



# THE ECONOMIC COST OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN AZERBAIJAN

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## **References to the report should be as follows:**

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**The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and may not reflect the official position of the United Nations Population Fund or the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.**

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# Acronyms and abbreviations

**AZN** Azerbaijan Manat

**BPFA** Beijing Platform for Action

**CSW** Commission on the Status of Women

**CEDAW** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

**EIGE** European Institute for Gender Equality

**GBV** Gender-based violence<sup>ei</sup>

**GDP** Gross domestic product

**HIV** Human immunodeficiency virus

**IPV** Intimate partner violence

**IPFMV** Intimate partner and family member violence

**MOE** Ministry of Education

**MH** Ministry of Health

**MIA** Ministry of Internal Affairs

**MJ** Ministry of Justice

**MLSPP** Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population

**NGO** Non-governmental organisation

**PTSD** Post-traumatic stress disorder

**SCFWC** State Committee for Family, Women and Children

**STI** Sexually transmitted infections

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme

**UNECE** United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund

**UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes

**USD** United States Dollar

**VAW** Violence against women

**WHO** World Health Organization

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# “EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence against women (VAW) has been acknowledged worldwide as one of the most pervasive violations of human rights. Empirical evidence has shown that it affects women disproportionately due to the direct link to the unequal distribution of powers and resources between women and men, resulting in the devaluation of women's position in society and their subsequent subordination in family life. VAW can occur throughout a woman's lifetime and can include everything from child marriage to sexual abuse, domestic violence, legal discrimination and exploitation. Women and girls are not only at high risk of suffering violence, but also have fewer options and less resources at their disposal to avoid or escape abusive situations and to seek justice. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), physical or sexual violence is a public health problem that affects more than one-third of all women globally<sup>1</sup>. According to the National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan<sup>2</sup>, **24% of women aged 15-59 had been subjected to violence by either a non-partner or an intimate partner since the age of 15**. Women and girls are not only exposed to high risks of violence, but they also have fewer options and less resources available to them to escape abusive situations and to seek justice.

The negative effects of VAW are enormous as it affects both the physical and mental well-being of the victims and can result in reproductive loss. In addition, VAW also results in significant economic costs that can be measured in terms of monetary and labour productivity losses. The economic cost of VAW falls on the victims and the perpetrators of the violence, their children and extended families, their employers and local communities, an array of public institutions and NGOs providing services related to VAW, public finances and charity funds, all tax-payers and, indeed, the entire economy. There are also important indirect

costs associated with VAW (such as the negative emotional effects faced by children who witness the violence, postponed stress disorders and the resultant lost opportunities and low quality of life experienced by the victims) that cannot be measured by economic equivalents.

In 2018, the UNFPA Country Office commissioned an innovative study on the economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan in order to present the case for strengthening the policy response to the problem. The economic arguments indicated by the study provide a springboard from which to facilitate advocacy efforts and awareness raising campaigns targeted at promoting the zero tolerance of VAW. The study was conducted using international methodologies adjusted to the national context and data sources. Economic estimates were produced for several categories of potential VAW costs: (1) lost economic output attributable to irreversible population loss (death), incapacity, disability and the reduced productivity of the victims; (2) the cost of services provided in response to violence (health care, law enforcement and justice, penitentiary institutions, social and specialised services); and (3) personal material losses and cash expenses of the victims.

Violence against women is largely underreported worldwide. Therefore, in addition to the administrative data on VAW-related criminal offences and social services delivered to the victims, a national population-based survey was used to estimate the number of women who could potentially face physical and/or sexual violence in the total population. Additional data was collected through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with local health-care providers and social workers, police officers and judges, local authorities and NGOs. Finally, a survey of 197 women subjected to VAW was conducted by the NGO “Clear World” to collect information about

<sup>1</sup> WHO (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, World Health Organization, Geneva.

<sup>2</sup> UNFPA (2011). National Survey Report on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan – 2008, Baku: 237.

the personal coping strategies of the victims. By extrapolating the reported prevalence rates by adult female population, the available data indicated that potentially 211,800 women had been victims of VAW in 2017. Of these, it was estimated that more than 60,000 women could have received injuries due to violence, while at least 70,000 women may have suffered psychological stress due to VAW.

To take into account the proportion of unknown/unreported VAW-related crimes, a number of econometric simulations were developed, which indicated that **the aggregate economic cost of violence against women in Azerbaijan in 2017 could amount to USD 764 million (1.8% of the country's GDP)**. Importantly, the majority of these costs were borne by the victims themselves (about 90% of the total estimated amount). Due to a persistent lack of services and shelters, victims must use their personal resources to cope with the effects of violence, including payments for medical tests and examinations, purchasing medication, legal advice, administrative services and fees, and psychological consultations for adults and children witnessing violence in the family. Most of the victims also reported significant material losses related to the loss of property and personal belongings, broken household appliances, etc. Each victim spends an average of USD 1,324 of their personal funds coping with the aftermath of violence and in establishing a new life after separating from their abusers. The survey findings also highlighted the increased vulnerability of low-income and economically inactive women, as their lack of money results in their being unable to access the necessary VAW support services.

The total indicative cost of services provided in response to VAW in 2017 amounted to **USD 11.8 million**. To estimate these indicative costs, a “unit cost” approach was used to identify a “typical” algorithm of service providers contacted by the victims and the relevant “packages” of the services utilised. The indicative costs of each type of service were calculated based on the current prices and average daily rates of the experts involved. In particular, to estimate the



211,800

By extrapolating the reported prevalence rates by adult female population, the available data indicated that potentially 211,800 women had been victims of VAW in 2017.



70,000

70,000 women may have suffered psychological stress due to VAW.



60,000

It was estimated that more than 60,000 women could have received injuries due to violence.

costs of those services provided in response to sexual violence, a minimum set of post-exposure measures and medication was outlined and monetised (e.g. emergency contraception, prevention of HIV and STI, information on safe abortions, medical treatments). When estimating the cost of specialised support (such as shelters administered by NGOs or the special intervention programmes of international development agencies), a total operational cost approach was used to cover all the relevant funds.

The indicative loss of economic output due to health and demographic losses attributable to VAW in 2017 was almost **USD 13.9 million**. These estimates were developed to provide the economic equivalent of deaths, incapacity and disability due to injuries, and the reduced labour productivity of victims who were economically active and employed in the labour market. Furthermore, the prevalence of the shadow economy would suggest that the real lost economic output could be much larger and thus would have a more significant impact on the national economy.

There is a systemic lack of shelters and specialised support services for victims of VAW in Azerbaijan. At the time the study was



undertaken, neither public-funded shelter for VAW victims nor special information hotlines existed. The efforts of local NGOs were fragmented and dependent on funding from international donors. No special State programmes or action plans had been adopted to address the problem of VAW through targeted interventions. However, evidence from international studies has demonstrated that **investment in VAW prevention** can provide important returns in terms of social and economic effects.

The lack of reliable data on VAW remains an important barrier for producing a comprehensive analysis of its economic effects in Azerbaijan. Therefore, any estimates are indicative and cannot claim to represent detailed coverage of all social and economic costs, including psychological effects, reproductive health losses and forced marriages. Further research will be required to determine the indirect effects of VAW on the population and the postponed impact it has in terms of demographic trends and inter-generational relations.



# Introduction”



Violence against women (VAW) is one of the most pervasive human rights violations and the most extreme expression of unequal gender relations in society. This is reflected in international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and emphasised in the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) also calls upon governments to take action to address several critical areas of concern, among them VAW. The BPfA states that *‘violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women is a matter of concern to all States and should be addressed .... In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture. The low social and economic status of women can be both a cause and a consequence of violence against women’*<sup>3</sup>.

A definition of VAW was articulated in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by United Nations General Assembly in 1993. The Declaration describes abuse as any act of violence *‘that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life’*<sup>4</sup>.

According to the Declaration on Elimination of

Violence against Women, VAW encompasses *‘physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation; physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere; trafficking in women and forced prostitution; and physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs.’*

The Declaration also highlighted the links between VAW and the subordinate status of women, describing VAW as *‘... a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.’*

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention)<sup>5</sup> is also based on the understanding that VAW is a form of gender-based violence (GBV) that is committed against women because they are women. The Istanbul Convention recognises that many forms of discrimination, harmful practices and gender stereotypes are the starting points for violent behaviours. For this reason, the Convention specifically tackles gender stereotypes in the areas of awareness-raising, education, the media and the training of professionals. It also creates

<sup>3</sup> <https://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/about>.

<sup>4</sup> Declaration on the elimination of violence against women. New York, United Nations, 23 February 1994.

<sup>5</sup> The Convention was opened for signature in Istanbul on 11 May 2011.



a state obligation to fully address VAW in all its forms and to take measures to prevent it, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators.

Finally, VAW was acknowledged as an important barrier to global sustainable development in the framework of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development<sup>6</sup>. For the first time, eliminating VAW was set as a priority of the sustainable development goals (SDG 5.2) and targeted with specific indicators to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of progress.

In 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted by consensus a resolution entitled ‘In-depth study on all forms of violence against women’<sup>7</sup>. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on all forms and manifestations of violence against women by addressing the following areas:

- 1)** a statistical overview on all forms of violence against women, in order to better evaluate the scale of such violence, while identifying gaps in data collection and formulating proposals for assessing the extent of the problem;
- 2)** the causes of violence against women, including its root causes and other contributing factors;
- 3)** the medium and long-term consequences of violence against women;
- 4)** the health, social and economic costs of violence against women;
- 5)** the identification of best practice examples in areas including legislation, policies, programmes and effective remedies, and the efficiency of such mechanisms to the end of combating and eliminating violence against women.

A number of studies have been conducted worldwide to address the problem of VAW and understand the scope and magnitude of its effects and consequences. Despite the efforts taken to provide an effective response to VAW in Azerbaijan, in terms of meta-analyses,

population-based studies, prevention policies and targeted initiatives, little has been done to investigate the economic consequences of VAW in the country. Notwithstanding, that the need for such a study has been widely acknowledged by policymakers and other stakeholders, as reliable estimates of the economic cost to society of VAW would provide the necessary economic arguments to strengthen public policy on VAW prevention and response, to develop targeted programmes and national action plans, and to allocate the appropriate level of funding for these activities. Finally, there is a pressing need to raise the awareness of the population regarding the economic and social consequences of VAW, in order to change public attitudes towards this problem, transform the gender stereotypes, and eradicate violence in society.

**This Report presents the key findings of a study undertaken to implement the following:**

- to conduct a desk review of the conceptual grounds for estimating the economic cost of VAW in the local context of Azerbaijan’s prevention and response policies;
- to identify the available data sources for producing scientifically sound estimates of the economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan, to describe current data gaps and outline possible ways to fill these gaps;
- to develop a feasible, evidence-based research methodology for Azerbaijan, including a set of indicators, relevant data sources and data collection methods, analytical research methods, and econometric models for producing two scenarios of estimates of the cost of VAW (the so-called ‘typical’ scenario based on recorded incidents, and the ‘best-case’ scenario adjusted to the proportion of unknown/unreported crime rates and VAW cases);
- to conduct a special survey of women affected by VAW, collecting data on their personal expenses, health effects and material losses due to violence;
- to develop indicative estimates of the aggregate economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan based on a simulation model.

<sup>6</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>.

<sup>7</sup> In-depth study on all forms of violence against women, Report of the Secretary-General, 6 July 2006, retrieved from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/58/185>.

In accordance with these research tasks, the first chapter of this Report is devoted to an analysis of the conceptual grounds and methodologies of estimating the economic cost of VAW in the local context in Azerbaijan.

**The second chapter** presents an analysis of the available data sources, including administrative data, population-based surveys and qualitative studies. A brief description of a special survey of VAW-affected women, conducted in the framework of the study, is provided, as well as some basic dimensions of the social-demographic background of the survey respondents.

**The third chapter** deals with estimating the lost economic output attributable to VAW, including

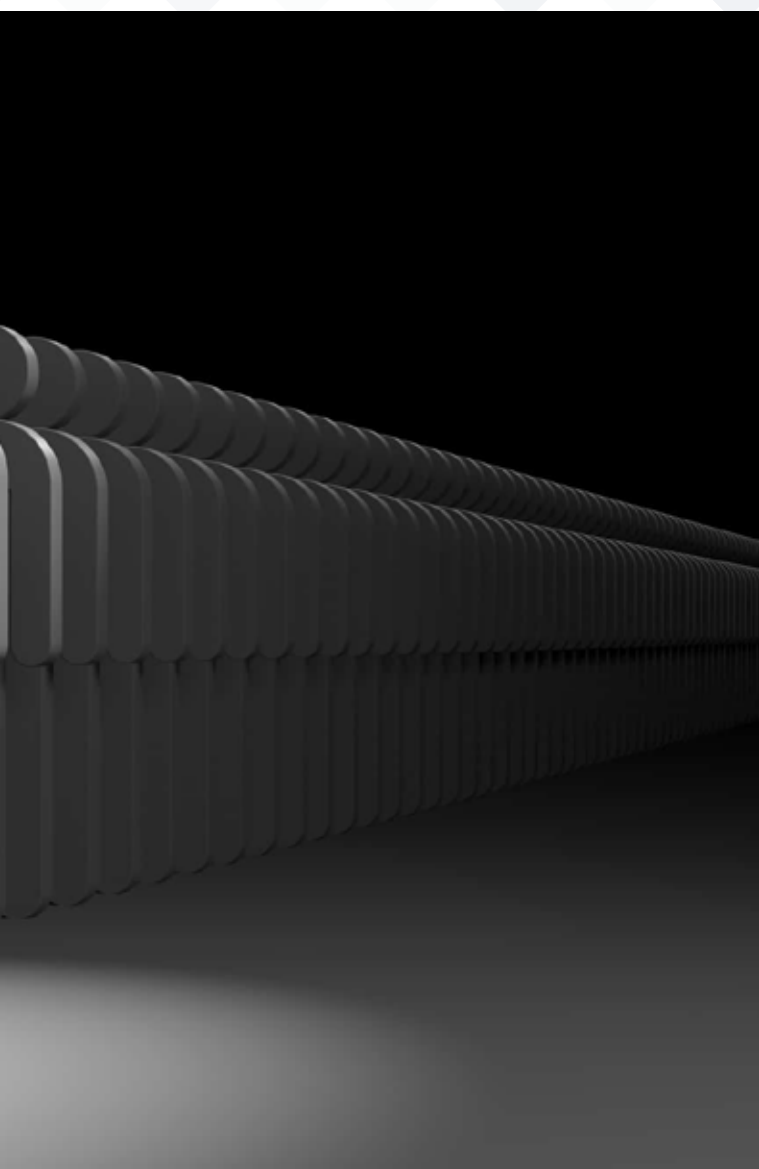
irreversible population loss, the temporary incapacity and disability of the victims, and reduced labour productivity.

**The fourth chapter** provides the indicative cost of the services provided in response to VAW, including health care, law enforcement and justice, social services and specialised services for victims.

**In the fifth chapter,** women's use of personal funds to cope with the effects of VAW are analysed, while possibly categories of indirect costs due to VAW are also outlined. The findings of a special survey of those women affected by VAW are also presented to identify the structure and amounts of a victim's personal costs and material losses.



**The sixth chapter** provides the aggregate estimates of the total cost of VAW in Azerbaijan, which are based on a simulation model. To estimate the potential effects of VAW in society, the findings of previous population-based surveys were extrapolated for the entire female population of the country. These estimates are important for facilitating targeted advocacy campaigns, developing VAW prevention and response policies and implementing awareness-raising campaigns.



# 1

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Conceptual grounds and approaches for  
estimating the economic cost of VAW

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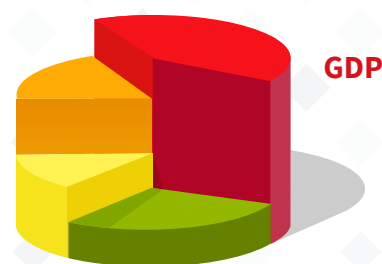




VAW is widely recognised as global health problem that has multiple negative effects in terms of women's physical, mental and reproductive health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), physical or sexual violence is a public health problem that affects more than one-third of all women globally<sup>8</sup>. The negative health consequences of VAW are linked not only to death and injury, but also unwanted pregnancy and abortion, pregnancy-related complications and low birth-weight babies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, mental health problems and suicidal behaviour, anxiety and depression, impaired social functioning and alcohol use problems. The inter-generational consequences of VAW have also been acknowledged, including the effects on children (e.g. higher rates of infant mortality, poor school performance, experiencing or perpetrating violence as adults), and on families (increased divorce rates and disintegration of families, housing instability and inter-generational relations).

Moreover, VAW generates significant economic costs for women and their families, as well as for communities and societies. The global cost of violence is enormous, with international research indicating that the cost of VAW could amount to about 2% of the global gross domestic product (GDP). This is equivalent to USD 1.5 trillion, approximately, the size of the economy of Canada<sup>9</sup>. In many countries, the costs associated with intimate partner violence are the same or even exceed the costs for primary education<sup>10</sup>. Apart from individual, community, family and public costs, VAW also has huge economic consequences at all levels. The negative impact on women's participation in education, employment and civic life undermines poverty reduction. It results in lost employment and productivity, and it drains resources from social services, the justice system, health-care agencies and employers<sup>11</sup>.

In 2013, the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women noted the economic and social harm caused by such violence<sup>12</sup> and urged all governments to carry out continued multidisciplinary research and analysis on the structural and underlying causes of VAW, its costs and risk factors, its types and prevalence, in order to inform the development and revision of laws and their implementation, policies and strategies, and make such information public to support awareness-raising efforts.



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The Commission went on to urge governments to collect, collate, analyse and disseminate reliable, comparable and anonymised data and statistics on a regular basis, disaggregated by sex and age, at the national and local level, on different forms of discrimination and VAW, its causes and consequences, including health costs and the economic cost to society of such discrimination and violence, and to consider all other relevant factors, such as accessibility, to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes<sup>13</sup>. Some of the true costs associated with VAW have been highlighted in the results of national studies and other research.

<sup>8</sup> WHO (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, World Health Organization, Geneva.

<sup>9</sup> The economic costs of violence against women. Remarks by UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Lakshmi Puri at the high-level discussion on the 'Economic Cost of Violence against Women', September 21, 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Sida (2015). Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence: Expressions and Strategies, Gender Tool Box [Thematic Overview]: 24.

<sup>11</sup> The economic costs of violence against women. Remarks by UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Lakshmi Puri at the high-level discussion on the 'Economic Cost of Violence against Women', September 21, 2016.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/57/csw57-agreedconclusions-a4-en.pdf?la=en&vs=700> (para 11).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid (para 34).



Many countries have launched assessments and meta-analyses to estimate the economic cost of VAW. While most of these reports and research papers do not provide estimates on explicit financial costs, they do provide estimates for the costs associated with educational, advocacy and GBV awareness-raising. Some reports provide the actual calculations for costs incurred either at the national level or through the partial measurement of specific expenses. A comprehensive analysis of the evolution of international research approaches used to measure the cost of VAW is presented in the *'Expert brief compiled in preparation for the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women.'* Estimates are already available for France<sup>14</sup>, Denmark<sup>15</sup>, Canada<sup>16</sup>, and Switzerland<sup>17</sup>; most of these countries have advanced systems of data collection and concise administrative data recorded by public agencies. This information is crucial for developing sound study methodologies for calculating the cost of the effects of VAW through which to obtain reliable and relevant estimates.

