



# The rights of children and why they matter

The work of UNICEF in Azerbaijan

unicef 





# Contents

<b>1.</b> The lives of children in Azerbaijan have improved! .....	3
<b>2.</b> The realisation of all child rights: an unfulfilled agenda .....	9
• The girl who became a football champion .....	14
• A big step for a small man .....	15
• Justice for children .....	16
<b>3.</b> Decisive steps towards making rights of all children a reality .....	17
<b>4.</b> References .....	20



A black and white photograph of a young boy with short dark hair, smiling broadly. He is holding a piece of paper with a drawing of a village scene, featuring several houses and trees. The drawing is partially obscured by a large blue diagonal overlay that covers the left side of the image. The boy is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt.

# 1

**The lives  
of children  
in Azerbaijan  
have  
improved!**

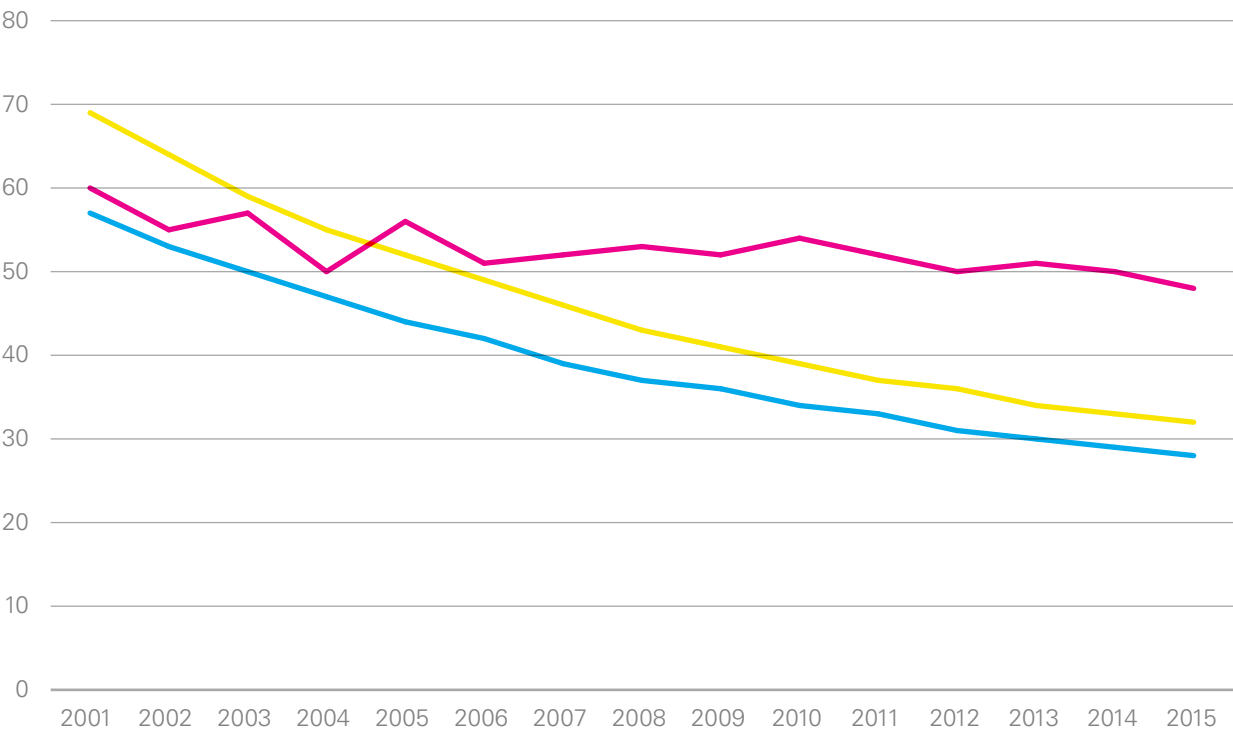


The situation of children in Azerbaijan has improved considerably in recent years. One of the reasons for this progress has been the country's economic growth which contributed to a sharp drop in poverty rates. While in 2001 almost half of the population (49.6%) lived below the poverty line, only one in twenty people (5%), and even less children, lived in poverty in 2013.<sup>1</sup> As a result, today, more children have better opportunities to realise their rights.

Some good examples of important improvements regarding the situation of children and child rights in Azerbaijan are the facts that more children and mothers survive after birth and less children are deprived of family care and placed in institutions. In addition, more children are receiving financial benefits that help them to escape poverty and access services.

Child health indicators in Azerbaijan

Source: The World Bank<sup>2</sup>



- **Infant Mortality Rate** is the number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year.
- A **maternal death** refers to the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.
- **Under-5 Mortality Rate** is the probability per 1,000 that a newborn baby will die before reaching age five.

