Photo for the Cover

Children and adolescents participate in the Third National Children’s Forum as part of global World Children’s Day initiative on 20 November, 2017

UNICEF/Novruzzadeh/2017
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FOREWORD

I am pleased to share with you the United Nations Country Team Annual Progress Report. The present Report is a review of the second year of implementation of the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework 2016-2020 and highlights the results of our joint efforts with the Government and other national actors, including, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector.

Our close collaboration with our partners has 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 Azerbaijan’s 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 2017.

Moreover, the year 2017 witnessed two important milestones in our partnership with Azerbaijan: the 25th anniversary of Azerbaijan’s accession to the UN and the establishment of the UN’s formal presence in the country. These anniversaries, which were marked by the publication and launching of a commemorative book provided an opportunity to look back at all that has been achieved to date as a result of our close collaboration partnership with the Government and people of Azerbaijan. It was also an occasion to recognize our extensive advocacy to promote the UN values, standards, and principles in Azerbaijan. During 2016-2017, the Government of Azerbaijan drafted a number of forward-looking development policy documents—particularly the sectoral Strategic Road Maps, the National Employment Strategy 2017-2030, and the 2017 Voluntary National Review of progress in the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

These documents and directions in “Azerbaijan – 2020: The Vision of the Future” Development Concept further highlights the Government’s priorities for economic diversification, the accelerated creation of decent jobs, and continuing improvements in access to quality education, healthcare, social and public services and clean air and water. The UN Country Team in Azerbaijan is proud to have contributed to the development of these strategies and policies through the 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 the readers to gain a deeper insight into 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.

Ghulam Isaczai
United Nations Resident Coordinator
DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN AZERBAIJAN

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

The national economy of Azerbaijan has stabilized in 2017 as a result of active macroeconomic policies and stronger oil prices. Though the share of oil revenue in the GDP declined by 6.5 percent due to a decrease in both Azerbaijani oil export and oil output, the non-hydrocarbon economy expanded by 2.5 percent due to reviving service and agriculture sectors. For the first time since 2009, the share of national non-oil sector revenues (52.6 percent) exceeded oil revenues (47.4 percent). However, a positive development in the oil sector was the extension of the offshore Azeri–Chirag–Gunashli oil field contract until 2050.

The Government has also accelerated structural reforms including the simplification of customs clearance and licensing procedures for entrepreneurial activities. A Credit Guarantee Fund was established with the aim to simplify access for entrepreneurs to the credit. In order to benefit from regional connectivity initiatives and boost transit and trade, Azerbaijan launched the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line in early November 2017. In the Global Competitiveness Report, Azerbaijan jumped 27 places since 2006 reaching the 35th rank in 2017 among 137 countries.

Strengthening Institutional Capacities and Effective Public and Social Services

Azerbaijan in the Global Competitiveness Report, 2017-2018

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1 International Monetary Fund, “IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV Mission to the Republic of Azerbaijan”, 15 December 2017
2 Ibid
3 Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), “Azerbaijan Economy in the first nine months of 2017, Brief Overview”, 30 October 2017
5 Ministry of Finance, “Presentation on the draft state and consolidated budgets of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2018”, October 2017
Public service delivery through the ASAN Service centres\(^8\) has been very successful in Azerbaijan. The first ASAN Service center which was established in 2012 currently provide citizens with more than 250 services by 10 state bodies and private companies through 12 centers throughout the country. The number of appeals to the centers reached 19 million in 2017 and the level of satisfaction of citizens is 80-100 percent.\(^9\) In addition, the coverage of ASAN Service system was expanded in different fields through "ASAN Visa", "ASAN Qatar", "ASAN Communal", "ASAN Pay" mobile application, "ASAN Volunteers" and "ASAN Radio", which is the first and only radio channel dedicated to public services.

Currently, 446 public services are offered online\(^10\) and the Open Government Data Portal (https://data.e-gov.az/) increased the number of data pieces from 25 in 2016 to over 650 in 2017\(^11\).

The Government of Azerbaijan continues to make considerable efforts to improve the overall living conditions of the vulnerable groups and assumes full responsibility for the protection of, and assistance to, the IDPs and refugees. In 2017, the “Programme on Social Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons and Children with Disabilities” has been approved by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population. A total of 34671 people with disabilities, including children have received rehabilitation services and 94917 people were provided with vocational training, and shifted from passive to active labor market programs\(^12\).

Azerbaijan’s national legislation contains a multitude of legal provisions, aimed at normalizing the status of internally displaced persons (IDPs), not only as citizens with equal rights but also in providing certain affirmative actions aimed at alleviating their grievances from the loss of their property and homeland. Only in 2017, 935 IDP families have been resettled from damaged houses to new apartments.

In terms of overall human rights, Azerbaijan has acceded to or ratified 172 international treaties, protocols and other instruments, including most of the core United Nations human rights treaties. In addition, it has adopted the second National Human Rights Action Plan and implemented a number of relevant judicial and legal reforms.

**Improving Environmental Management and Resilience to Hazards and Disasters**

Under the environmental provisions set out in the country’s Constitution, laws and secondary legal normative acts regulating the environmental protection, the use of natural resources, human health, waste management and other such issues have been adopted\(^13\).

Azerbaijan is part of all major UN conventions in the sphere of environmental protection, including three of the most important on Climate Change, on Biodiversity and on Land Degradation. Azerbaijan ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1995 and in December 2015 has joined the Paris Convention. While Azerbaijan is not a major greenhouse gas (GHG) contributor, its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to global climate change mitigation presented at the Paris Climate Change conference in December 2015 calls for a 35 percent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 (relative to 1990 levels). Significant reductions in the energy and carbon intensity of the national economy are needed in order to realize this commitment—particularly if decarbonization is to be combined with a return to a more robust economic growth trajectory, and in light of Azerbaijan’s continuing population growth. Today, the “National Strategy for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2017-2020” is being implemented in the country.

\(^8\) The Service provides venues for state agencies to render their services in a uniformed and coordinated manner, reduces extra expenses and loss of time for many citizens, upgrades the level of professionalism, ensures a larger use of electronic services and increase transparency and strengthens the fight against corruption.

\(^9\) “ASAN Service centers issue about 5,000 licenses for doing business” Azernews (Azerbaijan), 2o December 2017.


\(^12\) International Monetary Fund, “IMF Staff Completes”

\(^13\) Minamata Initial Assessment Report
Progress has been made in protecting its biodiversity resources through doubling the size of protected areas as a proportion to the total area of the country, from 5 percent in 2000 to 10.3 percent in 2014 and has undertaken massive reforestation measures. Due to forestation and forest regeneration measures implemented in the mentioned period, the forested area exceeded 1 million hectares, thus, increasing to 11.8 percent from 11.4 percent of the country’s territory. Currently, 9 national parks, 11 state wildlife preserves, and 24 state nature reserves are operating in specially protected natural areas covering 893,000 hectares of land.

The introduction of new technologies and modernization works have been expanded to enhance the control over hydro-meteorological phenomena caused by climate changes, and the number of modern automated meteorological stations has increased to 68. This means full (100%) automation of hydrometeorology across the country and the level of validity of meteorological forecasts reached 94-97 percent.

In Baku, a third-generation automatic plant complex has been set up to conduct continuous monitoring of atmospheric air pollution, and numerous automated devices for measuring radiation, noise, vibration, dust, and gases have been used for this network. A fully automated early radiological warning monitoring system for the radiation background in the transboundary areas was installed and the information received is transmitted to the relevant state agencies every half hour.

**Development Opportunities**

The country’s raising Human Development Index (HDI) propelled Azerbaijan to the High Human Development category, together with such countries as Turkey and Kazakhstan. However, when this value takes into account inequality, the country’s ranking drops by 13.2 percent. While the country has taken a series of important steps to address women’s vulnerabilities, evidence-based data reveal that women are still at major risk of facing individual, institutional and structural discrimination, both in the public and private sectors.

Labour markets in Azerbaijan are characterized by such structural challenges as supply-demand mismatches, underemployment, high youth unemployment, high levels of vulnerable and informal work, and regional labor market disparities. Data from State Statistics Committee indicates that nearly half (48 percent) of Azerbaijan’s population in 2016 was under 30 years of age; people aged 15-29 alone made up more than a quarter (26 percent) of this. The 9.6 percent youth unemployment rate (for 15-29-year-olds) reported for 2015 was nearly double the national average (5.0 percent). These rates for women—5.9% nationally, and 11.6% for young women, respectively—were likewise above national averages. Because of Azerbaijan’s “youth bulge”, young people constitute the majority of the unemployed in many parts of the country.

There is scope for increasing overall quality of social services, particularly education and health care. For example, inclusive education for children with disabilities reaches only a handful of children, while according to United Nations data, secondary school dropout rates among boys and girls have been reported at 2.4 percent and 1.1 percent respectively.

There remain challenges in the health sector, notably in relation to infant and young child health, with government data indicating the infant mortality rate is at 32.4 per 1,000 live births, while the under-5 mortality rate is 39.6. Low-birth-weight babies comprise 10.2 percent of all births.

Women face specific challenges in relation to iron-deficiency anemia and support for reproductive health care. Although there exists a network of primary health care facilities in the country, modern scales for early detection and prevention of child disabilities have not been used in the past and continued efforts are required to move away from a medicalized approach to disability. Moreover, Azerbaijan, like many European countries, is experiencing emerging health issues arising from non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Continued investment is required in technical capacities and structures in both

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14 UNAPF 2016-2020, p. 19

government and non-governmental bodies to ensure full compliance with the international standards on human rights to which the country has acceded.

The country is highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly in terms of scarce freshwater resources and its coastal Caspian Sea location. Around 43 percent of its territory is affected by land erosion, and 20 percent by salinization. Land degradation still remains one of the acutest environmental problems in Azerbaijan. Over-grazing, intensive rather than extensive agriculture results in severe consequences for the pastures and forests of the country.

Lack of accurate data for development as well as constraints in disaggregation and analysis remains a challenge in many sectors. Special attention is required to ensure the embedding of a quality assurance system and strengthened civil service capacity at mid-level, to bolster overall monitoring and evaluation capacities and, to foster more equity-focused long-term national visions and evidence-based strategies for Azerbaijan.

