

TRUST INDEX 07  
MAY 2022

# THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITY IN PUBLIC OPINION



SOCIAL  
RESEARCH  
CENTER

## About the Social Research Center

The Social Research Center (SRC) was established by Presidential Decree No. 525 on February 8, 2019, in the Republic of Azerbaijan. As a public legal entity, the SRC systematically analyzes the evolving dynamics of social relations. It identifies current trends, predicts changes, and investigates their potential impact on society. Utilizing state-of-the-art information technologies and scientific methodologies, the SRC conducts social research and studies public opinion. Its findings are presented to government authorities to inform policy-making and decision-making processes.

**SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER**

**TRUST INDEX / 07**  
**Special edition**

**January -April 2022**

**THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITY  
IN PUBLIC OPINION**

**ANALYTICAL REPORT**  
**Prepared based on a sociological survey**

**Research group:**  
**Public Opinion Research Department**  
**Domestic Policy Analysis Department**  
**Socio-Economic Analysis Department**

**Baku - 2022**

**Editor:** Aghshin Mammadov

**Designer:** Gurban Jalilov, Babek Jafarzade

**Editor (English):** Pasha Bayramov

**Address:** Azerbaijan Republic, AZ 1073, Baku city,  
Yasamal district, 18, Ismayil bey Gutgashinli street.

**Phone:** (+994 12) 510-70-78  
(+994 12) 510-23-75  
(+994 12) 510-70-69

**E-mail:** info@stm.az

**Internet address:** www.stm.az

Anchor signed: 23.07.2023

Physical print sheet: 7.5

Order: 78

Circulation: 500

It was printed in the printing house of "MM-S" enterprise.

**Address:** Azerbaijan Republic, AZ 1102, Baku city, Nasimi district,  
A. Taghizade street, house 13.

**Phone:** (+994 12) 431 11 00  
(+994 50) 314 09 37

© Social Research Center, 2022, 2023



"Today's strong Azerbaijan is capable of achieving all these things. We have political will, economic strength, the mobilization of our people, and national solidarity at its highest peak. Of course, our glorious historic victory is a source of pride for each of us. We are rightly proud to be citizens of a victorious state, proud of our army, and proud of our people. We are especially proud of the young people who brought us this joy, and we will be proud of them forever. We have returned to Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur for good, and we will live on our historical lands, forever."

Ilham Aliyev  
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>METHODOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RESEARCH.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>I SECTION. PUBLIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD.....</b>	<b>10</b>
1.1. Consideration of public opinion in public administration.....	10
1.2. Assessment of public opinion in the first quarter of 2022.....	11
1.3. The level of awareness of what is happening on the ground.....	13
<b>II SECTION. THE GREAT RETURN AND CONSTRUCTION EVENTS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1. Public Awareness and Expectations for Recovery and Reconstruction in Liberated Areas.....	14
2.2. Creation of a "green energy" zone in the territories freed from occupation.....	16
<b>III SECTION. PEACE AGENDA OF THE PRESIDENT IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD.....</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1. Public attitude to the signing of the peace treaty and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.....	17
3.2. Attitude towards the countries/organizations mediating the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.....	18
<b>IV SECTION. ATTITUDE TO THE ACTIVITY OF THE PRESIDENT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.....</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1. Attitude to the President's activities in the fields of military construction, foreign policy, civil security of the population, social protection, and personnel reforms.....	20
4.2. Attitude towards the activities of state bodies, ministries, committees and services.....	42
4.3. The country's 5 major problems and the main public expectations from the President.....	46
4.4. Sources of information on the activities of the President.....	47
<b>V SECTION. THE DYNAMICS OF FAITH AND TRUST.....</b>	<b>49</b>
5.1. Trust and confidence in the President.....	49
5.2. Trust and confidence in the National Assembly and judicial bodies.....	50
5.3. Trust and confidence in higher and local executive authorities.....	51
<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>53</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Social Research Center conducted an opinion poll among citizens during the first four months of 2022 to assess public attitudes towards the President's activities. In addition to evaluating the President's actions, the survey also assessed public opinion on the socio-political processes that took place during this period. Regularly conducting these surveys provides an opportunity to compare citizens' attitudes toward the President's actions in various areas. It also enables an evaluation of current events and processes in these areas from the public's perspective.

Through this public opinion survey, various significant historical events were included in the analysis, especially restoration and construction efforts in territories liberated from occupation, preparatory processes for the great return, the peace agenda, public attitudes toward international and local events, and trust in the President and state institutions. Additionally, the level of public confidence in branches of government and individual state structures was studied.

The first four months of 2022 were a highly productive period, both in foreign and domestic policy, characterized by dynamic international developments. During this period, according to publicly available information, the President held over 20 international and local meetings and visits, participated in more than 30 consultations, interviews, and press conferences, conducted 50 receptions, had more than 20 phone conversations with foreign leaders and officials, and attended over 30 groundbreaking and opening ceremonies, most of which took place in territories liberated from occupation.

The social and political activities of the President during the first four months of the year can be grouped by key focus areas. The President's foreign visits during this period reflect Azerbaijan's successful pursuit of a multilateral foreign policy in the post-conflict era. A key focus of these efforts was expanding diplomatic relations after the war, facilitating the involvement of neighboring countries, initiative parties, and the European Union in the peace-building process, and continuously communicating Azerbaijan's perspectives to the

world. Another important foreign policy focus has been maintaining positive relations with key parties in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war, while prioritizing national interests. Strengthening close ties with Turkey and other Turkic-speaking countries, promoting mutual integration, and enhancing Azerbaijan's transit opportunities were also central to foreign policy during this period.

In addition to the success in foreign policy, the President's political will has driven reforms and large-scale transformations across various areas of state life, reshaping domestic policies. The victory in the Patriotic War fostered national unity, solidarity, and enthusiasm, which had a ripple effect on other areas. The expansion of citizen participation in political life and governance, and calls for public oversight, have strengthened communication between the state and society, making state structures more transparent, efficient, and accountable. Personnel reforms, particularly within local executive authorities, also continued. During the first four months of 2022, the President signed orders for the appointment of 10 new officials. The President's awareness of on-the-ground developments and his consideration of public opinion in decision-making were confirmed by citizens' views in the polls. As a general outcome of internal and socio-economic policies, the vast majority of respondents considered the first four months of the year successful, both for themselves and for the country.

As always, social and economic development remains a priority of state policy during this period. According to the International Labor Organization's 2022 report, a new package of reforms aimed at improving social welfare has been approved under the relevant decrees of the head of state. This is particularly significant in a global socio-economic context where more than 4 billion people lack social protection, exacerbated by the challenges of the pandemic and post-war conditions. The latest package of social reforms, introduced at the beginning of this year, included increases in wages, pensions, and other social payments, benefiting a total of 3.4 million citizens. A key focus of social

policy has been to enhance the welfare of war veterans and the families of martyrs. Following the President's instructions, a special approach was adopted to improve the living conditions, well-being, and employment opportunities for these groups, with opinion polls showing a high level of public satisfaction with the President's efforts in this area.

The state's policies addressing issues such as informal employment and corruption have continued throughout the year, with new state programs adopted to tackle these challenges. To diversify the economy and reduce reliance on oil, particular attention has been given to developing the non-oil sector, with the country's leadership maintaining direct oversight. Furthermore, in response to the global threat of food insecurity, preventive measures were implemented, including efforts to increase local production capacity, maintain self-sufficiency, develop new mechanisms for ensuring food security, and regulate import-export operations and local resources to prevent price manipulation.

Energy policy has also been a key focus for the head of state during this period. Various national and local projects have been initiated, funded by both foreign and domestic investment. Reducing dependence on hydrocarbon resources and promoting renewable energy sources have been central to this policy, providing Azerbaijan with additional advantages in the regional energy market. The high potential of the territories liberated from occupation, particularly for transitioning from traditional to renewable energy, led to the creation of "green energy" zones in these areas. Public opinion polls demonstrated strong support for this initiative.

In summary, opinion polls conducted in the past and during the first four months of the current year indicate that the head of state's efforts have received widespread public support. According to the most recent survey, the President's achievements in military development, foreign policy, and youth policy during the post-war period were rated most highly by respondents. Notably, the President inaugurated new military units in the Karabakh and Eastern

Zangezur economic regions, with significant attention given to ensuring the supply and combat readiness of these units.

In addition to strengthening the security of liberated territories, restoration and reconstruction efforts have continued at a steady pace. To prepare for the great return, the foundations of new residential complexes, educational and healthcare facilities, tourist centers, industrial enterprises, and places of worship were laid during this four-month period. Work has also progressed on restoring cultural heritage sites. It is worth noting that the President visited the liberated territories 23 times. The frequency of these visits over the past year and a half highlights the priority given to this area. Additionally, lighting the holiday bonfire in Shusha's Jidir Plain last year and in Sugovushan this year for the Novruz holiday holds important symbolic significance.

# METHODOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RESEARCH

## Methodological approach

Quantitative methodology was used in the research. The survey was conducted in Baku, Absheron-Khizi, Nagorno-Shirvan, Ganja-Dashkasan, Gazakh-Tovuz, Lankaran-Astara, Guba-Khachmaz, Sheki-Zagatala, Karabakh, Central Aran, Mil-Mugan and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions and 1081 respondents the opinion has been studied. The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and newly liberated regions were not included in the survey.

## Number of respondents

Within the framework of the study, a multi-stage random sampling method was used in the selection of respondents. In the first stage, the settlements to be covered in the survey were determined. In the next stage, the employees who will conduct the survey went to the field and moved in the direction determined in the stations assigned to them. In the selection of respondents, the gender weight of each socio-demographic group was determined proportionally to their number in the country. Based on the number of respondents included in the survey (1081 people), the margin of error of the results is 3% in a 95% confidence interval.

## Questionnaire

The questionnaire consists of 44 (33 specific and 11 socio-demographic) questions. The questions are mainly the activities of the President in various directions, the public attitude to the President's visits, meetings, interviews, the construction and restoration processes in Karabakh, the measurement of trust and confidence in the President, the Milli Majlis and judicial bodies, higher and local executive authorities, the social, socio-economic situation in the post-war period and basic expectations, sources of information on the President's activities, etc.

## Instruction

Guidelines for interviewers have been prepared. Interviewers were trained by the staff of the Center before starting work. During the training, the interviewers familiarized themselves with the questionnaire and instructions and were fully prepared for conducting the survey. Extensive explanations were given for each question in the questionnaire and a test question was administered by the interviewers.

## Method of surveying

Modern technologies have been used in conducting the surveys. Furthermore, the surveys were carried out through tablets. In recent years, SurveyToGo has been used, which is more widely used in the United States and Great Britain and is considered a modern survey software. This program has a number of advantages in terms of monitoring the work of the survey team, maintaining online monitoring of the survey process and receiving reliable information.

## Field work

The field work was conducted on May 19 - May 31, 2022. The average duration of a survey was 15 minutes and 8 seconds.

Anonymity was guaranteed in all the interviews. Respondents were assured that their responses would only be used in aggregate form. This factor ensured high reliability of the data collected as a result of the survey.

## Data processing and analysis

After the completion of the survey, the data collected on each questionnaire was entered into the database and analyzed using a special program SPSS - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences.





## Methodological principles of the study



### Number of respondents

▶ 1081 respondents



### Selection of respondents

▶ A random sample was conducted using a multi-stage stratified sampling method for population groups over 18 years of age



### Confidence interval and margin of error

▶ 95% and 3.0%



### Data collection method

▶ A face-to-face questionnaire survey method was used to conduct the survey



### Survey date

▶ Fieldwork was conducted from May 19 to May 31, 2022



### Scope of the study

▶ Baku, Absheron-Khizi, Daglyg Shirvan, Ganja-Dashkan, Gazakh-Tovuz, Lankaran-Astara, Guba-Khachmaz, Karabakh, Sheki-Zagatala, Mil-Mugan, Central Aran, Shirvan-Salyan



### Criteria used in selecting respondents

▶ Age and gender balance



### Data processing and analysis

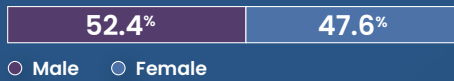
▶ After the survey was completed, the data collected directly in the database for each questionnaire was analyzed using SPSS



## Demographics



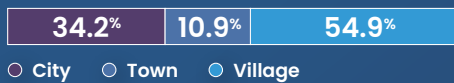
## Gender composition



## Education level



## Residence



## Employment

## Public sector



## Private sector



## Individual labor activity



## Unemployed, currently looking for work



## Unemployed, not currently looking for work



## Student



## Retired



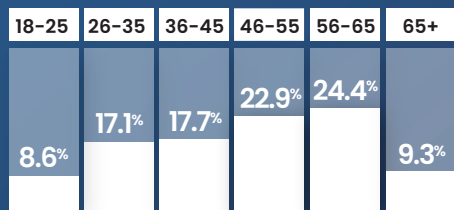
## Housewife



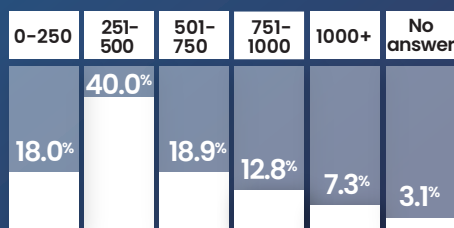
## Other



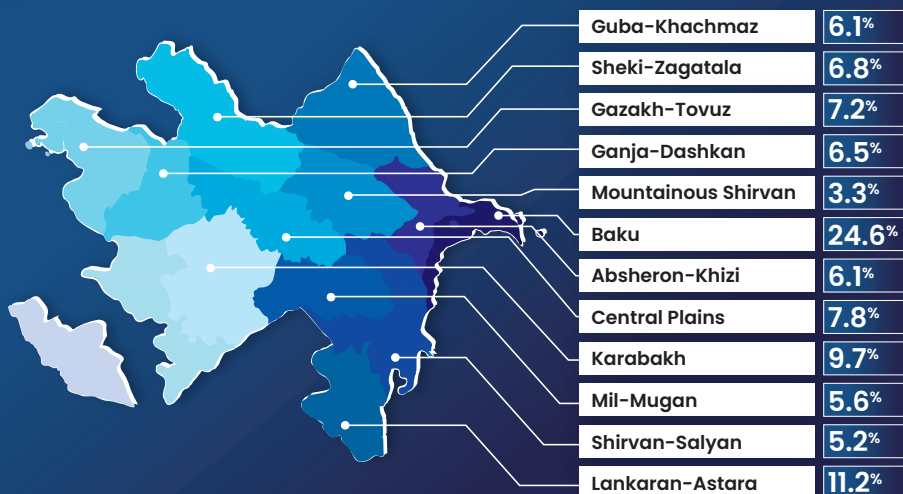
## Age group



## Income level



## Distribution by economic regions



## I SECTION.

PUBLIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION  
IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD1.1. Consideration of public opinion  
in public administration

The development of the political system, socio-economic policy, and socio-cultural and spiritual growth in Azerbaijan are guided by the principles outlined by the President in his internal policy. Protecting socio-political stability is one of the key factors that ensures the socio-economic, cultural development, and security of both the state and society. Another vital element in maintaining stability is the adoption and implementation of socially oriented laws, along with the successful execution of political and legal reforms. Social and political stability in Azerbaijan is founded on citizen solidarity, as well as the trust and confidence of the people in the head of state and the current government.

In his speeches, President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly emphasized that considering public opinion in state activities is a core requirement of the new governance philosophy, and one of the most crucial factors in the rapidly evolving communication landscape of the 21st century. This sentiment is also reflected in the results of the current survey, which asked citizens about

their views on the statement, "The President of the country takes into account the opinion of citizens in his activities." Of those polled, 67.6% fully agreed with this idea, 23.9% mostly agreed, 2.3% partially agreed, and 5.1% disagreed entirely.

❖ The analysis of the survey results reveals that certain groups show a higher level of complete agreement. These include individuals from the middle and older age groups, those living in settlements, people with primary education, public sector employees, high-income earners, and respondents from the Baku, Gazakh-Tovuz, Lankaran-Astara, and Karabakh economic regions.

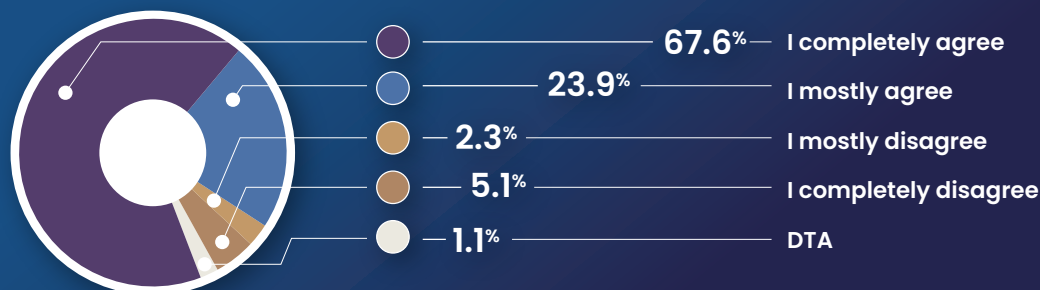
❖ There is no significant difference in gender distribution. The rate of full agreement is over 65.0%.

❖ Furthermore, the relative preference for the option "mostly agree" is observed among students, those representing a relatively high income group, and respondents from Nagorno Shirvan.

❖ A total of 6.5% of young people, 8.1% of city dwellers, 6.1% of those with complete secondary education, 4.8% of individuals with



Attitude to the idea that "The President of the country takes into account the opinions of citizens in his activities":



higher education, 6.0% of women, 10.0% of the unemployed not actively seeking work, 8.2% of housewives, and 10.3% of those in the low-income group expressed complete disagreement with this idea. A small portion of respondents from the Absheron-Khizi and Guba-Khachmaz economic regions also shared this view.

❖ Among the respondents who had difficulty answering this question, the relative advantage was observed in Guba-Khachmaz economic region.

❖ It should be noted that 80.8% of those who fully agree with the opinion that "the President takes into account the opinion of the citizens in his activities", the main expectation from the President is the creation of new jobs.

## 1.2. Assessment of public opinion in the first quarter of 2022

As part of the survey, in addition to the socio-economic and political situation, based on the high dynamics of the events, the respondents were also asked how they evaluated the first quarter of the current year for themselves and for our country in general. According to the obtained results, the first quarter of 2022 was successful for citizens ("very good" 36.6%, "mostly good" 45.7%) and our country ("very good" 48.1% and "mostly good" 39.7%). 9.4% and 4.2% of those who think otherwise, respectively.

❖ The analysis of the survey results reveals that the respondents who evaluate the first quarter of 2022 as "very good" are mostly mid-

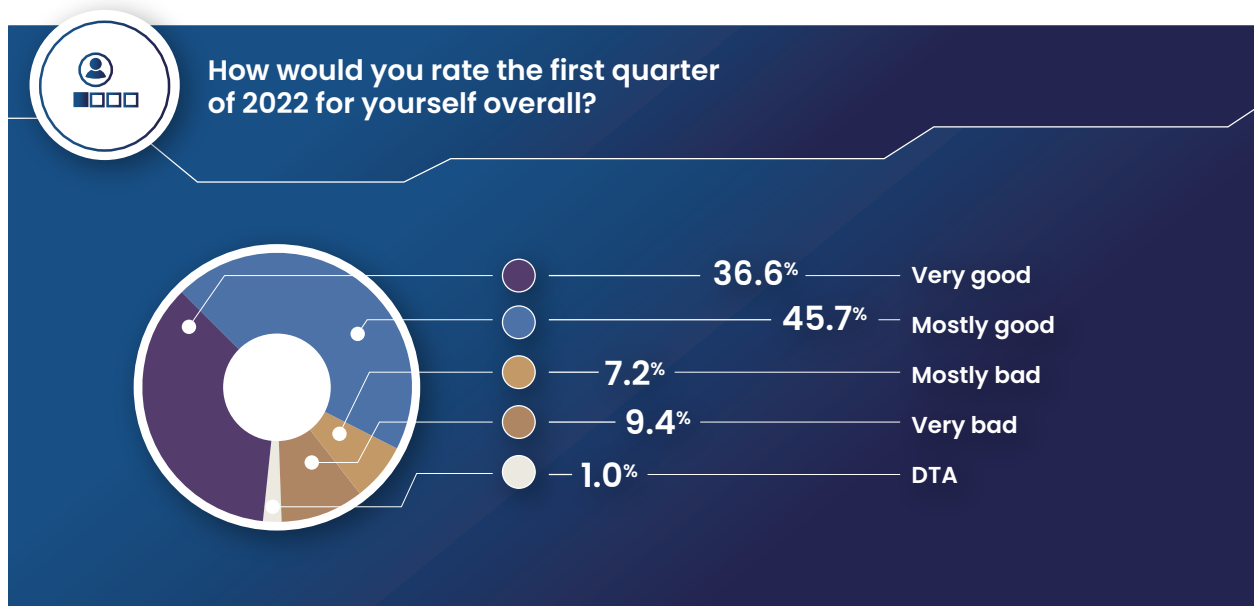
dle-aged respondents. Respondents belonging to the lower age group preferred the "mostly good" option.

❖ In addition, respondents living in settlements, those with complete secondary education, more men than women, public sector workers, individuals from high-income groups, and respondents from the Gazakh-Tovuz economic region tended to choose the 'very good' option. On the other hand, respondents living in urban and rural areas, those with higher education, women, students, individuals from relatively high-income groups, and respondents from the Shirvan-Salyan, Guba-Khachmaz, and Ganja-Dashkasan economic regions preferred the 'mostly good' option.

❖ Those who rated the first quarter of 2022 as 'very bad' for themselves were primarily from the older age group, city residents, individuals with primary or general secondary education, women, private sector workers, retirees, the unemployed actively seeking work, housewives, and those in the low-income group. Respondents living in Baku, Guba-Khachmaz, and Mil-Mugan economic regions were also among this group. Additionally, 7.6% of respondents from the Absheron-Khizi economic district, 6.5% of students, and 3.0% of seniors had difficulty answering this question.

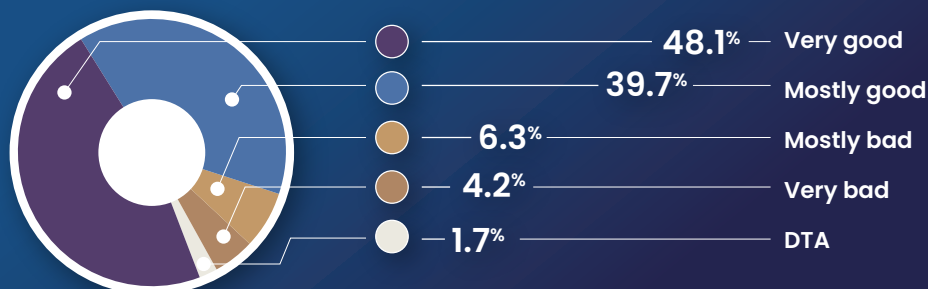
❖ It should be noted that 86.9% of those who rated the first quarter of 2022 as "very good" positively evaluated the President's activities in the field of social protection.

