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Country programme document

Azerbaijan

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Azerbaijan is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,745,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$9,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2016 to 2020.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD which was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2015.

* E/ICEF/2015/12.



Programme rationale

1. Azerbaijan is a resource-rich upper-middle-income country that is fast approaching high-income status. In 2014, its population stood at 9,477,000 people, with 26.9 per cent of them children.¹ The country experienced significant growth in the last decade, owing to oil and gas revenues, which account for 95 per cent of its exports and 75 per cent of Government income. This has left Azerbaijan exposed to the volatility of global energy markets: in 2013, the economy grew by 5.8 per cent, but is projected to slow down to 3.6 per cent in 2016, as a result of falling oil prices. Due to diverse geological and climatic features, Azerbaijan is highly prone to natural disasters. In the past decade the occurrence of hazards, particularly associated with hydro-meteorological conditions, has become more frequent and severe.

2. Evidence indicates that the poor did not benefit equally from the sustained economic growth and that resource redistribution policies require improvement. While the country is striving to reach the living standards of an upper-middle-income country, some social indicators remain behind those of other European countries. According to official data,² the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line fell sharply, from 49 per cent in 2001 to 5.3 per cent in 2013, whereas the proportion of the poorest quintile declined slowly, from 17.3 per cent in 2008 to 13.8 per cent in 2013. Among the poor, the most deprived children are children with disabilities (CWD) and children out of school, especially girls. In addition, children among the internally displaced are also vulnerable, as are children who live in disaster-prone areas. Social transfers have contributed to poverty reduction.³ However, only 35 per cent⁴ of vulnerable families who are eligible for targeted social assistance receive cash assistance, indicating that the programme remains insufficient to cover most of the poor.⁵ In addition, the latest data available⁶ show that public investment in the social sectors is insufficient: only 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) is allocated for education, 1.2 for health, and 3.6 for social protection, including all pensions.

3. According to administrative data, the infant mortality rate (IMR) for 2013 was 11 per 1,000 live births, while under-five mortality (U5MR) was 13 per 1,000 live births. However, the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGCME) in 2013 estimated IMR at 30 and U5MR at 34 per 1,000 live births. In 2014, Azerbaijan made a transition to the International Live Birth Definition, and the State Programme on Improvement of Mother and Child Health for 2014-2020 was endorsed.

4. The country made progress in improving the nutritional status of children and women.⁷ However, a determinant analysis, conducted according to the Monitoring

¹ State Statistics Committee (SSC), 2014, www.stat.gov.az.

² http://www.stat.gov.az/source/millennium/source/MDG_en.pdf.

³ Review of Azerbaijan achievements in reducing poverty and vision on long-term sustainable income poverty reduction policy. http://cled.az/pdf/reports/Review_per cent20of per cent20Azerbaijan_per cent20achievements_per cent20in_per cent20reducing_per cent20poverty_Final_per cent20Report_I.Nazarov_en.pdf.

⁴ Assessment and Mapping of Social Services for Families and Children in Azerbaijan, 2014 (unpublished).

⁵ World Bank, 2012.

⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Azerbaijan.

⁷ Azerbaijan National Nutrition Survey, 2013.

Results for Equity System (MoRES) methodology, revealed that there are significant bottlenecks and barriers leading to poor nutrition outcomes and overall high levels of anaemia for low-wealth quintiles. Iron-deficiency anaemia remains a challenge for Azerbaijan: more than one third of women of reproductive age, about 40 per cent of pregnant women and 24.2 per cent of children aged 6-59 months, are anaemic.⁸ The prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women, combined with other factors, are the key immediate causes for 9.2 per cent of children having low birthweight, and about 4.9 per cent of children aged 0-59 months being underweight. One of the key reasons for high anaemia levels in children is the low exclusive breastfeeding rate, at just 12 per cent.⁹ The first step to address such persistently high levels of anaemia, is to strengthen the health system and enact a new law for iron food fortification.

