



The Republic of Azerbaijan
Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication

**2020 Impact assessment report of the
"State Program for ensuring food safety in the Republic of Azerbaijan
for 2019-2025"**
approved by the Order No.1143, dated April 29, 2019 of the
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Baku, 2021





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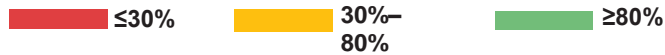




1. SUMMARY

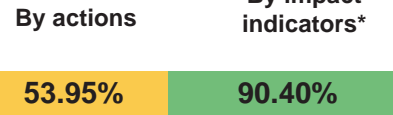


2020 Impact assessment report of the "State Program for ensuring food safety in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2025" approved by the Order No. 1143, dated April 29, 2019 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Overall implementation percentage *

Performance of key executive bodies for 2020 (on a 100 percent scale)



Food Safety Agency

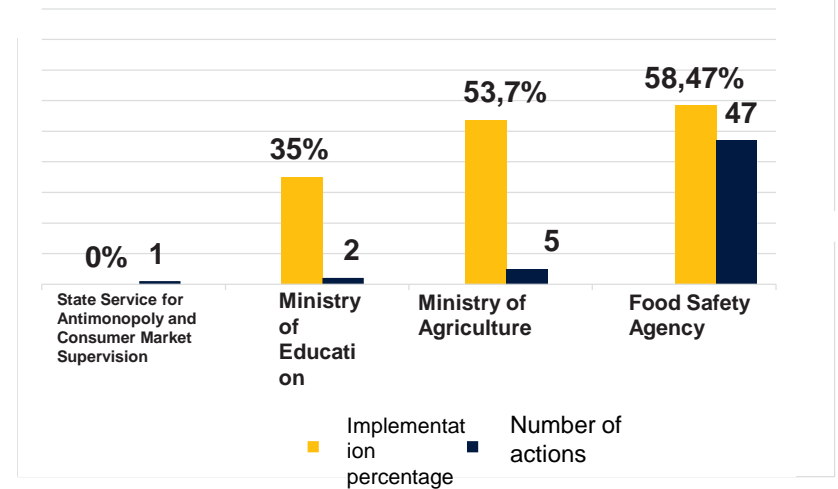
Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Education

State Service for Antimonopoly and Consumer Market Supervision

Implementation	Number of actions ****
58,47%	47
53,70%	5
35,00%	2
0,00%	1

Performance of the main executive bodies in 2020 and the number of events they were responsible for



* When calculating the total implementation percentage for the actions, the implementation status of the priorities for the relevant actions was determined and the implementation results of the priorities were summed up and divided by their total number.
 ** The implementation percentage by the expected impact indicators was obtained by summing the results obtained by the expected impact indicators determined by the state program and dividing them by the number of those indicators.
 *** When determining the performance of the main implementing agencies, the results obtained on the relevant actions were summed up and divided by the total number of action for which the bodies were responsible for. Furthermore, when evaluating the performance, the results obtained in excess of 100 percent on individual indicators were counted as 100 percent.
 **** The number of actions for which the relevant agencies are responsible includes the actions to be implemented in 2020 under this State Program.



1. SUMMARY

The Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication (CAERC) has been instructed to monitor and evaluate (M&E) the implementation of the actions planned under the "State Program for ensuring food safety in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2025" pursuant to the Paragraph 4 of the Order No. 1143 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated April 29, 2019 on the approval of the "State Program for ensuring food safety in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2025" (hereinafter - the State Program)

This report contains the result-based monitoring and evaluation outcomes for 2020 of the "State Program for ensuring food safety in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2025".

The monitoring and evaluation process relied on the international practices, "Guidelines for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of state programs", as well as assessment and methodological approaches developed by the Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency jointly with World Bank experts. During the monitoring and evaluation, we focused on the implementation of the actions on the merits, the expected results and indicators associated with the priority, and verified the compliance with the implementation period.



2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Monitoring and evaluation of the State Program was carried out in line with the strategic vision, key priorities, action plan and results framework with processing of information provided by the main and other implementing agencies based on initial results, outcomes and impact indicators. Each indicator was evaluated in view of the extent to which the indicator achieved the predetermined goal. The evaluation results are divided into 3 levels:

Full achievement - the works was fully implemented as planned, the expected results were achieved. **Marked in green.** Indicates that the results are 80 percent (including 80 percent) or higher.

Partial achievement - the work has not been done enough, does not fully correspond to its core intent or the expected results have not been achieved. **Marked in yellow.** Indicates that the results are moderate or that the completion rate (with percentage) is between 30 and 80.

