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UN Resident Coordinator discusses current status of SDGs in global and local context

27 September 2019: UN Resident Coordinator (RC) Mr. Ghulam M. Isaccai was a guest of the “Hadaf” programme at Azerbaijan National TV and answered questions concerning the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, ongoing reforms in the UN system, as well as the current status of SDGs implementation. RC also gave detailed information on the implementation of the UN-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework and future collaboration opportunities. [Watch here](#)



UN Resident Coordinator shares benefits of Global Compact in the event dedicated to the Migration in Azerbaijan



30 September 2019: UN RC Ghulam Isaccai talked about the importance of Global Compact regarding orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration at the roundtable discussion on Migration processes in Azerbaijan and Protection of their rights. He briefed the participants of the event on UN agencies’ support to modernisation of integrated border management systems at joint customs control checkpoints; improvement of e-services related to migration, targeted information campaigns to raise awareness about various aspects of migration and underlined the potential areas for improvement, also perspectives on collaboration.

The event was organised by the Ombudsperson’s Office and the State Migration Service.



UNICEF organised a regional capacity building workshop for flour fortification

16 September 2019: UNICEF and the Food Enrichment Initiative (FFI) organised a regional seminar on planning, execution and monitoring of flour fortification to prevent micronutrient deficiencies in Europe and Central Asia. A five-day event was supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID / Azerbaijan) and the Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency. The seminar brought together flour fortification experts – including representatives of the milling industry and governmental entities – from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to learn more about planning and implementing efficient flour fortification programmes and to strengthen the production, distribution and consumption of fortified flour in these countries. [Read more](#)



WHO Representative calls for patient safety



17 September 2019: On the first-ever World Patient Safety Day, WHO Representative/Head of Country Office Dr. Hande Harmanci called for patient safety and encouraged people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer. The World Patient Safety Day was observed on 17 September to call for global solidarity on Patient Safety and spur action by all countries and international partners. The slogan for the global campaign is “Speak up for patient safety!” Patient safety underpins the principle of “first do no harm” and is one of the most important

components of health care delivery. WHO contributes to solving this issue by developing norms and standards, promoting evidence-based policies, encouraging research and working with countries to strengthen patient safety systems. [Watch here](#)

The Special Advisor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS visits Azerbaijan



30 September: Professor Michel Kazatchkine, the Special Advisor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia paid an official visit to Azerbaijan between 30 September and 3 October 2019. Professor Kazatchkine met with authorities, partners and civil society on the progress made and remaining challenges to ending the AIDS, multi-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and hepatitis epidemics by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. He discussed how the UN and international community could further support the country on these matters, including TB advocacy issues, HIV/AIDS and viral Hepatitis response of the country. In this regard, Professor Kazatchkine also met with the UN Country Team to discuss the above mission and shared his impressions from meetings with Government counterparts. Professor Michel Kazatchkine has dedicated over 30 years fighting AIDS and promoting global health as a physician, researcher, advocate, policymaker, diplomat and administrator.



UNHCR supports refugee students to acquire tertiary education in Azerbaijan by German funds

13 September 2019: The UNHCR Country Representative in Azerbaijan Guido Ambroso and the German Ambassador Wolfgang Manig met with nine refugee students who have recently been selected to accept scholarships covering their expenses for higher education under the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) programme of UNHCR, funded by the Federal Government of Germany. DAFI Programme started to operate in Azerbaijan in 2010, so far 36 young refugees have been supported, including nine selected recently on the eve of the start of the 2019-2020 academic year. The event was attended also by the Head of the Refugee Status Determination Department of the Azerbaijani State Migration Service Aydan Seyidova, alongside the parents of the newly selected students and refugee community representatives. [Read more](#)





UNFPA observes 25th anniversary of its operations in Azerbaijan

27 September 2019: The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), a leading UN sexual and reproductive health agency, observed 25th anniversary of its operations in Azerbaijan. On this occasion, the UNFPA's country office organised an official reception in Baku. UNFPA's partner institutions, supporting and contributing to its activity over the past 25 years in Azerbaijan, including high-ranking officials from the

government and its authorities, embassies and international organizations, businessmen as well as civil society and media representatives attended the event. Azerbaijan Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ali Ahmadov, the UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan Mr. Ghulam Isaczai and UNFPA's country director for Azerbaijan Mr. Karl Kulesa talked about the agency's activities and cooperation with Azerbaijan. [Read more](#)



UNDP, SOCAR, BP support tree-planting to fight climate change in Azerbaijan

17 September 2019: United Nations Development Programme and Azerbaijan's State Oil Company SOCAR teamed up with BP in support of a tree-planting campaign to combat climate change and reduce the environmental footprint of industrial sectors of economy, in honour of the UN Climate Action Summit. Launched by SOCAR, the tree-planting campaign aims to plant 30,000 trees on 25 hectares of land plot. The area will now become a new forested area in Garadagh, one of the least forested and heavily industrialised districts of Baku. The tree-planting ceremony was made possible through contributions from SOCAR, BP as well as the UNDP's joint project with SOCAR on [Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action](#) (NAMA) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). [Read more](#)



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UNDP-GEF, SOCAR install new technology to curb methane emissions and supply clean fuel to rural communities in Azerbaijan

23 September 2019: UNDP and Azerbaijan's State Oil Company SOCAR marked an important milestone in their joint project to tackle climate change with the installation of new state-of-the-art associated gas capturing technology set to reduce methane emissions by on-shore oil field in Azerbaijan by 20 percent. The new cutting-edge compressors and separators that have been installed in the Siyazan oil fields will help collect associated gas from the crude oil and distribute it to the end-user consumers around 15 villages in the Siyazan mountainous area of North Azerbaijan.

