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EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

6th National Report on the implementation of
the European Social Charter

submitted by

**THE GOVERNMENT OF
AZERBAIJAN**

(Articles 11 and 14)
for the period 01/01/2008 – 31/12/2011)

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2013

CYCLE 2013

For the period **01.01.2008 – 31.12.2011** made by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with Article C of the Revised European Social Charter and Article 21 of the European Social Charter, on the measures taken to give effect to the accepted provisions of the Revised European Social Charter, the instrument of ratification or approval of which was deposited on **02 September 2004**

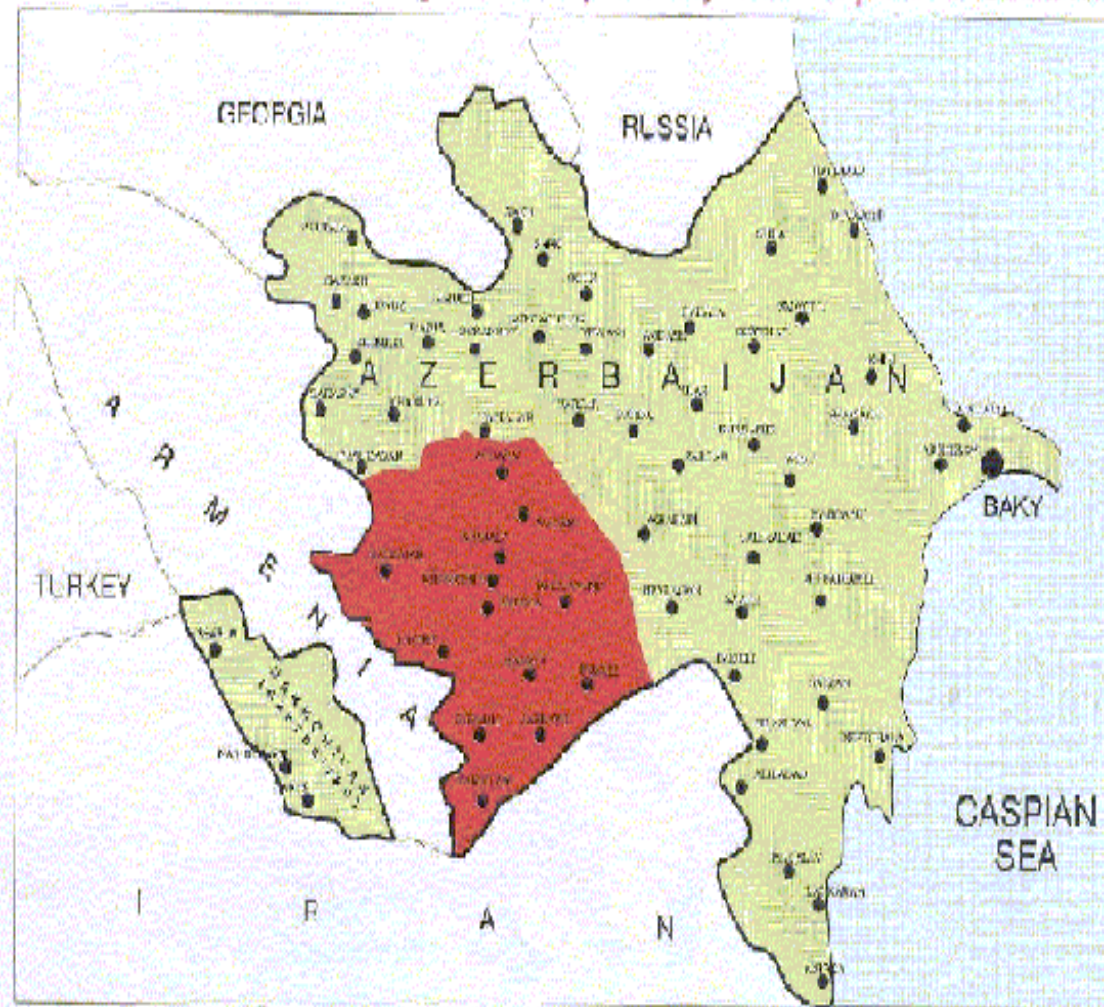
This report also covers the application of such provisions in the following non-metropolitan territories to which, in conformity with Article L, they have been declared applicable: **Republic of Azerbaijan**¹

In accordance with Article C of the Revised European Social Charter and Article 23 of the European Social Charter, copies of this report have been communicated to the

- Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation
- National Confederation of Entrepreneurs' (Employers') Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

¹ The Republic of Azerbaijan declares that it will be unable to guarantee compliance with the provisions of the Charter in its territories occupied by the Republic of Armenia until these territories are liberated from that occupation (the schematic map of the occupied territories is attached)

Schematic map of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by the Republic of Armenia



- Labeled facilities
- Capital
- State borders
- Territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- The territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by the Republic of Armenia

Republic of Azerbaijan
 Ministry of Defense
 Department of Information
 Baku, Azerbaijan

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Article 11. The right to protection of health

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to protection of health, the Parties undertake, either directly or in cooperation with public or private organizations, to take appropriate measures designed inter alia:

1. to remove as far as possible the causes of ill-health;
2. to provide advisory and educational facilities for the promotion of health and the encouragement of individual responsibility in matters of health;
3. to prevent as far as possible epidemic, endemic and other diseases, as well as accidents.

Answers

Article 11 – The right to protection of health

Paragraph 1 – Removal of the causes of ill-health

Life expectancy and principal causes of death

According to the information of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the life expectancy at birth in 2011 was 73.8, as well as 71.2 for men and 76.5 for women.

The mortality rate per 1000 inhabitants was 6.0 in 2008, 5.9 in 2009, 6.0 in 2010 and 5.9 in 2011.

The deaths of 53762 persons or 5.9 death cases per 1000 inhabitants were recorded in 2011. The analysis of causes of death according to major classes shows that the most spread diseases among the main cause of death were circulatory system diseases (61.1%), neoplasm (11.2%), diseases of digestive (5.5%) and respiratory (4.1%) apparatus, traumas, poisoning and other diseases caused by external impacts (4.6%).

Like in previous years, the main causes of death are cardiovascular diseases and it accounts more than 50%. In order to decrease the cases of death from

cardiovascular diseases and to provide high quality medical assistance, capital repairs were carried out in the Republican Center for Scientific Surgery, its Cardio Surgery Department and Center for Child Cardio Surgery were established and provided with modern medical equipments.

The deaths caused by tuberculosis per 100000 inhabitants amounted to 6.7 % in 2008, 5.9 % in 2009, 4.5 % in 2010, and 4.0 % in 2011.

As from 2008, the 1st line anti-tuberculosis drugs were removed from sale and treatment with the 2nd line drugs was started. The reference laboratory meeting modern requirements was given to use in Scientific Research Institute for Pulmonary Diseases in 2009 and it got the quality certificate of Borstel laboratory of Germany in 2010. The medical personnel of the Laboratory attended trainings in Germany. "The Program of Actions for Fighting Tuberculosis for 2011 - 2015" had been adopted by the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated November 26, 2010, № 226 and is being implemented at present. As a result of implementation of the Program, the 1st line degree microscopic laboratories situated in the regions of the Republic were repaired and supplied with modern equipments. At the same time, establishment of the 2nd line laboratory chain in the regions is being implemented. Anti-tuberculosis hospitals and dispensaries are being repaired. The DOT cabinets are performing in Baku city and regions.

