scale communication campaign on promoting exclusive breastfeeding. Across the country, during National Breastfeeding Week in October, people heard important messages about this issue through public service announcements and saw posters and flyers at health facilities and ASAN centres. Meanwhile, five metro stations in Baku were decorated with banners and billboards, in places where an estimated 500,000 people pass each day. Other events also helped connect experts with mothers to support breastfeeding promotion.

### **Support to ensure essential services reach vulnerable people continues, with innovative ways trialled**

Ensuring that services are inclusive means that it is essential to find effective ways of reaching out to those who are displaced, refugees or vulnerable in other ways. In 2018, work under the Partnership Framework continued to do this so that people in the most difficult circumstances are able to access essential basic services.

### **A key step towards a fully comprehensive approach to child protection was taken**

UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population launched a pilot initiative for integrated social services in 2018 in two districts. The aim was to test implementation, review results and make necessary adjustments to the draft Child-Centred and Equity-focused Social Service Strategy developed in 2017. The initiative establishes an integrated approach to social services and child protection. An approach based on applying professional and quality social work for vulnerable children and families by developing a social services workforce; establishing minimum standards for children's social services; and strengthening local coordination and referral systems.

The initiative is a key step towards a fully comprehensive approach to child protection and a significant development towards an integrated package of support for vulnerable children and families that brings together different actors. More than 240 children benefited directly from this initiative in the two districts between September and November 2018 alone.



Above: As in previous years, in 2018, UNHCR with support of Fujii Optical Co. organized for more than 2,815 refugees, displaced, and other vulnerable people to get specialist treatment from six Japanese optometrists.

### **Support to refugees and stateless people**

In 2018, UNHCR continued helping refugees and stateless people to attend primary and secondary school. Close to 78.3 per cent of refugee and stateless children of primary school age and 65.9 per cent of those of secondary school age were enrolled in state education facilities.

In 2018, refugees and asylum-seekers continued enjoying free access to public primary healthcare services. UNHCR's intervention in the provision of primary health care services involved monitoring health facilities to ensure they gain the same services as locals. UNHCR also continued its direct support to 581 refugees and asylum-seekers in providing secondary healthcare services. UNHCR also assisted 228 particularly vulnerable refugee households to cover their basic needs.



### Migration and border management is strengthened

With the combined support of IOM, UNDP and FAO, the Government of Azerbaijan improved migration and border management in 2018, introducing new e-services, boosting officials' capacities and adopting European Union best practices. Specifically, work in this area included:

- UNDP supported the governments of Georgia and Azerbaijan to improve and modernise integrated border management systems at joint customs control checkpoints.
- IOM supported the Government to improve e-services related to migration. New features, such as online submission of documents, e-signature, online status tracking of applications now provide easier and more convenient access to information and services for foreigners and nationals alike.
- IOM continued enhancing officials' ability to examine travel documents through the training of 83 officials from relevant national institutions. In addition, a Guidelines on Travellers Selection Techniques in Customs Control on the basis of World Customs Organization materials were developed.
- IOM, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Migration Service and ASAN Service developed a comprehensive information campaign to raise awareness about various aspects of migration and the smooth mobility of people. It targeted the public, diaspora and foreign visitors.

### Legal aid delivered to the most vulnerable

Above: In 2018, OHCHR, in cooperation with the office of the Ombudsperson and the Bar Association continued supporting a legal resource centre in Baku and on-site legal aid services in the regions of Azerbaijan. As a result, free legal services were available to vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, low-income earners and victims of gender-based violence. By December 2018, over 355 individuals had received legal assistance on a broad range of matters in both Baku and the regions (207 cases). Meanwhile, UNHCR continued providing legal counselling and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people.

## Strategic priority area three:

*Improving environmental management and resilience to hazards and disasters*



With climate change now affecting every country, including Azerbaijan, the United Nations is working with both industry and government to introduce measures that will cut emissions and help people and economic sectors to adapt. This Partnership Framework also supports the government to put in place the right laws, policies and systems so that the environment, upon which the nation's valuable agriculture sector depends, is well managed and shielded from harmful economic activities. As people across the country are vulnerable to earthquakes, floods and more, this Framework also supports a variety of national actions to ensure resilience in the face of natural and man-made disasters.

## 2018 highlights



The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of Azerbaijan entered into force in July 2018 and the Government is now preparing six pieces of secondary legislation to implement it.



The first Marine National Park was established in Azerbaijan with an area close to 100,000 hectares along the coast of the Caspian Sea.



Azerbaijan's ability to manage locust outbreaks was boosted with a new monitoring system and training for responsible officials.



For the first time since independence, the government will use Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators for application in forestry inventory and management planning.



**UNDP's partnership with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) is showing how the private sector can take action against climate change.**

Above: In 2018, UNDP helped fit SOCAR facilities with energy-saving equipment and environmentally friendly appliances. Managers saw energy consumption fall by 35 per cent and expect CO2 emissions to drop by 200 tons per year, the equivalent of taking 30 cars off the road. This effort also showcases how transport can be more environmentally friendly. In 2018, energy-efficient driving techniques and cars that transform energy from fuel combustion into electric energy were introduced at SOCAR. Managers expect these simple solutions alone to reduce emissions by 10 to 15 per cent across the Company's main transport fleet.