❖ Those who evaluate the first quarter of





### How do you assess the first quarter of 2022 for our country as a whole?



2022 as "very good" for our country in general are those representing the middle and older age group, those living in the settlement, those with complete secondary education, men compared to women, those working in the public sector and pensioners, those representing the high income group, Nagorno-Shirvan, Gazakh - There were respondents from Tovuz and Karabakh economic regions.

❖ The "mostly good" option was chosen by those representing the lower age group, those with higher education, women, students, those representing the relatively high income group, respondents from Absheron-Khizi and Guba-Khachmaz economic districts.

❖ Respondents from the low-income group, students, women, those with primary education, residents of the settlement, and respondents from the Absheron-Khizi economic district were the ones who had difficulty answering this question.

❖ Among those who evaluate the first quarter of 2022 as "very bad" for our country in general, the following groups have a relative advantage according to several criteria: those representing a relatively older age group, those living in the city, those with complete secondary education, those working in the private sector, unemployed and currently employed searchers, housewives, respondents representing relatively low income group and respondents representing Nagorno-Shirvan economic region.

❖ Of those who rated the first quarter of 2022 as 'very good' for the country, 95.7% high-

ly appreciated the President's efforts in foreign policy. The survey results once again demonstrate that the structural and personnel reforms, socio-economic projects, and anti-pandemic measures implemented in recent years under the President's directives are yielding positive outcomes, which citizens are beginning to experience in their daily lives.

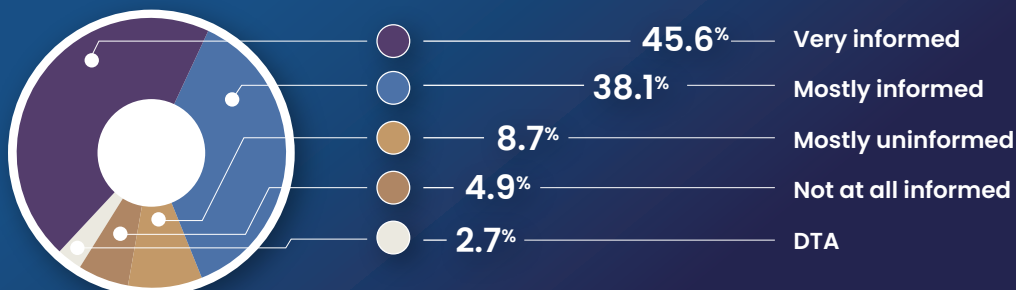
In this context, it is worth recalling a survey conducted between November 22 and December 2, 2021, in which respondents were asked, 'How do you think your life and your family's life will compare to now?' In that survey, 20.4% of participants believed that their socio-economic situation, as well as that of their families, would significantly improve in 2022 compared to 2021, while 35.6% (36.2% for their families) expected moderate improvement. Additionally, 14.5% (14.1% for their families) anticipated no change, while 7.8% (7.5% for their families) expected a decline, and only 6.6% (6.4% for their families) believed their situation would worsen significantly. Meanwhile, 15.2% of respondents were uncertain about their future (15.4% for their families).

A comparative analysis of both surveys reveals that, as a result of the implemented socio-economic policies, respondents' expectations have largely been fulfilled. There is noticeable positive growth in this area.





### How informed do you think the President is about what is happening on the ground?



### 1.3. The level of awareness of what is happening on the ground

45.6% of the respondents who took part in the survey are of the opinion that the President knows a lot about what is happening on the ground, and 38.1% are of the opinion that he is mostly informed. 4.9% of the respondents share the opinion that the President is not aware of what is happening on the ground. 8.7% of the respondents think that he is mostly uninformed.

❖ According to the analysis of the survey results, those who represent a relatively older age group, those who live in the village, men compared to women, housewives, those who represent the low income group, respondents from Gazakh-Tovuz, Karabakh and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions preferred the "very informed" option.

❖ The response option "mostly informed" is selected by respondents from middle and older age groups, residents of the settlement, individuals with technical, vocational, or higher education, those employed in the public sector, unemployed individuals seeking work, students, respondents in relatively high-income groups, and those from the Ganja-Dashkasan and Guba-Khachmaz economic districts.

❖ Among the general sample, respondents from a relatively older age group, those living in the city, individuals with only a secondary education, unemployed individuals currently seeking work, housewives, those in low-income

groups, and respondents from the Baku and Ganja-Dashkasan economic regions lack any information about this topic.

❖ 75.9% of those who said "the President is very knowledgeable about what is happening in the field" rated the President's activity in the fight against corruption as "very good".

❖ Among respondents, 86.0% of those who believed the President is 'very knowledgeable' about what is happening on the ground also highly appreciated his efforts toward social and political stability.

In a survey conducted from April 1-12, 2021, respondents were asked how well they thought the President understood the situation of the citizens. According to 36.1%, the President is fully informed about the citizens' situation, while 39% felt he is somewhat informed, totaling 75.1%. In contrast, 17.7% believed the President has little to no information on citizens' situations (6.6%).

Additionally, a quarter of respondents (24.9%) thought that all local events are reported to the President accurately, while 5.5% believed only negative information reaches him. Another 6.1% of respondents were uncertain how to answer this question.

## II SECTION.

## THE GREAT RETURN AND CONSTRUCTION EVENTS

The restoration of Karabakh and East Zangazur, regions with rich economic potential and significant agricultural opportunities, is one of the main national priorities at present. This was underscored on April 12, 2022, during a meeting chaired by President Ilham Aliyev to review the results of the year's first quarter. The return of these issues to the agenda highlights the comprehensive measures being taken to ensure the return of former IDPs to their homes. In his speech, the President discussed the restoration of Shusha and Istisu, as well as the acceleration of efforts to return people to other areas, signaling that 2022 may be remembered as the 'Year of the Great Return.'

The President's message to international organizations—that Karabakh and East Zangazur will be rebuilt as model regions—also holds special significance. Plans for residential buildings, infrastructure, employment opportunities, agriculture, industrial parks, and more are being implemented. As the President has stated, Azerbaijan will bring life back to the lands of Karabakh. He continually reminds the nation that the liberation of these territories is not the end of their mission. On the contrary, in light of new realities, the restoration and construction

efforts in these liberated areas represent a new challenge.

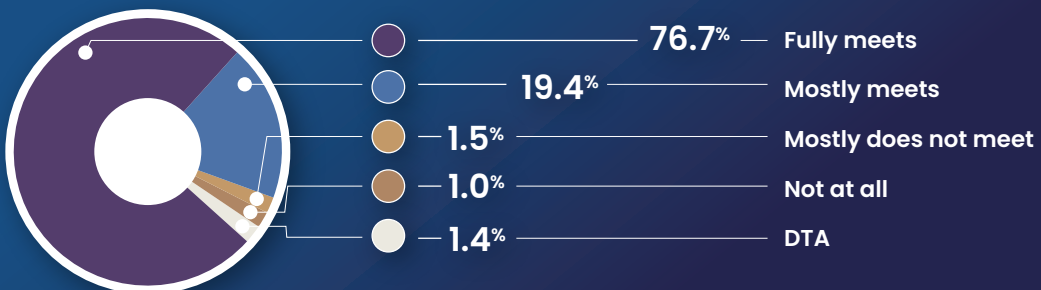
Survey results, both current and past, confirm that providing a modern, decent life for sustainable settlement in the liberated territories, along with construction, restoration, and infrastructure development, remains a key priority for the President. Ensuring safe living conditions, fostering economic activity, and promoting continuous well-being in these areas are top priorities. The President has repeatedly emphasized that the 'Great Return' to territories freed from occupation, including Karabakh, is a central focus of his administration. A survey conducted in April 2021 further supports this, with 84.6% of respondents fully agreeing that the return to Karabakh is a priority for the President, while 12.2% mostly agreed.

### 2.1. Public Awareness and Expectations for Recovery and Reconstruction in Liberated Areas

Currently, the improvement and construction works carried out in the territories freed from occupation once again reveal the economic power of our country. The analysis of the results of



To what extent do the restoration and reconstruction measures in the liberated territories under the initiative and control of the President meet your expectations?



the current survey shows that the restoration and reconstruction measures in the liberated territories under the initiative and control of the President completely meet the expectations of 76.7% of respondents, and 19.4% mostly.

❖ Based on the analysis of the results, the restoration and reconstruction efforts in the territories liberated from occupation, initiated and overseen by the President, largely met the expectations of respondents from the relatively older age group, rural residents, individuals with complete secondary education, public sector workers, high-income groups, and those from the Gazakh-Tovuz and Karabakh economic regions.

❖ The response option "mostly true" was chosen relatively more by those representing the lower age group, those living in the city, those with technical or vocational education, those who are unemployed and currently looking for work, students, those representing the high income group, respondents from the Mil-Mugan economic district.

❖ Among the respondents from Guba-Khachmaz and Nagorno-Shirvan economic regions, those representing the low income group, housewives, pensioners, people with general secondary education, those living in the township, and those representing the older age group, there is a relative preponderance of those who find it difficult to answer this question.

❖ 92.8% of those who said, "Restoration and reconstruction measures in the territories

freed from occupation under the initiative and control of the president fully meet my expectations" have a very positive attitude towards the transformation of the territories freed from occupation, Karabakh into a green energy zone.

Within the scope of the survey, it is known that 37.4% of the respondents know a lot, and 53.0% mostly know about the restoration and construction works carried out in the territories freed from occupation. 5.3% of the respondents have no information about it.

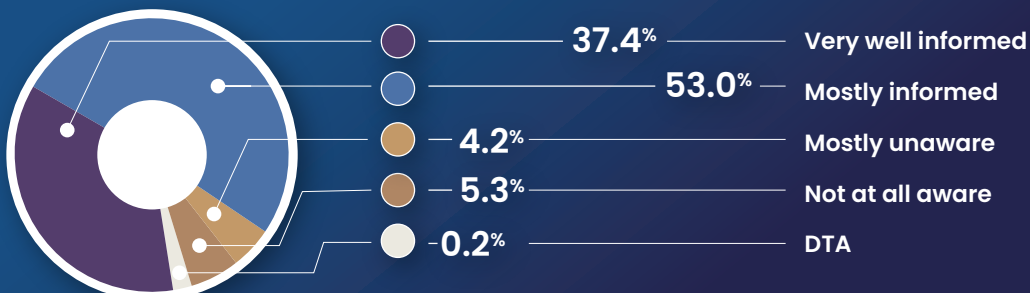
❖ If we analyze in more detail, those who represent the relatively older age group, those who live in the city, those with higher education, those who work in the public sector, those who represent the high income group, the respondents from Gazakh-Tovuz and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions are very aware of this.

❖ Those who represent the lower age group, those who live in the village, those with technical or vocational education, those with higher education, women, those who are unemployed and currently looking for work, students, those who represent the relatively high income group, Ganja-Dashkasan, Guba-Khachmaz, Karabakh and Central Aran economic and the respondents from the regions gave more preference to the answer option "mostly I know".

❖ 7.5% of young people, 6.1% of relatively old people, 5.2% of those with technical or vocational education, 6.9% of those working in the private sector, 9.7% of students, 6.7% of those representing the high income group said "I don't know at all" they chose the answer option.



### How well informed are you about the reconstruction and reconstruction work being carried out in the liberated territories?



❖ Respondents from the upper age group, settlement residents, individuals with complete secondary education, women, public sector employees, pensioners, and those representing the low-income group were more likely to choose the "I have no information" option.

❖ Similarly, respondents from Nagorno-Shirvan, Guba-Khachmaz economic regions chose "I have no information", and respondents from Baku and Nagorno-Shirvan economic regions chose the option "I have no information".

❖ 1.3% of pensioners, 2.0% of the representatives of the older generation, 3.0% of the respondents from the Absheron-Khizi economic district had difficulty answering this question.

❖ 53.0% of the respondents who are fully aware of the restoration and construction works carried out in the territories freed from occupation believe that a peace treaty will be signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia and diplomatic relations will be established in the near future.

## 2.2. Creation of a "green energy" zone in the territories freed from occupation

One of the President's key priorities is establishing a 'green energy' zone in the territories liberated from occupation. The development of a green energy zone in the Karabakh and East Zangezur economic regions relies on various factors beyond just potential opportunities. Today, the world's most advanced technologies aim to encourage alternative energy use and ecological balance, guiding the restoration and reconstruction efforts in these economic regions.

Overall, the adoption of environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, modern, and innovative technologies is planned at every stage of the energy value chain. The implementation of the President's decree dated May 3, 2021, titled On Measures Related to the Establishment of a "Green Energy" Zone in the Liberated Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has created substantial opportunities in this field. The energy resources of the liberated areas and extensive work to restore the energy sector further support this objective. In 2021, four hydropower plants were rebuilt in Gülabird, Suguvushan-1, Suguvushan-2, and Kalbajar on these lands, and construction of five more hydropower plants is planned for 2022.

In total, the green energy zone in the liberated territories spans an area of 10,000 square kilometers. These regions have a solar energy potential of 7,200 megawatts and a wind energy potential of 2,000 megawatts. About 25 percent of the country's internal water resources—amounting to 2.56 billion cubic meters per year—are found here. Solar energy is primarily concentrated in Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, and Gubadli, while wind energy is more abundant in the mountainous areas of Lachin and Kalbajar. Analysis suggests that nearly 10,000 megawatts of renewable wind and solar power could be generated in the liberated territories. Major rivers in the region, including the Tartarchay, Bazarchay, Hekarichay, and other smaller rivers, offer significant hydropower potential. Preliminary analysis also estimates daily reserves of 3,093 cubic meters of thermal water in Kalbajar and 412 cubic meters in Shusha.

Survey results indicate that the vast majority of respondents view the transformation of Karabakh into a green energy zone very favorably (88.2% rated it as 'very good,' while 7.5% rated it as 'mostly good'). Only 3.3% of respondents reported having no information on this development.

Those who rated the transformation of Karabakh into a green energy zone as 'very good' tended to be from the older age group, urban residents, individuals with technical or vocational education, public sector employees, middle-income earners, and respondents from the Gazakh-Tovuz and Karabakh economic regions. The 'mostly good' rating was more common among younger respondents, residents of settlements, those with general secondary education, unemployed individuals not currently looking for work, students, high-income earners, and respondents from the Absheron-Khizi economic district. Respondents from the older age group, retirees, low-income earners, and those from the Nagorno-Karabakh economic district demonstrated relatively low awareness.

A significant number of unemployed respondents not currently looking for work, and those from the Lankaran-Astara economic district, found it challenging to answer this question.

### III SECTION

## PEACE AGENDA OF THE PRESIDENT IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD

### 3.1. Public attitude to the signing of the peace treaty and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia

As a result of the President's flexible foreign policy and diplomacy in the post-war period, the peace agenda—aimed at fostering stability and broad economic cooperation in the region—has gained acceptance among regional states and international organizations, such as the EU, which are stakeholders in this process. Overall, in the post-war period, the President's meetings with international organizations, state leaders, and delegations, along with his interviews with foreign media, have supported the peace agenda.

In contrast to Yerevan, official Baku does not support the monopolization of negotiations by any global power center that could act as the superior party in the peace process, viewing such a role as unacceptable. Currently, negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan involve mediation by both Brussels and Moscow, but they remain grounded in key principles set forth by official Baku: mutual recognition of territorial integrity, border delimitation and demarcation, opening of communications, and restoration of economic ties.

Recent meetings mediated by the President of the EU Council mark another significant step toward promoting future regional development in line with Azerbaijan's interests in a peaceful environment. Central to the peace agreement is a proposal from Azerbaijan based on five fundamental principles: mutual recognition of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the inviolability of international borders, and political independence; a commitment not to make territorial claims in the future; refraining from threats or force in bilateral relations; border delimitation and the establishment of diplomatic relations; and opening of transportation and communica-

tions to foster cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

A key aspect of the EU-mediated meetings is the EU's acceptance of the new realities established by Azerbaijan. This is evident from the EU Council President's omission of Armenia's "status" claims in post-meeting statements and the absence of reference to the OSCE Minsk Group, which had been ineffective in addressing the conflict ultimately resolved by Azerbaijan's actions. Notably, the phrase 'Nagorno-Karabakh conflict' is no longer included in statements, reflecting the EU's acceptance of the post-war geopolitical landscape and its implications. The Minsk Group, a vestige of the past, is now considered redundant.

Furthermore, the EU recognizes President Ilham Aliyev's regional leadership and values close contact with the Azerbaijani President as a crucial factor in securing peace and stability in the South Caucasus. This includes elevating Azerbaijan-EU relations, enhancing Azerbaijan's role in EU energy security, establishing a framework for normalizing Azerbaijan-Armenia relations, implementing a peace agreement, and addressing border delimitation, communications, and other matters.

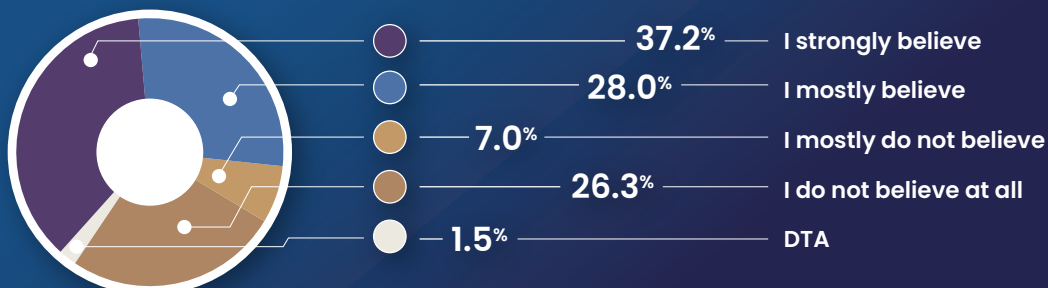
Taking these factors into account, respondents were asked about the likelihood of a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia. According to the survey, 37.2% of respondents strongly believe a peace treaty will be signed and diplomatic relations established in the near future, while 28.0% mostly believe this outcome is likely. Conversely, 26.3% of respondents do not believe a peace treaty or diplomatic relations will be established between the two countries.

❖ The analysis of the survey results reveals the following picture: In the general sample, those representing the older age group believe that a peace treaty will be signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia and diplomatic relations will





To what extent do you believe that a peace treaty will be signed and diplomatic relations will be established between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the near future?



be established in the near future.

❖ There is no significant difference in the answer to this question according to the place of residence of the respondents (city, town and village).

❖ Those with complete secondary education, those with technical or vocational education, those working in the public and private sector, representing the relatively low income group, respondents from Gazakh-Tovuz economic district preferred this answer option more.

❖ The lowest indicator was registered in Guba-Khachmaz economic region.

❖ In the general sample that a peace treaty will be signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the near future, those who represent the lower age group, those who live in the city, those with general secondary education, those with complete secondary education, unemployed and currently looking for work and housewives, those representing the low income group, Mil-Respondents from Mugan, Nagorno-Shirvan and Guba-Khachmaz economic regions do not believe at all.

### 3.2. Attitude towards the countries/ organizations mediating the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia

In the post-conflict period, efforts to create an environment of stability, cooperation, and security in the South Caucasus have included normalizing relations between Armenia and Azer-

baijan. This process encompasses the opening of communications, border delimitation, building mutual trust, demining liberated territories, and initiating steps toward a peace agreement. Numerous countries and international organizations have actively contributed to these efforts.

According to the survey, respondents most frequently valued Turkey's role as a key intermediary in facilitating normalization between Azerbaijan and Armenia during this period. Russia and the European Union follow in importance as intermediary entities. Only 2.5% of respondents view the OSCE Minsk Group as a viable mediator, while 4.4% support direct bilateral relations between the parties.

○ Among respondents who preferred the 'Turkey' option, those representing the relatively older age group were more dominant. This group included individuals living in towns, those with a secondary education, pensioners, housewives, public sector employees, and those in low- to middle-income groups. Regionally, the highest support for Turkey as an intermediary was recorded in Lankaran-Astara, Mil-Mugan, and Shirvan-Salyan, with the lowest in Gazakh-Tovuz.

○ Respondents who chose the 'European Union' option were mainly from the older age group, urban residents, individuals with higher education, students, and those in higher income brackets. This option saw the highest support in the Gazakh-Tovuz and Absheron-Khizi regions, with the lowest in Karabakh and Gu-

ba-Khachmaz.

○ The 'Russia' option was favored by both younger and older age groups, rural residents, those with higher education, students, and individuals in the relatively high-income group. Gazakh-Tovuz and Lankaran-Astara recorded the highest indicators for Russia, while Karabakh had the lowest.

○ The '3+3' format option was chosen by respondents in the middle age group, rural residents, those with higher education, students, pensioners, and high-income individuals. Support for this format was most pronounced in the Lankaran-Astara and Gazakh-Tovuz regions.

○ The survey results further confirm low public trust in the OSCE Minsk Group, which failed to contribute meaningfully to the peace process during the 30-year conflict. Across all categories—regardless of age, residence, gender, occupation, education level, or region—the vast majority of respondents had a negative view of the OSCE Minsk Group, with only 2-5% in support.

○ In addition, respondents who were relatively older, had technical or vocational education or higher education, were unemployed and not currently seeking work, as well as students and higher-income individuals from the Guba-Khachmaz and Nagorno-Shirvan economic regions, noted a preference for other intermediaries.

It should be noted that 16.7% of those without education found it difficult to answer this question.

❖ Furthermore, 19.6% of those who considered the official visit of the President to the Russian Federation and the signing of the declaration of alliance "very important" chose Russia as an intermediary country or organization in the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the post-conflict period.

❖ 86.8% of those who believe that a peace treaty will be signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia and diplomatic relations will be established in the near future chose Turkey, 11.2% chose the European Union, and 16.7% chose Russia as an intermediary country and institution in the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.



Which intermediary countries and organizations do you consider useful in the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the post-conflict period?

Turkey

85.9%

European Union

8.8%

Russia

15.5%

3+3 format

4.1%

Minsk Group

2.5%

Other

4.1%

Direct relations between the parties

4.4%

DTA

1.9%

## IV SECTION.

# ATTITUDE TO THE ACTIVITY OF THE PRESIDENT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS

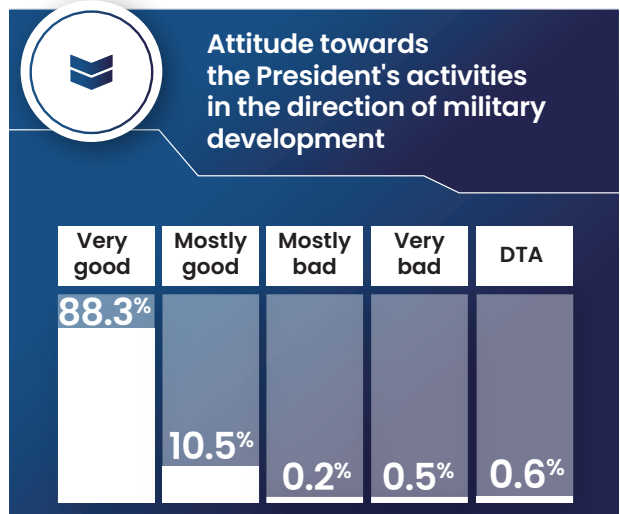
## 4.1. Attitude to the President's activities in the fields of military construction, foreign policy, civil security of the population, social protection, and personnel reforms

Public attitudes towards the President's activities in various areas for the first four months of the current year were studied. At the same time, the activities of relevant state bodies in these areas were evaluated in the opinion of citizens.