Infant and maternal mortality

According to the information of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the infant mortality rate among the children up to 1 year old decreased from 23 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 11 per 1000 live births in 2011. The main causes of death of infants are cases in perinatal life (32.9%), diseases of respiratory apparatus (20.4%), congenital anomalies (development defects) (15.6%), as well as infectious and parasitic diseases (5.4%).

The maternal mortality rate amounted to 15 deaths per 100.000 live births in 2011.

The infant and maternal mortality rates

Year	Maternal mortality (per 100000 live births)	Infants mortality (0 – 1 years) per 1000 live births (‰)	Child mortality (1-5 years) per 1000 live birth (‰)
2006	34,2	11,9 ‰	4,5 ‰
2007	34,5	12,1 ‰	4,7 ‰
2008	26,3	11,3 ‰	4,3 ‰
2009	24,3	11,3 ‰	4,3 ‰
2010	15,7	11,2 ‰	4,3 ‰
2011	15,3	10,8 ‰	2,6 ‰

According to the “State Program on protection of health of mothers and children” in the period 2006-2010, 7 perinatal centers – Republican Perinatal Center and Perinatal Centers of Autonomous Republic of Nakchivan, Ganja, Guba, Lankaran, Sheki, Sabirabad have been established, also other medical institutions have been repaired and are equipped with modern equipment. At the same time, personnel reforms and other large-scale events have been carried out.

As a result of the measures taken the access of population to highly-skilled childbirth aid services has been ensured.

According to the results of the analysis of maternal mortality it was determined that the main place of the structure of the maternal mortality is obstetrical bloodstreams and in other places are eclampsia and its complications, reasons that are not related to pregnancy (extragenital pathology), and thrombo embolism and its consequences.

At the same time, several legal and normative acts and various clinical protocols were prepared and implemented.

The child vaccination program maintains the scope of high coverage and currently Azerbaijan has been recognized as the country free from poliomyelitis.

In the Republic of Azerbaijan, all inoculations for immunization are purchased by the state.

As a result of implementation of “Breast Feeding Program” based on the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On feeding of infants”, the number of illnesses of

the infants decreased. According to the program, the principle of placement of mothers together with the newly born and only breast feeding is implemented in the institutions for assistance to birth at present.

“The system of electronic health card of the newly born” had been applied in the Republic since December, 2007, within the framework of State Program "On Electronic Azerbaijan" .

Health care system

Access to health care

The population of the country has been being provided with free services in the medical institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Health and financed by the state budget since 01.02.2008. According to “The list of drugs for the patients belonging to the privileged groups” approved by decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated March 7, 2005, № 38, the citizens are provided with free drugs. The stateless persons permanently living in the Republic of Azerbaijan have the equal rights together with the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of protection of health. The protection of health of foreign nationals is conducted as provided for in the international agreements that the Republic of Azerbaijan is the party of. According to the Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the “Protection of Public Health” (June 26, 1997) medical examination and treatment in oncology for foreigners, stateless persons permanently living in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, are carried out on the paid basis and emergency oncology aid for them is free.

The incomes and expenses of the state budget (mln AZN)										
Years	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012***
Expenses – total	1234,5	1502,1	2140,7	3790,1	6086,2	10774,2	10503,9	11765,9	15397,5	17105,6
Health	55,3	73,5	115,3	162,0	257,2	346,2	402,4	429,2	493,4	567,8
The weight of health expenses in the state budget	4,5	4,9	5,3	4,3	4,2	3,2	3,8	3,6	3,2	3,3
GDP	7 146,5	8 530,2	12 522,5	18 746,2	28 360,5	40 137,2	35 601,5	42 465,0	51 157,2	53995
The weight of health expenses in GDP	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	1,1	1	0,9	1,1

During 2008-2011, 126 patient have been sent to the foreign countries by the Ministry of Health and expences were covered by the state.

Also, according to the Order No. 03, January 15, 2008 of the Ministry of Health, chargeable medical service in the medical prophylactic institutions financed by state budget was abolished, according to the Order No. 141, 01.12.2005 patients treated in stationary medical institutions were provided 65 kinds of medicines and medical equipment, according to the Order No. 130, December 22, 2011 the list has been expanded and the number reached to 166 .

In addition, according to "List of medicines for patients that are in privileged groups" approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministries No. 38, March 7, 2005 patients are provided with the medicines free of charge by medical recipes in the ambulatory institutions.

Only the patients with dialysis are registered in advance for getting medical assistance and the waiting list is applicable in the country. But, the number of patients in waiting list had been decreased in the recent years as a result of activities of Dialysis Centers established in the Baku city and regions and increasing of their capacities.

11 centers (7 in Baku city and 4 regional centers) in 2007, 12 centers (7 in Baku city and 5 regional centers) in 2008, 18 centers (6 in Baku city and 12 regional centers) in 2009, 20 centers (7 in Baku city and 13 regional centers) in 2010 and 21 centers (7 in Baku city and 14 regional centers) in 2011 provided services to 735, 840, 1261, 1420 and 1690 patients accordingly.

Health care professionals and facilities

For the purpose of efficient use of financial resources allocated for the health sector in 2009 - 2010, reforms had been carried out in the field of reduction of some medical institutions that do not worked with full capacity, not justified itself and had the buildings in bad conditions and played insubstantial role in provision of medical assistance to the population, decreasing of bedspace and optimization of their structure. In this connection, Ministry of Health jointly with Health Sector Reform Project implemented by World Bank, had been prepared new limits defining the provision of population by bedspace and medical staff based on recommendations of international experts.

The network of regional medical institutions was separately revised jointly with the health directors of all regions of the Republic and approved by the Order of the Ministry of Health.

As a result of reforms, the bedspace for the regions of the Republic had decreased at an average of 45 – 55%, and the number of hospitals had decreased up to 50%.

The number of hospital beds per 100 000 inhabitants in the Republic was 714.8 in 2007, 700.3 in 2008, 674.3 in 2009, 428.6 in 2010, and 390.0 in 2011.

The average annual bed occupancy was 121.8 in 2007, 171.2 in 2008, 175.1 in 2009, 187.4 in 2010, and 220.0 in 2011

The number of psychiatric hospital beds per 100 000 inhabitants was 47.3 in 2007, 46.7 in 2008, 43.1 in 2009, 37.3 in 2010, and 34.5 in 2011.

<i>The number of physicians and paramedical personnel per 100 000 inhabitants</i>		
Year	Physicians	Paramedical personnel
2007	330.1	660,8
2008	324,2	651,1
2009	312,7	629,3
2010	309,2	587,2
2011	285,5	553,3

The imbalance in the distribution of health care professionals on the territory has been reducing as a result of measures taken during the recent years. Thereby, new medical centers had been established, the existing polyclinics and hospitals were repaired and supplied with equipments meeting modern standards, as well staffing was improved in regions. Paramedical personnel amount to 77% of total medical personnel. More than 50% of medical personnel work in the cities as in previous years.

The Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On approval of the Development Program on medical staffing in the health institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the years 2010 - 2014" was adopted on June 24, 2010.

Paragraph 2 - Advisory and educational facilities

Health

Health education in schools

Normal sexual development of pupils means physically healthy, normal body structure of the children and young people, their normal puberty, conformity of puberty to the age limit, correct development of sex system, normal secretion of genital organs and hormones managing the genital glands (anatomy) and etc. More attention was given to the topics "On normal sexual development" in the X and XI forms on the course of "Education based on life skills" (X form, topics 26, 27, 28 and 29; XI form, topics 26 and 27).

The idea of normal sexual development is provided to the pupils in the direction of formation of sexual education among the young people and protection of health of young people, the hygienic skills are taught for protection of health of reproductive system and knowledge and skills about infections caught through sexual ways are taught through the topics of the course of "Education based on life skills". These topics are of great importance in sexual education of children and young people, prophylaxis of harmful habits and various infectious diseases. At the same time, educational programs "On increase of educational level of juvenile girls in the field of personal hygienic and sanitary" are implemented for girls of the 7 – 11 forms.

Teaching traffic regulations to the pupils through the topics given on the traffic regulations of the course of "Education based on life skills", and at the same time engrafting the skills for complying with regulations, acquaintance with the traffic and traffic accidents, transport facilities are of great importance for the pupils in complying with road safety rules.

These topics were given a great place in the course of "Education based on life skills " (I form-topic 27; II form - topic 22; III form- topic 20; IV form - topic 7).

Various topics in respect to healthy eating were incorporated into the curricula of the course "On Education based on life skills": I form ("Nutrition hygiene" topic 14; "Behavior at table" topic 15); II form ("Nutrition norms" topic 12); III form ("Food, nutrition and meal culture" topic 11).

During studying the abovementioned topics, information is provided to pupils in respect to the nutrition hygiene, the pupils learn nutrition norms, they are engrafted the skill of correct organization of nutrition, and taught the table manners and culture.

Counseling and screening

Population at large

The division of supervision based on the regions was conducted among the employees of the Scientific Research Institute for Pulmonary Diseases Institute and Scientific Research Cardiology. The trainings were provided for the purpose of assistance to the local staff by those specialists visiting the regions and in the result monitoring (quarterly screenings) is conducted in order to assess the works done. These measures created favourable conditions for early detection of diseases, timely treatment and sending to specialized medical institutions in the case of prescription.

In order to increase the quality and level of early detection of the diseases among the schoolchildren and adolescents, their medical examination, treatment – prophylaxis and sanitation measures, the Ministry of Health has prepared relevant package of documents and their execution was taken under severe control. The works are done in the direction of integration of information on the health of adolescents into "The System of Electronic Health card of the citizens".

In general, the system of "Electronic health card" launched in Azerbaijan in December of 2007. In order to introduce this system, special software was developed, the center of management of data and the centers for personalization

of cards have been established. Computer hardware has been installed in all maternity hospitals and medical institutions for children of the Republic, regular exchange of information with the center for management of data through internet network has been ensured.

Pregnant women, children and adolescents

The local health offices organize in-depth prophylactic medical examinations of the pupils and adolescents in planned form in institutions for children and adolescents. At that time, the physicians of child polyclinics, together with some specialists of the polyclinics for the adults included in commission conducting examinations and inspections for identifying the health condition of each pupil individually. The commission consists of pediatrician (therapist), surgeon, neuropathologist, ophthalmologist, otolaryngologist, dentist, if required, gynecologist, psychiatrist and other physician specialists with narrow specialization. The physician examines inspection according to his/her specialization, assesses the health condition and documents it. The pupil whose disease was detected is taken into registration in the dispensary. The anthropometric data of the child are determined during prophylactic medical examination. Each physician examines the health condition of the children on his/her profile and defines the efficiency of health examination. The measures directed to strengthening of physical, psychical and somatic health of the children registered in the dispensary are carried out.

During 2011, 319.426 of 326.471 pupils (98.5 %) were involved in in-depth medical examinations in Baku, 262982 of them (82,3 %) were included in the 1st health group, 52.517 (16,4 %) in the 2nd health group and 3928 (0,9 %) in the 3rd health group.

According to the annex to the order of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 12.12.2001, № 120, tuberculin diagnostics as specific diagnostic test for mass examination of population, mainly children and adolescents against tuberculosis, as well diagnostics and differential diagnostics of tuberculosis in clinical practice is applied. During mass examination of population against tuberculosis, tuberculin diagnostics is conducted for the purposes of timely detection of tuberculosis, detection of infection to

tuberculosis, determination of infectious indicator of the population for epidemiologic indicator. For this purpose, purified tuberculin solved in standard separation (PPD-L) single intracutaneous tuberculin test 2 TV Mantu is used. The special brigades are organized for conducting mass tuberculin diagnostics among the children, mainly school children (2 nurses and one physician) and are implemented by the child polyclinics. Mantu test for the non organized little children up to school age and less age is conducted in child polyclinics.

For the prophylactic purposes, mass Mantu tests were conducted among children and adolescents in the Republic, 1460394 persons in 2008, 1647739 persons in 2009, 1245336 persons in 2010 and 1283940 persons in 2011 were examined.

Years	2008	2009	2010	2011
Mantu test	1460394	1647739	1245336	1283940
Initial tuberculosis infection (Conversion of tubercular tests)	12911	11472	12246	11136
%	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.9

Paragraph 3 – Prevention of diseases

Policies on the prevention of avoidable risks – Reduction of environmental risks

Air

Notwithstanding that Azerbaijan is the party that is not included in the Annex I Group of UN Framework Convention for Climate Changes (it means, it did not undertake the quantitative obligation for decreasing the emission of gases creating heating effect), as well as rapid economic development, it has achieved decrease of emissions of gases creating heating effect during the period after Kyoto.

Furthermore, the forest cover of the country has increased by 0.4% in the recent years that will assist in decreasing of emission of carbon gases during the next years.

The Second National Information of the Republic of Azerbaijan had been prepared within the framework of obligations due to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the information, the national situation of the country was described, the amount of wastes were calculated by defining the source of gases creating heating effect, the present and future climate of the country was analyzed, the sensitivity of economic sectors and ecosystems to the impact of climate changes and the measures of adaptation to this impact were assessed.

The Second National Information of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change covers acute intestinal infections, infectious, transmissible and parasitic diseases, the diseases transmitted through water and food stuffs, malaria disease, and the measures of adaptation to the impact of severe heats.

The result of work done were included in the Second National Information of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and were published by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2010.

The expert group consisting of relevant state authorities, academic sector and the representatives of national NGOs has been established for preparation of National Adaptation Plan and National Plan for reduction of wastes and the works for preparation of those plans had been continued.