5. In 2013, there were 520,793 registered persons with disabilities who received pensions and disability benefits. Of these, 62,866 were children, representing 2.5 per cent of the child population.¹⁰ About 24 per cent of new cases of disability among children were detected in 2013 in the 0-3 age cohort.¹¹ Azerbaijan has inherited a model for the definition of disability and related support schemes, which depends heavily on medical interventions and cash assistance. The Government has made efforts to reform this system by introducing social care programmes, alongside small cash benefits. After the approval of a National Action Plan for Early Detection, Prevention and Early Intervention (EDPEI), it is expected that more cases of disability will be detected before a child is 3 years of age. Despite these reforms, about 76 per cent of children with CWD¹² still have no access to education, and, therefore, the Government has developed a strategy for the introduction of inclusive education at all levels of education.

6. Although official preschool education starts at age 3, national statistics also cover children in crèches, while disaggregated data for children aged 3-5 are not available in official statistics.¹³ Gross enrolment of children aged 1-5¹⁴ remains low, at 13.3 per cent, with children in rural areas more deprived (7.5 per cent enrolment) than children in urban areas (19.2 per cent enrolment).¹⁵ In addition to infrastructural barriers to access, particularly in remote areas of the country, the inadequate knowledge of parents about the benefit of preschool for child development are key barriers to pre-school enrolment.¹⁶

7. The Government implemented nation-wide active learning techniques up to grade 7, which have been incorporated into teacher training and curricula, and are at the core of Government's reform efforts. This initiative has been further supported by evidence from a formative evaluation, which confirmed the efficacy of the child-centred approach and stressed the importance of sufficient materials to support

⁸ National Nutrition Survey. 2013.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ SSC2014.

¹¹ SSC2014.

¹² Ministry of Education, 2015.

¹³ State Standards on Preschool Education, approved by Cabinet of Ministers on 16.07.201.

¹⁴ MoE, 2013, <http://www.stat.gov.az>.

¹⁵ SSC2014.

¹⁶ MoE communication to UNICEF representative at official meeting in 2013.

classroom implementation of active learning, as well as the need for greater in-service training efforts.¹⁷

8. Azerbaijan developed the first 2015-2020 National Children Strategy¹⁸ to improve the country's child protection system. The Law on Social Services resulted in over \$2.5 million being invested annually to provide services for deprived children, including for the prevention of institutionalization of children. The rate of institutionalization has been significantly reduced: the number of children in institutions has fallen by 53 per cent, from 21,000 to about 9,877 children¹⁹ in State institutional care in 2014, of whom 36 per cent were girls and 64 per cent boys. Around 35 per cent of children stay overnight²⁰ in the institutions, 168 of whom,²¹ aged 0-3 years, live in baby homes.²² According to the Ministry of Education (MoE), the major bottleneck is the low availability of alternative care, as community-based alternative services to institutional placement are limited and inadequate; in addition, there is a lack of social workers who are able to provide social services to prevent the inflow of children to institutions and facilitate their placement in foster care or in adoption. While five universities have already started training professional social workers, there is yet no social work cadre in the Government, which is a key barrier to the effective delivery of social services to the most deprived children and families.

9. Since 2007, the Government has taken initiatives to reform the juvenile justice system and expand access to justice for children. From 2005 to 2013, the number of convicted children decreased from 341 to 272 children (4 per cent girls and 96 per cent boys),²³ and the number of children in post-trial sentencing fell²⁴ from 83 in 2007 to 36 in 2012. In 2013, a total of 514 crimes were committed by children, mostly by boys, of which 67 were grave crimes; 68 children were convicted, and 53 per cent of them were imprisoned for more than five years.²⁵ To accelerate progress, alternatives to the deprivation of liberty, including mediation, need to be promoted further, and a "justice for children" approach in the national legal system adopted and fully implemented.

10. Azerbaijan is a young country, with nearly one in three people aged 14-29. A quarter of young people surveyed²⁶ are members of youth organizations, suggesting that youth participation in public life is developing. The Government also endorsed the first-ever National Youth Development Strategy for 2015-2025, which promotes social inclusion through better access to education and training, health, social services, housing, employment and information. A determinant analysis, however,

¹⁷ The results of Formative Evaluation of Active Learning in National Curriculum in primary schools in 2013.