**Action on climate change continues**

This Partnership Framework is backing Azerbaijan as it strives to slash its Greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent by 2030<sup>8</sup>. As part of the country's ambitious contribution to a safer global climate, the Government ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1990. UNDP works with the Government, through the Ministry of Ecology and Natural

Resources, to fulfil its obligations under this Convention, and in 2018, Azerbaijan successfully delivered its second Biennial Report.

This landmark report provides important updates on national Greenhouse Gas inventories alongside information about action the country has taken to mitigated climate change, as well as its further needs and the support already received. Taking stock of current emissions through Convention reporting processes like these

provide critical information that help leaders to decide on the best ways to counter climate change in Azerbaijan. According to earlier Greenhouse Gas inventories, the energy sector was responsible for 75.6 per cent of the overall national emissions in 2010, showing how critical it is to work with this sector to make changes.

**Environmental protection and management is improved in forestry, marine and national park areas**

**New law offers stronger environmental protections**

The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of Azerbaijan entered into force in July 2018 and the Government is now preparing six pieces of secondary legislation to implement it with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe support. The secondary legislation would cover, among others, state ecological expertise, strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment, transboundary environmental impact assessment and the procedure for certification of consultants on strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment.

**Sustainable forest management boosted**

In 2018, the National Forestry Dialogue for sustainable forestry in the country formed a basis for revising the National Forestry Programme. Additionally, FAO supported the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) to develop Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators. Meanwhile, 10 national foresters have improved their capacities in forest inventory and management planning and related tools. This was followed by forestry inventory work conducted across more than 30,000 ha of forest lands in cooperation with FAO, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and MENR.

**Azerbaijan opens first marine park**

The biodiversity of the Caspian Sea and the coastal areas has come face-to-face with the danger of depletion in recent years. This is in large part due to land degradation caused by overfishing and unsustainable farming. Another major threat for the Sea is pollution. While, the spread of invasive species and climate change has had further negative impact on the ecosystem.

2018 saw the first Marine National Park established in Azerbaijan with an area of close to 100,000 ha along the coast of the Caspian Sea, with UNDP support. In addition, an Interactive visitor centre was built for the park, which is the first of its kind in Azerbaijan. Compared to a state nature reserve, the national park will gain additional profits which will serve to improve the park's conservation measures and improve overall management of the national park. While creating new job opportunities for unemployed people in the surrounding communities, it will also contribute to the development of tourism and improve the overall socio-economic conditions in the region.

<sup>8</sup>Compared to the base year (1990)



Above: A pelican visits the Gizilagaj National Park

### **Better park management sees wildlife numbers grow**

Employees of the Gizilagaj National Park received substantial training and were provided with monitoring, security and other specialized equipment. This resulted in a boost in the mixed breeding population of pelicans and other birds from 70,000 to 92,000, while the number of birds wintering in Gizilagaj has increased from 400,000 to 592,000.

In other parks, UNDP supported the Government to pilot the use of an online enterprise resource planning platform in four coastal and marine protected areas, which allows parks to automate many back-office functions related to technology, services and human resources.

### **More environmentally-friendly farming and industry practices are rolled-out**

With Azerbaijan's farmers increasingly affected by climate change and other environmental issues, it is important to identify and roll-out new, more environmentally-friendly farming methods that do not compromise the economic bottom-line. This Partnership has been working at both the national policy level to affect the whole sector and directly with farmers and industry to trial more environmentally-friendly practices.

### **Isolated farming families gain support to improve agricultural production**

To support local communities in the high-mountain villages of Ismayilli and Shamakhi by creating opportunities for alternative sources of income, UNDP teamed up with ABAD to provide integrated business services to families aiming to build up their production potential. Overall, 16 families received capacity-building services, including the selection of products for logistical support, certification, marketing, and branding. UNDP promoted sustainable land and forest management practices while carefully listening to the needs of local communities and with their close participation and collaboration in the processes. To reduce the negative effects of animal husbandry on the nature, incentives were created and offered for alternative sources of income.

### **Expanding native crops**

Farmers are being encouraged to use more native crops by the Ministry of Agriculture and UNDP. This involved planting 19 varieties of six vegetables in a field gene bank. Meanwhile, 22 farmers began planting seven varieties of local vegetables. Currently 1.5 per cent of farmers are using local crop varieties in the pilot regions. Technical capacity of Agrarian Science and Informational Consulting Services Centres were built in three districts to serve as centres for agrarian information, training and skills development.

### **The risk of locust outbreaks is tackled**

An integrated and digital global location identifying system to monitor and combat locust outbreaks in the Caucasus and Central Asia has been established. Meanwhile, the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for locust monitoring has been strengthened through general and targeted trainings, provision of relevant technological equipment and continuous advisory support. Additionally, a Human Health Monitoring team has been established to assess the potential hazards of the pesticides used against locust, together with the provision of equipment as well as technical and operational support.

