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Draft country programme document**

Azerbaijan

Summary

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Azerbaijan is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comment. The draft CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,955,000 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 2021 to 2025.

* E/ICEF/2021/1.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents (CPDs) are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. This draft CPD, and a costed evaluation plan, will be presented to the Executive Board for review from 17 November to 7 December 2020. The final CPD will be posted to the Executive Board web page in English six weeks in advance of the 2021 first regular session and in the other designated languages four weeks in advance.

Programme rationale

1. Following a period of economic volatility in 2015 after a dramatic fall in oil prices, Azerbaijan embarked on an ambitious programme of economic diversification and has subsequently reported continued economic growth, including an increase in gross domestic product (GDP) from \$37.9 billion in 2016 to \$47.1 billion in 2018.¹ The overall poverty rate was 5 per cent in 2018,² but there are no official data on child or multidimensional poverty.

2. National expenditure on education in 2017 was 2.5 per cent of GDP, compared with an average of 5 per cent in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.³ General health expenditure in 2016 represented 1.4 per cent of GDP compared with 10 per cent in OECD countries.⁴

3. The 2.62 million children⁵ in Azerbaijan represent approximately one quarter of the population. There is a significant gender disparity at birth, with a sex ratio at birth of 114 boys per 100 girls.⁶ Youth make up a large proportion of the population, with some 1.6 million young people aged 15–25 years.⁷

4. The former conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region,⁸ which resulted in the internal displacement of more than 650,000 people,⁹ left many displaced households vulnerable.

5. Since independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has made progress in improving the health of its children. The official United Nations under-five mortality rate fell from 38 per 1,000 live births in 2010 to 22 in 2018, the infant mortality rate fell from 32 to 19 per 1,000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 20 to 11 per 1,000 live births.¹⁰ National statistics report an under-five mortality rate of 13.1 in 2018; an infant mortality rate of 11.1 in 2018 and a neonatal mortality rate of 6.5 in 2018.¹¹ Deaths within the neonatal period contribute to half of all under-five mortality, indicating a need to improve antenatal, newborn and infant care. Azerbaijan has sustained high rates of child immunization; overall immunization levels are 90 per cent among children under the age of 5 years. However, in 2 per cent of districts overall immunization rates are below 80 per cent.¹²

6. Azerbaijan faces a double burden of malnutrition, with 18 per cent of children under age 5 affected by stunting (as high as 28 per cent in the lowest income groups) while 14 per cent of children under age 5 are either obese or overweight, signifying poor diet during children's early years. Only 12 per cent of infants are exclusively breastfed and only 1 in 3 children under the age of 2 benefit from minimum dietary diversity. The prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age and children

¹ World Bank, 2019.

² State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2019.

³ World Bank.

⁴ World Bank, Government expenditure on education, total (% GDP) – OECD members, Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.GHED.GD.ZS?locations=AZ-OE>.

⁵ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2019.

⁶ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2018.

⁷ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2019.

⁸ United Nations Security Council Resolutions 874 and 884, 1993.

⁹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019* (2019).

¹⁰ UN Inter-agency Group for Mortality Estimations, *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2019* (UNICEF, 2019).

¹¹ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Children in Azerbaijan: Statistical Yearbook* (Baku, 2019).

¹² Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

under the age of 5 years is 38.2 per cent and 24.4 per cent, respectively, with a significant contributory factor being iron and other micronutrient deficiencies.¹³

7. Azerbaijan is taking several important steps towards adopting a social model approach to child disabilities and developmental delays. Included in these steps is the introduction by the Ministry of Health of multidisciplinary teams to support children with cognitive and intellectual developmental delays detected through primary health-care centres. Forty per cent of new cases of disability among children are registered between ages 0–3 years,¹⁴ enabling early introduction of individual care plans and mitigating the impact of the disability in some cases. However, the focus on a purely medical assessment of the disability means the number of cases of child disability and developmental delays may be underestimated.