Child protection

Various sources.<sup>3</sup>

Number of children in residential care



Number of adoptions



Social protection

Source: TransMonEE<sup>4</sup>

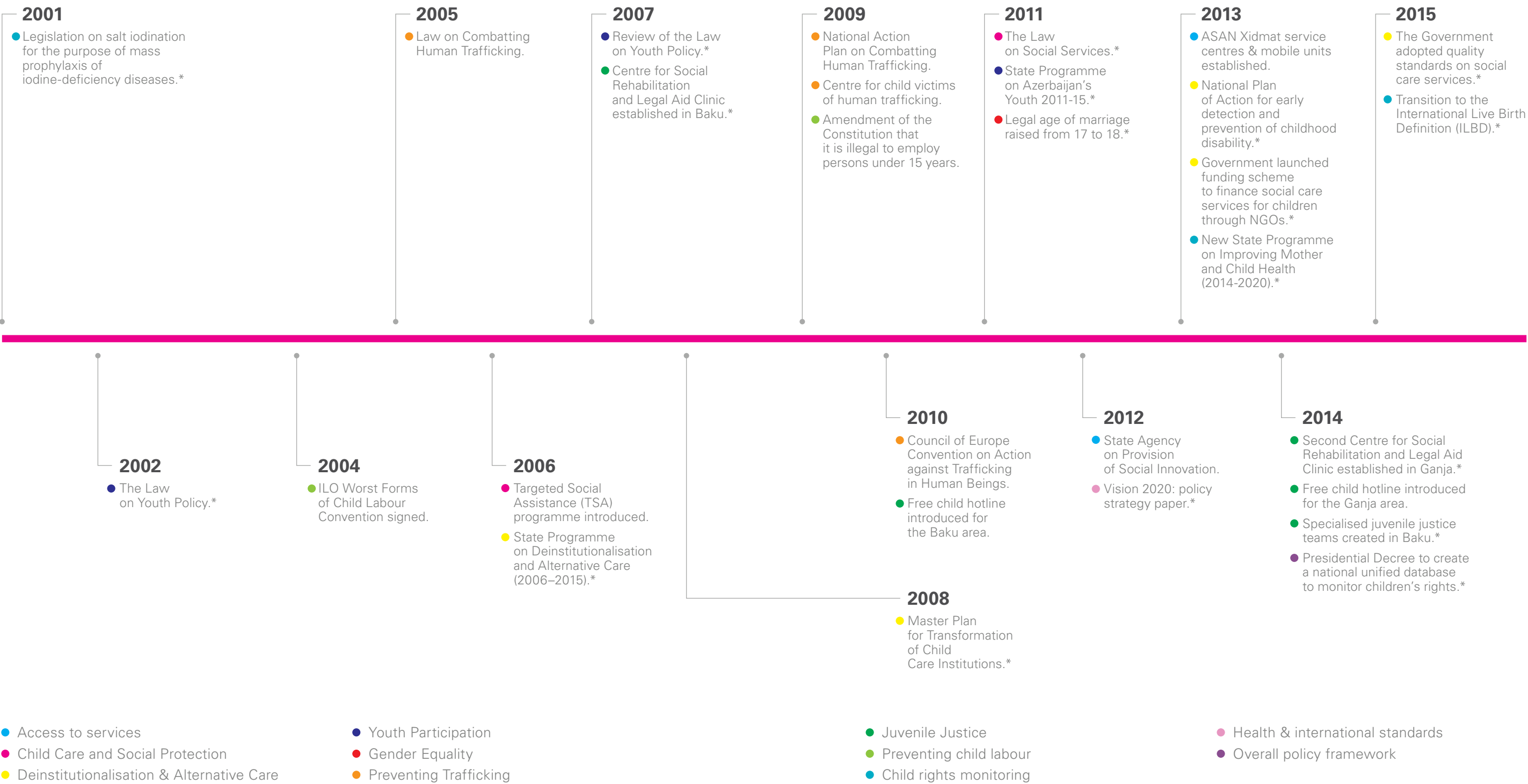
Number of children receiving monthly allowances





# The country has taken important steps to improve the situation of children

\* With UNICEF contribution.





# UNICEF contributions to important achievements

UNICEF collaborates closely with governmental institutions, civil society and private partners in creating the optimal conditions and environments for realisation of children’s rights. Over the years, UNICEF has supported a number of public and private institutions in conducting assessments, developing standards, drafting laws and creating services aiming to improve the lives of children in Azerbaijan. UNICEF’s capacity

to build strong partnerships with public, private and international organizations was instrumental to the success of these efforts. In addition to the Government, partners such as the World Bank and the European Union, as well local companies and foundations, participated in improving conditions for the fulfilment of children’s rights in different areas. Important achievements are being noted in the following areas:

## Child Care and Protection

- New legislation on Social Services and on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Government funding for NGOs to run social care services for vulnerable children.
- Pilots of alternative care models, new forms of gate-keeping and case management models for de-institutionalization.
- Development of standardised individual care plans for children with disabilities.

## Child Rights Monitoring

- Independent monitoring of child rights in all types of state care and detention centres.
- Government internal child rights promotion mechanism upgraded.
- National legislative framework pertinent to child rights, child care and violence against children and other areas improved.

## Juvenile justice

- Legal aid centres, diversion and psychosocial support programmes.
- Desk for legal counselling within ASAN service centres.
- Specialist justice teams trained at the Baku Grave Crimes Court where 60% of all juvenile cases are handled.
- Juvenile Justice Task Force Group established.
- Police officers trained in child rights.

## Education

- Pilots of education inclusion.
- Introduction of the School Readiness Programme.
- Establishment of Parent-Teacher-Student Associations (PTAs) within “child-friendly” schools.
- Disaster Risk Reduction introduced into the education system.

