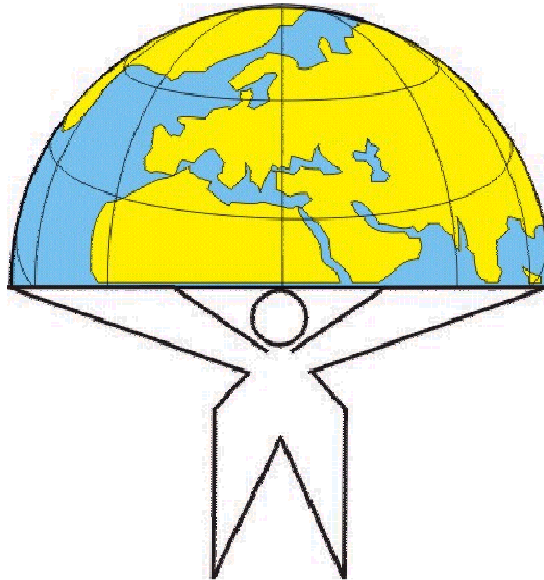


# RELIABLE FUTURE

*Because We Care...*

*Non-Governmental Non-For-Profit  
Voluntary Youth Organization*



There is a dark tunnel, and the Light at the End of it.  
This light is called - **RELIABLE FUTURE!!!**

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

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# RELIABLE FUTURE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

*Because we care...*

**Reliable Future** is non-for-profit, charitable, politically non-aligned non-governmental organization founded by young people of different universities of Azerbaijan Republic in 1998 and officially registered by the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan Republic in 1999 as NGO.

**Reliable Future's** activities involve more than 30 experts and 200 members and volunteers. Most of the current programs of Reliable Future are implemented in regions of country with focus in regions with needs to advance the democracy, human rights and community leadership, in refugee and IDP settlements and minorities living areas. Through the establishment of four associative groups in Sumgayit, Gynadja, Mingeçavir and Guba regions Reliable Future achieves to serve the interests of people in these regions and involve them into different programs and activities.

**Reliable Future** brings strong management and innovative strategies to programs in order to achieve its mission by implementing different projects. Our strength is based on the enthusiasm, quality, expertise, skills and knowledge of our members.

## MISSION:

**To unite active part of Azerbaijan young people and direct their forces to build up democratic, civil, safe, open & healthy society.**

### **Strategic directions**

In order to respond in time to new challenges of our country, particularly rural communities, Reliable Future chosen several strategic directions to follow. These directions would assist us to provide those who will create the watersheds of the 21st century with the skills, richness of experience, and breadth of vision they will need to realize the potential for local, national and global cooperation. The recently established Leadership Group through its wider range of activities would address development needs of communities in Azerbaijan regions, encourage civic responsibility and participation of all members of community, promote grassroots development, networking, and coalition building among different stakeholders. Our work has a broad sweep due to our presence throughout the country (having branches, volunteers, permanent staff members, and partner organizations in most regions of country) and the diversity of the people we serve. Professional study tours, research programs, technical training opportunities and assistance, creation of mentoring networks, seminars, on-line dialogues, and numerous conferences are the primary tools we employ to reach our goals. A priority is to make leadership development activities more inclusive of those who are underrepresented.

### **Geographic coverage**

**Reliable Future** achieved to broaden the area of its activities and now covers the entire country. This helped us to involve more people in its programs and assist many. We realize the bilateral and multilateral international programs with the involvement of partner organizations and experts from CIS, European and other world countries in order to create the platform for effective sharing of experience, knowledge, skills and information between them, as well as for further development of joint programs and projects.

### **Structure of Reliable Future**

In order to participate actively in solution of different problems of the society, Reliable Future established several Departments. Department unites young people and experts around particular issues.

**Reliable Future's** Departments are:

- Management Team, Fundraising & Public Relations Department
- Human Rights & Democracy Development Department
- Education, Culture & Sport Department
- Social & Health Department
- Ecological Education & Environment Protection Department

## **Prizes**

### **HUMAY National Academy's Laureate**

Most of the current programs of Reliable Future are implemented in regions of country with focus in regions with needs to advance the democracy, human rights and community leadership, in refugee and IDP settlements and minorities living areas, therefore the organization is awarded with HUMAY National Prize.

### **“Live No Child Out” National Public Prize 2006 for Contributors to Children's Rights Work**

Reliable Future Youth Organization got this prize for made significant contributions to children's rights through non-violent means.

# WHO WE ARE?

## **Management, Fundraising & Public Relations**

Nabil Seidov - **President**  
Munir Mamedov - **Executive Director**  
Kamalya Ashumova - **Public Relations & Outreach Coordinator**  
Elchin Aliyev - **Publications Coordinator**  
Anar Ashumov - **Publications Assistant**  
Elvin Ashirov - **Production Assistant**  
Yana Romanova - **Accountant**  
Teymur Shirinov- **Web Designer**

## **Social & Health Department**

*Helping the most vulnerable*

Kamalya Ashumova - **Program Officer**  
Zumrud Suleymanova- **Program Assistant**  
Gulshan Jumayeva - **Program Assistant**

## **Education, Culture & Sport Department**

*Encouraging our youth & children...  
Enhancing our schools...*

Tarana Sharifova - **Department Director**  
Gulara Efendiyeva- **Senior Expert**  
Asaf Karimov - **Senior Expert**  
Vafa Mammadova - **Senior Consultant**  
Gulnara Guliyeva - **Expert**  
Jamal Sharifov - **Program Assistant**

## **Human Rights & Democracy Development Department**

*Educating Human and Children's Rights...  
Promoting democracy...  
Strengthening our communities...*

Dadash Akhmedov - **Department Director**  
Nizami Geydarov- **Senior Expert**  
Elkhan Merdanli - **Program Assistant**  
Ragim Gafarov- **Senior Expert**  
Rashad Rustamov- **Program Assistant**  
Sevinj Aliyeva- **Senior Consultant**

# LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD OF 2003-2008

## 2008-year period

1.	“Uşaq və Gənclərin Sosial Reabilitasiya Mərkəzi”nin yaradılması: Faza II, Daxili İşlər Nazirliyi, UNICEF, ATƏT-in Bakı Ofisi və Böyük Britaniya Səfirliyinin dəstəyilə Britaniyanın Esseks Universitetinin Uşaq Hüquqları Mərkəzi ilə əməkdaşlıqda, Yanvar-İyun 2008
2.	“Uşaq Hüquqları Klinikası”nın yaradılması: Faza II, Ombudsman Aparatı ilə əməkdaşlıqda UNICEF, ATƏT-in Bakı Ofisi, Böyük Britaniya Səfirliyinin dəstəyilə, Yanvar-İyun 2008
3.	“Heç Bir Uşağı Nəzərdən Qaçırmayaq” Milli İctimai Mükafat 2008, UNICEF və Ombudsman Təsisatı ilə birgə və Azercell Telecom şirkətinin dəstəyilə, Aprel-İyun 2008
4.	Sağlamlığa Çağırış QHT Alyansının fəaliyyətinin qurulması və dəstəklənməsi məqsədilə İnstitusional Layihənin davamı, Açıq Cəmiyyət İnstitutu-Yardım Fondu, Yanvar –Avqust 2008
5.	Korporativ Sosial Məsuliyyətin İnkişafı Perspektivlərinə dair I Bakı Konfransı, UNICEF və Azercell Telekom şirkəti ilə əməkdaşlıqda, Fevral-İyul 2008
6.	Uşaqlar üçün Milli Qaynar Xəttin yaradılması, Azercell Telekom şirkətinin dəstəyilə, May-Dekabr 2008

## 2007-year period

7.	«Müxtəliflik və bərabərliyi qiymətləndirməkdən ötrü Gələcək siyasəti formalaşdırmaq» «Hamı fərqlidir Hamı Bərabərdir» Avropa Gənclər Kampaniyası çərçivəsində təlim 28 mart-2 aprel 2007
8.	«Həyatı Bacarıqlara Əsaslanan Təhsil » layihəsi I-ci faza, Təhsil Nazirliyi və Ümumdünya Ərzaq Proqramı ilə əməkdaşlıqda, Mart-Iyun 2007
9.	“Uşaq və Gənclərin Sosial Reabilitasiya Mərkəzi”nin yaradılması, Daxili İşlər Nazirliyi, UNICEF, ATƏT-in Bakı Ofisi və Böyük Britaniya Səfirliyinin dəstəyilə Britaniyanın Esseks Universitetinin Uşaq Hüquqları Mərkəzi ilə əməkdaşlıqda, Avqust 2007
10.	“Uşaq Hüquqları Klinikası”nın yaradılması, Ombudsman Aparatı ilə əməkdaşlıqda UNICEF, ATƏT-in Bakı Ofisi, Böyük Britaniya Səfirliyinin dəstəyilə, Sentyabr-Dekabr 2007
11.	“Heç Bir Uşağı Nəzərdən Qaçırmayaq” Milli İctimai Mükafat 2007, Azercell Telecom şirkəti, Aprel-İyul 2007
12.	Sağlamlığa Çağırış QHT Alyansının fəaliyyətinin qurulması və dəstəklənməsi məqsədilə İnstitusional Layihə, Açıq Cəmiyyət İnstitutu-Yardım Fondu, Oktyabr 2007-May 2008
13.	«Həyatı Bacarıqlara Əsaslanan Təhsil» layihəsi çərçivəsində audio-vizual materialların hazırlanması, Təhsil Nazirliyi və Ümumdünya Ərzaq Proqramı ilə əməkdaşlıqda, Avqust 2007 – Fevral 2008

