BRIEFING DOCUMENT

By Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center

On the effectiveness of socio-economic measures to combat COVID-19 pandemic and the management of medical crisis during the quarantine period in Azerbaijan





I. Executive Summary

This document analyses the quarantine rules, government handling of medical crisis and effectiveness of socio-economic relief measures applied by Azerbaijan to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS) based this report on the laws in force, the information, documents and reports of relevant authorities, different organizations and media sources, alongside the results of its own observation.

The Cabinet Ministers started the relevant measures after the first confirmed case of coronavirus in Azerbaijan on 27 February. On April 4th, Cabinet of Ministers confirmed the action plan to improve the worsened socio-economic situation of the population due to pandemic related restrictions. The action plan was sought to offer one-off social allowances, economic discounts and stimuli to vulnerable groups, entrepreneurs and employees from sectors that were hit by coronavirus. As part of the plan, people became unemployed because of coronavirus got 190 AZN (~ 112 USD) whereas entrepreneur victims of the pandemic received amount of tax paid in 2019 fiscal year or at least 250 AZN (147 USD) as one-off payments. EMDS notes that the registration of people in need during the pandemic and the number of unemployed persons and people with low-income were not determined necessarily which, as a result, deprived thousands of citizens of regular socio-economic financial helps. The fairness principle was not duly taken into account in terms of helps to entrepreneurs, individual entrepreneurs did not receive financial helps adequate to their significant losses due to the pandemic.

The organization of measures to combat the impact of COVID-19 pandemic needs to be in a transparent manner since the epidemic directly affects the wellbeing and health concerns of the population. Unfortunately, the public was not comprehensively informed on the quarantine measures. At the same time, the public lacked the information on the guidance by the World Health Organization (WHO) on contact-tracing to combat the COVID-19. As a result, the uncertainty among the public caused the mistrust to the decisions of the government.

EMDS considers the material-technical opportunities to be insufficient to provide quality distance education for 1.6-8 million student and pupils across Azerbaijan. The problems include the number of devices to access the internet, shortcomings in usage of broadband internet connection and the prices of mobile internet. Unfortunately, during the summer, only 30 thousand user or 20 % of the teachers were trained on the rules of use of the 'Microsoft Teams' platform upon which the online education is conducted.

EMDS recommends considering the principles of legality and fairness in the making of the socio-economic measures and informing the public in comprehensive and transparent manner. Especially, it must be determined whether unemployment or low-income criteria is used as a

ground for socio-economic help packages. For instance, the number of unemployed people before the quarantine was considered to be 250 thousand people whereas during the pandemic the number exceeded 700 thousand in the absence of dismissals in huge numbers. Thus, the legislation and relevant criteria must be improved to protect the social and economic rights of the people in between those numbers.

EMDS also recommends the publication of guidance and informing public of criteria on entering and gradually exiting the quarantine to establish mutual trust between the authorities and the public.

In order to attain high quality in distant education, the problems with user habits of teachers and internet opportunities for users in regions must be solved, discounted prices should be achieved to provide education sector with efficient and effective internet and equipment.

II. Introduction

This document analyses the government handling of medical crisis and effectiveness of socioeconomic relief measures applied by Azerbaijan to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Operative Headquarters was established under the Cabinet of Ministers to manage the combat against the impact of COVID-19 in Azerbaijan after the first confirmed case of coronavirus on February 27. The Operative Headquarters was found upon the action plan of the Cabinet of Ministers "on prevention of the spread of new coronavirus infection in the Republic of Azerbaijan" which has not become publicly available yet. Only the <u>rules</u> of acceptance of quarantine and organizational, preventive and other necessary measures and the <u>composition</u> of the Operative Headquarters of 35 high-ranking officials are available.

On 30 March 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers <u>issued</u> its decision "on additional measures regarding prevention of widespread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Azerbaijan Republic" enlisting rules and restrictions in the strict quarantine regime. Since then, the Cabinet has renewed and extended the restrictions.

The public gatherings with more than 10 participants were forbidden which later dropped to 5. At times, citizens were allowed to leave their homes only for 2-3 hours with special permission obtained via SMS or online application. Last of such decisions covers the period between 14 December 2020 and 18 January 2021.