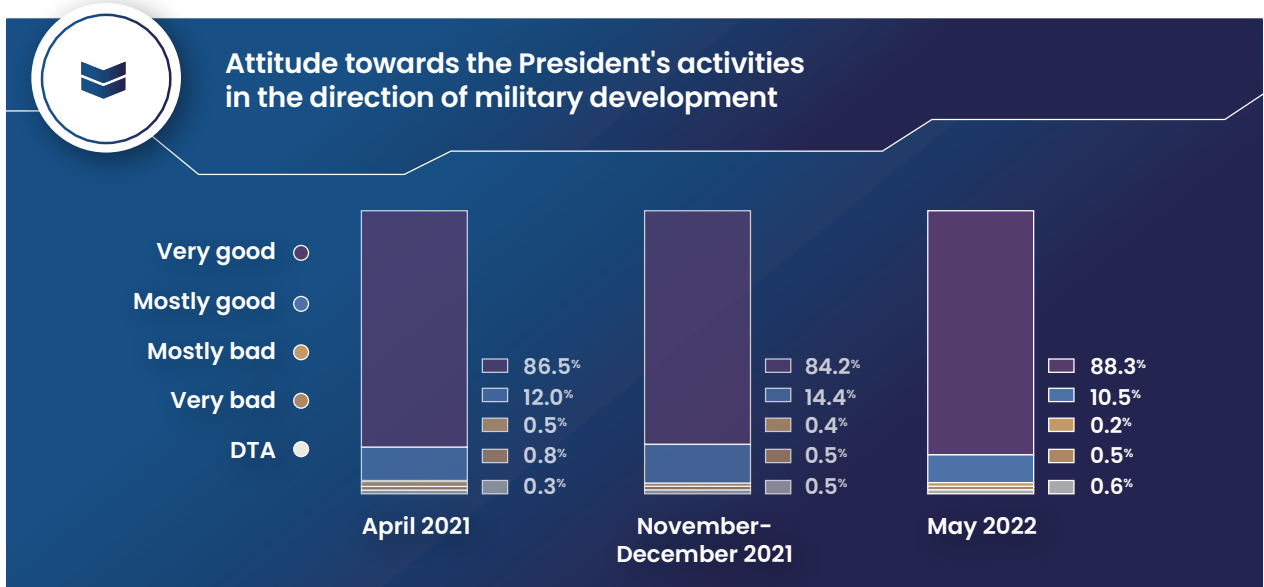
The activities of the head of state in all areas were positively assessed in the opinion of citizens, with the first places being occupied by 1) military construction, 2) foreign policy, 3) activities aimed at raising patriotic, healthy and intellectual youth in the post-war period. Based on the analysis of the survey results, we present a brief overview of some areas of activity that are of particular relevance for the current period.

### Military development

The President's military construction activities were highly rated by respondents in the areas covered by the survey. Under the instruc-



tions and direct supervision of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, military construction processes continued during the post-war period. In the first four months of the current year, numerous new military units and infrastructure facilities were put into operation in the territories liberated from occupation. Additionally, more than 20 training and exercise events were conducted by the armed forces. Consistent attention has been given to ensuring the readiness of units deployed in these liberated territories



and enhancing their combat capabilities.

An analysis of the survey results confirmed a positive public opinion in this area. The President's military construction activities were rated "very good" by 88.3% of respondents and "mostly good" by 10.5%. In contrast, only 0.7% of participants expressed a negative opinion, while 0.6% reported difficulty in expressing an opinion.

❖ A positive correlation was observed between public attitudes toward the President's military construction activities and satisfaction with care and support initiatives for the families of martyrs and war participants.

❖ The overwhelming majority of respondents (93.4%) who rated the President's military construction activities as "very good" also deemed the activities of the relevant state body in this field to be highly effective.

❖ Regional analysis revealed that all respondents in the Karabakh, Gazakh-Tovuz, Sheki-Zagatala, Daglyuk Shirvan, and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions evaluated the President's military construction efforts positively (either "very good" or "mostly good").

❖ Positive attitudes toward military construction activities were consistent across different age groups, education levels, and income brackets.

❖ As a result of targeted actions by relevant agencies, only 17.2% of survey participants expressed expectations for further improvements in army development.

## Foreign policy

In the post-conflict period, Azerbaijan, which transferred its victory in the Patriotic War to the level of diplomacy and foreign policy, took new initiatives into account the emergence of a new geopolitical configuration in the regional and international arena and tried to implement a more restrained and balanced policy.

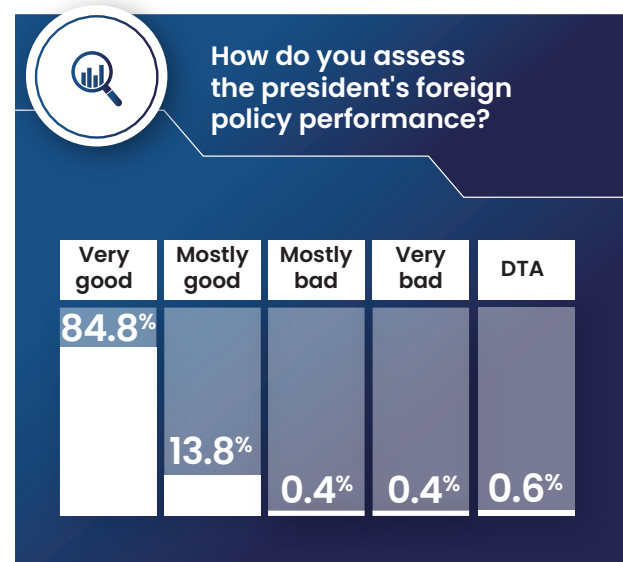
During the reporting period, Azerbaijan's choice of a position equidistant from various centers of power, its adherence to the principles of equal rights, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs in bilateral relations, and the fact that bilateral cooperation in no case targets a third party were among the main factors that conditioned the formation of a loyal attitude towards our state and its leader in

the international community.

❖ President Ilham Aliyev's regional foreign policy is aimed more at forming an environment of peace, cooperation and security in the South Caucasus region. This goal is undoubtedly realized due to a sharp increase in the flexibility coefficient of foreign policy activity.

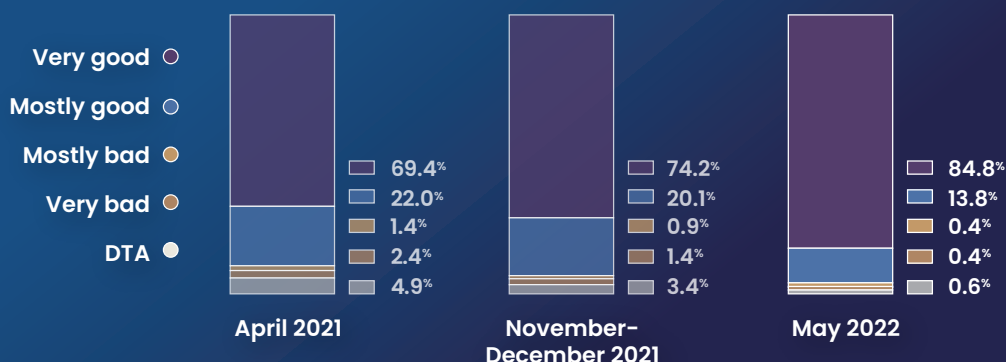
❖ In general, the head of state's foreign policy activity during the reporting period was multifaceted and aimed at strengthening Azerbaijan's place in the system of international relations and clearly defining priorities in the post-war period. The analysis of the survey results once again confirms that the majority of respondents follow and highly evaluate the President's activities in the field of foreign policy. Thus, 84.8% of those surveyed assessed the President's activities in the field of foreign policy as "very good", and 13.8% as "mostly good".

❖ In general, the President's foreign policy was highly evaluated by respondents, regardless of their age group, place of residence, gender, education and income level. Thus, according to the analysis of the results, respondents representing the middle and older age groups evaluated the President's foreign policy more highly than the younger age group.





### How do you assess the president's foreign policy performance?



❖ As for economic regions, the highest indicator was observed in Baku, Gazakh-Tovuz, Lankaran-Astara and Karabakh economic regions, and relatively low indicators were observed in the Nagorno-Shirvan, Guba-Khachmaz and Mil-Mugan economic regions.

A comparative analysis of the results of the current survey and surveys conducted in April and December 2021 shows that the President's foreign policy activities are overwhelmingly supported by citizens. Thus, while in April 2021 the President's foreign policy activities were "good" to varying degrees (69.4% "very good", 22.0% "mostly good"), in December 2021 these indicators were 74.2% "very good", 20.1% "mostly good". As can be seen, there is an increase in this direction

### President's trips to foreign countries

The overall picture of the President's visits to foreign countries during the current period demonstrates that Azerbaijan has successfully continued its multilateral foreign policy course in the post-conflict era. Azerbaijan, as a strong and independent actor in regional politics and the economic hub of the region, has sought to build its relations with international organizations (UN, Non-Aligned Movement, European Union, OIC, etc.), as well as partner and neighboring countries, across various cooperation platforms while considering the challenges and realities of the new era. In particular, as the chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Presi-

dent emphasized the importance of maintaining good relations with all nations, regardless of their economic power or population size. He took the initiative on behalf of NAM in addressing numerous global issues, proposed measures to strengthen the institutional foundations of the movement (such as establishing the Parliamentary Network and New York office), and promoted solidarity not only among states but also among peoples, demonstrating that Azerbaijan's diplomacy has reached a qualitatively new, global scale in the post-conflict period. As a result of its successful leadership, Azerbaijan's chairmanship term was extended by the NAM member states. The President's firm stance on safeguarding national interests at bilateral and multilateral platforms, his active efforts toward achieving lasting peace in the region, and his well-thought-out foreign policy, which has positioned Azerbaijan as a sovereign regional actor, have been positively received by public opinion. Thus, in the current survey, respondents were asked to evaluate the significance of the President's key diplomatic engagements, including his meeting with the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, during his working visit to Brussels (April 6, 2022), his working visit to Turkey and meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (March 10, 2022), his official visit to the Russian Federation and the signing of the declaration of alliance (February 21, 2022), and his working visit to Ukraine and the signing of joint documents (January 14, 2022).

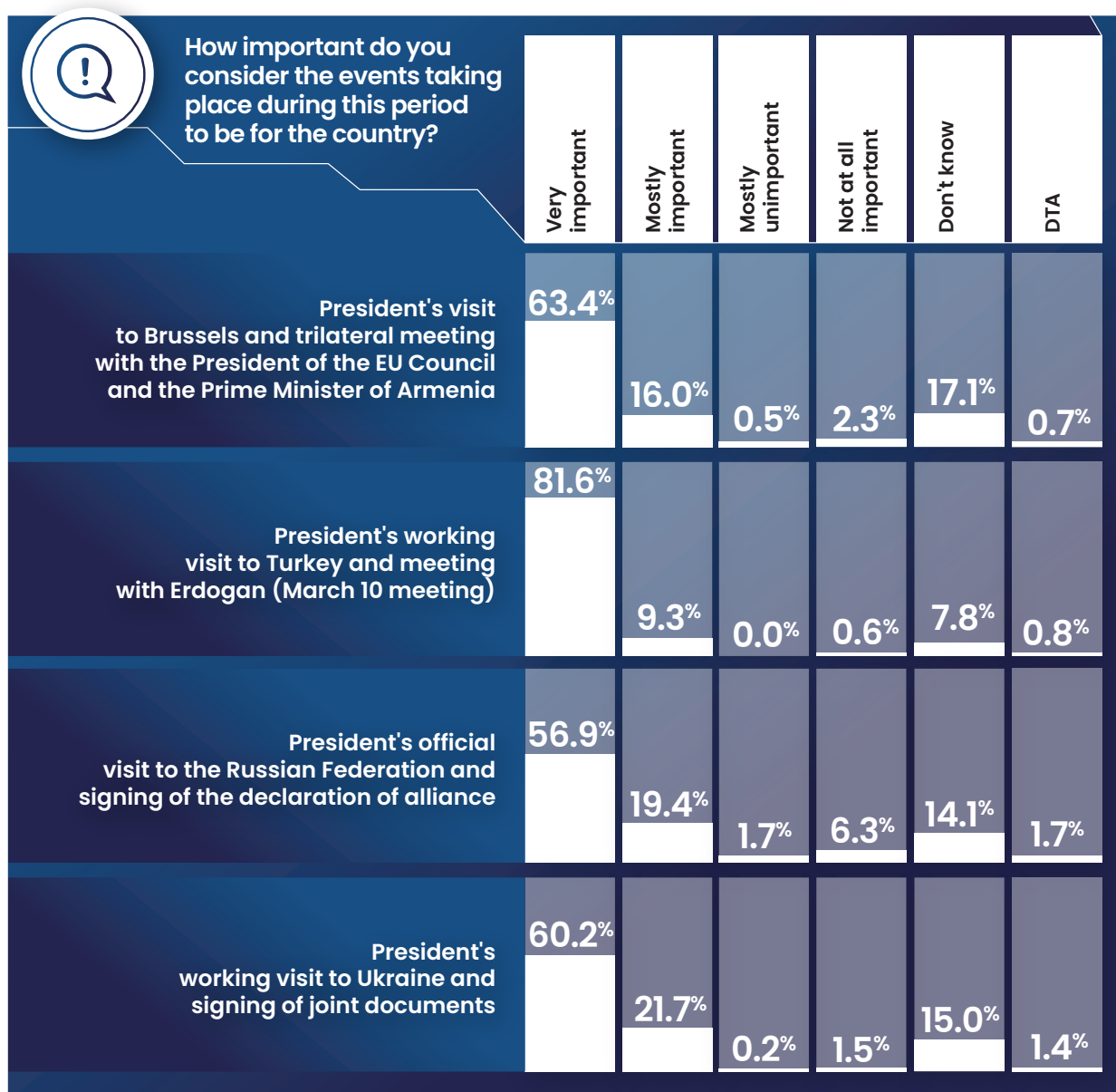


The assessment of public opinion on the President's visits to foreign countries during the reporting period indicates that respondents were most aware of the President's visit to Turkey on March 10, 2022, and his meeting with President Erdoğan, which was also rated as the most significant. This can be attributed to the strong and close relations between the two brotherly nations during and after the war. On the other hand, the lowest awareness level was recorded for the President's visit to Brussels on April 6, 2022, and the trilateral meeting with the President of the European Council and the Prime Minister of Armenia, with 17.1% of respondents reporting they had no information about this visit. A more detailed analysis of the survey results reveals that the older segment of the popula-

tion follows the President's foreign policy more closely than the younger generation.

Among the younger generation, 51.6% of respondents rated the President's visit to Brussels and the trilateral meeting as "very important," 22.6% as "mostly important," while 21.5% reported having no information about the visit. In contrast, 71.3% of respondents aged 66 and over rated the visit as "very important," and 11.9% as "mostly important," with 13.9% choosing the "I don't know" option.

Respondents who considered the visit unimportant were most commonly found in the 36–45 age group, where 8.0% held this view. Similarly, 7.6% of respondents living in the Absheron-Khizi economic region shared the same opinion.



In addition, compared to those living in settlements, individuals residing in urban and rural areas, those with higher education, men more than women, those working in the public sector, retirees, the employed segment of the population, members of the high-income group, and residents of the Gazakh-Tovuz and Karabakh economic regions were more likely to consider this visit “very important.”

Interestingly, compared to other territorial units, individuals living in cities, students, housewives, those who are unemployed and not actively seeking work, and residents of the Ganja-Dashkasan economic region showed lower awareness of this visit.

It is also worth noting that 87% of those who consider the President’s visit to Brussels and the trilateral meeting with the President of the EU Council and the Prime Minister of Armenia “very important” identify Turkey, 11% the European Union, and 17.8% Russia as intermediary countries or organizations in the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

### **The President's official visit to Turkey and meeting with R.T. Erdogan**

The planned meeting on March 10 was deemed “very important” by 68.8% of respondents from the younger age group, while 20.4% considered it “mostly important.” The “very important” response was more frequently chosen by the older generation, individuals living in cities and towns rather than rural areas, those with higher education compared to those with general secondary education, and respondents from the Baku and Gazakh-Tovuz economic regions. Conversely, representatives of the middle generation, residents of villages, those with technical or vocational education, individuals who are unemployed and not actively seeking work, housewives, members of the low-income group, and respondents from the Guba-Khachmaz and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions were less informed about this planned trip.

While 46.2% of respondents from the younger age group considered the President’s official visit to the Russian Federation and the signing of the declaration of alliance as “very important” (with 29.0% considering it “mostly important”), 65.3% of those in the older age group expressed the same view.

❖ Additionally, respondents living in settlements regarded this visit as more important compared to those living in urban and rural areas. This sentiment was also more prevalent among individuals with higher education, men compared to women, retirees compared to students and housewives, and respondents from the Lankaran-Astara, Mil-Mugan, and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions.

❖ Conversely, 8.6% of young people and 11.1% of respondents living in cities believed this visit held no significance. Furthermore, 12.9% of young people and 15.2% of those residing in villages reported having no information about the visit.

❖ It is noteworthy that 62.6% of respondents who rated the President’s foreign policy activities as “very good” also considered the official visit to the Russian Federation and the signing of the declaration of alliance as “very important.”

❖ The President’s official visit to Ukraine and the signing of joint documents were deemed “very important” by respondents from the older age group, as well as those living in urban areas compared to those in settlements and rural areas. This view was also more common among individuals with higher education, men compared to women, housewives, the unemployed who are not actively seeking work, those employed in the private sector compared to retirees, and respondents from the Gazakh-Tovuz, Karabakh, and Baku economic regions.

❖ In contrast, 20.4% of respondents aged 36–45, 26.9% of housewives, 26.7% of the unemployed who are not actively seeking work, 18.3% of respondents from the low-income group, and individuals from the Lankaran-Astara, Sheki-Zagatala, and Daglyuk Shirvan economic regions reported having no information about this visit.

❖ Moreover, 64.2% of respondents who rated the President’s foreign policy activities as “very good” considered the working visit to Ukraine and the signing of joint documents as “very important.”

### **Possible impacts of the geopolitical situation resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war on our country**

Over the past two years, the global political and economic agenda has been largely domi-

nated by the fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which has overshadowed smaller, localized conflicts. However, the Russia-Ukraine war that began in February 2022 has drawn numerous stakeholders into direct or indirect conflict and raised a variety of complex issues. While political experts speculate about the potential reshaping of the global order as a result of this ongoing war, its eventual consequences are expected to have significant political and economic impacts on most countries. In this context, the current survey explored the potential effects of the geopolitical situation arising from the Russia-Ukraine war on Azerbaijan. An analysis of the survey results reveals diverse opinions among respondents. Respondents with a positive outlook believe the geopolitical changes resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war will enhance Azerbaijan's role in Europe's energy security and increase the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor (37.7%). They also foresee expanded transit opportunities for Azerbaijan between East and West, as well as greater significance for Eastern Zangezur (Zangezur-Iran-Nakhchivan) and the Zangezur corridor (38.7%). Additionally, 22.5% of respondents believe the situation could position Azerbaijan as a mediator in Russia's political and economic relations with the West, while 25.5% think the unstable international order could provide Azerbaijan with new advantages over Armenia.

On the other hand, some respondents expressed concerns about potential risks. Specifically, 29.5% believe the geopolitical situation could threaten Azerbaijan's food security, 25.8% fear it might lead to an influx of internally displaced persons into Azerbaijan, and 10.4% are concerned about increased Russian influence over post-Soviet countries.

Furthermore, 23.7% of respondents think Azerbaijan will face challenges in maintaining neutral relations with both sides of the conflict, while 5.6% had difficulty providing an opinion on the matter.

❖ The response option "Azerbaijan's role in Europe's energy security will increase; the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor will increase" was favored more by respondents from the older age group, those residing in urban and rural areas, individuals with higher education, retirees, high-income earners, and respondents

from the Nagorno-Shirvan and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions. Conversely, the lowest levels of agreement were observed among respondents from the Karabakh, Guba-Khachmaz, and Absheron-Khizi economic regions.

❖ The answer "It will further expand Azerbaijan's transit opportunities between East and West, as well as the role of East Zangezur (Zangezur-Iran-Nakhchivan) and the Zangezur corridor" was selected more frequently by older respondents, urban residents, private sector employees, retirees, high-income earners, and individuals from the Lankaran-Astara and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions compared to younger respondents. The lowest indicator for this response was recorded in the Gazakh-Tovuz economic region.

❖ The response "will create opportunities for Azerbaijan to mediate in Russia's political and economic relations with the West" was preferred by older respondents, rural residents, individuals with technical or vocational education, public sector employees, pensioners, and respondents from the Shirvan-Salyan, Lankaran-Astara, and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions. The lowest indicators were observed in the Ganja-Dashkan and Gazakh-Tovuz regions. No significant differences were noted regarding gender or income levels.

❖ The answer "an unstable international order will give Azerbaijan new advantages over Armenia" was selected more frequently by older respondents, rural residents, individuals with technical or vocational education, pensioners, and respondents from the Shirvan-Salyan and Lankaran-Astara economic regions. Conversely, lower levels of agreement were recorded in the Gazakh-Tovuz and Absheron-Khizi regions. Income level did not significantly impact responses.

❖ For the statement "will create threats to Azerbaijan's food security," no significant age-related differences were observed. However, rural residents, unemployed individuals actively seeking work, pensioners, housewives, low-income earners, and respondents from the Guba-Khachmaz, Lankaran-Astara, and Shirvan-Salyan regions expressed more agreement. The lowest levels of agreement were observed in the Absheron-Khizi, Central Plain, and Baku economic regions.

❖ Respondents agreeing that "it will cause



### How do you predict the possible consequences of the geopolitical situation resulting from the Russian-Ukrainian war for Azerbaijan?



a reasoning for the arrival of internally displaced persons to Azerbaijan" included older individuals, those living in settlement territorial units compared to urban areas, pensioners, high-income earners, and respondents from the Lankaran-Astara and Gazakh-Tovuz regions. Lower levels of agreement were recorded in the Absheron-Khizi and Karabakh economic regions.

❖ The response "will increase Russia's influence on post-Soviet countries" was selected

more by younger and older age groups, rural residents, individuals with higher education, students, pensioners, high-income earners, and respondents from the Mil-Mugan and Lankaran-Astara regions. Gender did not significantly affect responses.

❖ The statement "will reduce Russia's influence on post-Soviet countries" was more commonly agreed upon by older respondents, urban residents, individuals with higher edu-



cation, public and private sector employees, high-income earners, and respondents from the Sheki-Zagatala and Shirvan-Salyan regions. The lowest level of agreement was recorded in the Karabakh region.