## 2006-year period

1.	Capacity building of civil servants and NGO leaders to fight against child sexual abuse and exploitation, child prostitution and pornography, NGO Group for CRC (Switzerland), February – March 2006
2.	Leave No Child Out Project phase II in Azerbaijan, European Commission and UNICEF, January-June 2006
3.	Monitoring of juvenile justice system institutions and functioning of respective structures in Azerbaijan, OSCE office in Baku, February –June 2006
4.	Spring Human Rights School for rural youth leaders from countries of CIS within the national campaign on All Equal All Different, Council of Europe, February-May 2006

5.	Awareness raising campaign on Avian flue in districts of Azerbaijan, OSI-AF, February-April 2006
6.	1 <sup>st</sup> International Conference on Perspectives of Juvenile Justice Development in Azerbaijan, UNICEF, the British Embassy and OSCE office in Baku, February-April 2006
7.	Support to the work of secretariat of NGO-UNICEF Regional Network for Children in CEE/CIS/Baltic states, European Commission and UNICEF, January-June 2006
8.	National Conference on Problems of Children with special needs and Fair of NGOs and Community based centers, Save the Children and UNICEF, January–May 2006
9.	Setting up the effective monitoring and referral mechanisms in pilot districts of Baku capital through peer-to-peer counseling and mentoring services for children at risk to become in conflict with the law, UNICEF, May – October 2006
10.	Perspectives of establishment and functioning of nation-wide child helpline service in Azerbaijan, Child Helpline International, June 2006
11.	Promotion of model of community active schools and development of PTAS in regions of Azerbaijan: January 2006-June 2006
12.	Developing the Child friendly schooling concept in three regions of Azerbaijan, UNICEF, March-December 2006
13.	Promoting the Child friendly schooling principles and development of parent-teacher associations in three regions of Azerbaijan, WFP, April-December 2006
14.	Promoting the Child friendly schooling principles in three regions of Azerbaijan (Fizuli, Imishli, Mingechar), and development of parent-teacher associations in three regions of Azerbaijan, WFP, April-December 2006
15.	Promoting the Child friendly schooling principles in three regions of Azerbaijan (Bilasuvar, Yevlax,, Salyan), and development of parent-teacher associations in three regions of Azerbaijan, WFP, August-December 2006

## **2005-year period**

16.	Preparation & submission of NGO Alternative Report to UN CRC on situation with children and implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Azerbaijan, Stage II: January-June 2005, Supported by UNICEF, CIDA, World Vision, Save the Children
17.	Research study on current situation of Juvenile Justice system in Azerbaijan and preparation of practical recommendations pack for the improvement of situation to UN international standards: January-April 2005, Supported by the British Embassy in Baku, FCO
18.	International training course on International human & child rights protection mechanisms for young human & child rights defenders and NGOs from CIS countries: January-May 2005, Supported by Council of Europe, EYF
19.	International training course for young leaders from CEE and CIS countries with existing & recent conflicts on Conflict Resolution & Peace Building activities and exchange of best practices and models for youth participation, February-May 2005, Supported by Council of Europe, EYF
20.	International Training Course for Young Political Leaders on Youth Participation and Role in Politics and decision making, February-May 2005, Supported by Council of Europe, EYF
21.	“Leave No Child Out” project: phase II, May-July 200, Supported by EU and UNICEF and implemented in partnership with UNICEF-NGO Regional Network for Children in CEE/CIS & Baltic States, Save the Children Alliance, NGO Group for CRC and SEECRAN
22.	Support to the functioning of Secretariat of UNICEF-NGO Regional Network for Children in CEE/CIS & Baltic States based in Baku, February-May 2005, Supported by UNICEF and EU
23.	Juvenile Justice Development project: phase II, September-December 2005, Supported by OSCE and the British Embassy

24.	Conduction of Trial monitoring and monitoring of detention centers, police cells, children correction center, children distribution centers and work of commissions on minors' affairs and protection of their rights , November 2005-June 2006, Supported by OSCE office in Baku
25.	Promotion of model of community active schools and development of PTAs in regions of Azerbaijan, October 2005-June 2006, Supported by Eurasia Foundation and USAID
26.	National Conference and Fair of NGOs & Community centers working with children with special needs, December 2005-March 2006, Supported by Save the Children Azerbaijan
27.	The establishment of educational computer center and audio-metering cabinet for children with hearing deficiencies of Boarding School for Children with Hearing Deficiencies, April-August 2005

## **2004-year period**

28.	Preparation and submission of NGO Alternative Report to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about the situation of children and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Azerbaijan: Phase I, November-December 2004, Supported by UNICEF
29.	International Training Course on Youth, Human Rights, Peace Building & Conflict Transformation Activities in FSU countries, December – March 2004, Supported by Council of Europe, EYF
30.	First National Conference on Children's Rights and Problems as the part of National Leave No Child Out Campaign, support by UNICEF and Ministry of Education
31.	Establishment of Educational Laboratory and Supply of Special Braille Printing Equipment in Boarding School for Blind & Impartially Sighted Children in Baku, February – May 2004, UNESCO National Committee, UNESCO-Samsung KNCU Fund
32.	Organization of First National Conference on PTA Policy Development and development of Parent teacher associations in Azerbaijan's 30 regions, January – December 2004, Supported by UNICEF and Ministry of Education
33.	Preliminary workshops and TOT on project writing for Civil Society Actors in Western Regions of Azerbaijan, January-February 2004, Supported by GTZ (German Technical Assistance)
34.	Conduction of surveys and interviews with and about Civil Society actors in Western Regions of Azerbaijan, January-February 2004, Supported by GTZ (German Technical Assistance)
35.	Human Rights Education Program for Young Prisoners & Young People Freed from Detention Places, February – May 2004, Council of Europe, EYF, HRE Program
36.	Research in area of inclusive education for disabled children and children with special needs in Boarding Schools in Absheron peninsula, supported by Reliable Future NGO, June-August 2004
37.	Development of education program (curriculum) & educational materials and organization of training course for teachers of IDP and refugee schools in 7 regions of Azerbaijan and 3 regions of Georgia on conflict resolution, tolerance, peace and confidence building, negotiations and mediation skills, May – August, 2004, Danish Refugee Council/FIESTA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
38.	Capacity Building Program and trainings for Coordination Councils members and their staff members in Agstafa, Tovuz, Gazakh and Gedabek regions of Azerbaijan Republic, May – August, 2004, GTZ (German Technical Assistance Organization)
39.	Second Stage of Program on Development of Parent-Teacher Associations in Azerbaijan Republic and Creation of National PTA and Network of PTAs throughout the country, May – December 2004, UNICEF and Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic

40.	Creating Community Partnerships through leadership education and development in Goychay, Udjar and Zerdab regions of Azerbaijan Republic, May – September, 2004, US Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants Program
41.	Professional Internship Program at NGO Group for the CRC in Geneva, Support for organization's representative, NGO Group for CRC from support of Norwegian Government, September-October 2004
42.	Phase I: Creation of Parent-Teacher Associations in IDP and Refugee Schools in 10 regions of Azerbaijan to cover 41 schools, supported by UNICEF and Ministry of Education, October – December 2004

## **2003-year period**

43.	First National Poster and Drawing Contest among the 11-17 years Schoolchildren of Azerbaijan on Children Rights and their protection – funded by the British Embassy, January-April 2003
44.	Training and Educational Program for Municipalities Development in Azerbaijan – funded by NED, March-June 2003
45.	Ombudsman: Mandate for the Protection of human rights and freedoms – funded by the European Commission of European Union, March - September 2003
46.	Parent Teacher Associations in 5 pilot schools of Azerbaijan – funded by UNICEF, February – December 2003
47.	1 Minutes Contest on Leave No Child Campaign to celebrate the Initiation of National Campaign on LNCO – funded by UNICEF Azerbaijan
48.	National Poster-Drawing Contest on Children Rights Convention among the schoolchildren of Azerbaijan - funded by UNICEF, February-June 2003
49.	Establishment of Association of Municipalities of Azerbaijan – funded by IFES and USAID, February – September 2003
50.	Earth Day Activities In Khachmaz, Guba and Gusar regions 10 villages (partner organization to Khachmaz local NGO) – funded by US Embassy in Baku.
51.	Organization of seminars for municipalities on topics “legal education, participation of population in local governance, women and youth and their role in municipal activities”, funded by IFES and USAID
52.	First National Contest on 1 Minute Films and Newspaper Articles among the 8-20 years old children and young people dedicated to the International Peace Day – funded by UNIFEM, August – October 2003
53.	Publishing the posters and booklets for the Elections Process, funded by US Embassy, Department of State of the USA, September – October 2003
54.	Youth Leadership Program in US (participation at the program), funded by US State Department and administered by AED and US Embassy, October – November 2003
55.	International Training course on Violation of the Rights of the Young Women – funded by Council of Europe and European Youth Foundation, September – December 2003
56.	Capacity Building Activities for over 1500 municipalities in Western Regions of Azerbaijan – funded by German Technical Assistance (GTZ), June – October 2003



# **PROJECTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**(ONLY MAJOR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES ARE DESCRIBED)**

## **SOCIAL & HEALTH PROGRAMS: *Helping the Most Vulnerable:***

The main focus is to help vulnerable people as orphans, children, disabled and elderly people, poor families with low income, refugees, IDPs, migrants, people with hard health, drug users and HIV infected people and every one who can be considered as one of above stated.

