

## **Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation fulfills its functions with responsibility in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic**

The world-wide corona virus pandemic has reoriented people's way of life, led their social and everyday problems to a completely new direction, and subjected their work and activities to unexpected changes. The sudden outbreak of virus forced Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation, whose activities cover all spheres of public life, to build its work in accordance with the new requirements. It is not difficult to imagine the responsibility that has fallen on the shoulders of an organization whose main task is to protect the socio-economic and legal interests of our citizens.

As part of measures to protect the population from corona virus, the state provides one-time payments of 190 manats to the unemployed. In this regard, 70 million manats were initially allocated, and 200,000 people were to receive this assistance. Today, these indicators have been increased by 3 times.

Measures are being taken to create 90 thousand paid public jobs, maintaining wages and employment for more than 900,000 employees in the public sector and 690,000 employees in the non-oil sector, limits on monthly electricity consumption for two months were increased, tuition for 17,000 students from low-income families is paid from the state budget, many prisoners in connection with the corona virus were pardoned, tax incentives and financial support were provided to entrepreneurs. In recent days, 84 thousand labor contracts have been recorded in the Ministry of Labor system. Employers, having learned that the state will support entrepreneurs, decided to draw up employment contracts with their employees and thus receive assistance from the state.

On March 20, in connection with the pandemic, Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation held a meeting of the Executive Committee. At the meeting, it was decided to support decisive steps to prevent the spread of corona virus infection (COVID-19), declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, and to approve the urgent measures. Trade unions highly appreciated the creation of a Fund to support the fight against corona virus, created by the presidential decree of March 19. At the meeting of the Executive Committee, it was decided to transfer 250 thousand manats to the Fund. Another decision to support the fight against corona virus was to transfer 100,000 manats to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

On March 23, we held a meeting with the leaders of affiliates and subordinate organizations on the issue of preventing the spread of corona virus infection in our country. The participants of the meeting were informed about the measures taken by the state to prevent the spread of the virus in the country.

In order to develop appropriate proposals to solve the problems of employment and social problems that may arise as a result of the possible negative impact of the corona virus pandemic on the country's economy, the composition of the Working Group, headed by the Minister of Labor and Social Protection, has been approved by order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. As Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation we also participate in this working group.

A Management Group (Operational Headquarters) was created at the meeting to coordinate preventive measures carried out by Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation, regularly collect information on the work done and organize educational work.

In order to prevent the spread of infection (CAVID-19) in our country, the support programs for single people over 65 and low-income families are being continued within the declared special quarantine regime. Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation decided to participate in the social projects of the Heydar

Aliyev Foundation to implement public control over the distribution of citizens' appeals and proposals, and to support vulnerable groups in various aspects.

For this purpose, on April 13, 2020, Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation signed an agreement with the Public Association "Regional development" of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. In accordance with the Agreement Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation transferred 105 thousand manats to the Association's account. Within the framework of the campaign, carried out on April 14 with the support of Absheron Kristall LLC and Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation, volunteers of the Public Association "Regional development" of the Foundation distributed food aid to more than 1000 low-income families living in the Goranboy, Tartar and Agdam regions.

During this period, mobile groups created by affiliates and subordinate organizations of Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation provided financial assistance to 10744 poor families, needy people over 65 and union members in the amount of 590,900 manats.

Trade unions have distributed protective means against corona virus to their members in the amount of more than 100,000 manats for use in quarantine conditions.

Financial assistance was also provided to citizens affected by the pandemic. At the same time, the leaders of trade union organizations donated their salaries to the Fund for the fight against corona virus and also 352.5 thousand manats were transferred to the Fund from the primary trade union organizations.

Providing material and moral assistance to low-income families continues today. In general, Azerbaijan's trade unions have spent more than 1 million 600 thousands manats on supporting the fight against corona virus and on measures taken by the state for this purpose.

In our newspaper "Ülfət "(Solidarity) also published statements by ILO Director General Guy Ryder and ITUC Secretary General Sharon Barrow on the impact and consequences of corona virus on the world of work..

As part of the measures to combat the corona virus pandemic, Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation has created a special SMS notification system to establish communication with its trade unions and employees. The system is equipped with a special service channel.

Decisions and measures taken by trade union organizations are quickly transferred to the mobile phones of the relevant persons. This is one of the principles of remote work in special quarantine conditions.

Recently, the Executive Committee of Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation has adopted a new decision to distribute food aid to low-income families and pensioners in need of special assistance and care. For this purpose, it was decided to distribute food aid to 3,900 low-income families living in 76 cities and regions of the country. Food gifts totaling 68 tons consist of everyday consumer goods that are important for every family.

On April 29, a convoy of trucks organized by the Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation left for the cities and regions of the country to deliver food aid . Local trade union activists also took part in the action, which covered all regions of Azerbaijan. In the conditions of the corona virus pandemic, the provision of material and moral assistance by trade union organizations will be continued in the future.