In 2014, the European Institute on Gender Equality (EIGE) published a report summarising the best practices for calculating GBV costs in advanced economies<sup>18</sup>. Through an analysis of the thematic literature, the report provides a deep analysis of the methodological options for calculating the cost of GBV and intimate partner violence (IPV) and provides recommendations on the most relevant research methods. It includes a case study on the cost of IPV in the UK in 2012 and provides an extrapolation of the estimated costs for EU countries. According to the estimates, the annual cost of VAW in the UK totalled EUR 28 billion, while for the entire EU the cost was almost EUR 226 billion.

The study on the economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan discussed in this Report was based on the approaches developed by the EIGE. The advantages of this methodology can be seen in

the clear disaggregation of the potential costs of VAW, where transparent and scientifically sound methods of calculating the costs for specific prevention and response services are applied, and in the uncomplicated approach to aggregating the final outcomes of estimates in the framework of a simulation model.

The study methodology was successfully piloted within the framework of the UNFPA study in Ukraine in 2016–2017<sup>19</sup>. According to the research estimates, the economic cost of VAW amounted to 0.23% of Ukraine's 2015 GDP. Due to the lack of shelters and specialised response services in the country, the largest proportion of the total economic cost of VAW was borne by the victims themselves. In contrast, the personal costs of VAW victims in the UK amounted to only 3% of the aggregate GBV costs in the United Kingdom<sup>20</sup> because of the well-developed system of service providers, shelters, income support schemes, and the security and housing programmes for victims.

According to the most common research approaches to costing the effects of VAW, the costs of violence can be both direct and indirect, and are borne by women and their families, by perpetrators and their families, and by state and non-state institutions<sup>21</sup>. The direct costs can be measured as the financial equivalent of goods and services utilised by the victims and the perpetrators due to VAW (e.g. the health system, counselling and other related services, the justice system, interventional programmes, child and welfare support). The indirect costs are associated with those VAW effects that cannot be described in a monetary form, such as the lost income and productivity of the victims, their inability to work due to injury, their lost opportunities and resultant low self-esteem.

In countries without targeted programmes on VAW eradication and special laws on domestic violence, estimating the direct costs of violence is difficult, as disaggregated data is not routinely collected for monitoring purposes. A lack of VAW response services tends to be linked to a lack of financing; as

<sup>14</sup> Nectoux M., Mugnier C. et al. (2010). An Economic Evaluation of Intimate Partner Violence in France, *Sante Publique*, 22(4): 405–416.

<sup>15</sup> Helweg-Larson et al (2010). The cost of violence: Economic and personal dimensions of violence against women in Denmark, National Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark.

<sup>16</sup> Zhang T. et al (2012). An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada 2009, Department of Justice Canada.

<sup>17</sup> Stern, Fleidner et al (2013). Costs of Intimate Partner Violence: Summary, Federal Office for Gender Equality, Berne.

<sup>18</sup> EIGE (2014). Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

<sup>19</sup> UNFPA & UCSR (2017). Economic Costs of Violence against Women in Ukraine, United Nations Population Fund, Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms, Kyiv.

<sup>20</sup> EIGE (2014). Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

<sup>21</sup> Walby S., Olive P. (2013). Economic aspects of the added value of measures to combat violence against women, Brussels: Report for European Parliament; Chan K. L., Cho E. Y.-N. (2010). A Review of Cost Measures for the Economic Impact of Domestic Violence, *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, 11 (3): 129–143.



a result, society is given the misleading impression that VAW costs are low. In these situations, many studies have suggested using indirect cost estimates that focus on the lost economic output due to the victims' injuries and lost productivity, lost jobs and/or property loss, etc. Most of these costs can be aligned with specific cost-bearing stakeholders, such as an entire society (e.g. lost economic output, deterioration of public health, changes in fertility and nuptiality patterns), public institutions (e.g. health-care institutions, law enforcement agencies, social service providers), non-state actors (e.g. NGOs, international development agencies), and individuals and their households (e.g. personal cash expenses attributable to VAW).

In addition, the estimated costs of VAW can represent tangible costs, measured through the monetary value of utilised services (e.g. medical examination costs or the legal fees and fines paid by perpetrators of violence), or intangible costs that cannot be measured in a monetary equivalent (emotional impact of violence, low self-esteem, lost opportunities, depression, etc.). Indirect costs also affect children who witness violence within their families; moreover, this cost category should be evaluated in the long term, as a child's experience of observed violence may cause postponed psychological disorders and affect their adult lives.

In accordance with the selected approaches, the potential economic costs of VAW were identified in the framework of this study:

1

Lost economic output caused by demographic losses that affect the entire economic system:

- irreversible population loss (deaths) and their economic equivalent in terms of GDP;
- temporary incapacity of VAW victims and the consequences for labour productivity;
- permanent disability caused by VAW violence;
- reduced labour productivity of VAW victims caused by post-traumatic stress disorders and other health issues.

2

Cost of services related to VAW prevention and response, including the comprehensive assistance provided to victims by different institutions:

- health-care sector;
- law enforcement and justice;
- penal system;
- social services sector;
- specialised services for the victims (e.g. information hotlines, crisis centres, shelters)

3

Personal costs of VAW victims and their households, including:

- tangible costs, such as lost property and income, victim's expenditures for relocation and lodging, personal cash expenses paid to cope with violence in terms of medical, legal, psychological support, etc.;
- intangible costs related to the indirect effects of VAW such as deteriorated quality of life, lost opportunities, emotional harm and postponed psychological disorders, postponed childbirth and negative intergenerational impact, etc.



With regard to practical approaches for measuring the indicative economic cost of VAW, two basic approaches have been developed in international studies. Costs can be measured by using either a 'bottom-up' or 'top-down' approach<sup>22</sup>.

<sup>22</sup> EIGE (2014). Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.



The ‘bottom-up’ approach usually focusses on a case study based on an algorithm of actions, with step-by-step calculations made on the costs of each subsequent transaction (‘unit cost’ approach). The ‘top-down’ approach starts with aggregate data describing the whole institutional system, and then tries to identify a proportional share of the relevant incidents within the total number of service recipients (or a proportion of the relevant funding in the total allocated resources).



Comparative analysis substantiates the merits of both these approaches: The ‘unit cost’ or ‘bottom-up’ approach can provide comprehensive data on the effects of violence in women’s lives, and these estimates can be calculated in a local environment and do not require extensive resources to be applied in practice. The obvious problem with this approach is that the VAW case studies are not representative of an entire population, thus it may be difficult to hypothesise the nation-wide costs of VAW. The ‘top-down’ approach, however, is linked to the use of representative national statistics and administrative data regularly collected by governmental institutions and agencies. As such, no data adjustments or calibration are needed. Still, due to high underreporting of VAW this approach relies only on ‘visible’ data, which is not inclusive of the costs incurred by utilisation of services by many survivors of violence.

In the ‘bottom-up’ approach, a unit cost is estimated per incident, then multiplied by the number of victims and/or incidents (e.g. by prevalence and/or incidence rates). In the ‘top-down’ approach, the total scope of utilised services or overall budget costs are estimated, of which a proportion of the resources attributable to VAW is then identified based on administrative data.

In both approaches, the main challenge is to identify and collect reliable data that can then be used for further economic estimates and simulations. Both the ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-

up’ approaches require primary data: a unit cost in monetary form and a multiplier to assess the scale of the impact (also referred to as the aggregate costs of the problem) and the proportion of the costs attributable to VAW. Though both approaches are viable for estimating the economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan, their benefits and weaknesses vary significantly by type of cost, the specific effects of VAW, and the availability of relevant data for analysis. Chapter 2 provides a detailed analysis of the available data sources for such studies in Azerbaijan, as well as the requirements for data quality and the potential methods of data collection.





# 2

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Information sources for estimating the economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan

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Data on VAW can be obtained from different sources. However, the lack of data on the nature, prevalence and consequences of the various forms of VAW is regularly highlighted as a major concern and barrier to effective policymaking<sup>23</sup>. The most important challenges regarding the quality and reliability of data are related to the methodological shortcomings of data collection and the prevalent under-reporting of VAW incidents. As a result, the scope of VAW can remain underestimated in a society, while misleading information could become the reason for ineffective policies. A discrepancy also exists between the types of VAW statistics produced and what policymakers need to determine effective policy.

Primary data on violent incidents is needed to provide an understanding of the scope of VAW and to assess the health care and social service requirements, the response of law enforcement and the justice system, and the provision of safe housing and legal support for victims. The indicative cost of different services provided in response to VAW must be understood in order to estimate the cost of the public policies required. Finally, VAW prevalence rates are needed to extrapolate the indicative costs of services for the entire female population affected by violence. Consequently, the more data that can be provided by statistical agencies and other authorities, the more accurate estimates of the aggregate economic cost of VAW can be elaborated.

Collecting data on VAW can be challenging, particularly as it relates to issues like domestic violence and sexual assault. In most societies, many victims do not wish to report incidents of sexual assault to the criminal justice system for a variety of reasons, such as lack of evidence, a distrust in public institutions or the expectation of experiencing the ‘victim-blaming’ attitude within the community. Equally, in countries without special laws on domestic violence, disaggregated data on domestic violence might not be classified as such in the records of crime and administrative offences.

To address these challenges, different approaches are used to collect data on VAW:

- Sample population-based surveys that measure the prevalence of VAW in a population, the types and consequences of VAW, and how victims seek help.
- Administrative data on the reported and documented incidents of violence routinely collected by governmental agencies (the police and justice system, health care and social service providers, and other agencies that are involved with VAW).
- Qualitative methods of data collection (in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, expert judgements and case study analysis) that can be applied to the targeted populations (VAW victims, perpetrators, representatives of service providers, etc.).

**Population-based surveys** represent the most reliable method of collecting data on the prevalence of VAW in a population. Unlike administrative records, survey data reflects the actual incidence of violent situations faced by women rather than the incidents reported to officials. Based on structured questionnaires, well-trained interviewers ask a sample of randomly-selected women about their personal experience of violence, the nature of their injuries, their individual coping strategies in terms of seeking help and utilising services, and public attitudes to domestic and/or intimate partner violence.

The most commonly used timeframes when measuring the prevalence of VAW in a population are youth and adult (usually from 15 to 49 years of age), and the 12 months prior to the interview. For instance, the 2008 National

<sup>23</sup> UNECE and WHO (2005). Violence against Women: a Statistical Overview, Challenges and Gaps in Data Collection and Methodology and Approaches for Overcoming Them, Expert Group Meeting, April 2005, Geneva: 38.

Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan found that 24% of female respondents had suffered from some type of violence by both non-partner and intimate partner since the age of 15. Furthermore, 25% of ever-partnered women in the sample had been subjected to emotional abuse by their intimate partner, while 15% of all ever-partnered women across the country had experienced physical violence by their partner at some point during their lives. In addition, 7% of all ever-partnered respondents had been subjected to sexual violence throughout their lives<sup>24</sup>.

In addition to VAW prevalence rates, sample population surveys can provide information on the risk factors and determinants of violence, its consequences in terms of injuries and PTSD, and on the coping strategies of victims. In particular, 29% of women who had experienced at least one form of IPV during their lifetime in Azerbaijan reported receiving injuries (cuts, punctures, abrasions and bruises) caused by their partner's violent behaviour<sup>25</sup>.



Importantly, sample population surveys can also be used to measure the rate of non-reporting of VAW and to determine why victims do not seek help. This information can be used to evaluate both the quality of delivered services and the outcomes of preventive interventions. The respondents of the 2008 National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan explained that the reason they remained silent was due to their fear of retaliation and further violence (25%), the fear of bringing a bad name to their family (15%), or the shame and fear that they would not be believed or would be blamed (6% per cent). The Survey also revealed that 14% of women believed that IPV is not an issue to be complained about.

Therefore, population-based surveys are particularly useful for measuring the scope of VAW, monitoring its trends over periods of time, and developing policy responses. However, the quality of the data collected largely depends on the sincerity of the respondents, their memories and readiness to share sensitive information with interviewers. The unwillingness of women to speak about their traumatic experiences or their fear of non-confidentiality could produce underestimated rates of VAW. Other limitations of population-based surveys are associated with the high costs of field research and the impact of the methodological short-comings of survey design, the professional skills of interviewers, concerns over safety and ethical considerations. To address these challenges, the World Health Organization (WHO, 2001) developed safety and ethical guidelines for conducting research on domestic violence, including the need to guarantee privacy and confidentiality, to provide special training for interviewers on gender issues and VAW, to provide a minimal level of information and/or referrals for those respondents who may need additional assistance during or following an interview, and to provide emotional and technical support for field staff<sup>26</sup>. Failure to adhere to these measures can compromise the quality of the data and put participants at risk of physical or emotional harm.

**Administrative data** has many advantages as it provides updated information on the documented incidents of VAW and on the services delivered to the victims. Official statistics on VAW are usually compiled and produced by national statistics offices based on the records of different agencies involved with violence (health-care institutions, police stations and courts, social services and shelters, legal aid providers and advocacy organisations). The most accurate administrative data on

<sup>24</sup> UNFPA (2011). National Survey Report on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan – 2008, Baku: 237.

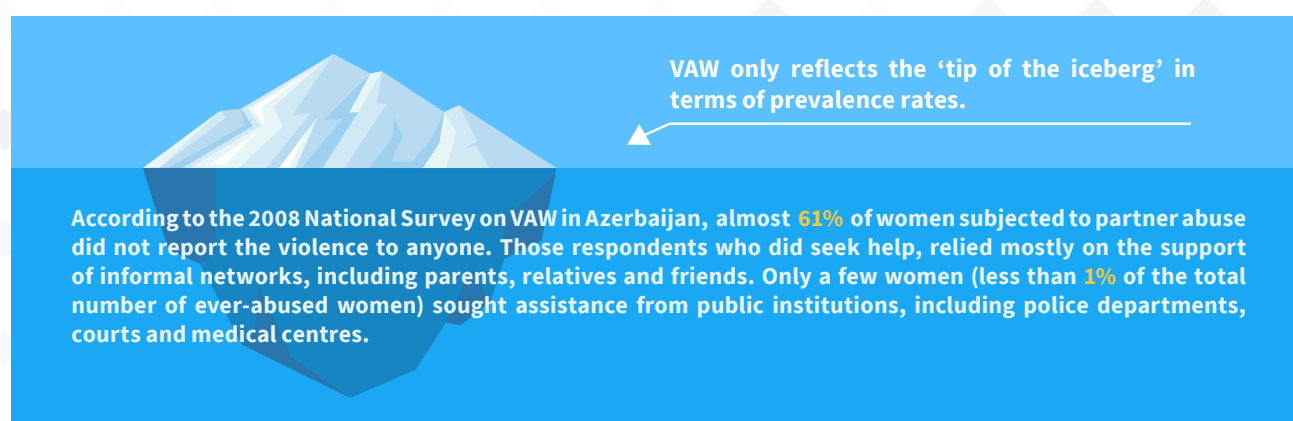
<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> WHO (2001). Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Guidelines for Research on VAW, Geneva: 33.

VAW is usually collected by the law enforcement system, including the number of reported incidents and investigations and their outcomes in terms of convictions<sup>27</sup>. Although this type of data cannot be used to measure VAW prevalence in a society, it reflects the number of recorded incidents (and affected victims) which is useful for estimating the response services requirement. However, the data does not afford the opportunity to evaluate the efficiency of prevention and response policies and the quality of the services utilised.

Administrative data is important as it can measure certain severe forms of violence that cannot be identified through population-based surveys (murder, grievous injury and victim disability). This is potentially a source of high-quality data, although it might be difficult to identify domestic violence in the overall statistics for criminal and administrative offences in countries without targeted programmes to combat domestic violence or established standards for data collection.

Another challenge is related to the widely acknowledged underreporting of VAW, as official statistics do not reflect the real scope of the problem in a population. Not all survivors ask for help, being afraid of the associated stigma or having no trust in public institutions. According to the 2008 National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan<sup>28</sup>, almost 61% of women subjected to partner abuse did not report the violence to anyone. Those respondents who did seek help, relied mostly on the support of informal networks, including parents, relatives and friends. Only a few women (less than 1% of the total number of ever-abused women) sought assistance from public institutions, including police departments, courts and medical centres. As a result, administrative data on VAW only reflects the 'tip of the iceberg' in terms of prevalence rates. To provide a comprehensive assessment, this type of data needs to be combined with the findings of sociological research.



**Qualitative approaches to data collection**, such as focus groups, expert judgements, and in-depth interviews, can be used as supplementary approaches for studying the causes of VAW and the coping strategies of victims, for identifying VAW policy gaps and for evaluating the efficiency of interventions. For example, focus groups are an effective tool for capturing public attitudes to domestic violence in local communities, as well as for identifying the unmet need in service provision. In-depth interviews with experts could be used to estimate the proportion of unknown/unreported GBV cases and the indicative cost of the response services required. Therefore, these qualitative approaches not only compensate for the lack of reliable administrative data, but also have the important advantages of simplicity, flexibility of tools, and low resource requirements.

<sup>27</sup> EIGE (2016). Administrative Data Collection on Rape, Femicide and Intimate Partner Violence in EU Member States, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union: 12.

<sup>28</sup> UNFPA (2011). National Survey Report on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan – 2008, Baku: 237.

International studies have also suggested additional approaches for collecting data on the cost of VAW, including victim recall studies, longitudinal population data sets, and the approach of ‘similar harm transfer’ that is based on using the known costs of injuries which have health effects comparable to VAW (e.g. injuries attributable to road traffic accidents or violent crimes)<sup>29</sup>. When combined, this data can be used to estimate how much VAW costs society.

**Several different data sources exist for estimating the economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan:**

**1** *the 2008 National Survey on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan* mentioned earlier, can provide important baseline indicators for estimating the economic impact of VAW: the physical, sexual and emotional violence experienced by a sample population of women aged 15-49, the proportion of victims suffering injuries of varying severity due to violence, the proportion of victims seeking help from different service providers<sup>30</sup>. The National Survey Report is also a comprehensive source of extensive data for studying women who have suffered violence throughout their lives and exploring their coping strategies, and the public attitudes to VAW in a society;

**2** *administrative data on domestic violence and sexual violence outside the family* (rape, sexual assault) is collected by on-line public agencies and processed by the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The aggregated data on the recorded incidents of domestic and sexual violence is presented annually in the ‘Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan’ publication; the 2017 publication introducing detailed data disaggregated by territorial-administrative units<sup>31</sup>.

In accordance with the regulations of the Law on Domestic Violence<sup>32</sup>, in 2017 the Domestic Violence Data Bank was established to collect data on domestic violence from a variety of sources. The databank is operated by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children’s Affairs (SCFWCA) and contains detailed information on incidents of domestic violence, victims and perpetrators, outcomes of investigations and court decisions, issued protection orders, deprivation of parental rights due to domestic violence, etc. The primary data is provided by law enforcement and crime investigating bodies, local executive bodies, and support centres. As of June, 2018, 575 domestic violence cases had been recorded.

In addition, most public service providers routinely keep some records on the relevant service recipients, but the quality and quantity of data collection varies:

*Health-care services* do not have the capacity to record, analyse and report data on VAW and its consequences, therefore no medical statistics pertaining to the scope of health loss attributable to VAW are available in Azerbaijan. This situation is common in most countries, as privacy and patient confidentiality is one of the top priorities for health-care workers. Although medical staff are obliged to inform the police about patients with injuries of an obviously criminal nature, women affected by domestic violence tend not to disclose the cause of their injuries, even when violence is the underlying cause of their visit. Although the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoH) produces regular statistics on the population’s morbidity and mortality, it is not possible to extract VAW-attributable incidents from this dataset. Additionally, medical and social rehabilitation centres do not disaggregate domestic and sexual violence victims in the total number of clients, when reporting to the MoH. As a result, the health effects of VAW can only be estimated using conclusions from experts and results from simulation models;

<sup>29</sup> Walby S., Olive P. (2013). *Economic aspects of the added value of measures to combat violence against women*, Brussels: Report for European Parliament.