It is estimated that more than 600 households and 1250 individuals who had previously no access to clean fuels will directly benefit from this programme. [Read more](#)





“Idea to Business” Innovation Camp kicks off in Shamakhi to connect aspiring startups and top innovators

1 September 2019: UNDP and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies organised the second Innovation Camp (InnoCamp) to open new possibilities for business-minded youth and innovators to join forces in solving social, environmental and economic challenges through innovations and startups. The Innovation Camp is part of the joint Idea to Business (I2B) initiative that aims to support the increase of startup culture in the country and to help youth across the rural communities of Azerbaijan. The initiative targets to improve young people’s business acumen and to realise their startup ideas turning them into successful small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).



The InnoCamp offered hands-on training sessions on technical excellence, organizational and project management, business development, marketing and communications skills, agility tools, financial literacy and planning, among other competencies necessary to build a successful business, for 54 I2B participants and 18 teams representing different regions of Azerbaijan. [Read more](#)



IOM continues providing a direct assistance and shelter facilities upgrade

17 September 2019: International Organization for Migration in Azerbaijan and the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation signed an arrangement for the project “Addressing the Needs of Victims of Trafficking in Azerbaijan Through Provision of Direct Assistance and Shelter Facilities Upgrade”. The short-term project will enhance the shelter capacity of the TAMAS Regional Development Public Union and will directly contribute towards strengthened care and support interventions to victims of trafficking (VoTs), individuals vulnerable to trafficking as well as their families.



Within the framework of the project, it is planned to organise basic skills training for the victims of trafficking and assign grants to 20 participants to cover the purchase of equipment and start-up raw materials to support their individually tailored business plans, and ultimately, their reintegration into society. [Read more](#)



FAO, Government of Azerbaijan works towards combating climate change



24 September 2019: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) together with Azerbaijan's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources launched a new project to strengthen Azerbaijan’s potential for reducing greenhouse gases in the agricultural sector and land use.

The project aims to identify institutions that will have direct access to the Green Climate Fund and to increase the capacity of relevant organizations. The project envisages a detailed analysis of the application of practical and technological solutions to simplify the implementation of national obligations. The project costs approximately \$500,000 and will last 18 months.



IOM conducts training on combating violent extremism



5 September 2019: International Organization for Migration organised a two-day training seminar on the role of media and internet in preventing violent extremism in Baku. The training involved various government agencies, media representatives, civil society, as well as representatives from educational institutions. The sessions aimed at contributing to the joint efforts for preventing a violent extremism and radicalisation, also enhancing participants' knowledge and capacity for using strategic communication for prevention of the radicalisation process among the vulnerable groups.

The training seminar was organised within the Vulnerabilities' (CRV) Activity, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by IOM in close cooperation with the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan. [Read more](#)



UN and Government of Azerbaijan enhances the preparedness activities for crises



24-26 September 2019: In view of enhancing emergency response preparedness and coordination of international humanitarian assistance, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in cooperation with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) organised a series of capacity building activities for UN staff, humanitarian partners including International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Azerbaijani Red Crescent Society, and the Government of Azerbaijan.

On 24 September, UNCT and its partners reviewed specificities of the UN humanitarian mandate with the focus on the joint inter-agency emergency response within the first 10 days of a sample crisis. On the next two days, communication officers and emergency focal points of UN and other

humanitarian organizations as well as ministries and state agencies of Azerbaijan, practiced crisis communication and public messaging in various emergency situations.

Overall, both exercises complement each other and serve as prerequisite to the upcoming important capacity building event. Azerbaijan will host a large International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Africa-Europe-Middle East Regional Earthquake Response Exercise in Baku on 5-8 November 2019. The Government and various international and local partners will test to jointly respond to a large emergency with the specific focus on reducing human suffering. This will also be a good opportunity to strengthen partnership and coordination arrangements for the international humanitarian response as the key enabler to success.



With UN support, used oil barrels now promote SDGs

9 September 2019: United Nations Office in Azerbaijan has partnered with Arts Council, a local non-governmental organisation, to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through visual art. As part of a joint project, 17 local artists visually interpreted each SDG on used oil barrels. They serve now as containers for green bushes and placed in the yard of the UN House in Azerbaijan. The project was funded by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Azerbaijan and the country office of the UN Development Programme. Prior to the painting the barrels, the artists received training sessions on SDGs from the UN staff.

In realization of these Sustainable Development goals, UN Office in Azerbaijan is working very closely with the Government of Azerbaijan and other partners and will continue to use innovative methods and partnerships to promote the SDGs for the benefit of the country.



PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



UN Staff Day is celebrated with participation of more than 150 employees of United Nations in Azerbaijan. Baku, 6 September 2019. Photo/ UNDCG Azerbaijan



UN Resident Coordinator Ghulam M. Isaczai presents recognition award to Deputy Prime Minister Ali Ahmadov for his support to the UNFPA's work in Azerbaijan. Baku, 27 September 2019. Photo / UNFPA Azerbaijan

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