8. The overall enrolment rate of children aged 1–5 years in both public and private preschool institutions was 28.5 per cent in 2018, although in rural areas this rate is below 18 per cent.¹⁵ Between 2005 and 2015, preschool education coverage in rural and urban areas fell by 5 per cent.¹⁶ This trend has been partly counterbalanced by the School Readiness Programme for 5-year-olds, launched in 2016 and supported by UNICEF, with the enrolment rate in this one-year programme reaching 75 per cent in 2018.¹⁷ This programme rapidly increased enrolment and the focus now is on quality of learning.

9. Primary school net enrolment, based on national definitions, was 92.4 per cent in 2018, with no differences between enrolment of girls and boys.¹⁸ Enrolment of children with disabilities is provided in various forms. Of some 54,000 school-aged children registered with disabilities in 2019, based on a purely medical classification, 14,301 were enrolled in certain forms of special education as defined by national legislation.¹⁹ According to relevant data of the Ministry of Education, a significant number of children with disabilities study in general education facilities.

10. Children in Azerbaijan can expect to complete 11.6 years of primary and secondary school by the age of 18. When adjusted for quality of learning, this is equivalent to just 8.8 years, creating a learning gap of 2.8 years.²⁰ The 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment for 15-year-olds, undertaken in Baku schools, found that students scored significantly lower in reading (389), mathematics (420) and science (398) compared with an average of 487, 489 and 489, respectively, in OECD countries.²¹ The Progress in International Reading Literacy

¹³ Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank, *Azerbaijan Nutrition Survey (AzNS)* (2013).

¹⁴ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2017.

¹⁵ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2019.

¹⁶ Moore, Kathryn M. A. et al., Analytical review of governance, provision and quality of early childhood education services at the local level in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS), country report for Azerbaijan (2017) (unpublished).

¹⁷ Ministry of Education, Republic of Azerbaijan, 2019.

¹⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Culture Organization, 2019. Available at: <http://uis.unesco.org/country/AZ>.

¹⁹ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNICEF, calculated by UNICEF, 2019.

²⁰ World Bank, Presentation to Azerbaijan Human Capital Forum, December 19-21, 2018. Available at: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/847701547027545478/ENG-3rd-session-Human-Capital-Project.pdf>.

²¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Programme for International Student Assessment, 2019.

Study noted only a modest increase in reading skills of 4th grade pupils from 462 points in 2011 to 472 in 2016.²²

11. Among the economically active population, the unemployment rate for young people aged 15–24 years was 12.7 per cent in 2018.²³ With 23 per cent of young people aged 15–24 years not in education, employment or training, the Employment Strategy of Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2030 includes a reduction in the percentage of young people who are in this category to 15 per cent by 2030, along with a commitment to an unspecified reduction in youth unemployment.²⁴

12. There is increased focus within the national development agenda on ensuring young people are equipped to participate in a modern workplace, through a mix of academic, vocational and foundational skills. An online survey of young people found that more than half of respondents believed there to be a large mismatch between their educational outcomes and their current jobs.²⁵ Only 1 in 5 European Union businesses consider the availability of skilled workers in Azerbaijan to be satisfactory, while just over 1 in 10 list ensuring the education system matches company needs among priority suggested reforms.²⁶

13. The number of children in residential institutions fell over the last decade. In 2016 there were 11,322 children recorded in institutional care, compared with 13,676 in 2008.²⁷ Most institutionalized children today are from poor families, children of single/divorced parents or children from families not receiving adequate family support services.

14. More than half of women and more than two thirds of men in Azerbaijan reported enduring parental physical punishment as children. And 1 in 3 men have admitted inflicting physical violence on women; nearly three quarters of men have admitted to psychologically abusing a partner.²⁸ This indicates a prevailing social acceptance of domestic violence against women and children.

15. Measures introduced by the Government have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of girls married before the age of 18 years – from more than 5,000 in 2011 to just 338 in 2018.²⁹ However, proxy indicators based on the number of births to girls under the age of 18 in 2018 – just over 2,000, with twice the number of births in rural areas than in urban – suggest that data are not capturing all cases, especially marriages that are not officially registered.