## Inclusive sports & youth participation

- Adolescent Declaration on Safe and Inclusive sport adopted as a result of nationwide consultation with more than 15,000 youth.
- Transformation of Youth Houses into a platform for adolescents to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- State Youth Programme for 2016-2020 developed based on young people’s opinions.
- The First Youth Development Strategy for Azerbaijan adapted to the needs of youth.
- Establishment of the first Children’s Paralympic Committee.
- Partnerships with Olympic Centres as trend-setters to broaden the use of their facilities to a wider young population.

## Early detection and prevention of childhood disabilities

- National Plan of Action for early detection and prevention of childhood disability developed.
- Training of staff of the first rehabilitation centre in the country (Baku Child Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre) specialised in early detection and prevention of childhood disability.

## Health and Nutrition

- Compulsory Iodisation of salt by largest food producers.
- Full immunisation coverage, Vitamin A supplementation and achieved status of “polio free” country.
- Map of nationwide HIV testing and counselling services for young people created.
- Review of HIV-related legislation suggested to the Parliament.
- Adoption of international live birth definition (ILBD).

## Social services

- Standards for social services for children adopted by the Government.
- The need for essential social services and their availability for vulnerable groups identified.

## Gender equality

- Awareness raised about the harmful practice of child marriages.
- Promotion of child rights and healthy lifestyles through partnership with the Azerbaijan Association of Football Federations (AFFA).
- Guidelines for coaches working with girls developed.

## Data collection

- Enhanced knowledge on the situation of the most vulnerable children.
- Improved systems for collection of statistical data on children.





2

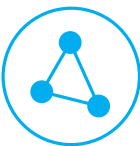
**The realisation  
of all child  
rights: an  
unfulfilled  
agenda**





Despite the improvements made in previous years, there remain several challenges that still prevent children from fully exercising their rights. Very often several interconnected problems are responsible for a specific challenge. For instance, many children in Azerbaijan still suffer from anaemia. Research shows a number of multi-faceted and multi-layered reasons causing this problem: certain cultural beliefs (social norms) influence mothers' decisions against exclusive breastfeeding; medical staff tend not to encourage exclusive breastfeeding (adequate services); breast-milk substitutes are widely available; and food producers do not have

obligation to fortify the flour with iron (adequate legislation), hence most flour in the shops does not contain the necessary levels of iron (availability of essential commodities). Practice has confirmed that changing only one of underlying causes is usually insufficient to achieve the optimum result. This section therefore presents the major concerns that are continuing to hinder the fulfilment of child rights despite recent progress. Each concern is accompanied by icons which explain the underlying problem of the issue, while at the same time, it indicates the reasoning for UNICEF's activities in the coming years (see next chapter).



**Social Norms**  
Widely followed social rules of behaviour.



**Legislation / Policy**  
Adequacy of laws and policies.



**Budget / Expenditure**  
Allocation and disbursement of required resources.



**Management / Coordination**  
Roles and accountability, coordination, partnerships.



**Availability of essential commodities**  
Essential inputs required to deliver a service or adopt a practice.



**Access to adequately staffed services, facilities and information**  
Physical access (services, facilities, information).



**Financial access**  
Direct and indirect cost of services or of adapting practices.



**Social and cultural practices and beliefs**  
Individual or community beliefs, awareness, behaviours, practices and attitudes.



**Timing and continuity of use**  
Completion or continuity in service or in practice.



**Quality of care**  
Adherence to required quality standards (national or international norms).

# Awareness of disabilities

Among children that continue to face major challenges in fulfilling their rights, are **children with disabilities**. Very few measures are preventing disabilities in early childhood or facilitating inclusion of children with disabilities in society. The majority of parents and paediatricians are currently unaware of modern approaches for early detection and interventions to prevent developmental delays in children. As this knowledge does not form part of the regular curriculum of medical staff, the corresponding techniques are not recognised nor practiced by most doctors.

At the same time, alternative care for children with disabilities, such as foster care or day care centres, have not been sufficiently developed and consequently these children are more likely to be placed in residential institutions. Just like adults, children with disabilities face extreme difficulties in forming an active part of society in Azerbaijan. This starts as early as going to regular primary school. The first two schools only opened their doors to inclusive education in 2015. Most children with disabilities are still either sent to special schools or do not go to school at all.

Parents are not aware of potential risks. If a child starts speaking late and paediatricians usually only detect physical issues; they don't know how to assess child development according to age using internationally recognized standards.

*Doctor at Baku  
Child Rehabilitation Centre*

”

I wouldn't have sent my daughter to a special school, she only has a slight learning disability. At special schools, they don't distinguish between levels and types of disabilities which would have made things worse – children repeat each other's behaviour.