### **EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN-REFUGEES AND IDPS OF SALYAN AND BILASUVAR REGIONS' REFUGEE CAMPS – DECEMBER-MAY 2001/02**

Since it's foundation, **Reliable Future** pays great attention to disadvantage children and youth such as refugees, orphans, and handicapped from poor layers of community. The conflict in Karabakh was resulted in more than one million refugees and IDPs, about 40% of them are children and youth. It is too big number of disadvantage, displaced, psychological trauma received, socially excluded people. Our help to them included organizing different leisure activities, such as music sessions, drama, theatrical & sports, excursions & outdoor activities, dance & poetry competition, disco & musical, and sport events with the participation of all the refugees in camps, and Educational activities, training courses, such as English language classes, drawing and painting workshops, sewing, embroidery classes for girls, computer classes, workshops about peace and fraternity, tolerance and stability, human rights and citizenship, NGOs and their managing principles; providing the psychosocial rehabilitation work helping them to forget or diminish the influence of war and its consequences to their lives; helping children and youth in camps to overcome the trauma of leaving their homes and region; encouraging them to interact socially and keeping alive their hopes of returning to their homeland; organizing activities encouraging contact between young people from local and refugee communities and between themselves; encouraging the social interaction of children refugees with other children from a range of backgrounds; organizing professional training courses for improvement of the creative and professional development of children and youth; providing some relief through recreational activities and give refugees a chance to express their feelings; providing the various seminars on Human Rights and AIDS/HIV and transmitted diseases and personal hygiene.

All these activities and measures were implemented under the sponsorship of **Exxon Azerbaijan Operating Company LLC, an ExxonMobil Subsidiary.**

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE CHILDREN OF MASHTAGA ORPHANAGE SCHOOL #1 & BILGYAH ORPHANAGE SCHOOL #11 – SEPTEMBER-MARCH 2001/02**

The number of projects is the result of long-term research work done by **Reliable Future** regarding the situation in orphanage schools and needs of the children of these institutions. According to this research **Reliable Future** prepared a long-term program that will address the needs and problems of orphan children and orphanage schools throughout the country. The projects directed to meet the basic needs of children, certainly the need of the attention and care of community. Projects are designated to help children to overcome depression & alienation from the world; give them an opportunity to find their own place in our society; provide children with the necessary skills and knowledge for their future professional determination; find the job and creating their own lives and future; organize special art-therapy classes aimed at improving the psychological status of children; to motivate them and improve the social integration; attract the attention of wide community and especially government structures to problems of orphan children; provide various educational course like computer education, English language, arts & culture, human rights, healthy life style, photo techniques and drawing and also entertaining activities; reveal the talented children and assist with their development. At the beginning of the project we established a small library of scientific and belles-lettres, computers, TV, and video equipment were provided for use of children. Projects were implemented under the sponsorship of the **British Embassy/DFID, Unocal Khazar & Blue Water Shipping Caspian J.V.** (Mashtaga #1) and **Garadagh Cement J.S.C.** (Bilgyah #11).

### **AID TO LONELY ELDERLY PEOPLE – MARCH-SEPTEMBER 2001**

The main purposes of the project is to improve the social welfare and morale condition of the lonely elderly people, provide the monitoring of their life, their needs, help them to feel themselves and their experience useful for society, assist the creation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Society of Lonely Elderly People. **Canada Foundation (CIDA)** sponsored all activities, which were done by **Reliable Future** within the project such as legal and medical aid; washing & cooking; cleaning & repairing; shopping; sewing; psychological conversations with elderly

people; competitions on different table games (checkers, chess, backgammon, domino) with prizes for winners; organizing tea parties for them where elderly were singing songs & dancing. In the frame of the project we also made a Documentary Film “**NO THANKS**” and recorded on cassettes and CDs. Although project provided activities only for 100 elderly people of Baku city of Azerbaijan we hope we brought more life to the problems of these people and attracted attention of community and state bodies to them and their problems.

#### **CHOOSE THE HEALTHY LIFE STYLE – FEBRUARY-JULY 2001**

The problems of drug abuse and AIDS at present time are most acute in entire world and Azerbaijan is not exclusion. Seriousness of the problem is increasing taking into account such facts as the rising quantities of new powerful drugs; broadening of the area of spreading, involvement of new countries and continents; difficulties in restraining the growing rates of drug abuse and AIDS on administrative, criminal and executive levels. Taking into account, **Reliable Future** organizes active and wide propaganda against AIDS and drugs, bad habits, personal hygiene and conducts explanatory work among various strata of society for preventing its further spreading. This project was implemented under the financial support of **TotalFinaElf** in Lenkoran-Astara region amid schoolchildren of 9-11<sup>th</sup> forms and students (number of beneficiaries are 2500-3000 children and youth).

#### **DRUG ABUSE AS THE TRAGEDY OF THE MANKIND – SEPTEMBER/MAY 1999/2000**

The problems of drug addiction and AIDS prevention, as well as personal hygiene and healthy life style principles take a huge attention of Social Programs Department because of their actuality and acuteness in the society. The project aimed to provide the preventive informative lectures and debates amid more than 1500 schoolchildren of 9-11<sup>th</sup> forms of 20 schools of Nizami district of Baku City.

This project was sponsored by **The British Embassy, Know How Fund**. The schoolchildren received the full information about drug abuse, AIDS, its prevention, different types of drugs, smoking, alcoholism and their influence on human beings. During the project the drawing competition called “Drugs – is the tragedy of mankind” was conducted and best works got the valuable prizes and diplomas.

#### **MIGRATION AND HEALTH ISSUES – APRIL-AUGUST 2000**

Azerbaijan has more than 1.000.000 refugees and IDPs. It undoubtedly causes many difficulties and problems for our young country. The problems of healthy life style, drug abuse and AIDS prevention along with problems of sexual transmitted diseases due to migrating of people to earn money are becoming more acute and waiting immediate solution. Considering these, Social Programs Department initiated the project to improve the awareness of refugees and IDPs, especially teenagers and young people on the above stated problems. Project was sponsored by **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and “**HAYAT**” NGO and covered Sumgayit, Mingechaur and Imishli refugee camps and refugee schools (in total more than 2.000 people).

#### **AID TO DISABLED CHILDREN OF BONE-TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM IN ZAGULBA DISTRICT:**

Project is focused on providing of educational programs such as computer, music, foreign languages, art, painting, human rights, embroidery and cooking, and healthy life style training to 150 disabled children of 6-16 years old. **BP Exploration Caspian Sea Ltd.** and **DEVON Energy Corporation** were sponsoring the project that lasted 6 months. Along with lessons, children were involved in the entertaining activities such as table games, role games, theatrical performances, drawing competitions, art exhibitions of hand-made things, holidays, New Year and other holidays. The library of belles-lettres and scientific popular books has been established in the sanatorium for children.

# **EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS: *Enhancing Our Schools***

The goals of department are to provide support for development of educational institutions and create the opportunities for people to get the access to different professional information and knowledge and widen the recognition of non-formal education as good method for international understanding and cooperation. Within this Program Reliable Future provides educational materials and books for universities and institutions; organizes many conferences and workshops on different topics for students, scientists and professionals; creates and maintains the web sites.

## **“Life Skills based on Education” project 1<sup>st</sup> phase Ministry of Education and United Nations World Food Program**

Azerbaijan Republic Ministry of Education, United Nations World Food Program and Reliable Future Youth Organization has conducted “Life Skills based on Education” since March 2007. Within the framework of this project representatives of the organization with the experts in the sphere from Ministry of Education organized training courses on “Life Skills based on Education” for chosen 167 primary school teachers and parents from Agjabadi, Yevlach, Sheki, Mingecevir, Agdam, Bilasavur, Fuzuli, Saatli, Sabirabad and Imishli. Beside it, questionnaires and interviews were held on purpose primary evaluation of condition before holding trainings in each region of chosen schools. Within the framework of the project National Conference was held on the topic of “Organizing perspectives of Life Skills based on Education” in 7 June. In the conference 70 teachers, parents and methodologists of Education Departments from the pilot regions mentioned above participated too.

