

Strengthening the child protection and social protection systems in Azerbaijan**Period of implementation:** 01.01.2023 - 30.12.2025**EaP countries:**
Azerbaijan**EU contribution:** € 1 100 000**Total budget:** € 1 245 808**Implementing organisation(s):**
UNICEF**Social media account links:****Project description:**

Securing social protection for all children, especially the most vulnerable, is a crucial task for responsible governments. The project's main objective is to make sure that children have access to social protection, are protected from violence, can live with their families, and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. By achieving these goals, the project will help Azerbaijan progress towards its development targets set in Agenda 2030. This will ultimately promote the well-being and resilience of the people in Azerbaijan.

The proposed initiative aligns with the goals set in the National Child Strategy (2020-2030) and the Action Plan for social protection and child protection. To address social protection and child protection concerns in Azerbaijan, this plan will rely on scientific research, evidence, and best practices from UNICEF's Child Protection Strategy (2021-2030) and the Global Social Protection Programme Framework. Its main focus will be to enhance the role and capabilities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) as a third sector. These organizations will work together with public services to carry out community-based initiatives and interventions that assist the most vulnerable children.

Expected results:

Outcome 1: We aim to improve social protection and strengthen the national system to better support vulnerable families and children.

Outcome 2: Children in six districts/cities will have access to quality social services that focus on preventing violence against children (VAC). We will also pilot a foster care model within the national child protection system. The goal is to reform the child protection system through comprehensive interventions, including services, public awareness, and capacity building for stakeholders. This will ultimately strengthen the mechanisms for preventing, identifying, reporting, and responding to instances of VAC.

Expected Results:

Effective mechanisms will be established in six cities/districts to coordinate agencies and provide access to quality social services for preventing and raising awareness about violence against children.

The most vulnerable children affected by the conflict escalation around the Karabakh region will receive quality mental health and psychosocial support.

The childcare system of the country will be improved through enhanced reintegration efforts (family reunification), prevention of institutionalization by replicating social work services nationwide, and piloting a family-based alternative care model like foster care.