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SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs
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Legislation on entrepreneurship

- Law on Entrepreneurship of December 15, 1992
- Law on State Support for Small Business of June 4, 1999
The key objective of the approved document is

✓ to decrease the dependence on resources
✓ to overcome the potential risks, through the sustainable and competitive development of non-oil sector in Azerbaijan
State agencies for the institutional support for SMEs

- Baku Business Training Centre under the Minister of Economy
- National Fund for Entrepreneurship Support
- Agency for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- AZPROMO - Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation
- ABAD  Support for Family Business centers network
The Agency for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises under the Ministry of Economy (SME) - public legal entity that supports the development of small and medium-sized businesses in the country, provides a range of services to the SMEs, coordinates and regulates the services of state bodies in this field.
The Agency for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

The main objective is to support the development of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the country by providing SMBs with a number of services as well as ensuring coordination and regulation of services rendered by government entities to SMBs.
SMB Houses

(SMBH) is an organizational unit of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency responsible for coordination of services rendered by state bodies and private entities to entrepreneurs in the single space. SMB Houses ensures entrepreneurs’ awareness and enhancement of their knowledge level, provides entrepreneurs with services by allowing for their participation in trainings, consultations and international exchange programs, providing them with information and other types of support.
SME Friend is both aimed at the establishment of new SMBs and expansion of existing ones to ensure potential development of the regions. For this purpose, potential investment projects are determined to ensure their implementation by SMBs.
Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO)

Main objective - allocation funds for SMEs to participate in international sales fairs. In 2015, AZPROMO established the Exporter Club, whose main function is to support manufacturers in exporting Azerbaijani products to foreign markets.
ABAD public legal entity under State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established by decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 23, 2016.
ABAD (Support for Family Business) centers network

- supports active participation of citizens in socio-economical development of Azerbaijan, small and medium entrepreneurship development
- increases employment and formation of competitive family farms.
- stimulates rural economic growth by helping farmers and small private enterprises
- increases their sales and create new employment opportunities
- delivers assistance primarily through rural Marketing Centers staffed by business advisors who live and work in the regions.
- helps access technical, market and business information
- provides consultation from local and international experts, and advice and consultation on obtaining access to credit, including equipment and machinery leases
President of Azerbaijan signed a decree on the establishment of state centers for agricultural development.
The state centers for agricultural development are established on the basis of district and city departments of the Ministry of Agriculture in order to ensure the arrangement of service-oriented activities in agriculture, intensification of work with farmers, implementation of awareness campaigns in connection with the use of electronic services and innovative technologies, determination of the direction of activities of agricultural producers.
The main purposes:

- to support the agricultural policy concept
- to achieve the development of agricultural products

"State Agro Trade Company"
AFAQ – Agro Action of Azerbaijani Women

- increase women's employment in agro sphere, their access to information, resources and markets
- improve their socio-economic wellbeing
- facilitate the access of women to the sales markets, forming women entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture
Capacity Development Support to Rural Women on the Socio-economic and Gender Aspects of Sustainable Rural Development

Within the scope of the project, FAO supported the development of a need analysis and training strategy in three pilot provinces in Azerbaijan. The provinces have been selected based on the regional differences, agricultural production patterns and capacity of women’s organizations in those cities. FAO shared its experiences with national extension service staff in undertaking gender-sensitive needs assessment, giving support for designing and providing training that targets the specific needs and priorities of rural women, especially on promoting empowerment of rural women, food security and livelihoods.
Association of Rural Women of Azerbaijan

- to support the social and economic development of rural women
- to support agriculture, we support women's initiatives
- to increase employment in rural areas and improve the well-being of the population
Women in the private sector: opportunities and challenges

The goal of this study:

✓ to examine the factors influencing women’s participation in the private sector economy
✓ to support the efforts of the national government, private sector actors and civil society organisations (CSOs) working to promote women’s economic empowerment.
✓ to identify and analyse gender-specific barriers that hinder women in pursuing business opportunities, securing decent jobs and building successful careers in the private sector.
Azerbaijan's Women Entrepreneurs Association

The Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan was established in October 2017. The Association has concluded memorandums of cooperation with the associations of women entrepreneurs of Georgia, Latvia and Astrakhan, and is interested in expanding this list. Organization maintains contacts with foreign associations to learn from each other's experience and share it. Offices are being opened in some countries, and Azerbaijani business ladies are actively involved in this activity. More than 172,000 women are engaged in entrepreneurial activity across the country.
Projects implemented on women empowerment and increasing women entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan during 2017-2018

- “Promoting Rural Women`s participation in the Social and Economic Life” project (SCFWCA, UNDP, EU)
- Economic empowerment for women entrepreneurship and employment (SCFWCA, UNDP)
- Partnership for women`s economic empowerment in South Caucasus (SCFWCA, UNDP, UN Women)
- Enabling civil society to play greater role in advancing gender equality and women`s rights”
- Gender Assessment: Analyzing Barriers to Economic and Social Participation of Women and Girls and Producing Action Oriented Recommendations (SCFWCA ,UNDP, UNFPA, Swiss Cooperation Office and local NGOs)
- Start and Improve your Business’ (Coca Cola company, UNDP)
- Promoting the role of civil society in gender sensitive SDGs implementation (SCFWCA, UNDP, EU)
Enabling civil society to play greater role in advancing gender equality and women’s rights” implemented by European Union and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in partnership with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children
Economic empowerment for women entrepreneurship and employment
“Promoting Rural Women’s participation in the Social and Economic Life” project was implemented among women, including refugees and IDPs women

