UNITED NATIONS
AZERBAIJAN

Annual Results Report

Azerbaijan

2024

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"Despite facing numerous challenges and undergoing five surgeries, Nur goes to school every day with enthusiasm, excels in her studies, and has become a positive and social child. With the right support, every child can learn and succeed," says Nur's mother.
Photo credit: UNICEF/Aziz Karimov/2024

Project facilitator, Elchin Maharramov, discussing greenhouse innovations in a sunflower field in Samukh district.
Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

Foreword

"2024 was a defining year for Azerbaijan – and for its partnership with the United Nations. As Azerbaijan stepped onto the global stage as host of the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), the UN development system stood in full solidarity with the country."

Vladanka Andreeva
UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan

UN Country Team Azerbaijan meets with UN Secretary-General António Guterres during his COP29 visit to Baku.
Photo credit: UNRCO/Mammad Aliyev/2024

With the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat serving as the custodian of the UN climate change process, the UN system mobilized collective support for the COP29 Presidency through the Global UN COP29 Task Force, which I had the honour of co-chairing alongside Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition. In close collaboration with the COP29 Presidency, we drew on the expertise of over 25 UN entities to provide technical input and policy advice across a broad spectrum of Presidency-led initiatives. These included the Baku Global Climate Transparency Platform, the Water for Climate Action Declaration, the Baku Initiative on Human Development for Climate Resilience, and efforts to advance green energy zones and climate finance. The UN's support complemented the Government of Azerbaijan's leadership and vision in shaping COP29 into an ambitious, inclusive and action-oriented global climate forum.

The UN Country Team also contributed policy support and helped elevate the voices of young people and children, women and vulnerable communities through a series of COP29 "Climate Conversations". These dialogues ensured that climate action remained inclusive, grounded in local realities and aligned with Azerbaijan's broader development goals.

Throughout the year, the UN family continued to provide targeted support in mine clearance, deminer training and mine risk education, reaching more than 10,000 children and their families. These efforts complemented the Government's leadership in facilitating the safe return of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs). At the heart of our work are the people we serve – children accessing inclusive education, youth driving innovation and climate action, farmers and small businesses revitalizing local economies, and refugees and stateless persons gaining access to essential services. In 2024 alone, more than 18,000 children benefited from early learning support, while nearly 11,000 people in need received legal aid and psychosocial services. We also helped expand access to inclusive education in 67 schools across 22 regions, and trained over 11,000 teachers and educators in child protection and inclusive practices.

We worked closely with national institutions to develop forward-looking policies and tools to guide long-term development. This included support for 19 strategic documents, such as the National Adaptation Plan, the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, the Gender-Responsive Reintegration Plan for IDPs, and guidelines on gender-sensitive public services and prison management. These are not just policy outputs – they are building blocks for sustainable and inclusive transformation.

The final evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021–2025 confirmed the relevance and impact of our joint efforts. It also challenged us to go further, to become more data-driven, gender-responsive, inclusive and agile in how we deliver results for the people of Azerbaijan. As we prepare the next Cooperation Framework (2026–2030) – our final sprint towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – we carry forward the momentum and lessons of 2024. We reaffirm our commitment to a partnership grounded in trust, aligned with national priorities, and guided by the principle of leaving no one behind.

UN Country Team

The UN Country Team (UNCT) – consisting of 18 UN agencies, funds and programmes – is committed to using its expertise to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our collective efforts support Azerbaijan's national ambition to become an inclusive, equitable society that leaves no one behind, and a development partner in the region and globally.

UNITED NATIONS AZERBAIJAN

FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, UN Women and WHO.

Key development partners

In 2024, the UN worked in partnership with various stakeholders in Azerbaijan, including government agencies, civil society organizations, international organizations, the private sector, academia and the media to promote sustainable development in the country.

The Government of Azerbaijan was a key partner to the UN in 2024, providing financial, human and administrative resources to implement development initiatives, with a strong focus on policymaking.

	1.1	2.1	2.2	3.1	4.1
UN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Azerbaijan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
USA	✓	✓		✓	✓
gef				✓	
UK	✓	✓			
Green Climate Fund				✓	

	1.1	2.1	2.2	3.1	4.1
Takeda					✓
Netherlands	✓				
Germany		✓		✓	
Turkey	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Irish National Commission		✓			
Association for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation		✓			
ATscale		✓			

Outcome 1.1: Inclusive growth and decent work
Outcome 2.1: Stronger Institutions, quality public and social services
Outcome 2.2: Data for decision-making and policy
Outcome 3.1: Climate action and the environment
Outcome 4.1: Gender-equitable society

Civil society organizations were key partners to the UN in terms of promoting development, human rights, gender equality and citizen participation. The UN partnered extensively with the private sector in 2024 to promote sustainable economic development and encourage responsible business practices, as the private sector plays a critical role in creating jobs, generating income and promoting innovation.

The UN's work with academia advanced research and analysis to inform policymaking and build the capacities of young people and professionals through training, mentorship and networking opportunities.

Country and Regional Context

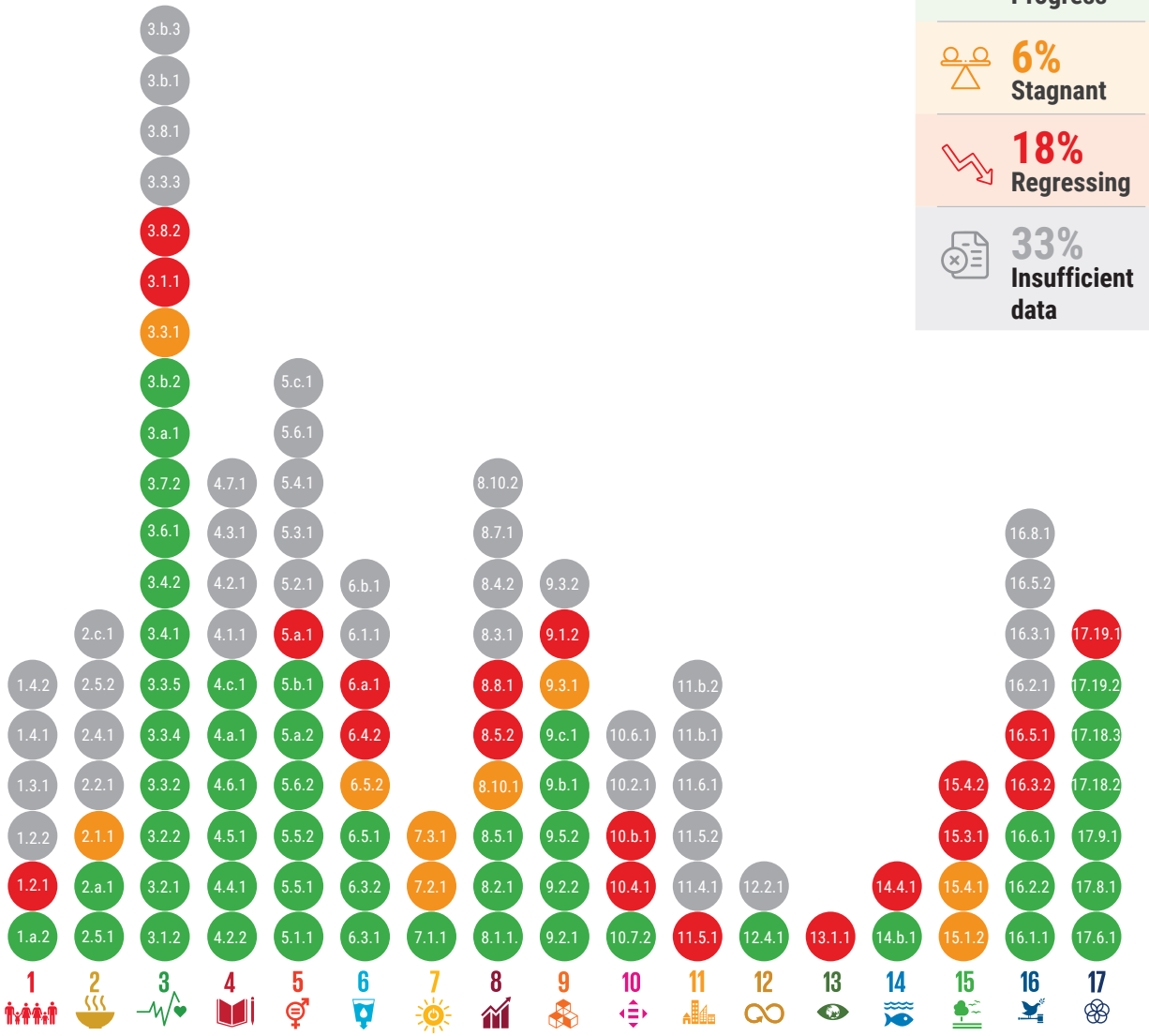
1.1. SDG progress

Azerbaijan's pathway to the 2030 Agenda is anchored in two key national plans, *Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development* and the *Social and Economic Development Strategy 2022–2026*, which are closely aligned with the SDGs. Complementing these, the Central Bank has adopted the *Sustainable Finance Roadmap 2023–2026* to expand and diversify sustainable funding mechanisms. The government has also adopted a national SDG 18 on Mine Action, identifying it as a prerequisite to achieving sustainable development in the country. Regarding the National SDG Framework, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) Statistics Dashboard based on the National Information Portal on SDGs shows that the country was making progress on 43 per cent of indicators, while 6 per cent were stagnant, 18 per cent were regressing and 33 per cent had insufficient data (April 2024).

1.2. Socioeconomic overview

According to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SSC), Azerbaijan's economy has transitioned to upper-middle-income status, driven largely by oil exports and sizeable investments that have reduced poverty from 49 per cent in 2001 to 5.2 per cent in 2023. Following the contraction due to COVID-19, the economy rebounded and has demonstrated steady growth, with gross domestic product (GDP) growing by 4.1 per cent in 2024, although it remains vulnerable to external shocks, including oil-price fluctuations. The value added in the oil and gas sector of the economy increased by 0.3 per cent, while the non-oil and gas sector increased by 6.2 per cent.[1]

Performance trends of the National SDG Framework priority indicators between 2015 and 2024



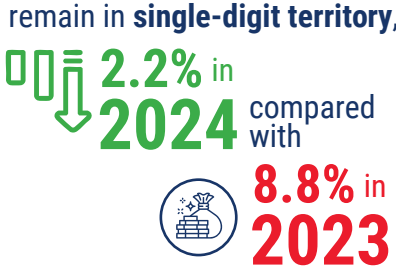
April 2024

- **43%** Progress
- **6%** Stagnant
- **18%** Regressing
- **33%** Insufficient data

1 SSC, "Production of gross domestic product in 2024", 16 January 2025. https://stat.gov.az/news/index.php?lang=en&id=6156 (accessed 16 May 2025).

Meanwhile, some challenges remain, including structural imbalances and the dominance of state-owned enterprises in the economy, resulting in low labour productivity in the majority of non-oil sectors and in small and medium-sized enterprises. These issues are a stumbling block in making the economy more competitive. Income and geographical inequalities persist: the Baku metropolitan area accounts for more than three-quarters of GDP.

As part of ongoing reforms, a new Competition Code of Azerbaijan was adopted in December 2023 to "protect market subjects from unfair competition and monopolies."[2] Average inflation continued to remain in single-digit territory, at 2.2 per cent in 2024 compared with 8.8 per cent in 2023.[3]



Human development outcomes, although improving, also exhibit notable disparities. The latest Human Development Index (HDI) value rose to 0.76 in 2022, placing Azerbaijan in the high human development category at 89 out of 193 countries. This improvement of six positions from the previous year is nevertheless still below the 2019 ranking. When accounting for inequalities, the inequality-adjusted HDI declines to 0.707. The 2024 Global Gender Gap Index ranks Azerbaijan 103rd out of 146 countries, down six places since 2023. The subindexes reveal severe gender inequalities in health and survival (146th), political empowerment (133rd) and educational attainment (falling from 54th in 2023 to 94th in 2024).