*Mother of girl attending  
a pilot inclusive school in Baku*

”



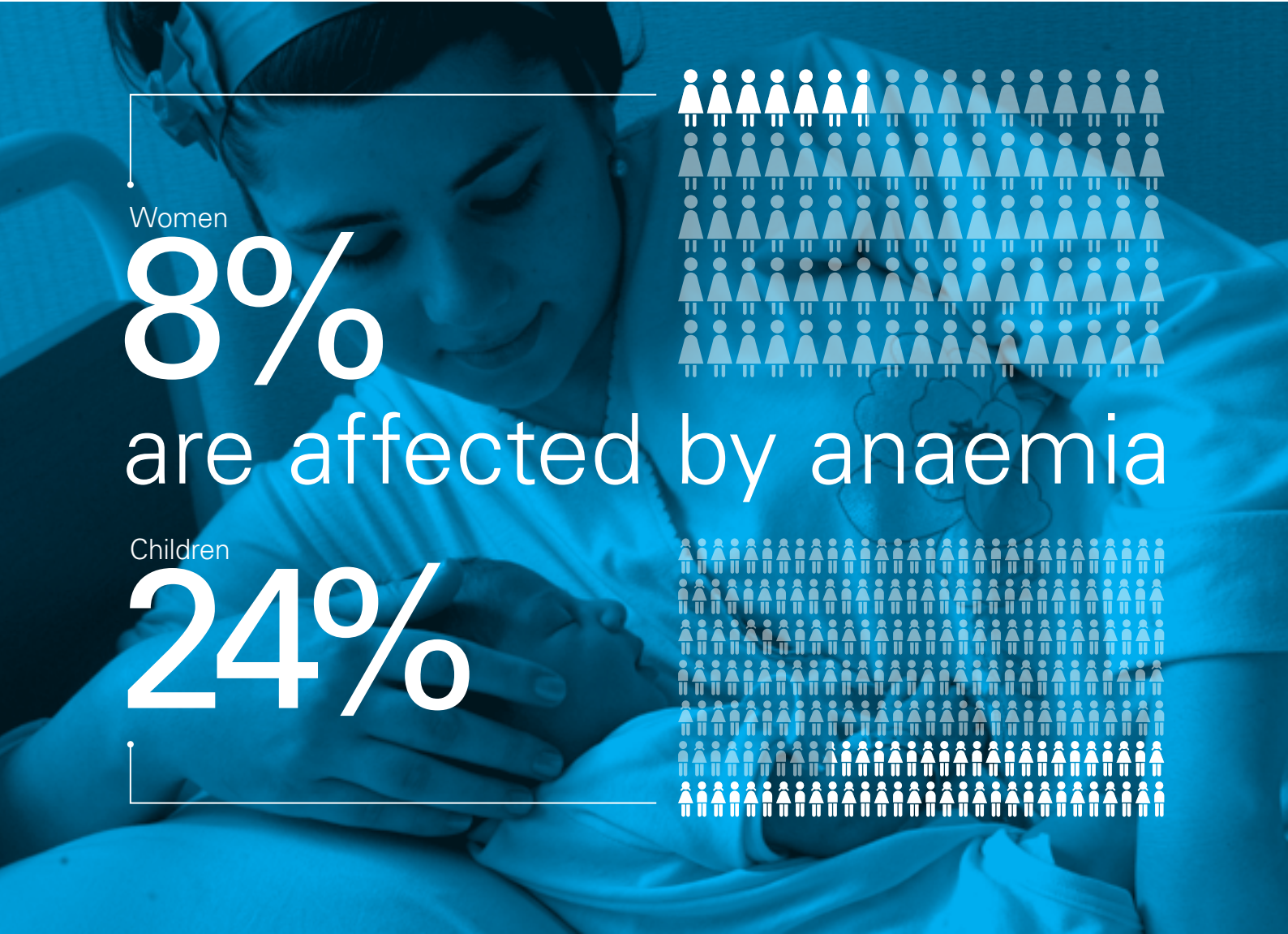




# Nutritional outcomes

Despite noticeable progress regarding health and nutrition of children, the latest research has revealed that the **levels of anaemia among women and children remain worryingly high: 38% of women and 24% of children are affected**<sup>5</sup>. Anaemia, though easily preventable and treatable, is one of the most serious threats to the health of children and a factor in maternal mortality. Anaemia can have negative effects on the growth and development of children and their learning skills, as well as causing cognitive disorders. The research points to a nutritional problem which is mainly related to **iron deficiency**: with one of the key causes of such deficiencies in children being low breastfeeding

rates. Mother's milk contains iron that is easy for babies to absorb, while iron in supplements is less easily absorbed. Nevertheless, only 12% of mothers<sup>6</sup> exclusively breastfeed their infants during the first six months of their lives. The majority of young mothers and medical staff seem to be unaware of the importance of breastfeeding in preventing anaemia. Another main reason for high iron deficiency levels is that basic food items do not contain the necessary levels of iron to meet needs of the human body. Flour fortification could solve this problem but currently there are no regulations that make this technique compulsory for flour producers in Azerbaijan.



