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UN, Azerbaijan discuss new cooperation framework for 2021-2025

16 January: A two-day workshop to shape the new cooperation framework between the United Nations (UN) and Azerbaijan brought together over 150 senior government officials, representatives of the UN agencies, civil society, private sector, youth organisations, academia and the media. Organized by the UN Office in Azerbaijan and supported by the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development (NCCSD), the workshop aimed to identify the strategic priorities for the UN-Azerbaijan Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) covering the 2021-2025 period. Mr Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and the NCCSD chair; Mr Ghulam M. Isaccai, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan; Mr Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy; Mr Sahil Babayev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population; and other high-level officials spoke at the event. [To read more](#)



Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union meets with UN Country Team in Azerbaijan

4 December: Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Mr Houlin Zhao met with members of the UN Country Team in Azerbaijan. Sharing his impressions of the official meetings and the Bakutel exhibition in Azerbaijan, Mr. Jao discussed the possibilities of cooperation with UN agencies in Azerbaijan. Mr Ghulam Isaccai, the UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan, briefed the guest on the activities of the UN System in the country.





UN Resident Coordinator meets with newly-elected Ombudsperson



19 December: UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan, Mr Ghulam Isaczai, met with the newly-elected Ombudsperson of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ms Sabina Aliyeva. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the Ombudsperson with the standing cooperation between the United Nations and Azerbaijan and to explore opportunities for joint activities in 2020. Accompanied by OHCHR Human Rights Officer, Mr Kamran Bagirov and UN Coordination Analyst, Ms Shams Mustafayeva, Mr Isaczai also discussed with the Ombudsperson the current human rights situation in the country, and possible collaboration to promote international standards for human rights protection.



Third Republican Innovation Contest

10 December: UNDP took part in the 3rd Republican Innovation Contest in Azerbaijan. This contest encourages young women and men from different universities to submit business proposals with a focus on innovation, research, and development, in line with the 2030 Agenda. Out of 200 submissions, 18 projects were selected for the semi-finals and five made the finals. In his opening statement, UNDP Resident Representative Alessandro Fracassetti highlighted that for UNDP, innovation is critical to achieving the SDGs and that youth's involvement will be key to ensuring the success of the 2030 Agenda.



FAO supports discussions on the role of the private sector in the development of food and agriculture in Azerbaijan

17 December: The role of private sector in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in food and agriculture is the focus of the workshop organised by the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations of Azerbaijan (ASK) with financial and technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The event brought together 150 participants representing the government agencies, international organisations, private sector, and civil society. The workshop aims at raising awareness on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among the private sector and facilitating a discussion between government and private sector on their role and involvement in SDG implementation in Azerbaijan. FAO supports efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan in ensuring sustainable food and agriculture, increasing the productivity of food and agricultural production systems and diversifying agricultural production, which also leads to enhanced food security in the country. [Read More](#)





WHO supports efforts to end HIV/AIDS



2 December: The country office of WHO in Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Republic Center of the Struggle against AIDS of the Ministry of Health organized a roundtable discussion on World AIDS Day. The roundtable brought together experts from the Ministry of Health, State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance, Public Health and Reforms Center, Ministry of Justice, Country Coordinating Mechanism, UN agencies and NGOs to mark World AIDS Day. The event provided an opportunity to show solidarity with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide and fight against stigma and discrimination. As a part of the raising awareness campaign, the Republic Center of the Struggle against AIDS joined European Testing Week on 22-29 November and gave people a chance to get tested for HIV freely and anonymously in Baku. [Read More](#)



Training sessions on management of non-communicable diseases for healthcare workers

6 December: World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health and the State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance conducted training sessions for 65 doctors and nurses working in primary healthcare facilities of Sumgait city and Siyazan district. The main goal of the four-day training sessions on non-communicable disease management was to increase the knowledge and skills of health care providers regarding diagnosis, treatment and prevention of non-communicable diseases, especially hypertension and diabetes. The training also aimed to improve healthcare workers' ability to use basic medical tools to better manage non-communicable diseases. The training sessions were conducted by the specialists from the Azerbaijan State Postgraduate Medical Institute named after Aziz Aliyev, Azerbaijan Medical University and the Republic of Turkey. [Read More](#)



WHO supports second national conference on burden of non-communicable diseases in Azerbaijan

19 December: With the support of WHO, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Public Health and Reforms Centre (PHRC) organized the second national conference on the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The participants discussed the implementation of the strategy on fight against non-communicable diseases in Azerbaijan in 2015-2020, which was approved by the presidential decree on 23 December 2015, achievements, challenges and obstacles in this area, as well as the results of the STEPS survey. STEPS survey, implemented by PHRC with the support of WHO, is a research methodology that helps countries develop their surveillance systems to control and fight against NCDs. The goal of the second national survey (the first one was conducted in 2011) was to provide up-to-date information using WHO-approved methods by assessing the prevalence, current situation and future tendencies of NCD causes and risk factors among the Azerbaijani population. [Read More](#)