The Early Childhood Development Index highlights how intersecting family circumstances impact opportunities: while the national average stands at 72 per cent (2023),[4] it drops to 44 per cent when low maternal education, rural residence, low household income and disability status are considered, and it reaches 90 per cent among children whose mothers have higher education, greater household wealth and reside in urban areas.[5]

Azerbaijan has substantially improved its human capital outcomes and is among the top global improvers, measured by changes in the World Bank's Human Capital Index (HCI) between 2010 (0.50) and 2020 (0.58).[6] However, it underperforms in terms of health and skills relative to its regional peers: using an adjusted regional ECA-HCI, children born in Azerbaijan can expect to realize only 38 per cent of the productivity potential they would reach with high-quality education and full health.[7]

1.3. Post-conflict recovery

The peace process between Azerbaijan and Armenia has been gradually shifting towards a bilateral format, with 10 versions of the treaty "Agreement on Peace and Establishment of Inter-State Relations" exchanged as of September 2024, though differences between the parties remain. Under the "I State Programme for the Great Return to the Liberated Territories" (2022–2026), post-conflict recovery remains a top priority, with humanitarian mine action (formalized as National SDG 18 in May 2023) being essential for sustainable development. As of 13 January 2025, 10,397 IDPs[8] (52 per cent women) had returned, and 32 settlements (including three cities) were under construction.

Sustainable reintegration requires substantial investments in infrastructure, education and healthcare, addressing short- and long-term livelihood opportunities, investing in underrepresented sectors and reducing skills mismatches and vulnerabilities to ensure that women, youth and persons with disabilities can actively participate in economic recovery. However, former IDPs' employment remains constrained, especially among women (only 27 per cent are employed, compared with 58 per cent for men[9]). This is largely due to traditional gender roles, including the disproportionate burden of family and caregiving responsibilities. Additionally, durable solutions must incorporate environmental sustainability and climate resilience and align with Azerbaijan's "net-zero" vision and plans for a "green energy zone", to ensure returning areas can sustainably manage influxes of former IDPs through improved water and waste management systems.

The Mammadaliyev family from İdrisoba village, Khachmaz district is among those who benefited from the project to improve hazelnut production.
Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

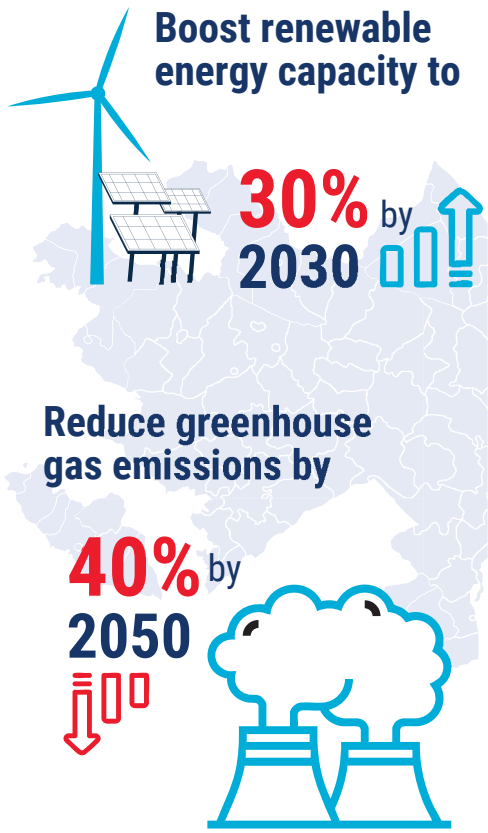
2 KPMG, "The new Competition Code has been adopted in the Republic of Azerbaijan", January 2024. https://kpmg.com/az/en/home/insights/2024/02/new-competition-code.html (accessed 16 May 2025).
3 SSC, "Macro-economic indicators and social development of the country (January – March, 2025)" 15 April 2025. https://stat.gov.az/news/macroeconomy.php?lang=en&page=2 (accessed 16 May 2025).
4 SSC and UNICEF, *The Republic of Azerbaijan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2023: Survey Findings Report* (Baku, 2024). https://mics.unicef.org/sites/mics/files/2024-10/Azerbaijan%202023%20MICS%20SFR_English.pdf.
5 UN ESCAP LNOB analysis based on MICS 2023.
6 The HCI combines indicators of health and education into a measure of the human capital that a child born today can expect to obtain by their eighteenth birthday, on a scale from 0 to 1. Higher values indicate higher expected human capital.
7 Sara Johansson de Silva and others, *Azerbaijan: Human Capital Review* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2022). https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099082001272341155/pdf/P1735301c30e9a0b1efa3147da1823d147928a86e81a.pdf.
8 Ülkər Xaspoladova, "Yeni ilin ilk köçü", 14 January 2025. https://www.azerbaijan-news.az/az/posts/detail/yeni-ilin-ilk-kocu-1736800515/349804 (accessed 16 May 2025).
9 Sarah Dreier and others, *Internally Displaced Persons in Azerbaijan: Livelihoods, Services and Intentions* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2023). https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062923164533460/pdf/P1781240984ec608108c7f0164f8d0b3c98.pdf.

1.4. Environment and climate action

Azerbaijan's hosting of the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in November 2024 underscored its commitment to a green transition and proactive climate diplomacy. Many of the COP29 Presidency Initiatives have gained traction, with 12 of them taken forward in partnership with the UN system. Anchored by constitutional guarantees and the Law on Environmental Protection, environmental governance is integrated into economic planning under the Azerbaijan 2030 Agenda. Initiatives promoting green jobs, sustainable agriculture and eco-friendly industry are being advanced alongside policy reforms such as tax incentives for electric vehicles and supportive measures for non-oil investments. The government aims to boost renewable energy capacity to 30 per cent by 2030 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050, while progressing its National Adaptation Plan[10] and "net-zero" vision for regained territories.

Despite these efforts, fossil fuels still dominate the energy mix (98 per cent of primary energy and over 90 per cent of electricity[11]), and environmental pressures remain high due to industrial activity, urbanization, and intensified competition over scarce and unevenly distributed resources, including water and land, compounded by inefficiencies in their management and use. To address the existing challenges in water use and management, on 10 October 2024, Azerbaijan adopted a National Strategy on Efficient Use of Water Resources, which outlines a comprehensive plan for enhancing water-use efficiency by 2040. Increased variability in precipitation and rising temperatures are exacerbating regional inequalities and depleting remaining resources, posing acute risks for rain-fed agriculture and vulnerable communities. With Azerbaijan classified as high risk on the INFORM Risk Index 2025, there is an urgent need to enhance disaster preparedness and risk reduction capacities.

The government aims to:



Area	86,600 sq. km
Population, 2025[12]	10.2 million
GDP per capita, 2024	US$ 7,284
Government budget expenditure, 2024	12.4 per cent on social protection 5.1 per cent on health 12.4 per cent on education
Unemployment rate, 2023	5.6 per cent overall, 4.8 per cent M, 6.5 per cent F
Life expectancy, 2023	76 overall, 73.5 M, 78.4 F
National poverty rate, 2023	5.2 per cent overall, 5.3 per cent M, 4.8 per cent F
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births), 2023	29.3
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births), 2023	18.1 overall, 19.2 M, 16.9 F
Enrolment rate, 2024	34 per cent pre-primary (net) 73 per cent primary and secondary (gross) 16.6 per cent tertiary (above 15 years)
Proportion of women in managerial positions, 2023	42.3 per cent
Economic Freedom Index, 2025	Score: 62.5 Global ranking: 75/184 Regional ranking: 36/44
SDG Index, 2024	Score: 72.2 points Global ranking: 63/166
Global Gender Gap Index, 2024	Score: 0.685 Global ranking 103/146
Environmental Performance Index, 2024	Score: 40.5 Global ranking 121/180

Photo credit: https://cop29.az/en/media-hub/media-gallery/22

10 UNECE, *Environmental Performance Reviews: Azerbaijan. Third Review* (Geneva, United Nations, 2023). https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789213584590/read.
11 SSC, "İndicator 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption". https://sdg.azstat.gov.az/en/indicators/374/ (accessed 16 May 2025).
12 "Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan", 2025. https://president.az/en/pages/view/azerbaijan/population#number_of_population (accessed 19 May 2025).

02 Chapter

UN development system support to national development priorities

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework results

The UN-Azerbaijan Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF or CF) for 2021–2025 sets a comprehensive road map for joint action between the UN and Azerbaijan, focusing on four priority areas and five key outcomes:

i. Inclusive growth and decent work

ii. Stronger institutions, quality public and social services

iii. Data-driven decision-making and policy

iv. Environment and climate action

v. Gender-equitable society

In 2024, the UN in Azerbaijan, in strategic partnership with national stakeholders, stepped up efforts to catalyse policy reforms and strengthen institutional capacities in line with the country's Social and Economic Development Strategy 2022–2026 and other key national frameworks and development strategies. At the same time, targeted grass-roots interventions were implemented to engage local communities directly, addressing their specific needs and challenges. This integrated approach, combining top-down policy initiatives with bottom-up community engagement, exemplifies the UN's commitment to a holistic and inclusive development agenda that leaves no one behind.

Key Results 2024

18,000 children (**8,600 girls**) in community-based early education

67 inclusive schools in 22 regions

4,300+ people accessed healthcare

11,600 teachers trained on inclusive education and child protection

4,600 healthcare workers trained on immunization, early childhood development and climate-health links

5,100 children + **1,300** women received psychosocial support

10,000+ children and family members in explosive ordnance risk education

6,300+ children vaccinated

13,000 people ~**74%** youth educated on GBV, early marriage and harmful practices

5,500 people given legal aid including **3,500** women

2,100+ youth supported (career, climate education and work preparedness)

19 policy documents developed

Inclusive growth	4
Climate and environment and agriculture	5
Social protection and health	5
Gender and inclusion	5

1,100+ public institution staff trained in climate resilience, agriculture, governance and rights protection.

4,900 people trained in agriculture and skills more than **2,500** women

Supported the development and finalization of 19 policy documents and guiding frameworks:

Inclusive growth	Climate and environment and agriculture	Social protection and health	Gender and inclusion
Policy and Ecosystem Recommendations for Social Enterprises Policy Framework on Agricultural Cooperatives Land Consolidation Strategy Land Banking Strategy	National Adaptation Plan (NAP) National Implementation Plan under Stockholm Convention Roadmap for Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) A Pesticide Waste Management Action Plan Emergency Plan for Plant Protection	National Strategy (2025–2030) on Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Framework Financial Strategy for SRSP Draft Framework for Assistive Product Standards Guideline for Immunization of Children	Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Policy Framework 2025–2029 Gender-Responsive Reintegration Plan for IDPs Guidelines on Gender-Sensitive and Inclusive Public Services Gender-Sensitive Prison Management Guidelines Standard Operating Procedures for GBV Case Management

Cooperation Framework outcome indicator progress chart[13]

Indicators	Baseline	2021	2022	2023
Share of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in economy	16.7% (2020)	16.4%	13.9%	Micro 6.8% Small 2.9% Medium 8.3%
SDG 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	23% (2017)	23% (2017)	Total 19.8% Women 49.7% Men 50.3%	Total 19.5% Women 20.6% Men 18.6%
SDG 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees	Total 5 AZN Women 4 AZN Men 5.6 AZN (2020)	Total 4.9 AZN Women 3.8 AZN Men 5.6 AZN	Total 5.6 AZN Women 4.4 AZN Men 6.3 AZN	Total 6.2 AZN Women 5.1 AZN Men 7 AZN
SDG 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (per 100,000 people)	Total 449.1 Women 436.4 Men 462 (2019)	Total 557.5 Women 550.9 Men 564.4	Total 448.3 Women 426.8 Men 469.9	Total 449.2 Women 426.6 Men 471.9
SDG 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on education, health and social protection	Total 32.4% Healthcare 3.4% Education 8.6% Social protection and social security 20.4% (2019)	Total 40.6% Healthcare 5.7% Education 11.5% Social protection and social security 23.4%	Total 38.4% Healthcare 4.3% education 11.6% Social protection and social security 22.5%	Total 40.9% Healthcare 4.3% Education 11.1% Social protection and social security 25.5%
SDG 17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for SDG monitoring	34.8% (2020)	43.3%	45.2%	48.8% (2023)
SDG 13.2.1 Azerbaijan reports its nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies	No			Yes
SDG 15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	9.6% (2020)	11.4%	12.9%	No data
SDG 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m3)	3.73 (2020)	4.49	6.57	6.17
SDG 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP (kg oil equivalent/1,000 manat)	316.3 (2020)	316.1	320.9	320.5
Sex ratio at birth in the population	114 boys per 100 girls (2019/2020)	116 boys per 100 girls	112 boys per 100 girls	
SDG 5.5.2 Proportion of women in leadership and managerial positions	34.6% (2020)	35.5%	35.4%	36.4%
Number of local and national mechanisms created to address GBV in Azerbaijan	0	2	2	
SDG 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	18.2% (2019)	18.5%	18.6%	18.1%
SDG 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Total 39.6 Urban 23.2 Rural 58.1 (2020)	Total 29.7 Urban 16.7 Rural 44.7	Total 37.3 Urban 20.6 Rural 56.9	Total 33.4 Urban 18.8 Rural 50.6

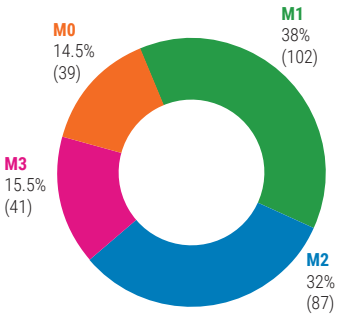
13 The indicators with available data are presented. The latest data points are for 2023, as the 2024 National SDG Progress Report provided data until 2023.