16 MAPS report
GENERAL OVERVIEW

The United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (UNAPF) 2016-2020, was signed by Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczai, UN Resident Coordinator, on 12 July 2016. Developed in close cooperation between the Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations system with the participation of representatives of the private sector, civil society, and academia, the UNAPF aims at supporting the national development agenda through a coherent, coordinated and joint approach to serve human development, peace and the well-being of all people in Azerbaijan.

The UNAPF provides a strategic platform for bringing the mandates, technical expertise, and resources of the UN Agencies in Azerbaijan to ensure an increased impact on national development. This framework is aligned with the national aspirations and priorities of Azerbaijan, articulated in the “Azerbaijan – 2020: The Vision of the Future” Development Concept, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Human rights and gender equality are the fundamental principles, which are guiding the implementation of the UNAPF and the joint support of UN agencies to the Government in achieving its national development priorities and meeting its international commitments.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) provides a collective and integrated response to the national priorities of the Government in three UNAPF’s Strategic Priority Areas and five Outcome areas. In 2017, twelve UN agencies have partnered with more than 37 governmental and non-governmental agencies to achieve the targets set for 2017 covering 47 outputs worth of 16,480,777 US dollars.

In January 2017, the first joint high-level UNAPF Steering Committee meeting comprised of senior Government officials and UN Heads of Agencies took place. The role of the Steering Committee is to provide strategic guidance to the working groups and monitor and review the implementation and achievement of the UNAPF strategic outcomes. Furthermore, three UNAPF Results Groups for each UNAPF strategic area, co-chaired by Government ministries and UN agencies, were established. These UNAPF Result Groups held first consultations in May 2017, jointly with four National Working Groups on SDGs. These consultations resulted in the development of three annual Joint Work Plans per strategic priority area, which encapsulated outputs, specific actions, and resources, required to achieve broad UNAPF strategic outcomes for 2017.

In 2017, a joint inter-agency and inter-governmental Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group was re-established, to assist the UNAPF Steering Committee and three Result Groups in monitoring, evaluation of and reporting of UNAPF implementation. In addition, the capacity of the Resident Coordinator’s Office has been considerably strengthened to further empower the UNCT to work together towards joint goals by making joint decisions on programming, administration and resource management. In March 2018, the UNCT, in consultation with the Government and other

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17 Hereafter referred to as “Azerbaijan”.

18 The list is provided in the Annex A
stakeholders, conducted a Joint Annual Review to assess the progress of the UNAPF implementation. The Review aimed to identify achievements for 2017, reflect on the lessons learned and define priorities for 2018. Three separate meetings, per the strategic area, were held. The Review focused on assessing the results at the output level, contributions at the outcome level, and improvement of the draft work plans for 2018. The findings and recommendations, generated by the Review, were presented to the UNAPF Steering Committee for validation and endorsement.

To mark the 25th anniversary of Azerbaijan’s accession to the UN (2 March 1992) and the establishment of UN’s formal presence in the country (November 1992), the UN produced a commemorative book in English and Azerbaijani languages featuring

Overview of the UNAPF Strategic Priority Areas-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS</th>
<th>OUTCOME AREAS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF OUTPUTS</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE 2017 (UNITED STATE DOLLARS)</th>
<th>CO-CHAIR AGENCIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development underpinned by increased diversification and decent work</td>
<td><strong>Outcome 1</strong>: By 2020, the Azerbaijan economy is more diversified and generates enhanced sustainable growth and decent work, particularly for youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3,573,216</td>
<td>UNDP, Ministry of Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Outcome 2.1</strong>: By 2020, Azerbaijan has enhanced institutional capacities for transparent, evidence-based and gender-responsive policy formulation and implementation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4,224,936</td>
<td>UNICEF, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Outcome 2.2</strong>: By 2020, Azerbaijan has made progress in line with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review and other treaty obligations, and has strengthened capacities for implementation, monitoring and reporting aligned with international standards</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8,793,19</td>
<td>UNICEF, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Outcome 2.3</strong>: By 2020, quality public and social services are accessible to all and help achieve more socially inclusive and equitable development results</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,421,410</td>
<td>UNICEF, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services</td>
<td><strong>Outcome 3.1</strong>: By 2020, sustainable development policies and legislation are in place, better implemented and coordinated in compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, recognize social and health linkages, and address issues of environment and natural resource management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, climate change and resilience to hazards and disasters</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4,381,896</td>
<td>UNDP, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving environmental management and resilience to hazards and disasters</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16,480,777</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
forewords from the UN Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The book contains more than 100 photos and a number of quotes from UN and Azerbaijani officials, reflecting on different aspects of UN-Azerbaijan partnership in the past 25 years. It also features UN’s role in providing humanitarian assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons during the 1990s, as well as Azerbaijan’s involvement in both regional and global UN affairs, and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNCT officially presented this commemorative book during the “UN Week”, which took place from 23 to 27 October 2017.

In December 2017, as part of the celebrations to mark the UN Human Rights Day, a year-long campaign was launched to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This campaign aims to promote understanding of how the Universal Declaration empowers all and to encourage reflection on the ways every citizen can stand up for human rights. The launch event was organized jointly by the UN and the Institute of Law and Human Rights of Azerbaijan’s National Academy of Science and brought together over 50 representatives of state agencies, parliament, international organizations, civil society, academia and mass media.

To streamline the communication activities in the country, the UN Communications Group has been reinvigorated and the National Information Officer was appointed. Significant achievements included strengthening of the UN’s presence in local social media channels and redevelopment of the UN in Azerbaijan website (https://unazerbaijan.org). The new website has been completely redesigned in line with the global UN branding and includes both English and Azerbaijani versions. The joint communications strategy was developed and endorsed by the UNCT in early 2018. Other communication activities included lectures and information sessions, delivered by UNCT members for students of the local universities and high schools in Baku and in the regions, dissemination of SDG related publications, and interviews, given by the Resident Coordinator and heads of UN agencies to local TV stations, information agencies and online portals.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present report summarises the results (at the output level) of the activities of various UN agencies in Azerbaijan towards the implementation of the UNAPF during 2017. It also presents the key achievements, lessons learned and challenges in the process.

The UN supported the Government to boost employment opportunities, skills development and education of the workforce for non-oil sectors, paying a particular attention to the economic empowerment of women and vulnerable communities. Targeted capacity building activities, helped to equip young and unemployed people, including women, with basic professional, business development, and organizational skills as a direct result of which many were able to set up their own businesses or get a job.

In the area of migration and refugees, UN promoted labor migration and its inclusion in broader national development policy objectives. The Government also committed to improving asylum decision making, and integration procedures for refugees and stateless persons in accordance with the best international experience and best practices.

In the area of agriculture, the UN helped to enhance food security through strengthening institutional and technical capacities, drafting of the seed and the plant protection legislation and the development of national programmes for land consolidation and for antimicrobial resistance. The technical support was also provided to plant diagnostics, pest and quarantine diseases prevention and imported and exported plant and plant products control procedures. Moreover, assistance was provided to the Government in the development of a National Strategy on the adoption and promotion of organic agriculture as well as the design of a certification system.

Working hand in hand with the Government to improve the enforcement of international standards in the area of human rights, the UN joint support was instrumental in strengthening national capacities to collect and process data, as well as to use it to design adequate policies. Several data collection activities generated quality data on the situation of the vulnerable population.

The efforts to achieve gender equality through a twin-track approach were intensified. The Participatory Gender Audit was held to assess the extent of gender mainstreaming across the UNCT in line with the UN strategy for advancing gender equality in the policies to ensure design and development of more gender-responsive programmes and projects. A series of important initiatives were undertaken to generate further evidence as regards the prevalence rates of gender-based violence (GBV) in the country, barriers for the economic advancement of the women in private sector, factors impeding effective implementation of gender transformative programming, costs, and benefits of modern family planning methods, etc. On par with this, a series of advocacy events were held to improve policy making for addressing GBV and gender-biased sex selection.

The UN agencies supported several projects aimed at strengthening the national health system in Azerbaijan. These included monitoring of immunization systems, implementation of a nationwide STEPS survey on the risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases, upgrading national legislation in the area of flour fortification, implementation of mandatory health insurance pilot projects and the national maternal and child health programme, as well as drafting of the national reproductive health strategy.

In the area of social services, the Child Cantered and Equity Focused Social Services Strategy was developed in corporation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and local NGOs (non-government organizations) which broadens the range of services and support mechanisms of welfare assistance for vulnerable and at-risk families. The National Strategy on Juvenile Justice was drafted with the support of the World Bank and submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The UN also contributed to the development of a comprehensive system for Early Detection and Prevention of Childhood disabilities by offering training of trainers on the Monitoring of Child Development (MCD) for primary health care level pediatricians. Finally, a number of activities were their own surveillance system to monitor and fight against noncommunicable diseases. For additional information, see http://www.who.int/ncds/surveillance/steps/en/
implemented to stimulate an active participation of youth in decision-making and resilience building.

Important efforts have been invested in rendering education more inclusive for all children and to better target pre-school age children. Continued advocacy for inclusive education resulted in the approval of the State Programme for Development of Inclusive Education 2018-2024.

In the area of environment protection, the UN agencies provided technical expertise to support the Government to better monitor, analyze and report on greenhouse gas emissions, carbon flows, and carbon storage potential, as well as for reporting under major multilateral environmental agreements. In addition, public debates on the renewable energy future of Azerbaijan were facilitated in collaboration with the State Agency for Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources. A dialogue involving policy and decision-makers, energy companies, NGOs, academia and private sector representatives, to stimulate discussions about the renewable energy sector in the country was initiated for the first time.

At the regional level, the UNCT facilitated the sharing of Azerbaijan’s experience in implementation of the pension reforms with a high-level staff of the Extra-Budgetary Pension Fund under the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan. Also, together with the colleagues from UNCT Georgia, a qualitative study on the situation of street children from both countries was carried out.
1. KEY RESULTS

Support to national Government in the advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Support to the Government in advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has largely focused on providing technical and policy advice as well as capacity building for the functioning of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development (NCCSD). Established in 2016, the NCCSD has 4 working groups on SDGs Economic, Social and Environmental pillars complemented by an M&E Group.