SCFWCA, UN, ABA sign memorandum to facilitate legal aid to victims of domestic violence in Azerbaijan

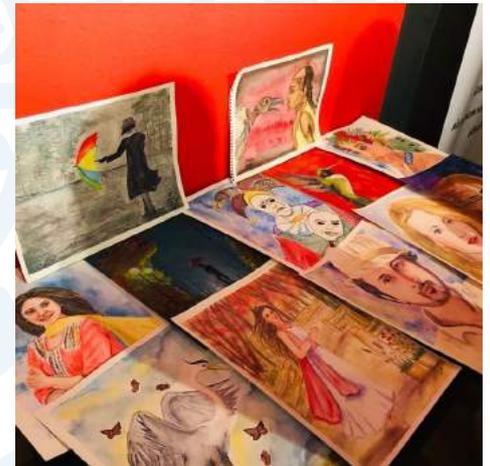


13 December: A tripartite memorandum signed between the UN Office in Azerbaijan, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) and Azerbaijani Bar Association to facilitate legal aid to victims of domestic violence. The Memorandum provides for increasing joint efforts and undertaking relevant measures to ensure highly qualified and quality legal assistance to the victims of domestic violence. By signing this document, the parties agreed to put efforts to provide legal assistance to defend the rights and legal interests, including legal representation of the victims of domestic violence in front of legal enforcement bodies and courts, improve qualifications of lawyers and strengthen the mechanisms of cooperation and coordination between the Bar Association and local support centers. The memorandum was signed by the chairperson of SCFWCA, Ms Hijran Huseynova, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Ghulam Isacqai and chairman of the Bar Association, Mr Anar Baghirov.



Photo exhibition within '16 Days of Activism' campaign

6 December: As part of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNHCR together with its contractor working in the area of prevention of gender based violence and response project and the State Committee for Family, Women and Child Affairs, organized a two-day exhibition in Baku. The photos of 14 displaced women (six refugees and eight IDPs) were displayed at the exhibition with slideshow projections of some of the stories of these women. These women volunteered to share their success stories to set an example to encourage other disadvantaged women to build their lives as they dream.



UNDP supports a meeting with representatives of the innovation ecosystem

13 January: UNDP and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies brought together the players of the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem to discuss ways of improving cooperation. Participants discussed a new platform mapping all common resources for startups and a common reporting system between the Ministry and UNDP to better foster innovation for solutions that can help advance the 2030 agenda. Government officials, representatives of civil society organisations, incubation and acceleration centres, also international experts shared the insights for the further collaborative works.





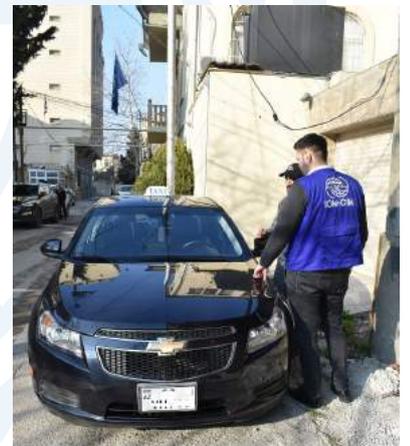
Elderly receive session of dance therapy under active ageing project of UNFPA and Azerbaijani government

14 January: Some 40 elderly participated in a dance therapy session as part of a project promoting the wellbeing of the elderly persons in Azerbaijan through active ageing” (2019-2021) implemented by the UNFPA country office and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population (MLSPP) of Azerbaijan. The Active Ageing project is an innovative social initiative providing for a variety of supportive and inclusive measures and programs to ensure an active and healthy life for retired persons. The project is implemented in close cooperation with the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ASAN Service), State Statistics Committee, Sustainable and Operative Social Security (DOST) Agency and “Uchuncu Bahar” Public Union. [Read more.](#)



IOM assists returnees from the Netherlands to establish income-generating activity

IOM Azerbaijan continues to deliver reintegration assistance to returnees from the Netherlands within its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) projects. In the scope of the project, returnees have procured cars for the establishment of income-generating activity – taxi service with the support of IOM. The IOM Azerbaijan currently provides in-kind reintegration assistance to returnees from Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, and Latvia. The allocated reintegration budgets can be used to establish a small private business, invest in an already existing business, receive education, as well as for temporary accommodation.