Gender Equality Marker (UNCT-GEM)

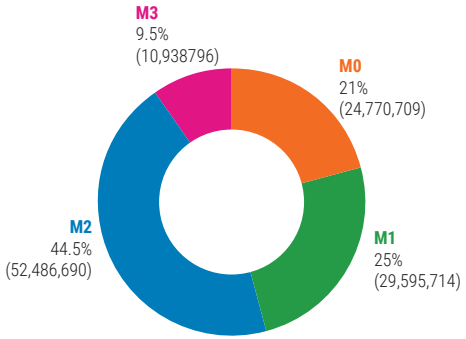
The purpose of the UN Country Team Gender Equality Marker (UNCT-GEM) is to track how CFs allocate resources towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.[14]

From 2021 to 2024, there was steady progress in integrating gender equality into UN programming in Azerbaijan. Out of 269 interventions, 60 per cent had a gender focus, with most under Marker 2 (significant objective). Funding also shifted accordingly – expenditure for Marker 2 grew, reaching 47 per cent in both 2022 and 2024. While Marker 3 (principal objective) saw a slight rise in 2024, it remained the least funded. Spending on Marker 0 (no gender focus) dropped from 28 per cent in 2023 to 15 per cent in 2024, showing better alignment of resources with gender goals.

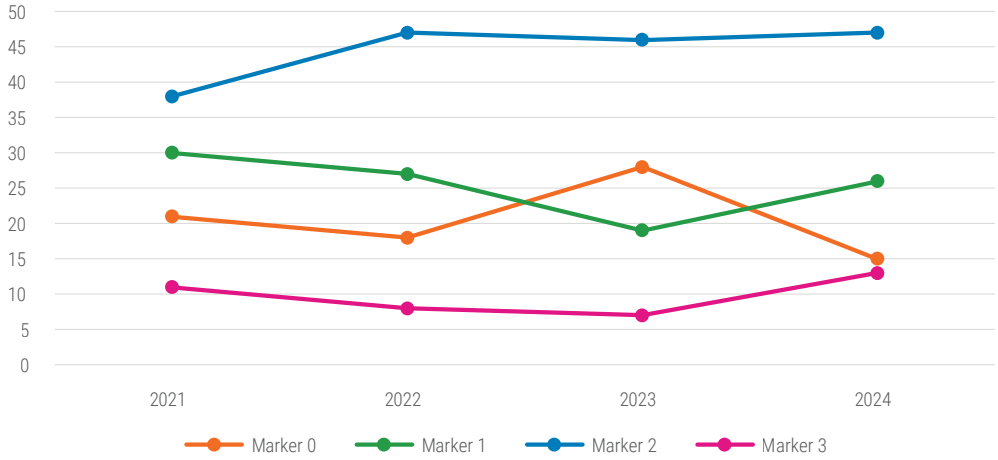
Number of programmatic interventions, 2021–2025



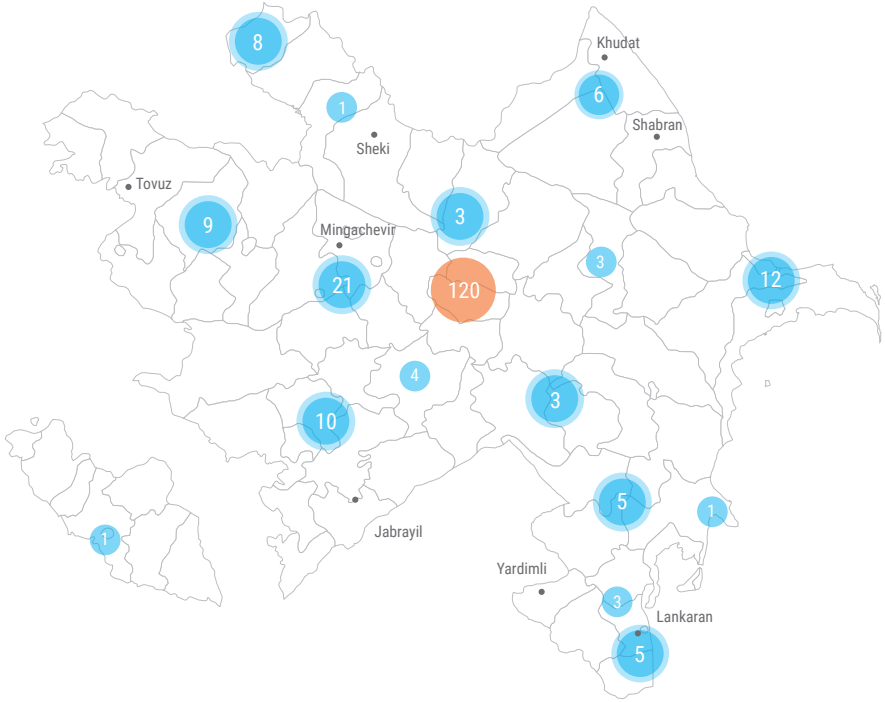
2021–2024 expenditure (USD)



Expenditure percentage by year



Where we work: UN activities in 2024[15]



Ahead of COP29, young girls gathered in the Lankaran region for a three-day 'Girls for Climate Action' camp, where they explored ways to protect the planet and lead change in their communities.
Photo credit: UNFPA/2024

14 The UNCT-GEM uses a four-point coding scale, from 0 to 3, to indicate the planned contribution of programmatic interventions to gender equality.
15 For details, visit https://uninfo.org/.

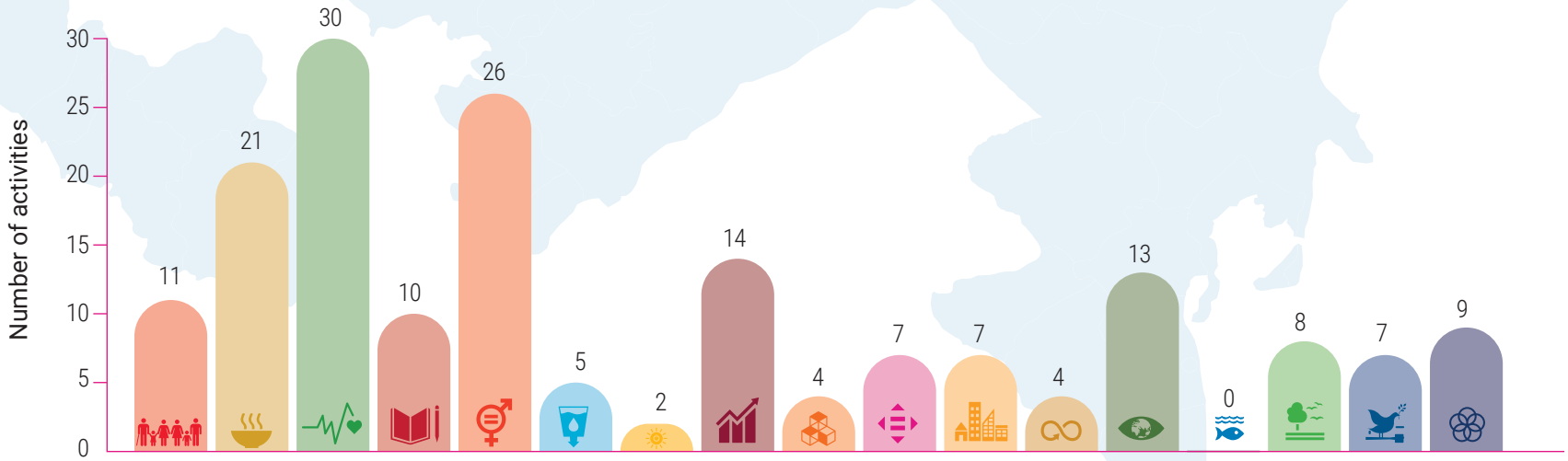
Contribution to SDGs

Per share of budget

	1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Expenditure (USD)	820,841	2,426,490	3,812,580	3,414,878	3,329,378	46,620	1,750	2,037,663	193,549
% of total expenditure	3.5%	10.3%	16.2%	14.5%	14.2%	0.2%	0.0%	8.7%	0.8%

	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Expenditure (USD)	2,364,960	790,120	47,768	1,403,277	0	334,474	2,193,050	308,361
% of total expenditure	10.1%	3.4%	0.2%	6.0%	0%	1.4%	9.3%	1.3%

Per number of activities



COP29 and UN Azerbaijan: a Joint Commitment to Climate Action

In November 2024, Azerbaijan hosted COP29, convening global leaders and negotiators to advance climate action. Beyond formal negotiations, COP29 featured side events and dialogues, fostering collaboration and strengthening partnerships for inclusive and sustainable solutions.

- Following the COP29 presidency's request for coordinated UN support, the Global UN COP29 Task Force was activated by the Deputy Secretary-General and co-chaired by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition and the UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan. Consisting of around 25 UN entities, the Task Force provided substantive support on 12 (out of 14) Presidency Initiatives that were launched during COP29. The Task Force has been hailed as a good practice of inter-agency collaboration in support of host governments of large-scale international conferences.
- As an integral part of the UN Azerbaijan COP29 Engagement Strategy, the UN organized the climate conversations series 29 Climate Conversations on the Road to COP29 in Baku and some regions, in partnership with the COP29 presidency, the government, the private sector, civil society, young people, development partners, academia, the media and others, with a view to raising awareness of climate change and mobilizing climate action across the country. Addressing topics such as digital innovation, just transition, reproductive health and green finance, the series brought together government representatives, international organizations, civil society and private sector leaders to drive actionable solutions.
- Designed to inspire meaningful discussions and solutions, the **UN Azerbaijan Pavilion** at COP29 hosted around 25 events to explore the effects of climate change on women, children, refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups. Distinguished speakers engaged with participants, particularly youth, in insightful discussions on climate leadership.
- A key feature of the pavilion was the **Four Climate Dialogues**, a series of high-level interviews with experts and leaders on critical climate issues. These discussions provided insights into sustainable development strategies and actionable resilience measures for Azerbaijan and beyond. In addition, the Climate Impact and World Children's Day photo exhibitions were held.
- At COP29, Azerbaijan launched several key initiatives with UN support to advance climate action and sustainable development, including the Baku Harmony Climate Initiative for Farmers that aims to strengthen climate change adaptation in agriculture, food systems and water management. Multisectoral Action Pathways (MAP) to Resilient and Healthy Cities, endorsed by 45 governments, provides a framework for integrating climate resilience, public health and urban sustainability into national policies. The launch of the National Strategy for 2025–2030 on the Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases reaffirmed Azerbaijan's commitment to global health security and climate resilience. In parallel, the Environmental Performance Review was presented, engaging stakeholders in aligning environmental and economic goals, and assessing compliance with international environmental commitments.
- Azerbaijan has also signed the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, committing to put children at the centre of climate policy. The Government also joined the Global Children's Environmental Health Collaborative, making the country the ninth globally to join the initiative, established to prioritize children's environmental health needs in local and international platforms.

Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 President, hands over the presidency to Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President.
Photo credit: Kiara Worth/UN Climate Change/2024

Visitors engaging with the UN Azerbaijan Pavilion at COP29.
Photo credit: UNRCO/Mammad Aliyev/2024

Stories of hope

Youth engage in climate action at COP29

"I never imagined that one camp could change my life,"

says 17-year-old Dunay Mahmudova from Baku, Azerbaijan. "During the Girls for Climate Action camp, I learned so much about the critical role women play in addressing climate change and how we can be part of the solution. The camp taught me to believe in myself and my ability to make a difference."

Dunay's passion and commitment stood out, leading to her selection as a volunteer for the UNFPA country office at COP29. The event became a turning point in her young life. "At COP29, I realized that young voices, especially those of women, are essential in shaping solutions for a sustainable future."

Photo credit: UNFPA/2024

Meet Mujtaba, a refugee from Afghanistan and a proud contributor to COP29 in Baku. A student of business informatics at Azerbaijan State Oil and Industrial University, Mujtaba has been living in Azerbaijan with his family since 2019. Through the DAFI Scholarship Programme supported by UNHCR, he has been able to pursue his academic ambitions since 2022.

This November, Mujtaba joined COP29 as a volunteer at the Athlete's Village reception. Each day, he greets participants with a warm smile, provides event information, helps with transportation guidance and shares tips on exploring the city. For Mujtaba, volunteering at COP29 is more than just a chore – it's a meaningful way to give back to the country that offered his family safety and a fresh start.

"I feel proud to contribute to this significant global event hosted by Azerbaijan, my second home,"

says Mujtaba.

Photo credit: UNHCR/2024

2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Isgandar Shiralizada, a young beekeeper from Bilasuvar, is among the youth the UN supports to promote sustainable livelihoods.
Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

Outcome 1.1:

Inclusive growth and decent work

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

Ensuring inclusive economic growth and decent work for people who are furthest behind

In 2024, the UN in Azerbaijan contributed to efforts aimed at fostering a more inclusive and resilient economy with a focus on supporting vulnerable groups including women, youth, refugees, displaced persons and rural communities. Through initiatives in skills development, MSME support, financial inclusion, policy dialogue and labour-market engagement, the UN helped individuals to enhance their livelihoods, grow small businesses and improve access to employment opportunities. By aligning policy support with practical interventions, these efforts contributed to expanding economic opportunities promoting a more inclusive labour market.

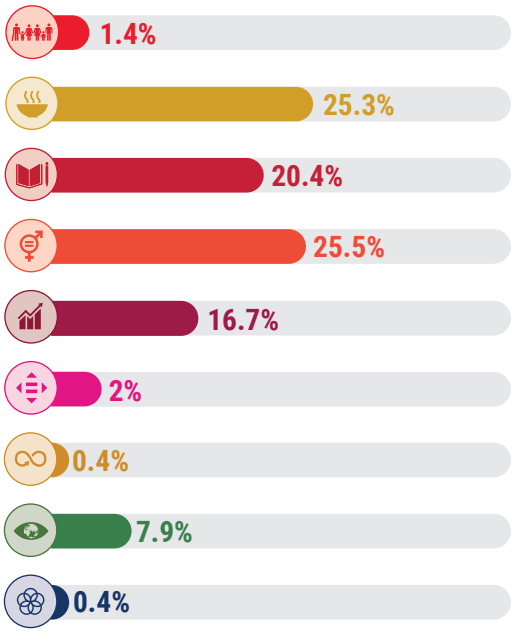
1. Supporting small businesses and skills development for inclusive growth

MSMEs and cooperatives are key drivers of economic growth, employment and resilience, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas. In 2024, the UN supported MSMEs by expanding access to markets, facilitating investment, and equipping businesses with

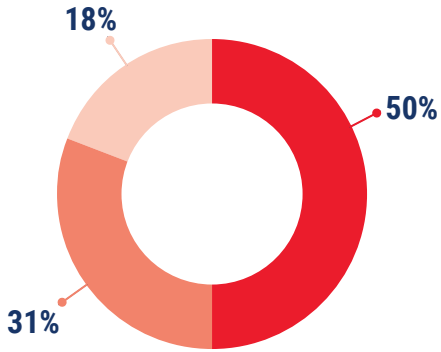
Funding in 2024

Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery (%)
8,817,913	7,784,982	88

Contribution to SDGs



Contribution to gender equality (USD)



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- **Marker 2**–2,911,559
- **Marker 3**–1,710,404

the tools and skills needed for long-term sustainability. The UN also worked closely with national partners to strengthen workforce development, vocational training and employment pathways, particularly for youth, women, displaced persons and persons with disabilities.

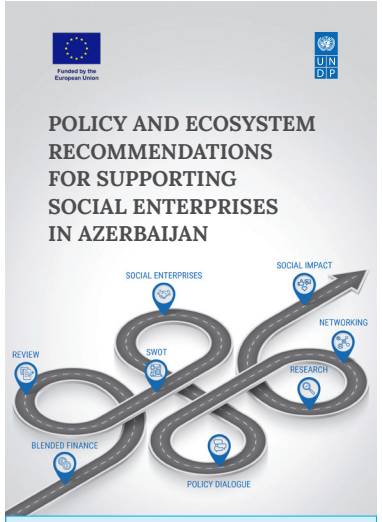
The expansion of the Eco-Milk dairy cooperative in Aghdam district with modernized equipment increased efficiency, product quality and market competitiveness for 23 members, enabling access to broader markets in the capital.

A Policy and Ecosystem Recommendations for Supporting Social Enterprises in Azerbaijan was developed, outlining key actions to strengthen the enabling environment, improve access to finance, and promote social entrepreneurship as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable development.

18 MSMEs have adopted resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) practices, to help them reduce resource use, cut costs and minimize environmental impact.

162 new small businesses were established, with women leading 126 of them.

Work with vocational education and training institutions (VETs) continued in 2024, leading to the launch with UN support of two new courses, on medical equipment repair and service, and electromechanical irrigation systems maintenance, with 97 students, including 25 persons with disabilities. Dual VET programmes expanded across 30 specializations. Additionally, collaborations with 120 employers and three curriculum roundtables further strengthened private sector partnerships in vocational training.



Click here to **download**

A total of 508 individuals (67 refugees, 447 women) received training in various skills, including business planning, tax calculation, bookkeeping, tailoring, confectionery, etc., equipping them with tools and knowledge to support their engagement in income-generating activities.

A career acceleration programme for young persons with disabilities was launched, supporting transition into the workforce through mentorship, skills training and workplace inclusion efforts.

Rəvana Hasanova from Aghjabadi creates unique handcrafted gypsum souvenirs. Supported by the Women's Resource Center, she has turned her passion into a business. Watch her story here. Photo credit: UNDP/Mammad Aliyev/2024

Story of hope

Rooted in tradition, growing with purpose

"Raised in a nomadic lifestyle, our approach is shaped by respect for nature and ecology, ensuring our products are pure and additive-free,"

says Mahammad Bayramov from Aghdam.

Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

Inspired by the traditional Tarakama way of life, Mahammad and fellow herders turned their seasonal migrations into a lasting collaboration, forming the Eco-Milk cooperative. With support from the UN, they transformed their operations by introducing modern tools, clean water systems and training in sustainable farming.

Today, the cooperative includes 23 families which produce organic dairy for regional markets. Their journey blends tradition with innovation, creating livelihoods and local food solutions for the future.

Read more here.

2. Enhancing agricultural policies and practices, rural tourism and economic resilience

Recognizing the economic vulnerabilities of rural communities, the UN has implemented targeted interventions to improve agricultural productivity, strengthen land management and diversify income sources, thereby ensuring long-term resilience and sustainability.

- Capacities of the Agrarian Services Agency were enhanced to align the national plant variety registration approval process with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards, ensuring effective documentation and management of genetic resources.
- The UN also strengthened the capacity of Azerbaijan's Food Safety Agency on food safety control systems and risk communication mechanisms. A comprehensive assessment of the country's food control system was carried out, identifying key areas for enhancement. This supports Azerbaijan's alignment with international food safety standards and contributes to long-term progress on SDGs 2 and 3.
- Capacities were built for 418 individuals across various institutions in areas such as climate-resilient agriculture, water management, plant variety registration, seed production, cooperative governance, and forest pest and disease management.

- The UN deepened its collaboration with academic institutions, particularly with the Azerbaijan State Agricultural University (ASAU) and ADA University, through joint events and discussions on food security, agricultural research and sustainability. A memorandum of understanding signed with ASAU formalized this partnership, promoting knowledge exchange and cooperation in rural development, sustainable value chains, water management and innovation.

- The registration of four regional soil laboratories, namely in Baku, Shamakhi, Guba and Tovuz, with the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN), has strengthened the quality and reliability of analysis to support long-term informed soil management decisions and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

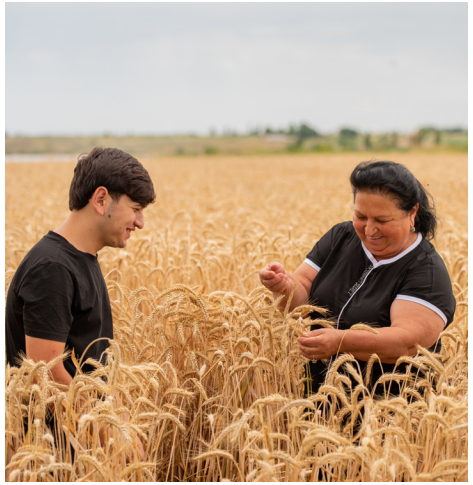
- Support for the development of land consolidation and land banking strategies aims to enhance farm productivity, optimize land use and expand access to arable land for smallholder farmers. A policy framework analysis and legal report on agricultural cooperatives provided key recommendations to the government to enhance the development, governance and effectiveness of agricultural cooperatives, supporting inclusive rural growth and sustainable agriculture.

- As ecotourism gains popularity in rural areas, the UN has contributed to initiatives such as establishing Urva's Tourism Information Center in the northern Gusar region, and developing a village brand to promote local food production. It also facilitated investment analysis for villages near Hirkan and Shirvan National Parks to balance environmental protection with economic activities, while restoring a pier in Shirvan National Park and enhancing visitor facilities at GizilGaz Lake to promote sustainable tourism.

- Additionally, the UN assisted in developing Five-Year Destination Management Plans for the Northwest and North Central districts, home to 120,000 residents, outlining strategies to attract visitors, expand tourism services and support local businesses. Seven mobile information points were installed to provide tourists with better access to travel information, local attractions and services. Infrastructure projects also included constructing a ceremony house, repairing village cafés and restoring cultural sites.

- A national value chain assessment identified five high-potential economic sectors, namely beef, sheep, tomato, wheat and grapes, providing policy recommendations to enhance rural livelihoods and employment opportunities, particularly for women, youth and marginalized groups.

- In addition, 2,314 farmers including 612 women, benefited from training and infrastructure improvements such as processing lines for tomatoes and pickled vegetables.