The UN system, led by UNDP, provided capacity building support and policy advice to NCCSD and the State Statistical Committee for the SDG nationalization process. The UN system assisted the NCCSD to prepare its first report on Voluntary National Review (VNR) which was presented at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2017. Represented at the highest level by the Chairperson of the NCCSD, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Ahmedov, Azerbaijan was among 43 countries to report about its plans and progress towards achieving the SDGs.

The UNCT also assisted the Government with the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) exercise to formulate policy options for SDGs. Under the leadership of UNDP, and involvement of the UNCT a team of experts carried out a MAPS mission to Azerbaijan in May-June 2017. The exercise built upon the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA), conducted in Azerbaijan in November-December 2016 by the NCCSD with the UNCT support. After extensive consultations with the Government, civil society, and the private sector, the mission produced a draft MAPS report outlining concrete policy options and recommendations, which was reviewed at the MAPS follow up a workshop in Baku in February 2018.

In addition, the UN agencies enhanced the capacity of the NCCSD secretariat staff during its first year of operation and assisted with the organization of multi-stakeholder policy consultations on SDGs with civil society, academia, women groups and the parliament throughout the year. The conceptual framework and format of a National Informational Portal on SDG indicators, including gender-disaggregated indicators, have also been developed by the Government with UN support, which will be launched in late 2018.

To raise public awareness and engage with civil society, business, and media groups, the UNCT and NCCSD also developed and launched a Joint SDGs Campaign Strategy for 2017 and 2018. In 2017, the foundation work for a series of advocacy and awareness activities was laid, which includes an agreement to broadcast weekly bulletin on SDGs with ASAN Radio (public radio station), as well as the identification of partners to translate into local language and design promotional materials and to place stands and posters in public places.

Finally, a conference on “Health and gender: responsibilities of EU member states’ and Eastern Partners’ Parliaments, and the role of the European Parliament in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5” was organized by UNFPA on 30 September 2017 at the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, Committee on Social Affairs, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, and the United Nations Office in Azerbaijan. The conference included sessions which specifically looked at the role of parliaments in implementing the SDGs with examples from Eastern Partnership participating countries amongst others.
Strategic Priority Area 1 - Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development underpinned by increased diversification and decent work

Vision 2020 goals: Towards a highly competitive economy; balanced development of regions; development of human capital; ensuring transition to an information society

Outcome 1: By 2020, the Azerbaijan economy is more diversified and generates enhanced sustainable growth and decent work, particularly for youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups

To achieve this goal, the UNCT Azerbaijan supported the Government’s vision of achieving a smooth transition to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth that is both pro-poor and employment-driven. The assistance was provided through the establishment of innovative partnership approaches that facilitate human capital development - a necessary pre-requisite for a diversified, competitive and knowledge-based economy. The UNCT also played a significant role in ensuring that the most vulnerable workforce members, including women, youth, people with disabilities, refugees, migrants, and IDPs, are not left behind when it comes to education, skill building, access to resources and access to financial mechanisms.

Skills development and employment opportunities for non-oil sectors

To support the Government’s efforts in stimulating investments in the hi-tech sector and to extend the use and reach of digital public services, UNDP provided expert advice to 160 civil servants (75 percent from districts) regarding the planning and managing of digital public services, effective investment conditions and special venture investment rules for the hi-tech sector and a knowledge-based and innovative economy.

The UN agencies helped to develop up-to-date training materials in the form of tutorials, manuals, and interactive multimedia applications to facilitate advanced knowledge and skills development in the non-oil sector. For example, over a thousand students of Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University (ATMU) gained the competitive advantage on the job market because they have been trained by the most up-to-date tourism and management manuals published by Pearson, and they have the mastery of an Interactive Multimedia Application featuring virtual excursions for tour guides. The support was also provided for ATMU on the way UNWTO TedQual accreditation, an international quality standard for tourism education.

The other capacity building activities have reached the regions of Azerbaijan through the Education and Innovation Centres in Masalli and Ganja cities. During the reporting period, 132 unemployed young people (including 55% women) in these regions received trainings on CV development, presentation, job searching, communications, computer and accounting skills out of which 78 graduates (59%) already found jobs.

Women’s economic empowerment

Technical expertise and financial support were provided by UNDP to four Women Resource Centres (WRC in Masalli, Bilasuvar, Sabirabad, Neftchala) to further support women’s economic empowerment in the regions of Azerbaijan. WRCs offer different trainings and learning opportunities for rural women. The number of WRCs reached five in 2017 with the opening of a new center in Salyan. Four of these centers have successfully registered as NGOs which enables community grassroots support for women’s empowerment. As a result of the activities of WRCs, 909 women obtained capacity building support for
business development, organizational and basic professional skills out of which 43 women have successfully set up their businesses in Neftchala, Salyan, Bilasuvar, Sabirabad and Masalli regions of Azerbaijan. In addition, a toolkit on monitoring of the fulfillment of obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Convention was developed and trainings were offered on the topic.

Modern, sustainable agriculture

To increase the productivity and income of small farmers, FAO built the capacity of the Apiculture Centre and Beekeepers Association for the promotion of beekeeping and dissemination of up-to-date knowledge and techniques. The application of new techniques and knowledge in bee farm management already helped 46 beekeepers to increase their income by 5%.

The service quality of breeding systems and artificial insemination was improved through raising awareness on the benefits of livestock artificial insemination, capacity building of the 37 local inseminators, and publishing a training guide for practitioners. In addition, 57 seed specialists and technicians received specialized training on testing registration and protection of plant varieties and 50 seed specialists were trained on internationally accepted seed testing and procedures and rules to improve seed quality and increase the production of certified seeds.

Improved regulatory frameworks and programming

To extend the outreach of employment services, the Government was supported by ILO to develop a draft National Employment Strategy (NES) and the National Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Strategy is now fully in line with ILO Conventions No.155 and No.187. Besides, the capacity of Public Employment Service was strengthened to provide quality services to young people and 240 of its staff members are now fully equipped with skills to prepare and implement Active Labour Market Programs (ALMP).
Regarding food security, UN agencies assisted the Government to strengthen its institutional and technical capacities in seed quality control and certification. FAO closely assisted the Ministry of Agriculture to finalise the Seed Law and Plant Variety Protection Law and the Regulation on Seed Quality Control and Certification and the Regulation on Testing. The National Strategy on the Adoption and Promotion of Organic Agriculture has been designed in cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and 18 inspectors were trained, and a number of Government officials learned international best practice on the adoption and promotion of organic agriculture.

In 2017, UN continued its support to the Government for the development of a National Strategy for Land Consolidation (LC). The Land Ownership Map, the Community Development Plan based on a survey of some 600 landowners, were developed as part of these efforts.

WHO assisted the Government to develop a draft of the first National antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plan which is expected to be approved in 2018. In February 2017, a joint working group was created following the multi-sectoral workshop.

**Supporting vulnerable communities**

In 2017, the UN continued supporting those at risk of being left behind. Twelve civil society organizations received support to launch initiatives aimed at advancing social inclusion, equality and socio-economic rights of vulnerable groups at the community, district and national level. As a result of these initiatives, 710 prisoners benefited from the physiological and legal aid, more than 150 inmates obtained new knowledge on the basics of business establishment and management, and 90 inmates now have new skills to generate income in and outside of the prison. In addition, a Family Care Centre for Juveniles established at the Mental Health Centre of the Ministry of Health helped to address needs of 153 children at risk and provided support for their families. Also, in the framework of these NGO initiatives, 260 social workers, lawyers, schoolteachers, health personnel were trained on better service delivery to the people with disabilities.

UN activities also targeted the improvement of the asylum decision-making procedures and development of a unified integration strategy of refugees and stateless persons. A roadmap was developed by UNHCR.
and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) to raise awareness of the State Migration Service (SMS) staff and Inter-Ministerial Working group members on best EU practices on the socio-economic and cultural integration of refugees and support to asylum seekers. As a result of negotiations, SMS committed to provide Tax ID and facilitate an access to the labor market for Government recognized refugees. Issues related to labor migration governance and mainstreaming of labor migration into broader development policy objectives has also drawn attention through discussions led by IOM with the government and civil society.

UNDP continued its support to Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) to clear 93 square kilometers of contaminated land to ensure safe living conditions for the vulnerable population and its capacity was built to undergo necessary certification steps on the way to be recognized as an International Mine Action Centre. In addition, 74 people (22 women) from conflict (Nagorno-Karabakh) affected population received grants from IOM to set up their businesses that benefitted more than 300 IDPs and refugees.

Strategic Priority Area 2 - Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services

Vision 2020 goals: Improvement of legislation and strengthening of institutional potential; development of human capital and provision of an effective social security system; balanced development of regions; development of civil society; ensuring transition to an information society; protection and effective management of cultural heritage

Outcome 2.1: By 2020, Azerbaijan has enhanced institutional capacities for transparent, evidence-based and gender-responsive policy formulation and implementation

Strengthening national capacities in collecting, analyzing and adapting data and knowledge in support of better policies and services has been an integral focus of many UN agencies’ work in Azerbaijan throughout 2017. The establishment of a National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development within the Government has also placed an increased focus on the importance of credible data and knowledge in the social development sector to better measure progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Improving evidence-based decision making

A regional qualitative study on street children was conducted in partnership with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and UNICEF Georgia. The second round of a Child Deprivation Study and a comprehensive comparative analysis of two surveys were carried out by UNICEF in close corporation with State Statistical Committee and a globally recognized Child Functionality Measurement was adapted to the local context and is due to be implemented in early 2018. Noticeable progress was achieved with the population of the National Centralized Child Databank and automatic synchronization of the data held by relevant stakeholders.

Citizens and the media in Azerbaijan now have biannual access to updated data on the government’s performance on implementation of the National Economic Road Maps as a result of UNDP’s methodological support to the Centre for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication.

To provide an adequate tool for internal accountability and performance monitoring and improve institutional response capacity to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), UNFPA assisted the Government with the development of the national inter-agency online database on GBV incidents. The database not only routinely collects data
on GBV incidents throughout the country, but also facilitates evidence-based decision-making on the subject matter.

In 2017, UNHCR has changed its Cash-Based Intervention modality as a result of which a detailed statistical reporting on economic and social situations of refugees has been made available. In addition, the post-distribution monitoring mechanism was introduced to measure the impact of Cash-Based Intervention among refugee and asylum-seeker households, who are benefitting from financial assistance.