The future position of Azerbaijan and its possible obligations to be undertaken are investigated in the process of international negotiations conducted within the framework Convention in the Center for Climate Changes acting within the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

The Scientific Center for Complex Hydrometeorological and Ecological Research had been established in 2009 at the height of 3000 – 4000 meters above the sea level for conducting observations over weather conditions in highly

mountainous areas as Great Caucasus, study and assessment of local climate, climate changes, as well as mountain glaciers as climate factors .

According to the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, starting from July, 2010, EURO-2 ecologic norms were applied for the harmful substances emitted from motor transport to the atmosphere.

Before, the control on the amount of the harmful substances contained in exhaust gas of the engines of cars in the Republic of Azerbaijan was implemented based on the standards approved by the State Standardization Committee of former USSR (GOST 17.2.2.03 - 87 Allowable limit norms (ALN) for motor cars with gasoline engine and GOST 213-93-75 Allowable Limit Norms (ALN) for diesel cars). In conformity with these standards, the amount of carbon oxide (carbon monoxide) and hydrocarbonates contained in exhaust gases of the engines of cars with gasoline engine and the amount of smoke contained in exhaust gases of the cars with diesel engines were normalized. The amount of harmful substances contained in exhaust gases was measured in per cent in the neutral position of gear box.

According to the requirements of the Regulations for recognition and application of international (regional) standards, norms, rules and recommendations on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Technical Committee for Ecology was established based on the Joint Order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent dated July 29, 2010. The Technical Committee for Ecology consists of representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health, the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent and non-governmental organizations.

In 2010, the Technical Committee for Ecology prepared the state standards for "On Management of Environment, Assessment of Ecological Efficiency", "On Protection of Environment, Atmospheric air, Determination of nitrogen oxides in atmospheric air through spectrophotometer method with naphthyl ethylene diamine", "On Protection of Environment, Atmospheric air, Determination of dust (suspended solid particles) in the atmospheric air by gravimetric method"

that were approved by the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent in 2011.

The station for background monitoring of Atmospheric Air on the territory of Altiaghaj National Park had been installed by the Chemistry Coordination Center attached to the Institute for Weather Exploration of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in the framework of UN Convention "On long range transboundary air pollution" and it had began to operate since February, 2012. Based on the information from the station, the climate changes, the dynamics of transboundary movement of pollutants, the impact of air pollution to the environment and human health will be defined, as well as scientific and practical processes will be studied, the forecasts will be given and regular exchanges will be taken place with the relevant research centers of the Convention in respect to the obtained results.

As a result of analysis of information of the National Monitoring Department for Environment of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the period of five years (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011), the below stated dynamics of pollution of atmospheric air of Baku city with the harmful substances on the stationary posts had been observed.

The analysis of the comparisons of the years 2007 - 2011 indicate that the level of pollution of the air in Baku city had increased, the annual pollution indicator had been 1.2 times more above the line in 2007, 4.5 times more above the line in 2008, 1.8 times more above the line in 2009, 2.0 times more above the line in 2010 and 2.1 times more above the line in 2011.

According to the data of stationary posts of Baku city, the average annual indicator of nitrogen - 4 oxide in ambient air had been 1.2 times more above the line in 2007 and 2008, 1.4 times more above the line in 2009, 1.9 times more above the line in 2010 and 1.8 times more above the line in 2011.

According to the data of stationary posts of Baku city, the average annual indicator of hydrogen fluoride had been recorded as 1.2 times more above the line in 2008 – 2011, and the average annual indicator of formaldehyde had been

recorded as 1.3 times more above the line in 2010, 1.2 times more above the line in 2011.

The reasons for air pollution with dust may be intensive construction works in Baku city, and for increasing level of nitrogen oxides increase of motor transport. Hydrogen fluorides may be increased as a result of operation of chemistry, oil refining industry.

With respect to other components analyzed in ambient air, the decrease was observed in the average annual level of sulphur, soluble sulphates, carbon monoxide, nitrogen-2 oxide, hydrogen sulphide, soot, solid fluorides, chlorine, hydrogen chloride, mercury, ammoniac, sulphate acid, formaldehyde, furfural and all of these indicators were lower than ACL (allowable concentration level).

The faculty of Professional development of managers of the Public Administration Academy under President of the Republic of Azerbaijan had prepared the following topics of the short-term course on state regulation of use of nature and protection of environment for professional training in 2011:

- Global climate change and its impact on human organism
- The impact of air pollution on the health of population in big cities

Moreover, on TV and radio channels messages were made on the topics connected to global climate changes and air pollution.

On April 7, 2008, the Public Health and Reforms Center had held the events in secondary and higher schools under the slogan of "Let's protect health from climate change" dedicated to the World Health Day.

The last study showed that, as in previous years, the figures on non-infectious diseases among the population of several cities and regions were higher than the figures of the Republic and it had increased in 2011 in comparison with 2010.

The following figures for 2011 confirms aforementioned:

- diseases of blood circulation system – Sumgait - 27,2; Goranboy - 24,5; Tovuz - 43,1; Ganja - 26,1; Naftalan - 30,5; Sabirabad - 39,9; Zardab - 20,1; Tar-Tar - 23,0; Gobustan - 37,7; (Republic - 12,3)

- diseases of endocrine system – Absheron - 7,5; Sumgait - 10,9; Naftalan - 15,2; Oghuz - 13,8; Khachmaz - 10,9; Kurdamir - 11,5; Aghsu - 13,5; (Republic - 4,9)
- neoplasm – Sumgait - 3,5; Gazakh - 1,3; Samukh - 1,9; Ganja - 1,4; Gakh - 1,4; Guba - 1,5; Gusar - 1,5; Shirvan - 3,8; Mingachevir - 1,7; (Republic - 1,1)
- diseases of respiratory system - Absheron - 170,9; Sumgait - 299,0; Tovuz - 83,5; Yevlakh - 77,7; Aghsu - 145,6; Gobustan - 113,3 ; (Republic - 75,2)

Water

Large-scale projects are implemented for laying water lines and installation of cleaning plants for supply population with the safe drinking water. At the same time, module type water cleaning plants are installed for supply of the most distant settlements not having access to pure drinking water in centralized form within short period of time.

During 2008 - 2011, large-scale projects had been implemented for reconstruction of centralized sewerage systems in the country, modernization of existing waste water cleaning plants and construction of new ones, as well module type cleaning plants have been installed for prevention of pollution of water reservoirs from small local sources.

In order to manage waste waters formed in Baku city during these years, Hovsan aeration station has been reconstructed and the daily power of plants had been reached to 640 thousand cubic meters, also new biological water cleaning plants with the daily power of 20 thousand cubic meters and 10 thousand cubic meters were constructed in Mardakan-Shuvalan and Buzovna settlements being situated in recreation zone of the city.

The construction of 1st stage of biological water cleaning plants with the daily power of 200 thousand cubic meters was completed in Sumgait, another largest city in the Absheron peninsula.

According to the relevant Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has prevented pollution of sea from the area of 86 km due to module type water cleaning plants installed over

streams not joined to centralized sewerage system in the territory of Absheron peninsula.