Targets have not been achieved - no results have been achieved, very little has been done or is in fact non-existent. **Marked in red.** Indicates that the results are little or the completion rate (with percentage) is 30 percent (including 30 percent) and below.



2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Determining performance percentages by each indicator

As part of the monitoring and evaluation of the State Program, quantitative indicators were divided into two groups - incremental and cumulative indicators. Furthermore, in view of the global best practices, indicators were also grouped as positive and negative indicators. The calculation of implementation percentage by positive and negative incremental indicators was based on the following formulas:

$$Incremental^{+} = \frac{V^{actual}}{V^{target}}$$

$$Incremental^{-} = \frac{V^{target}}{V^{actual}}$$

Where V^{actual} - Actual implementation indicator, V^{target} - target indicator.

The cumulative indicators were calculated as follows depending on the desired focus :

$$Cumulative = \frac{V^{actual} - V^{base}}{V^{target} - V^{base}}$$

Where, V^{actual} - Actual implementation indicator, V^{base} - base indicator.

When calculating the indicators answered as Yes / No as a quality indicator in the program, it is estimated as 100% for "Yes" and 0% for "No". Percentages over 100% for each indicator were calculated as 100 percent.



2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Determining the implementation percentage by each action

The actions were evaluated on the basis of preliminary result indicators. The implementation percentages of the preliminary results indicators of respective year for each action were collected and divided by their number.

Calculating the ratings for key implementing agencies

The rating of the main implementing agencies was determined by summing the implementation percentages by each action evaluated in the respective year for each institution and by dividing them by their number.

Calculating implementation percentage by each priority

Two approaches were used to calculate the implementation percentage of priorities:

- Implementation percentages of priorities by each measure: it is determined by summing the implementation percentages of respective actions for each priority and by dividing them by their number.
- Implementation percentage of priorities by outcome indicators : it is obtained by summing the relevant outcome indicators for each priority divided by their number.

Overall implementation percentage of the State Program

Two approaches were introduced when calculating the implementation percentage of the State Program :

- State Program's implementation percentage by actions: The implementation percentage of all priorities by each action is summed to get the total number.
- State Program's implementation percentage by expected impact indicators: It is obtained by dividing the sum of expected impact indicators defined in the State Program for the relevant year by their total number.

3. ACHIEVED RESULTS

Impact of the State Program on the efforts to ensure food safety in the country in 2020 was as follows

Indicator number	Indicator name	Description of indicator	Unit of measurement	Indicator for base year	Indicator for target year	Achieved indicator	Implementation percentage
003	Number of refusals from crossing the EU border for food and agricultural products exported annually	Import refusal cases recorded in the RASSF system of the European Union	Piece	18	10	1	100.00%
004	Number of people infected with zoonotic diseases	Annual number of new people diagnosed with zoonotic disease	Person	546	500	195	100.00%
005	Annual number of food poisoning cases among people	Number of people applied hospitals with food poisoning and of those found poisoned clinically during the year	Person	374	350	546	64.10%
006	Percentage of animals infected with zoonotic diseases	The ratio of the number of animals infected with zoonotic diseases to the total number of animals per respective year	Percent	5	4.5	2.3	100.00%
007	Areas affected by pests	Volume of areas affected by pests subjected quarantine as a result of control measures	Ha	155432	135000	136089.53	99.20%
009	Increased public trust in food safety	Survey among population	Percent	-	50	63.8	100.00%
010	Annual number of food poisoning cases	Number of clinically confirmed cases of food poisoning	Piece	154	130	187	69.52%



3. ACHIEVED RESULTS

Impact of the State Program on the efforts to ensure food safety in the country in 2020 was as follows

Only 1 case of refusal of exported food and agricultural products from crossing the EU border was recorded annually. The baseline indicator for this indicator was 18 cases with a target of 10 cases for 2020.

As a result of the works done and of their impacts, the number of people infected with zoonotic diseases decreased significantly accounting for 195 people. The baseline indicator for this indicator was 546 people with a target being 500 for 2020.

The number of people with food poisoning in 2020 accounted for 187 people.

Zoonoz xəstəliklərə yoluxan heyvanların payı hədəfdən əhəmiyyətli dərəcədə az olmuş, 2,3 faiz təşkil etmişdir. The

percentage of animals infected with zoonotic diseases accounted for 2,3 percent, significantly lower than the target.

The share of areas affected by pests has decreased.

Public confidence in food safety has increased.

The number of annual food poisoning cases accounted for 187.