### **Addressing the negative impacts of mercury**

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to develop a Mercury inventory and national Mercury Profile. In addition, a gap analysis of national legislation and assessment of institutional and capacity needs were carried out with the aim of implementing the Minamata Convention, a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. At the same time, training and other sessions were carried out to raise awareness on mercury and its negative impact on people and environment.

## Empowering youth



Around 30 per cent of Azerbaijan's population are youth (14 to 29 years old). Through this Partnership Framework, the United Nations works to empower young people to act as positive social change agents. In 2018 this involved supporting them to engage their peers in action on social issues, promoting a positive image of young people with disabilities, and providing opportunities for youth to enhance their skills.

### 2018 highlights



To reach out to youth, 17 young leaders were selected as SDG ambassadors and equipped with the necessary skills and tools to promote the Goals among their peers.



A UN-Government joint initiative strengthened existing Youth House functions to better deliver youth engagement activities.



A cutting-edge robotics lab opened its doors to students for the first time in Azerbaijan.



The first national Master's degree course was launched to prepare professional youth workers to support youth development.



Everyone was a winner when hundreds of children and adolescents with disabilities competed in the fourth Paralympic games in Azerbaijan.



Above: United Nations Youth Advisory Council in action.

### UN Youth Advisory Council engage young people to participate in decision making

To ensure that its efforts are more responsive to the needs and concerns of young people, in 2016 the United Nations in Azerbaijan set-up the United Nations Youth Advisory Council (UNYAC). This Council has provided important insights, helping to shape the United Nation's work with young people. In 2018, 11 young council members from diverse backgrounds continued this work.

Most significantly, Council members travelled to areas affected by conflict to educate young people on the Sustainable Development Goals. Using theatre-based trainings, town hall meetings, community problem-solving

sessions, as well as interactive presentations and seminars, the Council members reached about 300 young people in five regions.

Throughout the year, Council members also offered 'youth volunteering' sessions with guidance from the United Nations Volunteers programme. And, they acted as monitors for the State Youth Programme, which involved conducting an on-line survey, followed by focus group discussions where more than 7,000 young people participated.

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

### Building the next generation of youth workers

A national initiative for the preparation of youth workers was launched in 2018 with the first Master's degree academic programme for youth work managers. The programme adapts best practices from Estonia, the United Kingdom, Malta and Finland and was designed with international experts and support from the Presidential Administration, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Education, the Academy of Public Administration under the President and UNICEF. Six higher education institutions have agreed to implement the programme from September 2019.

### Over 1,000 young people reached through youth houses

Under UNICEF's leadership, several UN agencies (UNFPA, UNHCR, UNV, UNDP) and the Council provided an integrated package of services to the government-run Youth Houses in two districts (Mingachevir and Binagadi). As a result, more than 1,200 young people benefited from basic life skills, knowledge about the

Sustainable Development Goals, volunteerism, reproductive health education, preventing gender-based violence, as well as psychological and legal counselling.

### Youth advocates empowered

UNICEF is undertaking pioneering work by supporting adolescents and youth to get involved with decision making on issues of concern in their communities through Youth Advocates groups. In 2018, more than 60 new members of the Azerbaijani Youth Advocates Programme (aged 11 to 18) obtained new skills and knowledge in leadership, project management, digital media, communication, presentation-making, disaster risk reduction, and mine risk education. They then passed what they had learned on to 2,200 adolescents in the districts where they live.

In the three pilot districts of Tartar, Barda and Goranboy, dialogues between young people and local executive authorities were initiated and three self-initiated projects were implemented jointly by the youth and local authorities. This module is expected to be expanded to other districts in the coming two years.

### Azerbaijani students benefit from cutting-edge robotics lab

UNDP and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies opened Azerbaijan's first RoboLab at Baku city secondary school #23 in November. This one-of-a-kind



Above: Students get to work in Azerbaijan's new, cutting-edge robotics lab.

robotics facility is based on the internationally acclaimed Arduino platform – the world-class educational facility that helps to understand computer and robotic technologies. UNDP and the Ministry worked with the local tech company Sumaks Technologies to set up the facility, which will help students to master robotics science from an early age. The Lab will also provide students with robotics kits that will enhance their competencies in programming, mechanics, and electronics while also boosting their learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



Above: Everyone was a winner at the fourth Children's Paralympic Games in 2018, which saw 190 children with disabilities compete in seven sports. This year, children from Georgia also joined the games. The Games were organized by National Paralympic Committee and supported by UNICEF, UNFPA and AzerCell Telecom. They took place at Sumgayit Paralympic Sports Complex on November 13-14.

### Volunteering for development

Volunteering opportunities offer young people the chance to develop professional and personal skills and allows them to play a positive role in society. In 2018, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) continued to help highlight youth volunteerism as a force for sustainable development. Young people from all backgrounds were encouraged to get involved. Meanwhile, national volunteering opportunities were offered across United Nations and Government initiatives.