❖ The response “Azerbaijan will have difficulty maintaining neutral relations with both sides” was chosen more frequently by younger respondents, students, high-income earners, and individuals from the Gazakh-Tovuz and Shirvan-Salyan regions. The lowest levels of agreement were recorded in the Ganja-Dashkan region. There were no significant differences based on residence or education levels.

❖ Finally, 16.7% of respondents with primary education, 13.3% of those unemployed and not seeking work, 9.7% of housewives, 9.2% of low-income earners, and respondents from the Ganja-Dashkan and Karabakh regions had difficulty answering this question.

### Youth policy

After Azerbaijan gained independence, one of the main drivers of its development was the enhancement of human capital. In particular, the youth policy pursued by the President was based on three core expectations: Azerbaijani youth should be physically healthy, embody patriotism and loyalty to national and spiritual values, and excel in acquiring knowledge. The 44-day Patriotic War demonstrated the effectiveness of these expectations. Azerbaijani youth showcased exceptional patriotism and

self-sacrifice, uniting around a singular goal and Leader—the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan—irrespective of their social, ethnic, or religious affiliations.

❖ Analysis of survey results further underscores the public’s positive attitude toward the President’s efforts to foster patriotic, healthy, and intellectual youth in the post-war period. Specifically, 83.1% of respondents rated these activities as “very good,” while 14.5% rated them as “mostly good.”

Respondents from the middle age group, individuals with higher education, public sector employees, and residents of the Gazakh-Tovuz, Karabakh, and Central Aran economic regions predominantly selected the “very good” option. No significant differences were observed based on place of residence or income level.

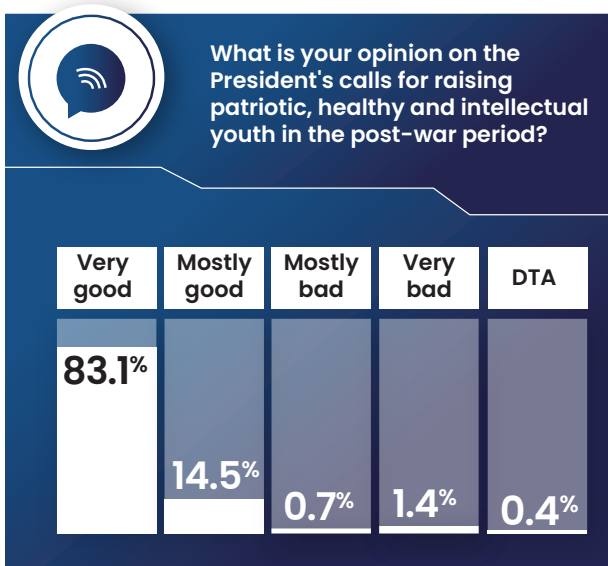
❖ This option was chosen by 23.7% of young people, 26.7% of those who are unemployed and not currently looking for work, 22.4% of housewives, and 22.9% and 22.7% of respondents from the Ganja-Dashkan and Guba-Khachmaz economic regions, respectively.

A small percentage, including 3.0% of housewives, 3.1% of individuals from low-income groups, and 3.0% of respondents from the Baku economic region, selected the “very bad” option.

❖ In his address at the Youth Forum on the 25th anniversary of Azerbaijan Youth Day (February 2, 2023), President Ilham Aliyev emphasized new calls for youth. This reflects a new stage in the country’s youth policy, driven by the demands and opportunities of the post-war period.

The geopolitical and geoeconomic realities following the 44-day Patriotic War, along with Azerbaijan’s developmental prospects and external challenges, necessitate further refinements in state policy. These include aligning the upbringing of the next generation with national interests, strengthening youth resilience to destructive influences, and ensuring their active participation in the reconstruction of Karabakh and East Zangezur. Azerbaijani youth have already proven their patriotism, not only by liberating the Motherland but also by contributing significantly to the restoration and development of these territories.

A key focus of the President’s youth policy is fostering intellectual growth and expanding





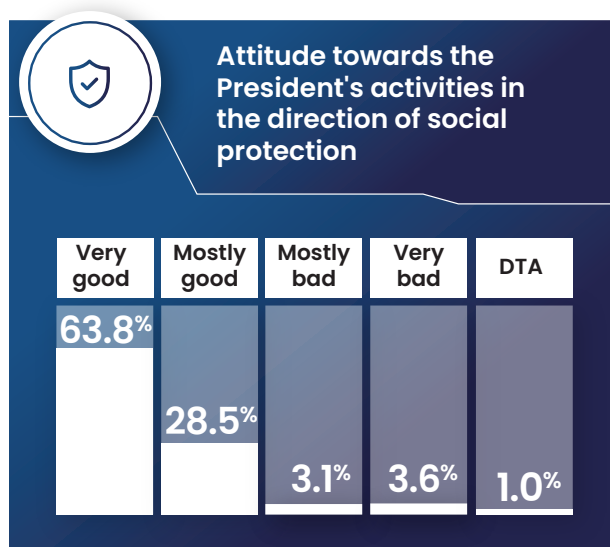
opportunities for young people. The tradition of studying abroad, initiated by National Leader Heydar Aliyev, has been successfully continued under President Ilham Aliyev.

This approach, tied to the strategy of transforming "black gold" into human capital, has increased the accessibility of education and supported young people in pursuing advanced studies abroad. Over the past 19 years, various state programs have been implemented to enable youth to acquire education in fields critical for the country's development.

The State Program for 2022–2026, approved on February 22, 2022, furthers the tradition of facilitating youth education abroad. It focuses on equipping students with skills and knowledge aligned with national needs. Additionally, steps are being taken to integrate graduates of foreign universities into Azerbaijan's labor market and facilitate connections between employers and job seekers.

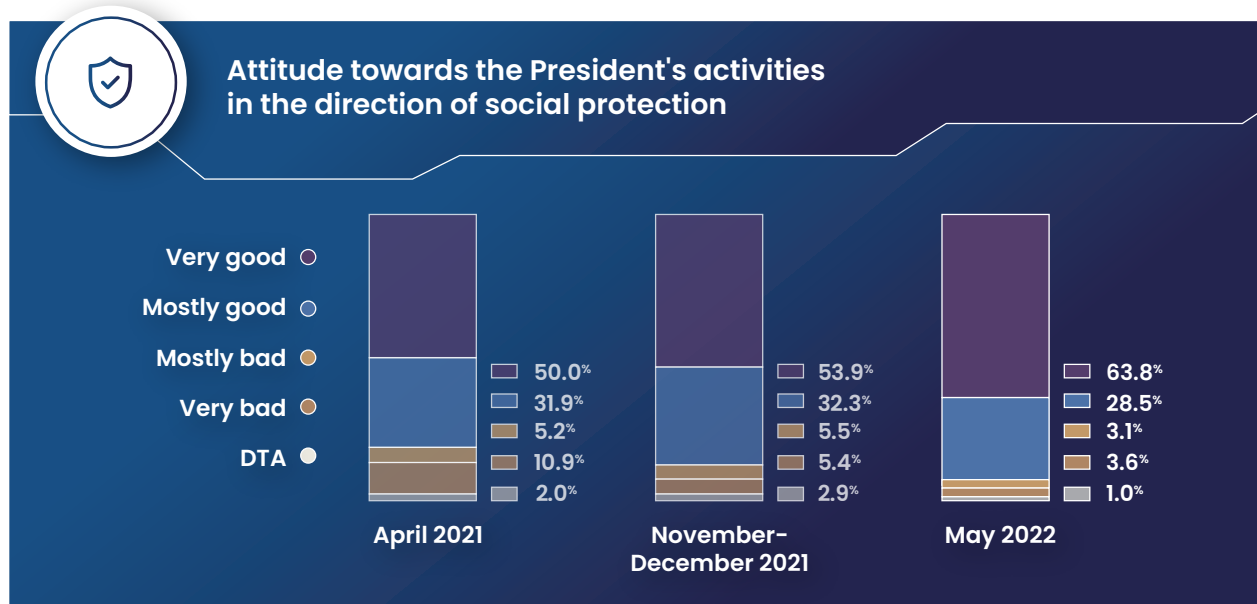
### Social protection

As in previous periods, social protection remains a key priority of the general state policy at this stage. Based on documents signed by the head of state, social reforms have been implemented since the beginning of this year as part of the latest reform package, which includes increases in wages, pensions, and other social payments. This package of social reforms has benefited 3.4 million people. Within this framework, the minimum monthly wage saw an



average increase of 20 percent, including the wages of individuals whose salaries are determined according to the Unified Tariff Schedule (VTC), as well as teachers, employees of military structures, and law enforcement agencies. According to official data on measures to improve social welfare, more than 25,000 unemployed individuals and job seekers were provided with active employment measures during the first four months of this year, and 4,100 people participated in the self-employment program.

The special significance of the social protection policy, particularly in the context of the current global socio-economic situation and pandemic conditions, is noteworthy. According to the International Labor Organization, in a global context where over 4 billion people lack social protection, the comprehensiveness



of the country's social protection system and its increasing accessibility to services remain central to state policy during the pandemic and post-war conditions. The International Labor Organization's "World Social Protection Report 2020-22" highlights that, in 2021 and 2022, a total of 6.6 billion people, or 85% of the global population, lived under austerity conditions in 154 and 159 countries, respectively. Survey results indicate that the President's activities in the field of social protection were rated "very good" by 63.8% of respondents and "mainly good" by 28.5%. Only 3.1% of respondents considered them "mainly bad," and 3.6% rated them "very bad." Those who had difficulty expressing an opinion made up 1.0%.

Respondents, regardless of their income levels or changes in income over the year, positively assessed the President's activities in social protection. A relative decrease was noted in the positive perceptions of respondents in the upper age groups compared to the lower age groups. By economic regions, social protection activities received the most favorable assessments in the Gazakh-Tovuz, Karabakh, and Sheki-Zagatala regions, while receiving relatively less positive feedback in the Guba-Khachmaz, Shirvan-Salyan, and Absheron-Khizi regions.

Social protection measures have gained particular importance during different periods, especially in pandemic and post-war conditions. For comparison, in surveys conducted in April 2021, 50.0% and 31.9% of respondents rated the President's performance in social protection

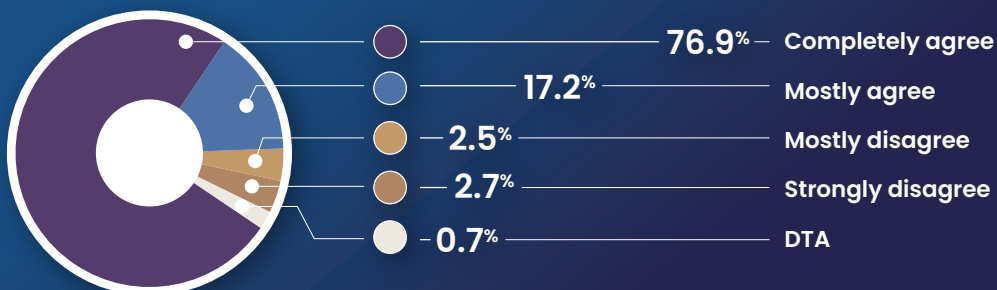
as "very good" and "mostly good," respectively. In surveys conducted in November-December of that year, these figures rose to 53.9% and 32.3%. In the current survey, the ratings stand at 63.8% and 28.5%, respectively.

### The President's care and support activities for the families of martyrs and veterans

In the post-war period, improving the well-being of war participants, veterans, and the families of martyrs, as well as addressing their social and household needs, became central priorities of the state's social protection policy. Under the directives of the head of state, a special approach was implemented for those who lost their ability to work during the war, families of martyrs, and other vulnerable groups. According to official data, in the post-war period, 3,200 families of martyrs and war-disabled individuals, and over 12,500 such families in total, were provided with apartments and individual houses. Additionally, 7,400 war-disabled individuals were provided with cars. Furthermore, 16,000 social payments, including the Presidential pension, social allowances, and pensions, were allocated to 8,000 family members of martyrs from the Patriotic War. In the first quarter of the current year, nearly 7,000 people—2.1 times more than in the corresponding period of the previous year—received disability and social payments. Additionally, 3,000 individuals with disabilities were provided with 13,100 pieces



#### How satisfied are you with the President's care and support activities for the families of martyrs and war veterans?



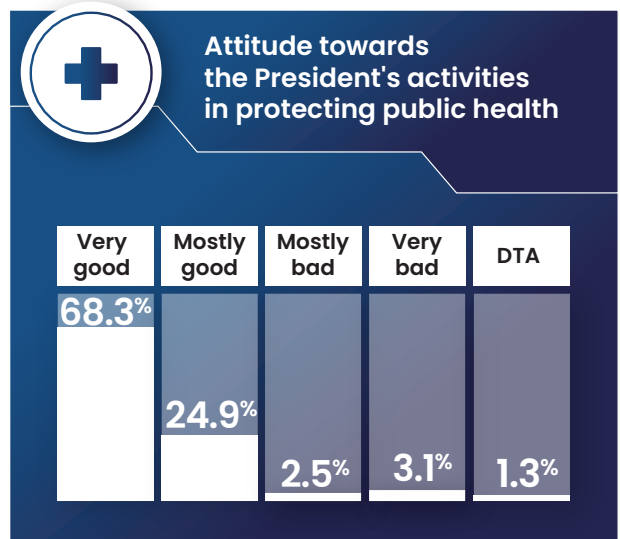
of rehabilitation equipment, and over 6,900 individuals with disabilities benefited from social services.

Unified coordination centers established by a presidential decree offered social services to 26,000 individuals, including members of martyr families, injured military personnel, and persons with disabilities. Approximately 2,000 individuals also found employment through the "Employment Marathon."

Public perception of the President's care and support initiatives for martyr families and war participants was evaluated through an opinion poll. The results revealed a high level of approval consistent with trends observed in previous periods. Of the citizens surveyed, 76.9% expressed complete satisfaction with the head of state's activities on social protection, while 17.2% were mostly satisfied. Only 2.5% of respondents selected "mostly disagree," and 2.7% chose "not at all agree." Meanwhile, 0.7% had difficulty expressing an opinion.

The vast majority of respondents who rated the President's social protection activities as "very good" also indicated complete satisfaction with the care and support provided to martyr families and war participants. Public sentiment towards these activities was more positive in the Nagorno-Shirvan, Karabakh, and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions, while being relatively less positive in the Guba-Khachmaz, Baku, and Absheron-Khizir regions. Respondents who experienced a decrease in income during the current year and those residing in urban areas, as opposed to villages or settlements, were slightly less positive in their evaluations. Of the respondents highly satisfied with the President's care and support activities for martyr families and war participants, 52.3% rated the performance of the relevant state body on social protection as "very effective," 35.7% as "partially effective," and 9.9% as "ineffective." A small percentage (2.1%) found it difficult to express their position.

A key observation from the feedback on the activities of relevant state bodies, as well as the public's sensitive attitude towards war participants, is that 54.2% of survey participants highlighted the need for further improvement in the living and material conditions of martyr families and war participants as one of their main expectations from the President.



### Protecting the health of the population

The public attitude toward the measures initiated by the head of state to safeguard public health during the ongoing pandemic and special quarantine regime was analyzed. Despite record infection statistics this year, preventive measures ensured that the pandemic situation in the country remained under control, with the current circumstances evaluated positively. As part of these efforts, over 13 million vaccine doses were administered in Azerbaijan, which was among the early adopters of the vaccination process.

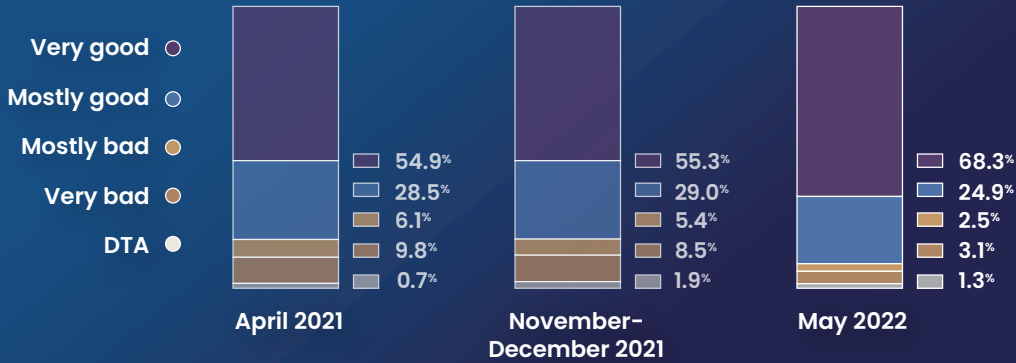
Azerbaijan is nearing the critical vaccination targets set by the World Health Organization (WHO). However, vaccine nationalism has left 80% of the population in African nations and some other countries without even a first dose. Notably, the President of Azerbaijan was the first leader to advocate against vaccine nationalism on an international stage.

Additionally, significant progress has been made in establishing a digital and electronic healthcare system, broadening the range of medical services, and improving their quality. Measures to enhance the social welfare of medical workers have included awarding honorary titles to individuals recognized for their outstanding contributions to healthcare.

Based on survey results, the President's health protection initiatives received widespread public approval. Among respondents, 68.3% rated the activities as "very good," and 24.9% as "mostly good." Conversely, 5.6% held a negative view,



### Attitude towards the President's activities in protecting public health



and 1.3% found it difficult to form an opinion.

Of those who rated the President's health initiatives as "very good," 58.8% assessed the quality of healthcare services provided by relevant state bodies as "very effective," 31.6% as "partially effective," and 8.1% as "ineffective." The remaining 1.5% were unsure. Among the main expectations from the President, 18.0% of respondents highlighted the need to improve the quality of healthcare services. Additionally, 17.4% identified healthcare as a critical issue for the country.

A positive correlation was observed between public attitudes toward the President's health initiatives and attitudes toward social protection and support for war participants and martyrs' families. Over time, public evaluations of health protection measures have become more favorable. During surveys conducted in April of the previous year, 54.9% and 28.5% of respondents rated the activities as "very good" and "mainly good," respectively. These figures rose to 55.3% and 29.0% in November-December. In the current survey, the ratings further improved to 68.3% and 24.9%.

### Personnel reforms

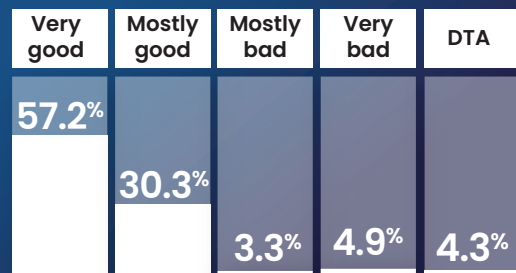
The President's new wave of reforms, initiated in 2019 and distinguished by its scale compared to previous periods, continued during the first half of this year, as in earlier years. Patriotism, national spirit, professionalism, and service to citizens have consistently been highlighted

by the President in speeches, interviews, and public addresses as the foundational principles of personnel reforms and policy. Reflecting these principles, a rejuvenation policy has been pursued in central and local government bodies over the past years, leading to the appointment of modern-minded individuals to key positions to replace outdated practices. During the first four months of the year, the President signed orders appointing 10 officials under the framework of personnel reforms. These reforms encompassed the State Oil Company, the Central Bank, various state institutions, and primarily local executive bodies.

Regarding the personnel reforms implemented by the President, 57.2% of survey participants expressed a "very good" opinion, while 30.3% regarded them as "mostly good." Con-



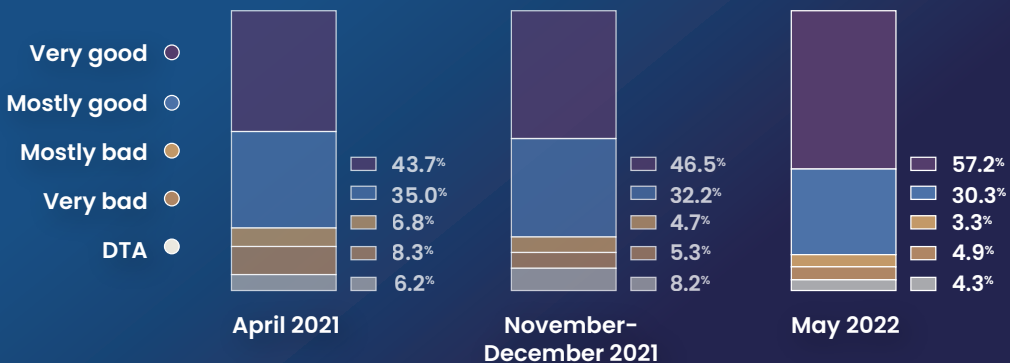
### Attitude towards the President's activities in the direction of personnel reforms







### Attitude towards the President's activities in the direction of personnel reforms



versely, 3.3% described them as "mostly bad," and 4.9% as "very bad," while 4.3% had difficulty forming an opinion.

A testament to the continuous and purposeful nature of the President's personnel reforms is the fact that only 7.4% of respondents identified personnel policy as one of the country's significant problems. Among those who positively assessed the personnel reforms (a total of 87.5%), the majority agreed that the President is well-informed about the situation on the ground. By contrast, over half of respondents who negatively assessed the reforms (a total of 8.2%) believed the President is unaware of ground realities. A majority of respondents who viewed the reforms positively also agreed with the statement that "the President of the country takes into account the opinion of citizens in his activities."

At the regional level, respondents from the Gazakh-Tovuz, Ganja-Dashkan, and Lankaran-Astara economic regions assessed the reforms more favorably, while those from Absheron-Khizi, Baku, and Guba-Khachmaz regions were relatively less positive.

By education level, 63.5% of respondents with complete secondary education, 55.3% with technical or vocational education, and 49.3% with higher education rated the reforms as "very good." Similarly, lower and middle age groups exhibited more positive attitudes toward the reforms compared to the upper age group.

Surveys conducted in earlier periods also demonstrated a high level of public support for

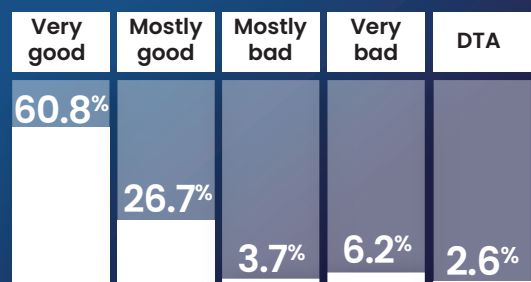
the President's personnel reforms, though the dynamics of attitudes have fluctuated alongside the implementation of these reforms. Those who rated the reforms as "very good" were 64.9% and 53.9% in surveys conducted in March and June 2020, respectively, and 43.7% and 46.5% in April and November-December 2021. In the current survey, this figure stands at 57.2%.