Continuation of activities in this direction enables not only to achieve one of Millennium Development Goals in Azerbaijan in recent times, namely, "double decrease of the population not provided with drinking water and sanitary services until 2015", but also to supply totally the population with quality drinking water and sanitary services.

The Technical Committee for Ecology composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health, the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent and non-governmental organizations had elaborated and submitted accordingly "The rules for taking samples from natural and artificial lakes, water, bottom deposits, silt, water flows, sea water and waste water" that was approved by the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent in 2011.

With a view of supervision on the supply of country population with domestic and drinking water, the water samples taken from 45 cities and regions of the Republic were examined in laboratory for bacteriological and physical-chemical indicators. So that, 44.7 % of 402 samples examined in 2008 did not meet the requirements of state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 25.6 % for bacteriological indicators, 14.8 % of 552 samples examined in 2009 did not meet the requirements of state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 22.1 % for bacteriological indicators, 25.0 % of 462 samples examined in 2010 did not meet the requirements of state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 22 % for bacteriological indicators, 12.5 % of 530 samples examined in 2011 did not meet the requirements of state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 32.3 % for bacteriological indicators. The territorial sanitary-epidemiological service has taken relevant measures in respect to the results not meeting the requirements of the standard.

During monitoring conducted over drinking water supply of the population of Baku city, 18.3 % of 60 water samples taken from Kur and Jeyranbatan General Water Cleaning Plants in 2008 did not conform to the norm for bacteriological indicators and 20.0 % for physical – chemical indicators, 25.0 % of the samples

taken in 2009 did not conform to the norm for bacteriological indicators and 35.0 % for physical – chemical indicators, 23.3 % of samples taken in 2010 did not conform to the norm for bacteriological indicators and 18.3 % for physical – chemical indicators, 8.3 % of samples taken in 2011 did not conform to the norm for bacteriological indicators and 15.0 % for physical – chemical indicators.

The above mentioned indicates that the quality and safety indicators of water supplied to the population of Baku city in 2011 had changed positively in comparison to 2008 - 2010.

During 2008 - 2010, Azerbaijan participated in preparation of UNECE Guidance on water and adaptation to climate changes” and the document was adopted in the end of 2010.

The Guidelines on water problems and health reflected the ways of management of water resources between the borders prepared within the framework of Convention. The Guidelines recommends decision-makers how to conduct assessment of impact of climate changes to the quality of water resources.

In order to implement the Decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan On approval of Complex Actions Plan for 2006 - 2010 on improvement of ecological condition in the Republic of Azerbaijan” dated 28.09.2006, № 1697, “On some measures in respect to improvement of supply of population with ecologically clean water” dated July 20, 2007, № 2245 the supervision and study of dynamics of infectious diseases that may be spread through water were continued by application of laboratory examination methods over the module type water cleaning plants installed in the villages using the water of Kur and Araz rivers and situated in the territory of Aghjabadi, Bilasuvar, Saatli, Sabirabad, Salyan, Imishli, Neftchala, Kurdamir, Yevlakh and Zardab that are regions with limited quality and epidemiologically safe water capacity. During the last three years, 98 water samples were examined in 2008 in the laboratories of Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology, 26.5% of them did not meet the requirements of the state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 43.8% for bacteriological indicators, 36.0% of 255 water samples taken in 2009 did not meet the requirements of the state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 21.0% for bacteriological indicators, 7.5% of 520 water samples taken in 2010

did not meet the requirements of the state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 37.0% for bacteriological indicators, 16.8% of 641 water samples taken in 2011 did not meet the requirements of the state standards for physical – chemical indicators and 41.2% for bacteriological indicators.

In order to fulfill sanitary – epidemiological issues of “The State Program for reduction of poverty and sustainable development in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008 - 2015”, implementation of large-scale measures were continued in the direction of registration of drinking water sources in the rural areas for improvement of drinking water supply of the population, determination of their sanitary – protection zones. So that, during 2012, 3119 water samples were examined in 2253 villages of 39 regions of the Republic. The proposals for sanitation of water sources according to the results of the examination were sent to the Heads of Executive Powers of the regions Oghuz, Gabala, Gakh, Barda, Tartar, Zardab, Yevlakh, Shaki, Zagatala during the year. It was suggested to organize sanitary – protection zone for each drinking water source (spring, artesian and sub artesian wells, river water) and to refine water the quality of which does not meet the norms.

Noise

“The norms of vibration and noise pollution making negative effect to the environment and human health” were approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated July 8, 2008, № 796.

Appropriate supervision is conducted over allowable level of influential noise of transport facilities and other noise sources in living and resting areas, as well as other places where people are assembling.

The norms of vibration and noise pollution making negative effect to the environment and human health provides for allowable levels of noise and requirements for vibration in living and public buildings, the territory of residential buildings, as well as other places where people are assembling.

The monitoring of noise and vibration impacts is conducted with the purpose of taking measures for characterization of facilities for the parameters, determination of critical factors and prevention of harmful effects.

Taking into account inclusion of vibration and noise in big cities in the group of unfavorable pollutants affecting the people, their monitoring is conducted systematically. The place and number of observation points and number of parameters controlled in each point is determined individually in accordance with the character of the noise and vibration sources.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On norms of vibration and noise pollutants making negative effect to the environment and human health” dated February 13, 2009, № 52 on ensuring the execution of, the supervision over allowable level of influential noise of transport facilities and other noise sources in living and resting places, as well as other places where people are assembling is conducted by the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan Republic, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

As well, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources carries out in-place monitoring of harmful physical impacts (electromagnetic emission, noise and vibration impacts) on the environment under the appeals of the citizens, prepares appropriate documentation and the relevant authorities take measures according to legislation.

In 2008, the sanitary – epidemiological center measured the noise level in 1390 points in 231 facilities, and the noise level was higher than the norm in 156 points. In 2009, the noise level was measured in 1867 points in 269 facilities, and the noise level was higher than the norm in 240 points. In 2010, the noise level was measured in 2877 points in 630 facilities, and the noise level was higher than the norm in 160 points. In 2011, the noise level was measured in 2272 points in 682 facilities, and the noise level was higher than the norm in 70 points.

Asbestos

Asbestos and asbestos containing wastes for their risk characteristics were included in the group of toxic substances causing long lasting or chronic diseases (H11.0-2.02) in the classification systems of the UN Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal and "The Regulations for inventory of wastes generated in the production process" approved by the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated January 25, 2008, №13. Therefore, in according to the requirements of "The Regulations of transboundary movement of dangerous wastes" approved by the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated July 25, 2008, №167, the abovementioned wastes were included in "The list of hazardous wastes the safe treatment of which is not possible and transportation to the Republic of Azerbaijan for the purpose of transit transportation, burying and neutralization is prohibited" prepared by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and submitted to the State Customs Committee and their import to the country was prohibited.

During the last years, dismantling of old and non efficient production fields and corpuses, plants and equipment, also out-of-date residential buildings and houses has caused formation of asbestos containing wastes. According to the annual report of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2.3 tons of above mentioned wastes had been accumulated during 2010.