3. ACHIEVED RESULTS

In 2020, the following results were achieved to ensure food safety as part of the 12 priority areas of the State Program

For 2020



■ ≤30% ■ 30%- 80% ■ ≥80%

State of implementation by priorities	Implementation percentage by actions	Implementation percentage by outcome indicators
10.1 Improving the regulatory framework for food safety, in view of global best practices	26.67%	0.00%
10.2 Improving food safety infrastructure	78.93%	54.47%
10.3 Strengthening scientific support and human resources in food safety	53.44%	40.00%
10.4 Form a scientific evidence –based risk analysis system in the field of food safety	16.67%	30.00%
10.5 Improving the registration, approval and certification system in the field of food safety in line with the state-of-the-art requirements	69.83%	No outcome indicator for the current year
10.6 Form a risk-based state control system over food safety	60.00%	21.20%
10.7 Establish an effective and state-of-the-art animal health monitoring system	21.71%	0.00%
10.8 Establish an effective and modern plant health control system	47.65%	50.00%
10.9 Develop public-private partnership in support of food safety	31.90%	42.00%
10.10 Introduce up-to-date technologies and innovative solutions in the field of food safety	68.00%	70.00%
10.11 Develop international cooperation in the field of food safety	96.88%	No outcome indicator for the current year
10.12 Raise public awareness on food safety, promote healthy nutrition and protect consumer rights	75.70%	100.00%
	75.70%	100.00%

* The status of implementation of priorities by each action is determined as the ratio of the implementation percentage of actions by each priority to their number. The actual implementation percentages of preliminary outcome indicators by each measure divided by their number. The results exceeding 100 percent by each indicator were taken into account.

** The implementation status of priorities by outcome indicator is determined as the ratio of the implementation percentage of the outcome indicators by each priority to their number.



3. ACHIEVED RESULTS



10.1 Improve the regulatory framework for food safety in view of the global best practices

- AFSA has developed 3 new normative documents on sanitary and 1 on phyto-sanitary to bring sanitary, veterinary and phyto-sanitary norms and guidelines into line with international requirements and (or) to develop new norms and guidelines.

10.2 Improve food safety infrastructure

- Measures have been taken to optimize the existing network of food safety laboratories, to create new laboratories that meet up-to-date requirements and to provide logistics, with 6 laboratories having been modernized and 5 optimized.
- To complete microbiological testing, the timeframe from acceptance of samples in laboratories to the submission of test results has been reduced to an average of 7 working days.



3. ACHIEVED RESULTS



10.3. Strengthen scientific support and human resources in food safety

- In 2020, 878 international and local research articles associated with food safety, animal and plant health were included in the scientific database of AFSI to create a database of existing scientific research papers in order to substantiate the assessment of food safety- related risks from scientific perspectives.
- Normative documents were developed and adopted using scientific researches and risk assessment reports.
- Risk assessments were undertaken on the basis of the results generated from food safety database.

10.4. Form a scientific evidence- based risk analysis system in the field of food safety

- In order to objectively assess the problems identified in facilities subjected to food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary control, a risk profile of two diseases on anthrax and plague in small ruminants was prepared in connection with animal health.
- A risk analysis approach for food safety and plant health has been introduced with respect to 3 problems - tomato fruit brown wrinkle virus, aflatoxin in hazelnuts, and trans fatty acids in vegetable oils.
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3. ACHIEVED RESULTS



10.5 Improve registration, approval and certification system in food safety in accordance with the latest requirements

- Registration and approval guidelines have been developed in line with global best practices to improve the procedures for registration and approval of food operators and facilities, in view of international best practices.

A total of 17864 food operators involved in all stages of the food chain, as well as those included into

- Automated Food Safety Information System (AWIS) – a database created for food production and trade flows were registered.

10.6 Form risk-based state control system over food safety

- Regulations on food rating of food operators and facilities have been developed in order to form a mechanism for determining their rating on the basis of risk indicators.
- Risk-based import control guidelines have been prepared to develop a new mechanism to control the import of foodstuffs, goods subject to veterinary and sanitary control.



3. ACHIEVED RESULTS



10.7. Create an effective and up-to-date animal health control system

- Measures have been taken to organize preventive vaccination of agricultural and domestic animals, with a total of 32.6 million animals, excluding birds, vaccinated.
- Awareness-raising measures were taken to reduce the use of veterinary antimicrobials and stress factors, with a total of 257 households and farmers benefited from these measures in different regions of the country.