The Age Gender Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) Participatory Assessment was carried out by UNHCR in a recently reclaimed community of Jojug Marjanli to assess gaps and ensure broader participation of all age groups for targeted assistance and protection. This experience should be instrumental to consistently apply the same approach to the IDPs in Azerbaijan.

An important work was also carried out to develop the capacity of the Government to identify and address gaps in national legislation and practice, pertaining the statelessness persons, through the adapted capacity building and in-depth expert assessment. The capacity of State Migration Service and other national authorities was built with regards to the refugee status determination, in particular on the issues of access to the territory, prevention of refoulement and enhancement of the application of the international legal instrument and the national asylum law.

To better target the dynamics of gender relations in Azerbaijan, one of the most overlooked issues in terms of developing policies and programmes on sexual and reproductive human rights, an analysis of the data collected in the framework of the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) was finalized with the support of UNFPA which will be launched in 2018. Besides, solid population projections by economic regions of Azerbaijan until 2050 were produced to help ensure proper planning, formulation, and implementation of population-oriented social and economic policies and programs in the country. In order to contribute into Government’s overarching objective to better monitor and report on national SDG agenda, 15 new gender-disaggregated indicators were developed and integrated into the national population database. The 3rd version of the Gender Statistics Index featuring 310 gender-related indicators was created and placed on the State Statistical Committee website.

The Government was also supported with the generation of more evidence on gender-based violence (GBV) through a nationally representative survey on GBV prevalence rates and women’s coping strategies.

The staff of the Analytical & Statistics Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, State Statistics Committee received trainings on monitoring, evaluation, and modeling in agriculture, presenting the most commonly used models (CAPRI, PSE, AGMEMOD). FAO supported the Government to successfully launch the CountrySTAT (http://azerbaijan.countrystat.org) – a comprehensive web-based information system on food and agriculture that provides easy access to quality statistical data to aid researchers, policymakers, development organizations, and the private sector.

**Strengthening capacities of public institutions**

To boost institutional capacities for implementation of the integrated border management policies, UNDP supported the development of the integrated border management strategy, promotion of a coordination mechanism between border agencies of Georgia and Azerbaijan and an Agreement on Border Delegates. Around 170 staff of border authorities and customs specialists benefited from trainings on border protection issues as well as on sanitary, phytosanitary, veterinary and food safety controls. Moreover, relevant agencies were supported to increase border surveillance and document examination/processing.

To ensure the protection of trafficked persons as well as persons involved in migration, IOM provided
technical support to the State Migration Service in the development of a multi-annual migration management strategy, which will be finalized in 2018. It is expected that recommendations of the 12 assessment reports on migration, border management and labor migration, currently analyzed by the Migration Management Working Group, will be translated into concrete policy actions. The Government was also supported in conducting six national consultations on Global Compact on Migration and enhancing its capacities in the area of migration and border management. An impact assessment of migration on the economic development of Azerbaijan was also carried out and the Government is considering establishing a roadmap to address the report’s recommendations. Significant progress was achieved in implementing innovative migration management e-services, including electronic documentation, electronic payments, a unified biometric and citizenship database.

Three tools were developed to assist Azerbaijani Consular Officials in assisting nationals during migration crisis and training was provided on their application. Besides, two online courses were developed for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Azerbaijan on the improvement of assistance to nationals affected by crises abroad and for the SMS and other institutions regarding the improvement of assistance to foreigners, affected by the crisis in Azerbaijan.

A School Activity Kit on prevention of human trafficking and safe migration was published which was followed up by raising awareness campaigns covering 500 students from Gusar, Guba, and Xachmaz on combating human trafficking.

A Training Centre established at the Academy of Public Administration based on European standards with the UNDP support, delivers training sessions in an array of topics, including strategic management, decision-making, leadership skills, monitoring and evaluation, and SDGs to 500 civil servants.

South-South cooperation

In the framework of the South-South corporation, a study visit of experts from the Extra-Budgetary Pension Fund under the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan was facilitated by UNDP to learn the Azerbaijani experience in the pension system, reforms and application of modern econometric modeling tools in forecasting the revenues and expenditures of the Fund’s resources.

On-site focus group discussion on human rights with a national Civil Society Organization working with people with disabilities

Photo: OHCHR Azerbaijan Office

The trip had a special focus on the coverage and quality of provision of pensions, services and mechanisms of payments and coordination.

Outcome 2.2: By 2020, Azerbaijan has made progress in line with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review and other treaty obligations, and has strengthened capacities for implementation, monitoring and reporting aligned with international standards

Participatory monitoring of the situation of vulnerable communities

Substantial progress was achieved with the development of the national electronic case-management and referral system and capacity building of non-State institutions to analyze primary and secondary data to monitor child rights situation in the country. A Management Information System with Development Assessment Tool (SIB-R) component was established for the first time for the Children and Family Support Centres of the State Committee for Families, Women and Children’s Affairs with UNICEF support. This system helps to receive real-time progress reports on each child registered in the Centres, manage and track cases of children as well as generate reports on their status. Currently tested, the system is expected to be rolled out in all 11 Centres in the country. Technical support was also provided to the National Preventive Group (NPG) for development of a Management Information System to improve data collection, analysis and management of the monitoring visits, hotline calls and complaints of the children. Monitoring of detention centers and child care
institutions continued together with the NPG under the Office of the Ombudsperson. Independent national monitoring mechanisms to monitor the situation of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons was developed with the support of UNHCR. At the same time, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has started the work on the establishment of the Forest Resource Information Management System with FAO technical assistance.

**Advancing gender equality and reproductive rights**

The UN system assisted the Government with the development of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality, analysis of national GBV legislation, revision and finalization of the National Action Plan on GBV prevention and response and drafting of the guidelines for interagency coordination and monitoring mechanism on GBV prevention and response. A successful “16 Days of activism against gender-based violence” campaign was organized in partnership with several UN agencies and the State Committee for Families, Women and Children’s Affairs. The campaign had a big outreach with sixteen video messages from the heads of UN agencies, ministers, donor community disseminated via social media, billboards with famous 16 male celebrities placed in Baku and in the regions, a bicycle tour calling for action on GVB, public talks, and a joint visit to a women’s shelter. 6,000 leaflets on different forms of GBV and available GVB protection mechanisms were distributed to the visitors of 11 ASAN centres (one-stop public service agency) across the country.

The issue of gender-based sex selection was addressed by generating data for evidence-based advocacy for improvement of the legal and policy framework, building the national institutional capacities on GVB
prevention and protection, and raising awareness on short-term and long-term consequences of gender-based sex selection. In addition, a national advocacy campaign against the cultural preference of sons over daughters was launched with the engagement of faith-based groups, local community leaders, youth/young adults, celebrities and media representatives.

12 awareness-raising campaigns were carried out to advocate for family planning services which aimed at improving the institutional framework for the newly adopted protocols for family planning services and operationalize family planning concept in Azerbaijan.

In the absence of pre-existing national comprehensive sexuality education curriculum, aligned with international standards, the Ministry of Education and Public Health and Reforms Centre was supported by UNFPA to align the CSE (Comprehensive Sexuality Education) plan with secondary schools’ curricula. The subject "Healthy Life Style" was suggested for the new curriculum as a non-mandatory course for 6-9 grades and the Minimum Initial Service Package20 program covered half of all territory of Azerbaijan.

The capacity of Family Support Centres functioning under the State Committee for Family, Women and Children’s Affairs were built for better identification of GBV victims, screening, and assistance, monitoring and follow-up.

The development of the new national Reproductive Health Strategy was supported, including national consultations and multisector workshops, leading to a final draft of the new strategy being presented to the Government for review by the end of the year.

**Development of national human rights protection mechanisms**

Promoting and increasing the use of national human rights protection systems and services amongst national actors, in line with international human rights standards, and specifically for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, has been a key area of work of UN in Azerbaijan. Expanding access to justice for members of vulnerable groups is essential for the realization of both human rights of vulnerable groups and obligations, undertaken under international human rights mechanisms. 121 applicants, including 60 women and 61 men from vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, low-income families, IDPs and refugees, pensioners and unemployed), benefited from free legal services offered by the Resource Centre, established in 2017 by OHCHR. The center also raises awareness of people, especially, vulnerable groups about their rights and the ways to redress human rights violations effectively. In co-operation with the regional branches of the National Human Rights Institution (Ombudsperson) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on-site free legal services were also provided to vulnerable groups residing in Guba, Ganja, and Jalilabad regions and in surrounding districts. This action helped to lift significant barriers, faced by vulnerable groups, in realizing their social security, labor, property, and housing, as well as consumer rights.

30 national Civil Society Organisation (CSO) representatives and lawyers participated in focus-group discussions aimed at raising awareness on UN human rights instruments and mechanisms. A particular focus was placed on UN Treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The focus-

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20 UNFPA “What is the Minimum Initial Service Package?”, April 2015, see [https://www.unfpa.org/resources/what-minimum-initial-service-package](https://www.unfpa.org/resources/what-minimum-initial-service-package)
group discussions provided the participants with practical information and guidance necessary for their engagement in national submissions on the progress made in the implementation of the Treaties ratified by Azerbaijan.

The capacity of the Justice Academy was enhanced to deliver trainings on human trafficking to the officials of the judiciary system, and development of a curriculum of the International Migration Law Program.

In 2017, 980 children in ten districts benefited from free legal aid services program. A Legal Aid Centre was established in Baku to deliver free legal advice to the vulnerable population helped 171 people to increase their knowledge on social rights, complaint procedures and protection mechanisms.

The draft of the National Strategy on Juvenile Justice was finalized and has been submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The work of the Baku Court of Grave Crimes was observed and recommendations were provided for the improvement of the services and procedures regarding juveniles.

The free legal advice was provided to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and stateless persons to ensure their access to asylum procedures and to their social and economic rights, as well as to raise their awareness about their rights and entitlements. The establishment of free legal aid mechanisms within the asylum authority of the Government was also promoted.

Outcome 2.3 By 2020, quality public and social services are accessible to all and help achieve more socially inclusive and equitable development results

In 2017, UN agencies worked together, to help to deliver equitable and accessible protection, education, health, and nutrition services to those in need, including mothers and new-borns, children, young people and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable including victims of trafficking.