Within the framework of the project also 3 day training course was held in the rest home of MNS in Baki in 17-19 June for teachers, parents and methodologists of Education departments on purpose supplying habits on Life Skills based on Education by Reliable Future Youth Organization with the corporation of Ministry of Education with the support of United Nations World Food Program.

## **PROMOTION OF MODEL OF COMMUNITY ACTIVE SCHOOLS AND DEVELOPMENT OF PTAS IN REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN: October 2005-June 2006**

Even more, in most countries there are special community active schools and PTA (Parent Teacher Associations) and in some others there are student activities committees exists and provides the full complementary activities to the school work. These models provide the assistance to school's activities in many different fields: education, health, democratization, financial support, general development, entertainment, art, culture, human rights, citizenship and etc. And these models implies the direct cooperation and joining the forces of parents, community members and teachers with and for children and not just the separate and alienated work of teachers and parents as seen in Parents Committees. There is no doubt that the child lives two different and complementary lives – School and Home/Community Lives. They differ in many aspects but only in their complementary existing and contribution child can develop the right way. And it is obvious that the Hosts of these two lives are different – Teachers in School and Parents/Community members in Homes, that is why there is a necessity of cooperation and joint work of these two groups of people playing most important role in life of any child must be complemented to each other and coordinated in most proper way. Parents being involved in various activities along side with their children provide the best model for acting for their children who are getting more interested in any type of work or educational activities to act together with their parents. The contribution of parents and community members are limited to bringing the child to schools and getting him back to home everyday and providing some limited opportunities for schoolchildren for community works. The cooperation of parents and teachers and community members to improve the education process and educational activities for the general development of children have been limited to the created in Soviet times – Parents Committees which can not pace the processes in nowadays life and nowadays world and do not meet the needs of school, children, community and education process. In order to promote the democratization in the schools, to develop the democratic decision making and improve the participation of children, parents, teachers and community members in the school life and also develop the financial independence of the school, Reliable Future is going to implement the pilot project in two regions of Azerbaijan that will be aimed at introducing and developing the model of community and parents involvement into the school life and school management.

The project is supported by **Eurasia Foundation** and **USAID**.

## **BUILDING PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF PTAs IN 44 REFUGEE AND IDP SCHOOLS IN 10 REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN, PHASE I: November-December 2004**

Starting from November 2004, Reliable Future in cooperation with UNICEF, Ministry of Education and World Food Program has initiated the first phase of the project to promote the development of child friendly schools and fostering parent-teacher-student-community partnership. This project's aim is to promote the cooperation of schools with relevant stakeholders within the community and schools for the development of school, improvement of education process, involvement of parents into decision making process and promoting their sense of ownership and dedication to schools. During this project, Reliable Future with its partners organized the basic research on existing level of parent-teacher-community-student partnership and its perspectives in 44 schools selected from among 10 regions of Azerbaijan where the refugee and IDP settlements are located. Based on initial research and other data available, Reliable Future with its partners conducted the assessment and analyses of needs and demands of parents, teachers, students and communities separately that helped to design the short term and long-term programming of activities to meet these needs and solve the existing problems. The special training courses and seminars for parents, teachers, community members and students were organized covering 44 selected representatives from the mentioned schools. These training courses intended to provide participants with the necessary information, skills and knowledge on building and strengthening the school-family and school-community links and promote the parents' involvement in school and educational activities. The training course covered wide range of issues, including parents' involvement, students achievements, benefits of parent-teacher-student-community cooperation, community capacity building, international and national experience on parent-teacher-community partnership and others.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING PILOT PTAs IN 50 SCHOOLS OF AZERBAIJAN: March-December 2004**

This project is the second phase of the parent-teacher-student-community cooperation development program initiated by Reliable Future, **UNICEF** and **Ministry of Education** in 2003. The main objectives of the project is to promote the parents involvement into school processes, improve school-family partnership, provide the platform for community involvement in the solution of school and education problems within the certain school. The phase II of the project covered 35 PTAs created during year 2003 by Reliable Future and 15 PTAs selected by Project Harmony within its own project in schools of Baku, Sheki, Gabala, Guba, Sumgayit, Shemakha, Gyandja, Ismayilli, Lenkoran, Mingeçaur and Masalli regions. During this phase, Reliable Future with UNICEF and Ministry of Education organized special advanced level training courses for the PTA Board of Directors from the above-mentioned regions on such issues as organizational management, NGO development, project writing and project management, financial resources, fundraising, accountability and transparency of resources, community involvement, etc. The special monthly bulletins has been produced during the project that gave an opportunity to project participants share their experience, skills, information as well as difficulties and obstacles they face in the process of PTA development with each other. The special TV programs within the project have been organized to promote the idea of creation of such PTAs in other schools of other regions of country. During the short 2-year period PTA model proved its efficiency and sustainability. The growing number of PTAs in schools of Azerbaijan required project partners to think about the structure that will assist with coordination of PTA development, promote the cooperation between PTAs and become the nation-wide voice for parents-teachers-students in Azerbaijan. It led to an idea to establish Azerbaijan National PTA that will unite all existing and future local school PTA around. And the first Founding Convention of National PTA had been conducted in October 23, 2004 with the participation of selected 100 representatives from 50 local PTA from regions and attended also by Minister of Education, UNICEF Representative in Azerbaijan. As the result of successful implementation of project, Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic has issued a document that recognized the PTAs as the element of education reforms in Azerbaijan and advised to other schools to use the PTA model for the promotion of parents and community involvement and school-family partnership. Also according to the document, schools management has been advised to support and any technical assistance to parents' initiatives concerning the creation of such associations.

## **CREATION OF EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY & SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR PRODUCTION OF BOOKS IN BRAILLE IN BAKU BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BLIND & IMPARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN: March – July 2004**

The project has been designed to provide the establishment of special computerized educational center with publishing equipment for mass production of book in Braille for blind children of boarding schools in Baku.

Until the date, there was not any production unit or printing machine available in whole country for production of books in Braille alphabet for these children. Small number of books were making by teachers of the school as hand made Braille books that could not meet the quality requirement and standards assigned for such books and were not allowing producing them in needed amounts to supply all children of certain ages. After the establishment of the Educational Laboratory, teachers and children (using the voice recognition function of the equipment provided by manufacturer) will be able to input the text to Microsoft Word or other program and immediately transfer it to Braille Alphabet using provided Windows Braille program and send documents to printer that can print over than 50.000 pages per year. It is for sure that this equipment will make enormous positive change and will promote the education and development of these children. It will help also to provide the rights of these children to education and information according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. **Project was funded by UNESCO Korean National Committee and UNESCO-KNCU fund.**

#### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY ON ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS IN AZERBAIJAN: January-February 2004**

Reliable Future Youth Organization in cooperation with UNICEF and Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic initiated the National Conference that aimed in development of national policy to guide the establishment and development of PTAs in secondary and primary schools of Azerbaijan Republic. The conference was organized in Hyatt Regency Hotel within two days and about 250 participants representing Ministry of Education, education professionals, directors of schools and heads of Regional Education Boards of all rayons of Azerbaijan, NGOs, mass media, parents and children took part at its work. During the conference, invited key speakers provided information about history, establishment and development of PTAs in western European countries and USA and about pilot project of establishment of pilot PTAs in Azerbaijan, first lessons learned and other. At the working groups organized, participants worked on specific issues concerning the creation of national policy, sample PTA statute, structure of PTAs in Azerbaijan and number of other important and actual questions and issues raised by participants. As the outcome of the conference the mentioned documents have been drafted and submitted to Ministry of Education for further actions on implementation of this policy and recommendations made by participants of the Conference.

**Project was funded by UNICEF Azerbaijan office and Ministry of Education.**

#### **CONTEST OF ESSAYS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN ON TOPIC "IF I WERE AN ENVOY OF PEACE..." – APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2002**

This small, but yet very important project for **Reliable Future** because of the area of coverage – the entire Azerbaijan, all secondary schools in all regions, cities, and villages of our country. This helped us to get the experience of doing such projects and programs.

Contest of Essays for school children on topic "If I were an Envoy of Peace..." organized for schoolchildren of the age 12-17 with the wide involvement of secondary schools of all regions of Azerbaijan. This activity organized with close cooperation and support of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan. The essays collected by May 25, 2002. The Jury, consisting of secondary school teachers, representatives of the Ministry of Education, and NGOs selected the best 20 essays. It also was envisaged to award authors of the best first 4 essays with money prizes (100\$, 75\$, 50\$ and 25\$ accordingly). This project of Reliable Future has been funded by **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)** and implemented in cooperation with Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan. **Reliable Future** provided the Awards ceremony at Hyatt Park, Amirov Room on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002, with the participation of Minister of Education Mr. Misir Mardanov, Head of State Committee on Women Issues Ms. Zahra Guliyeva, Resident Coordinator of UNDP Mr. Marco Barsotti, Regional Chief Technical Advisor of UNIFEM for South Caucasus countries Ms. Patricia McPhillips, representative of the British Embassy in Baku Mr. Kazim Kuliyevev, Mr. Akram Abdullayev from Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism, members of the parliament, NGOs, and representatives of other organizations. **Reliable Future** has invited all 20 children-participants to the award ceremony and granted them diplomas, certificates and money prizes.

