

**ADDENDUM TO THE FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL
FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

International representation

According to the information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, there are 111 women out of 332 total employees and 9 women are holding decision-making position out of 85 decision-making positions in the Ministry.

Health

Maternal death rate was 34,5 for each 100 000 women in 2007 and 26,3 in 2008.

Several important documents have been adopted during the last three years on the improvement of the health system.

The State Program on Protection of Health of Mothers and Children dated 2006 envisages de-centralization of healthcare services. As a result, more than 300 medical institutions were established in the country after the last three years. These activities are in compliance with the State Program on Social and Economic Development of the regions for 2004-2008 as well. The Program is being financed by the state budget and 33 125 000 USD have been allocated for the implementation of the Program. In the frame of the Program, 3 prenatal centers out of 7, which will be established by 2010, have been established

already. 2 of them will be established this year. These centers are provided with modern equipment, trained staff and medical protocols. The trained staff is regularly monitored by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

The National Strategy on Reproductive Health (which exists in only 5 countries in the world) was adopted in 2008 along with the envisaged action plan. The financial support for the Program is provided by the state budget, World Bank and other international organizations.

Family planning

The observations showed that contraceptive methods are to be included in the main list of medicaments that are provided by the state. Another objective is to train the medical personnel in the use of such methods. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted a draft law “On protection of reproductive and family planning” that passed at its first hearing in December 2008. The draft law includes a separate paragraph on the State’s obligations of providing all population with contraceptive methods on a free basis.

Abortions

Abortions are legalized in the country free of charge. The major concern of the Government is to prevent selective abortions. Therefore, the draft law “On protection of reproductive health and family planning” contains a special paragraph that prohibits selective abortions.

As a result of misuse of medicaments ,3 women were died during abortions. This fact served as a reason to apply to GYNUITY project. The main objective of the Project is to prevent maternal mortality through application of appropriate medical treatment and medicaments.

12 adolescents' centers have been established with the support of UNICEF. These centers provide young girls and boys with necessary information on family life, STD etc.

Employment

In 2008, 816 000 people in more than 179 000 families benefited from targeted social aid, of which 412 000 were women. This activity aims at raising revenues of families with low-income.

There is a quota system for families with disabled persons; young people fewer than 20, and single mothers. Thus, in 2008, 99 persons who are under 20; 222 persons under the full age and more than 200 single mothers and families with disabled persons.

Education

It is worthy of mentioning, that since 2003 the budget allocated to education has been considerably raised:

Years	Budget allocated (USD)
2003	304 000
2004	385 312
2005	473 303

2006	623 150
2007	947 173
2008	1 394 278

Capital investment in education was raised from 7 250 000 USD in 2004 to 275 000 000 USD in 2008.

There is no discrimination on the basis of gender in presenting grants and scholarships. The representatives of vulnerable groups, such as refugees and IDPs, are exempted from tuition fee.

71% of employees in primary schools, 73% working in secondary schools and 47% working in higher educational institutions are women. More than 50% of women teachers won in contests “the best school” and “The best teacher” held in Azerbaijan.

The share of the educational sector in the State budget has grown during recent years. Since 2003 the budget allocations for education have increased by 25.2%. As from 1999, a ten-year State Program on Educational Reforms in the Republic of Azerbaijan (supported by international organizations) was adopted. The main goal of the State Program was the improvement of the quality of education through the reform of educational courses, the elaboration of national educational standards, the publication of new textbooks and the computerization of schools.

	2007/2008 school year
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	Total number of pupils	<i>Of them</i>	
		Girls	boys
Number of pupils in secondary schools	1480636	703069 47%	777567 53%
<i>Of them</i>			
I-IV forms and preparatory classes	492853	231318 46%	261535 54%
V-IX forms	736684	351120 47%	385564 53%
X-XI forms	244649	118298 48%	126351 52%
Urban areas	788402	368785 46%	419617 54%
<i>Of them</i>			
I-IV forms	259272	119773 46%	139499 54%
V-IX forms	391813	184917 47%	206896 53%
X-XI forms	130867	64095 48%	66772 52%
Rural areas	692234	331951	360283
<i>Of them</i>			

I-IV forms	233581	111545 47%	122036 53%
V-IX forms	344871	166203 48%	178668 52%
X-XI forms	113782	54203 48%	59579 52% ¹

According to the statistics, the percentage of girls graduating from higher educational institutions in 2007-2008 is 45,4%.²

Graduates from higher educational institutions

<i>Years</i>	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>Number of persons graduated from higher educational institutions (bachelor and master diplomas)</i>				
<i>- persons</i>	27784	23999	26875	26593
<i>As well as:</i>				
<i>Men:</i>				
<i>Total</i>	15336	12046	14982	14518
<i>%</i>	55,2	50,2	55,7	54,6

¹ Education, science and culture in Azerbaijan. State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 2008

² *Ibid.*

Women:

<i>Total</i>	12448	11953	11893	12075
%	44,8	49,8	44,3	45,4

48% of employees working in the sphere of applied and exact sciences, 23% of employees working in the engineering sphere, 61% of employees working in the medical sphere, are women.