UNV also helps to integrate volunteerism into the United Nations system and across policy, legislation, and programming with Government partners. In 2018, to have a holistic understanding around national volunteer engagement and their contribution, UNV invited the Government to undertake a National Situation Analysis on volunteerism. Findings showed how diverse volunteerism, involving youth, women, and people with disabilities, contributes to more effective development solutions.

## Empowering women



In 2018, the United Nation's advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment gained momentum with the development and launch of a number of important activities. These included campaigns for women's rights, and support to new studies and action plans to help policy makers and others to take positive action on empowering women.

### 2018 highlights

✓ Hundreds of thousands of people were engaged in campaigns to promote girls' and women's' rights as well as action against gender-based violence.

✓ New research into the barriers women face in achieving success in the private sector provides new insights for action.

✓ An action plan to prevent gender-biased sex selection is set for implementation.

### Action against gender-based violence

Nine United Nations agencies partnered with the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children Affairs and local non-government organizations to mark the 16 days of activism campaign against gender-based violence.

During the campaign, representatives of government, international organizations, civil society, media, academia and youth groups learnt about UNFPA's International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES). This survey is the first to exclusively analyze the dynamics of gender relations in Azerbaijan, with findings set to be released in 2019. Meanwhile, calendars, leaflets,

banners and posters were used to raise awareness about the issue of gender-based violence, and the available prevention and response mechanisms. Information was also displayed on main road billboards in 10 locations. While, five public service announcements were produced, attracting 24,000 views and 121 shares. And, 320 young girls got on their bikes in four cities (Mingachevir, Qusar, Lankaran, Balakan) to amplify the campaign's message.

Meanwhile, UNHCR in cooperation with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs strengthened the ability of local authorities and health workers to respond to and prevent gender-based violence. They also enhanced displaced women's self-reliance and improved their access to community education. The activities covered Baku, Aghdam, Fizuli, Barda, Goranboy and Jojug Marjanli village and improved the livelihood of 10,000 displaced people.

*Pictured are participants of a bicycle race in Mingachevir organized by UNFPA and 'Ladies on Bikes'. Harnessing the momentum created by '16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence', race organizers targeted four districts (Mingachevir, Lankaran, Gusar, Bilasuvar), known for high levels of biased attitudes towards women and girls.*



## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

### *Giving equality a sporting chance*

Sport is a powerful way to build people's confidence and to change the way society views girls and those with disabilities. In 2018, the United Nations teamed up with various sporting bodies and other partners to empower girls through sport.



#### **#GirlsCan campaign**

UNICEF teamed-up with the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) and kicked goals for women and girls' rights, with the launch of a joint #GirlsCan campaign. The campaign featured a Youth Forum with prominent and successful girls and young women, aimed at inspiring more girls to demonstrate their individual skills and talents. It reached more than 260,000 people via social media.



#### **#play4equality on International Women's Day**

To mark International Women's Day (8 March), 20 representatives of diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani female national football team took to the field to play a friendly match under the hashtag #play4equality. The event was organized by the UN Office in Baku, Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), Head of Missions' Spouses, and the embassy of Mexico, with support from the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



#### **Girls with and without disabilities participate in Special Olympics**

Above: In an effort to reduce gender stereotypes UNFPA hosted a Special Olympics to provide girls and young women in Azerbaijan, with and without intellectual disabilities, with equal opportunities to participate in sports. The overall aim was to reduce their risk of being victims of gender-based violence and discrimination. The project engages 40 girls aged 14-17 from Absheron district. In Azerbaijan, nearly half of youth with disabilities are educated at home, separately from their peers. The project strived to break barriers of integration for girls with intellectual disabilities, and combat gender inequality and disability stigma.

### *National action plan to prevent gender biased sex selection developed*

Preventing gender biased sex selection in Azerbaijan is a key strategic priority for the United Nations. The sex ratio in the country continues to be 116/100, which means that every year 12-15,000 more boy children than girls will be born. In 2018, UNFPA assisted with drafting the National Action Plan on the Prevention of and Response to Gender Biased Sex Selection to help tackle this issue.

### *New resources and reports produced to help empower women*

A new study, which explored barriers that hinder women in pursuing business opportunities, securing decent jobs and building successful private sector careers was published through a partnership between UNDP, UNFPA, the State Committee for Women and Children Affairs, the Women's Association for Rational Development, and with funding from the Swiss Embassy.

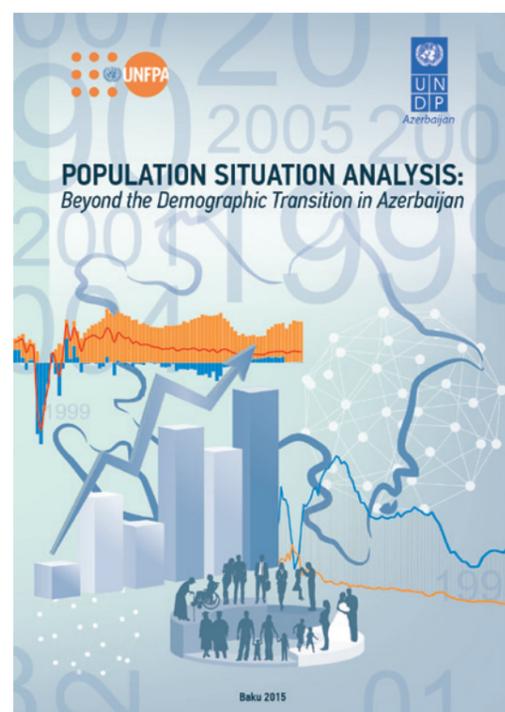
Meanwhile, a first draft of the qualitative study on the economic costs of gender-based violence is now available to policymakers.