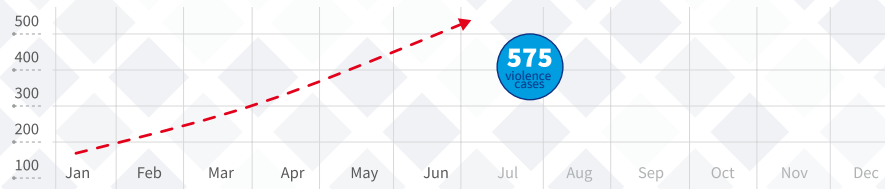
<sup>30</sup> UNFPA (2011). *National Survey Report on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan – 2008*, Baku: 237.

<sup>31</sup> State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018). *Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan*. Statistical Publication: 110; available at: <http://www.stat.gov.az/>.

<sup>32</sup> Law of the Azerbaijan Republic of June 22, 2010 No. 1058-IIIQ ‘About Prevention of Domestic Violence’ [gov.az/](http://gov.az/).



## 2018 domestic violence cases



**In addition, most public service providers routinely keep some records on the relevant service recipients, but the quality and quantity of data collection varies:**

*Crime statistics* are systematically collected by law enforcement agencies and are administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoIA). Data on criminal offences is categorised by criminal codes (homicide, assault, bodily injury, rape and sexual assault, and other criminal offences). Some of these codes are cross-classified with domestic violence variables to produce relatively reliable data on the recorded number of murders and victims with injuries attributable to domestic violence, as well as rape and attempted rape. While some of the domestic violence indicators are disaggregated by the victim's sex, it is not possible to identify the victim's age, relationship with the perpetrator, or the type of violence experienced;

National police units are the primary source of information for recorded *administrative offences and related civil injunctions* regulated by the Civil Procedural Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (e.g. penalties, administrative arrests, public works)<sup>33</sup>. However, current regulations do not require the police to identify domestic violence cases from the overall statistics for administrative offences, and it is not possible to estimate the potential number of complaints attributable to domestic violence, nor to gauge the preventive measures taken;



*The justice sector* has the capacity to collect information on both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, and to track repeat victimisation and repeat offences. Although cases brought to criminal court represent a very small and non-representative sample of incidents of VAW, court statistics can contribute to an understanding of the judicial response to violence, and the effectiveness of the laws designed to protect women. However, this type of data is not purposefully collected by courts in Azerbaijan, so domestic violence cases cannot be extracted from the total statistics processed by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoJ). The only effective type of data produced by the justice sector is related to the number of short-term and long-term protection orders issued for victims of domestic violence;



*Social service providers* are an important source for supplying administrative data on VAW in countries with well-established programmes of social support for victims of domestic violence. These institutions maintain detailed records on all service recipients, including victims of domestic violence who have sought help in terms of information support, legal advice, psychological assistance, job placements and occupational counselling. Social service providers are usually responsible for the management of public shelters for victims of domestic violence (sometimes in partnership with NGOs).



<sup>33</sup> Republic of Azerbaijan (1990). Civil Procedural Code, No.780-IQ.



In Azerbaijan, social service centres are overseen by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of a Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Ministry provides social support and protection to the vulnerable population groups, including persons with disabilities, children deprived of parental care, children affected by domestic violence, victims of human trafficking, etc. However, adult victims of domestic violence are not eligible for special social aid programmes as the Government does not classify them as a vulnerable population group. Furthermore, no publicly-funded shelter system for victims of domestic violence has been established in the country. In addition, although victims of trafficking are largely associated with increased risks of domestic violence, it is not possible to identify the actual experiences of domestic violence.

**3** *Specific data on victims of VAW is collected by NGOs and by specialised service providers, such as shelters, support centres, crisis centres and hotlines. Most of these institutions are from the non-governmental sector, so they do not provide reports on the outcomes of their activities to central authorities. NGOs providing assistance to victims of VAW usually keep internal records, but these statistics vary considerably in range of information and quality. According to the MoLSPP, 21 non-governmental support centres for victims of domestic violence were accredited in Azerbaijan, and 10 of them received financial support from the Government. However, according to the experts interviewed during the study, these NGOs are unable to provide a comprehensive spectrum of protection and rehabilitation services<sup>34</sup>. Nevertheless, any information collected by these centres might be particularly relevant for further qualitative research on the effects and costs of VAW.*

At present, a number of different institutions collect various types of data on VAW in Azerbaijan. Most of the available data sources were used for this study, though some have important limitations. Due to the different methodologies used for data collection and reporting procedures, it is not possible to compare datasets and observe dynamics over time. This problem has been largely acknowledged by international experts, with many recommendations focussing on efforts made to produce comprehensive data on domestic and sexual violence complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions<sup>35</sup>. Another important gap in the current administrative data is the lack of disaggregation by age of victim, type of violence, perpetrator's sex and the type of relationship between the victim and perpetrator. In order to obtain more reliable estimates of VAW and conduct a regular analysis of trends in the country, these minimum requirements for data collection will need to be met.

To address the multiple gaps in data, this study is also based on qualitative approaches. Several in-depth interviews with experts from public agencies and NGOs were conducted to collect additional information on VAW in Azerbaijan. Focus **group discussions** were conducted with police officers, representatives of local executive authorities, health care and social workers, all of whom encounter victims of VAW in their everyday operations. In-depth interviews were conducted with officials of SCFWCA, MoH, MoLSPP, MoJ, local judges, and NGO activists. The information obtained from discussions and interviews with experts was used to outline the scope of services available for VAW victims and as a baseline for identifying scientifically sound approaches to estimating the cost of these services.

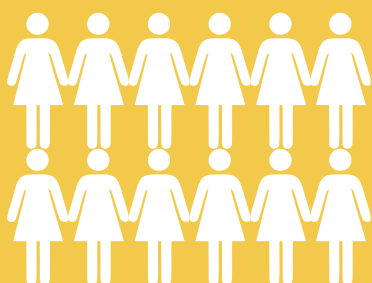
<sup>34</sup> Neither publicly-funded support centre, nor special hotline for victims of VAW was operating in Azerbaijan.

<sup>35</sup> Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee of 1998, 2007, 2009 and 2015.

Another component of this study focussed on a **special survey of 197 women who been subjected to violence**. The respondents were chosen from the clients of the NGO ‘Clear World’, which provides support services for victims of domestic violence, including shelter provision. The women surveyed were representative of most regions of the country, of different types of residential area (urban/rural), and of different social-demographic groups of the population (see Annex A). Most respondents (78%) were in the active reproductive age group (20-39 years), while the youngest woman was 18 years old and the oldest was 71. Roughly 50% of the respondents came from Azerbaijan’s large cities and administrative centres, about 33% lived in small towns and settlements, while 17% were from rural areas.

The fieldwork for the survey was conducted in August and September, 2018. The survey design was developed in accordance with international standards, ethical considerations and safety issues. The survey addressed each victim’s personal experience of violence, including type of injury, length of temporary incapacity, resultant disability, average amount of material loss and personal cash expenses for coping with the effects of violence, and subjective assessments of moral injury resulting from the violence experienced. Experts from the NGO ‘Clear World’, who already had a good understanding of gender sensitive and GBV issues, were provided with training on data collection and data entry techniques, before the fieldwork commenced. The majority of interviews (92%) were conducted face-to-face with the respondents, while 8% of the women were interviewed by telephone. The survey findings were used to estimate the effects of VAW in terms of women’s health losses, their subjective estimates of personal tangible and intangible costs attributable to violence, and the many other potential consequences and dimensions of VAW.

## Women who have been faced with violence



44% of the women surveyed lived in middle-income level households



30% were from low-income households

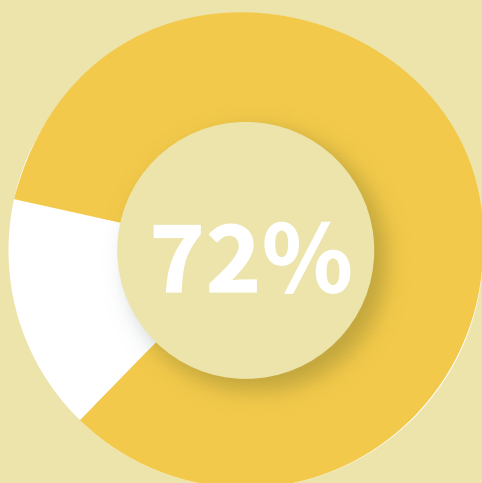


26% were from high-income households

Importantly, the analysis revealed that there was no statistically significant correlation between a victim’s household income level and the incidence of VAW: 44% of the women surveyed lived in middle-income level households, 30% were from low-income households and 26% were from

high-income households. The majority of women interviewed (86%) had children under 18 years old; of these 81% stated their children still lived with them, while 5% stated their children lived elsewhere, for various reasons.

The survey findings indicated important changes in the social-demographic background of women who had experienced violence and sought help, when trying to cope with the effects of VAW. While 72% of women who had experienced VAW were in a registered or unofficial marriage/partnership at that time, with 20% single, at the time of interview, 60% were reportedly now divorced, with only 20% still married (see Annex A). Important changes were also observed in the respondent's status in the labour market (from the time of the violence to the time of the interview): the share of self-employed workers had increased from 22% to 45%, while the share of employed women had increased from 14% to 35%. At the same time, the share of unemployed women dropped almost four times (from 42% to 11%), reflecting their need for employment and income support after separating from a partner due to violence.



While 72% of women who had experienced VAW were in a registered or unofficial marriage/partnership at that time, with 20% single, at the time of interview, 60% were reportedly now divorced, with only 20% still married (see Annex A).





# 3

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Lost economic output attributable to  
VAW in Azerbaijan

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This part of the study focussed on the lost economic output caused by VAW. Usually, such costs can be related to the economic equivalent of irreversible population loss caused by death, economic loss due to the temporary and permanent incapacity (disability) of an injured person, additional pressure on employers and social insurance funds caused by compensation payments for victims on sick leave and disability pensions, and reduced labour productivity in the case of PTSD. Many international studies provide estimates of the economic loss attributable to physical injuries and VAW victim deaths, while some include costs related to psychological stress and mental disorders in their assessments.

**Irreversible population loss due to VAW.** In the macroeconomic context, the most important effects of VAW are associated with irreversible population loss (victim death).

These premature deaths are important not only in terms of a country's demographic indicators and trends, but also as deaths in the working-age population result in lost labour income, and could cost the national economy millions in lost GDP. Consequently, the lost economic output attributable to VAW can be estimated either as equivalent to lost national product (such as GDP) or lost national income (such as the wage fund). These costs are usually estimated for the year being studied (based on the yearly number of deaths and relevant macroeconomic indicators), however, there are more sophisticated econometric approaches for measuring the scope of the potentially lost output with consideration given to all the productive years lost, due to the deaths of economically-active victims (based on the average life expectancy in the country).

To start any econometric estimates, it is important to identify the relevant *number of deaths attributable to VAW*. This task can be challenging in regions with poorly developed systems of GBV reporting, as official crime statistics may capture only a portion of the deaths caused by domestic violence, while the rest are classified within the broader categories of violent death, unintentional murder or even accidents. In turn, population statistics (e.g. demographic data collected by national statistics agencies) do not classify domestic violence within the system of external causes of death (e.g. injuries, poisoning, falls), when collecting statistics on mortality. The estimates must therefore be adjusted, based on scientifically sound approaches or by expert assessment.

## GENDER COMPARISON OF MURDERS:



**47% of female victims** were killed by an intimate partner or a family member.



**for male victims** the figure is less than **6%**.

In this study, two scenarios of estimates were applied through which both official data and the potential underreporting of deaths attributable to VAW are incorporated. The first approach

focuses on estimating the 'minimum' number of population losses based on the administrative statistics of the Mol (the so-called 'typical' scenario), while the second approach is based on expert assessment of the proportion of women's deaths related to intimate partner/family member (IPFM) violence out of the total number of female murders (the 'adjusted' scenario). For instance, according to the UNODC Global Study on Homicide (2013), 47% of all female victims of homicide are killed by their intimate partners or family members, compared to less than 6% of male homicide victims<sup>36</sup>. Moreover, the share of IPFM-related murders increases to 55% of the total number of female victims of homicide in the regions of Europe and Asia<sup>37</sup>.

In addition, the comprehensive population loss attributable to VAW are higher if female suicides are included, as incidents of GBV are strongly associated with suicidal behaviour in victims<sup>38</sup>. According to available estimates, up to 11% of hospitalisations for suicide attempts are directly caused by the psychological stress of IPV<sup>39</sup>.

The Statistical Yearbook '*Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan*' (2018)<sup>40</sup>, notes 60 documented victims of intentional murders associated with domestic violence, of which 39 were female<sup>41</sup>. One female death was also officially recorded as 'driven to commit suicide' because of domestic violence (see Annex B). As a result, **at least 40 female deaths were officially documented as deaths attributable to domestic violence in 2017**. This figure can be used for estimating the 'typical' scenario of the population loss due to VAW (Table 3.1).

To calculate the adjusted estimate of potential deaths attributable to VAW, the total number of violent female deaths, including crimes due to negligence and intent to inflict grievous injury, as well as female suicides, must be examined. According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 337 women died as a result of criminal offences in 2017 (see Annex B), including 76 intentional murders, 216 crimes due to negligence, and one intent to inflict grievous injury. In addition, according to the State Committee for Family, Women and Children, 229 suicides were committed by women during 2017 and the first quarter of 2018. Thus, the estimated number of female suicides in 2017 can be calculated at 200. This assumption is also supported by information from open sources, which indicates that an average of 200-220 women commit suicide in Azerbaijan every year<sup>42</sup>.

When adjusting these figures by the estimated proportion of deaths potentially caused by IPFM violence (55% for homicides (UNODC, 2013) and 11% for suicides (Zhang et al, 2012)), **the total number of female deaths attributable to VAW increases to 184 women in 2017 (Table 3.1)**.

Importantly, the lost economic output due to premature female deaths should only be estimated in terms of the economically active population, e.g. women who are engaged into the economy. Since it is impossible to disaggregate the documented VAW victims by their labour market status, the estimates of irreversible population loss in the study are based on adult females (excluding girls under 18 years of age), with subsequent adjustment by the current female employment to population ratio. According to official data, girls in the under-18 age group represent 10% of all female victims who died due to a criminal offence (see Annex 2), while Azerbaijan's female employment to population ratio was 59.3% in 2017<sup>43</sup>. Thus, the total number of economically-active women who died because of VAW can be estimated as 22 female deaths (the 'typical' scenario) and as 99 female deaths (the adjusted scenario) respectively. Obviously, as these women

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/gsh/>.

<sup>37</sup> UNODC (2013). Global Study on Homicide. The Many Faces of Homicide: 53; available at: [http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/Chapter\\_2.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/Chapter_2.pdf).

<sup>38</sup> WHO (2014). Preventing Suicide: a Global Imperative, World Health Organization, Luxembourg: 92.

<sup>39</sup> Zhang T., Hoddenbagh J., McDonald S., Scrim K. (2012). An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada 2009, Department of Justice Canada, Ottawa.

<sup>40</sup> State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018). Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan. Statistical Publication: 110; available at: <http://www.stat.gov.az/>.

<sup>41</sup> There were 25 also registered victims of attempted murders associated with domestic violence, of them 18 women.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.meydan.tv/en/site/news/25063/>.

<sup>43</sup> World Bank (2018). World Development Indicators: <https://data.worldbank.org/products/wdi>.

**Table 3.1. Female deaths attributable to VAW (administrative data and adjusted estimates) in Azerbaijan, 2017**

	Typical scenario: documented female deaths due to domestic violence			Adjusted scenario: estimated female deaths due to domestic violence			
	Total female deaths	of which:		Total female violent deaths and sui- cides	of which:		
		Adult females	of which:		Female deaths due to IPFM (55% of violent deaths and 11% of sui- cides)	of which:	
			Employed females (59%)			Adult females	onlardan: Em- ployed females (59%)
Intentional murder	39	35	21	76	42	38	22
Intent to inflict grievous injury	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Crimes due to negligence	-	-	-	216	119	107	63
Driven to commit suicide	1	1	1	200*	22	22	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>99</b>

Source: official data of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018); estimates of domestic violence-related deaths based on the UNODC (2013); estimates of GBV-related suicides based on Zhang et al (2012); female-employment-to-population ratios based on World Bank Development Indicators databank.

\* estimate based on data of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children.

participated in the labour force and were employed in the national economy, their premature deaths resulted in lost economic output in terms of GDP. According to the World Bank, Azerbaijan's GDP was USD 40.7 billion in 2017, while just over 4.8 million people were employed in the country. As a result, the estimated GDP per employed person was about USD 8,440 [USD 40.7 billion ÷ 4.8 million people]. **When extrapolating this figure to include the potential number of premature deaths resulting from VAW, the country could potentially have lost from USD 183,619 [USD 8,440 × 22 women] to USD 838,555 [USD 8,440 × 99 women] depending on the scenario used to calculate the estimates.**

**When extrapolating this figure to include the potential number of premature deaths resulting from VAW, the country could potentially have lost from USD 183,619 [USD 8,440 × 22 women] to USD 838,555 [USD 8,440 × 99 women] depending on the scenario used to calculate the estimates.**

**Temporary incapacity and disability of VAW victims.** In addition to irreversible population loss, the economy is strongly affected by lost labour output caused by injuries and illness suffered by VAW victims. The cost of these injuries is borne by the victims (e.g. lost jobs and/or lost earnings), their employers (e.g. compensation for sick leave), and by social insurance funds (e.g. payment of disability pensions). The psychological effects of surviving the violence may be postponed, only emerging in the mid- to long-term, and resulting in the victim's reduced productivity in terms of unpaid household work and childcare.

To estimate the reversible population loss attributable to VAW, this study focused on the following components of lost labour output:

- Lost macroeconomic product (GDP) due to the temporary incapacity of the victims (e.g. sick leave);
- Loss due to women's disabilities resulting from the violence suffered;
- Loss caused by women's inability to conduct their routine housework and care for their children due to the psychological stress caused by violent incidents.

As reliable data on victims of VAW who are temporarily incapacitated was not available, this study used the *Regulations for Forensic Examination of the Gravity of Bodily Injuries* as the baseline for estimating the normative length of incapacity attributable to injuries<sup>44</sup>. Accordingly, all documented victims of criminal offences related to domestic violence were classified within three broad categories of injury:

- 1 minor injuries
- 2 injuries of medium gravity
- 3 grievous injuries (including battery, torture and rape)

These categories were determined based on an evidence-based health recovery time and associated with the standard length of time the injured victim was unable to work (Table 3.2).

**Table 3.2. Injuries by gravity and standard length of time the injured victims were incapacitated**

Category of injury	Crime code of injuries	Period of incapacity, days
Minor injuries	Intentional minor injuries due to domestic violence	5
Injuries of medium gravity	Intentional injuries of medium gravity due to domestic violence	21
Grievous injuries	Intentional grievous injuries; battery and torture; rape	42*

*As the Regulations do not specify a strict timeframe for recovering from grievous injury, it was assumed that the incapacity time was at least twice as long as that of cases of medium gravity injury ( $21 \times 2 = 42$  days).*

<sup>44</sup> Regulations for Forensic Examination of the Gravity of Bodily Injuries, adopted by Decree #9 of the MoH of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 08.02.1999.



According to the 2017 data from the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 26 women were victims of domestic violence involving intent to inflict grievous injury, while 63 women received injuries of medium gravity and 792 women received minor injuries. When adjusting these figures by the female employment-to-population ratio (59.3% in 2017), the total number of employed victims injured as a result of domestic violence is estimated to be 524 women (see Table 3.3). In addition, 37 cases of rape and attempted rape were documented in 2017, which could also be connected to grievous bodily injuries (according to our estimates, at least 22 of these women were employed).