¹⁸ National Child Rights strategy was recommended by the UN CRC Committee in 2012 and is in line with a goal in the Azerbaijan 2020 paper.

¹⁹ Data obtained from the MoE for the year 2014.

²⁰ MoE Official terminology.

²¹ Ibid.

²² According to the Department of De-Institutionalization and Alternative Care of the MoE.

²³ State Statistical Committee (SSC) <http://www.stat.gov.az/source/crimes/indexen.php>

²⁴ Multi-Country Evaluation of The Impact of Juvenile Justice System Reforms on Children in Conflict with The Law (2006-2012).

²⁵ State Statistical Committee (SSC) <http://www.stat.gov.az/source/crimes/indexen.php>

²⁶ Tamerlan Rajabov, Situation Assessment of Youth in Azerbaijan, UNICEF, MoYS, Sigma Research Centre, 2011.

revealed that meaningful participation of adolescents is hindered by the absence of a culture fostering the full expression of opinion. Young people also lack appropriate and adequate knowledge and skills to make a smooth transition to adulthood, while access to adolescent-friendly services is limited.²⁷

11. Gender inequality and domestic violence remain key issues. Adolescents, particularly girls, experience limited opportunities as well as domestic violence, child marriage and child labour.²⁸ About 10 per cent of women entered marriage between the ages 15-19 according to the State Statistics Committee (SSC).²⁹ The increase of legal age for marriage from 16 to 18 years old was a bold step by the Government towards the prevention of child marriage, and the SSC plans to carry out a survey in 2015 to measure the impact of this law.

12. Another manifestation of gender inequality is the highly skewed sex-at-birth ratio, showing that 116 boys were born for every 100 girls in 2014. Due to deep-seated patriarchal social norms, preference for sons is quite strong, as it is associated with continuation of the family lineage.³⁰ A 2014 study found that about 43 per cent of women were subjected to family violence and that 29 per cent of the perpetrators were their husbands.³¹ Customs and traditions are often cited as one of key social determinants of violence at home.³² There are no accurate official figures on the scale of domestic violence in the country, as Azerbaijan's legal system singles out physical abuse as a crime, but does not deal with other forms of domestic violence. Research indicates that current legislation is insufficient to protect victims of violence.³³ There is also a severe dearth of data on all forms of violence, abuse and neglect regarding children. Established in 2006, the Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs has legislative power, but still requires internal capacity for data generation and analysis, and for developing advanced policies and legislation for children.

13. Although the country collects information in several child-related areas, data on multi-dimensional child deprivation are either not collected or, if collected, are not done so systematically. The existing system does not provide an adequate level of disaggregated data to compare the efficiency of a comprehensive system-based child welfare and protection system for all children, so as to move beyond the current issue-based approach that focuses only on narrowly-defined groups of vulnerable children. On the other hand, there is no Ombudsperson for children, while civil society and academic institutions are not part of child rights monitoring mechanisms. As a result, coordination of collective efforts for the promotion of child rights is yet to be achieved.

14. The midterm review of the country programme for 2011-2015 confirmed that significant progress has been made at the normative level and in setting new standards. For example, the new Preschool Education curriculum is a result of successful demonstration of short-term school readiness models and early learning development standards supported by UNICEF. The programme also sustained

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Being an IDP in Azerbaijan, UNHCR, 2013.

²⁹ SSC, 2013.

³⁰ Mechanisms behind the skewed sex ratio at birth in Azerbaijan, UNFPA, 2014.

³¹ Report on violence against persons, UNFPA, 2014.

³² Ibid.

³³ Leyla Leysan, *New Law to Tackle Domestic Assault in Azerbaijan*, IWPR, 27 March 2010.

national capacity-building, which resulted in Government resources being used to scale up the training nationwide. The Government also mainstreamed the UNICEF-supported Disaster Risk Reduction in education into the formal school curriculum and related in-service teacher training.