Also, a manual on physical and sexual violence against girls was developed and piloted by UNFPA in four districts.

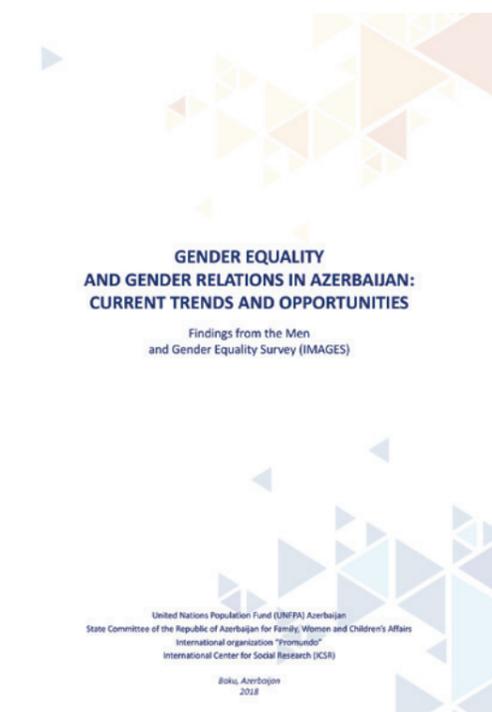
At the same time, various resources and reports were produced by UNFPA to ensure gender-sensitive policy development and implementation. These included: the revised draft of the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence prevention and response. Also, the gender-based violence Essential Service Packages and Standard Operating Procedures, and the nationally representative survey on gender-based violence prevalence rates. Meanwhile, the statistical yearbook 'Women and Men in Azerbaijan', 2018 was also compiled and published.



*Women in the Private Sector in Azerbaijan: Opportunities and Challenges*



*Population Situation Analysis: Beyond the Demographic Transition in Azerbaijan*



*Gender Equality and Gender Relations in Azerbaijan: Current Trends and Opportunities*



## Human Rights



In 2018, the United Nations boosted the ability of stakeholders from government, civil society and the legal community to better implement human rights in Azerbaijan. Advocacy efforts promoted the rights of children, while the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provided a moment to reflect and celebrate the history and fundamental importance of human rights.

### 2018 highlights



Thousands of school children learnt about how to guard against human trafficking.



National Master Trainers on child rights are now equipped to facilitate training on child rights in the country.



70 years of the Universal declaration of human rights was marked with artistic expressions and a call for everyone to stand up for human rights.

### National capacity to implement human rights built

Together, a number of United Nations agencies (OHCHR, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) delivered human rights trainings to a wide range of stakeholders in 2018. These included representatives from civil society, educators, ASAN volunteers, judges and prosecutors, staff of the State Migration Service, labour inspectors, members of the National Bar Association, potential trainers and community leaders in Baku, and in the regions of Azerbaijan.

As a result, 54 lawyers from Baku and four regions gained training on Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights, while judges and lawyers were trained on International Migration Law. Also, 120 representatives of civil society organizations and legal communities now have capacity in human rights monitoring and reporting using the United Nations human rights mechanisms. Twenty young people were certified as Master Trainers on child rights and 100 ASAN Volunteers (71 girls and 29 boys) received training through the Master Trainers and will organize 'Child Rights Days' in ASAN Service Centres.

Government, civil society and other stakeholders now also have access to new education materials on human rights. This includes twenty-nine sets of educational materials on various instruments. While, over 6,000 copies of the human rights and rule-law related materials are now available in Azerbaijani language. To date, almost half of these publications have been distributed among national stakeholders, including governmental, civil society and the legal community.

OHCHR also provided translation and publication of over 1,000 copies of the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review outcome report (2018). This included the Recommendations Matrix consolidating all recommendations in the Review. These were presented to the Government.

The OHCHR-supported resource centre also continued serving as a resource hub for civil society and lawyers, providing access to national legislative data, international human rights instruments and other relevant materials. OHCHR also hosted 154 participants, many from civil society organizations, across



Above: The OHCHR resource centre is an important knowledge hub for civil society and lawyers.

nine events at the Centre. These events included seminars, trainings and workshops.

Meanwhile, under UNFPA's leadership, work continued to support reporting on the implementation status of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Azerbaijan. In 2018, this involved UNFPA-organized training on reporting to the CEDAW Committee for representatives of all line ministries and state committees. The capacities of civil society

## SECTION 2: KEY RESULTS

organization to advocate for gender equality and rights and to potentially engage in drafting an alternative CEDAW report were also enhanced. And, four publications related to the Convention were also published and disseminated to specialists and the general public.