Some decisions of the Operative Headquarter – in charge of organization of quarantine regime – caused public discussion and occasional criticism. At the same time, the lack of transparency in the work of The Administration of the Regional Medical Divisions (TABIB) – in charge of organization of medical help and management of medical crisis during quarantine – and the lack of uncertain division of tasks between TABIB and the Ministry of Health also caused public attention.

EMDS based this report on the laws in force, the information, documents and reports of relevant authorities, different organizations and media sources, alongside the results of its own observation.

EMDS thanks to the experts – Toghrul Valiyev and Murad Rustambayli for their contributions.

III. Provision of socio-economic help during the quarantine

According to official <u>information</u>, in between January and November 2020, the nominal income of the people gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by 1.5 % and 4.3 %, respectively. The share of export in economy shrank by 27% as well. At the same time, average monthly nominal salary – increased following the social measures applied in 2019 – dropped by 5.5% since April 2020.

Moreover, the number of unemployed people increased by 112 thousand since the start of 2020. Thus, pandemic related quarantine measures have contributed to the issue of unemployment whereas the general income of the population has fell. During the quarantine, solution to both these matters were among the functions of the state and mentioned in the action <u>plan</u> confirmed by the Cabinet of Ministers on April 4th as well. This plan includes the following:

- a) Payment of certain part of the salary of hired workers in sections suffered from the pandemic (to prevent the loss of workplaces)
- b) Financial help to the individual entrepreneurs in sections suffered from the pandemic
- c) Offering various tax stimuli to economic subjects
- d) Prevention of groundless dismissals in the non-public sector
- e) Creation of 50 thousand paid public jobs
- f) One-off payment to the unemployed people in the living minimum amount
- g) Enlarging self-employment programs
- h) Enlarging coverage of unemployment insurance payments

3.1 Unemployment and support for individuals

On April 4th, Cabinet of Ministers confirmed the action plan to improve the worsened socio-economic situation of the population due to pandemic related restrictions. The action plan was sought to offer one-off social allowances, economic discounts and stimuli to vulnerable groups, entrepreneurs and employees from sectors that were hit by coronavirus. As part of the plan, people became unemployed because of coronavirus got 190 AZN (~112 USD) whereas entrepreneur victims of the pandemic received amount of tax paid in 2019 fiscal year or at least 250 AZN (147 USD) as one-off payments.

According to official information, the number of workers in non-public sector rose from 730 to 773 thousand. Government officials justify this difference with the allocation of social supports. Thus, it is claimed that physical and legal entities were registering their workers to obtain the payment covering part of their salaries.

In Azerbaijan there were 255,1 thousand unemployed people till April 1, 2020. Only 30-40 % of them were registered in relevant bodies. During the quarantine, the unemployed people were deprived of day works as well. According to the plan above, the support for unemployment was sought to cover 200 thousand people, however this number <u>reached</u> to 600 thousand upon the requests.

The name of this payment was "one-off payment for people registered as unemployed". However, the absence of such payment criteria in domestic legislation was requiring additional documents as sources. On April 7th, the decision confirmed by the Cabinet of Ministers

declared that only one person can receive the payment from each family. No legal ground was presented for the decision while the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on employment which the rules were referred to did not contain such condition. Rules also deprived people of support who receives another social payment (pension, social allowance etc.)

New rules were put forward during the allocation processes of the payment. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security(MLSS), 1.2 million people requested for the payment whereas half of the applications were rejected.

The <u>reasons</u> for rejections were such as: having active work contract (320 thousand), active taxpayer identification number (170 thousand), having a spouse already received the payment (65 thousand), possessing two or more real estate (20 thousand), living in another country (41 thousand), having two or more cars (19.2 thousand).

However, these grounds are not reflected in neither initial rules nor the law on employment. Relevant grounds for rejections are enshrined in the "law on targeted state social assistance". Moreover, according to the Minister, the Ministry identified 600 thousand people with lowincome. Therefore, it is confusing whether the main criteria taken into account is being unemployed or having low-income.

The payment was 190 AZN. This is the living minimum for Azerbaijan in 2020. This raises some questions:

- a) According to the law on employment, unemployed person is an "able-bodied person of working age who does not have a job or income". Another law, law on the living minimum determines the amount of living minimum for able-bodied person as 201 AZN.
- b) Relevant law defines the living minimum (201 AZN) as for one person. However, the payment (190 AZN) was allocated for the family as a whole.

