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### United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### 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 March 2016 to December 2020.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared with them 12 weeks before the first regular session of 2016.

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\* E/ICEF/2016/1.



## 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.<sup>1</sup> The protracted conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region<sup>2</sup> of the Republic of Azerbaijan has displaced an estimated 7.4 per cent of people,<sup>3</sup> including children. The country experienced significant growth in the past 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. According to official data,<sup>4</sup> the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line fell sharply, from 49 per cent in 2001 to 5 per cent in 2014, whereas the proportion of people living in the poorest quintile declined slowly, from 17.3 per cent in 2008 to 13.8 per cent in 2013. 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. Among the poor, the most deprived children are children with disabilities, children out of school — especially girls — and children living in disaster-prone areas. The Government has made considerable progress in providing assistance and protection to internally displaced children as a result of the conflict. Nevertheless, internally displaced children are still among the most vulnerable segments of the population and, given the scale of displacement in the country, some gaps are yet to be addressed. Social transfers have contributed to poverty reduction.<sup>5</sup> However, only 35 per cent<sup>6</sup> of vulnerable families who are eligible for targeted social assistance receive cash assistance, indicating that progress is yet to be made to cover this segment of population.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the latest data available<sup>8</sup> show that public investment in the social sectors is insufficient: only 3 per cent of gross domestic product is allocated for education, 1.2 per cent for health, and 3.6 per cent 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 the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) was 13 per

<sup>1</sup> State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2014, <[www.stat.gov.az](http://www.stat.gov.az)>, accessed 22 October 2015.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 (1993).

<sup>3</sup> Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Refugees and IDPs, page updated on 26 February 2013, <[www.mfa.gov.az/en/content/117](http://www.mfa.gov.az/en/content/117)>, accessed 22 October 2015.

<sup>4</sup> MDG Indicators of the Republic of Azerbaijan, <[www.stat.gov.az/source/millennium/source/MDG\\_en-14.08.2015.pdf](http://www.stat.gov.az/source/millennium/source/MDG_en-14.08.2015.pdf)>, accessed 22 October 2015.

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://cled.az/pdf/reports/Review%20of%20per%20Azerbaijan%20achievements%20in%20reducing%20poverty_Final%20Report_I.Nazarov_en.pdf)>.

<sup>6</sup> Assessment and Mapping of Social Services for Families and Children in Azerbaijan, 2014 (unpublished).

<sup>7</sup> World Bank, 2012.

<sup>8</sup> Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Azerbaijan.

1,000 live births. However, the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation 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 (ILBD) and the State Program on Improving Mother and Child Health for 2014-2020 was endorsed.

4. The country has made progress in improving the nutritional status of children and women.<sup>9</sup> However, a determinant analysis, conducted according to the Monitoring Results for Equity System methodology, revealed that there are certain 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, affecting 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.<sup>10</sup> The prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women, combined with other factors, is a key contributor to 9.2 per cent of children having low birthweight, and an estimated 4.9 per cent of children aged 0-59 months being underweight. One of the key reasons for high levels of anaemia in children is the low exclusive breastfeeding rate, at just 12 per cent.<sup>11</sup> The first step to address such persistently high levels of anaemia, is to strengthen the health system and enact a new law for food fortification with iron.

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.<sup>12</sup> About 24 per cent of new cases of disability among children were detected in 2013 in the 0-3 age cohort.<sup>13</sup> Azerbaijan has inherited a model for the definition of disability and related support schemes that 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 on 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 disabilities<sup>14</sup> 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 years are not available in official statistics.<sup>15</sup> Gross enrolment of children aged 1-5<sup>16</sup> remains low, at 13.3 per cent, with children in rural areas more deprived than children in urban areas (7.5 per cent vs. 19.2 per cent enrolment).<sup>17</sup> In addition to infrastructural barriers to access, particularly in remote areas of the country, the inadequate

<sup>9</sup> Azerbaijan National Nutrition Survey, 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> SSC, 2014.

<sup>13</sup> SSC, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Education, 2015.

<sup>15</sup> State Standards on Preschool Education, approved by Cabinet of Ministers on 16 July 2010.

