

Azerbaijan has adapted and implemented a number of comprehensive measures.

These include:

- State Program on Poverty Reduction and economic Development (2003-2015);
- State Program on Socio-Economic development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2014-2018);
- Food Security Program of The Republic of Azerbaijan;
- State Program for the Development of Industry in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2015-2020;
- About Creation of the legal entity of the public law “ABAD” in subordination of the State agency on rendering services to citizens and social innovations in case of the President of the Republic of the Azerbaijan Republic dated September 23, 2016;
- State Program on the Development of Demography and Population (2017-2030) ;
- State Program for Strengthening Social Protection of Older People (2017-2021) ;
- State Program for Improving Mother and Child Health (2014-2020);
- Strategy for Combating Non-Infectious Diseases for (2015-2020) in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of the Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- National Strategy for the Development of the Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Youth Development Strategy of Azerbaijan in (2015-2025);
- National Program for Action to Raise Effectiveness of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- State Program on Improvement of Living Conditions of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and Employment Promotion ;
- State Program for the development of vocational education (2007-2012);
- State Program for reforming the higher education system;
- State Program on overseas education of Azerbaijani youth for 2007-2015;

The Azerbaijan government acknowledged that achieving gender equality and women`s empowerment are the keys to achieving sustainable development. Maintenance of gender equality during social and economic development is one of the main priorities of the government.

One of the goals of the “State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable development in the Republic of Azerbaijan” was mainly aimed at increasing the participation of women in decision making process.

Development and promotion of women`s entrepreneurship in the country is one of the main goals. To achieve this goal special measures to support women entrepreneurs mainly in the regions have been taken in the field of business formation and management.

The registration of businesses in Azerbaijan under the “one stop shop” principle started in 2008. Consequently, the number of procedures to start a business was reduced from 13 to 2 for commercial legal entities and the period necessary for such registration decreased from 53 days to 1 day. The number of documents required for the registration was reduced by 5 times. With the introduction of e- registration process for individual entrepreneurs in July 2011, the time spent for e-registration was reduced from 2 days to a couple of minutes, ultimately leading

to an increase of share of registration. "E-registration" system for for-profit legal entities was launched in February 2012, as a continuation of these reforms. The system allowed to reduce the number of days required for the registration of limited-liability companies with local share interests from 3 days to one day in case of simple e-registration, and up to a couple of minutes in case of rapid e-registration.

With the purpose of deep analysis of the current state of the economy and preparation of a new economic development strategy for ensuring the sustainability of the economic policy and reforms in the country, totally 12 strategic roadmaps have been drawn up on 11 sectors of the national economy, in accordance with the Decree No. 1897 dated on March 16, 2016 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "Main directions of strategic road map on national economy and major sectors of economy" and issues arising from it. The speeding up of economic development of women within these strategic road maps is envisaged in various paragraphs. One of the priorities in the "Strategic Road Map on the Production and Processing of Agricultural Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan" is to support the development of alternative activities in rural areas and increase the employment of women and young people in rural areas, and in particular, it is planned to implement programs related to employment in the traditional areas (carpet making, souvenirs, etc.) rural tourism. One of the other priorities is the support of local communities' initiatives on rural development. In this direction, it is envisaged to implement programs to ensure the active involvement of women and youth in the social and public life of the village.

Development of women's entrepreneurship has been considered as an important aspect in the "Strategic Road Map on the Production of Consumer Goods at the Level of Small and Medium Enterprises" in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The measures to be taken in this direction have been identified. These activities include the development of incentive mechanisms for the development of women entrepreneurship, the development of information support for women entrepreneurship, the creation of women's business incubators, the creation of women's entrepreneurship associations and professional organizations. Relevant work has already been done on the identified directions. In 2017 the Women Entrepreneurs Association has been established by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs together with the Ministry of Economy.