**Table 3.3. Number of victims in criminal offences related to domestic violence by category of injury and health harm, Azerbaijan, 2017**

Category of injury	Total	of which:			
		women	of which:		
			girls under 18	adult women	of which: employed women
Domestic violence criminal offences resulting in bodily injury					
intent to inflict grievous injury	44	26	26	15	
intent to inflict injuries of medium gravity	102	63	2	63	37
intent to inflict minor injury	993	792		790	468
Torture	4	4		4	2
Total	1.143	885	2	883	524
Sexual violence criminal offences (forced and attempted rape)	37	37	n.a.	n.a.	22

Source: State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018). *Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan / Statistical Publication: 110*; available at: <http://www.stat.gov.az/>

If these documented injuries are interpreted in terms of the incapacity and sick leave of victims, it can be argued that **in 2017 approximately 4,800 working days were lost from the national economy** (see Table 3.4). To estimate the economic equivalent of this loss, the indicative cost of one working day must be known. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection<sup>45</sup>, there were 241 working days in 2017, so the daily GDP per employed person can be roughly estimated at USD 35 [yearly GDP in USD 8,440 ÷ 241 working days].

As a result, **the indicative estimate of the lost GDP due to the temporary incapacity of women caused by domestic and sexual violence could amount to USD 167,895 in 2017**. The detailed calculations of the lost macroeconomic output due to the temporary incapacity of the victims are presented in Table 3.4.

<sup>45</sup> [https://azertag.az/ru/xeber/V\\_2017\\_godu\\_pri\\_pyatidnevnoi\\_rabochei\\_nedele\\_budet\\_241\\_rabochii\\_den-1019870](https://azertag.az/ru/xeber/V_2017_godu_pri_pyatidnevnoi_rabochei_nedele_budet_241_rabochii_den-1019870).

**Table 3.4. Indicative estimates of lost GDP due to the temporary incapacity of employed victims of VAW in Azerbaijan, 2017**

Indicators	Minor injuries	Injuries of medium gravity	Grievous injuries
Registered criminal offences attributable to VAW (number of female victims)	468 domestic violence-related injuries	37 domestic violence-related injuries	39 (15 domestic violence-related injuries, 2 tortures, 22 rapes and attempted rapes)
Average length of incapacity (days)	5	21	42
Indicative number of 'lost' working days	2,340	819	1,638
GDP per employed person per working day (USD)	35	35	35
Indicative cost of temporary incapacity of female victims in terms of GDP (USD)	81,900	28,665	57,330
<b>Total costs of the lost GDP (USD)</b>	<b>167,895</b>		

*Note: estimates based on the documented number of VAW victims.*

Injuries attributable to VAW can result not only in the temporary incapacity of victims, but also in injury-related disabilities. According to the conclusions made by experts involved in focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, about 10-15% of all women affected by domestic violence end up with a disability. This estimate is supported by findings from the survey of VAW victims conducted in the framework of this research: 30 of the women surveyed reported having a partial disability as a result of domestic violence (15% of the total number of respondents), although they had no official documentation regarding loss of health<sup>46</sup>. These women reported that their partial disabilities were related to suffering from grievous injuries, injuries of medium gravity, and other health problems. When this figure is applied to the officially registered number of women with injuries due to VAW in 2017, **the estimated number of victims with a partial disability was 82 women** [544 employed women × 15%].

To estimate the lost economic output due to the partial disability of VAW victims, it was assumed that the survey respondents had lost at least 30% of their labour productivity. As a result, the lost economic output in terms of yearly GDP is at least USD 2,532 per employed woman [30% of USD 8,440]. As a result, in 2017 **the partial disabilities affecting VAW victims caused an estimated annual loss in GDP of at least USD 207,624** [USD 2,532 × 82 women].

In addition, the women considered disabled as a result of VAW, require income support from the State. In terms of public finances, these disabilities imply additional costs related to payment of disability pensions from social insurance funds (and sometimes subsidies from the national budget).

<sup>46</sup> As none of the respondents was officially registered as having a disability, no reliable data exists to estimate the lost GDP due to the permanent disability of VAW victims.

No reliable data currently exists to estimate the rate of VAW-attributable disability among victims in Azerbaijan, but some international sources report that about 5% of VAW victims suffering grievous injury end up with a permanent disability<sup>47</sup>. Therefore, this proportion was applied to the recorded number of VAW victims with grievous injury, and adjusted by the average annual disability pension in 2017:

*Losses due to disability = number of recorded victims with grievous injury × 5% × average annual disability pension*

As the average monthly disability pension was AZN 175 (approximately USD 100) in 2017<sup>48</sup>, **the minimum cost of the annual disability pension for every female victim of VAW amounts to USD 2,340** [39 women with grievous injury × 5% × USD 100 × 12 months].

As mentioned earlier, in addition to lost earnings, women affected by violence may be unable to fully carry out their housework and childcare responsibilities due to PTSD. These losses in unpaid work should also be included in the aggregate economic cost of VAW. According to Kitarishvili (2015)<sup>49</sup>, women spend an average of 6.1 hours on unpaid (household) work and about 0.7 hours on childcare per day in Azerbaijan. When affected by violence, they might be unable to conduct these household duties for some time, so their obligations are transferred to their relatives and other family members, and sometimes to their older children. The relevant cost of unpaid work can be estimated based on the average wage in the domestic work sector (the minimum wage). In 2017, the minimum monthly wage was equivalent to USD 68 in Azerbaijan (USD 3.4 per working day).

According to the survey of VAW victims conducted in the framework of this study, **76% of victims reported that they were unable to conduct their routine household work because of violence**. The average length of time of reduced labour productivity was about 20 days. To estimate the indicative number of VAW victims affected by reduced productivity, we extrapolated this proportion to the total number of documented victims of domestic and sexual violence (except for murders and suicides). In 2017, there were 924 documented female victims of domestic violence (Annex B), and 37 victims of rape and attempted rape. Thus, **the total number of victims affected by reduced productivity in terms of domestic work could reach up to 730 women in 2017** [76% × (924 + 37)]. **As a result, the total cost of lost output due to VAW in terms of household work in 2017 was USD 49,640** [730 women × 20 days × USD 3.4].

When summarising the identified components of **lost economic output attributable to VAW, the 2017 aggregated costs could be anywhere from USD 611,118 to USD 1,266,054 according to the various estimate scenarios** (see Table 3.5). Though these figures may be perceived as relatively small, it should be noted that these estimates are based on the documented number of victims and the official rates of the minimum wage and the average wage for women in Azerbaijan. Given the prevalence of the shadow economy, the real cost of lost economic output due to the illness and injury of VAW victims could well be much higher.

The underreporting of VAW incidents is also prevalent throughout the country. As a result, the real number of victims with injuries and incapacity attributable to VAW could also be much higher. To address this and obtain comprehensive estimates, the documented numbers can be adjusted by using the unreported rates obtained through population-based surveys. The outcomes of a country-wide simulation using adjusted estimates are presented in Chapter 6 of this report.

<sup>47</sup> UNFPA and UCSR (2017). Economic Costs of Violence against Women in Ukraine, United Nations Population Fund, Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms, Kyiv.

<sup>48</sup> State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018). Health care, Social Protection and Housing Conditions in Azerbaijan. Statistical Publication: 270.

<sup>49</sup> Kitarishvili T. Gender and employment in the South Caucasus and Western CIS, UNDP: 37.

**Table 3.5. Aggregated cost of lost economic output due to VAW in Azerbaijan, 2017**

Types of economic cost	Number of victims affected	Economic equivalent (USD)
<b>Irreversible population loss in terms of GDP</b> , of which:	22 (min.) – 99 (max.)	<b>183,619 (min.) - 838,555 (max.)</b>
employed women’s deaths attributable to VAW		
<b>Reversible population loss</b> , of which:		<b>427,299</b>
temporary incapacity of victims in terms of GDP	544	167,895
permanent disability in terms of pensions	2	2,340
partial disability in terms of GDP	82	207,624
reduced productivity in terms of unpaid household work	730	49,640
<b>Total lost economic output</b>		<b>611,118 (min.)-1,266,054 (max.)</b>







# 4

“

The cost of services provided in response to VAW

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Azerbaijan's VAW response and prevention system consists of a range of public and non-governmental institutions engaged in prevention activities, the prosecution of perpetrators and in the provision of support for victims. The network of **public institutions** involved in interventions to combat VAW includes:



*The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SCFWC):* the central executive body responsible for the implementation and regulation of state policy on family, women, and children's affairs, the coordination of activities of all involved institutions, and the organisation of awareness-raising activities;

*The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoLSPP):* the central executive power body responsible for the implementation and regulation of state policy on social protection and assistance for vulnerable population groups, including victims of human trafficking and domestic violence;



*The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Mol):* the central executive agency responsible for public security, prevention and prosecution of criminal offences, including those related to GBV and VAW;

*The National Police:* part of the law enforcement and domestic violence prevention system, which includes the services of district inspectors and the policing of juvenile crimes; depending on the gravity of GBV and domestic violence criminal offences, up to five different structural departments can be involved in the provision of services related to response and prevention;

*The General Prosecutor's Office:* part of the judicial system and responsible for filing and investigating criminal cases, conducting operational searches; controlling the execution and application of the law by other law enforcement agencies, supporting prosecution in courts, presenting claims in court, and contesting court decisions;



*Local Courts of the First Instance:* that investigate criminal and administrative offences, including those related to domestic violence and GBV. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoJ) is the central executive body responsible for the development and implementation of state policy on the rule of law, for guaranteeing the implementation of court decisions, and for supervising the execution of criminal punishment;

*Local executive powers:* that strengthen the coordination of GBV prevention and response efforts between different institutions at the local level; since 2015, special monitoring groups on GBV and violence against children have been created within the system of local executive powers in each region of the country;





*Children and family support centres:* that act under the SCFWC, are responsible for conducting analyses and for monitoring domestic violence issues, for implementing prevention and response projects, and for organising awareness-raising activities in the regions. Social workers from these centres are authorised to conduct regular social and psychological work with families facing difficult life circumstances, including victims of domestic violence;

*The commission on guardianship and patronage:* the institution responsible for the prevention of domestic violence, and which provides assistance in defending the interests of juveniles and family members with disabilities who become victims of domestic violence;



*Health care institutions, reporting directly to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoH):* provide out-patient and in-patient medical assistance to victims of GBV and domestic violence, including post-exposure measures for sexual violence cases, emergency aid for physical injury due to domestic violence, and psychological support for victims with mental disorders attributable to GBV;

*Secondary schools and other educational institutions, reporting directly to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoE):* responsible for ensuring the rights of the child are observed, for educational work with children and their parents on preventing domestic violence, and for conducting information campaigns on domestic violence prevention.



In addition, important prevention and response services for VAW victims are provided by the *non-governmental sector and international organisations* operating in the country. According to the experts interviewed in the framework of this study, there are currently 21 accredited NGOs providing support to victims of domestic violence in Azerbaijan, ten of which receive Government funding. However, the experts agreed that only a few of these NGOs were operational due to the scarcity of financial resources, as sustainable funding programmes do not currently exist. During the time the study was undertaken, no specific budget-funded crisis centres for victims of VAW nor specialised helplines for the victims were functioning<sup>50</sup>. With regard to the international organisations operational in Azerbaijan, such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and others, the issues of prevention and response to GBV and domestic violence are covered by the mandates of each agency. Some targeted projects on GBV prevention and response have been funded by the Council of Europe, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and others.

Thus, the total cost of interventions targeting responses to violence and providing support for VAW victims through various service providers, can be estimated through an analysis of the resources associated with health care, the law enforcement and justice system, penitentiary facilities for

<sup>50</sup> According to the interviews conducted with local experts, there was a helpline for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking operating from 2011 to 2013, but was closed due to lack of funding later.



perpetrators, social services, and specialised services for victims of violence. These service providers are financed from different sources, including budgetary funding allocated through a network of state-owned and communal institutions, resources from the non-governmental sector (civil society organisations, grant programmes implemented by development agencies and charitable foundations), and private funds from households and individuals. Since different mechanisms of financing may be applied for different categories of service, a different approach must be used to estimate the economic cost of each service.

In this chapter, we present some of the approaches used estimate the cost of services associated with prevention and response to VAW in the following sectors:

- health-care sector;
- law enforcement and the justice system;
- penal system;
- social services;
- specialised services on VAW prevention and response, including those provided by the non-governmental sector;
- targeted aid programmes of international organisations operating in the country.

#### 4.1. Health-care sector

VAW has multiple health consequences for individuals, families, communities and societies. In terms of public health, the most negative effects of VAW are associated with physical injuries and chronic health disorders, disability, sexual and reproductive sequelae such as unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. According to the WHO, health is defined as *'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'*<sup>51</sup>. Therefore, physical and sexual violence also has negative consequences for women's mental health, such as post-traumatic stress disorders, anxiety, depression and phobias that affect the survivors' quality of life in the long-term. In addition, low self-esteem and victimisation may lead to alcohol and drug abuse, intentional self-harm and sexual risk-taking behaviours in the future<sup>52</sup>.

To capture all the negative effects of violence, the WHO identified three categories of potential health loss attributable to VAW, including IPV:

1. physical injury (trauma) and disability;
2. psychological trauma and stress disorders;
3. fear and consequences of controlling behaviour<sup>53</sup>.

According to the MoH, victims of domestic violence are entitled to free medical treatment from all health-care institutions funded by the state budget under the MoH. They can receive out-patient and in-patient treatment in the Republican Clinic Hospital, the Scientific Research Institute of Lung Diseases, the Scientific Research Institute of Maternal Health and Gynaecology, women's counselling clinics, district polyclinics, the Republican Centre for Combating AIDS and HIV,

<sup>51</sup> WHO. Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19–22 June 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of the World Health Organization, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948.

<sup>52</sup> Bott S., Morrison A. and Ellsberg M. (2005). Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence in Middle and Low-income Countries: a Global Review and Analysis, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3618, June 2005.

<sup>53</sup> WHO (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, Geneva, World Health Organization. Available at: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf).

children's hospitals and other medical institutions. There is also a 'Trust' hotline associated with the Medical Health Centre that provides psychological support for those in need. In 2017, 228 requests for assistance were received from people in crisis, including victims of domestic violence. According to the MoH, 12 of these requests were received from people who provided their personal information, while the rest were confidential. In all cases, the victims received a physical health check and an evaluation of their psychological state; the appropriate treatment was then prescribed.

While the economic cost of physical injuries can be identified and examined (such as a victim's sick leave, disability or unwanted pregnancy due to sexual violence), other types of health loss cannot be statistically measured, particularly the postponed effects. In other words, victims might not only require emergency medical aid, but also long-term psychological support. Although the psychological effects of violence might be classified as the most expensive ones in terms of the costs borne by a society, there are no reliable approaches to estimating them due to the lack of evidence-based data.

Relatively reliable estimates of health-care service costs can be obtained for health loss that is routinely documented by administrative data (e.g. physical injuries of different gravity or recorded incidents of rape). However, producing an economic analysis of the health effects of VAW is complicated by two important constraints:

- 1.** a lack of medical statistics to identify the scope of health loss attributable to VAW in a population;
- 2.** a lack of available data to identify the proportion of total health-care financing allocated for the provision of services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The current system of compiling medical statistics, which collects data on the service recipients, does not require the compulsory documentation of the causes of injury, as medical workers are only obliged to provide the necessary medical aid. Although they should submit information regarding injuries of an obviously criminal nature (e.g. gunshot, stab wounds) to police departments, this data is not reflected as a medical statistic, as these are based on international classifications of illnesses and deaths. Thus, it is impossible to identify categories of 'domestic' or 'sexual' violence from the causes of injury documented by medical institutions.

Therefore, the only data source for estimating health-care requirements comes from the documented number of victims suffering injuries from criminal offences attributable to domestic and sexual violence. This information is collected by law enforcement agencies and summarised in crime statistics (see Table 4.1). Evidently, every recorded victim of domestic and/or sexual violence required some level of health-care service, diagnostics and treatment.

When selecting an approach for estimating the costs of the health-care services delivered to victims of VAW, consideration should be given to the fact that public in-patient and out-patient institutions are run by the State and financed through line-item budgetary funding. The largest proportion of total costs is usually for staff wages and the maintenance of clinics. As a result, it is impossible to disaggregate the costs of those services utilised by specific categories of patients, including victims of VAW. Moreover, health-care services can be duplicated by different types of medical institutions (e.g. primary and specialised institutions) and inter-departmentally.

**Table 4.1. Number of female victims of criminal offences associated with domestic violence and crimes of a sexual nature, 2017**

	Female victims
<b>Domestic violence</b>	
<b>Physical health consequences, of which:</b>	
intent to inflict grievous injury	26
intent to inflict injuries of medium gravity	63
intent to inflict minor injuries	792
torture	4
<b>Mental health consequences, of which:</b>	
threat of murder or intent to inflict grievous injury	2
other	19
<b>Sexual violence</b>	
physical health consequences - rape and attempted rape	37
mental health consequences - sexual assault	255

*Source: State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018). Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan. Statistical Publication: 110; available at: <http://www.stat.gov.az/>*

The proposed approaches are therefore based on the indicative costs of the health-care services delivered at private medical institutions. This approach was discussed and validated by medical workers in Baku. Indeed, the price setting in the private health-care sector is usually competitive and rational. In contrast, public funding for health institutions may include some expenditures that are not directly related to service provision (such as training medical personnel, scientific meetings, etc.). To collect information on prices for health-care services, open data sources were used, including the price lists of private clinics in Baku and information from the Tariff (Price) Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the cost of medication<sup>54</sup>.

The estimated costs of the health-care response to VAW are based on the ‘unit cost’ approach, which suggests a minimum set of diagnostics tests, medical procedures, and treatment strategies for each ‘typical’ injury case. In practice, affected women may not necessarily use all the suggested procedures or require additional support, but the algorithms were developed on the appropriate level of health-care for patients and (if possible) in accordance with relevant clinical protocols. The estimated costs of post-exposure procedures and treatments for sexual violence (rape) cases and the different injuries attributable to domestic violence are presented in the following sections of this chapter.

**Sexual violence (rape).** According to WHO (2003), the provision of comprehensive assistance to victims of sexual violence should include: psychological support, emergency contraception, treatment and prevention of STIs, adequate prevention of HIV, information on safe abortion, etc.<sup>55</sup> Response services must include at least one consultation with a gynaecologist, an ultrasound of the pelvic organs, and mandatory tests for HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections. In

<sup>54</sup> <http://tariff.gov.az/documents/DVA.pdf>.

<sup>55</sup> WHO (2003). Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence. Geneva, World Health Organization.

some highly traumatic incidents of sexual violence, emergency aid may be needed, as well as primary surgical treatment of wounds and in-patient treatment. The indicative costs of a minimum set of post-exposure procedures are shown in Table 4.2. The indicative prices of private clinics in AZN were converted to USD based on the 2017 exchange rate (USD 1.00 = AZN1.721)<sup>56</sup>.