Another set of problems were also accompanied in the process of obtaining the payment. Analyse of citizen complaints from open sources demonstrate that 32% of complainant did not receive response to the request or got it so late. Up to 20% of complainants were denied the payment upon no clear ground cited where 16% of them got rejection because of possessing piece of land in the name of themselves or their family members. Having active taxpayer identification number, car and not withdrawing the previous payment from the bank card have been among the reasons for rejections. The last reason also lacks legal grounds.

3.2 Support for entrepreneurs

In the start of the pandemic, the Government representatives (especially the President and the Minister of Economics) declared that no job dismissals will be allowed. Thus, initially it was banned to dismiss employees because of lack of the revenue.

In order to prevent dismissals, it was planned to pay the part of the salary of workers which covered April, May and July. According to official information, initially 25 thousand taxpayer-

¹ Annex: Table 1

entrepreneurs employing 216.5 thousand people, secondly 23.2 thousand taxpayerentrepreneur employing 237.3 thousand people benefited from the support.

However, according to the State Statistics Committee, 18 thousand employees were dismissed in the same period. 16.6% of them were working in closed enterprises. Notably, in the meantime, 4 banks were closed in Azerbaijan employing close to 1600 people.

According to the State Tax Service, there has been restrictions on 384 activity type during the quarantine. Mostly, individual entrepreneurs were busy with these activities. Thus, a support mechanism targeting individual entrepreneurs were presented which compensated them equal to the amount of tax they paid in 2019 fiscal year or at least 250 AZN. 119.2 and 50.2 thousand taxpayers enjoyed the support in subsequent stages.

In early December 2020, State Tax Service announced 63.7 million spent on relevant matters to total 107.3 thousand entrepreneurs. Though this makes up the 79.4 percent of the allocated budget has been spent, only 36% of the entrepreneurs were supported.

Information from open sources on the complaints on obtaining the support for entrepreneurs demonstrates that most of the complaints were because of the inaction by the authorities. (As stated by official information, only 107.2 out of 119 thousand entrepreneurs received positive response in the first stage)

3.3 Medical management during quarantine

The <u>law</u> "about sanitary and epidemiologic wellbeing" envisages the combat against contagious and parasitic infections as to carrying out quarantine-organizational and prophylactic measures in the source of the disease and infections.

The Operative Headquarters was established under the Cabinet of Ministers to manage the combat against the impact of COVID-19 in Azerbaijan after the first confirmed case of coronavirus on February 27. Since mid-march first quarantine measures were applied officially in Azerbaijan.

Notably, due to the changes in the health sector in Azerbaijan in recent years, the number of hospital enterprises fell from 756 to 570 where the number of beds came down to 44.3 thousand from 67.4.2 As subsequent steps in the heath sector, it was planned to transform to the mandatory health insurance system in Azerbaijan since January 1st, 2020. Moreover, as another change, the health policy was to remain under the disposal of the Ministry of Health whereas TABIB, created under the Agency of Mandatory Health Insurance, would be in charge of the rest of the practical matters, such as among others, the management of medical infrastructure. According to the gradual plan, in the first 5 months of 2020, 23 administrative unit transformed into the new system. Thus, the health system was planned to transform into the "conditionally paid" system from the "conditionally free". However, medical crisis in relation with coronavirus delayed the plans.

² Annex: Table 2

3.4 Carrying-out sanitary-epidemiological control

Recently, the experience of both Azerbaijan and other countries showed that the opportunities are limited to renew and create new structures in the health sector during the pandemic. As stated by WHO recommendations, the following must be main priorities in the time of pandemic.

- Providing early identification, isolation and testing of the infection
- Following COVID-19 related death tendencies
- Identification and tracking of contacts in time and implementing relevant quarantine measures as soon as possible
- Early identification and limitation of infection hotbeds
- Implementation of control measures for the safe recovery of social and economic activities.
- Determining the impact of pandemic on the health sector and the public etc.