#### **FIRST FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC LIBRARY in AZERBAIJAN STATE OIL ACADEMY: 1999-2006**

After the collapse of Soviet Union education system has suffered a lot, due to the breaking of linkages with "center" from where Azerbaijan has been receiving books, information, other literature, technologies, etc. The existing economic, social and political situation diminished the control over education by government, including the decreased expenditure for education, corruption in education system and other factors. The necessity to change the minds of growing population and orienting them to market economy required to renew the literature and information materials in libraries of all universities where the majority of books were

dated by Soviet times and about Soviet model of economy and industry management. Although Azerbaijan has been independent for about 10 years a few steps have been taken in this regard. Due to this, Reliable Future established the first Modern Library Complex of Economic Literature in **Azerbaijan State Oil Academy** concerning the economics, market economy, management, agriculture, oil-gas industry, computer technologies and other sciences. Library collected more than 2300 books purchased from Russian Federation and other countries. Library has comfortable and well-refurnished reading room for about 25-30 readers. More than 2000 people from almost all high schools, Academy of Sciences, universities, companies and firms, banks and institutions of Baku and regions of Azerbaijan use the library. **Chevron Overseas Exploration Ltd.** kindly supported and funded this project.

#### **PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS IN 5 PILOT SCHOOLS OF AZERBAIJAN: March-December 2003**

The project implies the preparation, and creation of Parent-Teacher Associations in five (5) pilot schools of five (5) regions of Azerbaijan and provision of the activities of this Association, its development and growth.

The main purposes of the project are to promote the active involvement of parents into the life of schools where their children are studying; to promote the creation of Parent Teacher Associations in these 5 regions and then in all other regions of country; to promote the development schools and education processes by the joint cooperation of Parent and School's Management; to promote the attention of community to the problems of children and their solution by parents; to organize the training for trainers on PTA for the trainers proposed by World Bank for the implementation of the second loan project.

The project covered the Baku, Sheki, Gabala, Guba and Masalli regions' schools. By the end of project, Reliable Future achieved the creation of 15 PTAs in 15 schools of Azerbaijan instead of 5 schools planned initially by project activities. In order to provide the efficiency of project the special Training Courses for Future Trainers and for future staff and leaders of PTAs in these regions will be organized. The special TV program on PTAs will be organized to promote the idea of creation of such Associations in other schools of other regions and cities of country.

## **ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITIES:**

#### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND FAIR OF NGOS & COMMUNITY CENTERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: December 2005-March 2006**

Reliable Future Youth Organization in cooperation with other members of NGO Alliance for Children's Rights and Save the Children Azerbaijan organization is planning First National Conference and Fair of NGOs & Community based centers taking care of children with special needs. The conference and fair is planned to be held in February 2006 at "Gulustan" Palace in Baku capital. The main goal of the conference and fair is to bring together NGOs and community based centers taking care of children with special needs and organize the platform for the exchange of experiences, skills, information and ideas in order to improve the situation in the field. It will help to bring together about 30 NGOs and community based centers active in the field. The conference will be aimed at discussing the main problems, gaps in the field and look for the suggestions and recommendations to be submitted to government, donor agencies and other interested organizations. The project is supported by **Save the Children Azerbaijan**.

#### **BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP THROUGH LEADERSHIP EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT IN GOYCHAY, UDJAR & ZERDAB REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN: May-October 2004**

The project was an innovative approach based on the results of the wide research provided by Leadership Development Group of Reliable Future that revealed the importance of community leadership education and development programs for diverse group of participants representing all the existing sectors in particular communities. This approach based on the findings that current programs running in Azerbaijan are targeting particular groups separately from others, i.e. NGOs, municipalities, local authorities, businesses, women, youth and children. Not doubt that such focused targeting is important for education and development of these groups individually. But because during these programs the representatives of these groups has not or limited opportunities to interact, work, cooperate with and get to know the feelings, thoughts and expectations of the representatives of other stakeholders, they fail to build successful partnerships inside the communities.

Therefore, Reliable Future has initiated this innovative project to pilot the joint leadership education and development program for representatives of all sectors or stakeholders within the communities for the future successful cooperation and partnership between these sectors and their representatives. The project supported by Democracy Commission of US Embassy in Azerbaijan included the organization of intensive training program for selected 30 participants from each region, including Goychay, Zerdab and Udjar representing all sectors of the community. These regions have been selected for piloting because they were estimated by Leadership group of Reliable Future as less considered and less involved by other programs running throughout the country. The training program was designed as succeeding and linked training modules combined with practical work during 1-3 months depends on the training needs. The practical work has been designated to be conducted in the communities and devoted to practice the knowledge and skills garnered during the training course. As the training course, the practice has been constructed to foster the cooperative work of representatives from all sectors of the community and assisting them to build successful and inter-depending partnerships. The issues of conduction of needs assessment, democracy, civil society, community development, transparency, accountability, use of local resources, coalition building and networking, decision making, women and youth participation, municipalities and their resources, organizational management and others have been discussed and delivered to participants. By the end of project, the cooperation and partnership between the representatives of all sectors had been joined within the Coordination Councils. The Coordination Councils helped to establish the permanently working structure with the members of all sectors of the community represented. The Coordination Councils became the bridge between the different sectors of the community. They gained an opportunity to get important level of recognition as the linkage within the community to solve any problems and overcome any obstacles on the way of community development through fostering cooperation and participation of all sectors. Another innovative approach used was the organization of small grants program for Coordination Councils by which they received an opportunity to practice the work of the council, test the partnership and see the potential benefits of the cooperative work.

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY STRUCTURES IN WESTERN REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN: January-February 2004**

This project was designed as the prelude for the development of special capacity building program for development of civil society organizations and groups in Agstafa, Gazakh, Tovuz and Gedabek regions of Azerbaijan. This project helped to reveal the existing civil society structures, organizations or groups in these regions, identify their capacities, capabilities, resources, areas of work, success stories and know their needs and demands for the long-life development and growth. As the result of the project, Reliable Future developed the database of about 550 civil society organizations and groups including registered and non-registered educational, political, religious, professional, coordinating and other organizations and initiative groups. The database gives an opportunity to search for organizations by name, areas of their work, regions covered, membership status, registration status, recent activities or success stories, mission and many other options. Using the database and information comes from it, Reliable Future is going to develop project directed to the capacity building and strengthening of civil society in these regions with the support from GTZ. **Project was funded by GTZ (German Technical Assistance).**

#### **WORKSHOP ON PROJECT WRITING AND BUDGET DRAFTING SKILLS: January-February 2004**

The project is the follow-up of the capacity-building program managing by GTZ and implemented by Reliable Future in 4 western regions of Azerbaijan. During the year 2003, Reliable Future organized number of Training Courses for selected local trainers and achieved the establishment of highly professional and experienced Pool of Local Trainers with knowledge and skills in different areas. According to the requests of the local trainers and Coordination Councils and municipalities in these regions, which were requesting Local Trainers to help them on preparation and drafting the proposals and budgets, Reliable Future in cooperation with GTZ organized intensive 1-day workshop for local trainers in order to help them develop the project writing and budget drafting skills. The workshop was organized as practical lesson during which local trainers were working on writing the sample projects on identified and actual issues (with high interest to municipalities) under supervision from Senior Trainers of Reliable Future. As result of the workshop, local trainers developed their skills and knowledge in these areas and developed several sample projects to be used by Reliable Future and municipalities in future. **Project was funded by GTZ (German Technical Assistance).**

#### **TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPALITIES DEVELOPMENT IN AZERBAIJAN**

Reliable Future received the grant from **National Endowment from Democracy (NED) of the United States of America** for its partnership project with Ministry of Justice's Center for Methodological Aid to Municipalities and Leontief Center of Russian devoted to the education and development of municipalities of Azerbaijan. The project was designed to provide the establishment and development of the group of trainers in Azerbaijan consisting on the members of the Ministry of Justice's Center for Methodological Aid to Municipalities, NGOs working in this field, municipality's representatives, academicians of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Azerbaijan and other interested selected people. This training for trainers was organized in cooperation with the Leontief Center of Russian Federation which is an internationally recognized organization having an extensive experience in the related fields. After then, the trained Trainers provided trainings and seminars for the municipalities in selected 10 regions of country. Project provided activities for over 50 municipalities and 350 municipalities' members and officers. Along with the training courses and seminars, the special training manual – guide for the municipalities was published and disseminated among over than 1000 municipalities members and officers in the project regions and many other regions of the country. This manual contained concise information on legislation, economy, education, international expertise, management and many other fields related to the functioning of municipalities. The several types of booklets containing the needed specific information for municipalities were also published and disseminated among the municipalities of selected regions of country.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF AZERBAIJAN: February – October 2003**

Reliable Future Youth Organization with the financial support from **IFES International Organization** has initiated the project on establishment of the first Association of Municipalities of Azerbaijan.