16. While there are no available data on child suicide, in 2020 the Government invited contributions from national and international organizations to a new national suicide prevention strategy, acknowledging that mental health issues are of growing

²² Mullis, Ina V. S. et al., *PIRLS 2016: International Results in Reading*, International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 2017).

²³ UNICEF calculation based on data from State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2018.

²⁴ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Employment Strategy for the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019–2030*, 2018.

²⁵ United Nations in Azerbaijan, *Common Country Analysis for UNSDCF and the 2030 Agenda* (2019) (unpublished).

²⁶ German-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce, *EU Business Climate Report Azerbaijan: Perceptions of EU Businesses Active in Azerbaijan* (2019).

²⁷ UNICEF, *Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity (TransMonEE)* database, 2016.

²⁸ United Nations Population Fund and State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Gender Equality and Gender Relations in Azerbaijan: Current Trends and Opportunities – Findings from the Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)* (Baku, 2018).

²⁹ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Demographic Indicators of Azerbaijan: Statistical Yearbook* (Baku, 2019).

concern and that a multi-partner approach to identifying causes and prevention of self-harm, including among adolescents, is urgently required.

17. An integrated social services initiative modelled in 2019–2020 with support from UNICEF demonstrated how a coordinated system of identification of children at risk, referrals to specialist services and improved case management can enable agencies to reach more vulnerable children with a customized package of care. The decentralized nature of the model also enabled direct outreach to vulnerable families during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020.

18. The number of qualified social workers equipped to support vulnerable and at-risk children remains low. In 2019, there were only 15 social work graduates working as advisors with the government Agency for Sustainable and Operational Social Security to support vulnerable families. Following reforms in social services systems – and building on the success of the UNICEF-supported model – the Social Services Agency of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population expects to recruit another 20 social workers in 2020–2021.

19. Several government working groups have assessed the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, to inform targeting of resources and services that will address emerging needs among existing and newly vulnerable families.

20. The last capacity assessment of communication for behavioural and social change, undertaken in 2011, identified specific gaps in design, management and monitoring of strategic communication plans at the institutional level. There is still no overarching institutional approach to increasing capacity for transforming behaviours in Azerbaijan. There is also an absence of key principles, approaches, methodologies and tools for systematic communication for behavioural and social change.

21. The Government of Azerbaijan established the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development in 2016 to prioritize, coordinate and monitor efforts to achieve nationalized Sustainable Development Goals. This commitment to a national sustainable development agenda has been articulated in two Voluntary National Review submissions since 2017. However, of 119 nationalized indicators for these goals, data are available for only 86.³⁰ Data on remaining indicators are either unavailable or planned. Further analysis to identify the most vulnerable populations and factors contributing to vulnerability is constrained as data does not yet fully provided the disaggregation level required. A proposed state programme for improvement of statistics³¹ is expected to allocate significantly higher resources for modernization of statistical reporting.

22. Azerbaijan has drafted an action plan for implementing its national children strategy (2020–2030).³² The country has tried to estimate costs of full implementation of the action plan to inform allocation of resources from State budgets or through mixed financing models. Budgeting for children can still be improved, and there is a need for more disaggregated data analysis focusing on deprivations. A decree on unified budget classification was adopted in 2018. It provides comprehensive codification of income derived by State institutions from fee-paying services, which will strengthen fiscal transparency and accountability mechanisms and provide disaggregated data that could support advocacy for increased public financing for child-related programmes.

³⁰ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2020.

³¹ The State Programme on Improvement of the Official Statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2018–2025.

³² Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Children for 2020–2030.

23. It is expected that the implementation of the country's Strategic Roadmap for National Economy Perspective of the Republic of Azerbaijan will make use of a medium-term expenditure framework linking economic policy more closely to budget planning and processes, and to medium- and long-term sustainability of the State budget. This has the potential to improve the focus and strategic alignment of policies and public financing for children.