- Support women willing to increase the level of their economic activity through capacity development and network building;
- Strengthen the role of women in community based decision-making;
- Sensitize private sector (banks, non-banking credit units and private companies) to gender needs and interests of women in rural areas;
- Build capacity of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children’s Affairs to address the needs of women through advocacy, policy development and programmatic interventions.
Gender-sensitive policies and programmatic interventions for economic participation of rural women
Women Resource Centres are established and/or maintained as a vehicle to support women’s civic engagement.
Promoting the role of civil society in gender sensitive SDGs implementation (SCFWCA, UNDP, EU)
Organization of a Job Fair as a venue to bridge job-seeking women with potential employers

- The assessment of employment opportunities for women in the local labour market
- Job search, CV writing, Interview Skills, Presentation skills and Effective Communication skills training
- Business development training
- Awareness raising and sensitization campaign to change gender stereotyping related to the choice of jobs and gender-based distribution of family duties
Women and Girls at the Forefront of Sustainable Development: protect, empower, invest

The EU/UNDP/SCFWCA project “Strong civil society and advanced role of women are driving force in the development of democratic societies" was presented under the theme II Promoting economic and social rights and Empowerment of Girls and Women and was selected as the best one for participation at the European Development Days 2018 that took place in Brussels on 5-6 June 2018.
This is already a very high indicator of the success of our join project.
Gender Assessment: Analyzing Barriers to Economic and Social Participation of Women and Girls and Producing Action Oriented Recommendations together with UNDP, Swiss Cooperation Office and local NGOs

✓ To conduct the study assessment in Baku and 6 regions of Azerbaijan for collecting evidence materials on the reasons preventing women and girls from accessing economic and employment opportunities in the private sector both in rural and urban areas
✓ To produce the report with recommendations to the private sector as well as to other stakeholders based on study assessment findings
✓ To provide the study assessment findings to a wide range of stakeholders for further advocacy and action
Meeting with the private sector and banks to sensitize them to gender specific needs and initiate dialogue between the businesses and civil society activists to promote women’s rights
Women are enabled to more actively participate in economic activities and exercise their economic rights.
“Development of policies and programmatic interventions in the area of economic empowerment and community-based activism of young women” trainings for the staff of local executive authorities
Success factors of the projects in the regions

• Local authority’s support and good partnership with the ExCom – who knows very well the region and understands the challenges women face and open to changes.
• Community trust – women trust the project and understand its mission and their own role in this project, willing to contribute towards its development.
Azerbaijan joins the event Global Startup Weekend Women to strengthen startups, personal business, entrepreneurial activities among women, as well as increase the number of women entrepreneurs.
Special workshop ICT’s for business
Adjusting women to the changing needs of the society and economy by conducting vocational trainings, research and skills development.
MBASK Insurance Company has started a new project called "Miss Agent" for women and supporting women's entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan.

Currently, 3 offices (two offices in Baku, 1 office in Lankaran) are opened for dealing with financial and credit institutions, as well as all types of insurance for women-agents.

In addition, the Company offers long-term business-couching and workshops on entrepreneurship in order to arrange tools and knowledge necessary for women agents to take the next step.
The assessment of employment opportunities for women in the local labour market

Job search, CV writing, Interview Skills, Presentation skills and Effective Communication skills training

Business development training

Awareness raising and sensitization campaign to change gender stereotyping related to the choice of jobs and gender-based distribution of family duties

Organization of a Job Fair as a venue to bridge job-seeking women with potential employers
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Uniting female business owners and top-level corporate executives at 100 Business Women of Azerbaijan is eager to drive the social mission - empower women, support them and inspire them.
100 Business Women of Azerbaijan networking organizes a Mentoring Walk event aimed to promote women leadership in the organizations. Young females – MENTEES who are at junior positions in different companies as well as some female students from ADA were able to ask any questions from MENTORS on business and career advises, challenges and experience and create supportive bonds that encourage growth, confidence and leadership.
International Conference on the development of the women entrepreneurship: challenges and perspectives
June 2019
Discussing the development of women entrepreneurship: positive trends, initiatives and international experience during the bilateral meetings.
Conclusions of the conference

- Eliminate obstacle to innovative women entrepreneurship
- Eradicate such obstacles as traditional views and stereotypes on women in businesses
- Increase business trainings, improvement of entrepreneurship skills
- Increase access of women to technical and business networks
Success stories of some women from our projects

Combining her experience as a Young European Ambassador and her love of travelling led Sara to launch a blog that promotes the possibilities of free and low-cost travel for everyone.

Rena Mekhraliyeva is a successful female entrepreneur who received support from the EU and the UNDP. Based in Sabirabad town, Rena’s business involves organising pre-wedding ‘Henna Night’ ceremonies.
Aytekin is one of the leading specialists in her cosmetic company. She manages 68 people, she has travelled halfway around the world for training and she has moved to Baku where she helps young women believe in themselves.

Irana is working in the laboratory at one of Azerbaijan's largest petrochemical complexes. Her job is to test the physical and mechanical properties of polymers and test gases for impurities.
Goychak – started own business with 3 caws, currently produces sausages, employs 4 persons, produces 100kg every day. Goychak is buying meat from the project beneficiaries, who have started livestock businesses within the project frame.
And she currently –via ABAD- sales her products in big markets chain
Networks among Women Associations
THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!