It is necessary to establish monitoring and tracing methodology alongside the work of the health organizations to implement the abovementioned recommendations. According to domestic legislation, the monitoring efforts fall within the tasks of sanitary-epidemiological organizations. However, since the start of the pandemic, TABIB has been in charge of that. The database for this institute had to be prepared from scratch since it was a new institute during the transformation. Since March 16, TABIB asked all medical enterprises and started to collect information on the number of people infected with respiratory infections, dead and so on. After the collected information proved not to be full and comprehensive, on March 17, TABIB order all aerial doctors and nurses to conduct checks in their respective areas to report on the number of people and infected ones. However, aerial doctors do not have such a function compared to sanitary-epidemiological organizations. Reportedly, following this order, 53 medical workers in 13th child polyclinic in Yasamal District were infected with heavy version of coronavirus. Subsequently, the implementation of the order was stopped.

Shortcomings were also accompanied in the tracing of the infections. For instance, on May 17, TABIB reported that 64 workers in the "Baku Sewing House" got infected with coronavirus. According to the company official, the infection <u>started</u> after mother of one of the employees went to doctor which was found out during the testing. This shows that the contact tracing has not been effectively implemented. Similar case happened in 'Baku Steel Company' as well where initially 48 and later 86 employees were <u>infected</u> with the virus in Baku branch of the company alongside reports from Sumgait branch as well. The lack of proper localization of infection and contact <u>tracing</u> led to wide and fast spread of the virus.S

3.5 Provision of accountability and transparency

The organization of measures to combat the impact of COVID-19 pandemic needs to be in a transparent manner since the epidemic directly affects the wellbeing and health concerns of the population. Unfortunately, the public has not been fully informed on the combating COVID-

19 measures in Azerbaijan. For example, the information on <u>composition</u> of Operative Headquarters and participation of expert in its work were not publicly available till early July. Moreover, the composition of medical-scientific committee under TABIB which puts forward main recommendations was not publicly available until 27 August, 5 months after the start of the pandemic which was shared through a Facebook post.

WHO has <u>published</u> guide on steps to gradually ease the quarantine measures. People can anticipate the upcoming quarantine decisions based on these criteria. As a result, the uncertainty and incomprehensive information among the public caused the mistrust to the decisions of the government.

The matter of transparency concerns the coronavirus response fond as well. While the official website of the fund presents information on donations by physical and legal entities, it does not show information on expenditure. As maintained by the article 5 of the decree of Cabinet of Ministers issued on 11 April 2020, the Council for Public Control under the Coronavirus Response Fund should publish reports on the expenditure of the Fund twice a month in website: http://covid19fund.gov.az/az/. However, no such information is available. On the other hand, official source declared the allocation of 3.2 million USD initially for the purchase of vaccine. Another element of the transparency involves the accountability on expenditure and presentation of relevant information to the public. In one of the briefings, the head of the TABIB announced that all tests were acquired in open tendering processes. According to the laws, all state procurements above 50 thousand AZN (~29 thousand USD) must be carried out in open tender processes. However, it is not possible to confirm, since no information is available on the registry of the State Procurement Agency concerning TABIB. To make the matter worse, TABIB has no official website yet. In other words, announcements on procurement and their results have not been publicly shared.

In general, there is too little information on the amount of spending to combat the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, the Government <u>allocated</u> 149 million AZN for the health sector in the first half of the 2020. Part of this money is <u>assigned</u> for salaries and provision for patients. While the major part was assigned for infrastructure projects, only small amount of money, contracts with amount of 2 million AZN are available to be traced on the website of State Procurement Agency. A single module type hospital costs averagely 2.5 million AZN

During the quarantine the public was regularly provided with two type of numbers:

- The information on the numbers of the newly infected, recovered, dead people, tests and active patients published on koronavirusinfo.az
- Some additional information presented during briefings of Operative Headquarters, usually, once a week, mostly on Fridays

However, according to WHO's technical recommends the documents published for the public should constitute daily and weekly numbers. Weekly numbers are important to solve some issues that daily numbers contain. In Azerbaijan, weekly numbers usually included shares of regions in terms of number of infected people and some non-essential data. For instance, the numbers of active and newly infected people across the regions were missing.

WHO, however, <u>recommends</u> to regularly update such figures:

- Estimated number of infected people (outside tests)
- Estimated number of deaths from coronavirus
- Spread of the virus among healthcare workers
- Estimated and confirmed number of infected people/patients concerning various groups of population.