Programme priorities and partnerships

24. The overarching vision of the country programme, 2021–2025 is that girls and boys in Azerbaijan, from conception to adolescence, and especially those who are most vulnerable, survive and thrive to their optimal potential: healthy, well-nourished, with better learning outcomes and knowledge and skills required in the twenty-first century, and protected from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, resulting in a smooth transition to adulthood.

25. The country programme has been designed with a holistic approach to the first and second decades of children's lives. It reflects the broader political, economic and social development environment, focusing on a wide-ranging set of investments in human capital from the earliest age that together will contribute to a healthy, well-educated, productive population in support of sustainable and equitable economic and social development.

26. With the national, regional and global technical expertise of UNICEF, and its organizational focus on equity, the country programme will support national Sustainable Development Goals priorities and the ongoing process of developing the national vision for 2030 and the national development strategy (2021–2025), so that child development priorities are clearly visible in the national development plans. The three country programme outcome results will contribute directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and programme strategies and interventions take into consideration the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 and the Europe and Central Asia flagship results for the organization.

Investing in the very best start to every child's life

27. Azerbaijan recognizes investment in human capital from the earliest age as fundamental to development, as indicated by the inclusion of youth empowerment, social protection and early childhood development among the country's accelerators for sustainable economic growth,³³ and as seen in specific recommendations made by the World Bank.³⁴

28. The country programme envisages that, by 2025, girls and boys from conception to basic education age, especially the most vulnerable, will benefit from equitable access to high-impact interventions in health, nutrition, early childhood development, inclusive and quality preschool and basic education and integrated protection from all forms of neglect, exploitation and violence.

29. The country programme will support strengthening of the primary health-care system to improve antenatal and postnatal care and young child health care. Key pathways for doing this include strengthening home visiting practices by updating the role of home visitors and the content of services and building the capacity of primary

³³ Government of Azerbaijan, *Second Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Implementation of "Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"* (2019).

³⁴ World Bank Group, *Azerbaijan Saber Early Childhood Development (ECD) Country Report* (2018).

health-care workers. Investments will be made in health information management, particularly statistics on children with disabilities, and in improved immunization data collection and strengthened data analysis. Prioritizing maternal and child health within the new national mandatory health insurance system will remain a focus of advocacy as the health insurance programme is scaled up.

30. To strengthen integrated approaches to early childhood development, there will be investment in building the capacity of social workers, front-line health workers, (including nurses) and schoolteachers on child protection issues. The country programme supports a national scale-up of child-focused integrated social services that provide community-based support and alternative care mechanisms to avoid institutional care for young children.

31. Preschool education will be strengthened through new models of community- and family-based early learning centres and strengthening the preschool system, by focusing on quality standards (including for monitoring), institutional capacities and teacher support.

32. Gender-responsive and inclusive education support to teachers at pre- and in-service levels will improve their capacity to deliver quality inclusive education. Social and behaviour-change communication with parents, teachers and communities will address perceptions, attitudes and social norms to support inclusive education.

Investing in the second decade of life and the transition to adulthood

33. In line with the national focus on diversified economic growth, the country programme envisages that, by 2025, adolescent girls and boys – especially the most vulnerable – will benefit from an improved skills-driven formal and non-formal education system. They will have more opportunities for civic engagement and participation and enjoy a strengthened protective environment against all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. Together, these will enable a smooth transition to adulthood.

34. The country programme provides support to scale up integrated community-based social services and connect the most vulnerable children and young people to a wide range of professionals, while preventing and responding to violence, abuse and exploitation. This work includes strengthening the social service workforce, adopting guidelines on social work with children and families, spearheading new “community worker” models and establishing quality assurance mechanisms. These efforts will also support reintegration of institutionalized children back into communities and families. This complements investments in child-friendly approaches in police and justice structures, while promoting social work and reintegration services in the probation sector.

35. Efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children will include strengthening district-level child protection systems across sectors, training education professionals and schoolteachers in addressing violence, promoting school-based anti-bullying and violence prevention activities and supporting new standards and procedures on child safeguarding in the education sector. Public information and behaviour-change initiatives on preventing violence, including early marriage, will combine with community-based interventions, including parenting education.