15. The previous country programme successfully leveraged government spending for day care centres to reduce the risks of children being institutionalized, providing support to CWD and their families, as well as services for children living on the street. The programme also modelled a free child legal aid and consultation service in Baku, to be scaled up to additional districts with Government funding.

16. A key lesson is that what works well is to demonstrate alternative care for children through ‘modelling’, based on clear and well-thought-out objectives, linked to national policies and programmes, and costed to demonstrate that it is affordable for Government scale-up. Systematic monitoring, costing, evaluation, documentation and dissemination of the results of these models are crucial for leveraging resources and achieving systemic change in public sectors.

17. Further progress in reducing equity gaps will require a vigorous social research agenda, starting with the production and use of disaggregated data for analysis to inform policy development and build the national capacity to provide advice on cost-efficient social investment of state resources. This is a key objective of the 2016-2020 country programme.

Programme priorities and partnerships

18. The overall aim of the programme is to support Azerbaijan in its efforts to accelerate the realization of children’s rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to contribute to the results related to child and adolescent rights stipulated in the Azerbaijan 2020 Vision Paper, as well as other sectoral policies and strategies. The programme will also be based on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. While being closely aligned with the UNICEF 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, the programme is directly linked to outcomes and strategies of the United Nations Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (UNAPF) 2016-2020.

Quality and equitable social services

20. The objective of this programme component is to increase access for children, especially the most deprived, to quality and equitable child protection, education, health and nutrition services. The component will also identify systemic bottlenecks that lead to violence, abuse and neglect against children and increase equity by enabling greater access to social protection. These interrelated strategies will support children’s right to a caring and supportive family environment and well-being.

21. The programme component will contribute to a child-centred and equity-focused social protection system, with clearly identified roles and responsibilities of various sectoral actors, namely education, health and justice. As part of the social protection system, a national mechanism will be established to identify the most

deprived children and will refer them to the relevant services and facilitate cash and other in-kind assistance. To this end, the component will put in place a proactive and preventive gatekeeping, case management and will enhance national capacity to provide deprived children with access to inclusive social protection mechanisms.

22. UNICEF will focus its support on modelling the comprehensive social protection system and will evaluate its feasibility, relevance and affordability for nationwide scale-up. It will assist the Government in establishing efficient and effective national and local referral mechanisms among the services provided by different sectors for a better coordination. The aim is to promote an approach whereby the needs of the most deprived children are addressed applying multi-disciplinary principles. Through continued support from, and engagement with, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population (MLSPP), the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), and the Ministry of Health (MoH), this programme component will strengthen synergies among essential child health services, early childhood education, quality and inclusive primary and secondary education, and the child protection system. This new integrated approach will be researched in order to provide evidence on the efficacy of new mechanisms and to operationalize guidelines and protocols and for scaling up.

23. As a further contribution to reducing risk and increasing opportunities for the most deprived children, this component will also contribute to increasing preschool education coverage and reduce equity gaps in preschool enrolment, by scaling up a school readiness programme focussing on deprived children. UNICEF will support the strengthening of professionals' capacities and practices, and introduce school-based family education concepts and innovations. In order to monitor the reduction of equity gaps in school readiness, the component will also improve preschool enrolment data by providing disaggregated information for children 3 to 5 years of age. The programme will also support EDPEI to prevent developmental delays and disabilities among young children through further refining health providers' capacities. With the new normative framework a guide, UNICEF will facilitate research and studies to provide evidence on the impact of innovative standards and of the necessary mechanisms for operationalizing the guidelines and protocols regarding the International Live Birth Definition (ILBD) and EDPEI.

24. In addition, this result area will contribute to the elimination of challenges that juveniles face in pre-trial detention and support national efforts to enable greater access to justice for children and their families. It will continue to support the reforms in the justice sector through further specialization of professionals and procedures, as well as greater availability of, and access to, social and legal services for vulnerable children. This approach will enhance the protection of the best interests of children going through the justice system, and will support the most deprived children and their families to redress rights violations by using justice services, such as free legal aid and representation in both criminal and civil courts.