Active Ageing Index - benefits and opportunities for Azerbaijan

5 December: The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan initiated the implementing of the project “Building society for all ages: promoting well-being of the elderly persons in Azerbaijan through active ageing” in close partnership with the State Statistics Committee, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of Azerbaijan and Agency for Sustainable and Operational Social Security (DOST). One of the major activities of this project, funded by the Government of Azerbaijan, is the development of an Active Ageing Index to assess and measure the potential of older people for active and healthy ageing. The international expert on active ageing matters Mr. Asghar Zaidi, who is visiting Baku to develop the Active Ageing Index, answered the questions of the AZERTAC News Agency about the project. [To read the interview](#)





“Different but Equal” event - Celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December: The EU, UNDP, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the "Regional Development" Public Union joined forces to organize the “All different, all equal” festival to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Recently, an Inclusive Vocational Art and Craft Center has been established by UNDP and the Icherisheher Administration with EU funds. In a very short period, nearly 70 students of different abilities have been successfully developing their art skills but also making new friendships.



Artistic Performance Shows the Ability to Inspire



9 December: “Inspiration through Art”, a dance and music gala performed by the Italian-based group “Nazareno” Social Cooperative and the local Baku-based “DanceAbility Azerbaijan” Inclusive Dance Company, was presented on 9 December at Baku’s Heydar Aliyev Centre. The event brought together performers with and without disabilities and was presented to an enthusiastic audience including people of differing abilities. The event was jointly organized by UNICEF, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Italian Embassy in Baku to promote inclusive societies and tackle misconceptions surrounding disability. DanceAbility Azerbaijan is a newer group, founded by Nigar Sultanova in 2017. Nigar Sultanova is one of 700 DanceAbility teachers around the world.



IOM Azerbaijan celebrated International Migrants Day with its partners



18 December: IOM Azerbaijan celebrated International Migrants Day at the Museum Center in Baku, together with Government partners, UN agencies, Diplomatic Core, NGOs, and representatives of civil society and media. Speaking at the event, UN Resident Coordinator Ghulam Isaczai highlighted the dangers of irregular migration. In his opinion, national priorities on migration are best achieved through international cooperation. Vladimir Gjorgjiev, Chief of IOM Mission in Azerbaijan in his opening remark highlighted the importance of International Migrants Day in terms of focusing and informing the public on the problems, but also the positive aspect of the of migrants. At the end of the event, a film titled "The Lost Boy" featuring the hard life of a teenage migrant was screened within the International Migration Film Festival organized by IOM. [Read More](#)



UN Resident Coordinator speaks at the second Republican Forum of Foreign Trade

20 December: The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Ghulam Isaczai, attended the 2nd Republican Forum of Foreign Trade Participants. In his opening speech, Mr Isaczai stated that customs activities play a very important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. He also mentioned the role of the UN system in providing technical support to the Government of Azerbaijan in the areas of border management and customs. Chairperson of the State Customs Committee (SCC), Mr Safar Mehdiyev, Minister of Agriculture, Mr Inam Karimov, Chairperson of the Food Security Agency, Mr Goshgar Tahmazli, as well as other officials and about 900 entrepreneurs attended the SCC-organised event. [Read More](#)



Training session on standard operating procedure for refugee status determination



UNHCR and the State Migration Service (SMS) organized a joint training session on the implementation of the standard operating procedure (SOP) for refugee status determination (RSD), elaborated jointly with ICMPD under the MOBILAZE project in 2018. The document, designed to support the SMS in the implementation of the national asylum legislation and align national asylum practice with international procedural standards, is yet to be formally approved by the Head of the SMS. Staff from different departments of the SMS participated in the training session during which practical issues regarding the application of the SOP provisions were elucidated. The session was used as a good platform to exchange information on current practice and gaps in the asylum system between SMS and UNHCR, as well as discuss ways of better cooperation between two partners.



United Nations commemorates Human Rights Day in Azerbaijan

10 December: To celebrate Human Rights Day, the UN Office in Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) organised an exhibition at the Youth House in Sabunchu district of Baku. The event, dedicated to the theme of this year's celebration – “Youth Standing Up for Human Rights”, brought together some 150 participants from the government, civil society, diplomatic community, youth organisations, and the media. The opening session included speeches of the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Ghulam Isaczai, Ombudsperson Sabina Aliyeva and deputy chair of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, Sadagat Gahramanova. The opening session was followed by an exhibition of cartoons and illustrations dedicated to the Universal Human Rights Declaration. [Read More](#)



PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



The UN Resident Coordinator Ghulam Isaczai participated in the nation-wide tree planting campaign initiated by the First Vice President of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva. As part of this campaign, more than 650 thousand trees were planted to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the great poet of Azerbaijan, Imaddadin Nasimi. Heads of other UN agencies also joined the initiative.

6 December 2019



Young activists of the Sabunchu Youth House perform during the Human Rights Day

10 December 2019



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