# Access to quality services

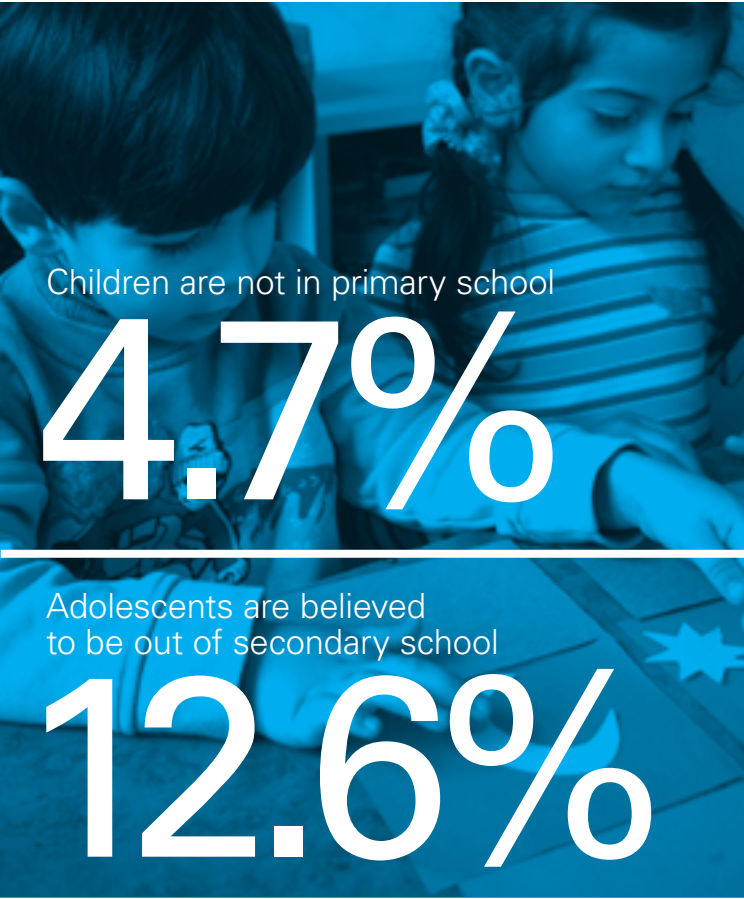
Increasingly more **services are becoming available to children** in Azerbaijan, nevertheless, the infrastructure and outreach of services to children – in health, education, legal and social care services – still have to improve in order to ensure their availability to every child, particularly to the most deprived. Currently, there are two major challenges that determine whether a child has the opportunity to access certain quality services in Azerbaijan. The first concerns the effectiveness of the country's **social protection system** and the second relates to the **quality of actual services**; both issues have several gaps:

## Gaps in the effectiveness of social protection

- **Adequate financial support** is an essential tool to provide quality services for children of economically weak families; however, the current social protection system in Azerbaijan does not specifically target children. For example, Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) does not take into account the varying needs of children in different types of households (e.g. single parents, families with many children) nor does it distinguish between the differences in living costs across the country.
- The social protection system excludes women and children of traditional marriages whose matrimony was not officially registered: for instance where the non-registration was the husband's preference to make a possible divorce easier, or when the marriage was illegal because the bride was underage. Consequently, these women and children do not have the **right to claim any alimonies** after a separation.
- Very few legal services are available for children in conflict with the law, those who have become victims of crimes or even those who struggle to exercise their rights due to external factors that have made them more vulnerable than other children (for instance, parental

separation, poverty, natural disasters, prejudices in society etc.). Moreover, free **legal aid** for children does not receive any public funding, making this service financially unsustainable.

- In the area of education, an estimated 4.7% of children are not in **primary school** while 12.6% of adolescents are believed to be out of **secondary school**.<sup>7</sup> These children either never attended school or have dropped out for various reasons. Most out-of-school children are girls and children with disabilities. Only 7.1% of all children under the age of 6 attend preschool, although placement levels are high (92 children/100 places).<sup>8</sup> This extremely low enrolment rate is not surprising, considering the very low availability of **preschool** or other **school-readiness** programmes.







## Gaps in the quality of services

- Severe gaps are noted in the quality of services provided to children through the **justice system**: including lack of trained personnel (e.g. police officers, prosecutors, judges); insufficient personnel (e.g. child psychologists, child rights lawyers); and inadequate physical facilities (e.g. child-friendly rooms at police stations or courts, specific detention centres for children). Diversion programme for juvenile offenders, being piloted in some regions, are yet to be integrated into the existing justice system it should also be highlighted that there is currently no law on juvenile justice in Azerbaijan.
- An important factor for non-attendance and drop-out is the insufficient quality of **education facilities and personnel**. The vast majority of schools do not provide inclusive education nor do they have adequately trained staff to offer it. Additionally, the special schools do not practice an individualized education approach therefore children with disabilities cannot develop their full potentials. The majority of regular schools also lack a psychologist who could offer timely support to children in distress and consequently reduce the risk for underperformance, drop-outs and other undesirable behaviour.
- As most **hospitals** across the country generally do not follow baby-friendly principles, the new-borns are commonly separated from their mothers shortly after birth. This practice has negative implications on breastfeeding habits and consequently iron absorption by babies. Another major concern relates to the poor quality of **early detection and prevention of disability risks** in young children. Currently, only one specialised centre, in the capital Baku, offers rehabilitation services to children under the age of 3. The regular training curriculum of paediatricians does not include detection of early childhood disability nor possible interventions to prevent disabilities.

Given the scarcity of services, as well as a lack of knowledge on the subject, most paediatricians do not refer children at risk aged 0-3 years to any rehabilitation service.

- Children with disabilities are those most deprived of access to quality services, including in education, development and social protection, as these services are not tailored to include them and to facilitate their full integration into the society.
- The profession of **“social worker”** is practically non-existent in Azerbaijan, although there are social work programmes available at university. The state has yet to recognise the importance of this profession within the public service system. Similarly, the profile of **“youth worker”** is not defined and consequently opportunities to acquire adequate knowledge and skills to work with adolescents are very scarce. As a result, none of the Youth Houses across the country have professional youth practitioners as their staff. This lack of professional training and/or professional accreditation directly limits the quality and effectiveness of services for children, such as psychosocial support, rehabilitation or youth work.