25. Finally, the programme component will promote child-centred disaster risk assessment and reduction, and will strengthen Government policy and subnational knowledge on climate change. It will promote a better understanding of disaster risks, particularly their potential impact on people, with UNICEF contributing to the development of national action plans that specifically address disaster vulnerabilities for children.

Child rights monitoring and partnerships for child rights

26. This programme component seeks to generate robust and practical evidence, and build a culture of collective responsibility for monitoring child rights. A child rights monitoring system will be developed with the active engagement of the State, civil society, academia, private sector, media and adolescents themselves. UNICEF will contribute with evidence for more equitable state policy formulation, programming and budgeting, and it will support the development of a robust nationally owned knowledge base for measuring and monitoring multidimensional child deprivations. This component will also assist the Government with the implementation of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child related to the need to develop the capacity of independent child rights monitoring.

27. This component will contribute to developing and strengthening a national child rights monitoring system, which will operate across sectoral ministries, the Office of the Ombudsman, and at subnational level. By supporting new data generation, especially on multiple deprivations of children as well as by using bottleneck analysis and real-time monitoring of various determinants of inequity, UNICEF will assist the Government to establish a central and comprehensive database on children in Azerbaijan. This system will be fed by data from all relevant sectors, thus providing real-time and disaggregated data on children, which will contribute to equity-focused social policies and social services and aim to increase the size and efficiency of budget allocations for children and adolescents.

28. Building new alliances with a wide range of partners, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society will be key to achieving results in all programme components. In addition to traditional partners, there will be a strong emphasis to promote a stronger commitment among all social partners, including NGOs, the corporate sector and mass media, including social media, to utilize the principles underlying social corporate responsibility and child rights in business, and to raise awareness of child rights, linking up with the nationally owned child rights monitoring system.

29. UNICEF experience in working with the private sector will be built on in order to implement the new global strategy for integrated engagement of the corporate sector, thus expanding partnerships beyond fundraising and into leveraging investment for children. Results achieved in this area will also be critical to increase Government's contribution to UNICEF core resources, regionally and globally.

30. UNICEF will continue to support exchange of innovations and lessons learned across and beyond the region as well as through the participation of Azerbaijan in regional horizontal cooperation initiatives and global exchanges. Azerbaijan's good practices will benefit from, and contribute to, the sharing of experience across borders through horizontal and triangular cooperation. In this way, Azerbaijan will share its rich experience in Disaster Risk Reduction with other countries and learn from other countries' best practices in promoting a child-friendly justice system.

The right of adolescents to a second chance

31. Adolescents who are the most deprived in society include children out of school, particularly girls, and CWD. This programme component will seek to empower adolescents to become social change agents, contributing to a more tolerant, peaceful

and inclusive society. The component will accelerate investment in new policies, programmes and gender-sensitive services for children out of secondary school, including CWD, in order to make a sustainable improvement in their capacities. It will strengthen the ability of decision-makers to create an enabling environment for a successful transition to adulthood, providing the most deprived adolescents with a second chance in life, as well as building their resilience.

32. The component will enhance the quality of education through accelerating ongoing reforms in inclusive education, with a particular focus on CWD. It will also lead to better identification, monitoring and response mechanisms for all children out of school or at risk of dropout. UNICEF support to inclusive education reform will target three main areas: legislative adjustments, content of education, including teaching-learning environment, and behaviour change to improve attitudes of parents and schoolchildren. As its contribution, UNICEF will also concentrate on modelling inclusive schools for nation-wide replication.

33. The component will continue tackling key barriers to adolescents' meaningful participation, especially that of girls, in decision-making, as well as increasing access to social services for all. The component will identify and implement changes in policies, systems and behaviours that are necessary to ensure the holistic development of adolescents. It will enhance knowledge, skills and participation opportunities for adolescents, with a particular focus on adolescents from the most deprived groups. Using robust research, systematic documentation and communication, UNICEF will contribute to developing and costing a State Youth Programme, and will strongly advocate for adequate resource allocation to the programme. Awareness about child rights, gender and harmful social norms will be raised by applying innovative methodologies and techniques, benefiting adolescents.

