

Annex 1.

The following legislative acts have been adopted to incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into national legislation.

1. In the field of Social Protection:

- Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Determination of the Child Benefit to be paid to the mothers of more than five children", dated December 27, 2013;
- Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On increasing the benefits paid to the persons being on partially paid social leave for child care", dated December 27, 2013;
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on social security of children who have lost their parents and were deprived of parental care", dated April 19, 2013. According to these amendments, the tuition fees of children who have lost their parents and were deprived of parental care as well as the persons qualified for the same status receiving paid education in state, municipal and private higher and specialized secondary education institutions will be financed from the State budget throughout the period of their education;
- Order No. 2653 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated January 9, 2013 "On additional measures to provide social service to children with limited health and juveniles in socially dangerous situations";
- Decision No. 320 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the Regulations of the "Graduates House" within the State Social Security Service under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection for children deprived of parental care graduated from state child establishments, dated October 7, 2015;
- Decision No. 37 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "Programme on social rehabilitation and reintegration of children who are victims of human trafficking", dated February, 2014.
- Decision No. 207 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "Model Regulations for small family-type group houses", dated August 13, 2013//
- According to Part 2 of Clause 91 of the Labor Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the length of the shortened work time shall not exceed 24 hours a week for employees under 16; and 36 hours a week for employees from 16 to 18 and disabled employees of the 1st and 2nd categories, as well as pregnant women and women with a child (children) up to 1.5 years old and single parents growing their child/children up to 3 years old.

2. In the field of children's health care:

- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 591-IVQ "On mandatory medical examination of children", dated March 5, 2013;
- Order No. 550 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "State Program on improving mother and child health for 2014-2020", dated June 13, 2014;
- Decision No. 340 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on implementation of the "International criteria for live birth", dated October 21, 2014;

- Decision No. 370 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "Action plan for 2016-2020 for immunological prevention of communicable diseases among children", dated December 1, 2015.

3. In the field of education:

- Decision No. 271 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the issues related to organization of preparation of children for school", dated July 11, 2016;
- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 585 VQ "On preschool education", dated April 14, 2017;
- Order No. 3498 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "State Program on Development of Inclusive Education for People with Disabilities in 2018-2024", dated December 14, 2017;
- Decision No. 622 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "Procedure for social protection of the students of state preschool educations", dated December 29, 2017.

4. for organization of a common database:

- Decision No. 5 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "Procedure for establishment and maintenance of a unified electronic database on implementation of child rights", dated January 15, 2013.

5. General issues:

- Decision No. 04/3 of National Television and Radio Council on "Special rules for TV and radio programmes broadcast in unencoded form that may impair the physical, mental or moral development of children and minors, in particular programmes that involve erotica or cruelty", dated April 10, 2015.
- The Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan studied the rulings made on issues addressing to the best interests of children in court practice and recommending Rulings of the Plenum of the Supreme Court were made. Under Ruling Numbered 6/2011 and Dated October 28, 2011 of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ruling on Practice of Application of the Laws & Regulations on Communication of Parents & Other Relatives with Children by Courts was approved. Also, under Ruling Numbered 8-2/2016 and Dated March 28, 2016 of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ruling on Practice of Application of the Laws & Regulations by Courts When Hearing Cases on Claims for Staying of Minors after Breaches of Marriages and Divorces with Any of the Parents and Deducting Aliment for Children from Parents was approved.
- Order No. 998 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the "Development Strategy of Azerbaijani youth in 2015-2025", dated January 26, 2015;
- In order to ensure secure access of children to information resources on the Internet and protect them from unhealthy information products that they may face both on Mass Media and Internet, a need to make amendment to the Law on Children Rights arose. So, Clause 15 of the Law on Children Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan was amended and the provision stipulating that protection of children from any information that may damage to their health and development shall be regulated by a

relevant law was added to it on April 29, 2016. Accordingly, the Law on Telecommunication of the Republic of Azerbaijan was amended and Clauses 33.1.3-1, 34.1.2-1 and 40.3.7-1 were added. According to the amendment to the Law on Telecommunication, in order to ensure safe use of Internet information resources to protect children from any information that may damage to their health and development upon request of subscribers, a relevant obligation was set for Operators and Providers and the responsibility to claim taking of necessary actions to protect children from any information that may damage to their health and development was included in the rights and obligations of the subscribers under the amendment made .