Moreover, the occupancy rate of the hospital should have been presented, among others, as well. Many countries rely on these figures for various alternative calculation and analyses. In Azerbaijan, the public lacked information on these parameters. Additionally, the presented information happened not to reflect the reality, at times. For some time, it was mentioned that the share of Nakhchivan in the total number of infected people is 0.03%, which was equal to 7. However, in early July, it was announced that there are 142 people infected in Nakhchivan which made up 0.7% out of all. Similar cases happened in Sumgait and other regions as well. Official demographic numbers presented confusing picture too. According to State Statistics Committee, there were 6203 and 6410 cases of death in June and July 2020, respectively. The average number of deaths in the same months between 2014-2019 was stable as 4040 and 4818.\(^3\) Thus, there were 3755 'above the rate' death cases in June and July 2020. On the other hand, TABIB announced just 385 COVID-19 related death cases in June and July.

In general, the period of June-September 2020 recorded 4627 'above the rate' deaths whereas according to TABIB only 529 people died of the confirmed cases of infection with coronavirus. The <u>experience</u> of developed countries already demonstrate that 80% percent of the death cases are related to COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health has given no explanation regarding this sharp difference between numbers. Overall, 175874 people has been infected with coronavirus in Azerbaijan whereas 1922 died as of the publication date of this report. The rate of infection regarding the number of the people is 1.8%. Though, it should be noted that the number of active COVID-19 patients as of November 24 was 31999 when at the same time Ministry of Health was reporting 30787 COVID-19 patients treated at home.

For 30 November, the <u>website</u> of the Cabinet Ministers was claimed to be 236390 with no updates afterwards. In other words, the number of newly infected and active COVID-19 patients at the same time can be more than what TABIB presents. Thus, opportunities are limited for accurate calculation.

Lack of accountability was observed in the work of other governmental bodies as well. For instance, MLSS has published the full <u>list</u> of people received 190 AZN financial support. However, there were <u>reported</u> cases of appearance of same names more than once, simply inaccurate information on receipt of payment and so on. State Tax Service, in turn, announced the names of company and entrepreneurs who obtained the relevant financial support, however,

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³ Annex: Table 3

without stating the number of employees (in case this detail was relevant) and the amount of payment.

3.6 Challenges in education sector

Educational enterprises applied distance education since the start of the special quarantine regime.

Material-technical opportunities to be insufficient to provide quality distance education for 1.6-8 million student and pupils across Azerbaijan. According to the <u>report</u> of the State Tax Service in 2019 on the research on household economies, there are 63 devices with internet access per 100 household in Azerbaijan. The number differs between 73.3 and 50.2 for urban and rural areas, respectively. 71.4 % of the internet users enjoy broadband connection (data belongs to 2018). This <u>number</u> reaches to 75.8 in capital Baku and drops to 49.6 in northern Guba-Khachmaz region. Currently, Azerbaijan remains in the 111th place among the world countries for the speed of the <u>internet</u>.

Mobile internet connection which can play a role of alternative is also expensive. As stated by the <u>research</u> of the "Cable" international ICT portal, 1GB mobile internet package costs 3.16 AZN (1.86 USD) in Azerbaijan. According to the State Tax Service, per 100 households in Azerbaijan, there are 18.7 PC (21.9 – urban, 14.7 – rural) and 26.2 notebooks (31.1 – urban, 21.1 – rural). Thus, there are either PC or notebook in 45 out of per 100 households (53 – urban, 36 – rural)

During the summer, only 30 thousand user or 20 % of the teachers were <u>trained</u> on the rules of use of the 'Microsoft Teams' platform upon which the online education is conducted.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

EMDS concludes the following based on the observations on the protection of social and economic rights and management of medical crisis during pandemic:

- The registration of people in need during the pandemic and the number of unemployed persons and people with low-income were not determined necessarily which, as a result, deprived thousands of citizens of regular socio-economic financial helps.
- The fairness principle was not duly taken into account in the making of support programs for entrepreneurs. Individual entrepreneurs did not receive financial helps adequate to their significant losses due to the pandemic.
- Lack of update on the law on sanitary-epidemiological situation led to the uncertain division of authority and tasks between relevant authorities which caused crisis in medical management.
- Significant issues were observed in the provision of transparency and accountability during the pandemic. Not duly publishing relevant management rules and laws, presenting inaccurate information to the public and absence of civic control over huge expenditures all contributed to the matter.