34. Another key element of this programme component that will contribute to building a more inclusive society, will be equipping adolescents, especially girls and CWD, with the necessary skills, and providing them with more opportunities to engage in sport activities and physical education. Equity-based sports for development will be one of the main entry points to empower adolescents through safe and inclusive sports, and as a tool to foster social inclusion.

35. UNICEF will assist Government counterparts to identify and foster innovations, with the aim to generate creative ways of dealing with the bottlenecks and barriers that impede further progress in the realization of child rights. Using new technologies, social media and maximizing the creativity of adolescents for innovative solutions, the component will increase the national debate on equitable access to quality social services, it will generate data and evidence, and amplify the voices of adolescents.

Cross-sectoral

36. The country programme is multi-sectoral; hence, fostering cross-sectoral linkages is a key strategy to achieve results for children. In addition, the capacities of State agencies, civil society, adolescents, and community stakeholders will be further strengthened at different levels and in different geographic areas of the country, so as to improve the quality, reach and coordination of social services, and to enhance related policy design, implementation mechanisms and monitoring systems.

37. The country programme will use modern communication for social development to raise awareness, stimulate public engagement and civil society participation, and encourage efforts to enhance the abilities of all social partners to promote and support child rights. A multi-media approach will be adopted using radio, television, entertainment, education, and interpersonal communication, as well as information communication technology, including social media. This will secure long-term sustainability of progressive social norms and positive attitudes towards children.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Quality and equitable social services	2 075	4 300	6 375
Child rights monitoring and partnerships for child rights	800	1 700	2 500
The right of adolescents to a second chance	1 170	2 550	3 720
Cross-sectoral	700	450	1 150
Total	4 745	9 000	13 745

Programme and risk management

38. This country programme of cooperation outlines UNICEF contributions to national results for children and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country for achieving results for children, lies with the Representative and the country office team. The Regional Office will provide overall oversight for quality assurance and strategic technical advice in support to the country programme. The organization's programme and operations policies and procedures reflected in the country programme management plan for 2016-2020 will clearly describe accountabilities at country, regional and headquarter levels with respect to country programmes.

39. The goal of the country programme is to achieve specific results for all vulnerable children and reduce equity gaps. One of the potential risks is the lack of reliable data to identify the most deprived children. UNICEF will develop a vigorous research agenda to support child-related data and contribute to sound analysis that leads to better strategies and programmes for children. Azerbaijan, as an upper-middle income country, has increasing resources to invest in the realization of child rights. However, some rigidity in expenditure lines in public sector budgets may not allow the required flexibility for modelling of new approaches. UNICEF will continue to build on its dynamic programming that provides space for strategic shifts as more information and analysis become available. In addition, a robust resource mobilization strategy and a widening network of partnerships for leveraging resources will be key for UNICEF to ensure enough funds are secured for modelling innovations in support of country programme results.

40. The United Nations Country Team will establish mechanisms to coordinate planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UNAPF, to which the

country programme will directly contribute. As a basis for developing workplans to operationalize the country programme, UNICEF and the Government will agree on detailed results and milestones to be achieved in the medium and long term.

Monitoring and evaluation

41. The programme of cooperation will monitor the barriers and bottlenecks faced by deprived children, adolescents and their families, as a basis for developing the most effective strategies to reduce socio-economic disparities and equity gaps. The programme will contribute to strengthening State capacities in systematic data collection, analysis, monitoring systems in key State institutions, including the SSC and the statistics units of the relevant ministries.

42. Surveys and research will be carried out to gain a deeper understanding of specific situations and vulnerabilities of the most deprived children and adolescents. Moreover, to monitor the achievements of the results of this programme of cooperation and their effect in reducing disparities, including gender inequalities, major planned evaluations will cover: social protection and inclusion; justice for children; inclusive education; mother and child health; and adolescent participation. All evaluations will be conducted jointly with the Government. The programme will systematically track progress against planned results through midyear and annual reviews.