- According to the amendment made to Clause 234 of the Civil Procedural Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan for execution of the Ruling Dated December 30, 2016, and Rulings on Deduction of Any Funds including Aliments for Subsistence of a Person and on Issuance of a Long-term Protection Warrant to Victims of Domestic Violence shall be immediately executed.
- The Committee for Family, Women & Children Issues drafted laws on amendments to the Administrative Misdemeanors Code and the Penal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On May 29, 2015, the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted the Laws on Amendments to the Administrative Misdemeanors Code and the Penal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In order to increase parental responsibility, Clause 189 was added for failure to fulfill the responsibilities to educate and grow children by parents or their substitutes and the sanction of Clause 512 for responsibility of parents or their substitutes for small misdemeanors of minors was aggravated.
- Important steps have been taken recently for development of pre-school education facilities and successful works have been implemented for construction, capital restoration and reconstruction of pre-school education facilities in various cities and districts. Executive Order Numbered 3667 and Dated February 12, 2018 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Actions for Construction of Kindergartens in Regions of Azerbaijan was a good example to this.
- The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Nutrition of Infants and Early Aged Children was adopted on November 29, 2016. According to the amendments made to the Law, placement of ads of synthetic nutritional products on open places is prohibited, and information on age limitations for use of them in advertisement of synthetic nutritional products shall be provided and the importance of consultation with experts and the superiority of the breast milk shall be underlined.

Annex 2

The Project "National Children's Strategy" covers the following issues:

- Implementation of relevant legislative and institutional measures with a view to ensure the full conformity of the child protection system with the needs of children and to create equal opportunities for all children;
- Provision of comprehensive medical, social and legal services to children with disabilities and eliminating the cases of stigmatisation of children;
- Prevention of placement of children who have lost their parents or were deprived of parental care in State institutions and family placement of children living in State institutions;
- Implementation of comprehensive measures with the aim of ensuring the social protection of children leaving the State institutions and their reintegration into society;
- Protection of the rights of homeless or socially vulnerable children, their social rehabilitation and reintegration into society, improvement of the juvenile justice system;
- Organization and improvement of cultural and aesthetic education of children;
- Improvement of the procedures for collection and analysis of child-related data.

Annex 3.

Allocation of financial resources from the government budget to cover the expenses related to safeguarding children's rights established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- a) Annual financing in an amount of 4,514,4 thousand manats from the State budget was carried out in 2016 and 2017 in accordance with the provisions of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On mandatory annual medical examination of children" adopted on May 5 2013, and for implementation of the "State Program for Mandatory Examination of Children".
- b) The funds in an amount of 31,9 and 2,981.2 thousand manats were allocated from the State budget accordingly in 2016 and 2017 for implementation of the "State Program on improving mother and child health for 2014-2020" with a view to protect mother and child health.
- c) Annual financing in an amount of 776.6 thousand manats from the State budget was carried out in 2016 and 2017 to finance the implementation of the measures aimed at alternative care and giving of children from state child establishments to families.
- d) The funds in an amount of 1,185,4 and 1,234,2 thousand manats were allocated from the State budget accordingly in 2016 and 2017 to finance the measures related to SOS Children Villages Azerbaijan Association which is engaged in reintegration of street and abandoned children into society.
- e) Annual financing in an amount of 232,1 thousand manats from the State budget was carried out in 2016 and 2017 to finance the organization of education of children with special needs (children with disabilities).
- f) 7,675,8 and 13,804,9 thousand manats was allocated from the State budget accordingly in 2016 and 2017 to provide the students of educational institutions with textbooks and methodological manuals free of charge.

Annex 4.