Minaya Alakbarova from Tovuz district member of a women-led cooperative formed under the Women's Empowerment Project examines crop in a wheat field.
Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

Challenges and lessons learned

1. Limited access to financial services, agricultural extension, markets and vocational training in rural communities remains a barrier to economic inclusion. Strengthening rural financial infrastructure, expanding digital banking and enhancing vocational training programmes are critical next steps to improve livelihoods, foster entrepreneurship and reduce inequalities.
2. Administrative challenges continue to restrict formal labour-market access for vulnerable populations. Legal advocacy and regulatory reforms are needed to enhance their economic participation and ensure access to decent work opportunities.
3. Despite progress in women's economic empowerment, gendered social norms continue to limit women's participation in high-growth industries. Strengthening gender-transformative economic policies and promoting women's leadership in key sectors remain priorities.

Story of hope

From displacement to healing the land

"Joining this project has made me feel like I'm part of something truly meaningful,"

says Narmin, one of the first women deminers to locate a landmine in her team.

Narmin moved with her children to an IDP settlement, holding onto the hope of one day returning to her hometown, once the land is made safe again. When she applied for a demining job, her decision raised concern in the family; however, she felt compelled to contribute. Today, she works alongside a team of courageous women, removing landmines and handing them over for safe disposal – clearing the way for return, recovery and peace.

"This is my first job. With my first paycheque, I supported my family. That moment gave us freedom and hope."

Read more here.

Photo credit: UNDP/Mammad Aliyev/2024

Jala is eager to shape a better future through sustainable technologies. At the STEAM Azerbaijan Festival 2024, she shared her work with passion and determination, believing that a cleaner, healthier environment benefits all. Photo credit: UNICEF/Mammad Aliyev/2024

Outcome 2.1:

Stronger institutions, quality public and social services

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

Ensuring inclusive, high-quality public and social services for the most vulnerable people

In 2024, the UN in Azerbaijan worked to enhance national capacities and governance structures to deliver inclusive, high-quality services, including in education, healthcare and social protection. These efforts aimed to ensure equitable access to essential services for all, particularly for women, children, refugees, former IDPs and rural populations. Through policy reforms, institutional strengthening and service delivery improvements, the UN supported Azerbaijan's commitment to leaving no one behind in its national development agenda.

1. Expanding inclusive access to quality education

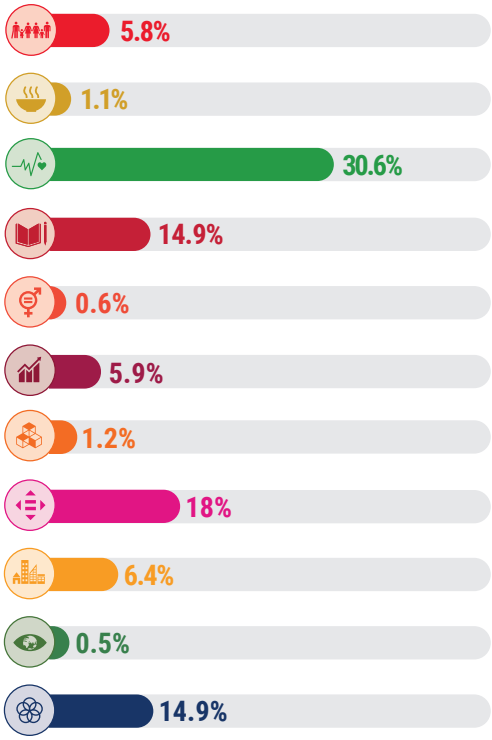
Education is a fundamental driver of sustainable development. In 2024, the UN supported Azerbaijan in the following:

- Community-based early childhood education programmes reached 18,000 children, including 8,640 girls.

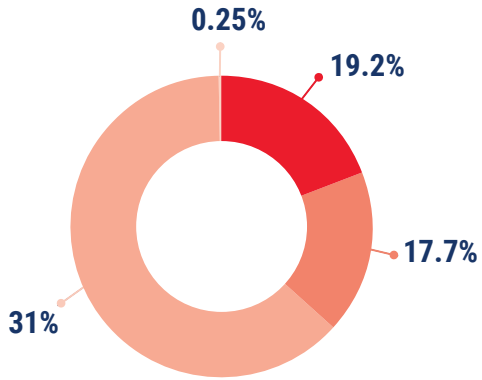
Funding in 2024

Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery (%)
15,547,984	12,269,600	79

Contribution to SDGs



Contribution to gender equality (USD)



- **Marker 0**–3,731,391
- **Marker 1**–3,445,458
- **Marker 2**–12,144,826
- **Marker 3**–50,000

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOM UN MIGRATION
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
UNDP
UN HABITAT
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
UNFPA
unicef for every child
World Health Organization

- Expanding inclusive education to 67 schools across 22 regions benefited over 4,600 children, including 350 children with disabilities and 168 girls.

- Specialized teacher training programmes equipped approximately 1,400 educators with inclusive education methodologies.

- Career counselling, skills development and work preparedness services were continued in 18 youth houses across the country, benefiting 596 young people including 337 girls, particularly young people and girls who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

- PROGRO, a youth-focused skills development platform, benefited 180 young people through training in human resources, finance and graphic design, offering accessible online training videos and podcasts to enhance employability.

- 370 refugee children (187 girls and 153 boys) were enrolled in primary and secondary education. They were supported through school enrolment assistance, financial aid for school supplies and preparatory courses.

- 326 schoolchildren (146 girls and 180 boys) benefited from an education allowance distributed to refugee and asylum-seeker families.

2. Strengthening healthcare systems

In 2024, the UN contributed to efforts to strengthen Azerbaijan's healthcare system, focusing on universal health coverage, maternal and child health, immunization, mental health services, and climate resilience in healthcare.

- The establishment of a multisectoral International Health Regulations Committee, formally recognized by the Cabinet of Ministers, marks a significant step in ensuring a coordinated response to emerging health threats.

- The UN supported the expansion of the universal progressive home visiting model by integrating it into the primary healthcare system and building the capacities of 1,028 nurses, 2,462 medical students and 8,480 other professionals on early childhood development (ECD) to ensure nationwide access to quality ECD and maternal health services.

- 6,357 children were vaccinated under national immunization campaigns and 427 healthcare workers were trained in immunization and communication practices, reducing the risk of measles and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

- The new Guideline for Immunization of Children incorporates UN recommendations and is now used by healthcare workers across 2,000 vaccination points.

- Immunization training was integrated into the undergraduate and postgraduate medical education curricula. Health curriculum updates include climate resilience and disaster preparedness, ensuring that future healthcare professionals are equipped to manage emerging health threats.

- Through the donation of over 6,000 cold chain equipment units, immunization infrastructure covered 100 per cent of national vaccine storage needs and 93 per cent of priority facility-level requirements. A centralized, computerized remote temperature monitoring system and the digitization of the cold chain inventory further improved the efficiency of vaccine safety and logistics management.

- 1,000 refugees, including 526 women and 66 stateless persons including 31 women, accessed essential healthcare services under the state health insurance system, which expanded coverage for primary, secondary and tertiary care.

- 3,263 individuals benefited from the seventeenth vision aid mission by Japanese Fuji Optical Co. Ltd. in the Agdam and Barda districts, with eye examinations and eyeglasses, lenses and hearing aids.

- The One Health Symposium organized by the UN brought together key stakeholders, leading to the establishment of a working group to define key priorities for the development of One Health strategy in line with in line with WHO's Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action. In the following months, this effort culminated in the launch of the National Strategy at COP29.

- The county's official recognition as free from peste des petits ruminants by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH/OIE) in 2024 was a result of comprehensive assessment of six priority livestock diseases and high-level policy discussions with UN support. This achievement strengthens long-term disease control efforts, enhances animal health and expands market access.

- The national legislation has been aligned with the International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes to advance maternal and child nutrition efforts. Technical support for fortifying wheat flour was also initiated to address micronutrient deficiencies at scale.

- Efforts to advance access to assistive technology and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and those in need focused on several key areas. An assistive product market analysis was conducted to identify gaps in availability, affordability and accessibility of assistive devices. The state-funded Assistive Products List was expanded from 81 to 127 items, increasing the availability of essential assistive devices. A draft framework for assistive product standards was developed to ensure quality, safety and accessibility of assistive devices.

- Capacities were built in preparedness and resilience to emerging threats and in antimicrobial resistance, helping national stakeholders strengthen early warning systems and improve risk mitigation strategies.

Story of hope

Turning concern into confidence

"Now, I'm so happy that Maryam and Mehraj have all the protection they need to grow up healthy,"

says Nuray, a mother from Nakhchivan.

Photo credit: UNICEF/2024

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted routine health services, Nuray Safarova, like many other parents, missed critical vaccination appointments for her two young children, 3-year-old Maryam and 5-year-old Mehraj. Lingering doubts, lack of clear information and delayed access left her uncertain about what steps to take.

Thanks to targeted outreach supported by the UN, Nuray participated in a campaign during World Immunization Week, where healthcare workers answered parents' questions, offered trusted, clear guidance, and finally completed the vaccination schedule for both of her children. Now, she not only feels at peace, but encourages other parents to do the same.

"I wasn't sure what to do for a long time, but now I confidently support immunization – and I tell other parents not to wait."

Read more here.

3. Enhancing social protection systems

Social protection mechanisms remain essential for vulnerable populations, including low-income families, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and former IDP communities. In 2024, the UN supported policy enhancements, expanded financial inclusion, strengthened social safety nets and improved service delivery.

- The UN supported the government's demining efforts, which successfully removed 384 explosive devices and restored 3.1 million m² of land in conflict-affected areas. Accredited women demining teams, employing 34 women, received operational certification, promoting gender-responsive workforce expansion in demining operations. Additionally, a feasibility study confirmed the viability and potential impact of establishing the International Centre of Excellence and Training in Mine Action (ICETMA).
- Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) programmes directly engaged over 10,000 children and their families, thereby enhancing awareness in conflict-affected regions and reducing risks from explosive remnants of war.
- Physicians from Zangilan, Shusha, Lachin and Qubadli districts were trained on the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) for primary healthcare, helping to strengthen mental health services in resettled areas.
- Child safeguarding mechanisms were established in 101 schools, addressing over 1,050 cases of violence against children, and over 10,200 teachers (83 per cent women) were trained to prevent and respond to violence against children, thus improving safety and inclusivity. This included:
  - 1,572 child victims of violence reached with social services in six districts;
  - 3,573 children in the Karabakh region provided with mental health and psychosocial support services.
- Child rights budgeting activities integrated child-friendly practices into national social protection strategies to enhance accountability and transparency in the allocation of public resources.
- Financial access for migrants remained a focus in 2024, with 220 professionals, including 102 women, bank and post office staff, representatives from financial institutions and migration authorities, participating in consultations to address systemic barriers and foster innovative solutions for migrants' financial inclusion.

Click here to **watch**

Photo credit: UNICEF/2024

- Socioeconomic benefits of cross-border remittances for migrant workers were enhanced by strengthening capacities of migration services and central banks, which were engaged and trained on improving migrants' access to banking and credit, addressing financial barriers, and exploring strategies to leverage remittances.
- The UN supported national partners to advance SRSP measures, including a draft intervention framework, legal analysis and financial strategy submitted to the government.
- A total of 263 government officials and members of the judiciary benefited from capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening the protection of the rights of foreigners and stateless persons, enhancing legal safeguards, and promoting cooperation with national and international partners.
- In 2024, Azerbaijan signed its twenty-second memorandum of understanding to share the "ASAN service" model, this time with Ethiopia. Facilitated by the UN, the agreement promotes institutional cooperation and knowledge exchange to support the adoption of Azerbaijan's citizen-oriented public service delivery approach in Ethiopia.

Story of hope
Amid the scars of war

It was an ordinary day in a quiet village near Aghdam – until a deadly landmine explosion took the lives of Akif's two sons, injured his 8-year-old grandson, and left him in the hospital with a broken leg. Huseyn, the grandson now struggles with trauma: he stutters when upset, is afraid of the dark and avoids speaking about what happened.

"My son still doesn't like to talk. He's scared,"

says Huseyn's mother.

The family now receives psychosocial support, helping them process their grief and begin healing. While the physical wounds are fading, the emotional ones remain deep.

Akif's story is a reminder of the silent toll of war – and the courage it takes for families to move forward.

Read more here.