### Fight against corruption

Alongside personnel reforms, the fight against corruption remains a key component of state policy. This effort is grounded in appointing new personnel, ensuring state control and public oversight, and implementing institutional reforms. Emphasizing transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the operations of state



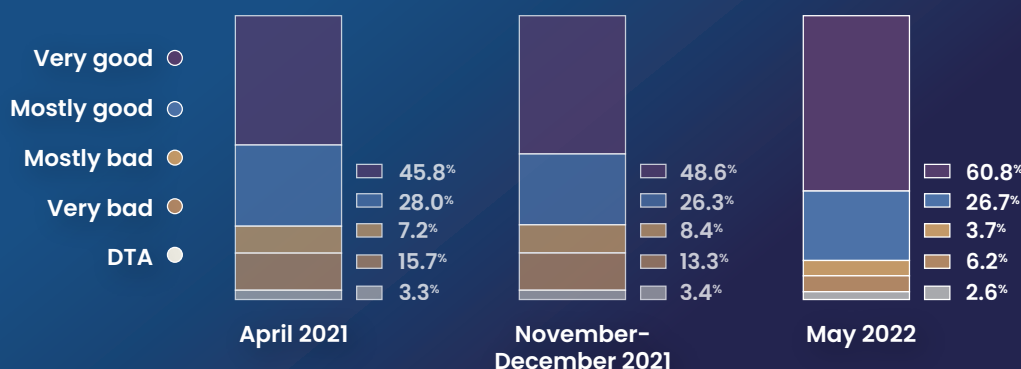
### Attitude towards the President's anti-corruption activities







## Attitude towards the President's anti-corruption activities



bodies and institutions—exemplified by the "ASAN service" model—aims to prevent corruption-related offenses.

Previous opinion polls indicate broad public support for holding officials criminally liable in the fight against corruption. The findings of the current survey reaffirm that citizens positively evaluate the President's anti-corruption policies.

The President's efforts to combat corruption were rated as "very good" by 60.8% of respondents and "mostly good" by 26.7%. Meanwhile, 3.7% assessed these efforts as "mostly bad," and 6.2% as "very bad." A further 2.6% had difficulty forming an opinion.

❖ Among those who rated the President's anti-corruption activities as "very good," 67.0% evaluated the effectiveness of relevant bodies in this domain as "very effective," 23.9% as "partially effective," and 7.6% as "ineffective." Only 1.4% were unsure. By educational background, 67.1% of respondents with complete secondary education, 59.1% with technical or vocational education, and 51.5% with higher education rated the President's anti-corruption efforts as "very good." A positive correlation was observed between respondents' views on anti-corruption initiatives and their belief that "the President of the country takes into account the opinion of citizens in his activities." Additionally, 86.6% of those who generally approved of these activities believed that the President is aware of on-the-ground realities. Corruption was identified as one of the country's major problems by 26.4% of respondents. Fur-

thermore, 60.1% of respondents expressed expectations for the President to prevent official arbitrariness, while 26.3% emphasized the need to further intensify anti-corruption efforts.

❖ The fight against corruption complements personnel reforms, oversight mechanisms, and institutional changes. Public attitudes toward this area have remained consistently high, with fluctuations reflecting the periodic measures taken. Those who rated the President's anti-corruption initiatives as "very good" were 62.5% and 56.1% in March and June 2020, respectively, and 45.8% and 48.6% in April and November-December 2021. According to the current survey, this figure stands at 60.8%.

## National Action Plan against Corruption

The "National Action Plan for Strengthening the Fight against Corruption for 2022–2026," approved by the head of state, marks a new phase in the state's anti-corruption policy. Corruption, a pervasive issue globally, poses significant threats to public order, social welfare, and the rule of law, necessitating robust preventive measures.

The National Action Plan represents a continuation of national initiatives aimed at addressing corruption through preventive measures. Its objectives include enhancing transparency in state institutions, eliminating conditions conducive to corruption, increasing accountability, improving public services, and ensuring the sustainability of anti-corruption efforts.

A public opinion survey was conducted to evaluate citizens' perspectives on the anticipated changes resulting from the implementation of this action plan. According to the survey analysis:

51.1% of respondents believe the plan will increase transparency in the fight against corruption. 40.8% expect improved quality of services provided by state institutions. 26.6% anticipate a greater role for civil society institutions in public oversight and exposing corruption. 6.2% think the action plan will have no effect, while 0.9% had difficulty expressing an opinion. Notably, 23.4% of respondents reported being unaware of the National Action Plan.

### Key Insights from the Survey

A significant majority of respondents (71.0%–75.3%) who noted the potential positive outcomes of the plan also positively assessed the President's anti-corruption activities. Similarly, 58.7%–63.9% positively evaluated the anti-corruption efforts of relevant state institutions. Among those unaware of the action plan, 24.9% reside in urban areas, 13.0% in settlements, and 62.1% in rural areas. Educational levels among uninformed respondents showed that 51.4% had general or complete secondary education, 29.6% had technical or vocational education, and 17.8% had higher education. A majority (6.2%) of respondents who believe the plan will have no impact also rated the anti-corruption activities of state institutions as ineffective. This analysis highlights the importance of broad-



#### What changes do you think the approval of the National Action Plan for 2022 on strengthening the fight against corruption will lead to in this direction?

It will increase transparency in the fight against corruption

51.1%

The quality of services provided by state bodies will increase

40.8%

The role of civil society institutions in public oversight and combating corruption will increase

26.6%

Governance mechanisms in the state and municipal sectors will be improved

21.4%

The relevant legislative framework will be improved based on progressive international experience

18.2%

It will have no impact

6.2%

I have no information

23.4%

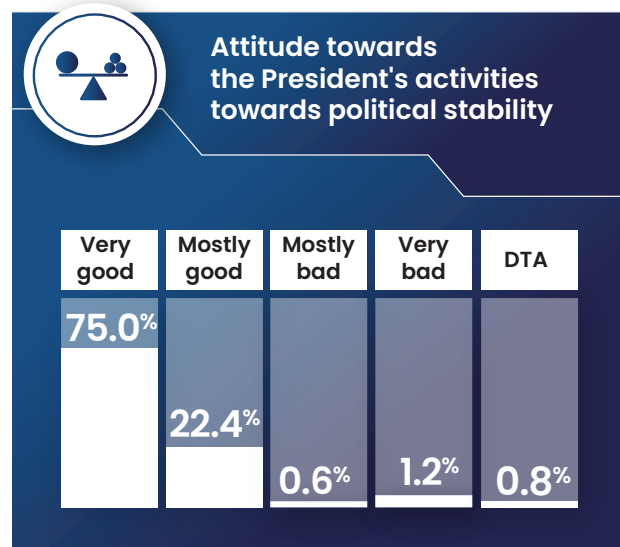
DTA 0.9%

ening public awareness of the National Action Plan, particularly in rural areas and among individuals with lower educational attainment, to ensure the plan's goals are widely supported and effectively implemented.

### Socio-political stability

Azerbaijan has successfully maintained socio-political stability amidst external influences, intervention scenarios, and disinformation propaganda, particularly in the post-war period. This stability has been affirmed by international studies and attributed to the collective will of the people and strategic state policies. Despite global instability and challenges such as the pandemic, Azerbaijan has emerged as a secure and stable nation, both domestically and in the regional geopolitical landscape.

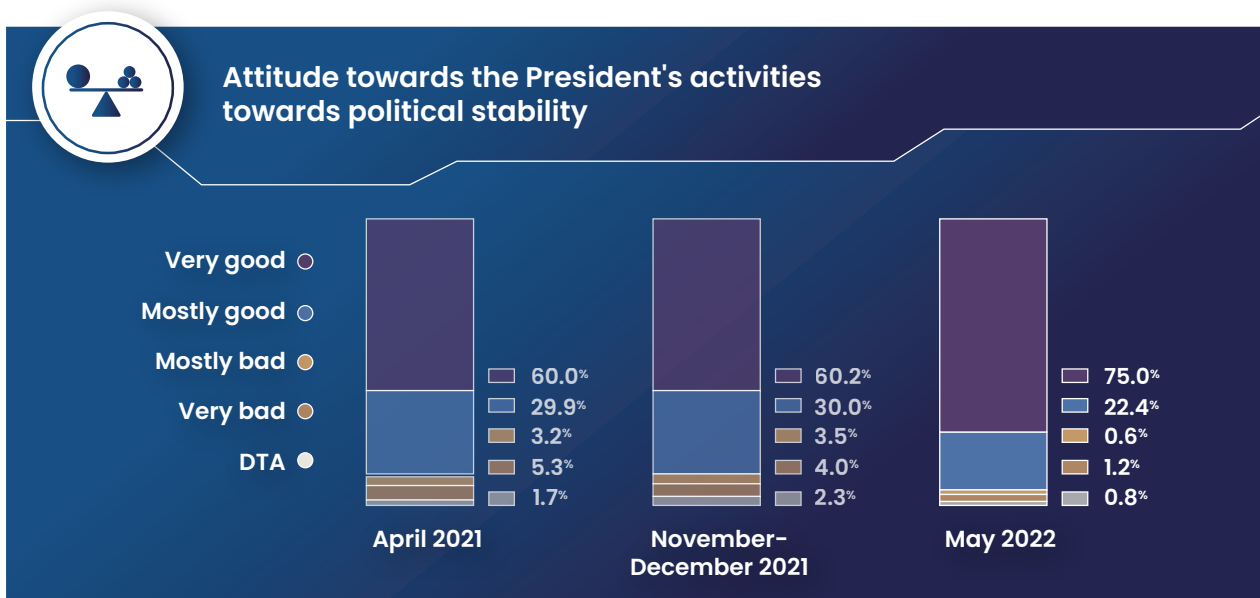
The policy pursued by the President has fostered unity and national solidarity, even during challenging times like the pandemic and the war, strengthening the relationship between the state and society in achieving national objectives. Public Opinion on Socio-Political Stability 75.0% of respondents rated the President's activities in maintaining socio-political stability as "very good." 22.4% rated these activities as "mostly good." Only 0.6% and 1.2% rated the activities as "mostly bad" and "very bad," respectively, with 0.8% unable to express an opinion. Evaluation of State Structures Among those who rated the President's efforts as "very good":



81.5% found the activities of relevant state structures in population security and social stability to be "very effective."

15.5% deemed them "partially effective," while only 2.3% found them "ineffective." Furthermore, 0.6% of the respondents had difficulty forming an opinion. Regional and Demographic Insights Respondents from the Guba-Khachmaz, Lankaran-Astara, and Karabakh economic regions unanimously assessed the President's activities in this area positively, either as "very good" or "mostly good."

❖ Positive evaluations spanned across all education levels, income brackets, and age groups, indicating widespread public approval. Comparative Trends Public attitudes towards socio-political stability have shown a steady and notable increase: 59.0% in June 2020 as-



essed the President's activities as "very good." This figure rose to 60.0% in April 2021, 60.2% in November-December 2021, and 75.0% in the current survey.

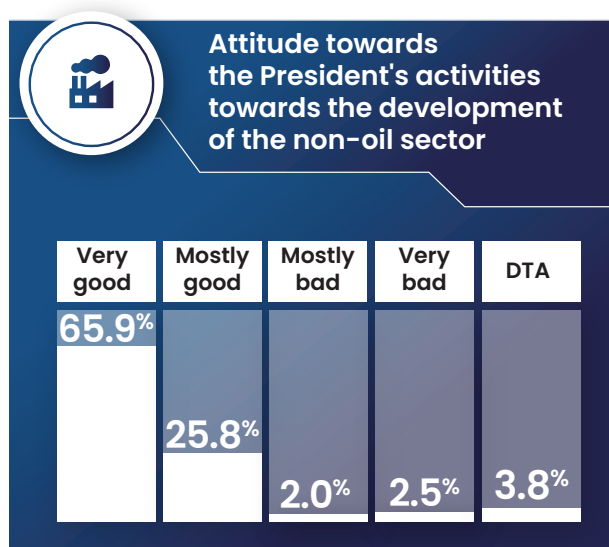
### Key Takeaways

The results demonstrate strong public confidence in the President's socio-political stability initiatives and the effective implementation of state policies.

The sustained positive evaluations reflect both the success of strategic governance and the resilience of Azerbaijani society in maintaining stability amidst regional and global challenges.

### Development of the non-oil sector

Socio-political stability has served as a cornerstone for Azerbaijan's economic growth, creating an environment conducive to implementing strategic economic reforms. Following the economic stabilization policies of 2017, Azerbaijan introduced deep reforms in 2018 and worked on a new economic development strategy in 2019. A major focus was placed on reducing reliance on oil revenues by prioritizing the development of the non-oil sector, which remains under direct presidential oversight. The "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" outlines a vision for strengthening economic sovereignty and building a socially prosperous society, emphasizing the coun-



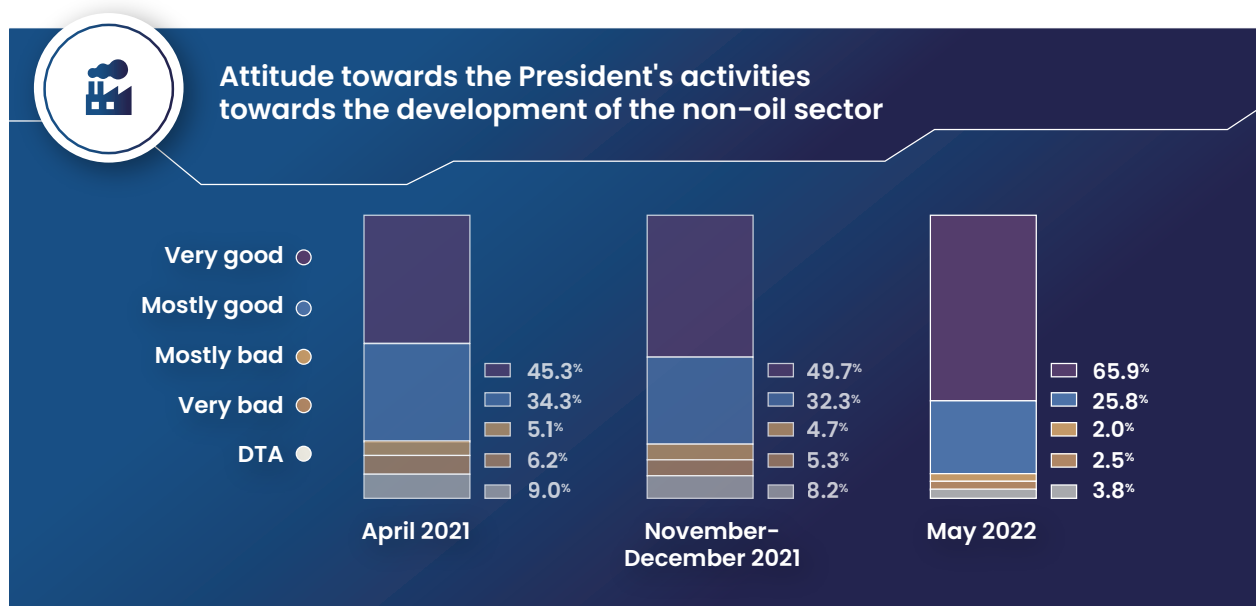
try's role in the regional economic landscape. Public Opinion on Non-Oil Sector Development 65.9% of respondents rated the President's activities in developing the non-oil sector as "very good." 25.8% rated these activities as "mostly good."

However, only 2.0% and 2.5% provided "mostly bad" and "very bad" ratings, respectively, with 3.8% expressing uncertainty.

**Evaluation of Relevant State Bodies** Among respondents who rated the President's efforts as "very good":

79.0% found the activities of state bodies in strengthening the economy and fostering non-oil sector growth to be "very effective." 16.6% deemed them "partially effective." Only 2.1% found these efforts "ineffective," while 2.3% were uncertain.

This alignment between public perceptions





of the President's leadership and the performance of state institutions underscores the coherence of state policy and its execution.

**Regional and Demographic Insights**  
Positive evaluations were consistent across all demographics, including education levels, income brackets, and age groups.

Regional variations indicated higher positive ratings from respondents in the Gazakh-Tovuz, Karabakh, and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions, while responses from Absheron-Khizi, Guba-Khachmaz, and Central Aran regions were comparatively less positive.

Public attitudes toward the development of the non-oil sector have shown a marked improvement: In April 2021, 45.3% rated the President's efforts as "very good."

❖ By November-December 2021, this figure rose to 49.7%. In the current survey, it has further increased to 65.9%.

**Renewable Energy Focus:** Respondents who praised the non-oil sector's progress also supported Azerbaijan's efforts to diversify into renewable energy, reducing dependence on hydrocarbons.

**Policy Consistency:** The alignment between positive perceptions of presidential activities and relevant state bodies highlights the effective implementation of policy goals.

**Steady Progress:** The growing approval rates reflect sustained public confidence in the President's leadership and the successful execution of non-oil sector reforms. Azerbaijan's commitment to economic diversification and reform, grounded in its stable so-

cio-political environment, continues to resonate positively with its citizens and positions the country for long-term economic resilience.

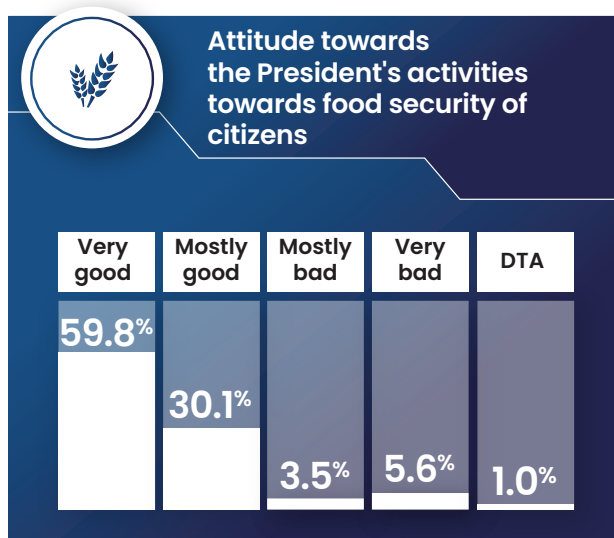
### Food safety

Over the past few years, the COVID-19 pandemic, regional developments, climate change, and the ongoing depletion of land, water, and other natural resources have posed significant threats to global food security. Naturally, food shortages have driven up food prices. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the food price index recorded in March this year was the highest since 2004.

Interventions by countries that are major import markets, aimed at ensuring price stability in their domestic markets and building food reserves, have further driven up prices for imported products in other nations. These global developments have created challenges to food security in Azerbaijan, as in many other countries. Following instructions from the head of state, a preventive action plan has been implemented, focusing on increasing local production capacity, maintaining self-sufficiency, creating new food security mechanisms, regulating import-export operations and local reserves, and preventing price manipulation.

The President's activities in the field of food security were rated as "very good" by 59.8% of respondents and "mostly good" by 30.1%. Meanwhile, 3.5% of respondents rated these efforts as "mostly bad" and 5.6% as "very bad," while 1.0% expressed difficulty in forming an opinion.

Respondents identified rising prices and the lack of regulation against artificial price hikes as more pressing issues than food shortages. Specifically, 59.0% of respondents highlighted price increases as a key problem, 46.7% pointed to the lack of control over artificial price manipulation, and only 5.1% noted insufficient food supplies. Among those who rated the President's activities as "very good," 69.7% considered the efforts of relevant bodies in ensuring food security and quality as "fully effective." Regional differences emerged, with respondents from the Gazakh-Tovuz and Central Aran economic regions giving more positive assessments of the President's food security measures, while those in Ganja-Dashkan and Guba-Khachmaz





expressed relatively less favorable views. The Russia-Ukraine war was also mentioned as a contributing factor to food security challenges, with 29.5% of respondents attributing food security issues in Azerbaijan to the war. The analysis revealed a correlation between income changes and perceptions of food security efforts. Among those who reported an income increase this year, 70.8% rated the activities in this area as "very good," compared to 47.6% of respondents whose income had decreased. These findings underline the nuanced challenges of food security in Azerbaijan, shaped by global dynamics, domestic policy measures, and socio-economic factors.

### Socio-cultural sphere

The survey results once again highlight the public's close attention to the President's policies across various areas, including the socio-cultural sphere. Notably, 76.9% of respondents rated the President's socio-cultural policy as "very good," while 19.5% rated it as "mostly good."

Analysis of the survey results by different criteria indicates that respondents from older age groups, those with complete secondary education, public sector employees, individuals in the high-income bracket, and residents of the Lankaran-Astara and Karabakh economic regions predominantly rated the policy as "very good." No significant differences were observed based on place of residence or gender. The "mostly good" rating was relatively more common among 28.0% of young people, 22.0%

of those living in settlements, 30.0% of unemployed individuals not actively seeking work, 29.0% of students, and 31.4% of respondents from the Ganja-Dashkan economic region. Additionally, respondents from the Guba-Khachmaz and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions selected this option more frequently compared to other regions.

### Events in the socio-cultural field initiated by the President

The survey also examined respondents' attitudes toward socio-cultural events initiated by the President during the current period. The analysis of the results shows that these events were highly appreciated:

- ❖ Nationwide march on the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide: 81.9% rated it as "very good," and 10.5% as "mostly good."
- ❖ Declaration of 2022 as the "Year of Shusha": 94.3% rated it as "very good," and 3.8% as "mostly good."
- ❖ Lighting of the Novruz bonfire in Sugovushan and the President's congratulatory speech to the people: 92.0% rated it as "very good," and 6.0% as "mostly good."
- ❖ 5th Congress of World Azerbaijanis in Shusha: 87.6% rated it as "very good," and 6.8% as "mostly good."

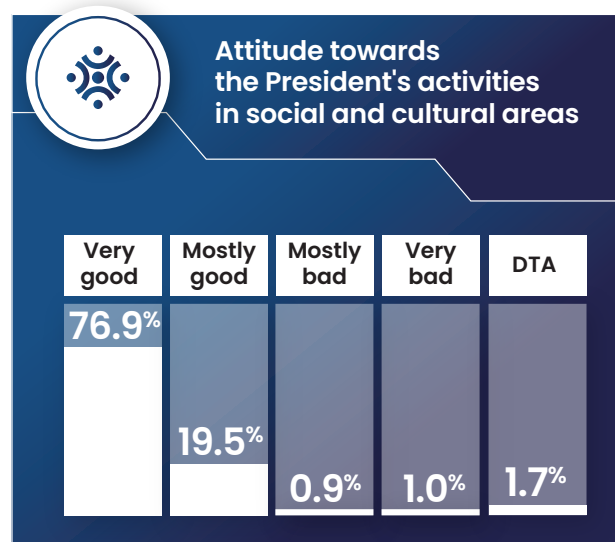
### Key Findings:

- ❖ Nationwide march on the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide:

Those rating it as "very good" included older respondents, city dwellers, individuals with higher education, students, those in the high-income group, and residents of the Baku and Karabakh economic regions.

Those rating it as "mostly good" included older respondents, settlement residents, individuals with secondary education, the unemployed (both actively and not actively seeking work), retirees, housewives, those in the low-income group, and residents of the Nagorno-Shirvan, Guba-Khachmaz, and Mil-Mugan economic regions.