<sup>16</sup> MoE, 2013, [www.stat.gov.az](http://www.stat.gov.az).

<sup>17</sup> SSC, 2014.

knowledge of parents about the benefits of preschool for child development are key barriers to preschool enrolment.<sup>18</sup>

7. The Government implemented nationwide active learning techniques up to grade 7, which have been incorporated into teacher training and curricula and are at the core of Government 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 classroom implementation of active learning, as well as the need for greater in-service training efforts.<sup>19</sup>

8. Azerbaijan developed its first 2015-2020 National Children's Strategy<sup>20</sup> 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 in 2000 to about 9,877 children<sup>21</sup> in State institutional care in 2014, of whom 36 per cent were girls and 64 per cent boys. Around 35 per cent of children in State institutional care permanently live in institutions,<sup>22</sup> 168 of whom are aged 0-3 years and live in State residential care institutions for children aged 0-3 abandoned by their parents.<sup>23,24</sup> 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 (4 per cent girls; 96 per cent boys),<sup>25</sup> and the number of children in post-trial sentencing fell<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup> To accelerate progress in the area of juvenile justice, alternatives to the deprivation of liberty, including mediation, need

<sup>18</sup> MoE communication to UNICEF representative at official meeting in 2013.

<sup>19</sup> The results of Formative Evaluation of Active Learning in National Curriculum in primary schools in 2013.

<sup>20</sup> The National Child Rights strategy was recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2012 and is in line with a goal in Azerbaijan 2020: Look in the Future" Concept of Development.

<sup>21</sup> 2014 data obtained from the MoE.

<sup>22</sup> MoE official terminology.

<sup>23</sup> MoE official terminology.

<sup>24</sup> According to the Department of De-Institutionalization and Child Protection.

<sup>25</sup> SSC, <[www.stat.gov.az/source/crimes/indexen.php](http://www.stat.gov.az/source/crimes/indexen.php)>.

<sup>26</sup> Multi-Country Evaluation of The Impact of Juvenile Justice System Reforms on Children in Conflict with The Law (2006-2012) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

<sup>27</sup> SSC, <[www.stat.gov.az/source/crimes/indexen.php](http://www.stat.gov.az/source/crimes/indexen.php)>.

to be promoted further, and a “justice for children” approach in the national legal system adopted and fully implemented.

10. Azerbaijan has a young population, with nearly one in three people aged 14-29. A quarter of young people surveyed are members of youth organizations,<sup>28</sup> 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, suggests that participation of young people in the decision-making process needs to be further enhanced and encouraged. 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.<sup>29</sup>

11. The increase in the legal age of marriage for girls from 17 to 18 years old was a bold step by the Government towards the prevention of child marriage, and the State Statistical Committee (SSC) plans to carry out a survey in 2015 to measure the impact of this law. Despite the strong role of women in society, gender inequality and domestic violence remain issues of concern. Adolescents, particularly girls, experience limited opportunities as well as domestic violence, child marriage and child labour.<sup>30</sup> About 10 per cent of women entered marriage between the ages 15-19 according to the SSC.<sup>31</sup>

12. Another manifestation of gender inequality is the highly skewed sex ratio at birth, which shows that 116 boys were born for every 100 girls in 2014. Due to social norms, preference for sons is quite strong, as it is mainly associated with continuation of the family lineage.<sup>32</sup> A 2014 study found that about 43 per cent of women had been subjected to family violence and that 29 per cent of the perpetrators were their husbands.<sup>33</sup> Customs and traditions are often cited as one of key social determinants of violence at home.<sup>34</sup> There are no accurate official figures on the scale of domestic violence in the country, as the 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.<sup>35</sup> 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 multidimensional child deprivation are either not collected or, if collected, are not done so systematically. The existing system does not provide disaggregated data that would be needed to compare the efficiency of a comprehensive system-based

<sup>28</sup> Tamerlan Rajabov, Situation Assessment of Youth in Azerbaijan, UNICEF, MoYS, Sigma Research Centre, 2011.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Being an IDP in Azerbaijan, UNHCR, 2013.