Photo credit: UNICEF/2024

4. Promoting human rights and access to justice

Ensuring equal access to justice, legal identity and human rights protections is crucial for building inclusive governance, a fair society and social cohesion. In 2024, the UN worked alongside national partners to strengthen human rights mechanisms, legal institutions and participatory governance structures.

- Support provided to civil society organizations and lawyers resulted in 12 submissions to UN human rights treaty bodies, including the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and UN Human Rights Committee offering alternative and independent assessments and recommendations to complement the state reports.
- A total of 233 refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons, including 104 women, received legal assistance and documentation support, facilitating asylum processes, local integration and access to rights on residency, work permits, social benefits and labour rights. This included over 1,300 legal counselling sessions, with 34 stateless persons granted citizenship.
- 3,866 former IDPs, including 1,970 women, benefited from legal aid services and 1,140 legal counselling sessions in Baku, Ganja, Mingachevir, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Barda and Tartar.

Story of hope
A mother's relief: Protecting her child against the odds

"I thought my child would be infected too. I didn't know there was a way to protect him,"

says Aynishan Hasanova (name changed for confidentiality), 27, from Lankaran.

Aynishan only discovered she was HIV-positive when she became pregnant. Her husband had been living with the virus for years, but kept it a secret. Shocked and uncertain, she feared for her unborn child's future.

When the time came to give birth at the Lankaran Regional Perinatal Centre, doctors reassured her that mother-to-child transmission could be prevented with proper medical care. "I didn't know this was possible, but I agreed right away," Aynishan recalls. "I just wanted to protect my baby."

Thanks to the Safe Motherhood in Southern Azerbaijan project – implemented by the UN – Aynishan received the care and support she needed during pregnancy and childbirth. Her baby was born safely, and early tests show no signs of HIV.

Read more here.

Challenges and lessons learned

1. Rural and underserved populations continue to face barriers in accessing education, healthcare and social services, requiring further decentralization of service delivery and mobile service models.
2. Limited funding, systemic barriers and weak civil society capacity constrained the scale and outreach of results. Continued collaboration with the government and the private sector will be essential for ensuring achieved results are sustainable, especially for the most vulnerable people.
3. Refugees, migrants and stateless persons face administrative challenges in accessing legal status, social protection and healthcare, thus necessitating stronger policy advocacy.
4. Women and girls, particularly in rural areas, continue to experience barriers in education, employment and healthcare. Expanding gender-responsive policies and services is a priority.

As the number of inclusive schools grows in Azerbaijan, more children are learning, playing and growing together in supportive and diverse classrooms.
Photo credit: UNICEF/Aziz Karimov/2024

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Outcome 2.2:

Data-driven decision-making and policy

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

Enhancing data-driven decision-making for sustainable development

A robust data ecosystem is essential for inclusive governance and sustainable development, ensuring that policies and programmes effectively address inequalities and emerging challenges. In 2024, the UN in Azerbaijan worked alongside national partners to enhance institutional capacities for data collection, monitoring and reporting to support evidence-based policymaking that aligns with the SDGs. The interventions focused on improving data availability, disaggregation and accessibility, with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations with an emphasis on leveraging digital tools.

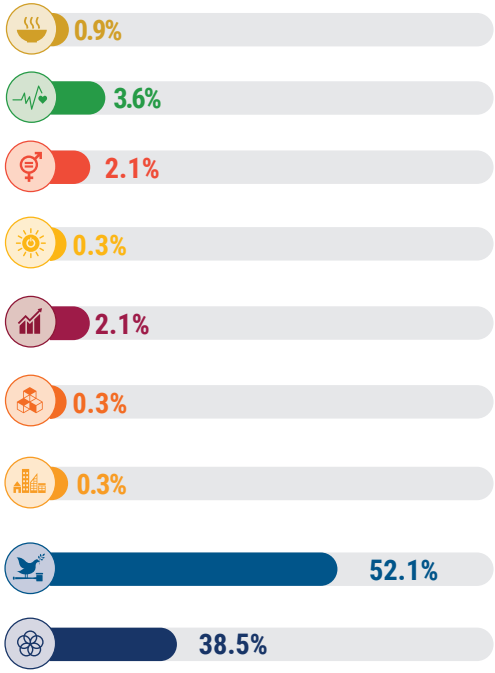
1. Strengthening institutional capacities for monitoring and reporting on SDGs and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle

Ensuring accurate, timely and disaggregated data is critical for tracking progress on national development goals. The UN supported Azerbaijan in expanding SDG monitoring systems and integrating data-driven governance mechanisms.

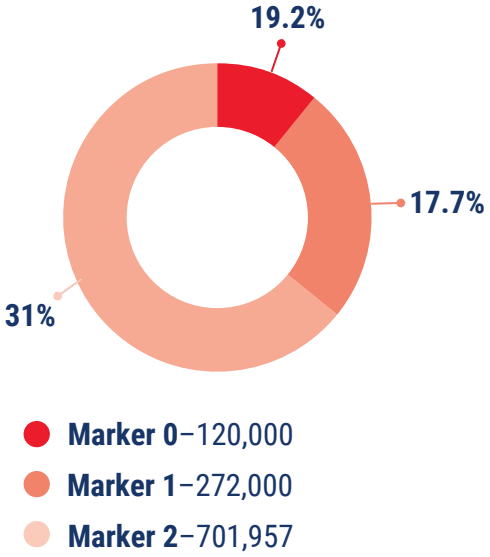
Funding in 2024

Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery (%)
745,062	699,976	94

Contribution to SDGs



Contribution to gender equality (USD)



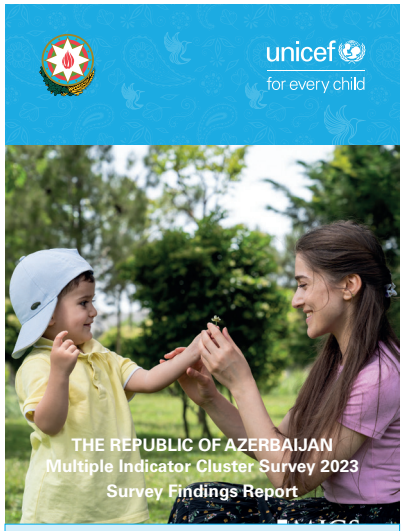
- The UN-supported Azerbaijan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was finalized in 2024, providing critical insights into child and maternal health, social inclusion and human development, making it one of the most valuable sources of disaggregated data in the country. With data collected from 12,360 households and covering 21 SDG indicators, MICS offers granular insights across regions, income groups and other demographic factors, enabling policymakers to identify disparities, improve public services and support inclusive development planning. Data generated through MICS was also instrumental for the analysis of disparities between the furthest behind and the furthest ahead groups in Azerbaijan, applying UN ESCAP's LNOB analysis methodology.

- The statistical yearbook "Women and Men in Azerbaijan" was updated with 16 new sex-disaggregated indicators integrated into the national statistics system, providing a more comprehensive gender analysis for gender-responsive policymaking.

- To further enhance SDG monitoring, the UN worked with the national institutions to develop a National SDG Tracker, a tool developed by UN ESCAP that allows real-time monitoring, data visualization and progress tracking.

Click here to **watch**

Photo credit: UNICEF/2024



Click here to **download**

The MICS findings demonstrated significant improvement in certain child rights areas, such as the under-5 child mortality rate, stunting among children and antenatal care coverage. However, the prevalence of violence against children, early marriage, immunization, exclusive breastfeeding and adolescent birth rate underscores the need for accelerating efforts to improve different areas of a child's life and enhance various services, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as girls and boys with disabilities and those living in remote rural areas.

2. Enhancing national capacities for evidence-based policymaking

Reliable and disaggregated data are essential for designing inclusive policies that effectively address inequalities and vulnerabilities. In 2024, the UN played a key role in enhancing national data infrastructure to generate high-quality evidence for policymaking.

- The operationalization of the Electronic System for Urban Planning Control integrated advanced digital technologies to enhance urban planning oversight.

- Geospatial and remote sensing technologies were introduced, with training of around 250 staff to collect data for agricultural, land-use and environmental monitoring, strengthening evidence-based policy planning.

- A number of subregional and regional initiatives on environment statistics and data, institutional sector accounts, Digital Agri Census and new data sources improved national capacities to advance officials statistics.

Challenges and lessons learned

1. Despite improvements, data collection on persons with disabilities, migrants, rural communities and the most vulnerable populations remains limited. Expanding methodologies for inclusive data collection is critical.
2. Although significant strides were made in data collection, analytical capacities require further enhancement to translate data into actionable policies and ensure evidence-based policymaking.
3. Institutional data-sharing frameworks need further harmonization across sectors, to ensure that different government agencies can access and utilize integrated data sets efficiently for more coordinated policymaking.

The dual vocational education programme supports students to master their practical skills and keep up with the trends in their fields. The students proudly share their latest baked creation, fresh out of the oven.
Photo credit: UNDP/2024

A farmer in Samukh district walks through his field where he is using sustainable farming practices introduced through a UN-supported initiative. Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IOM UN MIGRATION

UNDP

UNECE

UNIDO

Outcome 3.1:

Climate action and the environment

People, including those left behind, benefit from climate strategies and environment protection policies that ensure natural resources are sustainably managed, livelihoods are protected, and resilience strengthened

Strengthening resilience and environmental sustainability in Azerbaijan

In 2024, Azerbaijan positioned itself as a player in global climate action, hosting COP29 and advancing renewable energy initiatives. The UN supported national efforts by engaging in policy discussions, providing technical expertise and institutional capacity-building, and promoting environmental sustainability initiatives to ensure that climate policies address the needs of all communities, particularly vulnerable populations.

1. Strengthening institutional capacities for climate planning, finance and reporting

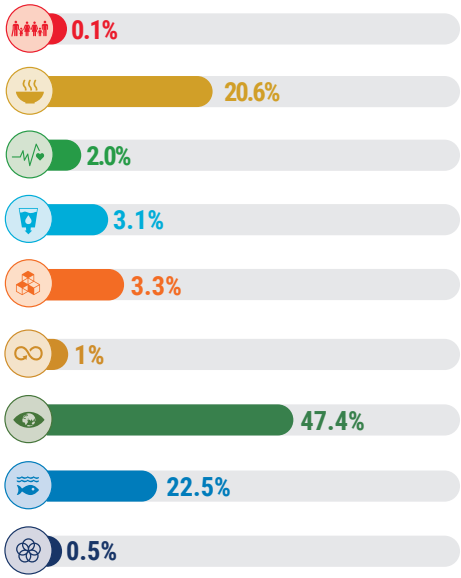
Ensuring effective climate governance requires robust institutional mechanisms for tracking emissions, accessing climate finance and integrating sustainability across sectors. In 2024, the UN continued supporting national efforts to advance these priorities.

- The first Biennial Transparency Report was submitted, a key reporting requirement under the Paris Agreement, aimed at enhancing climate accountability. It provides updates on greenhouse gas emissions, progress towards climate commitments, adaptation actions and climate finance.