10.8. Create an effective and modern plant health control system

- A total of 43,745 soil samples were tested in connection with plant protection products and agrochemicals in order to monitor the use of plant protection products and agrochemicals on arable lands,



3. ACHIEVED RESULTS



10.9. Develop public-private partnership to support food safety

- Measures have been taken to create public-private partnership platforms in food safety, with cooperation platforms established with the involvement of the private sector.
- 11 slaughterhouses have been registered by AFSA following the support of the establishment of private slaughterhouses and sales centers that meet veterinary-sanitary and sanitary-epidemiological requirements.

10.10. Apply the latest technologies and innovative solutions in food safety

- Measures have been taken to integrate the databases of appropriate government agencies (institutions) into the Automated Food Safety Information System (AFSIS) of AFSA through the Electronic Government Information System.
- Following the measures taken to exercise control over food safety using information technologies, a total of 50,157 inspections were undertaken using information technologies.



3. ACHIEVED RESULTS

10.11. Develop international cooperation in the field of food safety

- It was achieved to expand the cooperation with international organizations involved in food safety (including Codex Alimentarius, OIE, IPPC, WHO, FAO), and the AFSA staff participated in programs, summits and conferences of 7 international and regional organizations.

10.12. Raise awareness of public on food safety, ensure promotion of healthy nutrition and protection of consumer rights

- Measures have been taken to improve mechanisms for public control of food safety. The awareness of public was raised with promotional and education activities to ensure observance of sanitary and hygienic norms and rules during canning, storage and use of food products, which was followed by further awareness raising of consumers as part of the “promotional activities for healthy and rational nutrition”.



4. DETAILED INDICATORS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Model form of actions, output, outcome indicators and recommendations

— ≤ 30% — 30%–80% — ≥ 80%

Priority	10.3	10.3. Strengthen scientific support and human resources in food safety								
Index	#	Name of priority /indicator /action	Description of indicator	Baseline year indicator	Target year indicator	Achieved indicator	Implementation percentage	Implementation status	Key implementing agency	Recommendations and Remarks
Outcome	017	Number of risk assessments based on the results taken from food safety database		0	2	1	50.00%			* It is recommended that the risk assessments developed for the indicator refer to the data obtained from the database on food poisoning and death cases, and that the risk assessments and researches conducted by ACTI be published in international and local scientific journals.
Outcome	018	Number of scientific studies and risk assessments conducted by Food Safety Institute		0	5	8	100.00%			* It is recommended to improve the reporting on the development and submission to AFSA of risk assessments, as well as on awareness raising measures taken, and to improve the record keeping activity in meetings and discussions on risk assessments and scientific researches in the coming years.
Outcome	019	Number of students in annual food safety training programs developed in collaboration with AFSA	The cumulative number of new students involved in the jointly implemented curriculum for the given period	0	40	0	0.00%			* As the deviation from the targeted indicator is critical, it is recommended to analyze the problems on this indicator and speed up the work.
Action	10.3.1	10.3.1. Establish a database of existing international and local scientific research works to substantiate the food safety- related risk assessment from scientific perspective					100.00%	implemented	Food Safety Agency	
Output	043	Number of international and local research articles included in the scientific database of AFSI	Number of new local and international scientific articles to be included in the database each year. The scientific database will cover food safety, animal and plant health	0	300	878	100.00%			* It is recommended to reconsider the targets for the upcoming year with greater deviation. It is recommended to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information on the columns (author, year, title, label, etc.) in the "All references" section of the scientific database. As a new area of research, it is recommended to add "bioengineering research" in the description of the indicator
Action	10.3.2	10.3.2. Conduct analysis of diseases of food origin in the country and create their database					100.00%	implemented	Food Safety Agency	
Output	044	A database on food poisoning and death cases has been created	Database of clinically validated food poisoning and death cases	No	Yes	Yes	100.00%			* It is recommended to integrate the system into AQTIS to ensure flexible entry and monitoring of death and food poisoning cases in the coming years. * It is proposed to improve the information in the database, to create additional sections for a more precise description of poisoning cases
Action	10.3.3	10.3.3. Strengthen the scientific potential of the Food Safety Institute					75.50%	Partially implemented	Food Safety Agency	
Output	045	Number of external experts involved in the scientific committees of AFSI	Number of external experts involved in scientific committees	0	15	25	100.00%			* It is recommended to increase the number of specialists included in the scientific committee responsible for the indicator
Output	046	Number of annual AFSI specialists benefiting from measures aimed at building scientific capacities	Number of specialists participating in local and international events (seminars, conferences, trainings, courses, educational programs) during the year for the development of scientific potential	100	100	51	51.00%			* To develop the scientific potential, it is recommended to speed up the efforts to ensure participation of AFSI staff in local and international events next year. * It is proposed to increase certification and accountability in connection with the participation of employees

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