Annex

Results and resources framework Azerbaijan-UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2016-2020

Relevant Convention on the Rights of the Child articles: 4, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 37, 39, 40.

National Priority: Develop social spheres and human capital, improve the quality of the education and healthcare, strengthen social protection, ensure gender equality and family development, enhance the youth potential and achieve following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16.¹

UNDAF OUTCOME INVOLVING UNICEF:

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

Outcome indicators measuring change that includes a UNICEF contribution

- ✓ New sex-disaggregated indicators aimed at supporting the development of informed policies are incorporated into the national statistical databank
- ✓ Positive changes in Human Development Index
- ✓ Positive changes in Gender Inequality Index
- ✓ Number of the implemented recommendations issued by human rights treaty bodies
- ✓ Number of submissions to the human rights treaty bodies from the Government, civil society organizations and the United Nations agencies.
- ✓ Sex ratio at birth in the population
- ✓ Gender-based violence (domestic violence) prevalence rate

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): P1; P3; P4; P5; P6; P7

¹ Sustainable Development Goals ad targets: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>.

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
1. Children, especially the most deprived, access and utilise quality and equitable protection, education, health and nutrition services	<p><i>A national mechanism established to identify the most deprived children to refer them to the relevant services and facilitate cash and other in-kind assistance</i></p> <p>Baseline (B): No such mechanism available(2015)</p> <p>Target (T): Mechanism established</p> <p><i>Proportion of girls and boys aged 2-14 who experience violent disciplinary practices</i></p> <p>B:TBD</p> <p>T: TBD</p> <p><i># of girls and boys in residential care</i></p> <p>B: 9,900 (boys 64%, girls 36%), 2014</p> <p>T:4500</p> <p><i>Per cent of children with disabilities receiving social care services</i></p> <p>B:2 (2014)</p> <p>T:15</p>	<p>MOLSSP record</p> <p>Violence against children study planned for 2016</p> <p>Deinstitutionalization and Child Protection Department of MOE and records of MOLSPP</p> <p>Records of MOLSPP</p>	<p>By 2020: National and subnational institutional mechanisms established to identify, refer and report instances of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children.</p> <p>The list of State-funded services for deprived children established and fully funded</p> <p>Mechanisms established at national and subnational levels to identify, refer, report and intervene to protect children from violations of their rights.</p> <p>Children's access to justice is ensured through specialised justice system.</p>	<p>State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA), MOH, Public Health and Reforms Center (PHRC), MOLSPP, MOJ, MOE, SSC, National Commissions on Minors, local health facilities, NGOs</p>	2 075	4 300	6 375

	<p><i>Rate of children in detention per 100,000 child population</i> B:1.68 (2015) T:0.80</p> <p># of children benefited from legal aid and legal representation services B:250/year T:750/year</p> <p><i>Gross enrolment rate of children aged 1-5 in early childhood care and preschool facilities.²</i> B:13.3 per cent <i>Girls:46.80 per cent</i> <i>Boys:53.2 per cent</i> <i>Urban:19.2 per cent</i> <i>Rural:7.5 per cent (2014)</i></p> <p>T:30 per cent <i>Girls:50 per cent</i> <i>Boys:50 per cent</i> <i>Urban:35 per cent</i> <i>Rural:15 per cent</i></p> <p><i>Percentage of children aged 6-10 years old with disabilities attending regular school</i> B:0 per cent in inclusive education (2015) T:25 per cent</p>	<p>Records of Ministry of Justice (MOJ)</p> <p>Records of MOLSP</p> <p>Records of the MOE</p> <p>Records of MOE</p> <p>Records of MOE</p>	<p>National capacity enhanced to ensure equitable, universal access to early learning.</p> <p>Political commitment, accountability and national capacity enhanced to legislate, plan and budget for scaling-up quality and inclusive education</p> <p>National capacity increased to provide EDPEI services</p> <p>National capacity enhanced to provide access to essential high-impact child health interventions</p> <p>Strengthened public, private sector commitment and accountability to legislate and implement nutrition interventions</p>				
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² According to the decree #137 approved by the Cabinet of Ministries 16 July 2010, preschool education covers children aged 1-5.