In particular, support was provided to the national immunization system and capacity building activities for the front-line medical workers on vaccine safety and contra-indications and on institutionalizing best vaccine management practices. The UN support was provided for the implementation of the national Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) strategy and action plan. Following the adoption of the New Tobacco Control Law in 2016, several joint training and awareness activities conducted with National Public Health Centre.

To improve the quality of life for persons with vision and hearing problems, 2,297 IDPs in selected urban and rural communities were provided with optometrist (eyesight check-up) services 2,736 glasses and 35 hearing aids were donated.

Technical and expert support was provided for the implementation of national maternal and child health program. Introduction of Near Miss Case Analysis for prevention of maternal deaths started through countrywide workshop and training activities. In addition, technical support was provided to the Government to pilot a mandatory health insurance scheme in two regions of Azerbaijan.

While overall primary school enrolment rates remain high in Azerbaijan, efforts were made to make education more inclusive. An Inclusive Education model has been tested in four schools in Baku by the Ministry of Education with UNICEF support, allowing 40 children with disabilities to receive education during the academic year. A Study on Knowledge, Attitude, and Behaviours towards Children with Disabilities was conducted to support the development of a communication strategy for reducing stigma and
discrimination and the establishment of a supportive environment for inclusive education.

A continuous professional development of preschool and primary school teachers was supported with six in-service training modules and assessment tools developed to be incorporated into formal in-service teacher training systems. Professional standards and in-service training modules for school management were updated to address the key needs and competencies of school principals, including management, organization, leadership, communication, assessment, teacher performance evaluation, and data analysis.

A study on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) was carried out in 167 schools which helped to assess the current situation on WASH indicators. The Ministry of Health was supported to develop a Nutrition Action Plan. As part of efforts to tackle high levels of iron-deficiency anemia amongst women, the Ministry of Health was supported to prepare a draft Law on Flour Fortification which is now under review and will be submitted to Parliament for discussion in 2018. The development of a communication strategy on promoting exclusive breastfeeding was supported and large-scale communication activities organized together with the Ministry of Health during the National Breastfeeding Week reached about 550,000 people.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection was assisted by UN system to prepare draft Guidelines on Social Work with Children and Families in Child Protection Systems and draft Guidelines on Social Work with Children and Families in Justice Systems. It is considered essential to strengthen the linkages between the social work sector and the justice sector, including across Ministries, in order to ensure that vulnerabilities amongst children in conflict with the
The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, local NGO partners were supported to develop a draft Child Centred and Equity Focused Social Services Strategy that expands current social welfare assistance to a broader range of services and support mechanisms for vulnerable and at-risk families.

In the area of the health, the development of a training package on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) for primary health care workers (mainly pediatricians) was supported which was incorporated in the curricula of the Azerbaijan State Advanced Training Institute for Doctors. 177 practicing pediatricians (13%) benefitted from trainings on IYCF. Working on the development of a comprehensive system for Early Detection and Prevention of Childhood disabilities, the training of trainers on the Monitoring of Child Development (MCD) for primary health care level pediatricians were conducted which covered a total of 210 pediatricians.

A two-year strategic development plan to improve social service development for disadvantaged children and youth was developed for 4 municipalities in Shirvan and Goychay districts under UNDP assistance. As a result, 3692 people from low-income families benefitted from social service projects implemented in these districts.

UNCT ensured that the issues of people with disabilities, the role of women in decision-making processes, non-discrimination and equality was systematically addressed in national TV programmes in 2017.

School readiness programme for 5-year-old children continued to expand reaching a coverage rate of 65% in 2017, supported by in-service teacher training for 3,244 primary school teachers. The Ministry of Education was supported by UNICEF in designing and piloting of a new community-based early learning program for 3-4-year-old children and a family education program in 50 under-served communities in 11 regions of the country. About 1,000 children of 3-4 years of age were enrolled in the community-based early learning program.

With one-third of the population falling into the category of youth, UN efforts also focused on investment in this particular demographic. An aligned programme was established on the bases of the existing network of Government-managed Youth Houses to support young people with vital skills development opportunities. The pilot programme offers an integrated package of basic and specialized youth-friendly services. The pilot is implemented in two districts (Mingachevir and Binagadi) and is expected to expand to other areas in 2018.

Azerbaijani Youth Advocate Programme was revitalized to promote participation of adolescents and young people in decision making and resilience building in three districts affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This programme empowered 60 young boys and girls develop joint community-based projects with local district authorities.

The efforts continued to ensure access of refugee children to education facilities through supporting enrolment, monitoring the attendance and progress (e.g. 13 refugee children accommodated at pre-school facilities in 2017). Advocacy in support of health rights of refugees, especially in relation to access to secondary health services continued. 67 Government recognized refugees and 159 refugees possessing temporary resident permit received access to state secondary health care services, to social programs and have the right to work. While efforts continue to secure broader Government fulfillment of these rights, UNHCR programmes ensured that 80% of its own-managed caseload could benefit from secondary health care services.

Several courses aimed at the development and integration of refugees and asylum-seekers are offered at the Centre UNHCR Refugee Women and Youth Centre in accordance with the needs of the beneficiaries.
Strategic Priority Area 3 - Improving environment management and resilience to hazards and disasters

Vision 2020 goals: Environmental protection and ecological issues; improvement of legislation and strengthening of institutional potential; development of human capital

Outcome 3.1: By 2020, sustainable development policies and legislation are in place, better implemented and coordinated in compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, recognize social and health linkages, and address issues of environment and natural resource management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, climate change and resilience to hazards and disasters

Monitoring, analysis, and reporting on greenhouse gases emissions and policy adjustment

The Government was supported by UNDP to prepare the 2nd Biennial Update Report and 4th National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for 9 sectors. This covers the development of scenarios for policies and measures on mitigation of climate change and establishing a domestic measurement, reporting and verification system, a policy framework and a feasibility study. In addition, support was provided for the identification of national capacity to use IPCC 2006 guidelines, data collection for greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2013 under the Second Biannual Update report, for the updating of the report on policies and measures to mitigate climate change, as well as for the establishment of local Measurement, Reporting and Verification system.

UNECE assisted the Government to improve the national capacity for data collection and monitoring of progress on energy-related sustainable development goals as well as understanding on the development of national action plans for sustainable energy based on the best international practices. In particular, recommendations for the draft law and of national guidelines on the practical application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) were developed. Besides, support has been provided for the capacity building of national experts to develop Informativ Inventory Report and to improve accuracy and completeness of air emission inventories in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

In parallel, “New Opportunities for Developing Renewable Energy in Azerbaijan”, held on Azerbaijan’s national Energy Day, with the support of was a first of its kind dialogue in the country, brought together over 40 representatives of policy and decision-makers, project developers, investors, technology providers and NGOs as well as international donors and financial institutions to discuss a prioritized set of legal, regulatory, technical and financial recommendations which could jumpstart investments in renewable energy and improve project bankability, streamlining procedures and cost reduction in project development.

Five buildings of the State Oil Company – SOCAR was efficiently remodeled with UNDP support which showed 46% energy savings and 130 tons/year of CO2 emissions reduction. Similarly, pilot trainings for ‘eco-driving’ had demonstrated an 8-14% reduction in fuel consumption, with practically no investment costs.

Improvement of national capacities for sustainable environmental development

The cooperation continued with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources with the establishment of the Gizil-Agaj National Park and upgrading of its management capacities and infrastructure to manage visitors, to patrol poachers and protect lands from
overgrazing. These activities resulted in a reduction of illegal grazing cases from 705 in 2015 to 400 in 2017. Besides, a Financial Management Plan (FMP) for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) has been prepared and capacity building was provided to implement those plans. Finally, monitoring equipment has been procured to monitor critical thresholds for ecosystem health.

The resilience of vulnerable communities was strengthened, to cope with negative impacts of land degradation and climate-induced hazards, through the development of management plans for forests and farm-based pastures which resulted in 20,000 hectares of forests and 7,900 hectares of pastures in two districts to be under for sustainable forest and land management practices. Alternative income sources for rural communities were created to reduce their dependence on livestock farming, reaching 160 people, nearly half of them women.

To support flood forecasting and warning activities, the capacity of State Agency for Water Resources was enhanced with UNDP support by installing 10 meteorological stations, introducing hydrological and hydraulic models and initiating community-based flood early warning system: 10 communities with 48,000 people now have emergency response toolkits and risk maps.

The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Emergency Situation was supported by UNICEF to introduce the Life Skills programme with a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) module in the non-formal education system. It was able to reach over 1,500 children in the initial phase of the programme. The Ministry of Education is considering further expansion of the Life Skills programme to other extra-curricular institutions countrywide. A new curriculum and syllabus of the DRR course in the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. A case study on Disaster Risk Assessment methodology was carried out and recommendations for replication of the methodology at the national level were provided.

To decrease the excessive use of farmlands for livestock breeding in rural Azerbaijan, UNDP offers local communities access to alternative livelihood options, such as beekeeping.

Photo: UNDP Azerbaijan, Andrea Egan
2. LESSON LEARNED

Strategic Priority Area 1 - Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development underpinned by increased diversification and decent work

The interventions targeting policy level changes require a longer period of engagement and advocacy from UN agencies and commitment and ownership from national partners.

Many factors affect the achievement of the results of the interventions in the agriculture sector, primarily the seasonality and nature conditions. Application of modern techniques faces resistance due to the traditional way of thinking and lack of trust by the farmers.

The new strategic roadmap for economic reforms in eleven priority non-oil sector areas requires alignment with 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and SDGs to ensure that greater focus and resources are allocated to the social sector.

Strategic Priority Area 2 - Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services

A key constraint in the area of data and knowledge was acknowledged by a number of UN agencies working in this area.

Over the last decade, Azerbaijan has made demonstrable progress in obtaining reliable data through censuses, demographic and thematic surveys and administrative registers, such as birth and death recording systems. Yet, there is a need to further strengthen the national institutional capacities for the analyses and utilization of the data to foster sound and evidence-based policymaking.