### Steps taken to combat human trafficking

A 'Manual on Combating Human Trafficking' for prosecutors and judges, a child-friendly 'Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Handbook' and manual for parents were published. Meanwhile, 20 Convention master trainers were certified as a resource pool to provide professional and interactive training.

In 2018, for the first time, the United Nations also helped to build the capacity of local diplomats on combating human trafficking. Twelve officials from the consular department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs increased their knowledge and skills in this area through a training program and a handbook for diplomats, developed in close collaboration between IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile, 40 judges and prosecutors enhanced their knowledge of national and international instruments



*Above: In 2018, UNHCR organized an official event on the occasion of the World Refugee Day to advocate for the rights of refugees. It was attended by high-level Government officials, the diplomatic community and members of the general public. The official ceremony included an interactive theatre performance describing life as a displaced person.*

on combating human trafficking between IOM and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population support.

IOM in partnership with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and Ministry of Education conducted 1,901 awareness raising seminars in schools in Baku and regions about different forms and stages of human trafficking as well as what makes people vulnerable to this kind of abuse.

### The rights of refugee and other vulnerable groups promoted

The Standard Operating Procedures for determining refugee status were developed jointly by UNHCR, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the State Migration Service to guide the implementation of key provisions under refugee law. UNHCR also held a number of high-level meetings with the main Government partners as

well as international organizations to move forward on legalizing the status of refugees and asylum-seekers as well as promoting their inclusion and integration. One of these events was a workshop organised together with the Council of Europe and attended by government officials and judges on the prohibition of deporting refugees to places where they would be subject to persecution, war or torture.

### Children's rights promoted

UNICEF continued to promote the rights of children with disabilities, focusing on shifting perceptions of disability from being a medical issue to a social one. Based on recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, specialized juvenile justice teams were expanded across the country. Following successful piloting in the Baku City Court of Grave Crimes, similar teams were developed in Ganja, Sheki and Lankaran cities. These programmes focused on the concepts of 'best interests of a child', prevention of delinquency, diversion, protection of victims and witnesses, non-custodial measures, child-friendly approaches in judicial proceedings. The specialized teams will be responsible for reviewing cases related to children based on these new skills and approaches.

With UNICEF support, the National Prevention Group, under the Ombudsperson's Office, now has the ability to better identify and prevent child rights violations. During 2018, the Group members conducted monitoring in 48 child care institutions (including detention centres), confidentially reaching 100 children. UNICEF also helped the Group to upgrade its Management Information System. Currently, all monitoring visits, hotline calls and complaints are managed through the information system, with more than 300 children's cases recorded and managed in 2018.

### Celebrating 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

OHCHR together with UNDPI, RCO, UNCHR, UNFPA, UNV, and UNICEF organized a three-day event in December to promote the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Held at the Museum Centre of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, it highlighted the evolution of human rights, global challenges and solutions. The exhibition gave visitors an opportunity to explore each of 30 articles of the Declaration through cartoons created by artist from around the world. This was alongside a series of posters created by 40 renowned graphic designers, illustrating their perception of human rights and inviting everyone to stand up for human rights.



*Above: Different forms of artistic expression were used to engage people on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2018.*

# Section 3: Looking ahead

*New partners*

*The year ahead*



## New partnerships

2018 saw a number of Partnerships with non-traditional stakeholders formed to support the United Nation's work for sustainable development. These included:

- The United Nations has established strong working relations with the Vice-President's office, which proved to be fruitful in 2018. Two new projects on disability and aging jointly implemented by UNDP and UNFPA through the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population and ASAN were developed with the financial support of the Vice-President's office.
- Meanwhile, *Triangular Cooperation* was established between the Turkish Forestry Ministry, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and FAO. This cooperation aims to transfer knowledge and best practice on sustainable forest management planning from Turkey to Azerbaijan.
- Partnership with the private sector particularly with the American and German Chambers of Commerce was strengthened in 2018 in support of agenda 2030 and to revive the Global Compact. UNDP also partnered with PriceWaterhouseCoopers to assist with restructuring of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.
- Finally, the Resident Coordinator's office increased its outreach and communication to the non-resident United Nations entities. These included: the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Europe and Central Asia, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, and the Department of Technical Cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

## The year ahead

### **United Nations Development System Reform**

In 2019, a primary focus will be on implementing the United Nations Development System reform. This will include ensuring a smooth transition of the Resident Coordinator system and building the capability of the Coordinator's office to support effective and efficient United Nations coordination in Azerbaijan. These reforms are expected to result in greater integration and coherence of United Nations programmes, resource mobilization and operational efficiency.