Asbestos containing materials belong to the 1st risk category according to the risk degree and the average daily density limit of this substance (10% chrysotile containing) was accepted as 0,060 mg / m³.

In order to handle the hazardous wastes according to the international norms and standards, the modern polygon of hazardous wastes was constructed near Sumgait city and was commissioned since 2004. The services for transportation and burial of hazardous wastes including asbestos and asbestos containing wastes were determined by the Decision of the Tariff Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 25, 2007, № 26.

The transportation of asbestos wastes together with construction and household wastes in non-specially equipped transport facilities by the legal or natural entities and placement of them without sorting and accounting leads to pollution of environment. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources takes relevant administrative measures against legal and natural entities in respect to the law violations in management of wastes.

The Republic of Azerbaijan had not ratified ILO Asbestos Convention, No.162. At the present, sanitary-epidemiological rules and norms approved by Sanitary-epidemiological Service of the former USSR on July 31, 1991, are used, namely "Sanitary rules while working with asbestos", No. 5808-91.

According to the provisions of the paragraph 3, Article 11 of the European Social Charter, the draft Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On prohibition of use, production and sale of asbestos and asbestos containing materials" was elaborated and submitted to relevant state authorities for possible comments and proposals.

Ionizing Radiation

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Radiation safety of the population" dated December 30, 1997, №423-IQ approved by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan provides the legal basis in the field of trouble-free operation of radioactive radiation sources, protection of population from radiation danger and protection of its health.

State normalization in the field of ensuring radiation safety is being implemented by adoption of sanitary-hygienic standards, regulations and norms, radiation safety regulations, state standards, occupational safety and construction norms and regulations, orders, instructions and other documents on radiation safety.

While using ionizing radiation sources, the following primary hygienic norms of the radiation is determined within the borders of Republic of Azerbaijan

1. The average annual allowable doze for population is equal to 0,001 sievert or the allowable doze in the whole life period of a person (70 years) is accepted

as 0,07 sievert. The average annual allowable doze during subsequent five years should not exceed 0,001 sievert;

2. For those working within radiation plants, the average annual allowable doze is taken equal to 0,02 sievert or the allowable doze during certain activity period of the life (50 years) is taken equal to 1 sievert. If average annual allowable doze is not more than 0.02 sievert during subsequent five years, then average annual allowable doze may reach to 0.05 sievert in separate years of these five years.

The allowable limit of doze for various areas of the country

Natural background for zones (mkR / h)					
#	Zones	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
1	Baku - Absheron	6-18	6-15	6-17	5-19
2	Nakhchivan AR	10-19	9-20	8-21	10-20
3	Dashkasan – Gadabay	5-12	6-13	5-19	6-12
4	Gazakh -Ganja	6-16	7-18	7-21	5-16
5	Zagatala - Shaki, Shamakhi - Guba	6-26	6-26	5-26	6-25
6	Central Aran	5-18	5-20	5-22	5-18
7	Lankaran - Astara	5-17	5-18	5-19	5-19
8	Small Caucasus (Dashkasan - Gadabay, Gazakh - Ganja)	5-16	6-18	5-21	5-16

Depending on the activeness of sun rays and the types of rocks in mountainous areas, the daily radiation background is variable for the seasons in the territory of the Republic.

Scientific research, experimental design works, construction of plants, design and preparation of technological equipment for them in respect to use of

ionizing radiation sources, as well the works in the field of production, treatment, transportation, storage, use, destruction and burial of radiation safety means, also radioactive substances are in the state monopoly and implemented as defined by the relevant executive power authorities.

According to the Regulations "On giving special permission to design and preparation of technological equipment, radiation safety means for the plants considered to be the ionizing radiation sources, storage stations of radioactive wastes, the warehouses of radioactive wastes" approved by the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Republic of Azerbaijan dated April 12, 2004, No. 42, the Ministry of Emergency Situations gives special permission for design and preparation of technological equipment, radiation safety means for the plants considered to be the ionizing radiation sources, storage stations of radioactive wastes, the warehouses of radioactive wastes.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Improvement of rules of issuing special permission (license) to some types of activities" dated September 02, 2012, No 782, special permission for maintenance and burial of substances emitting radioactive and ionizing radiations is provided by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Sanitary epidemiological health" dated 10.11.1992, No 371, Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health gives sanitary – epidemiological opinion to exploitation of X-ray rooms.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Sanitary epidemiological safety" dated 10.11.1992, No 371, the Republican Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health provides the radiologic – hygienic passport to the entities and organizations using ionizing radiation sources.

The monitoring of the radioactive pollution in the territory of the country is carried out by the registration of sources of radioactive pollution in the environment, in the institutions which may lead to radioactive pollution of the environment and accumulation of the radionuclides in products and wastes, in

components of natural environment and living conditions in order to identify and to prevent radioactive pollution in regular and particular treatment.

The monitoring of radioactive pollution in the institutions is conducted by the entity within the framework of production monitoring, the results are submitted to the relevant authorities annually by providing monthly figures.

Inventory of radiation sources, radiation sourced devices and equipments in the entities and organizations operating in the territory of the Republic, is conducted until January 25 in the year.

The monitoring of radioactivity of the water is conducted in various forms in various water objects depending on their hydrological regimes:

- The water samples in the rivers are taken once in summer, once in autumn, once in winter in minimal water consumption, thrice in spring in maximal water consumption;
- The duration and number of determination of radioactivity in water reservoirs and lakes is determined depending on the water level regimes: once in minimal water level in summer (in non-raining days), once in autumn, once in the last days of winter while the snow is not melt, once in spring in the period of high water;
- The monitoring of radioactive pollution of soils is conducted systematically once a year with the purpose of control on higher level of activeness of separate radio isotopes more than the allowable limit, and for special purposes in necessary cases;
- Determination of density of general radioactivity of aerosols in the atmosphere layer that near to the earth is carried out through measurement of radioactivity of aerosols accumulated over the gauze tablets during the day;
- the radioactivity of rainfall (snow, rain) is conducted through determination of amount of tritium isotope in rainfall samples.

The daily observations on the environmental radiation background are conducted in 42 stations thrice a day covering all regions of the country (at about 09⁰⁰, 15⁰⁰, 18⁰⁰ o'clock). According to the results of the measurements, daily bulletins are prepared and delivered to the relevant state authorities appropriately and the data is placed in the web site of the Ministry. The observations over the radioactivity of atmospheric aerosols are conducted

through tablet samples taken from Baku, Sumgait, Ganja, Lankaran, Shaki, Zagatala, Guba, Nakhchivan, Aghjabadi, Aghstafa and Neft dashlari.