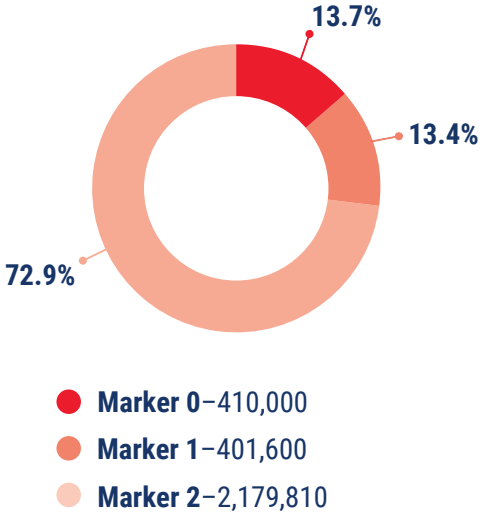
Funding in 2024

Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery (%)
2,543,242	1,519,687	60

Contribution to SDGs in 2024



Contribution to gender equality (USD)



- The country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was finalized, a strategy to integrate climate adaptation into national policies, address vulnerabilities for climate resilience in agriculture, water resources and disaster risk management, and improve access to climate finance.
- Fourteen specialized modules on climate governance were integrated into the Academy of Public Administration's sustainable development programme.
- 250 government officials, including 100 women, were trained on water and coastal adaptation and climate financing.
- 685 healthcare professionals received training on climate-related health vulnerabilities, improving capacities to integrate health systems and climate adaptation measures.
- A Climate Portal was developed, providing real-time access to climate risk data and adaptation solutions for policymakers.
- Compliance with international environmental conventions was strengthened, including through assistance in updating the country profile for the ratification of the Rotterdam Convention, and the finalization of Azerbaijan's National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, ensuring alignment with national priorities and global environmental commitments.
- Government officials received training on climate finance, green budgeting, policy integration, e-mobility adoption and transport resilience, equipping them with the skills to drive sustainable policies and enhance climate resilience across key sectors.
- An integrated reporting system for air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions was established under the Air Convention and UNFCCC, enhancing data consistency and environmental monitoring.
- Climate-focused education initiatives equipped 500 students, including 240 girls, with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-based green skills, and 1,300 preschool children with climate awareness.

The Youth Climate Envoys programme, launched in 2023, empowered approximately 600 young people (58 per cent girls) across Azerbaijan to actively engage in climate action. Through regional climate weeks and youth-led initiatives, the programme focused on equipping peers with the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable solutions and support green energy efforts. Youth voices were amplified on national and global platforms, including the Bonn Climate Change Conference, the Summit of the Future Youth Action Days and COP29. Additionally, the UN Youth Advisory Council (UNYAC) brought young people together at the COP29 Green Zone Youth Pavilion, where they presented a regional analysis of climate challenges in the South Caucasus and facilitated an interactive session for participants to identify key issues and co-develop solutions, reinforcing youth-led climate action.

2. Enhancing resilience through sustainable land and water management

Climate change threatens Azerbaijan's land, water resources and tourism sector, requiring adaptive policies to mitigate risks and enhance resilience to protect livelihoods in vulnerable regions. In 2024, the UN supported Azerbaijan in developing integrated approaches for sustainable and adaptive land-use policies, water management solutions and rural development, ensuring that communities facing climate risks benefit from sustainable resource use.

- The rehabilitation of three traditional *kahriz* water systems including in the Horovlu village of Jabrayil district, provided reliable water sources for 340 households for drinking, agriculture and livestock needs, ensured irrigation for 85.9 hectares of land and improved climate resilience for former IDPs and climate-vulnerable communities.
- The completion of a water management study informed climate-resilient water allocation and conservation policies.
- Legal and technical support for developing Azerbaijan's legislative framework for planning and managing specially protected natural areas enhanced the country's capacity to plan, manage and protect biodiversity-rich ecosystems.
- The inventory and monitoring system for Shirvan and Hirkan Protected Areas, alongside an analysis of investment opportunities, supported biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, identifying ways to reduce environmental pressures and support local economic activities.
- As a response to the emergence of a new invasive insect pest for the chestnut trees in Gakh district, biocontrol measured were immediately introduced, helping to support safe, practical and eco-friendly pest management.

3. Advancing energy efficiency solutions to reduce emissions

- Azerbaijan's transition to a green economy requires clean energy policies, efficiency measures and emission reduction strategies. In 2024, the UN supported Azerbaijan's acceleration towards a low-carbon economy, prioritizing renewable energy solutions through policy innovation, energy-efficient technology integration, sustainable infrastructure development and capacity-building.
- The development of a road map for Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) and Sustainable Management of Greenhouse Gases standards aligned Azerbaijan's energy policies with global carbon reduction commitments.
- Three new market assessment reports on smart energy, clean hydrogen and critical minerals were launched to support clean energy innovation in developing countries through new data, analysis and international collaboration.

4. Reducing environmental hazards and pollution in urban and rural areas

Azerbaijan's urbanization and industrial growth create opportunities for economic development while highlighting the need for sustainable environmental management. Strengthening evidence-based policies, regulatory frameworks and practical interventions helps safeguard natural resources, reduce pollution and enhance the quality of life. In 2024, the UN supported national efforts to foster cleaner, greener and more resilient urban and rural environments.

- Securing a USD 10 million Adaptation Fund project to build urban climate-resilient communities along the Caspian Sea coastline represents a landmark investment in localized climate adaptation.
- To support national efforts in managing hazardous waste and reducing environmental risks, capacities were built for the sustainable management of the Jangi pesticide landfill through a detailed assessment identifying key gaps and necessary improvements.
- Integrated pest management initiatives encouraged sustainable pest control practices and reduced reliance on hazardous chemicals, benefiting both health and environmental outcome of farmers and rural communities.
- A pesticide waste management action plan was developed, enhancing safe and sustainable hazardous agricultural chemical disposal in rural regions. 95 field personnel, including 26 women, were trained in pest diagnostics, biological control methods and disease surveillance. This aimed to improve pest and disease monitoring systems, enhancing the ability to respond to agricultural threats and reducing potential crop losses.
- An emergency plan for plant protection was developed to strengthen the country's preparedness and response to plant health threats, including pest outbreaks and diseases, ensuring the protection of crops and food security.
- A vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and the creation of a health and climate change country profile, aim to inform the National Action Plan for Health Security, ensuring health policies are climate-resilient.

Challenges and lessons learned

1. While Azerbaijan has strengthened access to climate and environmental financing mechanisms, further investment is required to scale adaptation and mitigation initiatives and ensure climate finance is efficiently absorbed and utilized.
2. Strengthening interministerial collaboration and technical expertise remains critical for aligning national climate actions with sectoral policies and implementing climate strategies effectively.
3. Ensuring that local communities actively participate in climate resilience strategies requires greater investment in awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes.
4. Expanding access to real-time environmental data will ensure more-targeted, evidence-based interventions.

Students at Bilasuvar Vocational Lyceum learn about new trends in agriculture, recycling, art with recycled materials and beekeeping.
Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

Tural Karimov is one of the fathers who shared a photo with his daughter for the exhibition to promote active fatherhood and the importance of men's involvement in childcare.
Photo credit: UNFPA/2024

Outcome 4.1:

Gender-equitable society

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

Advancing gender equality and promoting women's rights in Azerbaijan

In 2024, the UN in Azerbaijan supported national efforts to promote gender equality through policy support, advocacy and capacity-building. Efforts focused on enhancing women's participation in social, economic and political life, improving access to services, and addressing GBV and discrimination. Special attention was given to rural women, displaced populations and survivors of violence, aligning with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs.

1. Strengthening national gender equality policies and action plans

Ensuring sustainable progress in gender equality requires strong institutional frameworks and policies that translate commitments into action. The UN has worked closely with national institutions to develop and implement gender-responsive policies and action plans, reinforcing Azerbaijan's national efforts in preventing GBV and promoting women's empowerment.

Funding in 2024

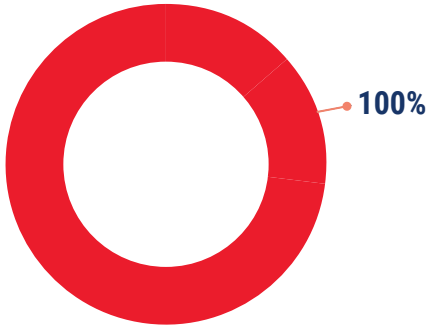
Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery (%)
1,631,041	1,251,514	77

- The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Policy Framework (2025–2029) was finalized, integrating comprehensive strategies for preventing, protecting against and responding to domestic violence. This framework strengthens Azerbaijan's legal and institutional mechanisms and aligns national efforts with international human rights standards.
- Standard operating procedures for GBV case management were established, outlining referral pathways, survivor-centred response protocols and improved coordination among service providers to ensure effective protection for survivors.
- The establishment of an accreditation mechanism for GBV services aims to strengthen quality standards in service provision, accountability and sustainability of support systems for survivors.
- Specialized training for 100 outreach workers in key areas, such as confidential referral processes, GBV and sexual and reproductive health integration, and psychological first aid, aims to improve case management reach and improve community trust and engagement with support services.

Contribution to SDGs

100%

Contribution to gender equality (USD)



Marker 3–2,338,965

- The national three-digit GBV helpline, providing psychological support, crisis intervention and referrals to survivors, operated continuously throughout 2024, benefiting 330 individuals.

- A gender-responsive reintegration plan for former IDPs in the Karabakh and East Zangazur regions was developed, supported by an independent needs assessment. Complementing this, guidelines on gender-sensitive and inclusive organization of public services were shared with key institutions to strengthen inclusive service delivery. Additionally, gender-sensitive prison management guidelines were developed in line with the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), promoting inclusive and rights-based approaches within the penitentiary system.

2. Challenging harmful gender stereotypes and norms

Public perception and societal norms play a crucial role in advancing gender equality. In 2024, the UN supported advocacy initiatives, media campaigns and community engagement programmes to promote positive gender norms, challenge harmful stereotypes and foster gender-equitable attitudes.

- 9,392 adolescent girls were reached with information on preventing violence and harmful practices, including early marriage and GBV.

- The 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign engaged over 300 students, helping young people recognize and challenge harmful gender norms while distributing educational materials on GBV and support services.

- The Papa Schools Project engaged 185 men across six regions, equipping fathers with skills to take active roles in caregiving and promoting positive fatherhood and equitable caregiving roles.

- Awareness-raising activities addressed key child rights issues, such as gender-based discrimination, GBV, early marriage and other harmful practices in six districts covering 2,698 persons.

3. Expanding women's skills, education and economic opportunities

Economic empowerment is key to ensuring that women can fully participate in social and economic life. Ensuring that women and girls acquire skills, education and economic opportunities is crucial to closing the gender gap and fostering women's empowerment. The UN has implemented targeted initiatives to expand economic participation, promote STEM education and build leadership skills for women and girls.

- 24 private sector companies signed up to the Women's Empowerment Principles, demonstrating their commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women in the workplace, marketplace and community.

- Women's Resource Centers provided project planning and foundational skills training to 2,107 conflict-affected women, supporting their economic empowerment and resilience.

- 1,388 women accessed legal guidance and advisory services to strengthen their economic participation, while 1,256 received psychological counselling in Tartar, Barda and Aghjabadi districts.

- 463 individuals, including 286 women, were reached with sessions on gender equality in the IDP communities in Aghdam, Baku, Ganja and Mingachevir, which included community meetings, paralegal consultations, sports, leisure and other capacity-building sessions.

Challenges and lessons learned

1. Despite strengthened policies and legal protections, GBV remains a significant challenge, requiring stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure survivors receive adequate protection and justice.
2. Harmful social norms continue to limit women's access to employment opportunities and resources, requiring greater investment in workplace policies and financial inclusion.
3. Women remain underrepresented in political and economic leadership roles across governance, business and civil society, highlighting the need for leadership-development initiatives, capacity-building programmes and policy interventions.

✨ Story of hope

Hope dies last

What began as a blissful marriage quickly turned into a cycle of control, isolation and abuse. Locked in a room for days, cut off from family and friends, and blamed by her in-laws, Aynur (name changed for confidentiality) held on to one thing: hope.

When she discovered the 860 helpline offering confidential psychological support, everything changed. Through eight sessions with a trained psychologist, Aynur rebuilt her confidence, rediscovered her professional identity and found the strength to leave the marriage. Today, she has returned to her career as a teacher, achieved financial independence and chosen not to return to the abusive relationship, despite pressure to reconcile.

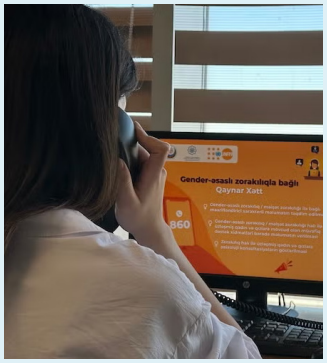


Photo credit: UNFPA/2024

"Hope dies last," Aynur says. "But now, I live for today – with my daughter, and for myself."