<sup>31</sup> SSC, 2013.

<sup>32</sup> Mechanisms behind the Skewed Sex Ratio at Birth in Azerbaijan, UNFPA, 2014.

<sup>33</sup> Report on Violence against Persons, UNFPA, 2014.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Leyla Leysan, ‘New Law to Tackle Domestic Assault in Azerbaijan’, IWPR, 27 March 2010.

child welfare and protection system for all children, and to move beyond the current issue-based approach that focuses only on narrowly-defined groups of vulnerable children. There is no Ombudsperson for Children, and civil society and academic institutions are not an active 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 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 programme 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 children with disabilities 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 the public sector.

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 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 development concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Look into the Future”, as well as other sectoral policies and strategies. The programme will also be guided by 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 closely aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017, the programme is also 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 of children; it will 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 their 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 and an improved case management system, 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 better coordination. The aim is to promote an approach whereby the needs of the most deprived children are addressed applying multidisciplinary principles. Through continued support from, and engagement with, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population (MoLSPP), the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the MoE, 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, to operationalize guidelines and protocols, and for scaling up the integrated approach nationally.

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 reducing equity gaps in preschool enrolment, by scaling up a school readiness programme focusing 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 aged 3 to 5 years. 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 ILBD and EDPEI.

24. In addition, this result area will contribute to ensuring that international standards are adhered to in order to protect juveniles in conflict with the law, and will 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 children's vulnerabilities during disasters.

### **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 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 corporate social 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 will build on its experience in working with the private sector 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. The country'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 children with disabilities. This programme component will seek to empower adolescents to become social change agents, thus contributing to a more inclusive society. The component will accelerate investment in new policies, programmes and gender-sensitive services for children not attending secondary school, including children with disabilities, 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 children with disabilities. 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 the attitudes of parents and schoolchildren. As its contribution, UNICEF will also concentrate on modelling inclusive schools for nationwide replication.

33. The component will continue tackling key barriers to adolescents' meaningful participation in decision-making, especially that of girls, 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 will be raised about child rights, gender and harmful social norms by applying innovative methodologies and techniques that aim to benefit 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 children with disabilities, 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 will be used as a tool to foster social inclusion.

35. UNICEF will assist Government counterparts to identify and foster innovations, with the aim of generating creative ways of dealing with the bottlenecks and barriers that impede further progress in the realization of child rights. Using new technologies and 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, generate data and evidence, and amplify the voices of adolescents.

### **Cross-sectoral**

36. The country programme is multisectoral; 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, 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 multimedia approach will be adopted using radio, television, entertainment, education, and interpersonal communication, as well as information communication technology, including social media. This will help to ensure 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 745</b>	<b>9 000</b>	<b>13 745</b>

### **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 and 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, March 2016-December 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 priorities:** Develop social spheres and human capital; improve the quality of education and health care; strengthen social protection; ensure gender equality and family development; enhance youth potential and achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 16.

**UNDAF OUTCOMES 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 the Human Development Index

Positive changes in the 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 United Nations agencies

Sex ratio at birth in the population

Gender-based violence (domestic violence) prevalence rate

**Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes:** P1; P3-P7

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: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
<b>1. Children, especially the most deprived, access and utilize quality and equitable protection, education, health and nutrition services</b>	<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> <b>Baseline (B): No such mechanism available (2015)</b> <b>Target (T): Mechanism established</b>	MoLSPP records	By 2020: National and subnational institutional mechanisms established to identify, refer and report instances of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children	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	2 075	4 300	6 375
	<i>Proportion of girls and boys aged 2-14 who experience violent disciplinary practices</i> <b>B: TBD</b> <b>T: TBD</b>	Violence against children study planned for 2016	The list of State-funded services for deprived children established and fully funded				
	<i>Number of girls and boys in residential care</i> <b>B: 9,900 (boys 64%, girls 36%), 2014</b> <b>T: 4,500</b>	Deinstitutionalization and Child Protection Department of MoE and records of MoLSPP  Records of MoLSPP	Mechanisms established at national and subnational levels to identify, refer, report and intervene to protect children from violations of their rights  Children's access to justice is ensured through specialized justice system				