The project was designed to establish First Association of Municipalities of Azerbaijan that will provide the formation and development of municipal system in generally and to provide the harmonic development of municipalities in any part of the country being the coordinating unit and join the forces of all municipalities for solution of common problems through joint actions and lobbying. Association would help also to provide the information exchange and improve the abilities and skills of municipalities on social leadership and management and cooperation with other non-governmental non-for-profit organizations. The project was amended as the government of Azerbaijan initiated the establishment of Municipalities Union in country through the adoption of new legislation on this issue by Parliament. The activities to create the Association were amended to provide the special educational seminars for the municipalities on such issues as legislation, municipalities' cooperation and international experience, participation of community (particularly, young people and women) in the work of municipalities. During the project, the special manual on creation of Association of Municipalities was prepared and disseminated among the municipalities of country and various interested international and local NGOs and parliament.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES OF GAZAKH, TOVUZ, AGSTAFI AND GEDABEK REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN: JUNE – OCTOBER 2003**

The project was the first stage of the wide capacity-building program for the municipalities of the four mentioned regions launched by **GTZ (German Technical Assistance Organization)**. Within this project, Reliable Future provided the extensive Training for Trainers Program and formed **local trainers team** consisted on 18 trainers for the needs of the whole region. After then, in cooperation with the Local Trainers Team, Reliable Future provided the extensive educational and training programs for over than 1500 municipality members and officers in these 4 regions in following areas: orientation training on municipal system, participatory approaches for community needs assessment and development planning, transparent and accountable budget formulation and financial management. During this project, Reliable Future prepared and disseminated 4 books on the mentioned fields.

The project will continue starting from December 2003 and provide the further the educational and training program for municipalities in fields of work with NGOs, formation and management of coordination councils (municipality associations), etc.

## **PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY:**

*Educating Human and Children's Rights...*

*Promoting democracy...*

*Strengthening our communities...*



## **Shaping the Future of Politics to appreciate the diversity and equality”. European Rural Youth Political Leadership**

### **Training within the framework of “All Different All Equal” European Youth Campaign**

International Training Course in programming based on Human Rights for young leaders from rural areas. Reliable Future Youth Organization organized camp named “All equal-All different” within the framework of European Company for young leaders from rural areas. This innovative pilot project meant stimulation of representatives’ activities of youth organizations acting in rural areas and sharing with their own experience of protecting Human and Children’s Rights, also meant getting more knowledge and ability about it. Training courses were organized for youth from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Russian Federation and Belarus Republic. These courses were held by experienced trainers’ participation. Reliable Future Youth Organization intended to hold such a camp in which international and national experienced trainers and lecturers were involved for the first time in Azerbaijan.

#### **AIMS and OBJECTIVES of the PROJECT:**

- Awareness raising on legal aspects and legal information among active youth in the regions of the country
- Providing young persons from different regions of CIS with corporation platform
- To arrange Union of Trainers and Young Leaders in this platform, to give necessary knowledge, ideas, information, useful advice based on practice, to develop their ability and in order to intensify and develop legal protecting by sharing with practice and knowledge among them.

The reason why the project was held for NGO’s young representatives from rural areas may be explained by that young leaders participation from rural areas is more limited than for leaders from big cities in CIS, at the same time the use of internet makes more difficult for them than for other leaders from capital and other cities. Beside this, their activity based on protecting Human rights would be improved and intensified the corporation among the youth from different regions.

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: PHASE II: September-December 2005**

Based on the findings of the NGO Alternative report on Situation of Juvenile Justice in Azerbaijan made possible with the support from OSCE Office in Baku and the British Embassy in 2005, Reliable Future in cooperation with other members of Thematic Subgroup of NGO Alliance for Children’s Rights on Juvenile Justice, prepared the program on Advancing the Juvenile Justice system in Azerbaijan. The program includes number of activities ranged from training and education capacity building, advocacy and awareness raising campaigns and involved key government agencies as partners and participants within all activities considered by the program. The main objectives of the program is to increase participants’ awareness and understanding of domestic and international standards and guidelines related to the administration of juvenile justice, namely the CRC, Beijing rules, Riyadh Guidelines and Havana Rules; and how they can be put into practice in Azerbaijan; to increase understanding of problems stemming from the detention of minors in both prisons and juvenile centres, including special issues arising for girls who come into conflict with the law and develop approaches to diminish these problems; to improve the support and advocacy for minors who come into conflict with the law as they pass through the judicial system, including the provision of competent representation, a clear understanding of the charges against them, and the consequences of the charges against them; to develop strategies to implement alternatives to imprisonment including the increased use of pre-trial diversion, community service, and other non-custodial sanctions for juvenile offenders; to humanize institutions for children in conflict with the law by increasing the understanding of those who work with juvenile offenders and develop more effective approaches to rehabilitation, including the use of education and vocational programmes for juveniles and to increase cooperation and collaboration among various governmental and non-governmental agencies and organisations in implementing an effective programme to address the needs of children who come in conflict with the law as well as the factors related to juvenile offences. The project is supported by **OSCE office in Baku and the British Embassy in Azerbaijan.**

### **TRIAL MONITORING & CONDUCTION OF MONITORING OF DETENTION CENTERS, CHILDREN CORRECTION CENTER, CHILDREN DISTRIBUTION CENTERS & WORK OF COMMISSIONS ON MINORS’ AFFAIRS AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS: November 2005-June 2006**

This innovative project was developed as result of the Alternative NGO Report on situation of Juvenile Justice in Azerbaijan prepared with the support from the OSCE office in Baku and the British Embassy and submitted to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The main objectives of the project is to conduct the thorough review of the existing justice system from the detention through arrest, trial and punishment procedures for cases with involvement of children; to monitor the situation of detention facilities for children and/or those where the children are kept throughout the country; to organize the monitoring of the on-going trials with the involvement of children in Baku capital and regions of Azerbaijan; to prepare the report reflecting the current situation, with analyses of gaps, problems, difficulties in the field and in the procedures implemented by courts, judges, prosecutor's offices, attorneys, children, commissions and legal representatives of children and to develop the pack of recommendations and suggestions to government agencies to improve the situation in the field. The project is supported by **OSCE office in Baku**.

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES IN AZERBAIJAN: PHASE I, FEBRUARY-MAY 2005**

The main purposes of the project are to perform a nationwide research on juvenile justice system in Azerbaijan for further recommendations and development of plan of actions for improvement of the juvenile justice in Azerbaijan and for improvement of legislation in compliance with UN international standards for juvenile justice administration; to get focused on child using the victim centered approach, i.e. considering the child as the victim of the system who needs the support, rehabilitation and reintegration. Two international experts from Switzerland and Russian Federation have been invited to Azerbaijan to assist in review of existing situation and current system of juvenile justice and to provide project team and other interested national experts and NGOs representatives to develop the perspective models and ways for improvement of juvenile justice in Azerbaijan. The number of seminars, round tables, public meetings, multilateral and bilateral meetings will be organized with participation of representatives of Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Social protection and labor, Ministry of Education, State Commissions on Minors issues and protection of children's rights, NGOs, mass media and experts in this area. As the result of the project, which is implemented by Reliable Future Youth Organization, "El" Development Programs Center and Republican Child Organization, will be the preparation of report on current situation with juvenile justice and plan of actions to improve the situation, as well as the special report for submission to UN CRC Committee as the part of NGO Alternative Report to UN CRC Committee.

**The project is supported by the British Embassy and OSCE Office in Baku.**

### **NGO ALTERNATIVE REPORT TO UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD BY AZERBAIJAN NGO ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: PHASE II, JANUARY-JUNE 2005**

As the coordinating agency for Azerbaijan NGO Alliance for Children's Rights, Reliable Future has initiated the program that is aimed to bring NGOs and youth/children groups throughout the country together and prepare the alternative NGO report about the situation of children and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Azerbaijan. To promote the wider participation and involvement of all NGOs and youth/child groups into this very important process, Azerbaijan NGO Alliance for Children's Rights with the **support from UNICEF, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), World Vision and Save the Children** has announced eight sub-grants to 20 NGOs in the following areas: child-friendly health system, education, children in institutions, children with disabilities and special needs, IDP and refugee children, children in streets, children's rights promotion through media, organization of children's forums and preparation of children's alternative reports to UN CRC Committee and government of Azerbaijan, development of 1 Minute Films on children's rights violations for advocacy activities, juvenile justice review sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. The report would be compiled during the 6 months project and over than 55 NGOs and youth/children groups would take part at the activities within this project. The work would be undertaken within the eight working groups composed around the priority areas of children's rights to be reported. As the result of work by NGOs and youth/child groups based on sub-grants provided as well as on voluntary case reports by individuals, NGOs, youth and child groups working in these areas, the special reports would be prepared on the situation in these particular areas. The program would be accompanied by the wide range of public awareness and advocacy activities, including TV programs, study visits to regions, public meetings, expert meetings with the participation of academicians, government representatives, journalists, international experts and others interested.