Those unaware of the event were more likely to be younger and middle-aged respondents, village residents, individuals with technical or vocational education, housewives, those in the low-income group, and residents of the Lan-



karan-Astara and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions.

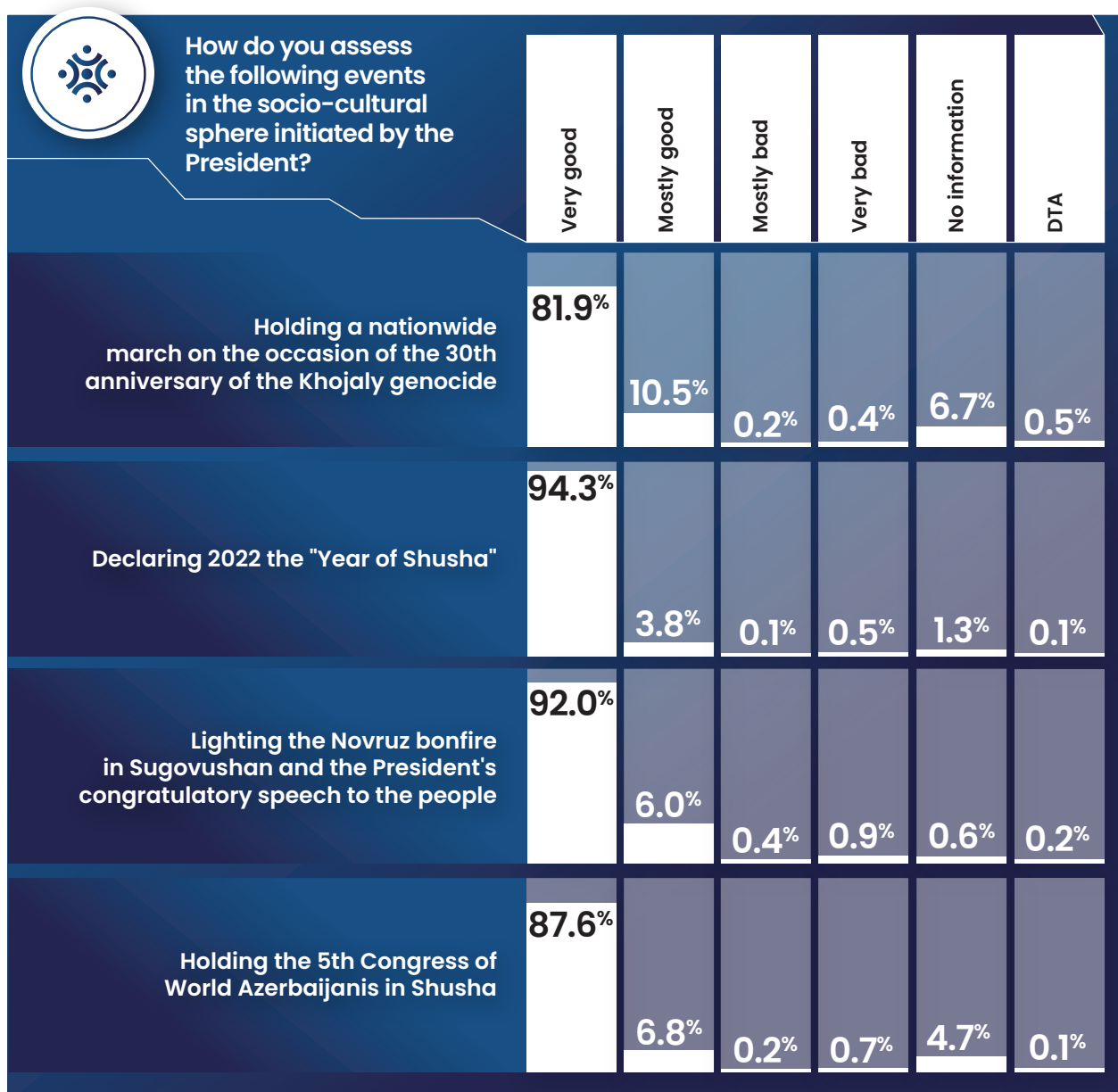
Some respondents struggled to answer this question, including 2% of retirees, 3.3% of unemployed individuals not seeking work, 2.0% of older respondents, and 4.5% of those from the Absheron-Khizi economic region. Declaration of 2022 as the "Year of Shusha":

Those rating it as "very good" included older respondents, village residents, individuals with technical or vocational education, individuals with higher education, women, public sector workers, students, housewives, those in the high-income group, and residents of the Nagorno-Shirvan and Gazakh-Tovuz economic regions.

Those rating it as "mostly good" were predominantly younger respondents, settlement residents,

unemployed individuals not actively seeking work, those in the high-income group, and residents of the Absheron-Khizi economic region. Those unaware of the event included middle-aged respondents, unemployed individuals actively seeking work, and some residents of the Lankaran-Astara and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions. Lighting of the Novruz bonfire in Sugovushan and the President's congratulatory speech:

Those rating it as "very good" included older respondents, public sector workers, individuals in the low-income group, and residents of the Karabakh and Central Aran economic regions. There were no significant differences based on place of residence, education, or gender. Those rating it as "mostly good" were relatively more likely to be younger respondents, individ-



uals with higher education, unemployed individuals (both actively and not actively seeking work), those in the middle-income group, and residents of the Absheron-Khizi, Ganja-Dashkasan, and Mil-Mugan economic regions. A small number of respondents rated this event as "very bad," primarily city dwellers and residents of the Baku and Mil-Mugan economic regions.

Respondents from the Guba-Khachmaz economic region, students, and unemployed individuals not currently seeking work were relatively more likely to lack awareness about the event. Evaluation of the 5th Congress of World Azerbaijanis in Shusha:

Respondents who rated it as "very good" included those from the older age group, city residents, individuals with higher education, public sector employees, those in the high-income group, and respondents from the Karabakh and Baku economic regions. No significant differences were observed based on gender.

Those rating it as "mostly good" were primarily from the middle age group, settlement residents, individuals with technical or vocational education, unemployed individuals (both actively and not actively seeking work), students, housewives, those in the relatively high-income group, and respondents from the Gazakh-Tovuz and Mil-Mugan economic regions. Respondents who rated the event as "very bad" were mainly from the lower age group, the relatively high-income group, and the Absheron-Khizi and Mil-Mugan economic regions.

**Awareness levels:** Awareness was relatively lower among older respondents, village residents, individuals with general secondary education, unemployed individuals not actively seeking work, retirees, those in the middle-income group, and respondents from the Nagorno-Shirvan, Lankaran-Astara, Sheki-Zagatala, and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions. Correlation with perceptions of the President's activities: Notably, 92.6% of respondents who rated the President's efforts toward socio-political stability as "very good" also expressed strong approval for the holding of the 5th Congress of World Azerbaijanis in Shusha.

## Energy policy

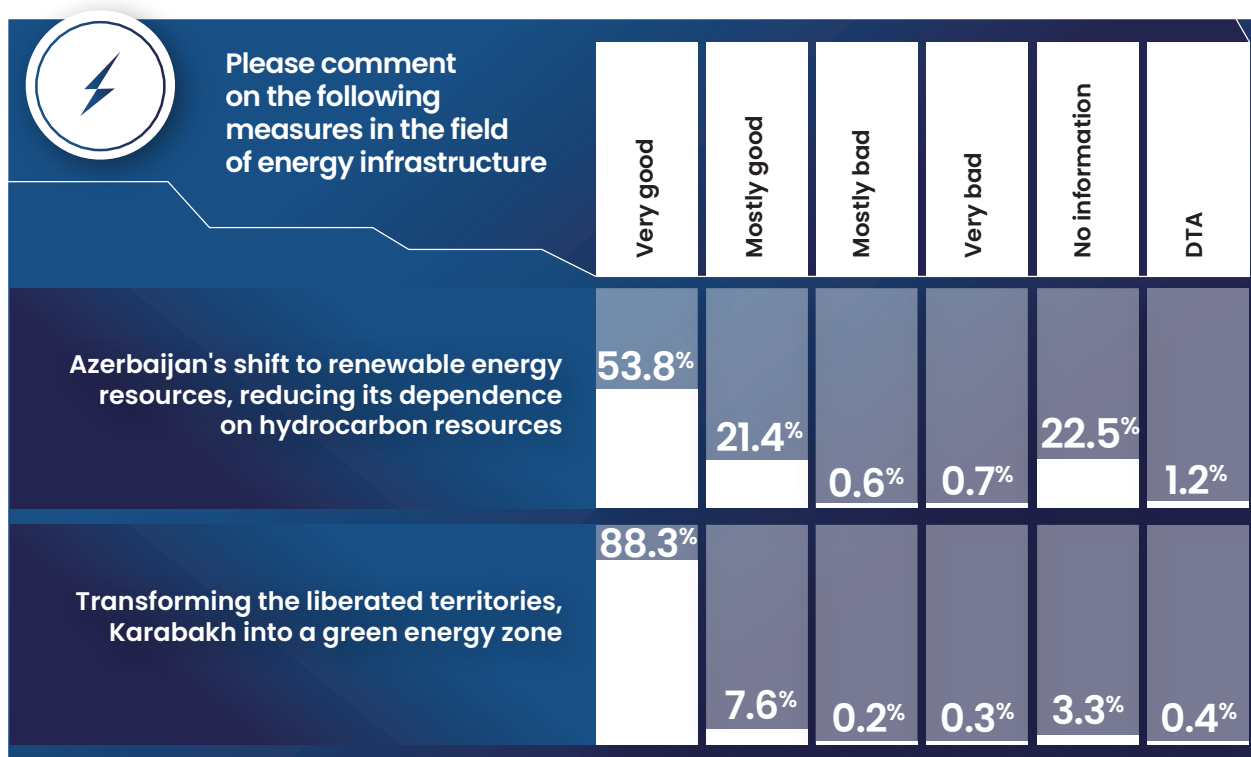
As a result of the successful economic policies implemented by President Ilham Aliyev,

Azerbaijan has achieved full energy security. Simultaneously, the continued development of the national economy, including the significant growth of the non-oil sector, presents new challenges and necessitates innovative approaches. A key focus of recent reforms has been the production of renewable energy. Several initiatives have been successfully implemented in this area, positioning the renewable energy sector as a vital contributor to the development of a green economy. Diversifying electricity production through renewable energy sources remains a top priority for the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"A clean environment and a country of 'green growth'" has been identified as one of the five National Priorities for the country's socio-economic development over the next decade, as outlined in Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development. Accordingly, increased attention will be given to the utilization of renewable energy sources and the adoption of "green" technologies in both the present and future. To this end, Azerbaijan has established partnerships with international companies, implemented pilot projects, and signed significant contracts to advance these goals.

On January 9, 2020, under the President's directive, a ceremony was held at the Cabinet of Ministers, attended by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to formalize Implementation Agreements for renewable energy pilot projects. These agreements were signed between the Ministry of Energy and two companies: ACWA Power of Saudi Arabia and Masdar of the United Arab Emirates. Under the agreements, ACWA Power will construct a 240-megawatt wind power plant, while Masdar will build a 200-megawatt solar power plant. Together, these projects are expected to generate approximately 1.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. The agreements are part of broader efforts initiated under the 2019 Presidential Decree "On Accelerating Reforms in the Energy Sector of the Republic of Azerbaijan."

Through this initiative, Azerbaijan engaged with nine international energy companies and conducted intensive discussions to expand the use of renewable energy sources. Following a competitive three-stage selection process, ACWA Power and Masdar were chosen from among seven companies that submitted proposals.



Progressing these efforts, on January 13, 2022, the groundbreaking ceremony for the 240 MW "Khizi-Absheron" Wind Power Plant, to be built by ACWA Power, took place. Similarly, on March 15, 2022, the 230 MW Garadagh Solar Power Plant, to be constructed by Masdar, was inaugurated at the Gulustan Palace. President Ilham Aliyev attended both ceremonies, delivering comprehensive speeches to underscore their significance.

The two companies bring impressive credentials to Azerbaijan's renewable energy initiatives. ACWA Power boasts a total electricity generation capacity of 30,200 megawatts, including 8,000 megawatts from renewable sources, with an investment portfolio of \$45 billion. Meanwhile, Masdar has a renewable energy investment portfolio of 4,000 megawatts and has invested \$8.5 billion in the sector to date. Additionally, a floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 kW is being developed on Lake Boyukshor as part of the "Development of Floating Solar Energy Systems" project, financed by the Asian Development Bank. This initiative includes assessing the feasibility of deploying solar energy systems in other lakes and water bodies across Azerbaijan, preparing a preliminary feasibility study for an industrial-scale project, and analyzing tariff methodologies for renewable energy types.

These projects underscore Azerbaijan's commitment to sustainable energy development and its leadership in transitioning to a green economy.

The implementation of these projects will significantly enhance Azerbaijan's energy sustainability and support the development of a green economy.

❖ In general, rational economic reforms play a vital role in ensuring the dynamic growth of Azerbaijan's economy. An analysis of the President's activities during the reporting period highlights the formation of a pragmatic model of reforms consistently implemented to foster economic progress. This model is a key driver of national development, strengthening Azerbaijan's position both domestically and internationally. Moreover, the strategic measures taken on the foundation of robust economic development serve as a critical component in accelerating Azerbaijan's national progress and fortifying its strength. Key areas of focus include maintaining macroeconomic stability, ensuring energy, food, and environmental security, diversifying the economy, reducing dependency on hydrocarbon resources, and advancing renewable energy initiatives. These efforts have garnered positive feedback from respondents in recent surveys.

❖ According to the survey, 53.8% of respond-



ents rated Azerbaijan's transition from hydrocarbon resources to renewable energy resources as "very good," while 21.4% rated it as "mostly good." However, the survey also revealed that 22.5% of respondents lacked information on this topic. Detailed Findings:

Respondents who rated the transition as "very good" were predominantly older individuals, rural residents, those with higher education, public sector employees, middle-income earners, and individuals from the Gazakh-Tovuz economic region. Lack of information on this issue was more prevalent among younger and middle-aged groups, those with general secondary education, unemployed individuals actively seeking jobs, housewives, low-income earners, and respondents from the Lankaran-Astara economic region.

Some respondents, particularly older individuals, retirees, and those from the Absheron-Khizi and Guba-Khachmaz economic regions, expressed difficulty answering this question. Among those who assessed Azerbaijan's shift to renewable energy positively, 43.7% believed that the geopolitical situation stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war would enhance Azerbaijan's role in Europe's energy security and increase the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor. This feedback underscores the significance of Azerbaijan's focus on renewable energy and highlights its potential to strengthen the country's strategic position in global energy markets.

### Information policy

80.9% of respondents rated the President's information and communication policy (inter-

views, speeches, etc.) as "very good", 16.4% as "mostly good".

According to the analysis of the results, those who rated "very good" were recorded among the respondents representing the older age group, those with higher education, those working in the public and private sectors, those representing the high-income group, and those representing the Gazakh-Tovuz economic region.

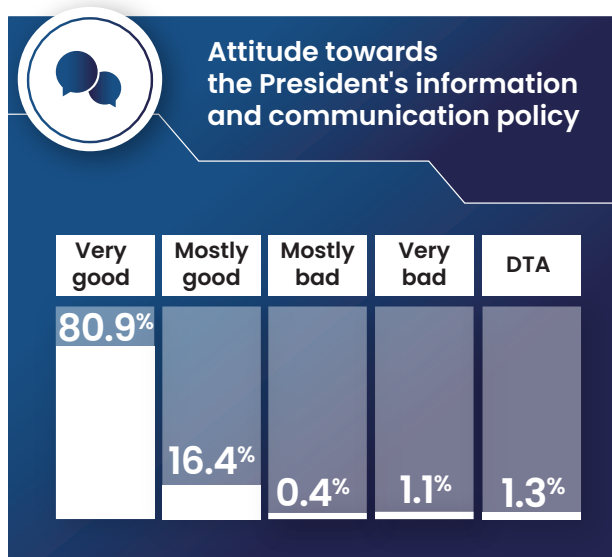
Those who rated "mostly good" were those representing the lower age group, those with complete secondary education, women, those who are not working and are not currently looking for work, students, and those from the Upper Shirvan and Guba-Khachmaz economic regions.

90.4% of those who rated the President's information and communication policy as "very good" also responded very well to the President's calls for the upbringing of patriotic, healthy, and intellectual youth in the post-war period.

### 4.2. Attitude towards the activities of state bodies, ministries, committees and services

The survey also studied the attitude towards the activities of various state bodies in relevant areas. According to the analysis of the results, the activities of relevant state bodies in the areas of military construction (89.5%), population security and public stability (74.3%), strengthening the economy and development of the non-oil sector (63.2%) received the most positive assessment in the opinion of citizens. Also, the activities of state bodies and institutions in the areas of military construction, population security and public stability, socio-cultural sphere, foreign policy, strengthening the economy and development of the non-oil sector, road infrastructure and provision of communal services were considered fully effective by more than half of the citizens participating in the survey.

In terms of positive assessment in the opinion of citizens, the activities in the field of control over the use of budget funds for their intended purpose and prevention of price increases were ranked last. The aforementioned areas were considered fully effective by 44.1% and 22.2% of respondents, respectively. 13.4% of survey





participants assessed the activities aimed at controlling the use of budget funds for their intended purpose as completely ineffective, and 43.8% of respondents assessed the activities aimed at preventing price increases as completely ineffective.

### **Military development**

In the opinion of citizens, the activity of the relevant state body in the direction of military development ranked first with a high indicator. 89.5% of the survey participants considered the activity in the field of military construction effective, 7.9% partially effective, and only 1.9% ineffective. 0.7% of the respondents had difficulty expressing an opinion on this. This high result, reflected in the survey results, can be considered an indicator of public trust and sympathy for the activities of the relevant state bodies.

### **Public safety and public stability**

The activities of state structures in the field of public security and social stability were considered effective by 74.3% of the survey participants, and partially effective by 20.6%. Only 4.4% of those surveyed considered the activities in this area ineffective. 0.7% of respondents had difficulty expressing an opinion on this matter.

### **Strengthening the economy and developing the non-oil sector**

The issue of strengthening the economy and prioritizing the development of the non-oil sector, which is constantly emphasized in the economic speeches of the head of state, forms the basis of the new economic strategy. The activity of relevant state bodies in this direction was evaluated based on public opinion. 63.2% of respondents considered their activity in this area to be very effective, 27.4% considered it to be partially effective. 6.3% of survey participants considered their activity in this area to be ineffective. 3.2% of respondents had difficulty expressing an opinion.

### **Foreign policy**

The activities in the field of foreign policy were also assessed positively by respondents. 61.8% of the survey participants considered the activities in this field to be very effective, 28.4% considered them to be partially effective. Only 5.4% of the survey participants considered the activities of the relevant bodies in the field of foreign policy to be ineffective, and 4.4% had difficulty answering.

### **Socio-cultural sphere**

The socio-cultural sphere has become especially relevant in the post-war period. Various measures have been implemented in this direction in different regions of the country, as well as in the territories liberated from occupation. The survey studied the attitude of respondents to the activities of relevant state bodies in this area. 61.9% of the survey participants assessed the activities as fully effective. 29.3% of the respondents noted their answers as mainly effective, 6.0% as ineffective, and 2.9% had difficulty answering.

### **Food safety and quality food supply**

Regarding the issue of food security and quality food supply as one of the important problems for the current year and the future, approximately half of the respondents, that is, 49.4%, assessed the activities of relevant state bodies as effective. 37.5% of the respondents assessed the activities in this area as partially effective, and 12.3% as ineffective. 0.8% of the respondents did not express an opinion on this matter.

### **Road infrastructure and provision of utility services**

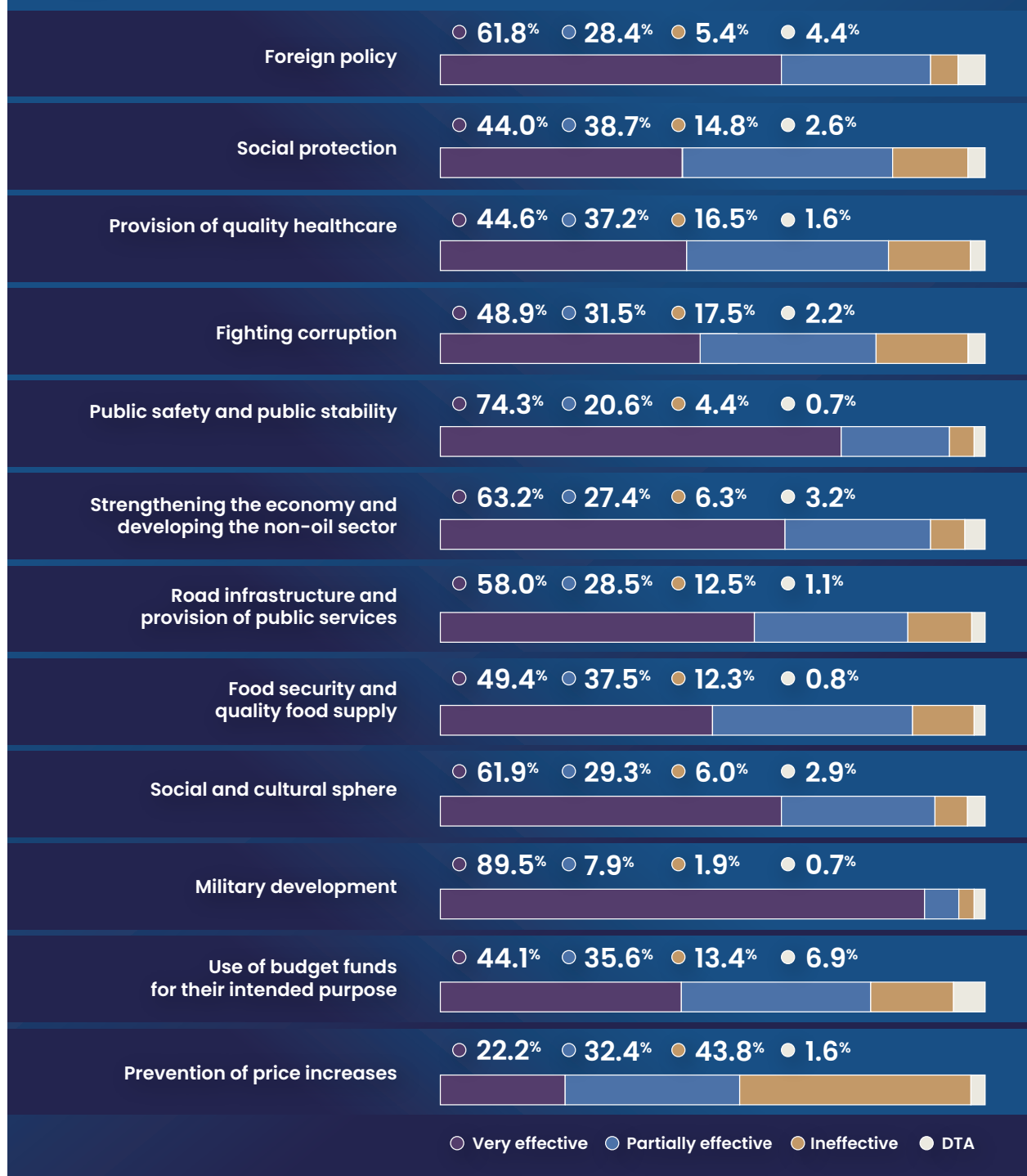
58.0% of respondents in the opinion poll assessed the activities in this area as effective, 28.5% as partially effective, 12.5% as ineffective, and 1.1% had difficulty expressing an opinion.