There is a lack of understanding among the general population of what is a ‘social worker’. If a social worker ever knocks at someone’s door, people tend to react with suspicion, as they believe the person is a public servant who has either come to punish them or to ask for a bribe.

*Social worker at the Rehabilitation/ Diversion Centre in Ganja*

”







# Gender equality

Gender inequalities are a serious problem in Azerbaijan, and they affect girls to a greater extent than boys. Of great concern is the evidence that parents prefer boys which can be seen in the highly disproportionate sex ratio at birth: currently, for every 100 girls there are 117 boys born in Azerbaijan<sup>9</sup> while the global average is typically between 103 and 106 boys born for every 100 girls. These figures indicate that **sex-selective abortion** of female foetuses is not uncommon.

Adolescent girls are far more likely to **drop out of school**, often at an age as early as 15. Despite the decreasing number of officially registered **child marriages** this tradition remains hidden. This harmful practice affects over 3,000 girls<sup>10</sup> every year. Prejudices and attitudes that promote traditional roles of women and girls in society are one of the main causes of gender inequality.

Promoting the role model of women in sports is one of the biggest challenges. If you are a boy you want to be like one of the famous football players but if you are a girl, you have less role models to look up to. But it seems that the mentality in Azerbaijan is slowly changing.

Patricia González, trainer of Azerbaijan's women's national youth football team



More than  
**3,000**  
girls enter into child marriages every year.



# The girl who became a football champion

Firangiz is 16 years old and is currently one of Azerbaijan's most promising female football players. She has been playing for 5 years and recently joined the women's Under-19 national football team where she plays midfield. However, her dream of becoming a professional football player has not always felt this close to reach.

I started playing football secretly after school. I knew that my parents wouldn't approve of me playing a "boy sport" so I told them that I was attending additional classes after school. Our team then was a mixed one with boys and girls and we had a very encouraging trainer who motivated me to play. We were participating in the secondary school league in Baku and were already quite successful. When we reached

Football is like my second family. I like the team spirit and the fact that you have to unite and push forward together in order to achieve one goal. I am glad that my parents also realised that teamwork is an important skill I can apply in many areas of life



me nor did my promise convince her. But in the end, my father managed to convince her to come and watch, though she did so with much reluctance.

After winning the final competition, our coach told me, "I see something in you," and he went to speak with my parents. "You must be very proud of your girl," he congratulated them and all of a sudden my mother also changed her mind. Today, she is my biggest fan and supporter!

After her success in the final, Firangiz became the captain of her team in the school league at the age of 11. She later joined the local football club Tahsil in Baku and started playing in the women's national Under-15 team in a qualification tournament for the Youth Olympics at the age of 14. Besides her parents, Firangiz has a small group of fans – both girls and boys – who regularly come to watch her play.

I don't really see myself as a role model because women's football is not very popular in Azerbaijan, but I hope that I am an encouraging example for the parents of other girls who could be new football champions.

the semi-finals I decided to tell my father about my secret; I thought that between both of my parents, he could be the one who would have less against me playing football. At first, he was not too excited about the idea but I invited him to come and watch me play at the semi-finals. "If you don't like it, I will stop," I promised but hoped that my performance would convince him to support me. And so it did, especially because we won and made it to the finals!

Telling my mother was the most difficult part and I was glad to have my father on my side. I tried the same approach as with him, but she did not want to accept my invitation to watch







## A big step for a small man

Fuad is 1 year and 2 months old. He was referred to the Baku Child Rehabilitation Centre ten days ago by a paediatrician who advised his mother of a possible developmental delay. His mother, Sudaba (29), explains why she thinks that Fuad is a lucky boy.

*Fuad's problems started when he was 6 months old: he was developing jaundice and his medical condition was worsening every day.*



*I took him to the hospital and they referred us to the Institute of Paediatrics. There, he received medical treatment and slowly began to recover. Some months later, Fuad drew the attention of one paediatrician at the institute who kept observing him during a check-up. He came up to me and said: "I don't want to alarm you but at his age, the boy should already start making his first steps. However, I can see that he cannot even sit up by himself!" The doctor confirmed a suspicion that I already had. I started to feel guilty for not trusting my instinct earlier. Although I had realised that other kids at his age were already walking, my friends and family quietened me down by telling me that not all children learn these abilities at the same age.*

*The paediatrician recommended to visit the Baku Child Rehabilitation Centre where they would be able to help my boy. When we first came to the centre, everyone was very friendly and they had a good look at Fuad. The doctors started a therapy with Fuad and they showed me many things I could practice at home with him, like how to position him when we're eating or how to play with him with a ball. I'm so amazed by the huge progress Fuad has made in only ten days! In such a short time he learnt to sit and now he also grabs different objects and places them in his toy box. I am confident that he is going to start walking soon!*

Without early detection and intervention Fuad's physical impairment would have likely worsened and have caused further delay in the development of his motor skills. Most probably, it would have influenced his intellectual development and could have caused both physical and intellectual disabilities.

Fuad's paediatrician is one of the 65 paediatricians who received training on early detection of childhood disability in 2014 and 2015. Currently, there are approximately 4,000 practicing paediatricians in the country,<sup>11</sup> however, early detection and intervention is yet to become an integral part of their regular curriculum.



## Justice for children

Ali (name has been changed to protect identity) is 15 years old and has been coming to the Rehabilitation and Diversion Centre in Ganja for four months now. At first, he did not want to come but then he decided that the centre was the better option.