As in other areas, gaps in human and institutional capacity continued to constrain progress in many sectors. One notable concern identified during the year was a challenge in encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of the human rights aspects of reproductive health and gender-based violence. Barriers were encountered to the introduction of family planning and reproductive health programming, based on misconceptions about decreasing population size, financial interests in the health sector in relation to conducting abortions, and attitudinal barriers regarding gender-based violence and reproductive health within society. This has been exacerbated by a chronic lack of civil society and community-based actors working in the field of reproductive health and gender rights.

Constraints identified during the year, in relation to development and provision of quality public and social services continued to relate mainly to technical capacity and policy limitations, and low availability of specialized services for some groups, especially in the health and education sectors.

Strategic Priority Area 3 - Improving environment management and resilience to hazards and disasters

Environmental issues continue to be compartmentalized in the national development strategy. Broader awareness raising and engagement of various line ministries is key to adopting an integrated approach to environmental sustainability.

Limited funding opportunities both internally and externally hinder expanding interventions in this area.

Despite the fact that Azerbaijan 2020 promotes greener growth, the environmental/ green economy elements of Azerbaijan’s policy framework do not seem to be well articulated—especially at the outcome level. In light of relevant inter-sectoral linkages, issues such as energy subsidies, water pricing and efficient use, and carbon taxes may be particularly important in this context.

3. WAY FORWARD

Following the Joint Annual Review in March 2018, its findings and recommendations and the 2018 Joint Work Plans were validated by the UNAPF Steering Committee in June 2018. The plans were signed by the respective UN and Government counterparts.

Having reached the midpoint of the current UNAPF 2016-2020 presents an opportunity for the UNCT to
carry out a mid-term review to provide a new sense of direction for future activities and to align UNAPF more closely with current national development priorities and the SDGs. The UNCT will also strive to ensure that its efforts are aligned in support of the UN Secretary-General’s UN Development System Reform Agenda, by providing regular updates to the government and development partners regarding the UNDS reform.

Developing a strategy for joint resource mobilization is a high priority for the UNCT in the coming year, including exploration of the feasibility of establishing a local fund for joint programmes. This is integral for maximizing the impact of the UN’s limited resources and to ensure the achievement of the outcomes as identified under the strategic priority areas of the UNAPF. In particular, the UN and the government must prioritize financing of the SDGs which will include targeting official development assistance and private capital flows.

Besides, a particular attention will continue to be paid to the engagement with young people through a closer cooperation with UNYAC and rolling-out of the Joint UN-Government Youth Houses Initiative.

Having made vital strides towards the nationalization of the 2030 Agenda, it is expected that 2018 will be another important year for Azerbaijan to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The “Baku Principles for National SDG Mainstreaming and Acceleration” are expected to set out concrete actions plan supporting national SDG implementation in Azerbaijan. It will also be as one of Azerbaijan’s inputs into the Regional SDG Forum inter-governmental meeting, which is planned later in 2018 in Baku, with the UN support. In addition, the UNCT will continue its joint advocacy efforts to increase public awareness of the 2030 Agenda and prioritize efforts towards addressing the “leaving no one behind” principle.

Finally, the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be an ideal opportunity to ensure that the advocacy in the field of human rights and other UN system values, standards, and principles remains high on the agenda of the UNCT in Azerbaijan.
Annex A: List of Partners

National Implementing Partners

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<tr>
<th>National Implementing Partners</th>
<th>Ministry/Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action</td>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan Tourism &amp; Management University</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
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<td>Black Sea Commission</td>
<td>Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population</td>
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<td>Cabinet of Ministers</td>
<td>Ministry of Transport</td>
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<td>Justice Academy</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sports</td>
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<td>Mandatory Health Insurance Agency</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisations</td>
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<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>Office of the Ombudsperson</td>
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<td>Ministry of Communications &amp; High Technologies</td>
<td>Parliament</td>
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<td>Ministry of Culture &amp; Tourism</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity Protection</td>
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<td>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources</td>
<td>State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations</td>
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<td>Ministry of Economy</td>
<td>State Border Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>State Committee for Family, Women and Children’s Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Emergency Situations</td>
<td>State Committee for Refugees and IDPs</td>
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<td>Ministry of Energy</td>
<td>State Migration Service</td>
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<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic</td>
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<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>State Statistical Committee</td>
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<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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Participating UN organizations, funds and programmes

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<td>FAO</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
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Appendix A: Progress against 2017 Joint Work Plans

UN agencies reported against the output indicators set in the 2017 JWP by providing the current status of the indicators and showing their progress using the color based approach in a table format: green for “achieved”, yellow for “partially achieved”, orange for “constrained” and red for “not achieved”. To allow for consistency the agencies adjusted their target indicators for 2017 only taking into consideration that some agencies have set multiyear targets in the original JWP.

The UN agencies also provided a brief description of key achievements and lessons learned/challenges to complement the indicator status updates with a narrative.

Appendix B: Financial Overview

The Annual Common Budgetary Framework was updated with the latest budget information on expenditures against the planned budget. The discrepancies observed between the budget information in the signed JWP and the actual annual budgets of the agencies and the overspent/underspent were accompanied by the explanatory notes by the agencies.
Outcome 1.1 By 2020, the Azerbaijani economy is more diversified and generates enhanced sustainable growth and decent work, particularly for youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups

Strategic Priority Area 1: Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development underpinned by increased diversification and decent work

### Key achievements

- **Improved livelihoods:**
  - 47% of unemployed youth found employment.
  - 47 youth (64%) found employment during or immediately after Syslab trainings in Ganja, while 31 youth (53%) found employment during or immediately after Syslab trainings in Masalli.

- **Upgraded broadband internet:**
  - UNDP provided expertise support to the Government in planning and managing digital public services, effective investment conditions and special ventures investment rules for the hi-tech sector and a knowledge-based and innovative Economy.

- **Improved implementation of policies and programmes promoting Decent Work for young men and women in Azerbaijan:**
  - 48 women have started new businesses.
  - 59% (78 graduates out of 132) found jobs as the result of participation in Syslab methodology.

### Challenges/Constraints

- **Funding constraints in transfer of funds to local NGOs and lack of follow-up in reporting:**
  - The component on mine victims assistance was stopped due to funding constraints.

### Key Indicators

- **Output 1.1.1: Employment and decent work is accessible to refugees/stateless persons.**
  - **Baseline:** 0
  - **Target:**
    - 10 (2018)
  - **Achieved:**
    - UNHCR jointly with MOBILAZE project of ICMPD in Azerbaijan organized a workshop on Integration of Refugees on 29-30 May 2017 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The workshop was attended by the tenants of the MIRAS of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and other countries of the world.

### Appendix A: Progress against Joint Work Plans 2017

#### Quarterly Project Progress Reports

- **Project progress reports:**
  - August 2017 to December 2017
  - Reports from government and UN sources, feedback from individual beneficiaries.

- **Monthly meetings:**
  - Minutes of the meetings, reports from the events.

- **Output 1.1.2: Training capacities of the state institutions are strengthened to prepare qualified workforce for the non-oil sectors of economy.**

- **Target:**
  - 52 youth (53% women)
  - 108 women

- **Achieved:**
  - UNDP supported untrained trained groups of unemployed youth, with total of 7 youth (36% female participation rate)
  - 38% (39 youth) of the graduates (49% female participation rate)
  - 38% (39 youth) of the graduates (49% female participation rate)
  - 38% (39 youth) of the graduates (49% female participation rate)

- **Output 1.1.3: Migrant workers have improved capacity to participate in economic development and social inclusion in Azerbaijan.**

- **Target:**
  - More than 100 women

- **Achieved:**
  - 2 Booklets: Economic and Social Rights of Women in Azerbaijan and 10 paths to Economic Empowerment have been published.
  - More than 100 women
The income of beekeepers improved by at least 10%. Through changes that will be adopted in their bee farm management, some initiatives have been undertaken to improve the beekeeping standards, seed sector strengthed internationally accepted procedures and rules. Inseminators are properly trained and farmers have more awareness of the need for formulation of the National Strategy document is planned to be finalized in early 2018.

40 (2017)
40% (In progress)
5% (2017-2018)
6) Target: one event
5) Target: 80% of those institutionalized; 27 consultation were held
4) Target: 80% of those who obtained a positive result (employment, further education/training) as a result of the initiatives on youth employment reviewed, (based on the monitoring results)
3) Baseline: 1
2) Number of PES staff trained
1) National OSH Strategy fully in line with the EU conventions 111 and 182 (Ministry of Labour and Employment)
1) Number of healthy bees increased by 20-30% through changes that will be adopted in their bee farm management.
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EMIS is updated to include data from all districts in a disaggregated form by age, sex, and disability.

UNCRD database

The SSC, MoE and Coordination of multiple stakeholders has been challenging. A number of new age and sex-disaggregated records have been entered into the National Centralized Child Databank. The number of children's records entered into the National Centralized Child Databank has increased to 1.7 million and currently UNICEF is providing technical support for relevant parties so data is automatically synchronized with the Child Databank.

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.1 Government and other actors are formulating and implementing evidence-based state policies, programmes and budgets

The SCFWCA needs additional human and financial resource to establish physical systems and dedicated staff for keeping data in place.

Output 2.1.2 National, regional and international migration and border management capabilities are enhanced to combat human trafficking and ensure protection of trafficked persons as well as persons involved in migration

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.3 Institutional set-up and capacity development is provided for preparation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of agricultural policies and programs.

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.4 National institutional capacities are strengthened for formulation and implementation of transparent and rights-based policies that integrate evidence on population dynamics and inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights.

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.5 Analytical institutional capacities are strengthened for formulation and implementation of transparent and rights-based policies that integrate evidence on population dynamics and inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights.

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.6 Monitoring and evaluation system for agricultural policies and programs

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.7 National capacities innovative creator and evaluator agricultural policies and programs

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.8 Reporting on activities:

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.9 Technical support for relevant parties so data is automatically synchronized with the Child Databank.

UNCRD

Details on stakeholders, partners, key players, their roles, and the contribution of each to the implementation of the action plan have been published.