## **NGO ALTERNATIVE REPORT TO UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD BY AZERBAIJAN NGO ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: PHASE I, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2004**

As the coordinating agency for Azerbaijan NGO Alliance for Children's Rights, Reliable Future has initiated the program that is aimed to bring NGOs and youth/children groups throughout the country together and prepare the alternative NGO report about the situation of children and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Azerbaijan. To promote the wider participation and involvement of all NGOs and youth/child groups into this very important process, Reliable Future fostered the creation of NGO Coalition to Prepare and Submit NGO Alternative Report to UN CRC. This would be ever first report to UN treaty bodies compiled by Coalition of NGOs. The report would be compiled during the 6 months project and over than 55 NGOs and youth/children groups would take part at the activities within this project. The work would be undertaken within the seven working groups composed around the priority areas of children's rights to be reported. They include child rights protection measures, juvenile justice, street and orphan children, children with special needs, education, harmonization of legislation to international standards, refugee and IDP children, child labor, child abuse, child exploitation and health issues. As the result of work in groups by NGOs and youth/child groups specialized and experienced in these areas, the special reports would be prepared on the situation in these particular areas. The program would be accompanied by the wide range of public awareness and advocacy activities, including TV programs, study visits to regions, public meetings, expert meetings with the participation of academicians, government representatives, journalists, international experts and others interested. **The project's phase I has been supported by UNICEF.**

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON "INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTION OF HUMAN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS" FOR YOUNG HUMAN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHT DEFENDERS FROM CIS COUNTRIES, JANUARY-MAY 2005**

In order to provide the understanding of international human rights mechanisms and tools to Youth NGOs in CIS region and to promote their access to international human rights protection mechanisms, Reliable Future Youth Organization with the support from **European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe** initiated the International training course for young human rights defenders from the countries of the CIS region. The training was organized as a six-day intensive education program and included general introduction to international human rights law, an overview of the UN system, and the regional mechanisms including COE, CIS mechanisms, teaching how to develop NGO alternative reports to UN Committees on the rights of the child, CEDAW, human rights, against torture, etc. The intended beneficiaries of this training were youth human rights organisations/institutes from several CIS countries, which were expected to come to the UN treaty bodies in coming 1-2 years. Totally 25 participants from CIS countries, including Azerbaijan took part at this training course organized in Baku capital of Azerbaijan. The special training manual in Azerbaijani and Russian languages was developed and disseminated to training participants. The manual contains the information on international and regional human and children's rights protection mechanisms, guidelines on writing NGO alternative reports to treaty bodies, coalition building and networking, organization of human rights protection campaigns.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON "YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ROLE IN POLITICS" FOR YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS FROM CIS REGION, JANUARY-MAY 2005**

In order to promote the political awareness among the young politically active people and improve the awareness of young people in rural areas of country of politics and political activism, Reliable Future Youth Organization with the support from **Council of Europe and European Youth Foundation** organized innovative international training program for young people from different sectors of the society, including young people representing youth wings of political parties, leaders of NGOs and CBOs, young civil servants, students of universities studying politics and those interested in political involvement. Particular attention was given to promote the participation of women in this program. The main objectives of the program were to provide the platform for the political cooperation of young people from different regions of Azerbaijan, to create the pool of future young political leaders and trainers in this field and to give the young political leaders and young activists of political parties and NGO leaders the necessary tools, skills, ideas, information and practically useful information, provide the sharing of experience and knowledge between them in order to improve their abilities and strengthen the capacity of political institutions or organizations they belong to and to promote the active participation of women in political processes and strengthen the political capabilities of women and their roles in political leadership in political and community based institutions in rural and urban regions. Reliable Future brought together 25 young people from five countries member states of the Council of Europe to pass through this pilot training program. The international conference on "Role of young people

in political life” was organized with the participation of young people, government agencies, experts, and scholars in politics, international political institutions to discuss different issues concerning the participation of young people in politics. By the end of the training, Reliable Future produced special bilingual training manual on “Political leadership for young people” that was disseminated to trainees and other interested organizations in Azerbaijan.

#### **INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON YOUTH, PEACE BUILDING & CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IN CIS COUNTRIES, JANUARY-MAY 2004**

After the collapse of Soviet Union, many countries – former republics – have faced and some are still facing the various types of conflicts. Young people who are often become the participants and/or observers of these conflicts suffer more. Being the most active and potentially powerful part of any society, young people can and must play an ultimate role in building peace, resolution of conflicts and bridging gaps between conflict parties. In order to empower young people and promote their active participation in resolution of conflicts, in peace building, education and spread of culture of peace and help them to connect with other youth, Reliable Future with the support from **Council of Europe and European Youth Foundation** organized the International Training Course devoted to the Role of Youth in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution in FSU Countries. There are 30 young people from Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan took part at this 7-day training course and 1-day conference. Training course was provided by national trainers of Reliable Future. Along with it, Reliable Future invited International Trainer from Russian Saint-Petersburg University Conflicts Center specialized in mediation of conflicts in order to meet the increased interest of young people to mediation of conflicts. During the training participants have been kindly hosted by Minister of Youth, Sport and Tourism of Azerbaijan Republic

#### **CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE VOTERS AND PREVENT THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF VOTERS DURING THE COMING ELECTION OF PRESIDENT IN AZERBAIJAN, SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2003:**

The project implied the preparation of special Posters and Booklets to be hung on wall of all Election Points around the whole country and disseminated among the population before the elections happen. Reliable Future prepared the special posters and booklets in number of 6.000 and 50.000 accordingly.

**The project was funded by US Embassy and US State Department.**

#### **INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN IN NIS REGION, SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2003:**

The project is the follow-up to the International forum organized by Council of Europe last year with the participation of young people – representatives from all countries-members of Council of Europe, African and Asia Countries. Reliable Future organized the training course to reflect upon the ideas and issues raised during the forum in Strasbourg and look at the problems and circumstances in NIS region. Having invited over 30 participants from 4 NIS countries working for different government, non-governmental and private organizations, Reliable Future organized the dialogue between them and provided the platform for the exchange of ideas, experience, skills and knowledge. Training course also gave the opportunity for young people from NIS region to make useful contacts for further networking and partnership projects and helped to prepare the report and recommendations for the governmental bodies and NGOs to be considered in the formation of policies, legislation and legislative acts. **The project funded by EYF, Council of Europe.**

#### **OMBUDSMAN: MANDATE FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

The Reliable Future Youth Organization in cooperation with the Ombudsman Institute of Azerbaijan Republic and with the financial support from the **European Commission of the European Union** has initiated the project on development of Ombudsman institution in Azerbaijan and designed to provide the sharing of information, knowledge and skills between the Ombudsman institutes and experts in this field of Azerbaijan and other invited European countries; to promote the cooperation between these institutions directed mainly to the development of new established Azerbaijan ombudsman institute and its activities; to prepare the joint recommendations, strategy for the development and strengthening of ombudsman institute in Azerbaijan and organization of its work in an effective manner using the expertise of other European countries with the big history of existence of Ombudsman Institutes. The target groups of project will be the staff of new established ombudsman institute of Azerbaijan, experts on human rights and democratic institutions, lawyers, local and international NGOs, representatives of institutes of ombudsman from several European countries, government officials, OSCE, IFES, foreign embassies, and COE representatives in Azerbaijan.

The project overall objectives were the organization of First International Ombudsman Conference in Baku with the participation of invited ombudsmen and international experts from ombudsman instituted from several European countries and Canada; organization of the cooperative dialogue on the functions and prospective works, aims and objectives of ombudsman in Azerbaijan, preparation of special recommendations, strategic development plan for the ombudsman institute in country; organization of the seminars in selected largest regions for local population, and minorities, local authorities, NGOs on the ombudsman and its functions; introduction of law on ombudsman adopted by Azerbaijan parliament; analysis and discussion of the current legislation; comparison of functions of newly established institute of ombudsman in Azerbaijan and other European countries and Canada.

#### **DEVELOPING OF MANUAL IN AZERI FOR TRAINING ON TEACHING THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: April – May, 2002**

The main general purpose of the project was to develop Training Plan & Manual in Azeri for training of NGO members and youth on issues of Convention of Rights of Children (CRC). More detailed description envisaged developing Manual for trainers, which included topics to be covered by training, theoretical materials for each topic, recommendations for training methodology to be applied for each topic, timing of each topic and methodology, handouts and visual materials. This project of Reliable Future won an announced Bid for cooperative partnership project with **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.