36. School-based adolescent mental health promotion and suicide prevention initiatives will engage school staff, school psychologists and adolescents themselves. Implementation of individual child protection plans and clinical protocols on addressing cases of violence will be prioritized within mental health centres and schools.

37. Adolescents and young people will receive the necessary foundational knowledge and transferrable skills to equip them for further education, training and subsequent employment. To do this, the country programme will strengthen the capacity of educators, trainers and institutions in the formal and non-formal education system to deliver effective, quality skill-based education that is linked to the needs of the labour market.

38. Support will go to national networks of Youth Houses and Youth Development and Career Centres and the school system to expand basic life skills, career counselling, job orientation and social entrepreneurship programmes for young people aged 12–24 years to equip them for future employability. The country programme will support digital learning platforms and new e-learning opportunities to increase accessibility for young people, especially in rural areas. It will also support girls' education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

39. Youth participation in local decision-making, including participation of young people with disabilities, young women and those from internally displaced communities, will be enhanced by scaling up youth advisory councils at the subnational level and by routinely engaging young people and local authorities to identify, plan and implement joint initiatives. Online platforms will supplement initiatives within the networks of Youth Houses and Youth Development and Career Centres and other structures to actively support civic engagement, involvement in local governance, gender equality, innovation and youth participation in climate change as well as research and policy strengthening.

Positioning child rights at the heart of the national development agenda

40. By 2025, the country programme will contribute to a multi-partner social, economic and political environment in which child rights are clearly prioritized in the national sustainable development agenda.

41. Priorities include increasing the fiscal space for sustainable investment in child development and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditures for children. This will involve support for socioeconomic impact analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic, public finance management activities and tools that enhance results and performance-based budgeting. Private and public partnership in selected programme areas will be encouraged to leverage additional resources for investment.

42. The country programme will support improved data collection to strengthen national capacity on monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme will also support strengthening and modernization of management information systems (including real-time data collection tools and nationally representative household surveys), while analysis and relevance of data will be enhanced by introducing multidimensional poverty measurements, promoting evidence-based decision-making and strengthening capacity of government and academic partners for analysis and use of data.

43. Public engagement and advocacy on child rights, in line with the country's commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, will be supported through engagement of various influencers. This will be informed by compelling policy briefs and investment cases to advocate strengthened national legislation and policy, compliance with international child rights obligations and improved coordination mechanisms for children. The country programme will promote private sector partnerships focused on sustained child rights investment in business practices and policies.

44. The programme will strengthen national technical capacity to address negative social norms and behaviours by embedding strategic communication for behaviour

and social change in the curriculum of relevant higher education institutes and through pre-service and in-service training with existing civil servants working in child development.

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>
Investing in the very best start to every child's life	1 520	3 500	5 020
Investing in the second decade of life and the transition to adulthood	1 950	3 500	5 450
Positioning child rights at the heart of the national development agenda	1 330	1 850	3 180
Programme effectiveness	155	150	305
Total	4 955	9 000	13 955

Programme and risk management

45. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

46. The country programme is designed around the assumptions that Azerbaijan remains resilient to global economic volatilities, is unaffected by significant natural disasters and continues its commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth.

47. Risks to achieving results include economic vulnerability reducing national resources to invest in child development (including the possible economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic), limited technical capacities, limited integration of approaches by government and non-government entities and the impact of natural disasters, including earthquakes and flooding.³⁵ These risks will be mitigated by development of efficiency-focused investment cases, encouraging sufficient allocation of State budgets to priority sectors and alignment of approaches. UNICEF will support emergency preparedness efforts to establish an effective readiness and response system to protect children in times of crisis.

48. The commitment of the Government to a national Sustainable Development Agenda creates an opportunity to focus on key child and youth indicators and encourages national ownership of priorities for children reflected in the country programme.

