The 2019 United Nations Public Service Forum took place in Baku, under the theme ‘Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through effective Delivery of Services, Innovative Transformation and Accountable Institutions’. The Forum was organised by the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The Forum provided a platform for Ministers and other senior decision makers to reflect on how to advance progress in realizing the SDGs. Participants also had the opportunity to debate emerging issues and trends, discuss good practices, strategies and innovative approaches for effective service delivery and innovative transformation in delivering the SDGs and leaving no one behind, a cross cutting tenet of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum enabled to reflect on common challenges and exchange lessons learned from the new approaches and innovations that are being experimented worldwide.

The Forum hosted the United Nations Public Service Awards Ceremony, promoting and rewarding innovation and excellence in public service delivery. This year, Kenya, Brazil, Australia, Indonesia, Argentina, Portugal, Thailand, Costa Rica, the Republic of Korea, Austria and Chile became winners of the UN Public Service Award in five different categories.

UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan, Ghulam M. Isaczi, spoke at the workshop on effective model for the delivery of public services contributing to the realization of human rights and the SDGs.
UNDP, Government bring youth enthusiasts to policy discussions around Internet

The UN Development Programme and Government of Azerbaijan organised a three-day intensive programme of the first in the country Youth Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

The first two days of the Forum focused on strengthening theoretical and practical knowledge of the Internet and its broader application for development among the key cohort of 24 participants age 17-29 from around the world – from Georgia to the Netherlands, Ukraine, Albania, Greece, Moldova, Serbia and Turkey, as well as young students from across the regions of Azerbaijan. The third and concluding day followed with an engaging simulation game that featured some of the heated policy debates around the future of Internet governance where youth are the centrepiece of important policy-making. Read more

Joint European Union – UNICEF programme provides comprehensive community-based support for Azerbaijani children and young people

The European Union (EU) and UNICEF launched a new programme to protect the rights of the most vulnerable children and young people in Azerbaijan, with the EU contributing 3 million Euros to support access to quality community and family-based integrated social services in health, nutrition, early childhood development (ECD), inclusive education, social services, child protection and youth development. The opening ceremony of the initiative was launched with the support of Azerbaijan Children’s Paralympic Committee.

The programme supports civil society organisations providing inclusive community-based outreach services. The funds for the project will be channelled via the CSO partners to bolster their work with vulnerable children and young people in Azerbaijan. Read more

FAO presented the National Forestry Programme on the protection and continuous development of forests in Azerbaijan

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) presented the National Forest Programme and its action plan on protection and development of forests in Azerbaijan.

The programme aims to implement the government’s forest policy by ensuring the development of institutional and legal basis for forest management. During the presentation, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Agrarian University and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) to ensure the education and preparation of young forestry personnel in Azerbaijan. National Forestry Programme (2020-2030) was drafted within the framework of technical support for the revision of National Forestry Programme (NFP) and modernisation of management system project, implemented by FAO and MENR. Read more

UNDP, USAID, Government launch youth and women centres to boost entrepreneurship and employability in Zaqatala

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Azerbaijan opened two new regional resource centres in Zaqatala to enhance entrepreneurship and employment in the North-Western part of Azerbaijan.

The new Women’s Resource Centre and Youth Employment and Training (Syslab) Centre will support key development priorities for Azerbaijan in women empowerment and youth employment. The Centres will offer employment opportunities and learning platforms on a range of diverse topics helping women and youth prepare for the labour market. The initiative is the result of a partnership between UNDP, USAID, Azerbaijan’s State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population started in 2015 with the Economic Empowerment for Entrepreneurship and Employment (E4) project financed by USAID and co-financed and implemented by UNDP. Read more
UNDP, Government of Azerbaijan announce the start of the self-employment programme for persons with disabilities

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population (MLSPP), State Employment Service of Azerbaijan (SES) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to announce the start of the Self-Employment Programme for Persons with Disabilities.

The programme aims to support 500 unemployed persons with disabilities who have the desire and vision to start their own business. The Self-Employment Programme is part of the Creating Inclusive and Decent Jobs for Socially Vulnerable Groups Project implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, State Employment Service of Azerbaijan and supported by the UNDP. Read more

CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY

Over 1000 participants collected four tons of waste in UN-supported beach clean-up action

A beach clean-up event on the shores of the Novkhany beach in capital Baku brought together more than a thousand participants, including youth activists and students, as well as representatives of UN agencies, government, civil society and private companies.

The participants collected about four tons of plastic and other types of waste, such as bottles, straws and cutlery, cans and cigarette butts. Hundreds of waste bags were submitted for recycling.

The event, dedicated to World Environment and Ocean days, was organised by the United Nations Office in Baku in collaboration with the IDEA Public Union, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Clean City state agency, Baku Transportation Agency and Azerbaijani Youth Foundation. Read more

World Refugee Day marked in Baku

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government of Azerbaijan organised a joint event at the International Mugham Centre to mark World Refugee Day.

The event started with opening speeches by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Ahmadov, UN Resident Coordinator Ghulam M. Isaczai, Chair of the State Committee for affairs of Refugees and IDPs Rovshan Rzayev, Chief of the State Migration Service Vusal Huseynov and UNHCR’s representative Guido Ambroso. The speakers underlined the increasing number of refugees every year and called the international community to demonstrate solidarity with the people who had to leave their country because of war, violence and persecution. The event concluded with concert by the renowned Azerbaijani pianist Isfar Sarabski, a winner of the Montreux Jazz Festival.

An essay contest dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation

UN Resident Coordinator participated at the awarding ceremony of the essay contest on “Future of Work”, dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population in Azerbaijan and ILO. The essay competition for pupils aimed to provoke interest in the future of labour, reflect and write about existing challenges and explore possible solutions.

UN Public Service Forum discussed on AZTV

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ghulam Isaczai, and deputy head of the State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Salmanov, were the guests of the “Rakurs” programme at Azerbaijan National TV. They answered questions about the UN Public Service Forum held in Baku and the role of public services in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Watch here
The Annual Progress Report of the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (2016-2020) covering the third year of implementation is published. The report highlights the results of our joint efforts with the Government and other national actors, including, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector.

The publication is available in English and Azerbaijani languages.

Sowing the Seeds of Sustainable Development: Supporting small businesses in north-west Azerbaijan

This booklet presents a collection of success stories depicting personal narratives of people living in the remote communities of the Shaki-Zaqatala region whose life trajectories changed for the better, thanks to a new project to support the establishment of smallholder family business in north-west Azerbaijan.

The project is part of the European Union’s flagship initiative – Support to Rural and Regional Development (SRRD) and received financial support from the European Union, with co-funding from the UNDP. In the Shaki-Zaqatala region, the project is implemented in cooperation with ABAD. ABAD, which means “easy” in Azerbaijani, is the country’s prominent national network for advancing family businesses. This cooperation greatly adds to the capacity of the project and helps ensure the sustainability of the new start-ups. The publication is available in English and Azerbaijani languages.