UNICEF

WHO, ILO, FAO, and surveys on population dynamics and its inter-linkages with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Baseline: not available; Target: available by end 2017

Output 2.1.10 Coordination of multiple stakeholders has been challenging. A number of new age and sex-disaggregated records have been entered into the National Centralized Child Databank.
UNDP

Number of advocacy events for strengthened national statistical systems in a capacity to generate, analyse and use disaggregated population data:

- Baseline: 100
- Target: 200 (2015)
- Target: 200 (for 2017)
- UNDP Programme Reports
- Partially achieved
- UNICEF:

- Outcome 2.1.5: Institutional capacities are strengthened to train civil servants in various dimensions of policy formulation, implementation and monitoring

- Baseline: None
- Target: Training Centre is fully operational (2008)
- Service reports
- Advanced

- UNICEF:

- Output 2.1.7: National capacities are built for greater effectiveness and improved data availability for the implementation of labor and social protection policies

- Baseline: None
- Target: Strategy needs (2020)
- Service reports
- Advanced

- UNICEF:

- Outcome 2.1.8: Institutional capacities for implementation of the integrated border management policies are in place

- Baseline: None
- Target: 1 (2020)
- Service reports
- Advanced

- UNICEF:

- Outcome 2.1.9: Azerbaijan’s institutions are enabled to provide knowledge services to other developing countries

- Baseline: None
- Target: Strategy needs (2020)
- Service reports
- Advanced

- UNICEF:

- Outcome 2.1.10: The situation of child rights in line with CRC, CEDAW and UPR recommendations is being independently monitored by State and non-State institutions

- Baseline: None
- Target: Mechanism is not available (2010)
- UNICEF
- Achieved

- UNICEF:

- UNICEF has made demonstrable progress in retaining a reliable data stream through consistent, demographic and thematic surveys and administrative registers, which are connected and linked recording systems, and researches to allow for analysis and utilise the data collected in a way that fosters sound, evidence-based policymaking.

- UNICEF:

- UNICEF has continued its efforts for strengthening country’s capacity to improve availability and reliability of migration data disaggregated by sex, age, and region as well as generating evidence for: national baselines and policy planning throughout the reporting period. To further the evidence-based policy, advocacy and decision making, UNICEF has been continuously deepening and expanding partnerships and collaboration with the State Statistics Committee, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population and other key national counterparts in this arena.

- UNICEF:

- Over the last decade, Azerbaijan has made demonstrable progress in retaining a reliable data stream through consistent, demographic and thematic surveys and administrative registers, which are connected and linked recording systems, and researches to allow for analysis and utilise the data collected in a way that fosters sound, evidence-based policymaking.
Outcome 2.2.1. The situation of persons of concern to UNHCR (refugees, IDPs and stateless persons) is consistent with international standards and state obligations, and it is being independently monitored by states, non-state and international institutions.

**Output 2.2.2**

**Participatory mechanism for integrated reporting and implementation of the recommendations of the UN HR Bodies is in place**

**Explanation**

1. UNHCR conducted joint border monitoring mission to the border regions and conducted targeted training sessions on asylum officer procedures.
2. UNHCR lack access to the asylum files at the 19th mandates and implementation of the asylum procedure.
3. UNHCR conducted capacity building activities through national and regional trainings and exchange of experiences for the national asylum officer and law enforcement authorities, as well as for the judiciary dealing with the asylum cases.
4. UNHCR lack access to detailed asylum records and files and as not able to conduct eligibility as well as on-reception interviews with detainees. UNHCR also seek to conduct asylum interviews with the detained asylum seekers jointly with the ROPE of UNHRC.

2018

**UNFPA**

- National and local level mechanisms are in place and independently operating.
- UNFPA records, COAR
- Increased visibility of Ministry of Health
- Target: Yes (for 2017)
- 2 (2020)
- Target: 12 (2017)

**OHCHR**

- Increased visibility of national stakeholders
- In place and independently operating.
- UNFPA records, COAR
- Increased visibility of Ministry of Health
- Target: Yes (for 2017)
- 2 (2020)
- Target: 12 (2017)

**UNFPA**

- National electronic case-management and referred system is functional.
- Case management system is not available (2015)
- Case management system available (2018)
- Case management system is currently being tested in one of the treatment centers.

**OHCHR**

- National and local level mechanisms are in place and independently operating.
- UNFPA records, COAR
- Increased visibility of Ministry of Health
- Target: Yes (for 2017)
- 2 (2020)
- Target: 12 (2017)

**UNFPA**

- National electronic case-management and referred system is functional.
- Case management system is not available (2015)
- Case management system available (2018)
- Case management system is currently being tested in one of the treatment centers.
**Outcome 2.3 By 2020, quality public and social services are accessible to all and help achieve more socially inclusive and equitable development results.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 2.3.1</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Target/Network/Established</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Results/Impact</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of surveys on gender based violence and related practices conducted with advocacy/technical support from UNFPA and made disseminated for policy making on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights</strong></td>
<td>Baseline: 8 (2015)</td>
<td>Target: 12 (+5 new for 2018-2020)</td>
<td>Survey questionnaires</td>
<td>Related contract documents, study questionnaires</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of advocacy events with state and non-state actors for institutionalization of the protocols and standards for integrating gender-based violence prevention, protection and response</strong></td>
<td>Baseline: No</td>
<td>Target: Yes (for 2017)</td>
<td>Advocacy events with state and non-state actors</td>
<td>Related contract documents, media products, links</td>
<td>Yes (for 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A functional tracking and reporting system for monitoring implementation of recommendations on national legal acts and legal frameworks on GBV prevention and rights issued by the human rights treaty bodies is in place</strong></td>
<td>Baseline: No</td>
<td>Target: Yes (for 2017)</td>
<td>Reports</td>
<td>Related contract documents</td>
<td>Yes (for 2017)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Achievements:**

- The national representative survey on GBV prevalence rates and women’s coping strategies was held. The data collection has been finalized towards the end of the year and the analysis of the findings as well as the related advocacy action is scheduled for 2018. The research is the first study on GBV prevalence rates following the adoption of the Law on Prevention of DV (2010).
- Reduction of a significant amount of USAID funding to support the strategic interventions on GBV prevention and response. The unpredictable process and institutionalisation of the knowledge and skills are the most crucial factors for success with particular emphasis on the health sector. These efforts should be accompanied by the large scale sensitization campaigns. The issue of availability of reliable and representative data on GBV should also be given a priority.
- The number of advocacy events, as well as the activities on the issues of reproductive health and rights and gender based discrimination are very limited and their capacities to boost the effective advocacy campaign in the country are underdeveloped.
- The overall number of the civil society actors working solely on the issues of reproductive health and rights and gender based discrimination are very limited and their capacities to boost the effective advocacy campaign in the country are underdeveloped.
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**Recommendations:**

- The advocacy efforts have been markedly expanded on the issues on gender equality and GBV prevention and response. Expert support was provided for the Government for drafting the National Action Plan on Gender Equality. The international expert support was provided for the analysis of national IML legislation to identify the provisions that need revision. Series of recommendations (16 specific recommendations to amend the related legal acts and 18 recommendations related to practical arrangements as regards protection measures) were drafted and shared with the Government for further action. Alongside this, the national IML Plan on GBV prevention and response was updated with the guidelines for interagency coordination and monitoring mechanisms on GBV prevention and response were drafted by the teams of international and local legal experts. Both documents were officially submitted to the Government for further action and endorsement.

**Baseline:**

- No (2015).

**Target:**


**Baseline:**

- No (2015).

**Target:**


**Baseline:**

- No (2015).

**Target:**


**Notes:**

- Some components of the work have been finalized contributing 60% of the total, the rest of the activities are still in progress.
- Meeting minutes, project reports, activity reports, attendance sheet, training manual, photos
- Some components of the work have been finalized contributing 60% of the total, the rest of the activities are still in progress.
- Meeting minutes, project reports, activity reports, attendance sheet, training manual, photos
- Government provided feedback on the advanced training curriculum on counter trafficking for judges and prosecutors. Held the first working group for drafting governmental meeting on advanced training materials.
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The indicator will be partially achieved.

A national programme on inclusive education, which had been supported by UNICEF, was announced by the President in the end of 2017. A national programme on inclusive education, which had been supported by UNICEF, was announced by the President. UNICEF has provided ongoing mentoring and professional support for teachers of inclusive classes in the four inclusive settings throughout the year. UNICEF has provided ongoing mentoring and professional support for teachers of inclusive classes in the four inclusive settings throughout the year.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to prepare a draft Law on Flour Fortification that was presented during a Round Table Consultation with all relevant state, non-government, industry and international organizations. The consultation strengthened the commitment of key policy-makers and stakeholders to the concept of a national flour fortification strategy. Large-scale communication activities were organized with the Ministry of Health during National Breastfeeding Week reaching an estimated 4.2 million mothers and children.

The indicator will be partially achieved. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to prepare a draft Law on Flour Fortification that was presented during a Round Table Consultation with all relevant state, non-government, industry and international organizations. The consultation strengthened the commitment of key policy-makers and stakeholders to the concept of a national flour fortification strategy. Large-scale communication activities were organized with the Ministry of Health during National Breastfeeding Week reaching an estimated 4.2 million mothers and children.

The indicator will be partially achieved.

During the year flour fortification was introduced as an effective way of addressing anaemia and neural tube defect rates. The draft Law is now under review and will be submitted to all relevant state, non-government, industry and international organizations. During the year flour fortification was introduced as an effective way of addressing anaemia and neural tube defect rates. The draft Law is now under review and will be submitted to all relevant state, non-government, industry and international organizations.

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This baseline, target and indicator needs to be revised.

The indicator will be partially achieved.

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The indicator will be partially achieved.

The indicator will be partially achieved.

The indicator will be partially achieved.
Review of data collection tools and methodologies for new-borns with low and very low birth weight (BLW) and the analysis of BLW-newborns is only possible during the perinatal period, after which all medical records are mainly paper-based - analysis of LBW newborns is only possible during the perinatal period. Published by the World Health Organization (WHO), International Multisectoral Taskforce on Inclusive Education.

