



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AZERBAIJAN



USAID empowers women by engaging them in political and decision-making processes.
Photo credit: Vugar Naghiyev/USAID

Country Profile

Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. At the crossroads of the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, Azerbaijan is a secular state with a Muslim-majority population and traditions of religious tolerance. Azerbaijan has substantial energy resources, which have led to rapid growth over the last decade, but the country still needs to make substantial progress on economic reforms.

OUR WORK

USAID currently provides development assistance to achieve goals in two major sectors: supporting the growth of non-oil sectors of the economy; and strengthening participatory and transparent democratic and governance processes.

USAID's overall aim is to support Azerbaijan's reform process, promoting competition and pluralism in society to lay the foundation for a sustainable market-based democracy. To achieve this aim, USAID partners with the Government of Azerbaijan, regional governments, the private sector and a wide range of civil society organizations.

USAID has provided more than \$370 million in assistance since 1991 to assist with humanitarian relief, and health, economic and democratic reforms. The Government of Azerbaijan has contributed more than \$20 million in additional funds to USAID to help achieve economic reform goals for the country.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Democratic reforms are essential to Azerbaijan's long-term stability and development as a reliable strategic partner in international affairs. USAID works with public sector partners and civil society to strengthen democratic governance practices and standards of accountability and responsiveness to the people. USAID encourages citizens to engage and collaborate with their government at the national, regional and local levels to solve community problems and promote basic human rights. USAID works with government officials and citizens to foster government transparency and to increase citizen advocacy in the fight against corruption. USAID raises public awareness of issues that affect women and empowers women by engaging them in political and decision-making processes. To support combating human trafficking, USAID provides technical and financial support to shelters, which assist victims of trafficking.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

USAID supports the development of a competitive, transparent, and business-friendly environment that is conducive to job creation, private sector growth, and long-term prosperity. To expand economic partners, USAID also advances Azerbaijan's economic integration and trade with Europe. Despite a major surge in economic growth and poverty reduction since the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan gas pipeline in May 2005, the non-energy sectors of the economy still need further investment. Within this context, USAID is helping the country diversify and strengthen its economy by targeting assistance in the agriculture sector. Specifically, USAID is helping local businesses and farmers to increase the productive efficiency and quality of their products, and to address issues of food safety, storage and competitiveness. USAID also enhances the capacity of the commercial banks to provide sustainable market-based financial services to small and medium enterprises. Additionally, USAID supports opportunities for regional trade integration, particularly market linkages of agricultural producers with Western buyers, and the elimination of impediments to harmonized regional trade and transportation. USAID also supports the development of the future workforce through promoting youth employment and women's economic empowerment.

HEALTH

Until September 2013, when its health activities in Azerbaijan ended, USAID worked with the Ministry of Health to focus efforts on improving healthcare in three important areas: tuberculosis infection control; maternal, neonatal, and child health; and women and children's nutrition. USAID programs also focused on strengthening the capacity of the Ministry to advance health reform initiatives, improving the use of health resources, and improving the quality of health services.

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USAID mobilized the Niyazabad community to construct additional rooms for the local school. Photo credit: Vugar Naghiyev/USAID



USAID develops new skills and knowledge of Azerbaijan farmers to increase their productivity and income. Photo credit: USAID ASAP project