**Table 4.2. Estimates of the cost of compulsory post-exposure services, procedures and medications for rape cases**

Post-exposure prophylactics and examinations	Minimum costs of procedures and medications			Total cost, more traumatic incidents (USD)
	Unit cost (USD)	Number of units	Total cost (USD)	
Gynaecological consultation	12	1	12	
Ultrasound of pelvic organs	12	1	12	
HIV express-test	6	2	12	
Tests for STIs (hepatitis, syphilis, etc.)	12	1	12	
Emergency contraception ('Ginepriston' / 'Postinor')	6	1 pkg.	6	
Prevention of STIs ('Sumamed 500' or other analogue of Azithromycin + Metronidazole)	6 + 2	1 pkg.+ 1 pkg	8	
Two-component treatment of HIV ('Kiveksa' or other analogue, Abacavir + Lamivudine)	511	1 pkg. (monthly)	511	
Psychological / psychotherapis consultation	12	1	12	
<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>584</b>			<b>584</b>
Emergency ambulance call				58
In-patient surgical treatment (2 days in hospital)				320
Long-term course of psychological support (5 psychological consultations)				60
<b>Total cost, more traumatic incidents (USD)</b>				<b>1022</b>

*Note: prices as of 2017; effective exchange rate: USD 1.00 = AZN1.721.*

When applying the estimated costs to the documented incidents of sexual violence, it is assumed that some incidents were of a highly traumatic nature (at least one-third of all recorded rapes and attempted rapes) and required additional medical aid, such as primary surgical treatment, in-patient stays and long-term psychological support. As a result, the estimated costs of the health-care services delivered to documented rape victims are estimated as follows:

<sup>56</sup> [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.FCRF?locations=AZ](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.FCRF?locations>AZ).



1. the minimum cost of the post-exposure measures for rape victims (2/3 of all incidents): USD 14,550 [25 women × USD 582];
2. the minimum cost of highly traumatic incidents of rape (1/3 of all incidents): USD 12,264 [12 women × USD 1,022];
3. the minimum cost of responses for the mental health consequences of sexual assault incidents (at least one psychological consultation): USD 3,060 [255 women × USD 12].

**As a result, the 2017 aggregate cost of the provision of health care for documented sexual violence was USD 29,874 [USD 14,550 + USD 12,264 + USD 3,060].**

### **Domestic violence (injuries).**

The same ‘unit cost’ approach can be used to estimate the indicative costs of the health-care services required for victims with injuries resulting from domestic violence. According to forensic examinations regulations determining the severity of physical injuries, minor injuries are classified as health disorders lasting more than six days, but less than 21 days, and having minor transient effects of no more than six days (abrasions, bruises, etc.); injuries of medium gravity are classified as long-term health problems that last more than 21 days and result in impaired function of an organ or a significant trauma (fractures, sprains, superficial wounds, etc.); grievous injuries are classified as life threatening injuries, leading to health disorders lasting more than 120 days, or permanent disability incapacitating at least one-third of personal ability (traumatic brain injuries, deep penetrating wounds, etc.).

To estimate the indicative cost of all the complex medical services provided to victims of domestic violence, the price lists from private clinics were used, while the algorithms for the minimum health-care required were identified through focus group discussions with local medical workers (see Table 4.3). Minor injuries are mostly related to out-patient treatment (e.g. examination by a traumatologist and inexpensive medication (up to USD 50), while injuries of medium gravity may require more expensive procedures (up to USD 420). In the event of grievous injury, expensive diagnostics and examinations (such as MRIs), consultancies with various experts, and surgical operations that might be linked to long-term rehabilitation may be necessary. Based on estimates from experts, the indicative cost of a minimum set of examinations, treatments (including in-patient health care), and medication could be as high as USD 1,000. In addition, some documented criminal offences were related to death threats or the threat of injury, which negatively affected the victim’s mental health. In these cases, the indicative costs of the possible psychological therapy required (at least five psychological consultations) are applied.

According to 2017 crime statistics, 794 women received minor injuries, four women were tortured, 63 women suffered injuries of medium gravity and 26 women suffered grievous injury as a result of domestic violence. When extrapolating the indicative costs of the required health care to the documented number of victims, **the total cost of health care could be as high as USD 93,520** (see Table 4.3).

**Table 4.3. Indicative estimates of the cost of health-care services for women with injuries due to domestic violence in 2017**

	Minor injuries and torture (6-21 days of treatment)	Injuries of medium gravity (more than 21 days of treatment)	Grievous injury	Mental health disorders
Aggregate nature of injuries	Bruises, haematomas, scratches	Fractures, dislocations, superficial wounds	Deep penetrating wounds, brain injuries, etc.	Death threats or threat of inflicting grievous injury and others
Minimum set of necessary health-care services	Examination by a traumatologist, radiography, proper medication, bandaging. Psychological consultation.	Emergency ambulance call, consultation with a traumatologist, radiography in several projections, primary surgical treatment of wounds, surgical dressing, bandage/plaster, anaesthesia, proper medication. In-patient treatment (one day in hospital). Psychological consultation.	Emergency ambulance call, consultation with a traumatologist, radiography in several projections, MRI, pre-surgery check, surgical treatment, surgical dressing, anaesthesia, medication. Consultations with an ophthalmologist, a psychologist, a neurologist (in case of traumatic brain injuries). In-patient treatment up to 14 days. Psychological consultation.	Psychological consultations (at least five consultations).
Indicative cost for health-care services and medication (USD)	50	420	1000	60
Number of female victims of criminal offences related to domestic violence	796 (incl. four incidents of torture)	63	26	21
Estimated cost of health care for all recorded victims (USD)	39800	26460	26000	1260
<b>Total costs</b>				<b>USD 93,520</b>

*Note: prices as of 2017; indicative exchange rate: USD1 = AZN1.721.*

Therefore, **the 2017 aggregate cost of health care for victims of VAW in Azerbaijan could be as high as USD 123,394.** Obviously, the estimates provided are indicative and only reflect a portion of the potential costs of services delivered to VAW victims. These estimates do not factor in potential and postponed effects, including infertility resulting from reproductive health harm, long-term PTSD, depression and suicidal behaviour. Although these figures should be used with caution, they can provide a general understanding of the economic cost of VAW in terms of health care. More comprehensive assessments regarding cases of VAW that have not been reported are provided in Chapter 5, which presents the results of simulations.

#### **4.2. Law enforcement and the justice system**

VAW-related criminal offences can be broadly classified based on criminal, administrative or civil liability. Theoretically, all categories of administrative data of VAW-related offences can be disaggregated by the genders of both the victims and the perpetrators. However, in Azerbaijan, only the statistics of recorded criminal offences disaggregated by the sex of the victims are available

Unlike many other countries, no specific data exists on recorded administrative offences related to domestic violence, administrative arrests of abusers, administrative courts decisions for cases related to domestic violence, and convictions related to domestic violence. The only available data on administrative liability concerns cases involving long-term protection orders for victims of domestic violence. This was added to the Code of Civil Procedures of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2011.

According to the SCFWC, **10 short-term and 24 long-term protection orders were issued in 2017.** According to the interviews conducted in this study, it takes a judge of a Court of First Instance less than one hour to issue a protection order, and a few hours of police work to collect the evidence, interview the victims and proceed with the documentation. To calculate the indicative cost of the law enforcement response in this case, the 'unit cost' approach is applied based on the average wage of police officers (AZN 600 monthly; USD 350) and judges of the Court of First Instance (AZN 1,000; USD 580). The corresponding hourly wages can be estimated at USD 2.00 and USD 3.00, respectively. Therefore, the **2017 indicative cost of the law enforcement response in terms of issued protection orders can be estimated as USD 306** [10 short-term protection orders × (USD 2.00 × 3 hours + USD 3.00 × 1 hour) + 24 long-term protection orders × (USD 2.00 × 3 hours + USD 3.00 × 1 hour)].

**The 2017 indicative cost of the law enforcement response in terms of issued protection orders can be estimated as USD 306.**

Criminal offences and domestic violence incidents are primarily associated with the intention to inflict injuries of differing severity (minor, medium and grievous), murder and attempted murder. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan includes several crimes, such as deliberate murder (Article 120), driving a person to commit suicide (Article 125), deliberately causing serious harm to health (Article 126), deliberately causing less serious harm to health (Article 128), torture (Article 133), death threats or threat of causing serious harm to health (Article 134), rape (Article 149), and violent action of a sexual nature (Article 150). Many domestic violence crimes can be classified under one of these categories.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoIA), 2,145 crimes and acts of violence were committed against women in 2017, of which 39 resulted in death. Moreover, **there were 964 criminal offences related to domestic violence and 37 rapes/attempted rapes.**

The economic cost of the law enforcement response to VAW-related criminal offences consists of: police patrol calls, the work of the investigators and prosecutors, forensic examinations, lawyers' fees, time spent by judges in court hearings, and other expense categories. Unfortunately, it is not currently possible to make detailed calculations for these types of costs, as the algorithms of actions, length of investigations and number of specialists involved, may vary a lot depending on the severity of the crime.

To calculate the indicative cost of the response to VAW-related criminal offences, the average hourly wages of police officers (USD 2.00) and judges of Courts of First Instance (USD 3.00) are applied. Based on the interviews and focus group discussions conducted in the framework of this



study, the investigation of different criminal offences may last up to two months (and, in some situations, even longer)<sup>57</sup>. It could also take three to ten court hearings to obtain a conviction (e.g. at least 10 hours of work for a judge). In addition, legal advice is usually provided for victims appearing in court: according to interviews with local lawyers, it can cost as much as AZN 1,000 (USD 581) to provide the comprehensive legal support necessary for each criminal offence<sup>58</sup>. Therefore, to calculate the indicative estimates for the cost of the law enforcement response to VAW-related criminal offences, it is assumed that it takes approximately 10 hours of work by police officers and investigators to collect evidence and proceed with investigations for each criminal offence, plus about five hours of a judge's work in the court, and the cost of the provision of legal advice:  $\text{USD } 2.00 \times 10 \text{ hours} + \text{USD } 3.00 \times 5 \text{ hours} + \text{USD } 581 = \text{USD } 616$ . As a result, **the total cost of the response to criminal offences recorded in 2017 can be estimated at USD 616,616** [(964 domestic violence offences + 37 rapes)  $\times$  USD 618].

However, the most expensive component of the criminal justice system is the cost of the penitentiary system, including the imprisonment of perpetrators convicted for crimes associated with sexual and domestic violence. Though criminal law has no special provisions for identifying 'domestic violence' in convictions, these criminal offences are predominantly associated with death threats and threats to harm health (homicide, physical injuries, etc.) and can be classified within these criminal categories. According to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), 1,601 individuals were found guilty of committing crimes/acts of violence and convicted in 2017. Based on the estimates of the judges interviewed for this study, about 15% of these convictions were for VAW-related crimes. In addition, 207 individuals were found guilty of committing sexual crimes/violent acts. As a result, **the aggregate number of VAW-related convictions in 2017 can be estimated at 447 convictions** [1,601 convictions  $\times$  15% (domestic violence) + 207 convictions (sexual violence)].

According to the information provided by law enforcement bodies, the daily expenses for each convicted person amount to AZN 9.05 (USD 5.30). Thus, **the indicative scope of funding for maintaining convicted criminals in prison can be estimated at USD 864,722** [447 convicted criminals  $\times$  USD 5.30  $\times$  365 days].

**The indicative scope of funding for maintaining convicted criminals in prison can be estimated at USD 864,722.**

**The 2017 aggregate costs of the law enforcement and criminal justice response to VAW and the maintenance of penitentiary institutions could amount to USD 1,483,662** (see Table 4.4). While this figure appears quite moderate from a nation-wide perspective, it is important to remember that it does not include the large number of potential appeals the police are required to administer, the associated work hours for which are not recorded in administrative data. Equally no gender-disaggregated data on administrative offences related to domestic violence is available for analysis.

**The 2017 aggregate costs of the law enforcement and criminal justice response to VAW and the maintenance of penitentiary institutions could amount to USD 1,483,662.**

<sup>57</sup> In terms of the law enforcement response to domestic violence, it is important that the law clearly mentions the State's duty to 'assist in normalisation of relations between parties and resumption of family affairs' (Government of Azerbaijan 2010, Article 7.4). This provision can be interpreted as prioritising mediation and reconciliation in domestic violence cases. Practice has shown that this is the main policy of public authorities, including the courts, and may be used as a basis for terminating proceedings.

<sup>58</sup> The expensive legal services and lack of access to free legal aid were often mentioned among the main obstacles faced by women when bringing incidents of violations of their rights to court.



**Table 4.4. The indicative cost of the law enforcement response to VAW in Azerbaijan in 2017**

Cost items	Number of offences and convictions	Economic equivalent, in USD
Protection orders	10 short-term and 24 long-term orders	322
Investigation of criminal offences	964 DV offences and 37 rapes	618618
Maintenance of convicted persons in penitentiary institutions	447 convicted persons	864722
<b>Total</b>		<b>1 483 662</b>

### 4.3. Specialised support for victims of VAW

In accordance with best international practices, a comprehensive system of specialised support for VAW victims should include:

- free 24-hour helplines;
- safe shelters;
- support and advocacy services;
- accessible services for socially excluded women, especially recent migrants, refugees, women from ethnic minority groups and those with disabilities;
- access to financial support, housing, residence rights education, training; networking between specialist NGOs;
- multi-agency co-ordination;
- training curricula for professionals addressing the continuum of violence against women within a human rights framework;
- iwork with perpetrators, rooted in women's safety and prevention<sup>59</sup>.

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Prevention of Domestic Violence refers to the establishment of public support centres for victims of domestic violence, providing them with legal and medical assistance, psychological rehabilitation, social protection and allowances, and emergency shelter, among others, on a no-cost basis (Government of Azerbaijan 2010, Article 7.1). These types of services can be provided by public institutions and the non-governmental sector. However, the number of support and referral centres is very limited in the country and these are mainly run by NGOs that are reliant on donor funding.

According to the local experts interviewed in the framework of this study, there are 21 accredited NGOs in Azerbaijan, which provide support to victims of domestic violence; ten receive funding from the Government. However, only a few of these NGOs are operational because of financial

<sup>59</sup> Kelly L. (2008). *Combating Violence against Women: Minimum Standards for Support Services*, Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs Council of Europe: 66.

constraints due to a lack of sustainable funding programmes. According to the Report prepared in the framework of the Council for Europe Project ‘Improving Women’s Access to Justice in the five Eastern Partnership Countries’, only three NGOs were providing, inter alia, shelter services to victims of violence and were operating under the authority of the MoLSPP with financial support from the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organisations and international donor agencies<sup>60</sup>. These NGOs provided a number of services for victims of human trafficking and for children who had become victims of domestic violence. Furthermore, there is no 24/7 national helpline for victims of domestic violence. Only a few NGO-funded helplines are in place and these services are heavily dependent on donor funding. Therefore, women who encounter domestic violence continue to face obstacles in accessing support and protection mechanisms.

According to the MoLSPP, social assistance services were provided to only **28 victims of domestic violence in 2017; in addition**, 23 domestic violence victims received free legal assistance, 16 victims attended a course on psychological rehabilitation, and four victims received vocational training assistance. Social service providers, operating under the MoLSPP, referred **eight domestic violence victims to the shelter** run by the NGO ‘Clear World’ (Baku), and four victims to the ‘Tamas’ (Ganja) shelter. When comparing these figures with official crime statistics and, particularly, the indicators of GBV prevalence rates, the unmet need in the provision of proper social support for the victims is obvious.



Evidence suggests that children who witness violence at home may be at increased risk of emotional and behavioural problems, such as anxiety, depression and violence towards their peers, and of perpetrating intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence as adults. According to the targeted survey of VAW-affected women, conducted in the framework of this study, **86% of victims reported that their children have witnessed violence perpetrated against their mothers**. Therefore, additional support services might be needed for children who have witnessed

violence in their families, including psychological support and rehabilitation.

To address this problem, one of the projects implemented under the social order<sup>61</sup> of the MoLSPP was related to the provision of social rehabilitation services for children affected by domestic violence. In this regard, **38 children aged 3-16 years** have been recipients of rehabilitation services, legal services, social services, and psychological counselling, from the Public Union ‘Women Initiative and Assistance to the Solution of Social Problems’, to help them continue their education. According to the MoLSPP, specialised NGOs are currently responsible for more than 4,000 children with limited health capacity or who are in difficult life circumstances (e.g. children deprived of parental care, ‘street children’); both they and their families are provided with social and rehabilitative services.

In this chapter, the approaches used for estimating the economic costs of such services are explored. The ‘unit cost’ approach mentioned earlier uses indicative algorithms for the utilisation of specific services and step-by-step calculations for the costs of each component. In the framework of this study, discussions with local social workers and experts were held to provide an understanding of the type of social services delivered in cases of domestic violence in the local context:

<sup>60</sup> K/Council of Europe (2017). Barriers, Remedies and Good Practices for Women’s Access to Justice in Azerbaijan, prepared under the Programmatic Cooperation Framework Project ‘Improving Women’s Access to Justice in the five Eastern Partnership Countries’ (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine): 33.

<sup>61</sup> Budget-funded social projects/interventions implemented through contracting specialized service-providers (usually, NGOs) on a competitive basis.

*victim's call/application to a social centre → consultation with a social worker → consultation with a psychologist → consultation with a lawyer → consultation regarding staying in a shelter → shelter (from three to six months) → other required services utilised, when in the shelter (medical check-up, social-psychological rehabilitation, legal advice, assistance with job placement).*

Theoretically, to estimate the indicative cost of social services, the average time spent with each victim of violence by a social worker and the average wage of a social worker can be used. Based on the information collected through in-depth interviews with local experts, the average monthly wage of social workers was AZN 400 (USD 232). Therefore, the hourly wage of a social worker can be estimated as follows:  $\text{USD } 232 \div 22 \text{ working days} \div 8 \text{ working hours} = \text{USD } 1.32$ .

As the individual needs of domestic violence victims and the number of consultations provided by social workers will vary, a 'best-case' scenario is used for calculating the estimates. On the assumption that each of the 28 domestic violence victims provided with social services in 2017, received at least 10 consultations, and each of them lasted at least for 2 hours (to cover the entire spectrum of possible services):  $28 \text{ victims} \times 10 \text{ consultancies} \times 2 \text{ hours} \times \text{USD } 1.32 = \text{USD } 739$ . In addition, 16 victims attended a psychological rehabilitation course lasting an average of 72 hours and attended by 2 social workers [ $16 \text{ victims} \times 72 \text{ hours} \times 2 \text{ social workers} \times \text{USD } 1.32 = \text{USD } 3,041$ ]. As social rehabilitation is a long-term process that may last from three to six months, depending on the victim's individual plan, weekly monitoring visits and check-ups must also be factored into the equation. Thus, on the assumption that each of the 28 service recipients utilised at least 63 working hours of a social worker's time over the three-month rehabilitation period:  $28 \text{ victims} \times 63 \text{ hours} \times \text{USD } 1.32 = \text{USD } 2,320$ . As a result, **the total cost of social services provision in 2017 could amount to USD 6,100.**

Shelters for victims of domestic violence are currently maintained by NGOs<sup>62</sup>. To explore the indicative operational costs of a shelter, interviews were held with the senior managers of the NGO 'Clear World'. The shelter managed by Clear World is in Baku, and has the capacity to house 50 individuals at any one time. The core funding for the shelter is provided by international organisations and charity donations which are collected through fundraising campaigns. Victims of domestic violence may stay up to three months in the shelter free of charge; they are provided with the necessary support based on individual case management. The shelter has nine full-time staff, including social workers, a psychologist and a lawyer. According to the shelter's administration, it is difficult to estimate its overall budget, as many cost items are covered in the in-kind form by charitable foundations and philanthropists, but the approximate **yearly budget of the shelter is AZN 100,000 (USD 58,000).**

A number of international organisations are also quite active in supporting targeted interventions on VAW prevention and response in Azerbaijan. In particular, the UNFPA allocates up to USD 60,000 annually to advocacy efforts on GBV issues. This includes funding for the development of policy documents, for different research initiatives for producing additional evidence, for the organisation of various types of training for institutional capacity building, for awareness-raising campaigns, etc. In addition, the UNFPA Country Office mobilised USD500,000 from USAID in 2016-2017 which was used to further boost the activities on GBV prevention and response. A number of important programmes are also being implemented in this area by the UNDP, the Council of Europe, the Delegation of the European Commission, and other donors (see Table 4.5).