1. Data related to children in Azerbaijan disaggregated per gender and age.

Age groups	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
	total	including :		total	including:		total	including:		total	including:		total	including:		total	including:		total	including:				
		men	women		men	women		men	women		men	women		men	women		men	women		men	women			
0	176,1	94,7	81,4	174,5	93,6	80,9	172,7	92,6	80,1	170,5	91,4	79,1	166,2	88,4	77,8	159,5	84,9	74,6						
1	163,8	88,1	75,7	174,2	93,7	80,5	172,6	92,5	80,1	171,0	91,6	79,4	168,5	90,2	78,3	164,6	87,4	77,2						
2	150,1	81,1	69,0	163,6	88	75,6	174,0	93,6	80,4	172,5	92,5	80,0	170,9	91,6	79,3	168,3	90,1	78,2						
3	150,3	80,8	69,5	150,1	81,1	69	163,5	88,0	75,5	174,0	93,5	80,5	172,4	92,4	80,0	170,8	91,5	79,3						
4	124,9	66,7	58,2	150,2	80,7	69,5	150,0	81,0	69,0	163,4	87,9	75,5	173,9	93,5	80,4	172,3	92,4	79,9						
5	121,2	64,5	56,7	124,9	66,7	58,2	150,2	80,7	69,5	149,9	81,0	68,9	163,4	87,9	75,5	173,9	93,5	80,4						
6	121,0	64,5	56,5	121,2	64,4	56,8	124,9	66,7	58,2	150,2	80,7	69,5	149,9	80,9	69,0	163,3	87,9	75,4						
7	121,3	64,8	56,5	121	64,5	56,5	121,1	64,4	56,7	124,8	66,7	58,1	150,1	80,7	69,4	149,8	80,9	68,9						
8	132,4	70,6	61,8	121,2	64,8	56,4	120,9	64,5	56,4	121,1	64,4	56,7	124,8	66,6	58,2	150,1	80,7	69,4						
9	127,1	67,7	59,4	132,4	70,6	61,8	121,2	64,8	56,4	120,9	64,4	56,5	121,1	64,4	56,7	124,8	66,6	58,2						
10	124,4	66,5	57,9	127,1	67,6	59,5	132,4	70,6	61,8	121,2	64,8	56,4	120,9	64,4	56,5	121,0	64,4	56,6						
11	129,6	68,8	60,8	124,3	66,5	57,8	127,1	67,6	59,5	132,3	70,6	61,7	121,2	64,8	56,4	120,9	64,4	56,5						
12	134,3	71,2	63,1	129,6	68,8	60,8	124,3	66,5	57,8	127,1	67,6	59,5	132,3	70,6	61,7	121,2	64,8	56,4						
13	138,5	72,8	65,7	134,3	71,2	63,1	129,5	68,8	60,7	124,3	66,4	57,9	127,0	67,6	59,4	132,3	70,5	61,8						
14	137,5	72,5	65	138,5	72,8	65,7	134,2	71,2	63,0	129,5	68,8	60,7	124,3	66,4	57,9	127,0	67,6	59,4						
15	153,7	80,2	73,5	137,5	72,5	65	138,5	72,7	65,8	134,2	71,2	63,0	129,5	68,8	60,7	124,2	66,4	57,8						
16	161,4	84,1	77,3	153,7	80,2	73,5	137,5	72,5	65,0	138,5	72,7	65,8	134,2	71,2	63,0	129,5	68,7	60,8						
17	172,1	89,4	82,7	161,4	84,1	77,3	153,6	80,1	73,5	137,4	72,5	64,9	138,4	72,7	65,7	134,2	71,2	63,0						
0-17	2539,7	1349,0	1190,7	2539,7	1351,8	1187,9	2548,2	1358,8	1189,4	2562,8	1368,7	1194,1	2589,0	1383,1	1205,9	2607,7	1393,9	1213,8						

Annex 5

1. Abortion data (Source: Ministry of Health)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of abortions (thousand)	31.0	27.9	27.2	27.5	34.6
rate per 1000 women	11.5	10.4	10.1	10.3	13.0
number abortions per 100 births	17.9	16.3	16.1	16.7	21.9

(Source: State Statistics Committee)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of abortions - total	31 038	27 892	27 220	27 452	34 569

2. Child pregnancy data (Source: Ministry of Health):

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of live births - total	174469	172671	170503	166210	159464
number of births by mothers from age group 15-17	3236	2855	3296	2895	2809
births by mothers from age group 15-17 (percentage)	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8

3. Data on the numbers of children killed and injured in road crashes (Source: Statistics Committee)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Persons below 18 years of age killed in road crashes, total	89	100	95	79	55
below 6 years of age	26	22	26	23	16
ages 6 to 9	12	24	22	18	18
ages 10 to 14	23	14	29	18	16
ages 15 to 17	28	40	18	20	5
Boys, total	63	67	73	64	41
below 6 years of age	17	13	16	17	12
ages 6 to 9	9	13	16	14	12
ages 10 to 14	17	10	25	16	12
ages 15 to 17	20	31	16	17	5