	<p><i>Percentage of schools providing family education</i> B:0 T:30 per cent</p> <p><i>Percentage of girls and boys aware of disaster preparedness measures</i> B:TBD T:TBD</p> <p><i>Percentage of children under age 18 with disabilities whose disability is identified at the age of 0-3 using a medical approach</i> B:24 per cent T:50 per cent</p> <p><i>Proportion of infants under 6 months of age exclusively breastfed</i> B:11.8 per cent T:40 per cent</p> <p><i>Percentage of children accessing sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that is aligned with national standards</i> B: Boys & Girls: TBD T:Boys & Girls: TBD</p>	<p>Baseline and end-line survey on Disaster Risk Reduction conducted by UNICEF and Government</p> <p>Data of SSC</p> <p>Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)- type survey</p> <p>Baseline and end-line survey on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in School to be conducted by UNICEF and Government</p>	<p>Relevant central and district Government agencies capacitated to implement Communication for Development (C4D) interventions for behaviour and social change</p>			
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2. Government and other actors monitor child rights and contribute to evidence-based equitable State policy formulation, programming and budgeting.	<p># of sex-disaggregated indicators aimed at supporting the development of informed policies are incorporated into the national statistical databank</p> <p>B:257 (2013)</p> <p>T:280</p> <p><i>Education Management Information System (EMIS) is updated to include data from all districts disaggregated by age, sex and disability</i></p> <p>B:EMIS not generating disaggregated data</p> <p>T:EMIS generating disaggregated data</p>	Data of SSC EMIS database reports of the MOE	<p>Relevant Government agencies adequately capacitated to generate and collect and analyse disaggregated data from an equity and gender perspective</p> <p>The State and non-State institutions capacitated to independently monitor child rights situation aligned with Committee on the Rights of the Child recommendations</p> <p>Government capacity enhanced to formulate evidence-based child-centred budgets</p>	SSC, Ministry of Finance (MOF), MOE, MOLSP, SCFWCA, Ombudsman, NGOs	800	1 700	2 500

3. The most deprived adolescents empowered and resilient to become social change agents towards creating more tolerant, peaceful and inclusive societies	<p><i>Percentage of districts having Youth Councils as an integral part of their structure by regularly signing protocols of cooperation</i> <i>B:0 per cent</i> <i>T:50 per cent</i></p> <p><i>Percentage of adolescents with disability and girls who report that they are involved in family and community decisions on matters that concern them (disaggregated by age and sex)</i> <i>B:TBD</i> <i>T:TBD</i></p> <p><i>Percentage of deprived adolescents who report that they are involved in local government decisions on matters that concern them</i> <i>B:TBD</i> <i>T:TBD</i></p> <p><i>Percentage of Youth Houses functioning following the statute of MOYS</i> <i>B:0 (2015)</i> <i>T:90 per cent</i></p> <p><i>Proportion of CWD and adolescent girls attending Youth Houses who have completed at least one full course provided by the Youth House</i> <i>B:TBD</i> <i>T:TBD</i></p>	Records of MOYS Baseline and end line to be conducted Records of MOYS Records of MOYS Records of MOYS Data of SSC DHS-type survey	Costed, equity and gender-sensitive State Youth Programme available, fully informed by adolescents' opinions Adolescent participation is institutionalized at subnational governance system Adolescents have equitable access to comprehensive services provided by Youth Houses, functioning in compliance with national standards	MOYS, MOE, SSC, SCFWCA, local executive bodies	1 170	2 550	3 720	

	<i>Percentage of females, aged 15-19, entering marriage before the age of 18 (2013)</i> B:10 per cent T:5 per cent						
<i>Cross-sectoral</i>	Effective development, planning, coordination, delivery and monitoring of country programmes results	Periodic reviews and evaluations of programme components	Guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes are available to UNICEF and partners. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights implemented.		700	450	1 150
<i>Total resources</i>					4 745	9 000	13 745