<sup>62</sup> According to MLSP, the establishment of the Center for Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking is planned in the near future. Maintenance will cost about AZN 45,000 per year, and this funding has been allocated within the MoLSP budget.

Except for UNFPA activities, it is quite difficult to estimate the exact amounts of funding allocated specifically to GBV interventions by international agencies, as many of them consider GBV response as cross-cutting issues within gender-responsive programs. In addition, some available data on financing refer to the multi-year programs only. Still, by very rough estimates, the total funding allocated by **international organisations for targeted interventions on VAW response amounts at least to USD 500,000 per year**. These funds are mostly spent on institutional capacity building, conducting advocacy and public awareness campaigns, collecting data on GBV and the direct support of those NGOs which assist VAW victims.

**Table 4.5. Selected projects on gender-based and domestic violence, supported and implemented by international organisations in Azerbaijan (2016-2017)**

Organization	Project	Description	Total funding, in USD	
			2016	2017
UNFPA	Advocacy related to GBV issues	Development of policy documents, conducting research initiatives for producing additional evidence, conducting training for institutional capacity building, awareness-raising campaigns	USD 60 000	USD 60 000
UNFPA	GBV prevention and response project		USD 500 000	
UNDP	Economic Empowerment for Employment and Entrepreneurship		N/A (DSA and travel costs – about 500AZN)	N/A (DSA and travel costs – about USD290)
Delegation of the EU	Enabling civil society to play a greater role in advancing gender equality and women's rights	Advocacy, awareness-raising events at schools and in communities (GBV as cross-cutting issues)	EUR399,600	
UNDP	Economic and Social Empowerment of Rural Women and Youth	Awareness raising, capacity building	\$100,000 (GBV: \$13,400)	\$50,000 (GBV: \$9,800)
Council of Europe	The PGG Regional Project “Improving Women’s Access to Justice in the five Eastern Partnership Countries”	Support national authorities, research, raising awareness (GBV as cross-cutting issue)	EUR 560 000	
Delegation of the EU	‘CEDAW in Action’	Building Infrastructure and Documentation Resources for Civil Society and National Women’s Machinery (GBV as cross-cutting issue)	EUR115,000	

*Sources: based on information provided by the corresponding international agencies.*

After aggregating the outlined cost items, **the 2017 indicative cost of specialised support services for victims of VAW in Azerbaijan could amount to USD564,100**; most of these services were funded by international organisations.







# 5

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The economic burden of VAW for victims and their households

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To comprehend the economic burden of VAW for the victims it is important to understand the aggregated economic effects of VAW in a society. As few victims seek help from public institutions that provide free response services (such as social and psychological support or post-exposure measures in sexual violence cases), the burden of VAW-associated costs is mostly borne by the victims themselves. According to the 2008 National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan, only 39% of all women affected by violence sought help, while only a few applied to public institutions for support<sup>63</sup>. Therefore, most victims had to cope with the effects of violence themselves and pay for the necessary service from their own pockets, or with assistance from family members and other people.

The only source of relevant data for estimating the amount of personal expenses used to cope with the effects of VAW can be obtained through a targeted survey of victims. Thus, a special survey of VAW-affected women was conducted, targeted at those victims who had applied for assistance from the NGO 'Clean World'. In total, 197 women were interviewed in different regions of the country. Some indicators of the social-demographic background of the respondents are presented in Annex A.

Physical violence was the most prevalent form of VAW encountered by the survey respondents, with 76% reporting these incidents as the principal reason for seeking help (see Annex D). Psychological violence was the second most prevalent form of violence, reported by 35% of the women interviewed. One-fourth of all victims faced sexual violence, with about the same proportion of women affected by economic violence (23%). The respondents also noted the prevalence of controlling behaviour in their families (22%) and had personally experienced forced marriage (18%).

With regard to perpetrators of violence, IPV was frequently indicated, with 76% of the women interviewed describing the violent behaviour of their husbands or partners and 28% having experienced violence by other family members.

Only 16% of women reported violence by other people they knew (not family members), and 7% had experienced violence by unknown people.



Due to the targeted nature of the sample, most of the women interviewed had applied for help from service-providers; only 2% had not sought support following the violent incident. The largest proportion of women sought help from their relatives and friends (69%), while many had also sought assistance from law enforcement bodies (51%). One-third of the survivors (31%) had sought help from medical workers, while 20% of the women had sought psychological support and around 14% had applied to social service providers and local executive authorities. The survey findings also revealed a high level of trust in non-governmental organisations, with 72% of the respondents reporting that they had sought assistance from NGOs.

The women interviewed also reported on the different consequences of the violence they had experienced in terms of health loss, including injuries, other health disorders and psychological stress. About one-third of them mentioned suffering minor injuries due to VAW, such as fractures, sprains, dislocations, superficial wounds and burns. In addition, 23% of the respondents reported suffering injuries of medium severity (bruises, haematomas, scratches) due to the violence, while 13% suffered grievous injury, such as deep penetrating wounds, brain injury and concussion, ruptured internal organs, etc.

<sup>63</sup> UNFPA (2011) National Survey Report on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan – 2008, Baku: 237.



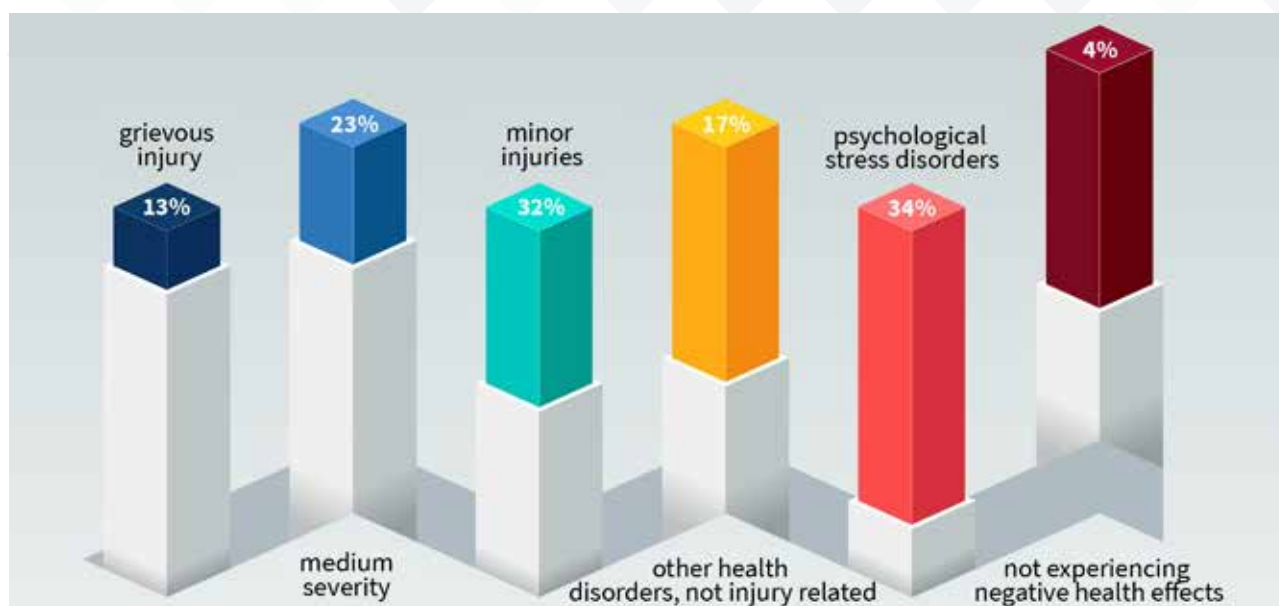
While 34% of women reported suffering from psychological stress disorders, 17% reported other health disorders, not injury related (such as hypertension and exacerbation of chronic diseases). Only 4% of all the women interviewed reported not experiencing negative health effects from the violence they had experienced (Fig. 5.1).

**Tangible personal expenses due to VAW.** The tangible personal costs of VAW victims can be classified into several different categories. Most victims will find they need to pay for some services in order to cope with the effects of violence. In addition, they may experience material losses associated with losing housing and property after separating from their abuser, or losing their job and income due to their inability to work. According to the survey findings, only 20 women out of 197 respondents (about 10%) reported no personal material loss attributable to violence. The majority reported losing some kind of personal and/or family property, including housing (see Table 5.1). Although the average amount of these losses was USD 2,807, the actual material damage might be more significant, as some respondents were unable to estimate a monetary equivalent. In their comments, these women recalled that they had to leave everything to their husbands after their separation and were unable to obtain any type of compensation: ‘I’ve lost everything

I had before, just as I left my husband’ (a 26 year-old VAW survivor), ‘I just took my children and some documents, and ran away from my previous home’ (a 33 year-old VAW survivor). These comments are typical of victims of VAW. Two stories have been de-personalised and are presented in Box 1.

Many women reported lost earnings, as they were unable to work for some time after being subjected to VAW. Almost one-third (32%) of all victims had to take sick leave; the average length of incapacity being 14 days. Many women also reported that their capacity to work was reduced due to the violence they had experienced, as well as their work productivity level (such as not being able to concentrate). As a result, 61% of the respondents reported lost earnings<sup>64</sup>, with the average income loss estimated at USD 721 (see Table 5.1). Obviously, this amount is much larger than the average women’s wage in the country in 2017<sup>65</sup>, and thus represents a significant burden on the women’s personal income and household budget.

**Fig. 5.1. Health loss due to violence, as reported by victims of VAW (% of respondents)**



<sup>64</sup> Of those women who did not report any loss of earnings, the majority (about 80%) were unemployed, housewives, students or schoolgirls.

<sup>65</sup> According to the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the average monthly nominal wage of women was AZ 335.7 in 2017 (USD 195).



**Table 5.1. Material losses attributable to VAW, as reported by interviewed victims**

Type of loss	Proportion of the surveyed victims who encountered some loss (%)	Average amount of loss (USD)
Lost personal or family property (e.g. furniture, household appliances, clothes, etc.)	90	2807
Lost earnings	61	721

*Note: as the reported incidents took place in 2017 (in the past months prior to a survey), the 2017 indicative exchange rate applies: USD1 = AZN1.721.*

### Box 1. Personal stories of VAW survivors

#### J. A. case

A native of Ujar, a town in the central part of Azerbaijan, “J.V.” attended the town’s secondary school #3 and finished 12 grades. She lost her father at the age of 20. Five years later she started taking care of her bedridden mother who passed away in 2007. At the persistent requests of her brother and sister, she had to marry, for it was not recommended that she live alone. Consequently, she moved to live with her sister and found a job in a bakery. Six months later she married E. who she had met through a colleague. In actuality, E. abducted her, and a wedding party took place later. They lived with her mother- and father-in-law in the same apartment. Relationships among family members were not healthy. E. would hit his mother and beat her. After his mother passed away in 2009, his father became the target. In 2010, they sold their apartment in Baku and bought a house in Binagadi district, an administrative area within Greater Baku. E. could not work, so to pay the family bills J.A. got a job in a nearby hospital. In the same year, she gave birth to her first child, a boy. The family’s hardship, however, continued. Subsequently, E. sold the jewellery he had inherited from his mother and the corresponding items J.A. had received as a wedding gift. The lack of money was a major reason for the frequent quarrels in the family. The quarrels became intensively fierce, and E. hit his wife often. Finally, J.A. contacted the police who made E. state that he would neither offend nor hurt and hit J.A. anymore. Police officers recommended J.A. undergo a medical examination to provide sufficient evidence to send E. to prison, but she refused to do so. E. did not stop beating J.A. Moreover, he often cut off the gas supply at home, leaving his ill father and infant in the cold. In 2017, the family suffered a heavy blow – J.A.’s father-in-law died and, as a consequence, the family lost access to his pension. The worsening financial conditions of the family made E. act even more violently. To try to appease him, J.A.’s sister began to support them. However, J.A.’s dismal situation and suffering intensified after she obtained another job. Once, E. tore her clothes off and threatened to throw her out completed naked. Frightened, she fled from her place of work and sought help from her sister. Having been there for a month, she was vocally assaulted by E. who was not allowed into the house, who then began hurling abuse at her and her sister’s family. As J.A. could no longer endure the situation she finally found refuge at Tamiz Dunya, an NGO running a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

## N.A case

*N.A was born in the Shamkir administrative area, in the western part of Azerbaijan, in a family that broke up in 2008 following the infidelity of her father. She was left with her brother in the care of her grandmother and grandfather when her father married another woman and her mother also remarried. She only finished nine grades at secondary school and, at the age of 15, she met G.. Having known him for only two months, G. abducted her. At the beginning, their marriage went well, and G. pretended to be a caring husband. Then he brought the children from his previous marriage home, which resulted in bickering initially and later transformed into the abusive treatment of N.A. Every single day G. beat her. In addition to this, his ex-wife began to visit them and, looking for a fight with N.A., also began beating her.*

*In December 2017, G. returned home drunk and left N.A. with seven knife wounds after hitting her repeatedly. Realising what he had done, G. became frightened and took N.A. to a doctor. In January 2018, G. got drunk at home and beat N.A. with an empty bottle of vodka. Using the excuse of going out to the garden, N.A. fled to her neighbour, fearing for her safety, and called the police from there. The police then took G. to a police station but freed him after several hours. N.A. was given a paper authorising her to have a medical examination. However, G. did not allow her to do so. Several weeks later, the case was almost forgotten after G. paid 50 manats to a visiting police inspector in charge of the neighbourhood in which N.A. lived. Feeling secure in his ability resolve any police involvement, G. began to repeatedly threaten N.A. with a knife, whereupon she ran away from home with her child. N.A. then told everybody that she was in a shelter in Ismayilly and her grandmother called to find out where she was. Before arriving in Baku, N.A. spent nine days in Ganja, Azerbaijan's second largest city in the western part of the country, in a shelter operated by Tamas, a local NGO. While she was there, her husband's uncle visited and guaranteed that N.A. would not be subjected to any further kind of violence. However, when N.A. returned home the violence resumed. Finally, she was placed in the Tamiz Dunya shelter in Baku.*

## Personal 'out-of-pocket' expenses of women affected by VAW.

Categories of cash expenses borne by women affected by violence can include the following:

- transportation to and from health-care institutions, police departments, forensics centres, courts, social service providers, relatives, etc.;
- health-care services, including examinations, in-patient treatment, and individual purchases of medication;
- psychological support, including child psychologists in cases where children have witnessed domestic violence;
- legal advice and support in courts;
- administrative services, such as fines, payments for issuing documents, court fees, etc.;
- costs associated with relocation and lodging, rent for a separate apartment, placing children in a different school, etc.

According to the survey of VAW victims, almost all reported having some personal expenses to cope with the effects of violence and/or arrange a 'new' life following separation from their abusers (Table 5.2). The most prevalent type of cash expense was for transportation (98%), as victims had to get to hospitals, police departments, shelters or their relatives, to seek help. The average amount spent on transportation was AZN 161 (USD 94). This amount was quite large, as most service providers are located in central cities, including the shelter in Baku city, thus the VAW victims had to use inter-city and inter-regional transport networks to obtain external help. Many of them also had to move to the homes of their parents and other family members, who lived in another region.

The need to purchase medication was reported by 75% of the women surveyed. In addition, more than a half had to pay for some type of health-care services, including emergency aid, consultations with doctors, medical examinations and tests, while 28% reported their personal expenses were for in-patient treatment (Table 5.2).

More than three-quarters of the interviewed victims (78%) had to rent private accommodation after experiencing violence, to be able to live separately from their perpetrators. The average amount of rental payments was USD 988 annually, for the period of separation. The women also had to buy new clothes, furniture and household appliances to organise their new lives. Therefore, the average economic cost of relocation and lodging could amount to USD 1,077.

More than a half of those interviewed had spent money on legal advice and support in the courts, while almost two-thirds of them had paid for administrative services (e.g. fines, court fees, forensic experts, fees for recovery of lost documents, etc.). Importantly, only a small number of women had paid for psychological services (16% of all respondents), probably due to the availability of the free psychological support provided by NGOs. Also, although 86% of women reported that their children had witnessed the incidents of violence, only 2% were able to pay for consultations with child psychologists.

According to the survey findings, the average personal cash expenses of VAW victims spent to cope with the effects of violence amounted to USD 345, which is considerably higher than the average women's wage (USD 195). In addition, the survey respondents spent about USD 1,077 adapting to their new lives, following separation from their abusers. As a result, **the total personal expenses attributable to VAW could more realistically amount to USD 1,324 per victim.**

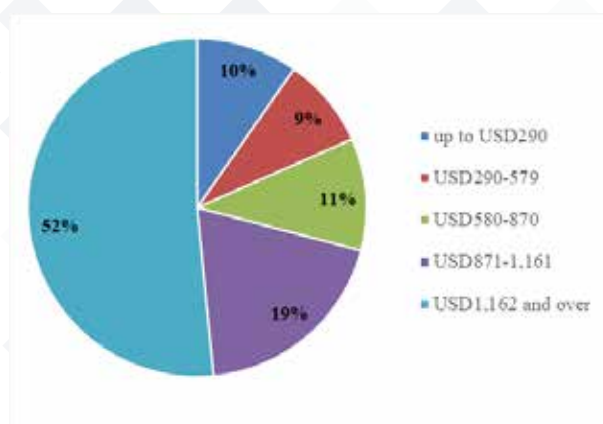
**Table 5.2. Types of personal expense due to violence, as reported by victims of VAW (%)**

Category of expense	Items	Proportion of women who had the relevant expenses (%)	Average amount of expenses by item (USD)*	Average amount of expenses by broad categories (USD)*
Transportation services	Transportation to hospitals, social services centre, police departments, relatives	97	94	94
Health-care services	Health-care services, except in-patient treatment	58	91	193
	Medication	75	103	
	In-patient treatment	28	129	
Psychological services	Psychological consultation	16	39	39
	Consultation with a child psychologist	2	17	
Legal advice and administrative services	Legal advice and support in the court	57	98	112
	Administrative services (administrative fees, fines, forensic experts, etc.)	64	38	

Total 'coping' expenses				345
Relocation and lodging	Rent for separate apartment	78	988	1077
	Travel to a new place of residence	53	53	
	Purchase of clothes, household equipment, etc.	66	261	
Total personal expenses				1324

*Note: as the reported incidents took place in 2017 (in the past months prior to a survey), the 2017 indicative exchange rate applies: USD1 = AZN1.721.*

More than half the victims interviewed had spent more than AZN 2,000 (USD 1,162) to cope with the effects of violence and organise their new lives (Fig. 5.2). Almost one-in-five of the victims spent between AZN 1,500 to AZN 1,999 (USD 871 to USD 1,161), while about a third spent less than AZN 1,500 (USD 870). These figures indicate that VAW has important economic effects for all victims, as their 'out-of-pocket' payments can become a significant burden for their households.