At the same time, there is automated monitoring control system over radiation background in the territory of the country. This system located in the regions Gazakh, Sadarak (Nakhchivan AR), Beylagan, Astara, Guba and Pirallahi Island. The obtained monitoring information is transferred to the National Monitoring Department for Environment of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and at the same time to the Center for Management in Crises Situations of the Ministry of Emergency Situations every half an hour

Food Safety

According to the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 12.09.2008 No 338s in order to ensure execution of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan On approval of the State Program on the reliable food supply of population during 2008-2015 dated August 25, 2008, No. 3004, with a view to execute the provisions of the Action Plan of the State Program related to the Ministry of Health, the Action Plan of the Ministry was prepared by defining concrete period and responsible bodies and was submitted for implementation according to the Order of the Ministry of Health dated 03.10.2008, No.133. The Information on the implementation is provided to the Ministry of Economic Development twice a year

During the last four years, 12797 kg flour, 5683 garden products, 1252 kg beef, 1348 kg milk and dairy products, 1155 kg fish and fish products, 1035 kg salt, 1582 kg granulated sugar and sugar, 3014 kg sugar confectionery, 9756 liters of non alcoholic drinks, 470.5 kg canned beef and beef sausages from commercial networks, individuals and legal entities was destroyed by the authorities of State Sanitary Control.

It is currently regulated by the "Regulations for implementation of state control on compliance with the standards and requirements in the field of ensuring quality and safety of the food products " approved by the Decision of the

Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated August 16, 2005, No. 154.

Measures to combat smoking, alcoholism and drug addiction

The below stated community health materials were prepared in last 5 years and distributed among the population in the topic of necessity of ensuring the right of the population to live in healthy environment and the necessity of prevention of the pollution of environment for the human health, promotion of healthy life style:

- climate changes and human health
- for what is the smoking harmful? Influence to the around (passive smoking)
- ARD (acute respiratory disease)
- Diarrhea
- 7 principles of prophylaxis of intestinal infection (placard)
- ARD (placard)
- heat stroke and sun stroke
- prophylaxis of food toxic infection
- how is the infection infected?
- About hygiene for children
- 7 foundations of healthy life style

The booklet titled “10 Facts about healthy environment for prophylaxis of diseases” prepared by the Public Health and Reforms Center in 2012 were distributed to the centers for hygiene and epidemiology of the cities and regions of the Republic based on division for the purpose of enlightenment of the population.

Prophylactic measures – Epidemiological Monitoring

Beginning from March 2009, each of the patients suspected with the measles and rubella diseases was investigated individually, according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization, even if there was not any laboratory approval, epidemiological investigation cards were composed for

each patient, the results of every month were sent to the CISID program of WHO in the form of general and individual reports.

The Electronic Integrated Observation System of Diseases within the framework of "The Program for Decrease of Biological Threat" is being implemented and the issues connected with joining of the centers for Hygiene and Epidemiology of all cities and regions of the Republic to that system and inclusion of infectious diseases was succeed as result of serious measures taken in this direction.

B type hemophilic, pneumococcal, meningococcal infections in the background of invasive bacterial infections in Azerbaijan are under the control by the joint cooperation of WHO Regional Office for Europe and Rostropovich – Vishnevskaya Fund since 2010.

Beginning from 2010, the supervision has been provided through Electronic Integrated Observation System of Diseases over acute flabby paralysis, measles, rubella, hereditary rubella syndrome, diphtheria and other infectious diseases.

Information on food poisonings recorded for the last 4 years:

1. in 2008 total 980 food poisonings happened, and 1389 persons from them were suffered
2. in 2009 total 993 food poisonings happened, and 1100 person from them were suffered.
3. in 2010 Total 1101 food poisonings happened, and 1222 persons from them were suffered
4. in 2011Total 826 food poisonings happened, and 980 persons from them were suffered

The organization and implementation of measures against tuberculosis in the Republic are guided by the orders, instructions, methodic directions and circular letters of the Ministry of Health Improving of health of population and implementation of wide community health measures toward the strengthening resistance of the organism from the tuberculosis infection, improvement of sanitation works in the tuberculosis infection centers, strengthening of specific prophylaxis of tuberculosis through increasing percentage of involvement to anti

tuberculosis inoculation and early detection of tuberculosis disease is considered as major prophylactic and fighting measures conducted against tuberculosis.

The number of initial tuberculosis cases in the Republic was 4186 in 2008, 4320 in 2009, 4892 in 2010 and 4893 in 2011.

305 syphilis disease cases were recorded in 2009, 220 cases in 2010, 452 cases in 2011 among the population in the Republic.

For the purpose of early detection of the syphilis disease, a number of prophylactic measures have been implemented. So that, examination of family members of patients with syphilis and gonorrhoea diseases and the persons keeping contact with them was conducted. The pregnant women, the somatic patients that have applied to therapeutic and neurology departments have passed Wassermann test for syphilis.

Immunization

The National Immunization Program is supported by the state and directed to decrease of infectious diseases that can be managed.

The Ministry of Health implements expedient measures in the field of strengthening the national immunization system in the country, application of new inoculations, in provision of quality and safety of immunization, conducting epidemiological supervision over infectious diseases that can be managed, maintenance of the status of territory without poliomyelitis and the issues on removal of measles and rubella until 2015.

Since 2009, the immunization program is completely financed from the state budget. Except some part of Hib- AGDT-HepB vaccine applied in Azerbaijan since 2011, purchase of other inoculation materials is ensured from the state budget.

A lot of works have been done in implementation of long term national plan about immunoprophylaxis for prophylaxis of infectious diseases in the Republic for the recent years.

According to the inoculation calendar approved by the Ministry of Health, immunoprophylaxis program covers the targeted group of the population up to 6 years old with inoculations against hepatitis "B", tuberculosis, inoculations against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping-cough, measles, epidemic parotitis, rubella, "b" type hemophilic infections through routine immunization.

According to the national indicators, the coverage in the country for all antigens (vaccines) during 2009 – 2011 was 95 % - 98 %.

Information about the inoculation status of children, as well as information about the health of the children have been included in the "Health Card" electronic data base of the Ministry of Health.

Azerbaijan takes part in conducting the European Immunization Week by the initiative of the WHO every year from 2007. This initiative was directed to improvement of coverage with inoculation.

The poliomyelitis disease had not recorded in Azerbaijan since 1996, and country had obtained the certificate as territory free from poliomyelitis since 2002. When the poliomyelitis disease arose in Republics of Central Asia and Russian Federation in 2010, Azerbaijan had taken immunization measures against poliomyelitis in 2 tours covering 97 % of child population up to 5 years old in the regions bordered with the Russian Federation.

The immunization against measles, rubella and epidemic parotitis in Azerbaijan is conducted with combined vaccine since 2003, and immunization against whooping-cough, diphtheria, tetanus, "b" type hemophilic infection, hepatitis B diseases is conducted with combined 5 component vaccine since 2011.

Article 14 - The right to benefit from social welfare services

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to benefit from social welfare services, the Contracting Parties undertake:

1. to promote or provide services which, by using methods of social work, would contribute to the welfare and development of both individuals and groups in the community, and to their adjustment to the social environment;
2. to encourage the participation of individuals and voluntary or other organizations in the establishment and maintenance of such services.