### **Social protection**

The activities of relevant bodies in the field of social protection and provision, where pub-



Express your opinion on the implementation of the President's instructions by the relevant ministries and committees:



lic demand has increased during the pandemic and post-war period, were considered effective by 44.0% of the respondents. 38.7% of respondents assessed the activities in this area

as partially effective, and 14.8% as ineffective. 2.6% of the survey participants had difficulty expressing an opinion on this matter.

## Fight against corruption

The fight against corruption, which has been one of the main lines of state policy for all periods, has been a priority area this year as well. For information, it should be noted that a new national action plan was approved by the head of state in this direction this year. According to the results of opinion polls, the activities of state bodies in this area were assessed as effective by 48.9% of respondents, as partially effective by 31.5%, and as ineffective by 17.5%. 2.2% of respondents had difficulty expressing an opinion on this matter.

## Provision of quality healthcare services

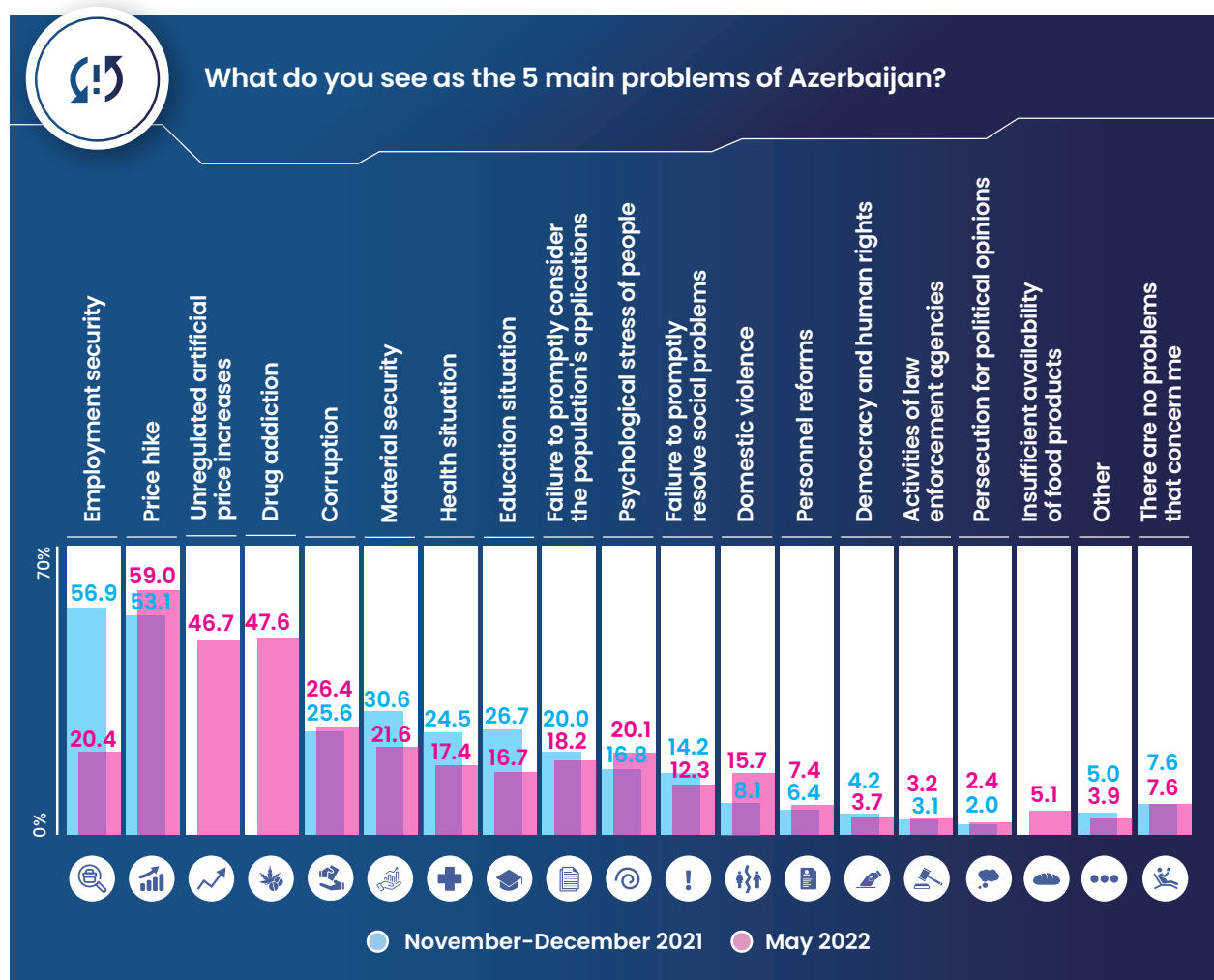
The provision of quality healthcare services was rated as effective by 44.6% of survey participants, partially effective by 37.2%, and ineffective by 16.5%. 1.6% of respondents had difficulty answering.

## Use of budget funds for their intended purpose

The activities of relevant bodies in this area were considered effective by 44.1% of respondents. 35.6% of respondents indicated that they were partially effective, and 13.4% considered them ineffective. Also, 6.9% of respondents had difficulty expressing an opinion.

## Preventing price increases

According to the results of the public opinion poll, the lowest-rated area was the performance of relevant structures in preventing price increases. Only 22.2% of respondents considered the activities in this area effective, while 32.4% deemed them partially effective. Meanwhile, 43.8% of participants assessed the measures taken in this field as ineffective, and 1.6% had difficulty answering. Analysis of the results reveals that public opin-



ion regarding the performance of specific state institutions in various areas differs significantly when compared to evaluations of the President's activities across different directions. From an age group perspective, older respondents were less likely to view the activities of relevant bodies in areas such as food security, the supply of quality food, social protection, combating corruption, and ensuring the appropriate use of budget funds as effective compared to younger respondents. When analyzed by place of residence, respondents living in rural areas generally assessed the activities of state bodies across most areas more positively than those living in urban areas.

For comparison, in surveys conducted in November-December 2021, 57.5% of respondents rated activities related to population security as fully effective. In the current survey, this figure increased to 74.3%. Similarly, the effectiveness of activities aimed at strengthening the economy was rated as fully effective by 51.4%

of respondents in the previous survey, rising to 63.2% in the current survey.

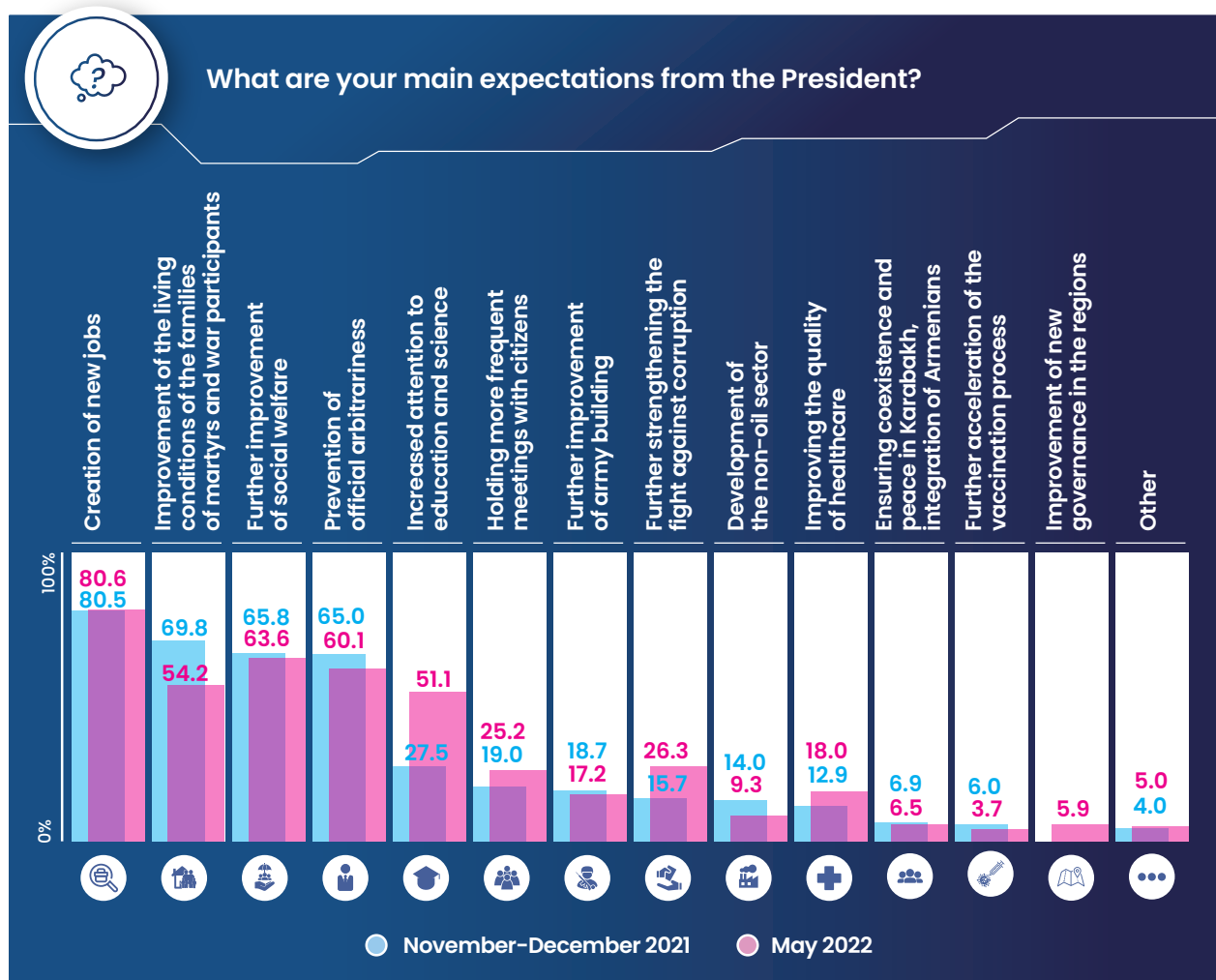
#### 4.3. The country's 5 major problems and the main public expectations from the President

In previous editions and the current issue of the Confidence Index, the five most significant issues perceived by citizens as the country's primary problems were analyzed based on an opinion poll. As public opinions on these issues tend to change dynamically over time, the findings presented here are limited to the period covered by the survey.

According to the respondents' views, the top five problems identified include: Price increases (59.0%)

Lack of regulation of artificial price increases (46.7%) Drug addiction (47.6%)

Key observations from the survey include: Price Increases and Artificial Price Regu-



lation: These issues were more frequently mentioned by respondents in low-income groups compared to high-income groups. **Employment Security:** This problem was highlighted more by respondents living in rural areas than by those in urban areas or towns.

**Effectiveness of Social Protection Efforts:** Only 31.0% of respondents concerned about employment security, 39.4% of those citing material security, and 26.7% of those emphasizing the lack of prompt resolution of social problems rated the activities of the relevant state body in social protection as “very effective.”

**Corruption:** Among those mentioning corruption as a problem, 54.8% rated the head of state’s anti-corruption efforts as “very good,” while only 38.6% found the activities of relevant state bodies in this area to be “very effective.”

**Regional Distribution of Problems**  
The survey revealed regional variations in the prevalence of certain problems:

Employment security, price increases, artificial price regulation, and drug addiction were more commonly cited in the Baku and Lankaran-Astara economic regions.

Material security and corruption were predominantly mentioned in the Baku economic region. Issues related to healthcare were frequently highlighted in the Baku and Karabakh regions, while concerns about education were more prevalent in the Baku and Guba-Khachmaz regions.

**Comparison of Surveys :** In the April 2021 survey, the most urgent issues were employment security, education, and financial difficulties. However, by November-December, employment security, price increases, and material security had emerged as the top concerns.

Employment security ranked first in both the April (53.2%) and November-December (56.9%) surveys but dropped significantly to 20.4% in the current survey. Price increases ranked first in the current survey, cited by 59.0% of respondents, compared to 53.1% in November-December. Across all three surveys, approximately 7.5% of respondents stated, “There is no problem that worries me.”

**Public Expectations from the President**  
To identify expectations from the head of state, respondents were asked targeted questions. The demands placed on relevant institutions by

the President reflect societal expectations. Accordingly, the survey results provide insights into public demands concerning institutional activities. The primary expectations from the President were as follows: Creation of new jobs (80.6%) Further improvement of social welfare (63.6%) Prevention of official arbitrariness (60.1%) Key trends include: Improvement of Social Welfare: This was the most frequently mentioned expectation among urban respondents.

**Job Creation:** This expectation was more prevalent among rural residents, individuals with a complete secondary education, and low-income groups.

❖ The improvement of local governance and the creation of new jobs were more frequently mentioned by respondents residing in the Baku and Lankaran-Astara economic regions. Similarly, the improvement of healthcare services was a key concern for respondents in the Baku, Guba-Khachmaz, Lankaran-Astara, and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions. Meanwhile, the improvement of social welfare was most frequently highlighted by respondents in the Baku economic region.

**Karabakh and Social Integration:** Expectations such as fostering coexistence and peace in Karabakh, as well as integrating Armenians into Azerbaijani society, were most frequently expressed by respondents in the older age group.

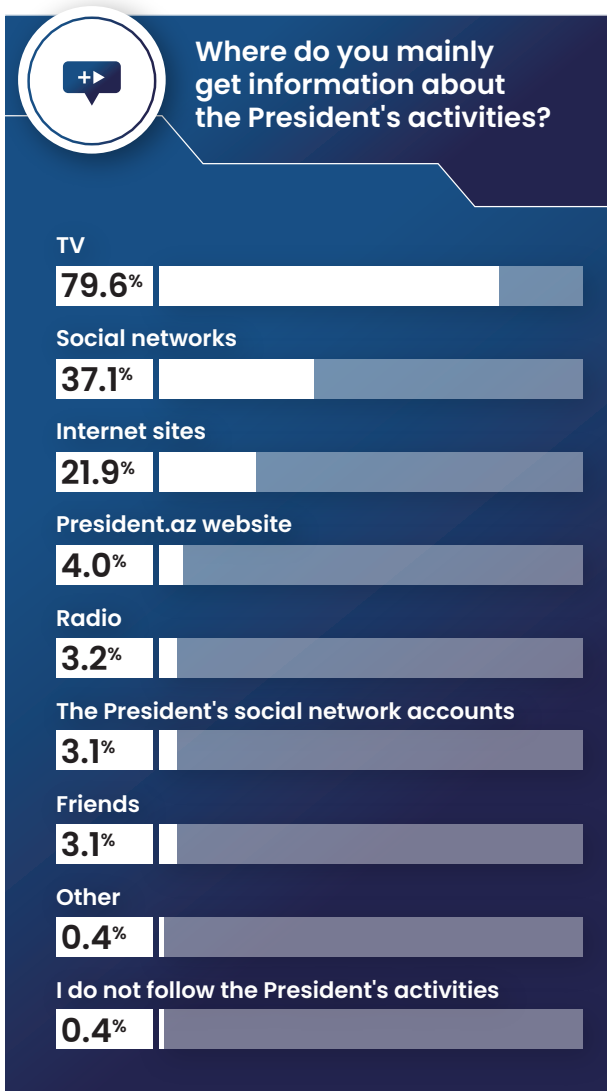
**Job Creation and Social Welfare:** Middle-aged respondents most frequently emphasized the creation of new jobs and the improvement of social welfare. **Comparative Analysis of Expectations Over Time**  
A comparative analysis of previous surveys and the current results shows that respondents’ expectations from the President have shifted over time

#### 4.4. Sources of information on the activities of the President

The primary sources through which respondents obtained information about the large-scale socio-political activities of the President during the first four months of the current year were examined through a survey. Respondents were allowed to select multiple answer options.

**Key Findings Widespread Awareness:** The survey revealed that the overwhelming ma-





jority of respondents actively follow information about the activities of the head of state. **Dominance of Television:** Consistent with previous periods, television remains the primary source of information. In the current survey, 79.6% of respondents stated that they received information about the President's activities through television channels. **Role of Internet Resources:** Internet platforms

ranked second as a key information source, with 37.1% of respondents identifying social networks and 21.9% mentioning websites.

**Close Circles:** A smaller proportion (3.1%) reported receiving information through their close social circles.

**Limited Non-Followers:** Only 0.4% of respondents stated that they do not follow the activities of the President.

**Age Group Insights Television Usage:** The preference for television as a source of information increased significantly among older age groups.

**Social Networks:** Social networks were predominantly cited as the main source of information by respondents in the younger age group.

**Comparative Analysis:** A comparison of the current survey results with those from April and November-December 2021 indicates some shifts in information source preferences:

In the earlier surveys, 76.6% of respondents identified television as their primary source of information, compared to 79.6% in the current survey. Social networks were the second most cited source, with 53.2% in April 2021 and 40.1% in November-December 2021. In the current survey, this figure decreased to 37.1%.

V SECTION.

THE DYNAMICS OF FAITH AND TRUST

5.1. Trust and confidence in the President

Survey results from the past year and the beginning of the current year reveal consistently high levels of trust and confidence in the President.

This trend has been corroborated by surveys conducted by both domestic think tanks and international studies.

Key Indicators of Trust The high trust and confidence stem from the President’s active socio-political engagement and the unwavering support of citizens. Between January and April of the current year, the President’s extensive activities included:

- ❖ International and Local Engagements: Over 20 meetings and visits. Public Communications: More than 30 consultations, interviews, and press conference-level events. Receptions and Dialogues: Approximately 50

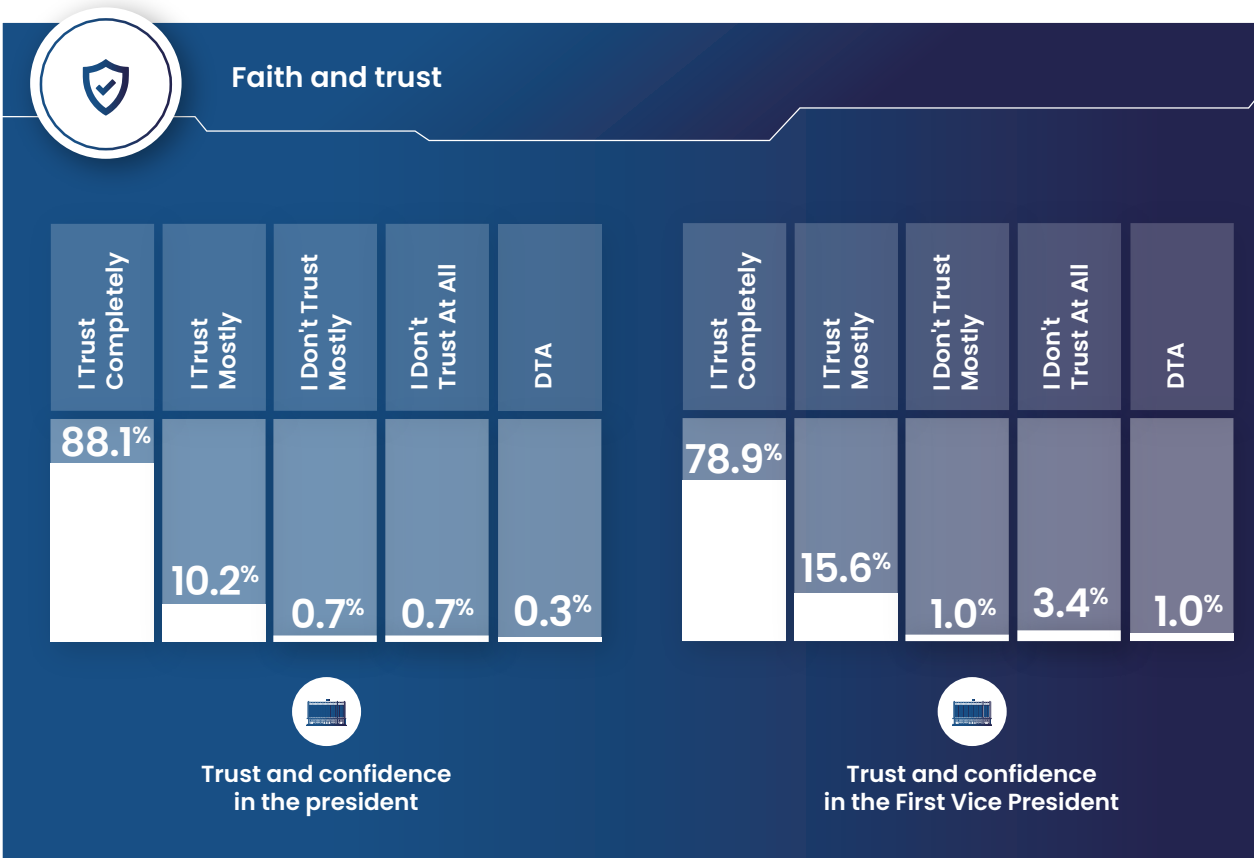
receptions and over 20 telephone conversations with foreign leaders and officials.

Opening Ceremonies: Over 30 events, many in the territories liberated from occupation. According to a survey conducted by the Center for Social Research:

❖ Trust in the President: 88.1% of respondents stated they fully trust the President. 10.2% indicated they mostly trust him. Only 0.7% of respondents expressed no trust at all, while 0.3% were uncertain.

❖ Trust in the First Vice President: 78.9% of respondents stated they fully trust the First Vice President. 15.6% indicated they mostly trust her. 1.0% expressed no trust at all, and 1.0% were uncertain. Analysis of Trust Across Groups

Demographics: The vast majority of respondents, regardless of age, education level, income, or place of residence, expressed high trust in the President and the First Vice Presi-



dent. Regional Trust Levels:

Absolute trust in the President was unanimous among respondents in the Karabakh, Gazakh-Tovuz, Dagly Shirvan, Guba-Khachmaz, and Lankaran-Astara economic regions.

Relatively lower trust indicators were recorded in the Absheron-Khizi economic region.

**Employment and Trust:** Respondents employed in public and private sectors showed higher trust levels compared to unemployed respondents who were not actively seeking work. **Public Perception of Leadership Engagement with Citizens:** Among those who fully trust the President, 74.4% strongly agreed with the statement, "The President of the country takes into account the opinions of citizens in his activities."

**Comparative Trends Over Time:** Public trust in the President and the First Vice President has remained consistently high over the past year, with slight fluctuations observed.