**Fig. 5.2. The personal cash expenses of VAW victims spent on coping with the effects of violence (%).**

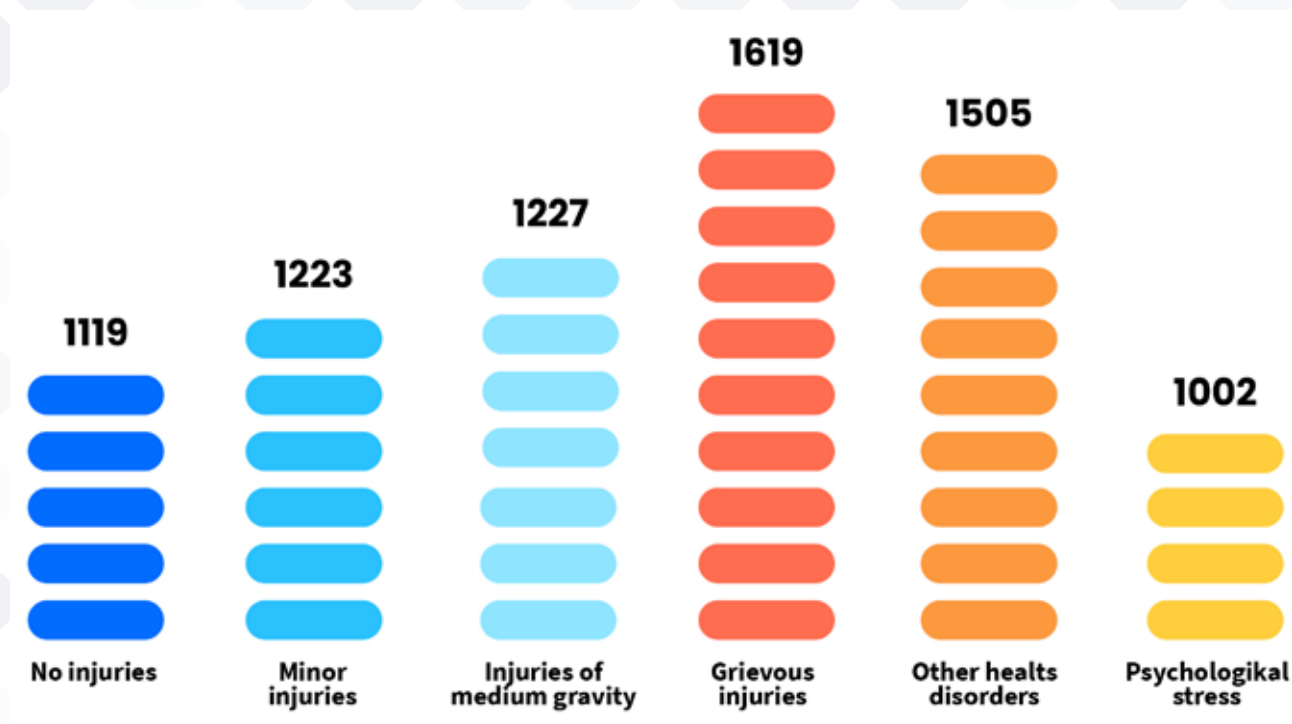
Importantly, the personal expenses of the victims of VAW were closely linked to the severity of the reported injuries. The largest average expenses were common for those women suffering grievous injury, being almost 1.5 times larger than the expenses of women without injuries (Fig. 5.3). The average expenses of those victims who reported other health disorders due to VAW (not related to injury) were also quite large (USD 1,505 on average). These respondents reported health disorders such as exacerbation of chronic diseases due to stress, hypertension, and nervous breakdowns, requiring long-term treatment and rehabilitation. Those women who reported psychological stress disorders due to VAW also spent about USD 1,000 coping with its negative effects. Victims with no reported health consequences also spent much of their personal resources (about USD 1,119) on renting a separate apartment after separating from their abusers. According to the 2008 National Survey on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan, almost half of the respondents (49%) who left their homes because of IPV, never returned<sup>66</sup>.

The study also revealed that the average expenses of VAW victims varied by their age (Fig. 5.4). Women in the younger age groups reported smaller personal expenses than women in the middle age groups. Most respondents under 30 years-old were unemployed women, students and housewives, which explains why so few of these women had personal incomes; most were fully dependent on the support of their family members. It can therefore be argued that the personal expenses VAW victims must spend on coping with the effects of violence and organising their new lives is determined not only by their *actual need for assistance*, but also by the *availability of resources*. As a consequence, socially vulnerable groups of women (e.g. low-income, unemployed, disabled) might be able to access the necessary response services for VAW due to a lack of resources.

<sup>66</sup> UNFPA (2011). National Survey Report on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan – 2008, Baku: 237.



**Fig. 5.3. Personal expenses due to VAW, as reported by interviewed victims, and the gravity of the reported injuries (%)**



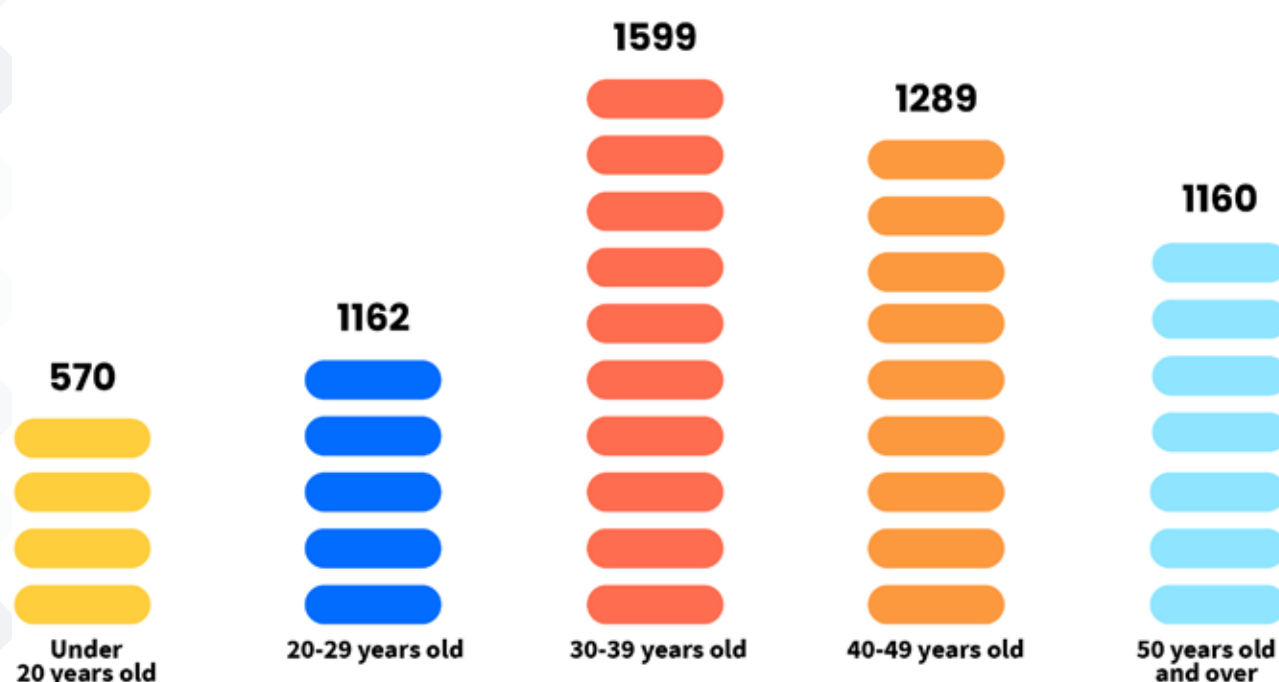
*Note: as the reported incidents took place in 2017 (in the past months prior to a survey), the 2017 indicative exchange rate applies: USD1 = AZN1.721.*

In addition, no significant variation was observed in the personal expenses spent coping with the effects of VAW by victims in urban settlements (on average USD 2,255) and rural area (USD 2,324). This correlation demonstrates that VAW victims usually need the same type of response services irrespective of their location and must travel to central cities to seek help if no services are available at the local level.

When producing an economic analysis of the effects of VAW on victims and their households, it is important to highlight that the largest proportion of the economic cost is borne by the women themselves (Table 5.3). In particular, 61% of the victims interviewed reported that they had personally paid their expenses. About half the women received the majority of the cash support from their parents, children or other relatives (44%), as well as from friends, colleagues and other people they knew (45%). A quarter of all victims received some support for their expenses from unknown people, including representatives from NGOs, while 11% of victims reported that their expenses were mostly covered by public institutions. Only 6% of the victims were given money by their husbands or partners to cover VAW-attributable expenses, and 8% used money from the household budget.

Importantly, the economic effects of VAW are not only related to the direct cash expenses of victims; some **important intangible effects** may occur (deteriorated quality of life, problems in communicating with family members, low self-esteem and distrust in other people, etc.). The emotional effects of violence may not only lead to immediate psychological problems, but may also provoke post-traumatic disorders, depression and suicidal thoughts. Another type of intangible cost attributable to VAW is related to the lost opportunities for personal fulfilment, successful career development, and proper recreation and leisure. Psychologists sometimes refer

**Fig. 5.4. Personal expenses attributable to VAW per age group, as reported by victims of VAW**



*Note: as the reported incidents took place in 2017 (in the past months prior to a survey), the 2017 indicative exchange rate applies: USD1 = AZN1.721.*

to examples such as the effects of sexual violence leading to complicated relationships with people of the opposite sex, the denial of sexual relations, or pregnancy planning issues. Numerous studies emphasise that children who have witnessed violence between their parents or other family members are inclined towards deviant behaviours, suffer from psychological disorders in adulthood, and can reproduce the toxic relationship pattern against their own partners and families.

Unfortunately, the present tools of econometric analysis do not provide reliable approaches to estimating the costs of the intangible effects of VAW, including emotional harm, a deteriorated quality of life, and lost opportunities. It is particularly difficult to make estimates in terms of the postponed effects of violence, as no longitudinal surveys<sup>67</sup> of VAW victims have been undertaken in Azerbaijan. The only source for analysis may be found in the self-assessments of VAW-affected women, who can provide some indicative monetary equivalents for the moral harm experienced in each individual situation. The women surveyed found it quite difficult to identify a specific amount of decent compensation; many of them emphasised that it is impossible to measure the real consequences of the violence in their lives: 'It is impossible to measure, as I've lost my health, and that is priceless', 'My life was completely ruined. How can it be measured?' However, those women who provided estimates of **acceptable compensation for the moral harm experienced, reported an average amount of more than USD 20,000.**

**Table 5.3. Responses of VAW victims to the question: ‘Who paid the majority of your total expenses attributable to coping with VAW?’ (%)**

Responses	Proportion of respondents (%)
Victim herself (personal money)	61
Some money from the household budget	8
Parents, children or other relatives	44
Husband/partner	6
Friends, colleagues, other people the victim knew personally (not family members)	45
Unknown people, including representatives of NGOs	25
Public institutions	11

*Note: the sum is over 100%, as multiple answers were possible.*

# 6

“

Aggregate economic costs attributed  
to violence against women in  
Azerbaijan (based on a simulation  
model)

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As has been argued in the previous chapters of this Report, the official statistics of VAW-related criminal offences represent only a small number of the actual incidents that occur in the population. Few survivors of GBV seek help, as they are afraid of the victim-blaming attitudes of their communities and concerned with safety and confidentiality issues. Being unaware of the available services, distrust in public institutions, and the lack of specialised responses at the local level are also prevalent reasons for the underreporting of sexual and domestic violence.

In order to obtain reliable estimates of the economic effects of VAW in a society, the recorded incidents of violence should be adjusted by the proportion of unreported/unknown cases. Women affected by VAW rarely disclose the real cause of their injuries when seeking help from medical staff. Additionally, a low percentage of victims apply to law enforcement bodies for protection from violence and to hold their perpetrators liable. Thus, the international practice for GBV costing studies is to use the findings of specific population-based surveys to estimate the effects of VAW.

According to the UNFPA's 2008 National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan,<sup>68</sup> 5% of all ever-partnered women reported that they had been subjected to physical violence by an intimate partner during the past 12 months, while 3% had been subjected to sexual violence by a partner. At the same time, less than 1% of victims who had suffered from a life-time of IPV, had turned to the authorities, to health-care or to law enforcement bodies.

The extrapolation of these proportions to the entire female population of Azerbaijan in the age group 15-49 (2,648,100 in 2017, according to the State Statistics Committee) provides an opportunity to simulate the hypothetical number of victims of physical and sexual violence in the population. It is then possible for the indicative numbers of potential recipients of response services, not represented in the official statistics (e.g. medical services), to be identified. Based on such extrapolation, in 2017 **at least 132,400 women were affected by physical violence and 79,400 women were affected by sexual violence in Azerbaijan (Table 6.1).**

**Table 6.1. The indicative total number of women affected by physical and sexual violence, and women who sought help in 2017 (a simulation model based on the 2008 UNFPA survey)**

	Total female population (thousand persons)	Employed female population (thousand persons)
Total number of women aged 15-49, of which:	2,648.1	1,769.6
women affected by physical violence in the past year (5% UNFPA, 2008)	132.4	88.5
women affected by sexual violence in the past year (3% UNFPA, 2008)	79.4	53.1
Total women affected by physical and sexual violence, of them:	211.8	141.6

*Source: estimates based on the State Statistics Service and the 2008 UNFPA National Survey on VAW.*

In accordance with methodological approaches of this study, lost economic output has been estimated for the employed population only, thus the additional data on the potential number of victims among employed women in the age group 15-49 (1,769,600 in 2017, according to the State Statistics Committee) is needed to develop a sound model of the economic cost of VAW. When adjusting this portion of the female population by the prevalence rates for VAW, 88,500 employed

<sup>68</sup> UNFPA (2011). National Survey Report on Violence against Women in Azerbaijan – 2008, Baku: 237.

women were affected by physical violence and 53,100 employed women were affected by sexual violence in 2017. Therefore, the total number of VAW-affected employed women was as high as 141,600 (Table 6.1).

The next step is to identify the hypothetical number of women with injuries attributable to VAW. These indicators are needed to estimate the scope of health-care services required by the victims, and the lost macroeconomic output due to the incapacity and illness of the victims. According to the 2008 UNFPA survey, 29% of women affected by sexual and/or physical violence reported having injuries<sup>69</sup>. When extrapolating this percentage to the potential number of victims in the population (Table 6.2), the number of injured women increasing to 61,400. In addition, about 72,000 women reportedly experienced psychological stress due to VAW that affected their well-being.

A survey of VAW victims conducted in the framework of this study, provides information on the type of injuries that can be applied to a hypothetical population sample. In particular, 32% of respondents reported minor injuries (cuts, punctures, bites, abrasions and bruises), 23% had injuries of medium severity (like sprains, dislocations, burns, etc.), and about 13% reported grievous injuries. As a result, the potential number of VAW victims with minor injuries could be as high as 11,100 women, those with injuries of medium severity up to 8,800 women, and those with grievous injuries amounting to 5,000 women (Table 6.2). Obviously, many victims sought help from health-care institutions, but their applications remained undocumented and under-reported because of confidentiality issues.

**Table 6.2. The indicative number of women with injuries attributable to physical and sexual violence in Azerbaijan in 2017 (a simulation model based on the 2008 UNFPA survey)**

	Total female population					Employed female population				
	Victims of physical violence		Victims of sexual violence		Total victims of VAW (thous. Pers)	Victims of physical violence		Victims of sexual violence		Total victims of VAW (thous. Pers)
	%	thous. Pers	%	thous. Pers		%	thous. Pers	%	thous. Pers	
Total victims aged 15-49, of which:	100	132.4	100	79.4	211.8	100	88.5	100	53.1	141.6
- reported injuries due to violence*, of which:	29	38.4	29	23.0	61.4	29	25.7	29	15.4	41.1
minor injuries**	32	11.1	n.a.	n.a.	11.1	32	8.2	n.a.	n.a.	8.2
injuries of medium severity**	23	8.8	n.a.	n.a.	8.8	23	5.9	n.a.	n.a.	8.25.9
grievous injuries**	13	5.0	n.a.	n.a.	5.0	13	3.3	n.a.	n.a.	3.3
- reported psychological stress**	34	45.0	34	27.0	72.0	34	30.1	34	18.1	48.1

Source: estimated based on the State Statistics Service and 2008 UNFPA survey

\* based on the 2008 UNFPA National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan.

\*\* based on a special survey of VAW victims conducted in the framework of this study.

To estimate the potential cost of VAW in a society, the adjusted number of VAW victims, obtained through the extrapolation to the indicative ‘per unit’ costs of specific response services, must be applied. Importantly, such statistical operations are only valid for those cost items that demonstrate a high proportion of unknown/unreported VAW cases, in particular the effects of VAW-attributable injuries and the health-care needs of the victims. Those cost items that are comprehensively described by administrative data (e.g. criminal offences, social service provision) do not need additional adjustments.

### **1. Lost economic output.**

According to the developed approaches, the lost economic output consists of the following categories of costs: 1) premature death due to VAW, 2) loss in GDP due to the temporary incapacity of the victims, 3) loss in GDP due to victim disability, 4) costs of disability pensions due to VAW; 5) economic loss due to the reduced productivity of victims in terms of daily household work. Chapter 3 provided a detailed explanation of the ‘unit cost’ indicators (e.g. GDP per employed person, average length of incapacity for victims with injuries, the minimum wage, and the average disability pension), so the adjusted estimates of the ‘best-case’ scenario can be developed as follows:

- 1.** premature death of employed women: 99 female deaths × USD 8,440 (GDP per employed person per year) = USD 838,555;
- 2.** GDP loss due to temporary incapacity of women with injuries: 8,200 employed women with minor injuries × 5 days of incapacity × USD 35 (GDP per employed person per day) + 5,900 employed women with injuries of medium gravity × 21 days of incapacity × USD 35 + 3,300 employed women with grievous injury × 42 days of incapacity × USD 35) = USD 10,622,500;
- 3.** GDP loss due to partial disability attributable to VAW: 3,300 employed women with grievous injury × 15% (rate of partial disability due to VAW) × USD 2,532 (1/3 of the yearly sum of GDP per employed person) = USD 1,253,340;
- 4.** disability pension due to VAW: 3,300 women with grievous injury × 5% (rate of permanent disability due to VAW) × USD 100 (average disability pension) × 12 months = USD 198,000;
- 5.** lost economic output due to reduced work productivity (in terms of household work): 41,100 injured victims of physical and sexual violence × 76% (victims reportedly affected by reduced productivity) × 20 days (average length of reduced productivity) × USD 3.40 (the average daily minimum wage) = USD 2,124,048.

When all these costs are combined, the lost economic output due to VAW in 2017 could total as much as **USD 15,036,443**, when the estimates are adjusted by the proportion of unknown/unreported VAW cases.

### **2. Cost of services associated with responses to VAW and support for the victims.**

The economic cost of VAW response services includes health-care, law enforcement and social services, and funding for specialised services such as shelters, hotlines and other targeted programmes.

As detailed in Chapter 4.1 the health-care services delivered to the victims of VAW cannot be directly estimated, as medical statistics are not available for disaggregating. To develop a ‘typical’

scenario of the estimates, the 'unit cost' approach of the recorded number of VAW victims is applied. Still, it is widely recognised that these figures do not represent the actual situation regarding VAW prevalence. According to the 2008 National Survey on VAW, the potential number of victims of sexual violence could number 79,400 women in 2017, yet only 1% sought help from medical institutions. Therefore, we can assume that at least 794 women received the necessary post-exposure services, while one-third might have needed additional treatment because of severe injuries. Based on the indicative cost of the minimum-required compulsory medical treatment, the total costs of health-care in 2017 could amount to **USD 9,830,766:**

**1.** health care for victims of sexual violence: 529 women (2/3 of all potential victims of sexual violence) × USD 584 + 265 women (1/3 of all potential victims) with more traumatic injuries × USD 1,022 = USD 579,766;

**2.** health care for victims of domestic violence: 11,100 women with minor injuries × USD 50 + 8,800 women with injuries of medium gravity × USD 420 + 5,000 women with grievous injury × USD 1,000 = USD 9,251,000.

*The scope of response services delivered by law enforcement is comprehensively presented by official data on registered criminal offences. Since disaggregated data enabling the analysis of administrative criminal offences related to domestic violence in Azerbaijan is not available, data on protection orders issued in 2017, the recorded number of criminal offences related to domestic violence, and the estimated proportion of VAW-related convictions out of the total number of convictions, is used. Based on the indicative cost of activities reflecting a 'typical' law enforcement response, the average wages of the police officers and judges of Courts of First Instance, and the daily expenditures associated with maintaining a convicted person, the economic cost of the law enforcement response and the justice system can be estimated as follows:*

**1.** protection orders: 10 short-term protection orders × USD 9.00 + 24 long-term protection orders × USD 9.00 = USD 306;

**2.** criminal offences: (964 domestic violence offences + 37 rapes) × USD 616 = USD 616,616;

**3.** expenditures of the penitentiary system for maintenance of convicted persons: 447 persons × USD 5.30 per day × 365 days = USD 864,722.