### **A new Partnership Framework**

Equally important in 2019 will be starting the process for developing a new partnership agreement between the United Nations and Azerbaijan. This will involve an evaluation of the current Partnership and the common country analysis. The UN Reform has confirmed the centrality of Partnership Frameworks for a coherent and strong United Nations presence in any country. For this reason, under the Resident Coordinator's leadership, the United Nations will use the upcoming partnership agreement development process to engage in a new dialogue with the Government and other development partners on how the United Nations, using its comparative advantages and the vast array of expertise at its disposal globally, could be deployed to support Azerbaijan's efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **The Sustainable Development Goals**

The United Nations will build on and leverage this Government's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. It will work with a myriad of partners, including the national parliament, civil society, academia, the media and private sector, in a new process of the national dialogue on linking the achievement of the Goals to resources and the national budget.

Under the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, the existing Development Coordination forum, which is chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator will be used as a mechanism and platform for galvanizing development partners' support for the Sustainable Development Goals. An initial dialogue and consultation with key development partners on using the Goals as a vehicle for coordination was already held in 2018. It is believed that this will further strengthen development coordination and engagement in Azerbaijan in support of national priorities and towards achieving Azerbaijan's sustainable development targets.

### **Expanding partnerships in 2019**

The United Nations in Azerbaijan is also exploring partnerships with the business sector to ensure adequate financing of the Goals nationally. The United Nations will continue to raise awareness among the business community about the urgency of implementing them and will develop partnerships that increase social responsibility of business and contributes to achieving the Goals. Building on the private sector's

## SECTION 3: LOOKING AHEAD

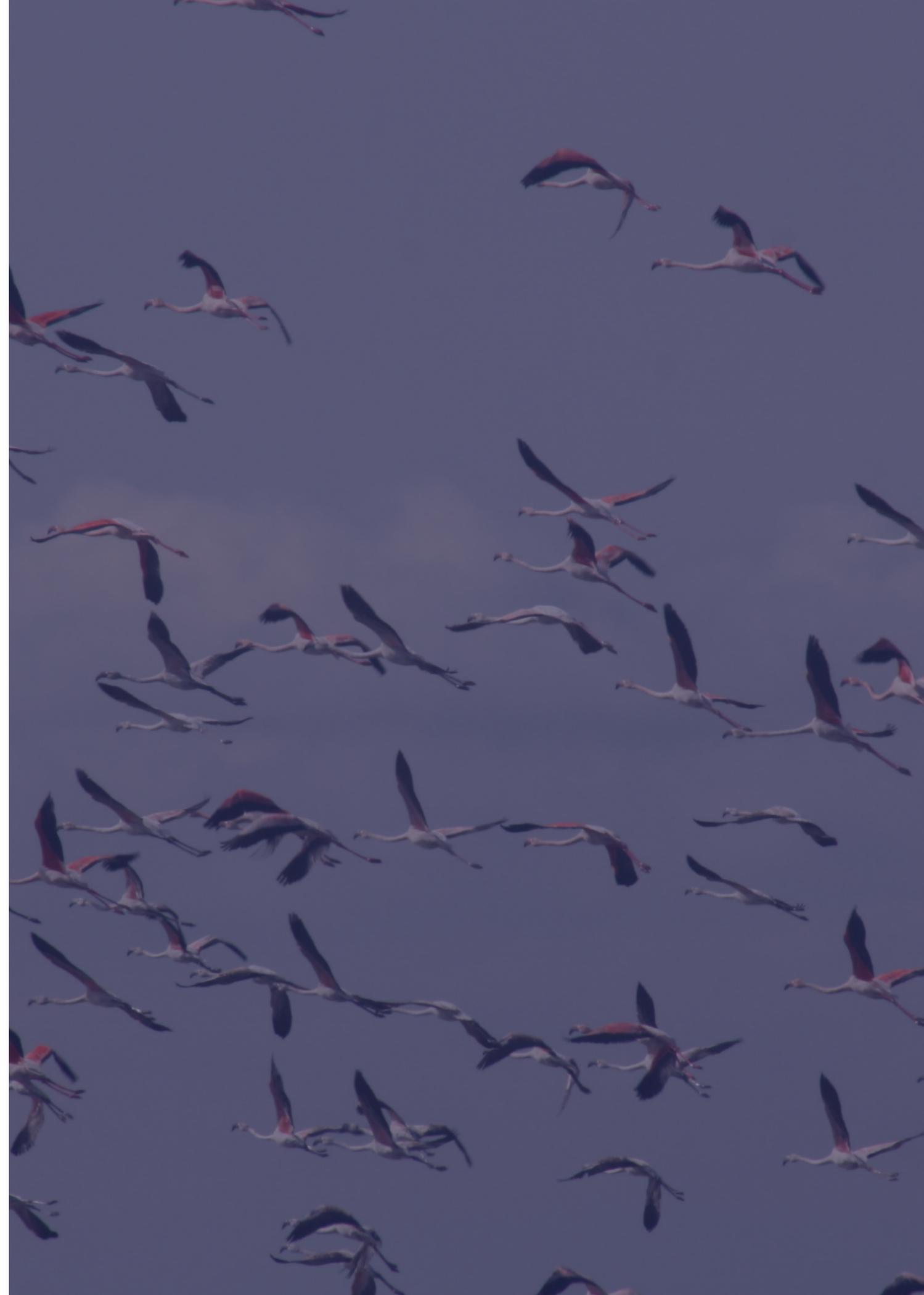
enthusiasm to work with the United Nations in Azerbaijan, the Country Team will make efforts to revive and relaunch the Global Compact initiative in 2019.