Since 2011, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been implementing a technical assistance project "Promoting rural women's participation in social and economic life" (now entitled "Economic and Social Empowerment of Young and Disabled Women"). The project has been adapted to the key priorities set out in the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy for 2008-2013, promoting economic rights and opportunities for women and girls and women's entrepreneurial activity. The project promotes the strengthening of the economic situation of vulnerable groups (young women, mothers, disabled women) mentioned in the "State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015" and "Employment Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2006-2015" to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among women and to improve their knowledge. The goal of the project is to increase economic opportunities and skills for active participation of women and young people in rural and urban areas in economic life, entrepreneurship activities and employment.

The project is being implemented in 5 newly established Women Resource Centers in southern regions in 2013-2017.

- In December 2014, trainings on "Create Your Own Business" were held with the participation of disabled women.
- In April 2017, training was held on "Policies and Programs to Consider Gender Factors for Rural Women's Economic Participation".
- In 2014-2017 years series of trainings on following topics as "Start and Develop Your Own Business", "Development of Business Skills," "Maternal and Child Health", "Female Health and Early Marriage Complications", "Financial Literacy and Family Budgeting", "Proper and Effective Activity in Social Media", "Women Entrepreneurship Development" and "Improvement of Computer Skills" were held in Women's Resource Centers(WRC) in southern regions for rural women, WRC members, including women with disabilities. 26 business projects were supported by UNDP. Totally, 47 new businesses were created for rural women in 2016.
- During July-October, 2017, vocation courses were held for four month period for women in WRC, and about 100 young women benefited from the courses.
- In July-September, 2017, trainings on job searching, self-presentation skills, CV preparation and dedicated to provision of employment were held with the participation of WRC members with the purpose of preparation for job fair.
- On December 16, 2016 meetings were held in the southern regions on "Promoting Rural Women's Participation in Economic and Social Life: Overview of Project Results".
- In February-March, 2017 trainings for WRC members were organized for the purpose of organizational development of Women Resource Centers, and they were provided with detailed information on establishment of the organization, project preparation and management, financial research and ways of fund raising, negotiation with donors and generally, on provision of resources of the organization.
- In July, training on "Development of Economic Opportunities and Preparation of Program Interventions for Women's Activity" was held in one of the southern regions with the participation of municipalities, local representatives, executive authorities, SCFWCA and UNDP.
- In March, 2017 an exhibition of handicrafts by members of WRC was demonstrated with coordinators and active members of the Centers, as well as with the Committee and UNDP representatives.
- In June 2017, a delegation of 10 WRC managers visited Germany in the framework of study tour..
- In October 2017, accounting trainings were held with participation of 50 members of 2 different WRCs in the southern regions, during which the accounting basis, financial statements, budget preparation, risk analysis and tax reporting were presented.
- In October 2017, a dialogue was held with the representatives of 7 government agencies and civil society activists in the WRCs to raise awareness of the "private sector and the banks' gender sensitivity towards specific needs" and to expand women's rights.
- In October-November 2017, legal advice was provided to community activists and women in need of legal advice, interested in establishing local NGOs in the southern regions.

- In December 2014 and in November 2017, special **Job Fairs** were held in Sabirabad region to support the employment of rural women. As a result, 32 women were employed.

Enlightenment measures:

- In December, 2017 awareness-raising events were organized for school girls, parents and WRC staff within the 16 days campaign in villages of southern regions.
- In August and December 2017, an awareness raising campaign was held on "Women's contribution to the development of communities and public activeness of women in Azerbaijan" in local communities.

In July-September, 2017 a community project on the construction of water and sanitation nodes for the use of school girls in village schools was implemented.

Within the framework of a joint project implemented by UNDP, UN Population Fund and the Committee in order to determine the overall analysis of women and girls' economic and employment opportunities in the private sector in the North and North- Western regions, where the Children and Family Support Centers operate, a questionnaire on "Barriers to women's participation in the field of economics in Azerbaijan" was conducted with participation of selected focus groups. The survey was conducted among the Deputies of Executive Powers, the focus groups of unemployed men and women in those regions, and managers from private sector enterprises. In order to help private sector to facilitate the employment of unemployed women in the private sector and the creation of their own business, the respondents answered questions of the survey about problems faced by women while looking for employment, existing perspectives, and equal labor rights for women and men.