Thus, the total cost of the law enforcement response and the justice system regarding VAW-related offences in 2017 amounted to **USD 1,481,644.**

The cost of *specialised services* for victims of domestic violence are not affected by the proportion of unknown/unreported VAW cases, as they capture all the requests made to social protection authorities regarding violence and specialised shelters:

**1.** social services provided to the victims by public institutions (social rehabilitation, psychological support, vocational training, and referral to shelters): USD 6,100;

**2.** specialised support for victims (shelters operated by NGOs): USD 58,000;

**3.** targeted interventions of international organisations (advocacy, awareness raising, institutional capacity building): USD 500,000.

Thus, the total cost of support services for VAW-affected women in 2017 was **USD 564,100.**



Therefore, with respect to the proportion of unknown/unreported VAW cases in terms of seeking medical help, the total cost of the VAW response, including health care, law enforcement and specialised support for victims, can be estimated as USD 11,770,528 in 2017.

**3. The personal costs of VAW victims** constitute the most significant component of the aggregate economic cost of VAW. These costs include lost personal property and/or income, the cost of the services utilised by the victims to cope with the negative consequences of VAW and to separate from the perpetrators. According to the survey of VAW victims conducted in the framework of this study, 90% of women affected by domestic violence reportedly lost their property, and 61% lost their earnings. If the number of domestic violence victims in 2017 was estimated to be 211,800 women, it can be assumed that about 190,600 women suffered material loss, and about 129,200 women lost their earnings. If the average reported figure for lost property was USD 2,807, and the average lost earnings was USD 721, the indicative costs of the aggregate material loss experienced by the victims of VAW in 2017 can be estimated as follows:

- 1.** lost personal property:  $190,600 \text{ women} \times \text{USD } 2,807 = \text{USD } 535,014,200$ ;
- 2.** lost income:  $129,200 \text{ women} \times \text{USD } 721 = \text{USD } 93,153,200$ .

VAW-affected women also spend their personal resources on coping with the effects of violence and in accessing help. According to the 2008 UNFPA National Survey on VAW, only 39% of women who survived violence sought help and it can therefore be estimated that 82,602 women spent some 'out-of-pocket' expenses to escape violence. In the nation-wide context, the aggregate amount of these costs is:

- 3.** personal expenses to cope with the effects of violence:  $82,602 \text{ women who sought help} \times \text{USD } 1,324 \text{ (average personal expenses)} = \text{USD } 109,365,048$ .

Thus, the total amount of personal material loss and cash expenses of women affected by VAW in 2017 could be as high as **USD 737,532,448**.

When summarising the indicative estimates of the economic cost of VAW in Azerbaijan (a simulation model adjusted by the proportion of unknown/unreported VAW cases), **the 2017 aggregate costs borne by a society could be as high as USD 764 million**. The obtained results obtained are more than 270 times higher than the economic equivalent of the officially recorded incidents of VAW (USD 2.8 million) and represent about **1.8% of the country's GDP in 2017**.

The categorised aggregate economic costs of VAW in Azerbaijan in 2017 are presented in Table 6.3. The 'typical' scenario is based on the documented number of women with injuries due to physical and sexual violence and administrative data on registered criminal offences and social service provision. The 'best-case' scenario represents the outcomes of a simulation developed to adjust the potential number of VAW victims by the proportion of unknown/unreported cases (e.g. prevalence of VAW in the population among women aged 15-49, proportion of women who sought help, prevalence of injuries due to physical and sexual violence, etc.).

When extrapolating the prevalence rates for VAW in the population, the estimated number of women who faced violence during 2017 increases to 211,800. Evidently, the largest portion of the economic cost of VAW is borne by the victims themselves. About 90% of all VAW victims surveyed reported some personal material damage and lost property; the average amount of these losses was about USD 2,800. When extrapolating these figures by the estimated number of VAW victims in the population, the indicative economic costs borne by a society could be more than USD 500

million. Moreover, if the response services are scarce or unavailable, many victims must pay their 'out-of-pocket' expenses to access priority services such as medical treatment, medication, legal advice, psychological support, etc. Because of the lack of shelters for women who face domestic violence, the victims must pay rent for safe apartments and arrange their new lives following separation from their abusers at their personal expense.

Despite the high estimated costs, the calculations do not include many of the serious consequences of VAW that cannot be currently assessed due to a lack of data, methodologies and approaches to costing. In particular, the data on the law enforcement response to domestic violence is scarce in Azerbaijan and should be expanded to include the disaggregated statistics of administrative criminal offences, administrative arrests of VAW perpetrators, court decisions in cases related to domestic violence, etc. These estimates do not include the indirect costs of VAW in a society, including reproductive harm, prevalence of STIs and unwanted pregnancies, the impact on fertility and nuptiality, inter-generational effects, etc. The intangible effects of VAW, such as the emotional stress of victims and children who witness violence within their families could be borne later due to their postponed effects.

Finally, the issue of the economic cost of forced marriages has not been discussed in this report, although it is widely recognised that early marriages are directly linked to the low education level of girls, disadvantaged positions in the labour market, low income and social vulnerability. In fact, **43% of VAW victims interviewed in the framework of this study have been forcibly married, the mean age of the marriage being 16.** Of these women, 40% reported being unable to complete their secondary education due to marriage, while 21% were unable to obtain professional education later. In addition,

39% of forcibly married respondents were unable to obtain employment. The economic cost of these trends require further study, but the multiple negative effects are obvious throughout the lifetimes of these women, not only for themselves, but also for their children and households, their communities, societies and countries.



**Table 6.3. The 2017 aggregate economic costs associated with the effects of VAW in Azerbaijan**

Cost category	Cost item	Registered number of victims/perpetrators	'Typical' scenario (USD)	'Best-case' scenario (USD)
<b>1. Lost economic output</b>				
Irreversible population loss	Lost lives (premature deaths)	22 (min.) – 99(max.)	183,619	838,555
Reversible population loss	Temporary incapacity of victims due to injury	544 (min.) – 17,100 (max.)	167,895	10,622,500
	Permanent disability in terms of pensions	2 (min.) – 165 (max.)	2,340	198,000
	Partial disability due to injury (lost GDP)	82 (min.) – 495 (max.)	207,624	1,253,340
	Reduced productivity in terms of unpaid household work	730 (min.) – 31,208 (max.)	49,640	2,124,048
	<b>Total reversible loss</b>		<b>427,299</b>	<b>13,977,388</b>
<b>Total lost economic output</b>			<b>611,118</b>	<b>14,815,943</b>
<b>2. Costs of services associated with responses to violence against women and support for survivors</b>				
Health care	Sexual violence	37 (min.) – 794 (max.)	29,874	579,766
	Domestic violence (injuries)	885 (min.) – 25,700 (max.)	93,520	9,251,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>123,394</b>	<b>9,830,766</b>
Law enforcement and penitentiary institutions	Protection orders	10 short-term, 24 long-term		306
	Investigation of criminal offences	964 domestic violence offences and 37 rapes		616,616
	Maintenance of convicted persons in penitentiary institutions	447		864,722
	<b>Total</b>			<b>1,481,644</b>
Specialised support for victims	Social services for victims of domestic violence	28		6,100
	Shelters (NGO)	50 (max.)		58,000
	Targeted interventions on GBV issues (supported by international organisations)	n.a.		500,000
	<b>Total</b>			<b>564,100</b>
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>2,169,138</b>		<b>11,770,528</b>
<b>3. Personal costs of VAW victims</b>				
Material damage	Lost personal property	190 600 (max.)	n.a.	535,014,200
	Lost income	129 200 (max.)	n.a.	93,153,200
Personal expenses	'Out-of-pocket' expenses to cope with the effects of violence	82 602 (max.)	n.a.	109,365,048
<b>Total personal costs of VAW victims</b>			<b>n.a.</b>	<b>737,532,448</b>
<b>Total aggregated cost</b>			<b>2,780,256</b>	<b>764,118,919</b>

# Conclusion

Research undertaken on the economic cost of violence against women in Azerbaijan can provide the missing arguments for demonstrating that VAW-related economic losses are not only a burden for the victims of violence, but also for their families and communities, employers and tax-payers, public institutions and the non-governmental sector, national budgets and insurance funds, and the entire national economy. Due to its important social implications VAW cannot be perceived as a private family matter; its consequences affect everyone in a society. The economic cost of VAW can be measured in terms of monetary equivalent, labour productivity, service provision, and intangible effects. The immediate consequences can be estimated, as well as the long-term and postponed affects which will be experienced by various members of the community: the victims, their families, the perpetrators of violence, employers who face economic loss due to the incapacity and low productivity of employees, public and non-governmental institutions that provide support services in response to VAW, and others. Society as a whole will face the burden of disease and demographic loss (deaths, injuries, unwanted pregnancies, mental disorders), which has a significant economic and social impact.

Categories of economic costs may include lost macroeconomic output in terms of GDP, the cost of services provided in response to VAW, support to the victims, and the prosecution of perpetrators. In addition, victims of violence usually have to use their own funds in order to cope with the effects of violence (e.g. health care and medication, personal safety programmes, safe housing and lodging, legal aid and transportation, etc.). The indirect costs of VAW can produce psychological disorders and stress, and important post-traumatic effects which can have an impact on family and interpersonal relations.

In this study, the tangible economic costs of VAW are classified under three broad groups: (1) lost economic output due to irreversible (premature death) and reversible (incapacity, disability, and reduced work productivity due to injury and health disorders) population loss; (2) the cost of services provided in response to violence and the provision of support for survivors (the health-care sector, the law enforcement and criminal justice sector, specialised support services, and targeted interventions to prevent VAW); and (3) the personal expenses of victims for coping with the effects of violence, and their individual material loss as a result of VAW. The proposed estimates of different cost items are based on several approaches, including the 'unit cost' approach (the cost of the typical services provided in response to specific situations of violence) and the 'total operating costs' approach (e.g. the cost of targeted interventions to eradicate VAW). If the indicative value of specific goods and/or services cannot be measured, the 'transfer of the similar costs' approach was used, as well as advice from experts regarding the approaches used by the study.

The study is based on the 2017 administrative data on VAW-related criminal offences and social services provision to victims by public institutions. The key findings of the 2008 National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan were also used to incorporate the prevalence rates of violence in the female population, and to better understand the types of injury suffered and the manner in which victims sought help. To obtain additional data, focus group discussions were conducted with local health-care centres and social workers, police officers and judges, representatives of local authorities and NGOs. The study design and approaches were validated through in-depth interviews with local experts and representatives of public authorities engaged in developing national policies on GBV prevention and response.



Finally, a targeted survey of 197 women, who had been subjected to VAW and had sought help, was undertaken to collect information on personal expenses and coping strategies.

When estimating the economic cost of VAW, consideration was given to a number of important constraints, such as the high proportion of unknown/unreported cases of VAW-related criminal offences, the small number of survivors seeking help, the fear of stigmatisation in a community or fear of abusers. Underreporting of gender-based violence is also caused by victim distrust in public institutions and the lack of specialised services. To address these issues, the findings of the 2008 National Survey on VAW in Azerbaijan were used to estimate the prevalence rates for physical and sexual violence against women and to better understand victim's coping strategies in terms of seeking help. Based on the simulation outcomes, the potential number of women who might have been subjected to VAW in 2017 could be as high as **211,800**. Of these, it is estimated that 61,400 women received injuries due to violence, and 72,000 women experienced psychological stress and mental disorders as a result of VAW.

If the proportion of unknown/unreported VAW cases is included, **the 2017 aggregate economic cost of violence against women in Azerbaijan could be as much as USD 764 million (1.8% of the country's GDP)**. These estimated costs are more than 270 times larger than the economic equivalent of the recorded incidents of VAW (about USD 2.8 million), as these calculations include also the estimated underreporting of VAW in the official statistics.

As the adjusted estimates indicate, lost economic output due to medical-demographic losses attributable to VAW in 2017 could reach **USD 13.9 million**. However, as some of these estimates are based on the minimum wage and minimum disability pension, the economic equivalent loss could be largely underestimated, in particular when adjusted by the USD equivalent. The calculations also refer to the official employment rates, but the

prevalence of the shadow economy means that the real lost economic output could be much larger and thus would have a more significant impact on the national economy.

The total cost of services provided in response to VAW in 2017 could amount to **USD 11.8 million**. According to the adjusted estimates applied in the study, the cost of the potential amount of health care delivered to VAW victims could reach USD 9.8 million (the recorded incidents of VAW were estimated to be USD 123,000 based on the current prices of post-exposure services and medication). Furthermore, almost USD 1.5 million was spent on the provision of adequate law enforcement responses to VAW, including investigating criminal offences, issuing protection orders and the cost of maintaining convicts in penitentiary institutions.

There is a systematic lack of shelter provision and specialised support services for victims of VAW throughout the country. Additionally, there are no special state programmes to address the problem of VAW through targeted interventions. As a result, the largest proportion of support costs is provided by international organisations and is fundraised by NGOs. While international organisation mobilised about USD 500,000 for the targeted interventions on GBV issues in 2017, the indicative cost of the social services delivered to victims could be roughly estimated at only USD 6,100. At the time the study was conducted, no public-funded shelters for VAW victims or special information hotlines existed in the country. The efforts of local NGOs are fragmented due to a lack of funding and are dependent on support from international donors.

Importantly, most of the aggregate economic costs borne by Azerbaijan's society due to VAW are paid by the victims themselves. Based on the simulation results, the total personal costs of the victims might constitute more than **USD 737 million** per year (e.g. more than 90% of the aggregate economic costs borne by society). About 90% of the VAW victims interviewed in the framework of this study reported serious

material loss attributable to VAW; with the average amount of damage estimated at USD 2,800. More than 60% of VAW victims reported lost employment income due to VAW (about USD 721 on average). The victims also had personal 'out-of-pocket' expenses spent on coping with the effects of violence, including paying for medical services and tests, purchasing medication, costs related to relocation and lodging, legal advice, payments for administrative services and fees, and fees, and psychological consultations for adults and children who had witnessed violence. Although these personal expenses varied by the gravity of the injuries received and associated health disorders, most women spent about USD 1,324 coping with the effects of violence and arranging their new lives following separation from their abusers. These costs evidently exceed the average wage earned by women in the country, but were mostly covered by the victims themselves. About 40% of all respondents reported that they had been assisted by their parents and other family members and friends in order to cope with the effects of violence. The survey results also highlighted the increased vulnerability of low-income and unemployed women, as their lack of money results in their being unable to access the necessary VAW support services.

When summarising the findings of this study, it is important to stress that the lack of reliable data on VAW in Azerbaijan remains an important barrier to producing a comprehensive analysis of the economic effects of VAW. Therefore, any estimates are indicative and cannot claim to represent full and detailed coverage of all the consequences of VAW in society. However, these estimates highlight the seriousness and scope of the problem and can be used to attract more public attention, strengthen advocacy efforts, and develop adequate policy interventions to prevent violence and transform public attitudes. Many important negative consequences of VAW have been excluded from this study, including the psychological effects of violence, reproductive health losses and the consequences of forced marriages. Additional research is needed to focus on the

indirect effects of VAW in a population and its postponed impact in terms of demographic trends and inter-generational relations.

## ANNEX A. SOCIAL-DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Social-demographic background	Proportion of respondents (%)
<b>Age group</b>	
under 20 years old	4
20-29 years old	42
30-39 years old	36
40-49 years old	15
50 years old and over	3
<b>Residential area (when the violence occurred)</b>	
Large city, administrative centre	48
Small town, settlement	35
Rural area	17
<b>Status at the labour market (when the violence occurred)</b>	
Employee	14
Self-employed worker (private entrepreneur, farmer, etc.)	22
Unemployed (looking for a job)	42
Pensioner	1
Student/schoolgirl	5
Housewife	16
<b>Status in the labour market (at the time of interview)</b>	
Employee	35
Self-employed worker (private entrepreneur, farmer, etc.)	45
Unemployed (looking for a job)	11
Pensioner	0,5
Student/schoolgirl	0,5
Housewife	6
On maternal leave	2
<b>Marital/partnership status (when the violence occurred)</b>	
Single	21
Registered marriage	41
Non-registered marriage (partnership)	31
Having boyfriend, but not living together	5

Divorced	1
Widowed	1
<b>Marital/partnership status (at the time of interview)</b>	
Single	4
Registered marriage	9
Non-registered marriage (partnership)	11
Having boyfriend, but not living together	13
Divorced	60
Widowed	3
<b>Presence of children</b>	
With no children under 18 years old	14
With children under 18 years old, of which:	86
All children living with their mother	81
Some children living with their mother	14
None of the children living with their mother	5
<b>Household income level (at the time of interview)</b>	
High-level incomes and incomes above middle-level	26
Middle-level incomes	44
Low-level incomes and incomes lower than middle-level	30



**ANNEX B. VICTIMS OF CRIMES RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AZERBAIJAN, 2017**

Categories of criminal offence	Total	of which women	of which:	
			girls under the age of 18	pregnant women
Total	1268	964	6	2
of which:				
intentional murder	60	39	4	-
attempted murder	25	18	-	1
driven to commit suicide	1	1	-	-
Intention to inflict grievous injury	44	26	-	-
Intention to inflict injuries of medium gravity	102	63	-	-
Intention to inflict minor injury	993	792	2	1
torture	4	4	-	-
threats to kill or inflict grievous injury	3	2	-	-
other	36	19	-	-

Source: State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018). *Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan / Statistical Publication: 110*; available at: <http://www.stat.gov.az/>

**ANNEX C. VICTIMS IN CRIME OFFENCES IN AZERBAIJAN, 2017**

Categories of criminal offence	Total	of which:	
		women	of which: girls under the age of 18
Total number of victims	6 830	2 184	48
resulting from crimes due to negligence	1 818	597	39
resulting from intentional murder	9	3	-
resulting from intention to inflict grievous injury	394	42	-
Total number of deaths	1 165	337	34
resulting from crimes due to negligence	855	216	20
resulting from intentional murder	182	76	9
resulting from intention to inflict grievous injury	19		-

Source: State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2018). *Crime and Offence in Azerbaijan / Statistical Publication: 110*; available at: <http://www.stat.gov.az/>

## ANNEX D. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AMONG THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Circumstance of violence	Proportion of respondents (%)
<b>Most serious situation of violence experienced*</b>	
Physical violence	76
Emotional, psychological violence	35
Sexual violence	24
Economic violence	23
Controlling behaviour	22
Forced marriage	18
<b>Other forms of violence experienced (except 'most serious situation')*</b>	
Physical violence	60
Emotional, psychological violence	45
Sexual violence	36
Economic violence	20
Controlling behaviour	24
Forced marriage	32
None	2
<b>Children's experience of witnessing violence (among respondents with children)</b>	
Children witnessed violence against their mother	86
<b>Perpetrators of violence*</b>	
Husband/partner	76
Other family member(s)	28
Other known people (not family members)	16
Unknown people	7
<b>Seeking help in situations of violence*</b>	
YNo help sought	2
Medical workers	31
Police, law enforcement bodies	51
Social service	14
Local executive authorities, municipalities	15
Psychologist	20
Non-governmental organization	72

Relatives, friends	69
Religious institution (church)	7
<b>Health effects of violence*</b>	
Grievous injury	13
Injuries of medium gravity	32
Minor injuries	23
Other health disorders, not injuries	17
Psychological stress disorders	34
None	4

*\* the sum is over 100% as multiple responses were possible.*

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