*Last summer, I got into a fight with boy from the neighbourhood. I was on my way home from school and he insulted me, so I punched him in the stomach. Next day, the police came to my house. The officers told my parents that the boy's father had reported me, so my parents asked me if what the officers accused me of was true. I confessed but explained that I was only defending myself. Nevertheless, my parents got very disappointed and agreed that the officers should take me to the police station.*

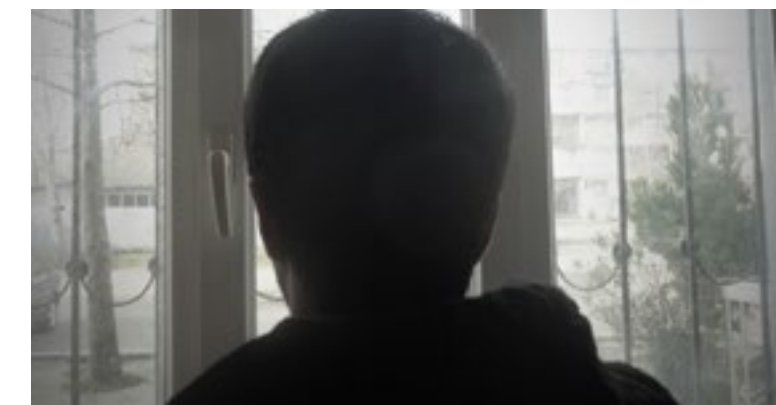
*At the police station, they told me that I had two options: The first one was to go home under the condition that I would have to come to the police station every month to report on my behaviour. The alternative was to start going to this new rehabilitation centre in town. They told me that there they were offering all sorts of activities for kids and teenagers, like sports and group activities with other teenagers or talking to a psychologist. I'm not an aggressive person and I hadn't punched anyone else before, so I didn't understand why I should see a psychologist! But then, my parents convinced me that it was the better alternative compared to going to the police station every month.*

The Rehabilitation and Diversion Centre in Ganja opened in 2014 and runs two services: a social rehabilitation centre, offering psychological and social support, and a child rights clinic, offering legal advice for children and families. It is the second one of its kind in the country; the first centre opened in the capital Baku in 2007. Since the introduction of a new referral system, police have been referring more and more children to these two centres. The centre in Ganja is the only rehabilitation and diversion centre for children outside the capital; thus children from neighbouring regions are also referred there.

*At the beginning, I felt a bit uncomfortable at the centre. No one has ever asked me about my problems, so I wasn't really used to speaking about them. But then it got better and the psychologist gave me some tips on how to deal with my problems. There was also this social worker who asked me about my needs. I didn't really know what he was referring to. He also spoke to my parents and to the teachers at my school. We also spoke about the economic situation of my family and I told him that we were struggling because, although both of my parents work hard, we cannot afford many things. Then, the social worker told me about these cultural and sports courses that were available in Ganja. I didn't know about them and he said that I could even attend them for free!*

The Rehabilitation and Diversion Centre in Ganja is supported by UNICEF Azerbaijan, the European Union and the Ministry of Interior; it works in close cooperation with local branches of the Ministry which offer cultural and sports activities for children and adolescents as well as with private academies that offer university preparation courses.

*My schedule is rather packed these days: my sessions at the centre, some sports and the university preparation course I am now attending keep me quite busy. So I'm quite glad I don't have to waste my time reporting to the police.*







3

**Decisive  
steps towards  
making rights  
of all children  
a reality**



Gaining a thorough understanding of why many children in Azerbaijan still cannot realise their rights is the essential step towards designing effective responses. This section explains the ways in which UNICEF, jointly with strategic partners in public and private sectors, will generate the knowledge and evidence and address the root causes responsible for limiting the realisation of child rights.



In order to address children’s vulnerabilities during disasters, UNICEF will support the Government in developing national action plans that **promote a better understanding of disaster risks**, especially among most marginalised communities and children.



In order to make Azerbaijan’s society more inclusive and respectful of child rights, UNICEF plans to continue **building new alliances** with a variety of partners in both the public and private spheres. As part of its efforts to strengthen accountability, UNICEF will promote child rights through the media, including social media and encourage the private sector to adopt child rights principles to underpin corporate social responsibility.



One of the most important ways to **protect a child’s right to life**, from the moment of birth onwards, is the application of the International Live Birth Definition (ILBD) which was introduced in Azerbaijan in 2015. In this context, UNICEF will support the series of public service announcements and provide technical expertise to assist the Government in the correct implementation of this important international standard.



UNICEF **will support the inclusive education reform** in three crucial areas:

- 1) legislative adjustments;
- 2) educational content, including teaching-learning environment; and
- 3) behaviour changes to improve the attitudes of parents and schoolchildren. This combined approach will help to identify and include children who are out of school and provide timely support to those who are at risk of dropping out. It will also facilitate the remedial action and second chances for children who did not complete basic education.





The interconnected and multi-layered causes simultaneously affect different child rights. In addition, certain groups of children are more vulnerable than others for reasons of gender, disability, poverty or geographical location. Collecting and analysing adequately disaggregate data is an essential step towards reducing inequities. For this reason, UNICEF plans to assist the Government in establishing a central and comprehensive database on children and child rights in Azerbaijan. To measure and monitor different and overlapping deprivations, a knowledge base will be developed. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to establish a **comprehensive child rights monitoring system** in cooperation with all stakeholders, including the Government, civil society, academia, the private sector, media, as well as children and adolescents.



