



USAID | AZERBAIJAN

COUNTRY PROFILE

NOVEMBER 2007



An Azerbaijani juice company that turned to USAID's Rural Enterprise Competitiveness Project for assistance with sales, labeling, marketing materials, and sanitation saw immediate results from improvements they instituted. The company closed on a deal for three container shipments of juice this year and a tentative agreement for 12 more next

AZERBAIJAN SNAPSHOT

Date of independence:
October 18, 1991
Capital: Baku
Population: 8.5 million
GDP per capita: \$3,300

For more information,
see www.usaid.gov
Keyword: Azerbaijan

OVERVIEW

Azerbaijan is an important U.S. ally due to its strategic geopolitical location, its role as a transport corridor between East and West, and its expanding importance as a source of oil and gas. Despite the country's growing oil wealth, about one third of its people live below the poverty line. Used responsibly, Azerbaijan's oil revenues can reduce poverty and improve the lives of all citizens. The U.S. is committed to helping Azerbaijan make the best use of its energy resources. The U.S. is also interested in assisting this predominately Muslim nation strengthen its secular democracy. In support of this aim, the USAID program in Azerbaijan focuses on economic growth, democratic governance, and health.



Baku

PROGRAMS

ENERGIZING AZERBAIJAN'S NON-OIL SECTORS

Since the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline in May 2005, Azerbaijan has experienced a major surge in economic growth and poverty reduction. At the same time, the government faces major challenges in translating this recent spike in economic growth into broad-based and sustainable long-term growth. The non-oil sector of the economy remains underdeveloped and fragile.

Within this context, USAID provides technical assistance and training designed to support strategic economic reforms required to promote long-term stability and to promote diversification while reducing the poverty rate through sharing of the benefits of growth. Assistance activities are designed to jumpstart World Trade Organization accession progress; improve the transparency and efficiency of public expenditure planning and administration systems; improve monetary management policies and oversight of the financial system; and enhance the capacity of the commercial finance system to provide sustainable market-based financial intermediation services to small and medium enterprises, most particularly in traditionally under-served rural areas of the country. Finally, these efforts are also focused on enhancing the competitiveness of key high-potential non-oil sectors of the economy.

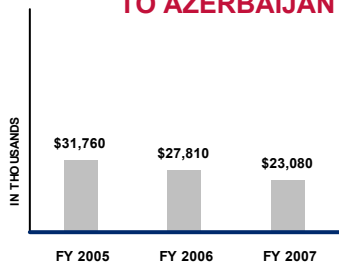


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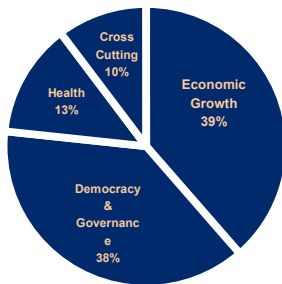
AZERBAIJAN

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO AZERBAIJAN



Percent of FY 2007 Budget for Each Area



Democracy & Governance: \$8,804,000
Economic Growth: \$8,905,000
Health: \$3,000,000
Cross-Cutting: \$2,371,000

SUPPORTING AZERBAIJAN IN EFFECTING DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

Democratic reform is essential to Azerbaijan's long-term stability and development as a reliable strategic partner. USAID programs promote media freedom, support electoral reforms, and encourage citizens to engage their government to solve community problems. USAID also works to advance the rule of law and the fight against corruption, strengthen the capacity of parliamentary staff and members, and promote greater institutional transparency throughout the government.

Independent media plays a critical role in building an informed and proactive citizenry. USAID focuses on training journalists, assisting with the establishment and strengthening of alternative media outlets, and organizing legal defense services for journalists. USAID also provides targeted technical assistance to the government and other key stakeholders to develop an impartial legal framework for improving the transparency of electoral and political processes. In addition, USAID is working to increase citizen advocacy and active civic engagement in the fight against corruption. USAID provides technical assistance to civil society organizations and community-based organizations to increase public participation and implement advocacy campaigns and community development projects.

EMPOWERING AZERBAIJANIS TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH

Key health indicators in Azerbaijan have declined dramatically since independence in 1991. Since that time, TB and HIV rates have increased and Azerbaijan continues to have a high infant mortality rate, even compared with other countries in the region.

USAID is working with the Government of Azerbaijan to increase the use of quality healthcare services and encourage better informed health maintenance practices among the people of Azerbaijan. Programs focus on strengthening primary healthcare, family planning and reproductive health, and emergency medicine. USAID works with the Ministry of Health and district government authorities on critical healthcare policy and institutional reforms, increasing the level and improving the targeting of healthcare financing, and assuring that people and communities are better informed and more engaged in the operation of the healthcare service provision system.

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