**Output 2.3.2 Young people and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, are empowered to engage in decision-making and affect their lives**

- **UNICEF**
  - Annual reports from the Ministry of Youth & Sports on the implementation of the State Youth Programme including disaggregated results.
  - 2015: 1; 2016: 1; 2017: 1
  - Baseline: 60% (2016) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Target: 100% (2020)
  - No progress
  - UNICEF supported the re-establishment of the Azerbaijan Youth Advocate Programme to promote participation of adolescents and young people in decision-making and reflection leading to de facto affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Adolescents and girls aged 12 to 18 undertake trainings in modern, child rights, Mine Risk Education and using digital tools, and subsequently developed their state as an issue in education and youth policies with their local authorities. Consultations with youth were conducted to collect their views on issues that affect their development as well as ideas to inform joint projects between the young people and local authorities. These joint initiatives - including projects that will provide friendly spaces and conditions for adolescents and young people to support new knowledge and skills and/or initiatives with a new - are expected to generate early in the implementation of the Legislative Framework for the up of the pilot took place in December 2017.

- **UNICEF**
  - State Youth Programme has annual budget allocation according to extended plan.
  - 2010: 5 annual budgets (2020)
  - 2015: 4 annual budgets (2020)
  - UNICEF reports achieved
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
  - Baseline: 60% (2015) Target: 100% (2020)
No data on stateless persons who receive secondary health care in state health clinics.

UNDP supported the Government in preparing its Second Biennial Update Report and Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC including the UNHCR database.

67 Government recognized refugees and 159 refugees processing TRP have right to work.

Associations established and functioning effectively

67 Government recognized refugees and 159 refugees processing TRP have access to state secondary health care services. However, this support is partially achieved.

67 Government recognized refugees and 159 refugees processing TRP have access to social programmes.

Outcome 3.1.3 Strengthened agricultural associations with active women members

1) To reduce RTI mortality.
2) Disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and emergency response strategies have been strengthened and the Government of Azerbaijan, in compliance with the Nagorno-Karabakh Operational Framework (MOUs), has undertaken a Strengthening of the Nagorno-Karabakh Operational Framework (MOUs)
3) Mitigation Measures implemented in the oil/gas areas
4) Phase out of HCFC to meet the Montreal Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Mitigation Measures implemented in the oil/gas areas

HCFC-141b and HCFC-22

4) complete phase out of HCFC-141b and HCFC-22

Target: 3 (2020)

Baseline: 0% (2016)

Baseline: 13.1 per 100,000; 4.4 per 100,000

Baseline: None

Baseline: 0 (2016)

Baseline: 0% (2016)

Baseline: 0% (2016)

Baseline: 40 (2016)

Baseline: 100% (2020)

Baseline: 100% (2020)

Baseline: 100% (2020)

Baseline: 100% (2020)

Baseline: 100% (2020)

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Baseline: 100% (2020)

Baseline: 100% (2020)

Baseline: 100% (2020)

Baseline: 100% (2020)
Output 3.1.6 Develop a National antimicrobial resistance action plan in accordance to Global AMR plan

**National AMR action plan developed**

- Progress Report
- Meeting reports
- PIR Reports

Output 3.1.7 Promote an integrated approach to mainstreaming environmental sustainability in the implementation of SDGs and Engagement with the Government of Azerbaijan as a core of the Contracting Parties to the Tokyo Convention

- Indicator: Number of stakeholders institutions engaged in the national and regional meetings on environmental sustainability.
  - Project Progress Reports
  - Meeting reports
  - PIR Reports

Output 3.1.8 Environmental sustainability

- National Action Plan for sustainable energy development and substitutes the Government
  - Progress report

Output 3.1.9 Improved national capacity for data collection and monitoring of progress on energy related sustainable development goals

- Project reports

Output 3.1.10 Contribute to the knowledge and development of skills and competencies of Government officials on the subject of migration crisis management

- Project reports, Manual

Output 3.1.11 Capacity of the Republic of Azerbaijan related to plant diagnostics, inspection and relevant procedures applicable to imported and exported production are strengthened

- Project reports, PR Reports, IOM Reports

Output 3.1.12 Forest Resource Information Management System established

- Project reports
### National Forest Assessment and Monitoring System established and operating
- Forest management planning improved in the 2 pilot areas.
- Livelihoods of farmers improved in the pilot sites.
- Carbon stocks enhanced in degraded forest areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project was not started in 2017 (under endorsement). The implementation is expected to start in 2018.

### Output 3.1.13 Reduction of releases from POPs and other obsolete pesticides posing high risk to public health and the environment and strengthening the capacity for sound pesticide management throughout the life cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project was not started in 2017 (under endorsement). The implementation is expected to start in 2018.

### Output 3.1.14 Determine development perspectives of organic agriculture and develop amendments for improvement of the national legislation on organic agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organic Agriculture Law, regulations are prepared and are subject to be endorsed by the Government. The standards developed by the project expert are under technical review of FAO.

Preparation of the National Strategy document is pending - there were several discussions between the government representatives and FAO experts and the document is expected to be ready in early 2018.

Planned for early 2018

Also, please refer to the output 1.1.8 for other challenges related to the Organic Agriculture project implementation.

### Azerbaijan: Vision 2020', p. 11

Note: the no-cost extension of the project to complete the activities is applied - the expected new NTE of the project: 30 April 2018.
### Appendix B: Progress against Annual Common Budgetary Framework 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Planned budget as signed 2017 US$</th>
<th>Planned Budget as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
<th>Expenditures as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Core/regular, assessed (USD)</td>
<td>Total Core/regular, assessed (USD)</td>
<td>Total Core/regular, assessed (USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-core/other/ extra budgetary (USD)</td>
<td>Non-core/other/ extra budgetary (USD)</td>
<td>Non-core/other/ extra budgetary (USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To be mobilized (funding gap) (USD)</td>
<td>To be mobilized (funding gap) (USD)</td>
<td>To be mobilized (funding gap) (USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Core/regular, assessed (USD)</td>
<td>Total Core/regular, assessed (USD)</td>
<td>Total Core/regular, assessed (USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-core/other/ extra budgetary (USD)</td>
<td>Non-core/other/ extra budgetary (USD)</td>
<td>Non-core/other/ extra budgetary (USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To be mobilized (funding gap) (USD)</td>
<td>To be mobilized (funding gap) (USD)</td>
<td>To be mobilized (funding gap) (USD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Strategic Priority Area 1 Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development underpinned by increased diversification and decent work

**Outcome 1.1 By 2020, the Azerbaijan economy is more diversified and generates enhanced sustainable growth and decent work, particularly for youth, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Planned budget as signed 2017 US$</th>
<th>Planned Budget as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
<th>Expenditures as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>30,000 30,000 0 0 30,000 30,000 0 0 28,410 28,410 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>1,261,036 355,000 906,036 0 1,227,300 83,900 1,143,400 0 2,685,790 249,104 2,366,686 69,846</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>1,614,000 1,114,000 500,000 0 464,000 320,000 144,000 0 446,785 307,034 139,751 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>145,000 0 145,000 0 151,670 151,670 0 0 152,231 0 152,231 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>209,000 0 0 209,000 0 209,000 0 0 209,000 260,000 0 260,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,259,036 1,499,000 1,551,036 209,000 2,081,970 585,570 1,287,400 209,000 3,573,216 584,548 2,658,822 329,846</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Strategic Priority Area 2 Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services

**Outcome 2.1 By 2020, Azerbaijan has enhanced institutional capacities for transparent, evidence-based and gender-responsive policy formulation and implementation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Planned budget as signed 2017 US$</th>
<th>Planned Budget as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
<th>Expenditures as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>309,000 139,000 170,000 0 309,000 139,000 170,000 0 133,613 54,318 79,295 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>218,000 218,000 0 0 218,000 218,000 0 0 206,446 206,446 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>2,370,000 0 2,370,000 0 2,370,000 0 2,370,000 0 1,416,060 0 1,416,060 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>100,000 48,000 0 52,000 63,000 63,000 0 0 58,850 58,850 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>900,000 600,000 100,000 200,000 145,000 30,000 115,000 0 145,000 30,000 115,000 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>4,645,288 115,948 2,529,340 2,000,000 4,550,288 105,948 2,444,340 2,000,000 2,264,967 81,949 2,183,018 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,542,288 1,120,948 5,169,340 2,252,000 848,000 370,000 458,000 20,000 879,319 451,276 428,043 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Strategic Priority Area 3 Improving environment management and resilience to hazards and disasters

**Outcome 3.1 By 2020, sustainable development policies and legislation are in place, better implemented and coordinated in compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, recognize social and health linkages, and address issues of environment and natural resource management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, climate change and resilience to hazards and disasters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Planned budget as signed 2017 US$</th>
<th>Planned Budget as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
<th>Expenditures as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>612,000 209,000 153,000 200,000 61,000 8,000 33,000 20,000 109,431 98,498 10,933 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>174,000 174,000 0 0 174,000 174,000 0 0 164,778 164,778 0 0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>18,000 18,000 0 0 18,000 18,000 0 0 18,000 18,000 0 0</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>1,900,000 1,350,000 350,000 200,000 350,000 170,000 180,000 0 350,000 170,000 180,000 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>245,000 0 245,000 0 245,000 0 245,000 0 237,110 0 237,110 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,398,000 1,550,000 628,000 220,000 848,000 370,000 458,000 20,000 879,319 451,276 428,043 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcome 2.2 By 2020, Azerbaijan has made progress in line with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review and other treaty obligations, and has strengthened capacities for implementation, monitoring and reporting aligned with international standards**

**Outcome 2.3 By 2020, quality public and social services are accessible to all and help achieve more socially inclusive and equitable development results**

**Outcome 3.1 By 2020, sustainable development policies and legislation are in place, better implemented and coordinated in compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, recognize social and health linkages, and address issues of environment and natural resource management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, climate change and resilience to hazards and disasters**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Planned budget as in signed summary</th>
<th>Planned Budget as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
<th>Expenditures as reported by agencies 2017 US$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>7,153,573</td>
<td>1,064,000</td>
<td>1,121,034</td>
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<tr>
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<td>209,000</td>
<td>209,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>3,120,000</td>
<td>3,126,670</td>
<td>2,095,667</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
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<td>10,193,830</td>
<td>8,492,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNECE</td>
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<td>154,000</td>
<td>66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>312,000</td>
<td>312,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
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<td>495,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
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<td>2,422,000</td>
<td>2,294,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>1,306,000</td>
<td>1,306,000</td>
<td>1,340,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>185,000</td>
<td>185,000</td>
<td>223,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28,169,139</td>
<td>19,485,500</td>
<td>16,480,778</td>
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</table>