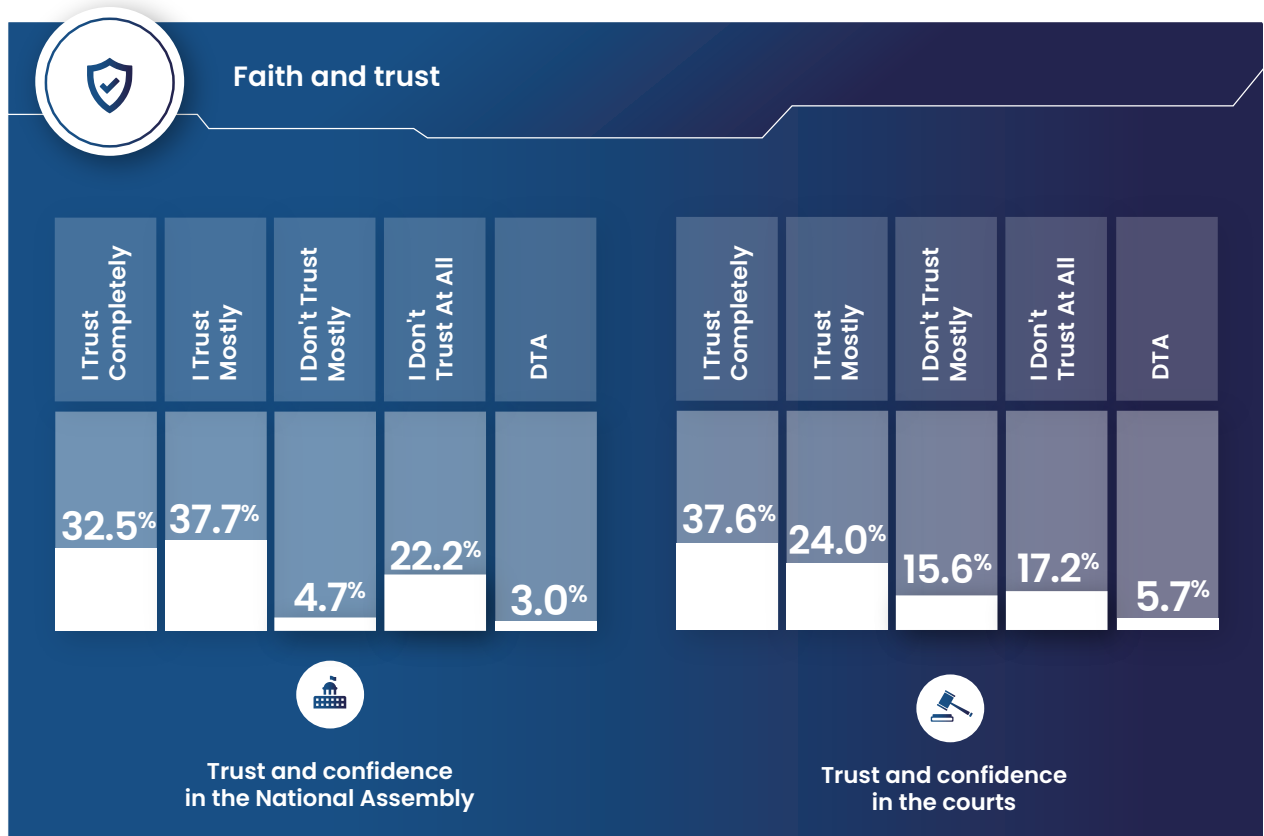
**Trust in the President:** 88.3% in April 2021, 91.2% in November-December 2021, and 88.1% in the current survey. **Trust in the First Vice President:** 82.5% in April 2021. 84.9% in November-December 2021. 78.9% in the current survey.

## 5.2. Trust and confidence in the National Assembly and judicial bodies

The level of public trust and confidence in other branches of government, including parliamentary and judicial institutions, was studied based on the opinion poll. It should be noted that trust and confidence in these institutions change periodically, so the results reflect the situation during the specific time interval in which the survey was conducted.

According to the survey, 32.5% of participants stated that they fully trust the Milli Majlis, while 37.7% indicated that they mostly trust it.

Conversely, 4.7% of respondents stated that they mostly do not trust it, and 22.2% stated that they do not trust it at all. Additionally, 3.0% of the respondents had difficulty expressing an opinion on this matter. In terms of regional comparisons, participants from the Gazakh-Tovuz, Central Aran, and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions expressed a more positive attitude towards the Milli Majlis. However, respondents from the Absheron-Khizi, Baku, and Shirvan-Salyan economic regions showed relatively lower levels of trust. On average, one-third of respondents in these regions



stated that they did not trust the Milli Majlis at all. Among respondents living in rural areas, 77.7% stated that they trust the Milli Majlis to some degree, compared to 76.3% of those living in settlements and 56.1% of those living in urban areas. In urban areas, 4.6% of respondents indicated "mostly do not trust," while 35.0% indicated "do not trust at all."

Regarding trust in judicial institutions, 37.6% of respondents stated that they fully trust the courts, while 24.0% stated that they mainly trust them.

Conversely, 15.6% of those surveyed indicated that they mainly do not trust the courts, and 17.2% stated that they do not trust them at all. A further 5.7% of respondents found it difficult to express their position on this issue.

These results show a degree of alignment between public trust in judicial institutions and attitudes towards parliament. Among respondents who considered the anti-corruption activities of relevant institutions ineffective, 54.4% stated that they do not trust the courts at all.

On a regional level, participants from the Gazakh-Tovuz, Dagly Shirvan, and Sheki-Zagatala economic regions exhibited a more positive attitude towards the courts. Meanwhile, respondents from the Absheron-Khizi, Baku, and Mil-Mugan economic regions expressed relatively lower trust levels.

Among respondents living in villages, 79.1% stated that they trust the courts to some degree, compared to 70.3% of those in settlements and 59.8% of those in cities. In cities, 5.1% of respondents chose "mostly do not trust," while 29.9% chose "do not trust at all." The analysis highlights a certain correlation between public trust in parliamentary and judicial institutions.

Periodic reviews of trust in the Milli Majlis show that those who stated they trust it "very much" or "mostly" were 57.4% and 61.5% in March and June 2020, respectively; 62.2% and 63.2% in April and November-December 2021, respectively; and 70.2% in the current survey. Similarly, trust in judicial institutions among those who stated they trust them "very much" or "mostly" was 49.0% and 59.0% in March and June 2020, respectively; 60.7% and 63.8% in April and November-December 2021, respectively; and 71.6% in the current survey.

### 5.3. Trust and confidence in higher and local executive authorities

The survey also examined respondents' trust and confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers and local executive authorities as the highest executive bodies. It should be noted that public attitudes toward these institutions change periodically, so the results reflect the situation at the time of the survey.

According to the survey, 35.8% of participants said they fully trust the Cabinet of Ministers, while 36.0% indicated they mostly trust it.

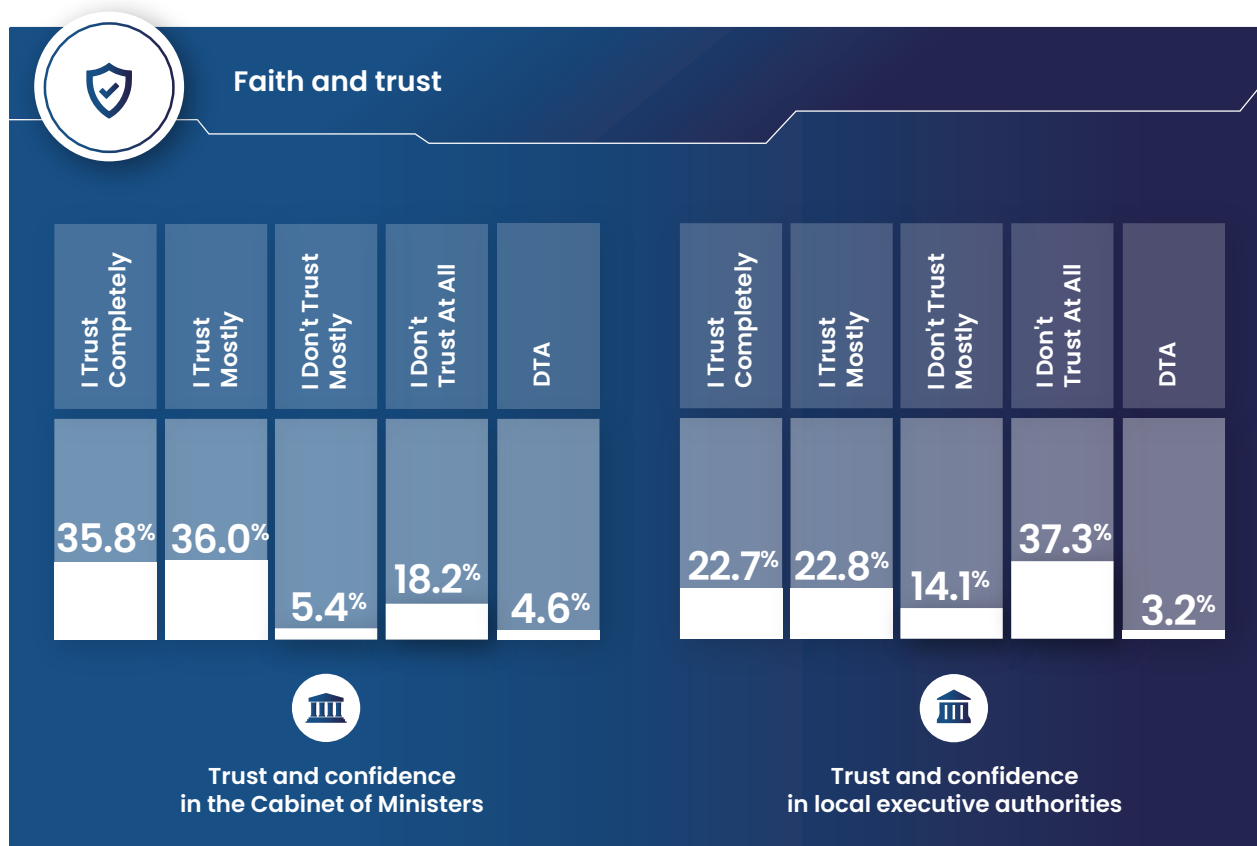
Conversely, 23.6% expressed distrust (5.4% mostly distrust, 18.2% not at all). In other words, approximately one in four respondents stated that they did not trust the Cabinet of Ministers. Additionally, 4.6% of respondents found it difficult to express their position. Among respondents working in the public sector, 80.1% stated that they generally trusted the Cabinet of Ministers very much or mostly. Distrust was more prevalent among those working in the private sector and the unemployed group. Respondents who reported a decrease in income during the current year expressed less trust and confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers compared to those whose incomes remained unchanged or increased.

A direct proportional relationship was observed between respondents' trust in the Cabinet of Ministers and their attitude toward the activities of central executive authorities in relevant areas. Regarding local executive authorities, 22.7% of survey participants said they fully trust these institutions, while 22.8% mostly trust them.

Contrarily, 14.1% stated they mostly do not trust them, and 37.3% expressed no trust at all. Additionally, 3.2% of respondents were undecided. Regionally, more positive trust indicators were observed in the economic regions of Gazakh-Tovuz, Dagly Shirvan, and Sheki-Zagatala.

In contrast, relatively less positive indicators were recorded in the economic regions of Ganja-Dashkasan and Guba-Khachmaz.

Respondents living in villages and settlements expressed more positive attitudes, whereas those living in cities demonstrated more negative views. Approximately one-third of urban respondents stated that they did not trust local executive authorities at all.



A comparison of the results from previous years and the current survey shows that trust in the Cabinet of Ministers has increased slightly over time.

Those who fully trusted the Cabinet of Ministers were 27.9% in June 2020, 31.8% in April 2021, 36.3% in November-December 2021, and 35.8% in the current survey.

Trust in local executive authorities, however, showed a decline. Those who fully trusted local executive authorities were 30.7% in June 2020, 27.4% in April 2021, 30.3% in November-December 2021, and 22.7% in the current survey.



## CONCLUSION

### Trust and confidence

The "Trust Index" issue periodically assesses public trust and confidence in the President and other branches of government based on opinion polls. Analysis of the survey results covering January-April 2022 demonstrates once again that the absolute majority of respondents have high trust and confidence in the President, regardless of their age group, education, income level, or place of residence. Trust and confidence stem from the President's high socio-political activity and the unwavering support of citizens.

According to the survey results, 88.1% of respondents stated that they fully trust the President, while 10.2% said they mainly trust him. Only 0.7% of respondents indicated that they mostly do not trust him, and another 0.7% said they do not trust him at all. Additionally, 0.3% of respondents had difficulty expressing their position on this issue.

The survey also explored public trust and confidence in the First Vice President. Results showed that 78.9% of respondents fully trust the First Vice President, while 15.6% mostly trust him. Only 1.0% said they mostly do not trust him, and 3.4% stated they do not trust him at all. Another 1.0% of respondents had difficulty expressing their opinion in this regard. Public trust and confidence in other branches of government, including the parliament and judicial bodies, were also studied. Trust in these institutions fluctuates over time, with the survey reflecting the situation at the time of its conduct. According to the results, 32.5% of respondents fully trust the Milli Majlis, while 37.7% said they mostly trust it. Conversely, 4.7% mostly do not trust it, and 22.2% do not trust it at all. Additionally, 3.0% of respondents found it difficult to express an opinion.

❖ Regarding judicial bodies, 37.6% of respondents stated that they fully trust the courts, and 24.0% said they mostly trust them. Meanwhile, 15.6% mostly do not trust them, and 17.2% do not trust them at all. Another 5.7% of respondents had difficulty expressing their po-

sition. These results indicate a correspondence between public trust in judicial institutions and attitudes toward parliament.

❖ Public attitudes toward the Cabinet of Ministers as the highest executive body were also evaluated. The survey revealed that 35.8% of respondents fully trust the Cabinet, while 36.0% mostly trust it. On the other hand, 23.6% expressed distrust (5.4% mostly distrust and 18.2% do not trust at all). In total, about one in four respondents said they did not trust the Cabinet of Ministers, while 4.6% had difficulty expressing their opinion.

For local executive bodies, 22.7% of respondents stated they fully trust them, and 22.8% mostly trust them. Conversely, 14.1% mostly do not trust them, and 37.3% do not trust them at all. Another 3.2% of respondents were undecided.

It is important to note that there is a direct proportional relationship between respondents' trust and confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers and their attitudes toward the activities of central executive bodies in specific areas.

### Attitude towards the President's performance in various directions

The President's performance in various areas were positively assessed by citizens, with the highest approval ratings observed in the following areas: 1) military construction (88.3% rated as "very good," 10.5% as "mostly good"), 2) foreign policy (84.8% "very good," 13.8% "mostly good"), and 3) strategic efforts toward fostering patriotic, healthy, and intellectual youth (83.1% "very good," 14.5% "mostly good").

During the reporting period, the most widely known activity among respondents (92.2%) was the President's visits to foreign countries, notably his visit to Turkey on March 10, 2022, and his meeting with R.T. Erdoğan.

In contrast, the least known activity (82.9%) was his visit to Brussels on April 6, 2022, and the trilateral meeting with the President of the EU Council and the Prime Minister of Armenia.

The visit to Turkey and the meeting with R.T. Erdoğan were deemed "very important" by 81.6% of respondents and "mainly important" by 9.3%.

In the field of social protection, the President's activities were rated as "very good" by 63.8% of respondents and "mostly good" by 28.5%. Only 3.1% assessed them as "mostly bad," and 3.6% as "very bad," with 1.0% unable to express an opinion. Particularly, 76.9% of respondents were "very satisfied" with the President's care and support for the families of martyrs and war participants, while 17.2% were "mainly satisfied." A small portion of respondents expressed dissatisfaction: 2.5% "mainly dissatisfied" and 2.7% "not satisfied at all," while 0.7% did not provide a position.

The President's performance in protecting public health was rated "very good" by 68.3% of respondents and "mostly good" by 24.9%. A minority expressed negative views, with 2.5% rating it as "mostly bad" and 3.1% as "very bad." Another 1.3% had difficulty expressing their stance.

Regarding personnel reforms, 57.2% of respondents rated them as "very good," and 30.3% as "mostly good." Conversely, 3.3% assessed them as "mostly bad," and 4.9% as "very bad," while 4.3% were undecided.

The President's anti-corruption efforts were rated "very good" by 60.8% and "mostly good" by 26.7% of respondents. However, 3.7% described them as "mostly bad," and 6.2% as "very bad."

Around 2.6% refrained from sharing an opinion. Notably, 51.1% of respondents believed the "National Action Plan for Strengthening the Fight against Corruption for 2022-2026" would enhance transparency, 40.8% anticipated improved service quality, 26.6% foresaw increased public oversight and the role of civil society, 21.4% expected better management mechanisms, 18.2% predicted improved legislation, and 6.2% believed it would have no effect. Still, 23.4% of respondents were unaware of this plan.

Efforts to ensure socio-political stability in the country were rated "very good" by 75.0% and "mostly good" by 22.4%. Only 0.6% viewed them as "mostly bad," and 1.2% as "very bad," while 0.8% did not express an opinion.

The President's activities in developing the non-oil sector were rated "very good" by 65.9% and "mostly good" by 25.8%. Meanwhile, 2.0% considered them "mostly bad," and 2.5% rated them "very bad," with 3.8% undecided.

In advancing renewable energy resources and reducing dependence on hydrocarbons, 53.7% of respondents rated the President's efforts as "very good," and 21.3% as "mostly good," though 22.5% were unaware of the initiatives. The majority highly appreciated the establishment of a "green energy" zone in liberated territories, with 88.2% rating it "very good" and 7.5% "mostly good." However, 3.3% were unaware of this development.

In the area of food security and ensuring high-quality food supply amid the current geopolitical context, 59.8% of respondents rated the President's activities as "very good," and 30.1% as "mostly good." Only 3.5% assessed them as "mostly bad," and 5.6% as "very bad," with 1.0% expressing no opinion.

### **Attitude towards the activities of state bodies**

According to the analysis of the results obtained, the activities of relevant state bodies (ministries, committees and public services) in the three areas reflected in the survey - military construction (89.5%), population security and social stability (74.3%), strengthening the economy and development of the non-oil sector (63.2%) - were assessed more effectively by citizens. The activities of relevant structures in other areas were assessed relatively differently, with the activities of relevant bodies in the provision of quality healthcare (44.6%), social protection (44.0%), and prevention of price increases (22.2%) ranked last.

The analysis of the results shows that the public position on the activities of individual state bodies in the same areas differs from each other in relation to the activities of the President in different directions. Of the 92.3% of respondents who generally assessed the President's activities in the field of social protection as good, only 47.2% considered the activities of relevant structures in the field of social protection to be fully effective. Of the 93.2% of respondents who

assessed the head of state's activities in protecting the health of the population as generally good, only 47.4% assessed the activities of relevant structures in the field of providing quality healthcare services as fully effective.

### **The President's peace agenda in the post-war period**

As a result of the foreign policy and diplomacy pursued by the President in the post-war period, the peace agenda serving stability and large-scale economic cooperation in the region was accepted by the regional states and international organizations acting as interested parties in these processes.

Although the negotiation process between the two countries was conducted on the basis of mediation by both Brussels and Moscow, the process was generally based on the principles and criteria put forward by official Baku: mutual recognition of the territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan, delimitation and demarcation of borders, opening of communications, and restoration of economic relations.

Taking these factors into account, respondents were asked about their attitude towards the signing of a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia. According to the results of the survey, 37.1% of respondents said that they strongly believed that a peace treaty would be signed and diplomatic relations would be established between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the near future, and 28.0% said that they mostly believed. 7.0% of respondents said they did not believe at all, and 26.3% said they did not believe at all that a peace treaty would be signed between the two countries and diplomatic relations would be established.

In addition, respondents in the survey rated Turkey's role as a mediator country or organization in the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the post-war period as the most important (85.9%). Russia (15.5%) and the European Union (8.8%) shared the next places. Only 2.5% of respondents saw the OSCE Minsk Group as a mediator. 4.4% of respondents supported direct relations between the parties.

### **Preparations and construction works for the Great Return**

The results of both the current and previous surveys show that ensuring a modern and decent life for sustainable settlement in the liberated territories, carrying out construction, restoration and improvement works, as well as safe living and high welfare are issues that the President focuses on. In general, the fact that the Great Return to the liberated territories, including Karabakh, is a priority for the head of state has been repeatedly mentioned in his speeches.

Citizen opinion in a survey conducted by the Center for Social Research in April 2021 once again confirmed this. Thus, 84.6% of those surveyed in that survey fully agreed with the idea that the return to Karabakh is a priority for the head of state, and 12.2% partially agreed.

According to the analysis of the results of the current survey, the restoration and reconstruction measures in the liberated territories under the initiative and control of the President fully meet the expectations of 76.6% of respondents, and largely met the expectations of 19.4% of respondents. Those who expressed the opposite position accounted for only 2.5%, and those who had difficulty expressing their position accounted for 1.4%.

Also, 37.4% of respondents were very informed, and 53.0% were mostly informed, about the restoration and construction work carried out in the liberated territories. 4.2% of respondents said that they were mostly unaware of the work being done in this direction, and 5.2% said that they had no information at all.

### **Problems and expectations**

As part of the survey, citizens were asked what issues they currently see as the main problems in Azerbaijan. Among the problems that concern them, respondents noted the rise in prices (59.0%), drug addiction (47.6%), and the lack of regulation of artificial price increases (46.7%).

The issues raised by the head of state before the relevant institutions and the tasks given reflect public expectations. In this sense, citizens' main expectations from the President can also be interpreted as points arising from the activities of the relevant institutions. According to the

survey results, ensuring employment and creating new jobs (80.6%), further improving social welfare (63.6%), and improving the living conditions of families of martyrs and war participants (54.2%) ranked first among public expectations from the President.

As part of the survey, respondents were also asked how they assessed the first quarter of the current year in general for themselves and our country. According to the results obtained, the first quarter of 2022 was generally successful for citizens (36.6% "very good", 45.7% "mostly good") and for our country (48.0% "very good", 39.7% "mostly good"). Those who think otherwise are 9.4% and 4.2%, respectively.

### **The President's information and communication policy**

The President's information and communication policy (interviews, speeches, etc.) was assessed by 80.8% of respondents as "very good", and 16.3% as "mostly good".

79.6% of the survey participants said that they receive information about the President's activities in the socio-political sphere from television channels. Social networks came in second place with an indicator of 37.1%, and websites came in third place with an indicator of 21.9%. It should be noted that the respondents chose several answer options.

45.6% of the respondents who participated in the survey are of the opinion that the President is very informed about what is happening on the ground, and 38.1% are of the opinion that he is mostly informed. 4.9% of the respondents share the opinion that the President is not at all informed about what is happening on the ground. 8.7% of the respondents think that he is mostly uninformed.







**SOCIAL  
RESEARCH  
CENTER**

**18, Ismayil bay Kutkashenli Str., Yasamal district, Baku, AZ1073, the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Telephone: (+994 12) 510-70-78; (+994 12) 510-23-75; (+994 12) 510-70-69**

**[info@stm.az](mailto:info@stm.az)   [www.stm.az](http://www.stm.az)**