• Undesirable conditions of the necessary material-technical infrastructure in the education sector caused challenges for high-quality distance education

EMDS, based upon the conclusions, recommends the following to improve the level of management regarding the pandemic:

- The principles of legality and fairness should be taken into account while making of socio-economic support programs. Moreover, these steps should not contradict but logically follow the previous support mechanisms.
- Transparent parameters should be established for socio-economic support mechanisms while informing the public in comprehensive and transparent manner. Especially, it must be determined whether unemployment or low-income criteria is used as a ground for socio-economic help packages. For instance, the number of unemployed people before the quarantine was considered to be 250 thousand people whereas during the pandemic the number exceeded 700 thousand in the absence of dismissals in huge numbers. Thus, the legislation and relevant criteria must be improved to protect the social and economic rights of the people in between those numbers.
- The domestic legislation on sanitary-epidemiological situation should be updated and clear division of tasks between relevant authorities must be applied to prevent the medical crisis
- Specialized sanitary-epidemiological units must be formed within health sector and conditions should be provided for their full-fledged work considering the current tendencies and upcoming vaccination efforts
- Publication of special guidance document and informing public of criteria on entering and gradually exiting the quarantine may help to establish mutual trust between the authorities and the public.
- In order to attain high quality in distant education, the problems with user habits of teachers and internet opportunities for users in regions must be solved, discounted prices should be achieved to provide education sector with efficient and effective internet and equipment.

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- 3. The decision of Cabinet of Ministers on "Action Plan on implementation of paragraph 10.2 of Order of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No.1950 dated March 19, 2020 "On a number of measures to reduce the negative impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and, consequently, sharp fluctuations in world energy and stock markets on the economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, macroeconomic stability, employment and entrepreneurship"
- 4. The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan on the confirmation of rules and conditions on the presentation of one-off payment to people registered as unemployed with regard to special quarantine regime during COVID-19 pandemic
- 5. The decree of Ali Asadov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the efficient use of the resources of the Coronavirus Response Fund

ANNEX:

Table 1: Results of analysis of the 68 complaints submitted to the Gozetci.az human rights portal during April-November 2020

Reasons	#
Inaction by authorities	22
Because of land owned by complainant or relatives	11
Having active Taxpayer Identification Number	3
Receiving another social payment	1
Owning a car or power of attorney	6
Having active work contract or active self-employment	3
Complainant asked to bribe	1
Without stating clear reason	13
For receiving scholarship	1
For not withdrawing previous payment from the bank account	2
Other bureaucratic challenges	5
Total	68

Table 2: Current situation in health sector

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Doctors from all occupations (thousand)	2,8	3,1	31,4	32,3	32,4	32,8	32,5	32,2	31,9	32,5	31,8
Per 10000 of population	6,9	6,8	4,5	35,0	34,7	34,6	33,9	33,2	32,6	32,9	32,0
Secondary medical workers (thousand)	2,9	0,1	7,8	57,5	56,9	56,1	54,9	54,5	52,8	54	55,7
Per 10000 of population	0,9	6,8	3,4	62,3	60,9	59,3	57,3	56,2	54,0	54,8	55,9
Number of hospital enterprises	56	16	23	539	553	566	559	569	566	563	570
Number of beds in hospital enterprises (thousand)	7,4	5,8	2,4	43,2	44,1	46,4	44,9	45,3	44,1	44,0	44,3

Per 10000 of population	6,0	0,9	6,5	46,8	47,2	49,0	46,9	46,7	45,1	44,7	44,5
Number of medical enterprises treating population with ambulator-polyclinic help	692	688	690	1 725	1744	1746	1750	1758	1737	1741	1726
Power of Ambulator- polyclinic enterprises (number of visits per shift, thousand)	102,7	102,1	103,1	105,5	106,2	106,3	107,0	106,9	105,2	104,9	106,5

Table3: Comparative death rate statistics in Azerbaijan

Months	Average monthly death rate in 2014-2019	2020	Difference	
January	5376	5177	-199	
February	4933	5039	106	
March	4520	5792	1272	
April	5197	4511	-686	
May	4659	4294	-365	
June	4040	6203	2163	
July	4818	6410	1592	
August	4572	5049	477	
September	4125	4520	395	

- The numbers in October, November and December were dismissed due to the human losses in the second Karabakh War.