Girls, total	26	33	22	15	14
below 6 years of age	9	9	10	6	4
ages 6 to 9	3	11	6	4	6
ages 10 to 14	6	4	4	2	4
ages 15 to 17	8	9	2	3	-
Persons below 18 years of age injured in road crashes, total	278	303	270	232	200
below 6 years of age	50	43	56	41	36
ages 6 to 9	58	83	62	49	44
ages 10 to 14	73	77	82	74	60
ages 15 to 17	97	100	70	68	60
Boys, total	204	218	187	153	129
below 6 years of age	38	31	33	23	23
ages 6 to 9	42	55	37	34	30
ages 10 to 14	51	58	62	50	37
ages 15 to 17	73	74	55	46	39
Girls, total	74	85	83	79	71
below 6 years of age	12	12	23	18	13
ages 6 to 9	16	28	25	15	14
ages 10 to 14	22	19	20	24	23
ages 15 to 17	24	26	15	22	21

4. Children living apart from their parents (Source: State Statistics Committee)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Boarding schools for children deprived of parental care	3	3	3	3	3
<i>including:</i>					
in Baku city	2	2	2	2	2
Guba region	1	1	1	1	1
Orphanages	6	6	6	6	6
<i>including:</i>					
in Baku city	3	3	3	3	3
Ganja city	1	1	1	1	1
Sheki city	1	1	1	1	1
Lenkoran city	1	1	1	1	1
SOS Children's Villages	2	2	2	2	2

<i>including:</i>					
in Baku city	1	1	1	1	1
Ganja city	1	1	1	1	1
Number of children living in special institutions or with foster families (persons)	3369	3596	3452	3726	3970
Proportion of children living in special institutions or with foster families to total number of children living in the country (percentage)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Number of children reunited with their parents after a placement (persons)	63	56	32	9	31

5. Children, whose parents receive special social allowance or other assistance:

- a. Number of children with health limitation - 72263 persons
- b. Children, whose parents receive special social allowance or other assistance: 72263 children
- c. Children of martyrs - 109
- d. Children of disabled war veterans - 15288
- e. Children of people who became I and II category disabled after Chernobyl accident - 538
- f. Children of people serving in army for fixed period - 151
- g. children from families having a child less than 1 year old - 1022
- h. Children of the mothers of five - 8849
- i. Allowances to custodians (guardians) of the children who lost their parents and children deprived from parental care - 370

6. Child and infant mortality rates for the reporting period (Source: Ministry of Health)

Infant deaths

Years	Infant mortality among under 1-year-old children	per 1,000 live births

Child deaths (below 5 years of age)

Years	Child mortality rate among under 5 year old children	per 1,000 live births

2012	1884	10.8
2013	1862	10.8
2014	1655	10.2
2015	2033	11.0
2016	1666	11.4

2012	2247	13.0
2013	2234	12.9
2014	2097	12.6
2015	2395	13.3
2016	2092	13.8

7. Infant mortality (before 1st birthday) cases in years 2012-2016 disaggregated by the death reasons (Source: Ministry of Health)

Years	per 10,000 live births					
	Main causes of infant mortality under 1 year	including:				
		some infectious and parasitic diseases	diseases of respiratory system	certain conditions originating in perinatal period	-congenital anomalies (defect of growth, deformations and metabolism of chromosome)	injuries, poisonings and other caused by external affects
2012	108.0	5.7	19.6	44.6	14.6	1.5
2013	107.9	4.7	14.1	59.9	9.8	1.2
2014	102.5	3.2	10.1	65.4	7.1	1.0
2015	109.5	3.2	11.2	69.4	9.3	0.9
2016	113.6	3.1	12.1	71.3	10.7	0.7

8. Ratio of physicians per capita (Source: Ministry of Health)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of physicians per 1000 people (at the end of year)	3.50	3.47	3.46	3.39	3.32

9. Budget funds allocated for health expenditure, including per capita funds (Source: Ministry of Health)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Expenditure (thousand manats)	609384.8	618938.4	665312.0	708193.4	702503.2

10. Maternal mortality and the causes (Source: Ministry of Health)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Maternal mortality per 100 000 live births	14.9	14.5	14.6	14.4	13.8

11. Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel, %	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.8	99.8

12. Breastfeeding of infants (thousand) (source: Ministry of Health)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of breastfed infants:					
first 3 month - total	83.5	86.5	93.2	90.3	95.2
Share of infants on exclusively breastfeeding	56.7	59.2	65.1	63.9	63.0
first 6 month - total	77.4	78.8	77.5	73.7	73.9
Share of infants on exclusively breastfeeding	44.5	40.7	43.3	39.4	41.5
first 12 month - total	66.3	63.5	60.1	58.0	58.2
first 15 months - total	15.9	15.7	20.7	17.2	20.0
up to 2 years of age - total	7.3	8.2	11.3	8.8	10.0

13. Children covered by prophylactic immunization in 2016 (percentage)(Source: Ministry of Health)

	Vaccination		Revaccination	
	Age	Share of children immunized	Age	Share of children immunized
Children immunized against:				

tuberculosis	under 1 year of age	98.1	-	-
diphtheria,	under 1 year of age	96.7	18 months	97,8 ¹⁾
whooping cough				
tetanus				
haemophilus influenzae type B				
hepatitis B				
poliomyelitis	under 1 year of age	97.6	18 months	98.2
measles	from 1 to 2 years of age	97.5	6 years	97.7
rubella				
epidemic				
parotiditis				
B hepatitis	during first 12 hours after birth	98.9	-	-

14. Number/percentage of children infected by HIV/AIDS (Source: Ministry of Health)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number/percentage of children aged 0-14 infected by HIV/AIDS	17/(3.3%)	13/(2.5%)	18/(3.0%)	19/(2.7%)	10(1.8%)

15. Drug and substance abuse rates among population (Source: State Statistics Committee)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of persons placed in prevention and treatment facilities (persons)					
Drug abuse	27 910	28 376	28 644	28 555	29 448
Substance abuse	134	130	152	158	183
Psychological or behavioral disorders caused by consumption of more than one narcotic drugs or other psychoactive substances	10	12	12	20	31

16. Alcohol, drug and substance abuse rates among population (number of persons registered with relevant treatment and prevention institutions per 100 000 of people) (Source: Ministry of Health)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Persons diagnosed with psychological or behavioral disorders caused by consumption of alcohol, drugs and substance	532.2	535.5	539.3	526.9	532.2

17. Key countrywide indicators for general education secondary schools

Years	Total number of general education secondary schools	Including:		Total number of students	Including:	
		State	Private		State	Private
2011/2012	4523	4505	18	1294059	1287476	6583
2012/2013	4515	4495	20	1287599	1280348	7250
2013/2014	4513	4485	28	1291634	1283303	8331
2014/2015	4481	4462	19	1325634	1319083	6551

18. Number of children's libraries:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of children's libraries	90	102	88	97	92

19. Number of children aged 14-18 years old committed crime

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	490	514	481	477	442
grave and especially grave crimes	81	89	111	90	87
<i>Types of crime</i>					
intentional murders and attempted murders	25	18	13	15	11
intentional heavy body injuries	27	30	49	30	24
forcible rape and attempted rape	-	1	1	-	1
thefts	178	221	217	233	227
<i>Of which theft of vehicles</i>	11	11	5	12	15
robbery	8	11	19	13	22
brigandage	10	14	6	9	5
swindle	1	4	2	5	5
hooliganizm	35	43	47	31	27
Drug related crimes	5	8	1	7	5

Annex 6

Children of minorities (art. 30)

There are 10 general education schools in the country where the education is organized in Georgian language. These schools are located in Gakh (7 schools with 756 students), Zagatala (2 schools with 222 students) and Balakan (1 school with 116 students). Also, Lezghian, Talysh, Hebrew, Avar, Tsakhur, Udi, Kurdish and Khynalug languages are taught in general secondary education schools representing various regions of Azerbaijan. According to the academic programme approved by the Ministry of Education, two lesson hours are allocated weekly for teaching of each of these languages. Lezghian language is taught in the grades from 1 to 9, Hebrew – from 1 to 11 and other languages – in the grades from 1 to 4. The coverage of these languages is as follows:

Lezghian language (102 schools with 14130 students) - Gusar, Khachmaz, Gabala, Guba, Oghuz, İsmayilli regions;

Talysh language (222 schools with 20582 students) - Lankaran, Astara, Lerik, Masally regions;

Avar language (19 students with 1559 students) - Balakan and Zagatala regions;

Tsakhur language (5 schools with 570 students) – Zagatala regions;

Udi language (3 students with 220 students) - Gabala region;

Kurdish language (1 school with 11 students) - Samukh region;

Khynalyg language (1 school with 97 students) - Guba region;

Hebrew (1 school 72 students) –Baku city.