49. Annual workplans will be designed, approved and implemented with relevant ministries and State entities. These workplans will be incorporated into workplans of the UNSDCF in consultation with the UNSDCF Working Groups and with endorsement by the UNSDCF Steering Committee, through which adjustments to the workplans can be identified and agreed.

³⁵ United Nations in Azerbaijan, Common Country Analysis for UNSDCF and the 2030 Agenda (2019) (unpublished).

50. In line with the United Nations reform process, UNICEF will seek out effective partnerships with other United Nations agencies and explore more innovative financing for development through engagement with partners – including international financial institutions and the private sector – emphasizing the centrality of human capital investment to long-term economic potential.

51. UNICEF will continue to invest in its effective governance and management systems, stewardship of financial resources and management of human resources. UNICEF will strengthen management of the harmonized approach to cash transfers to mitigate risks associated with programme implementation.

Monitoring and evaluation

52. Results will be monitored through joint annual and midterm reviews with the Government and partners (including the Cabinet of Ministers and the UNSDCF Working Groups and Steering Committee) to assess progress and available resources; identify strategic, programmatic, operational and financial risks; define appropriate mitigation measures; and assess the effectiveness of partners' contributions to inform annual planning and strengthen accountability for results.

53. UNICEF will work with partners to increase national monitoring and evaluation capacity by institutionalizing results-based management, the use of real-time monitoring and greater use of evaluation results. UNICEF will continue to work with the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development to support alignment of national efforts for children with the global Sustainable Development Agenda. Investment in a multiple indicator cluster survey will provide updated baselines against which to track key indicators.

54. The Evidence Information Systems Integration system and costed evaluation plan will define priority monitoring, research and evaluation needs for programme implementation. UNICEF will document results and best practices for knowledge management and capacity development. Analysis of evidence generated by programmes will help to determine and address bottlenecks and barriers to reaching the most vulnerable children and families.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Azerbaijan – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021–2025

Convention on the Rights of the Child: 2–6, 9, 12, 18–20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 37, 39, 40

National priorities: Sustainable Development Goals 1–5, 8, 10, 16, 17; State Program for the Development of Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2018–2024; Strategy for the Development of Azerbaijani Youth in 2015–2025; Employment Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019–2030

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework outcomes involving UNICEF:

1.1 People furthest behind participate in and benefit from a diverse and innovative economy encompassing future-oriented labour market transformation and access to decent work

2.1 People furthest behind benefit from enhanced national capacities and governance structures for social protection and quality public and social services, in line with Azerbaijan’s international commitments

2.2 Quality, disaggregated and timely data is available and used to inform decision-making and policies that leave no one behind

4.1 Women and girls, including those furthest behind, benefit from enhanced national mechanisms that ensure they are protected from discrimination and violence and empowered to participate in all spheres of life

Outcome indicators measuring change that reflect UNICEF contribution are marked [UNSDCF] in the table below.

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas: 1–3, and 5

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
1. By 2025, girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable, are benefiting from equitable access to high-impact interventions in	Percentage of infants aged 0–5 months who are exclusively fed with breast milk B: 12% (2013) T: 35% (2025)	Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)/health management information system (HMIS)	1.1 National health care and nutrition systems have enhanced capacity to ensure universal coverage of high-impact interventions and high-quality services on	Ministry of Health, State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance, Food Safety Agency, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social	1 520	3 500	5 020