UNICEF will strengthen the capacities of the national social protection system so that it reaches all children, especially those who are currently not covered but are most in need. In the first phase, the most deprived children will be identified, as well as specific reasons for their exclusion from services, such as social protection and care, education, health and nutrition. As many of the reasons for exclusion are interconnected, multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordinated responses are envisaged. To this end, UNICEF will support the Government in establishing efficient and effective national and local identification and referral mechanisms among the different services. Special attention will be paid to coordination in the regions to **ensure that all children are covered by the social protection system.**



UNICEF plans to **improve the protection of the best interests of children in contact with the justice or administrative systems**, with special emphasis on the most deprived children and their families. This improved protection will include free legal aid, representation in courts, and training and specialisation of judges and law enforcement personnel. UNICEF will also strengthen the diversion possibilities to prevent deprivation of liberty and support systems of compensatory measures and remedies in cases of rights violations.



Adolescence (10-19 years) is the crucial stage of development during which children gradually transform into adults, assume greater responsibilities and learn important skills on how to interact and participate in society. As **adolescents** have the greatest potential to stimulate changes in society, UNICEF plans to **empower them to become positive social change agents**. It is expected that adolescents will contribute to changes that will make the society more equitable and inclusive especially for children with disabilities and girls. Safe and inclusive sports will be supported among the entry points for greater social inclusion of the vulnerable groups.





4

References



## Photo credits

UNICEF AZERBAIJAN,  
PLEASE PROVIDE CREDITS  
FOR THE PHOTOS USED  
IN THIS DOCUMENT  
(SEE WORD FILE)

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Group (2015), World Bank Group Azerbaijan Partnership Program Snapshot, April 2015 (p. 4). Available at <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Azerbaijan-Snapshot.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The World Bank (2016), World Development Indicators. Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births). Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN>. Note on Source: Estimates developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN DESA Population Division) at [www.childmortality.org](http://www.childmortality.org).

Number of maternal deaths. Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MMR.DTHS>. Note on Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank, and the United Nations Population Division. Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2015. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2015.

Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000). Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT>. Note on Source: Estimates Developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN DESA Population Division)

at [www.childmortality.org](http://www.childmortality.org). Data for 2015 onwards are projections and from United Nations Population Division's World Pop.

<sup>3</sup> Notes on Sources: 2001 data from TransMonEE (2015), TransMonEE Database 2015. Retrieved from [http://www.transmonee.org/Downloads/EN/2015/TM\\_2015\\_en.xlsx](http://www.transmonee.org/Downloads/EN/2015/TM_2015_en.xlsx) 2014 data:

Number of children in residential care: Deinstitutionalization and Child Protection Department of the Ministry of Education and records of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population. In: UN Economic and Social Council (2016), Country programme document: Azerbaijan. Forthcoming publication.

Number of adoptions: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2015). Education, science and culture [Adoption and cancellation of adoption (based on data of the Ministry of Justice; person)] Retrieved from [www.stat.gov.az/source/education/en/001\\_3.3en.xls](http://www.stat.gov.az/source/education/en/001_3.3en.xls)

<sup>4</sup> TransMonEE (2015), TransMonEE Database 2015. Retrieved from [http://www.transmonee.org/Downloads/EN/2015/TM\\_2015\\_en.xlsx](http://www.transmonee.org/Downloads/EN/2015/TM_2015_en.xlsx)



<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan and UNICEF (2013). National Nutrition Survey of Children and Women of Azerbaijan.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2016). Education. Out-of-school rate for children of primary school age and Out-of-school rate for adolescents of lower secondary school age. Retrieved from <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>. Note on Source: National Estimation.

<sup>8</sup> The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2015). Education, science and culture [Main indicators of education] Retrieved from [http://www.stat.gov.az/source/education/en/001\\_1.1en.xls](http://www.stat.gov.az/source/education/en/001_1.1en.xls)

<sup>9</sup> N.B. Latest figures were presented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection at a national conference on demographic trends of Azerbaijan held on 15 December 2015. Sources: <http://az.trend.az/azerbaijan/society/2469629.html>, <http://m.apa.az/az/news/408491>, <http://transparency.az/cnews/usaqlarin-cins-nisb%C9%99ti-hokum%C9%99t-proqrami-hazirlanib/>

<sup>10</sup> N.B. The number of births to mothers aged 15-17 years is used as a proxy to estimate the number of child marriages. Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2015). Population / Statistical yearbook / Children in Azerbaijan [Live births by age of mother in 1990-2014] Retrieved from [http://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/en/003\\_2en.xls](http://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/en/003_2en.xls)

<sup>11</sup> The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2015). Population / Statistical yearbook / Children in Azerbaijan [Medical-preventive services for children] Retrieved from [http://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/au/en/ch004\\_1.xls](http://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/au/en/ch004_1.xls)





United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Baku, Azerbaijan  
24, Neftchiler ave. AZ-1095  
Phone: 99412 4923013  
Fax: 99412 4922468  
[www.unicef.org/azerbaijan](http://www.unicef.org/azerbaijan)  
© UNICEF Azerbaijan