

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının
BMT yanında Daimi
Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and with reference to the Secretary-General's Note Verbale UNW/2019/006, dated 8 May 2019, has the honor to submit the national report prepared by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/148 on "Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 20 May 2019



The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
New York

Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs jointly with international organizations cooperates on the projects to help women in rural areas to create their own businesses. During 2017-2018 more than 500 rural women have been provided with capacity development support. As a result, women improved their professional skills in the field of accounting, CV and resume writing, presentation skills, financial literacy, computer science, fundraising, proposal writing and organizational development. Only in one region of the south of Azerbaijan, more than 800 school girls got access to improved water sanitation in the result of installation of new sewerage systems in 6 communities.

New created Women Resource Centers in 8 regions of the country offer women and girls free access to library resources, internet, computers, and many more. An impressive network of more than 3000 rural women was created through these centers. Over years, more than 100 women, all in all, were able to build on their entrepreneurial potential and start new businesses, through in-kind grant support, business development training and mentorship from UNDP and partners. Today, they are successfully pursuing their own businesses, additionally employing the total of 50 other women in these new establishments.

The technical assistance projects on "The promotion of women's participation in economic and social life in rural and regional areas" are being continued in the country since 2011 to create the mechanism for disseminating knowledge, teaching skills and facilitating information exchange in the area of rural women's economic empowerment. The Project envisioned this mechanism as a regional Women's Resource Centers focusing on economic and social empowerment of rural women and strengthen our efforts in addressing the needs and concerns of rural women in the area of economic and social participation. 8 Women Resource Center were opened as a result of the project. Totally, 5500 women benefited from the project,

102 women started the entrepreneurship activity, 50 women were provided with jobs since 2011. During 2018, 904 women participated in trainings, 28 women joined business activity, 17 women found new jobs.

By strengthening training and extension services for rural women in Azerbaijan, FAO has launched a new project with the aim of improving women's socio-economic empowerment and their inclusion in the paid employment sector. The project titled "Capacity Development Support to Rural Women on the Socio-economic and Gender Aspects of Sustainable Rural Development". Within the scope of the project, FAO supported the development of a need analysis and training strategy in three pilot provinces in Azerbaijan. The provinces have been selected based on the regional differences, agricultural production patterns and capacity of women's organizations in those cities. FAO shared its experiences with national extension service staff in undertaking gender-sensitive needs assessment, giving support for designing and providing training that targets the specific needs and priorities of rural women, especially on promoting empowerment of rural women, food security and livelihoods. The project was closely related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly MDG 3 which advocates the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. According to agricultural census data for 2015, the share of women in the total number of people engaged in agricultural work was 48.6%. According to agricultural census data of 2015, the share of female farm managers in the total number of farm managers that owned and/or used lands as individual entrepreneur, family-peasant and household farms was 9.4%.

Alongside with the Business development trainings special awareness raising and sensitization campaigns to change gender stereotyping related to the choice of jobs and gender-based distribution of family duties are conducted regularly. Government holds meetings with the private sector and banks to sensitize them to gender specific needs and initiate dialogue between the businesses and civil society activists to promote women's rights. Special trainings on the «Development of policies and programmatic interventions in the area of economic empowerment and community-based activism of young women» and «Gender-sensitive policies and programmatic

interventions for economic participation of rural women» are conducted for the staff of local executive authorities and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, representatives of trade unions, private sector enterprises, and public officials from other relevant agencies.

Due to the State Program on Social-Economic Development of Regions, the special attention is paid to establish child and family centers, including, dedicated leisure facilities and specialized services centers for children in all region of Azerbaijan. The president of Azerbaijan gave assignment during the meeting on the results of the socioeconomic development of the first quarter of 2017 to open new kindergartens on the first floor of the newly built buildings , in order to solve the kindergarten problem in Azerbaijan. 19, 577 million AZN (11,510 million \$) was allocated by the government for the construction of the new kindergartens' in 15 cities and villages during 2018.

Agriculture is an important part of the country's economy, therefore it is considered in the context of overall development. Government pays special attention to the implementation of agrarian reforms, The Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan has presented AMAL - a new project aimed to increase agricultural employment. The project defines three main priorities – employment, use of green technology innovations and improvement of entrepreneurial and professional skills. The goal of the new project is to increase interest in agriculture and prevent the flow to the city, food security, and environmental protection. At the first stage, workshops on the formation of business ideas, agriculture and innovation, development of a business plan, development of a financial model ,marketing and sales, creating small production facilities and greenhouses for women are being conducted for a group of future entrepreneurs. By strengthening training and extension services for rural women in Azerbaijan, FAO has launched a new project with the aim of improving women's socio-economic empowerment and their inclusion in the paid employment sector. Within the scope of the project «Capacity Development Support to Rural Women on the Socio-economic and Gender Aspects of Sustainable Rural Development», FAO supported the development of a need analysis and training

strategy in three pilot provinces in Azerbaijan. The provinces have been selected based on the regional differences, agricultural production patterns and capacity of women's organizations in those cities. FAO shared its experiences with national extension service staff in undertaking gender-sensitive needs assessment, giving support for designing and providing training that targets the specific needs and priorities of rural women, especially on promoting empowerment of rural women, food security and livelihoods. The project was closely related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which advocates the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

In the framework of the Azerbaijani Rural Investment Project (ARIP) implemented by the State Agency for Agricultural Projects and Loans Management under the Ministry of Agriculture, almost 100 women have participated at the project in 2018 and new businesses were established. They are allocated five year long loans in the amount of 5,000 AZN (2940\$). This project has organized zonal gender workshops in districts, and each event has attracted 100 women from 44 communities into training on the role of women in community development. According to the information provided by the State Service for Management of Agricultural Projects and Loans, the Azerbaijani Rural Investment Project has used the funds in the amount of 140 million USD and such projects serve to better the life of rural population . 200 micro projects, including restoration of auxiliary rural roads, potable water supply, exhibition centers, renovation projects and creation of business incubators have been implemented successfully.

According to agricultural census data for 2015, the share of women in the total number of people engaged in agricultural work was 48.6%, and 50% in 2018. According to agricultural census data of 2015, the share of female farm managers in the total number of farm managers that owned and/or used lands as individual entrepreneur, family-peasant and household farms was 9.4%. Now this number has increased to 101860 women. The Ministry of Agriculture, the State Agro Trade Company, together with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization have started to implement "AFAQ – Agro Action of Azerbaijani Women" project to increase

women's employment in agro sphere, their access to information, resources and markets, and thus improve their socio-economic wellbeing. The main objective of the project is to facilitate the access of women to the sales markets, forming women entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture, increasing their knowledge in Azerbaijan within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals carries out reforms in leading sectors of the economy, and especially in the field of agriculture.

Association of Rural Women of Azerbaijan was established by the Ministry of Agriculture together with the World Bank in 2019 to support the social and economic development of rural women, to support agriculture, we support women's initiatives to increase employment in rural areas and improve the well-being of the population.