Since 2012, 11 Child and Family Support Centers (CFSC) under the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs have undertaken a number of activities coming from the State Programs to be implemented in the regions.

CFSCs carry out awareness raising activities on a regular basis in, in accordance with the needs of the communities. Over the past 5 years more than 400 community meetings were held with the purpose identifying the families from the vulnerable groups, children in need of special care, and promoting healthy lifestyles, protection and strengthening of reproductive health and elimination of violence against women and children.

In 2012-2014, with the financial support of the European Union and IOM, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA), together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), held a voluntary work in Khachmaz CFSC within the project entitled "Social and Economic Empowerment and Enlightenment on Gender Issues of Women Victims of Domestic Violence". Under the project, 2,000 women were trained, and 24 women were given small grants.

The CFSC staff members attended workshops on "Working with women affected by domestic violence", "Preparing a Business Plan", "Organizing mutual cooperation with

domestic violence-affected women." It should be noted that a number of measures are being taken to increase the employment of women in the regions.

With the initiative of Ismayilli CFSC and with support of the Executive Authority, a branch of the Baku Sewing Factory was opened in the region, and currently 56 women are effectively working there. A set of training courses were also organized to improve women's tailoring skills at the factory. In the selection of employees, preference was given to families belonging to the risk group, the families of martyrs, women who lost the head of their family, and women with disabilities. This also contributes to the economic well-being of women living in the regions, as well as improving the welfare of the families. During 2017, trainings for girls "First Steps in Career" were held at Sabirabad Asan (State Agency for Citizens Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan) Service Center and in Gabala region with the purpose of implementation of "Leadership Schools" project.

In July 2017, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs together with "Nar Mobile" Company, "Social and Psychological Researches Center" and "Volunteers of ASAN (State Agency for Citizens Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan)" Youth Organization PU, implemented a training program entitled "Academy of Success" in North-Western regions of Azerbaijan, which included organization of vocational courses on cooking, tailoring, hairdressing and etc., especially for women with disabilities. Among the participants there were also women with disabilities.

Women living in frontline regions (as a result of Nagorno Karabakh conflict) are being assisted with trainings on setting up their own small businesses in the framework of the project "Start Your Business and Improve" implemented by Agdam CFSC, Regional Employment Center and IOM.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs jointly with the Youth Forum of OIC, started vocational trainings for women in order to facilitate employment opportunities and social activity of women. Additionally, trainings on "My Dear Nanny" and "Professional Cook" were held for the women in the regions. Special trainings "Family Budget and Financial Literacy" were held in eleven regions.

Training courses on "Plan Your Future" are being held in the regions in 2016 by the Public Union "Family Microfinance Association" in order to increase the financial literacy of the women from regions and rural areas. The 9 sessions provided detailed information to women on the importance of financial planning in low-income families, money flows in family budget, income and expenditure analysis, seasonal management.

In total, 11 CFSCs worked on 14679 applications connected with job opportunities, social assistance, health issues, domestic violence and etc.

Separate benefits provided to the working population

(According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population)

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
One-time allowance for the child's birth:									
Number of persons, thousand people	99,6	112,5	38,6	40,4	45,5	49,0	49,8	53,9	54,4
Amount, thousand manats	998,6	2666,0	2673,9	3239,2	3620,0	4153,5	4419,2	4818,5	5172,7
Allowances - related care for children under 3 years:									
Number of persons, thousand people	31,2	26,8	35,6	39,3	41,8	38,7	38,2	37,0	35,2
Amount, thousand manats	582,1	775,0	5026,9	5086,6	5182,5	5805,0	7371,8	8174,6	10609,1

Health, social protection and social security expenditures of the state budget in 2016

	Million manat	Compared to the gross domestic product, in percentage
Expenses - total	17 751,3	29,4
From them		
To health care	702,5	1,2
in percentage to the state budget expenditures	4,0	x
To social protection	2612,8	4,3
in percentage to the state budget expenditures	14,7	x
To social security	32,4	0,1
in percentage to the state budget expenditures	0,2	x