It worth mentioning, that in 2008, 131 postgraduate students from a total of 183 in the sphere of philology, 76 postgraduate students from a total of 125 in the field of biology, 65 postgraduate students from total 102 in the sphere of chemistry, 63 postgraduate students from a total of 92 in the medical sphere are women.³

There are 4545 schools, as well as 31 boarding schools, 50 lyceums, 8 gymnasiums in the country. 664 schools out of above-mentioned number of schools are envisaged for IDP children. 175 221 pedagogues are engaged in the teaching process of 1 483 311 pupils in schools. Besides, there are 19 special schools for children with limiting health conditions.

Trafficking in women and sexual exploitation

In order to prevent trafficking in women, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducts regular monitoring of employment agencies that conclude job agreements. Once their

³ On the issues of post-graduate and doctoral education in 2008. State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Baku-2009

activity is in compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, they are granted the relevant license. In 2008 several employment agencies were deprived of their license.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan worked out a pilot project in collaboration with local NGO "Initiative for the sake of development" consisting of establishment of crisis line for young people who became victim of trafficking or violence. More than 6 000 calls were received during the one year of the line's functioning. There were no calls concerning trafficking; however 12% of the calls were complaints about violence.

In order to raise-awareness of the population on negative consequences of trafficking in women, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs made a film titled "Betrayed life" in collaboration with UNFPA and UNHCR. The film is based on real story of women who became victims of trafficking.

Women in economy

The economic reforms conducted in the country are directed to the improvement of the welfare of the population. The first phase of the State Program on Social and Economic Development of the regions of Azerbaijan for 2004-2008 gave impetus to the development of micro and medium entrepreneurship in the regions. The second phase of the Program focuses mainly on development of entrepreneurship and the improvement of infrastructure in remote areas of the country.

47% of women deal with agriculture and the Government pays great attention to this sphere. The Government has abolished all taxes in agriculture excluding land tax. The Government also allocates a special budget for the support of

rural areas. For this purpose, about 100 million USD is allocated from the state budget annually. Besides, the Government of Azerbaijan established a company “Agroleasing” that renders support to people especially to women, willing to have their own economy.

Violence against women

In the framework of the Project “XXI century without violence against women” PSA has been shot, highlighting the importance of the protection of women against violence and the possible negative consequences of violence. The PSA includes critical opinions of famous male representatives in different spheres of the society on the violence against women.

International public union “Evolution and Integration” in collaboration with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan worked out the joint project “Elimination of violence against women: raising awareness of IDP women who faced double violence”. The Project covered the period from January to February 2009. The major objective of the Project is to define the forms of violence integrated into the daily lives of IDP women, to fight against violence by increasing awareness of the population of this issue, to hold awareness-raising seminars and trainings.

With the initiative of UNFPA Turkish experts were invited in order to work out the strategy on violence against women. The experts held meetings with relevant organizations to facilitate the evaluation of the situation. As a result of the meetings the initial draft of the strategy has been prepared and was presented to the representatives of relevant state bodies. 5 crisis centers are supposed to be established within the Project.

In April 2009, the Deputy City Attorney of Paris visited the country at the invitation of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs. The objective of the visit was exchange of experience with state agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the issues of violence against women, activity of state bodies in such cases and in other spheres. The expert had high-level meetings in the Court of Constitution, Prosecutor's Office, National Parliament and Ministry of Internal Affairs. In line with meetings, the expert conducted training in the Academy of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Eliminating discrimination against women in marriage and family relations

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan celebrates May 15 – International Family Day and June 1 – International Day of Children on a country scale. Within the Family Day, festivals among the families selected from all regions of the country thus, contributing to the solidarity between the members of the families. June 1 is accompanied by measures dedicated to raising-awareness of children especially those from vulnerable groups and measures for increasing their intellectual and physical abilities.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UNICEF and International Center for Social Researches initiated study on early marriages. The research reflects the results of a survey conducted mainly in southern regions of the country, where cases of early marriages occur often. The results of the research were discussed in a round

table with the participation of state bodies, NGOs and international organizations.

Among the measures taken by the Azerbaijani Government for preserving and strengthening of the family institution, measures for the prevention of family break-up plays great role. These measures cover early marriages that impede girls' education and health, improvement of legislation etc. The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan aims at reducing such negative cases by conducting broad awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with executive authorities.