



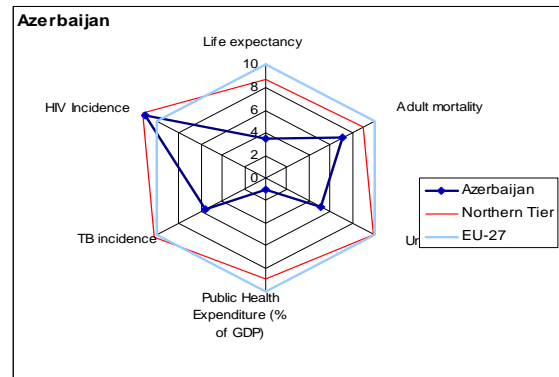
HEALTH IN AZERBAIJAN

2010

Overview: In 2005, Azerbaijan launched an ambitious program to address long overdue reforms of its health care system. The country is making steady progress but continues to face formidable challenges that will require ongoing support, especially technical assistance, from its development partners. The USG is assisting efforts to strengthen the health care system, particularly in the areas of primary health care; reproductive health and family planning; maternal, neonatal, and child health; and tuberculosis. USG longer-term goals contribute to initiatives to increase and use more efficiently government spending on health; rationalize the health care system; and improve service provision with a strong investment in health care human capital.

Health Statistics

Population: 9 million (2010, MOH)
GDP per Capita (2005 PPP): \$8,102 (2008)
Population below poverty line: 11% (2009 est.)
Health Adjusted Life Expectancy: 59 (2008)
Adult Mortality Rate (15-59): 176 per 1000 (2007)
Under-5 Mortality Rate: 50 per 1000 live births (2006)
Total Health Expenditures Per Capita: US\$102 (2006)
Public Health Expenditure: 0.9% of GDP (2008)
Reported HIV Incidence: 28.6 per 1 million (2006)
Estimated Tuberculosis Incidence: 110 per 100,000 (2008)



*Northern Tier refers to the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia**

Health Vulnerability Highlights

Azerbaijan's **health system** resembles the Soviet system it inherited; structured vertically to respond to diseases and health conditions, with policy making, financing, and service delivery concentrated in the Ministry of Health. Azerbaijan is a decade behind other E&E countries in reforming its health care system.

Despite its oil wealth, **public health expenditures** were only 0.9% of GDP in 2008, the lowest in the E&E region. **Out-of-pocket health expenditures** in 2008 were estimated to be 73% of total health expenditures, a level that imposes huge and sometimes catastrophic burdens on the population.

Health Adjusted **Life Expectancy** for Azerbaijan is 59, 8 years shorter than the European average of 67 years. Leading causes of mortality among adults are cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and injuries; most of these diseases are related to sedentary life styles, obesity, and cigarette and alcohol consumption.

The most vulnerable demographic groups are children under five years of age and women in childbearing years. **Infant and under-5 mortality rates** are 43 and 50 per 1,000 live births, respectively among the highest in the region. The average woman will have 2.3 abortions during her lifetime, one of the highest rates in the world. Only 14% of married women use modern family planning methods.

The successful treatment of non-resistant **Tuberculosis** strains is just 58% and nearly a quarter of all new TB cases (22.3%) were multi-drug resistant. Only 3.8% of MDR-TB patients receive treatment. **HIV** prevalence is still low, at 0.1 percent. HIV programs focus on targeting youth and early prevention.

* This radar graph compares the health status of a country against EU and E&E regional averages through six health indicators. For each indicator, the EU average is given a score of 10, suggesting ideal performance. A score of 1 is given to the poorest performance in the region. Country performance on each indicator is then scaled against this criterion.

USAID Health Programs

Primary Health Care Strengthening (10/2005 – 8/2010) – The PHCS project provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health on primary healthcare reforms. It focuses on increasing healthcare financing and improving resource allocation for primary health care, redefining and restructuring primary healthcare community-based services, improving the quality of primary healthcare services, and promoting personal responsibility on the part of individuals and families for their own health care. In February 2009 a new Tuberculosis (TB) component was added to the PHCS project. The TB interventions include introduction of international standards of TB control via legal and policy reform; revising clinical guidelines/protocols based on international evidence; integrating TB services into PHC and improving clinical practice. In August 2009 a maternal and child health (MCH) component was added to upgrade the MCH-related knowledge of health providers and improve informed decisions on MCH interventions. Selected highlights of achievements to date include:

- Provided key technical assistance leading to approval of National Health Financing Concept 2008-2012, the Action Plan to implement it;
- Assisted MOH to institutionalize the concept of evidence-based medicine; establish a national process for approving clinical practice guidelines and protocols; and train more than 3200 PHC providers on approved guidelines;
- Provided extensive assistance to develop a new National TB Program for 2010-2015;
- Assisted MOH to produce Concept of the Reorganization of Perinatal Care for 2010-2014 and a five-year program/plan to implement it; and
- Empowered the Health Communication unit within the MOH

Implementer: Abt Associates

<http://www.abtassociates.net/Page.cfm?PageID=1670&OWID=2109768800&CSB=1>

Azerbaijan Reproductive Health and Family Planning Project (9/2009 – 9/2010) – The AZ RH/FP project builds on the work of the Access, Quality and Use in Reproductive Health (ACQUIRE) project (10/2005-9/2009), and aims to increase the access, availability, quality, and sustainability of RH/FP services. Project interventions seek to help the GOAJ create policies and a legal framework supportive of RH/FP; improve the mobilization, allocation, and use of health resources for RH/FP; improve the quality of RH/FP services; and better inform people about and advocate for health care services, healthy lifestyles, and patient rights and responsibilities. The project works closely with the Ministry of Health, local health departments, NGOs, communities, and local pharmacies. Selected highlights of achievements to date include:

- Provided technical assistance to develop a draft reproductive health law;
- Assisted with development and approval of the National Reproductive Health Strategy for Azerbaijan;
- Implemented 9 evidence-based national guidelines and protocols on family planning methods;
- Trained almost 1,700 service providers in reproductive health and family planning topics; and
- Trained 607 Peer Educators and Health Promoters, of which 189 remain active in 67 target communities.

Implementer: Engender Health <http://www.EngenderHealth.org/our-countries/asia-near-east>

Future Planned Activities - The project will provide technical expertise in health systems required to operationalize and expand critical health reforms initiated by the Government of Azerbaijan to gain efficiencies and improve healthcare quality through both structural changes in the health system and institutionalization of a quality improvement approach to healthcare delivery. *Implementer: TBD*