#### **WIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES & NGO REPRESENTATIVES OF EIGHT REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN: May-September 2002**

The main aim of this course is to give local authorities and NGOs representatives necessary skills, knowledge and information about Council of Europe, European Institutions, European Union, and European Framework Convention on National Minorities, conflict resolution needs. Project was implemented under the financial support of the **Council of Europe** in Baku, Lenkoran, Masalli, Astara, Gakh, Zagatala, Guba, Gusar and Khudat regions of Azerbaijan. The main description of the activities is 4-day training course in each of eight regions and final 2-day Conference with the representative from the Council of Europe in Baku.

#### **TRAINING COURSES FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, NGOS, TEACHERS AND CHILDREN ON CHILDREN RIGHTS, 2002**

This project is designed to organize the special 3-day training courses in 12 regions of Azerbaijan covering the Baku, Sumgayit, Barda, Mingechaur, Lenkoran, Masalli, Guba, Jelilabad, Gandja, Sheki, Nakhichevan, Shemkir regions. There are 65 training courses to be organized in the mentioned regions and another additional training for police officers in Baku. About 1300 participants will take part at these training courses. The important part of the project was the organization of training courses on children rights for over than 500 children in Baku and Sumgayit regions which will be conducted by the children-trainers. The participants and trainers will use the special prepared by **Reliable Future** training manual on teaching the children rights convention. The number of leaflets, booklets, and brochures on related topics will be disseminated among the participants of the training courses. During the seminars, lectures, debates the number of role games will be used as the effective method for teaching the children rights. The role games are designed to help participants feel and understand the different situations, where the children's rights are violated or discriminated and to get to know how to protect these rights and which way to select for achievement the best results. This project is supported by the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF Azerbaijan)**.

# ENCOURAGING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

*Encouraging our youth & children...  
Enhancing our schools...*

Reliable Future promotes team building, development of the management skills and volunteer activities among children and young people and continuously provides the different training courses, seminars, festivals, culture and art events for young people and children of the country. Reliable Future always does its best to promote the intercultural understanding and awareness amid the people of different nations and cultures.

- ❖ We believe that support for arts and culture can strength the communities where we ourselves live and work by enriching lives and fostering creativity and diversity.
- ❖ We try to focus support on the work of young artists and on extending the availability of the arts and different cultures to a wider audience.
- ❖ We sure that creation and presentation of new artistic work, the exhibition of contemporary art, the celebration of cultural diversity, and the collaboration of the arts and technology are key areas for consideration.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> YOUTH DRAMA FESTIVAL IN ENGLISH – NOVEMBER 23, 1999**

It was the first experimental and very successful project of the Reliable Future organization's Department of Art, Culture and Sport programs. It was the first such Festival-competition and opportunity for young people of Azerbaijan to demonstrate and improve their skills and talent in the theatrical art. More than 25 creative collectives and individuals from about 10 secondary and high schools, universities took part at the Festival and presented their theatrical and musical performances in English Language. Participants were presenting the works of Shakespeare, Pushkin, Mark Twain, Bernard Shaw and others. Jury Board rewarded three best performances with diplomas and money awards. Other participants received certificates on participation at Festival. **Bakcell-Motorola, Ministry of Youth, Sport & Tourism & American University in Baku (AUB)** sponsored this Festival.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> FESTIVAL OF BALLROOM DANCES - JUNE 11, 2000**

The Festival took place in Guba Hall of "Hyatt Regency" Hotel in Baku. There were more than six Ballroom Dances Schools and about 60 representatives of them participated at the Festival. The age categories were 8-24 years old. Dance groups presented several dance compositions such as waltz, jive, cha-cha, samba, twist, rock-n-roll and others. Along with, their individual compositions were also presented. Jury Board composed of famous Azerbaijan dancers and art professionals made the selection in two age categories, two dance categories – European and Latin dances and three quality categories – junior, senior and professional. Jury awarded the winners of Festival with diplomas and valuable prizes, and all participants with certificates on attendance. This project funded by **Reliable Future on the bases of membership fees and fees of libraries members.**

## **2<sup>ND</sup> YOUTH DRAMA FESTIVAL - 23 NOVEMBER 2000**

It is the Second Annual Festival conducted by Reliable Future. Festival was devoted to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of famous Azerbaijan writer-dramaturge J.Jabbarli. There were more than 40 creative theatrical groups from more than 30 secondary and high schools of Baku and Sumgayit applied to participate at the Festival, but only 17 groups were selected by Jury Board. Festival program was divided into two sections – Azeri/Russian and English Sections. Six successful groups were awarded by Jury with diplomas and valuable prizes. Other participants received the certificates on participation. Jury Board was composed of famous artists, representatives of foreign companies, coordinator of culture and art programs of Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation), representative of Ministry of Youth and Sports and granddaughter of J.Jabbarli. This Festival was the first stage for the First European Art Festival that Reliable Future was going to convene in Baku in 2001 year. The Festival had sponsored by **BP Exploration Caspian Sea Ltd.**

## **“FROM DAWN TILL DUSK” FIRST YOUTH ART FESTIVAL – DECEMBER 13, 16 AND 18, 2001**

It was a new project of the Culture and Art Programs Department of Reliable Future Youth Organization dedicated to the development of art and culture space for youth of Azerbaijan and to promote the youth involvement and their development in different fields of art and culture by bringing together the young talented youth; give talented youth an opportunity and needed skills to take part at the Festivals which will be

held abroad. The project was named as **“from Dawn till Dusk” First Youth Art Festival** on Film making, Drawings and Performances, Music, Dance, etc. and provided at Azerbaijan Cinema (first day), Art Gallery (second day) & Theatre of Songs named after R. Behbudov (third day). The Festival lasted 3 days. It is also necessary to indicate that such a Festival was organized for the first time in Azerbaijan. Project was implemented under the sponsorship of **BP Exploration Caspian Sea Ltd., Ministry of Youth, Sport & Tourism, Open Society Institute- Assistance Foundation, AzEuroTel & Perfumes de France Companies.**

### **1<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL CONTEST ON 1 MINUTE FILMS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AMONG THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF 8-20 YEARS OLD DEDICATED TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY IN AZERBAIJAN, August – October 2003**

The project on organization of the contest was initiated by Reliable Future in order to promote the culture of peace, to contribute to the peace education of children and young people, to help children and young people to express their opinion and feelings in ways that make it easy. Along with this specific goals, Reliable Future also tried to promote the new method of self-expression and method for influencing the problems – 1 minute films and also newspaper articles to be written by children and young people. Reliable Future had cooperated with leading newspapers in country and achieved to cover almost the whole country by the project. Over 500 articles and 100 films were produced and submitted to the Jury Board for consideration. The Jury Board selected 20 newspaper articles and 10 films and their authors as the winners of the contest. The special Conference-meeting was organized with the participation of representatives from UNIFEM, UNFPI, Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic, Ministries of Education, Youth, Sport and Tourism, local and international NGOs, etc. The winners received the diplomas and certificates and top 8 winners also received the valuable prizes and money prizes. **The project was funded by UNIFEM AZERBAIJAN.**

### **FIRST NATIONAL POSTER AND DRAWING CONTEST ON THE OUTCOMES OF UN SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN AND WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN'S 10 STEPS:**

The project is designed to promote and disseminate the knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child among the schoolchildren of 7-11 years old of entire Azerbaijan by organizing the National Poster-Drawing Contest. The project is also prepared to provide the awareness rising of population and accent to the implementation of the outcomes of the UN Special Session on Children and World Fit for Children adopted by UN in May 2002. The selected 50 authors-children of best drawings presented to the Selection Committee will be invited to Baku, where the Exhibition of the selected drawings and then the Conference “Azerbaijan and World Fit for Children” will be organized with the participation of representatives from different state bodies, international and local governmental and non-governmental organizations, embassies, UN agencies, COE, etc. By the end of Exhibition and Conference, Certificates were presented to all 50 authors; and authors of best 4 drawings-posters will be awarded by Diplomas and money prizes. The special book containing the selected best works will be published and disseminated among the schools and other interested organizations.

### **NATIONAL POSTER AND DRAWING CONTEST ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD:**

The project was designed to promote and disseminate the knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child among the schoolchildren of 7-11 years old of entire Azerbaijan and to provide the awareness rising of population about the children rights by organizing the National Poster-Drawing Contest. The selected 50 authors-children of best drawings presented to the Selection Committee will be invited to Baku, where the Exhibition of the selected drawings and then the Conference “Child Rights by eyes of children” will be organized with the participation of representatives from different state bodies, international and local governmental and non-governmental organizations, embassies, UN agencies, COE, etc.

By the end of Exhibition and Conference, Certificates will be presented to all 50 authors; and authors of best 4 drawings-posters will be awarded by Diplomas and money prizes. The special book containing the selected best works will be published and disseminated among the schools and other interested organizations.

**The project funded by UNICEF Azerbaijan.**

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