Answers

Article 14 - The right to benefit from social welfare services

Paragraph 1 - Provision or promotion of social welfare services

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Social Service” approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 14, 2012, No. 600. The abovementioned law covering all persons being in difficult life conditions enables provision of services in accordance with more qualitative and progressive, modern standards. The law defines provision of social services in 4 forms (in home (mobile) social service, semi-stationary (daytime) social service, stationary social service, social – consultation assistance) and in 7 types (social-welfare, medical-social, social-psychological, social-pedagogical, socio-economic, social-legal and palliative services). According to the law, all the cases creating grounds for taking the person (family) into social service and objectively violating the life activities, and the cases that cannot be prevented alone may be grounds for taking the person into social service. In this respect all persons with needs may be provided with free social services by the state.

According to the law, the social services are provided in social service institutions and at homes under the free of charge, partially charged or fully charged bases. The charged social services are provided based on the agreement concluded between the person (family) being in difficult life conditions and the social service providers.

Based on the experience obtained in the process of implementation of targeted social assistance mechanism, and taking into account the need to make certain changes to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On targeted state social assistance”, in order to improve the mechanism and enlarge its coverage, the Law “On application of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on changes and amendments to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Addressed state social assistance” was adopted on June 24, 2008, No 2897, by Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population had developed the draft of the “Program for social rehabilitation of the low income families ” covering 13 projects, and the main goal of this draft is to remove those low income families from the poverty line through active projects by using the database on families in the Centers for Social Protection of Population.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population jointly with the non-governmental organization “Social Services Initiative” had started to establish the model of mobile rehabilitation services in Ismayilli and Guba regions, selected as pilot regions for the first time in our country from January of 2009. The model called “the project for strengthening the rehabilitation services” plays an important role in formation of new policy in provision of rehabilitation of children living in distant rural areas and having mental or light psychical problems. This project creates possibilities to provide services to more than 700 children of 3 – 12 years old.

Based on the forecasts on level of need criteria prepared by the Ministry, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On level of need criteria for 2011 in the Republic of Azerbaijan” dated October 22, 2010, was adopted and the level of need criteria for 2011 was determined in the amount of 75 AZN.

As a result of implementation of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On application of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on social adaptation of the persons released from serving sentence in the penitentiary institutions” dated July 30, 2007, No 606, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On changes and amendments to some Decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan” dated October 26, 2007, No 642, 1211

persons released from serving sentence in penitentiary institutions and needing medical and social assistance were paid lump sum benefit in the amount of 4 times of the minimum salary in the country. As the implementation of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On provision of material assistances to the persons participated in removal of Chernobyl accident and affected in the result of that accident" dated April 22, 2011, No. 1461, 4616 persons injured in the Chernobyl accident were paid lump sum material assistance in the amount of 200 AZN. The amount of lump sum benefit for birth of child was increased 5.3 times in comparison with January 1, 2006 and reached to 75.0 AZN.

The pensions (grants) of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan determined based on various decrees and orders of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan are of special importance in ensuring social protection of the population. So that, the following special presidential pensions were established for the following persons, based on the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated July 04, 2005, No 878, for those having the "honoured" and "public" honorary titles (30 and 50 AZN accordingly), according to the Decree dated July 14, 2005, No 258, for the National Heroes of Azerbaijan and members of their family (600 AZN), based on the Decree dated January 19, 2006, No 350, for the family members of January 20 martyrs (300 AZN), based on the Decree dated December 19, 2006, No 493, for the family members of martyrs (100 AZN), based on the Decree dated September 09, 2008, No 823, for the invalids of war (depending on the invalidity degree 90; 70 and 50 AZN). According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 08, 2010, No 323, the amount of pension of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the family members of the martyrs was increased 50 % and reached to 150 AZN.

332101 persons have been provided monthly and lump sum benefits and services have been provided to 34163 persons getting presidential pension.

During 2011, 200875758.0 AZN had been spent for payment of monthly and lump sum social benefits, pensions and compensations.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population and District (City) Executive Powers had constructed multi-storey residential buildings and

individual houses in Baku city and other cities and regions of the Republic and 4200 invalids of Karabakh war and families of martyrs had been supplied with apartments during 1997 - June 20, 2011. Only the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population had constructed 90 multi-storey residential buildings and 487 individual houses in Baku city and other cities and regions of the Republic and given to the use of invalids of Karabakh war and families of martyrs, so, 3150 families were supplied with apartments. The District (city) Executive Powers have supplied apartments to the persons of this category within the framework of state investment program.

2940 automobiles were purchased and brought to Republic for the invalids from 1998 until 2011, and given to the invalids of Karabakh war and January 20 who were in turn and to the invalids of Great Patriotic War who have taken active part in social-political life of the Republic and provided special services in state formation as well as training of young generation by taking into account the proposals of the Republican Council of Veterans.

In 2007, 376 "OKA" branded automobiles, during September – December 2008, 200 "OKA" branded automobiles, in 2009, 500 "Slavuta" branded automobiles and in 2010, 352 "Slavuta" branded automobiles were purchased for invalids and distributed free of charge.

In respect to the execution of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Social adaptation of the persons released from serving sentence in the penitentiary institutions", the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population jointly with the Ministry of Justice had prepared actions plan. In respect to execution of this plan, representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population had meetings in prisons with the citizens 3 months prior to their release, and 2218 persons in 2011, 3422 citizens in 2012 were provided with material and social assistances.

According to the Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Legal status of the foreigners and stateless persons", the foreigners and stateless persons may live in the Republic of Azerbaijan on temporary or permanent basis.

The foreigners and the stateless persons living at least two years in the Republic of Azerbaijan on the following basis may be given the right to live permanently (immigrant status) in the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- if those persons are in close relative relationships with the citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- if those persons married with the citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- if those persons have made capital investments in the country economy in the amount defined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- if those persons have deposited money resources in the banks of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the amount defined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- if those persons get full time education in educational institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan ;
- if those persons are high level specialist in the field of economy, industry, defense, science, culture, sport and other fields.

The immigrant status is given for the period of five years. After that period, the permission given for permanent residence may be extended for five years based on the application of the foreigner and the stateless person. The number of extensions is not restricted.

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On social service” (Article 8.), each person taken into social service has the right to require the social service providers to respect their dignity and honor and to demonstrate humanist relationships, as well as to make complaints against their action (inaction) in administrative and (or) judicial manner. In this regard, the person provided with social services may address his/her complaint to higher authorities providing supervision over taking into social service and provision with qualitative social service, and if it fails, may restore his/her right by applying to the court.

Quality of services

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Social service” (Article 28), the supervision on the quality, efficiency of the social services provided by the social service providers and compliance with the requirements of the state standards is implemented by relevant executive power authority. The relevant

executive power authority means the related state authorities. So that, the related state authority implements general supervision on the activities of the institutions providing social service under its subordination, especially on compliance with the existing standards in terms of quality and efficiency of social services implemented within the framework of its authorities. Besides, the representatives of the civil society institutions acting in the field of relevant social service are involved in the monitoring.

Paragraph 2 - Public participation in the establishment and maintenance of social welfare services

The financial assistance allocated by the Council for State Support to the NGOs attached to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the direction of settlement of social problems in 2009, 2010 and 2011

Years	The amount allocated by the Council (AZN)	The number of projects financed
2009	123.059,0	13
2010	222.014,0	41
2011	324.599,0	57

Source: the Council for State Support to the NGOs under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.