<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
					<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
health, nutrition, early childhood development, inclusive and quality preschool and basic education and protection from any forms of neglect, exploitation and violence from conception to basic education age.	Percentage of women attended at least four times during their pregnancy by any provider (skilled or unskilled) for reasons related to the pregnancy B: 68% (2013) T: 80% (2025)	MICS/HMIS	maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition. 1.2 National education system strengthened to ensure inclusive access and high-quality preschool and basic education for all children, especially the most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities and girls. 1.3 Intersectoral early childhood development (ECD) policy, strong coordination and public-private partnership developed and national/local capacity increased to deliver integrated package for ECD and parenting education.	Protection of the Population, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Presidential Administration, National Assembly, local Executive Authorities, non-government partners, academia, private sector, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization			
	Percentage of districts that have at least 80% of children 0–11 months vaccinated with three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP)-containing/pentavalent vaccine B: 98% (2018) T: 100% (2025)	Ministry of Health, reports of the State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance					
	Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education (ages 3–5 years), by sex <i>[UNSDCF indicator]</i> B: total: 39.71%; boys - 39.90%; girls - 39.49% (2018) T: total: 50%, boys - 50%, girls - 50% (2025)	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization data					
	Number of children with disabilities enrolled in regular schools/settings at the primary education level B: 70 (2019) T: 1,000 (2025)	Ministry of Education and State Statistical Committee reports					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) average scale score for reading B: 472 (2016) T: 500 (2025)	National assessment reports, PIRLS reports					
2. By 2025, adolescent girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable, are benefiting from improved skills-driven formal and non-formal education systems, a strengthened protective environment from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, and increased opportunities for maximizing their well-being, civic engagement and participation, for a smooth transition to adulthood.	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in union (1) before age 15 and (2) before age 18 <i>[UNSDCF indicator]</i> B: (1) 0%; (2) 18.3 (2019, in 4 districts) T: (1) 0%; (2) 10% (2025)	Household survey, MICS	2.1 A comprehensive child-centred and equity-focused integrated social services and child protection system scaled up nationally to enable safe and secure homes, communities and schools and in support of deinstitutionalization and children’s access to justice. 2.2 Relevant national platforms and institutions are equipped with increased knowledge and capacity to provide skills and competencies to adolescent girls and boys to increase their resilience and equip them for a productive adulthood. 2.3 National partners have increased knowledge and capacities to connect with, activate and engage adolescent girls and boys in decision-making and in support of their contribution to society. 2.4 National partners have a grant system for youth-related NGOs and young entrepreneurs, increasing	State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Prosecutor General’s Office Commissioner for Human Rights, Azerbaijani Bar Association, Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, local Executive Authorities, non-governmental partners, academia, private sector, United National Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, International Labour Organization	1 950	3 500	5 450
	Number of children aged 0–17 years living in residential care B: 12,544 (2017) T: 5,000 (2025)	State Statistical Committee					
	Percentage of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) <i>[UNSDCF indicator]</i> B: 23% (2017) T: 20% (2025)	Reports on implementation of the state employment strategy					
	Proportion of young people who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex <i>[UNSDCF indicator]</i>	Youth survey					

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	B: Total 56%; males - 56%; females - 56% (2018, 6 districts) T: Total 80%; males - 80%; females - 80% (2025)		youth employment opportunities.				
3. By 2025, a multi-partner social, economic and political environment is established to prioritize child rights within the national sustainable development agenda.	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics <i>[UNSDCF indicator]</i> B: 72.3% (86 of 119) (2020) T: 80% (2025)	State Statistical Committee report	3.1 National policies and systems strengthened with increased capacities of key national and local government authorities and other partners to strategically plan, budget, implement, monitor and report on investments in child rights and child-focused Sustainable Development Goals. 3.2 Strengthened system and capacity to systematically and regularly generate data and evidence, situation analyses and knowledge management contributing to child-centred policy development, programming and reporting.	Ministry of Finance, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, State Statistical Committee, Ministry of Economy Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies, National Assembly, media, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, private sector	1 330	1 850	3 180
	Existence and functioning of a permanent national child rights coordinating mechanism B: Limited coordination and monitoring function (2019) T: Regular national conference and integrated child development report available (2025)	Decree, Government report	3.3 National alliances of support for child rights are created among the general public, private sector, decision-makers and influencers.				

<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
					<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Number of business-related pieces of legislation approved to encourage companies in child-friendly business B: 0 (2020) T: 2 (2025)	Internal reports					
4. Programme effectiveness					155	150	305
Total resources					4 955	9 000	13 955