Meanwhile, civil society organizations and The Council on State Support to NGOs under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan remain a major development partner of the United Nations in Azerbaijan. Civil society organizations are continuously engaged in the development, implementation, and evaluation of United Nations projects in the country.

The United Nations in Azerbaijan will also continue its partnership with the scientific community and the media in 2019.

ADA University and Western University in Azerbaijan have expressed interest in collaboration, and this will be explored in the year ahead. To increase publicity of

United Nations activities in Azerbaijan, also to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and inform the public about the United Nations reform, an inter-agency Communication Group plans to work in close collaboration with the local media and use social media to the fullest.



## Section 4: Partners and financials



## SECTION 4: PARTNERS AND FINANCIALS

### **United Nations Agencies**

Food and Agriculture Organization  
International Labour Organization  
International Organization for Migration  
Office of the High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Economic Commission  
for Europe  
United Nations Population Fund  
United Nation High Commissioner for  
Refugees  
United Nations Fund for Children  
World Health Organization

### **Contributing Partners**

Austrian Development Cooperation  
Coca-cola Foundation  
Embassy of Netherlands  
European Union  
Global Environment Facility  
Government of Azerbaijan  
Government of Turkey  
Green Climate Fund  
KOICA – Korean development agency  
Swiss agency for Development and  
Cooperation  
UN Women  
US Department of State, Bureau of  
International Narcotics and Law  
Enforcement Affairs  
The United States Agency for International  
Development  
World Trade Organization-Standards  
and Trade Development Facility

### **Implementing partners**

“ABAD” Public Legal Entity  
Academy of Justice  
Academy of Public Administration  
Administration of the Historical-Architectural  
Reserve Icherisheher  
Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency  
Azerbaijan Medical University  
Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action  
Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society  
Azerbaijan State Advanced Training Institute  
for Doctors  
Azerbaijan Tourism & Management University  
Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation  
Azerbaijan Youth Foundation  
Azerbaijani Bar Association  
Baku State University  
Cabinet of Ministers  
Centre for Economic Reforms and  
Communication  
Chief Prosecutor’s Office  
Local Authorities  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Culture  
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources  
Ministry of Economy  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Emergency Situations  
Ministry of Energy  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Internal affairs

Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the  
Population  
Ministry of Transport, Communications and  
High Technologies  
Ministry of Youth and Sports  
National Confederation of Entrepreneurs  
(Employers) Organizations  
National Coordination Council for Sustainable  
Development  
National Paralympics Committee  
Office of the Ombudsperson  
Public Health and Reforms Centre  
Republican Center for Hygiene and  
Epidemiology  
Special Olympics Committee  
State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance  
State Agency for Public Service and Social  
Innovations  
State Agency on Alternative and Renewable  
Energy  
State Border Service  
State Committee for Family, Women and  
Children’s Affairs  
State Committee for Refugees and Internally  
Displaced Persons  
State Committee on Property Issues  
State Committee on Religious Associations of  
Azerbaijan  
State Customs Committee  
State Housing Development Agency  
State Migration Service  
State Oil Company of the Republic of  
Azerbaijan  
State Security Service

State Statistical Committee  
State Tourism Agency  
State Vocational Education Agency  
The Parliament  
Tripartite Commission for Social and  
Economic Affairs  
WHO collaborating centre in Azerbaijan on  
tuberculosis in prisons

### **Non-government and civil society organizations**

“Clean World” Public Union  
International Eurasia Press Fund  
Local Governance Assistance  
National Assembly of Youth Organizations of  
the Republic of Azerbaijan  
Uluchay Social-Innovation Centre  
United Aid for Azerbaijan  
Youth Education Centre  
Y-PEER Azerbaijan Network  
Social Innovation Lab

## Financial overview

### Investment by strategic area 2018

Result	Resources invested (USD)	Agencies
Strategic area one: Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development, underpinned by increased diversification and decent work	4,998,519	FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNECE, UNHCR
Strategic area two: Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services	6,059,683	FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO
Strategic area three: Improving environmental management and resilience to hazards and disasters	4,894,509	FAO, UNDP, UNECE, WHO
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,952,711</b>	

### Investment by Agency 2018

Agency	Resources invested (USD)
FAO	1,052,062
ILO	180,000
IOM	1,584,504
OHCHR	83,000
UNDP	8,559,566
UNECE	35,000
UNFPA	709,621
UNHCR	2,382,660
UNICEF	1,208,798
WHO	157,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,952,711</b>





*Published by United Nations Office in Azerbaijan*

*© UN Office Azerbaijan 2019*

*Tel: (012) 498 98 88*

*Email: [office.az@one.un.org](mailto:office.az@one.un.org)*

*Baku, 3, UN 50th anniversary street*