Read more here.

2.3. Support to partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2024, the UN in Azerbaijan forged and strengthened key development partnerships across government entities, the private sector, international development partners and civil society to advance the SDGs in Azerbaijan, as well as to support Azerbaijan as the host of COP29.

Strengthening partnerships for SDG acceleration, financing and policy coherence

- **SDG dialogue platform:** The National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development and the UN continued leveraging this platform and co-organized two multi-stakeholder SDG dialogues in 2024: Stakeholder Consultation on 4th Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Azerbaijan and Women's Economic Empowerment for SDG 5 Acceleration and Future Echoes: Bridging Paths for Climate Action and Global Goals. These dialogues brought together the government and other stakeholders to engage in policy discussions focusing on advancing specific SDGs and scaling up climate finance for nationally determined contributions implementation with targeted policy briefs and recommendations.

- **Azerbaijan-Lao People's Democratic Republic VNR Twinning Initiative:** Facilitated by UN ESCAP and the UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) of the two countries, this peer exchange between Azerbaijan and Lao People's Democratic Republic has strengthened the VNR process in both countries through peer learning and knowledge exchange. Through a series of virtual and in-person exchanges, countries shared practical experiences in SDG prioritization, policy alignment and stakeholder engagement. A key focus of the exchange was on national SDG 18, which both countries have adopted to address landmine threats and explosive remnants of war as barriers to sustainable development. The initiative set the stage for further joint advocacy on SDG 18 at the High-Level Political Forum, including through the side event titled "UXO/Mine Action to Attain the Sustainable Development Goals and Leave No One Behind". Additionally, the countries exchanged insights on digitalization of public service delivery and national development planning, opening opportunities for continued cooperation.

- **Beijing+30:** Azerbaijan's active participation in the Beijing+30 Regional Review as well as the development of the National Review Report highlighted continued national efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. The report refers to the government's ongoing efforts to integrate gender-sensitive budgeting, as well as plans to expand it to other SDG areas, including climate.

Farida Tahmazova, UN Youth Climate Envoy, talks to the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Dr. Felipe Paullier at COP29. Photo credit: UNRCO/2024

2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

In 2024, the UN in Azerbaijan made significant progress in advancing system-wide coherence, efficiency and effectiveness, leveraging the UN reform agenda to enhance the impact of joint programming, policy advice and operational collaboration. These efforts strengthened the UNCT's ability to deliver integrated, high-quality support to the government and national partners while increasing efficiency and reducing redundancies.

UNCT configuration and coordination mechanisms

- The **UNSDCF 2021–2025** remained the foundation for the UN's collective action, ensuring that entity-specific programmes align with broader UNCT objectives. The RCO played a key role in aligning UN efforts by facilitating results groups and thematic working groups to ensure coherence across agencies.

- The **Common Country Analysis (CCA) Interagency Task Force** developed the new, full CCA, incorporating strategic foresight by undertaking horizon scanning. The CCA also includes a common chapter on the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), developed by six RCOs under the leadership of the Regional Development Coordination Office. Following the 2024 SPECA Heads of States Summit, hosted in Baku, which called for further deepening regional integration, the common chapter investigated the issues that affect SPECA participating states simultaneously, highlighting opportunities for greater economic cooperation.

Joint programming and implementation of system-wide policies

- In 2024, the **UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS)** continued as a cross-cutting priority. Situational analysis and capacity-building on disability inclusion were conducted as part of the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD)-funded inception phase. Employment and representation of persons with disabilities, including onboarding a UN Volunteer with a disability to support COP- and UNSDCF-related coordination work, reinforced commitment to workplace inclusion. A modest yet important step was taken to make the UN House more accessible to persons with disabilities: its ground floor is now accessible for people using a wheelchair, while representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities have made further recommendations on how to make the UN House more disability inclusive.

- The UN actively engaged the **UN Youth Advisory Council** (**UNYAC**), a diverse group of 17 young people including women, persons with disabilities, and youth from regions in consultations and dialogues, including those ahead of the Summit of the Future in the lead-up to COP29, in line with the UN's commitment to meaningful youth participation. UNYAC members also represented Azerbaijan at the North and Central Asia SDG Forum organized by UN ESCAP. In order to integrate youth perspectives into UN strategies and programmes, UNYAC members were consulted as part of the external evaluation of the CF and the CCA.

UNYAC also had the opportunity to meet with the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs during his in-country visit in November, when they exchanged views on implementing the recently adopted Pact for the Future.

Operational efficiencies and cost-saving measures

- Implementation of the **Business Operations Strategy** resulted in operational efficiencies and cost-saving in the areas of procurement, administration, finance, human resources and ICT. In 2024, the UN achieved cost-avoidance and cost-savings totalling USD 50,699, realized through common premises and common administration services. Beyond, the UN agencies also achieved efficiency gains through joint initiatives in the context of COP29, including shared management of the UN Azerbaijan Pavilion.

Click here to **watch**

As part of the 3 December International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the inclusive ESA Theatre Group — composed of persons with and without disabilities — performs a play on climate action.
Photo credit: UNRCO/Mammad Aliyev/2024

UN Country Team meets with UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed during her visit to Baku before COP29.
Photo credit: UNRCO/2024

Joint communication and advocacy for greater impact

- The joint UN communication and advocacy efforts focused on climate action, to capitalize on the positive momentum created by Azerbaijan's hosting of **COP29**. To amplify the people-centred messaging related to climate action, with a focus on vulnerable groups that are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, the UN collaborated closely with the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29 and the Youth Climate Champion for COP29.
- In line with the **Rio Trio initiative** by Azerbaijan, Colombia and Saudi Arabia as the presidencies of the three COPs (on the UN conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification) all taking place in 2024, the UN Resident Coordinators of the three countries engaged in joint advocacy efforts to call for cross-convention cooperation to drive effective and integrated solutions for sustainability at the country level.

A group of youth discuss a new project on land degradation in Gobustan.
Photo credit: FAO/Javid Gurbanov/2024

2.5. Evaluation and lessons learned

The 2024 Final Evaluation of the UNSDCF assessed implementation from March 2021 to June 2024, covering contributions from all UNCT agencies, both resident and non-resident. It reviewed cross-cutting themes, UN programming principles and the geographical scope of interventions.

Key findings:

- **Relevance and adaptability:** The UNSDCF aligns well with Azerbaijan's development priorities, but faces gaps in indicator quality, data reliability and responsiveness to emerging issues like the Great Return Programme. More adaptive and data-driven strategies are needed.
- **Coherence:** Coordination mechanisms-maintained coherence, but some inconsistencies exist between CF objectives and implementation, especially in inclusive growth. Gender and other cross-cutting areas require more systematic integration.
- **Effectiveness:** The CF effectively mobilized UN expertise and supported national policies across sectors. However, siloed implementation and limited collaboration hinder systemic change.
- **Efficiency:** Coordination reduced costs and improved delivery. Cost-sharing with the government enhanced resource use, though integration across outcomes remains limited.
- **Coordination:** The RCO played a key role in ensuring collaboration, managing communications and promoting the SDG agenda, despite some internal resistance to change due to reverse corporate incentives and legacy.
- **Impact**: The CF contributed to SDG integration into national systems and advanced policy reforms in areas like education and the environment. However, scaling grass-roots efforts remains a challenge.
- **Sustainability:** Strong alignment with national strategies and government ownership supports sustainability. However, human rights and gender equality require stronger engagement with civil society.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthen cross-sector integration and refine monitoring systems.
2. Align future CFs with top national priorities, including the Great Return Programme.
3. Base CFs on realistic, well-structured results frameworks.
4. Support national data systems and SDG integration.
5. Consolidate results and thematic groups for better coordination.
6. Explore joint programming and integrated funding mechanisms.
7. Embed sustainability and local ownership from the design stage.
8. Mainstream gender, human rights and LNOB in all phases.
9. Empower results groups and monitoring, evaluation and learning teams in joint planning.

Lessons learned

1. Joint programming accelerates SDG progress and builds capacity.
2. The RCO's coordination role is central to CF success.
3. Strong partnerships and local engagement ensure sustainability.
4. Updated and realistic results frameworks are essential.
5. Harmonized implementation practices and use of UNINFO must be improved.
6. Joint work programmes should serve as strategic tools, not just administrative exercises.

2.6. Financial overview and resource mobilization

2.6.1. Financial overview for 2024

Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery (%)
29,285,242	23,525,759	80

By outcome

	Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery (%)
Outcome 1.1 Inclusive Growth	8,817,913	7,784,982	88
Outcome 2.1 Stronger Institutions	15,547,984	12,269,600	79
Outcome 2.2 Data for Policies	745,062	699,976	94
Outcome 3.1 Environment and Climate Action	2,543,242	1,519,687	60
Outcome 4.1 Gender-equitable Society	1,631,041	1,251,514	70
Total	29,285,242	23,525,759	80

By UN entities

	Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)
UNDP	14,038,962	12,707,488
UNHCR	5,258,856	5,258,856
FAO	3,810,600	1,717,015
UNICEF	2,969,999	2,140,137
IOM	1,127,744	158,939
UNFPA	863,644	491,117
WHO	630,751	626,751
UN-HABITAT	407,686	273,456
UNECE	57,000	32,000
OHCHR	50,000	50,000
UNIDO	50,000	50,000
ILO	20,000	20,000

By funding source

	Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)
United Nations	8,617,860	7,503,624
European Union	8,238,958	7,102,014
Government of Azerbaijan	5,776,693	5,054,947
Government of the United States of America	2,797,286	1,000,263
The Global Environment Facility	1,130,000	616,552
Government of the United Kingdom	1,038,159	1,038,159
The Green Climate Fund	799,810	453,261
Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited	360,452	273,866
Government of the Netherlands	155,692	155,692
Government of Germany	141,696	141,696
Government of Türkiye	120,000	85,050
Irish National Commission	50,000	41,999
Association for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	33,636	33,636
ATscale Global Partnership	25,000	25,000

2.6.2 Resource mobilization

The UN in Azerbaijan mobilized and spent close to USD 118 million between 2021 and 2024 (around 50 per cent of the total USD 235.3 million required for implementing the UNSDCF as indicated in the Multi-year Funding Framework). The Government of Azerbaijan ranked among the top three contributing partners. The UN also invested its core resources, particularly during periods of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict. UN also succeeded in mobilizing around USD 1 million from the Joint SDG Fund to support the government in developing the Integrated National Financing Framework.

Although there were approximately 15 contributing partners, including the UN, three funding sources – the UN, the European Union and the Government of Azerbaijan – collectively accounted for over 70 per cent of all funding. The majority of contributions originated from Member States, with only three vertical funds (the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) contributing. Moreover, from 2021 to 2024, two private sector companies and one international NGO contributed financial resources.

This all underscores the imperative for greater diversification of, and more-substantive, partnerships. The challenge for resource mobilization in Azerbaijan is multifaceted, stemming from its status as an upper-middle-income country, the limited number of contributing partners within the country, the absence of joint fund initiatives, and the diverging attention of contributing partners due to other needs in the region on account of conflicts.

Years	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021–2024
Mobilized (USD)	28,853,948	44,398,651	38,873,6792	9,435,2421	41,561,520
Spent (USD)	26,334,213	32,612,773	35,01,164	23,525,759	117,773,909

UNCT key focus for 2025

Building on 33 years of strong cooperation between the Government of Azerbaijan and the UN, 2025 will be a pivotal year for redefining the focus and modalities of our partnership, as Azerbaijan advances its development as an upper-middle-income country in a rapidly evolving context.

This renewed engagement will be shaped through the formulation of the next United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2026–2030. The process will be co-led with the Government and grounded in broad-based consultations with national stakeholders. It will also align with the global UN development system reform agenda, which emphasizes agility, responsiveness and a firm alignment with national priorities.

The UNCT remains committed to working alongside the government to advance national development priorities and accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda. The lessons learned under the current CF – and the momentum generated by Azerbaijan's leadership at COP29 – will serve as valuable foundations for shaping an ambitious and forward-looking agenda.

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