Annex 7

Refugee children (art. 22)

Currently, children of 18 persons who obtained refugee status (4 children-foreigners) are provided with the opportunity to receive education in general secondary schools. 3 children attend kindergartens, 2 persons are preparing for enrolling in a higher education institution, and 7 persons completed higher education, mastering relevant professions.

At the same time, the State Migration Service in collaboration with Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and UN High Commissioner for Refugees continued with organization of language courses for the persons intending to obtain refugee status or the persons who recently have obtained refugee status. Over the past year, children of the citizens of the Islamic State of Afghanistan below 18 years of age, who obtained refugee status, have learned Azerbaijani language in a short time and were provided with the opportunity to receive education in secondary schools together with Azerbaijani children.

As a result of the joint efforts of the State Migration Service and Ministry of Health, the issues related to registration of the persons who obtained the refugee status or persons applying with the statement for obtaining the status of refugee and their family members with local polyclinics of the Ministry of Health located close to their place of residence, along with their medical; examination and inpatient treatment (where necessary) based on referral of the State Migration Service, were solved.

Certain decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan stipulate provision of free-of-charge oncological services to foreigners and stateless persons residing in Azerbaijan. Further, persons possessing the refugee status and living with HIV may benefit from medical aid (including specialized medical aid) rendered by state healthcare institutions using budgetary funds and at the level established by relevant executive authorities.

The Public Council established on June 8, 2015 under the State Migration Service established with the aim of ensuring participation of citizens and civil society institutions in the process of public control over the activities of the State Migration Service in the manner established by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Public Participation" adopted on November 22, 2013, and ensuring that state and local governmental authorities consult with public and take into account public opinion, has organized Azerbaijani language courses for 157 refugees and asylum seeking persons and provided medical assistance to 138 refugees (persons granted with relevant status by UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the persons who were forced to leave the Republic of Armenia and obtained refugee status in Azerbaijan). In addition, approximately 300 migrant children received necessary assistance in solving their education problems.

State Migration Service works in collaboration with the Representative Office UN High Commissioner for Refugees in returning the asylum seekers to their countries of origin, sending such persons to third countries for residence, their exchange and in many other related areas.

In April of 2013, the State Migration Service started the implementation of the Asylum Systems Quality Initiative in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus (ASQIEESC) project to which it is a party and which is funded jointly by European Commission and UNHCR. The Project focuses on improvement and development of asylum procedures and the quality of international refugee protection, enhancing the quality of refugee status determination procedures and related processes through regional approach.

The Project's first stage was successfully completed in June, 2015, following which the State Migration Service and UNHCR concluded an agreement on its continuation. The second stage of the Project was launched officially on December 15-16, 2015 in the conference held in Stockholm.

Within the framework of the Project there were organized trainings for a group of State Migration Service officials conducted by local and international experts on refugee status determination. The trainings were organized and financed by UNHCR Representative Office in Azerbaijan. The key objective of said trainings was to improve the asylum system, along with enhancing and improving the quality of the procedure for refugee status determination. Within the framework of the Project, UNHCR launched a database containing data on human rights and other data related to refugees and their countries of origin. Also, monitoring of the refugee status determination procedure was carried out by National Counselor without any hindrance. Memo sheets were prepared and reference books published in different languages for asylum seekers. Within the framework of ASQIEESC project, the procedure of refugee status determination as a part of the processing of the statements for obtaining refugee status was improved in line with international standards and implementation of new format for refugee status determination was started. A mechanism of control over the quality of adopted decisions was established. The data on the countries of origin is now used as an input in decision-making process. National Counselor performed monitoring of the refugee status determination procedure within the State Migration Service without hindrance.

UNHCR carries out independent monitoring of the refugee status determination procedure in order to ensure quality control over the processing of all applications made for obtaining asylum.