<p><i>Percentage of children with disabilities receiving social care services</i> <b>B: 2 (2014)</b> <b>T: 15</b></p> <p><i>Rate of children in detention per 100,000 child population</i> <b>B: 1.68 (2015)</b> <b>T: 0.80</b></p> <p><i>Number of children benefited from legal aid and legal representation services</i> <b>B: 250/year</b> <b>T: 750/year</b></p> <p><i>Gross enrolment rate of children aged 1-5 in early childhood care and preschool facilities<sup>1</sup></i> <b>B: 13.3%</b> <b>Girls: 46.80%</b> <b>Boys: 53.2%</b> <b>Urban: 19. %</b> <b>Rural: 7.5% (2014)</b></p> <p><b>T: 30%</b> <b>Girls: 50%</b> <b>Boys: 50%</b> <b>Urban: 35%</b> <b>Rural: 15%</b></p>	<p>Records of Ministry of Justice (MoJ)</p>	<p>National capacity enhanced to ensure equitable, universal access to early learning</p>				
	<p>Records of MoLSPP</p>	<p>Political commitment, accountability and national capacity enhanced to legislate, plan and budget for scaling-up quality and inclusive education</p>				
	<p>Records of the MoE</p>	<p>National capacity increased to provide EDPEI services</p>				
	<p>Records of MoE</p> <p>Records of MoE</p>	<p>National capacity enhanced to provide access to essential high-impact child health interventions</p> <p>Strengthened public and private sector commitment and accountability to legislate and implement nutrition interventions</p>				

<sup>1</sup> According to Decree #137 approved by the Cabinet of Ministries on 16 July 2010, preschool education covers children aged 1-5.

<p><i>Percentage of children aged 6-10 years old with disabilities attending regular school</i>  <b>B: 0% in inclusive education (2015)</b>  <b>T: 25%</b></p> <p><i>Percentage of schools providing family education</i>  <b>B: 0%</b>  <b>T: 30%</b></p> <p><i>Percentage of girls and boys aware of disaster preparedness measures</i>  <b>B: TBD</b>  <b>T: TBD</b></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>B: 24%</b>  <b>T: 50%</b></p> <p><i>Proportion of infants under 6 months of age exclusively breastfed</i>  <b>B: 11.8%</b>  <b>T: 40%</b></p> <p><i>Percentage of children accessing sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that is aligned with national standards</i></p>	<p>Baseline and endline survey on Disaster Risk Reduction conducted by UNICEF and the Government</p> <p>Data of SSC</p> <p>Demographic and Health Survey-type survey</p> <p>Baseline and endline survey on water, sanitation and hygiene in school to be conducted by UNICEF and the Government</p>	<p>Relevant central and district Government agencies equipped to implement communication for development interventions for behaviour and social change</p>					
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	<i>B: Boys and girls: TBD</i> <i>T: Boys and girls: TBD</i>						
<b>2. Government and other actors monitor child rights and contribute to evidence-based equitable State policy formulation, programming and budgeting.</b>	<p><i># of sex-disaggregated indicators aimed at supporting the development of informed policies are incorporated into the national statistical databank</i> <b>B: 257 (2013)</b> <b>T: 280</b></p> <p><i>Education Management Information System (EMIS) is updated to include data from all districts disaggregated by age, sex and disability</i> <b>B: EMIS not generating disaggregated data</b> <b>T: EMIS generating disaggregated data</b></p>	<p>Data of SSC</p> <p>EMIS database reports of the MoE</p>	<p>Relevant Government agencies adequately equipped to generate, collect and analyse disaggregated data from an equity and gender perspective</p> <p>State and non-State institutions equipped 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, MoLSPP, SCFWCA, Ombudsman, NGOs	800	1 700	2 500



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

	<i>Percentage of females aged 15-19 entering marriage before the age of 18 (2013)</i> <b>B: 10%</b> <b>T: 5%</b>						
<b>Cross-sectoral</b>	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
<b>Total resources</b>					<b>4 745</b>	<b>9 000</b>	<b>13 745</b>