



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AZERBAIJAN**

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE - HEALTH

July 2010



A local pharmacist explains why her pharmacy is partnering with USAID's Family Planning and Reproductive Health project to provide modern contraceptives

### AZERBAIJAN SNAPSHOT

**Patients with Multi-Drug Resistant TB on Treatment: 3.8%**

**Out-of-Pocket Expenditures on Health: 51.6%**

### OVERVIEW

USAID's Europe and Eurasia "2010 Health Vulnerability Analysis" ranked Azerbaijan as the eighth most vulnerable among 28 countries. Under the leadership of the Minister of Health, the Government of Azerbaijan is working to improve access to quality healthcare services.

Today, USAID seeks to strengthen primary healthcare by increasing healthcare financing and improving resource allocation for primary healthcare. USAID is also committed to addressing the reproductive health and family planning needs of Azerbaijanis, and promotes the social integration of marginalized children.

### PROGRAMS

- Azerbaijan Reproductive Health & Family Planning Project
- Community Based Children's Support Program
- Primary Healthcare Strengthening Project

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - 2010

#### KEY HEALTHCARE REFORMS MOVE FORWARD

USAID's Primary Healthcare Strengthening (PHCS) Project provides technical assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan in a collaborative effort to strengthen Azerbaijan's primary healthcare system and to enact other key healthcare reforms. Under this project, USAID recently helped develop the "National Perinatal Care Concept for 2010-2014" and the "MNCH Annual Action Plan." Both tools have been approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and related capacity building is underway.

Improvements in primary health care can be seen through the work PHCS has done to develop evidence-based clinical guidelines, 40 of which have now been approved by MOH. The project is helping integrate these guidelines into the day-to-day practice of healthcare providers. PHCS has also supported 10 of 32 target hospitals in analyzing data on discharged patients to develop a new, patient-based (versus bed-based) provider payment system. This will help reduce costs and improve hospital efficiency, while also increasing transparency.



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## INVESTING IN PEOPLE, CONTINUED

### **USAID BATTLES DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS**

The PHCS project continues to lead a national working group made up of TB stakeholders as they develop clinical guidelines on TB prevention, TB detection, and TB case management, referencing international best practices and WHO recommendations. PHCS advocates for incorporation of TB services into primary health care through integration of a TB module into family medicine retraining programs and provides training for health-care providers. PHCS is also assisting with the development of appropriate treatment regimens, and closely collaborates with the National Tuberculosis Program to prioritize patients who receive the limited treatment available for drug resistant TB.

### **SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN & FAMILIES STRENGTHENED**

The Community Based Children's Support Program (CCSP) is modeling family-based alternatives to institutionalized care for vulnerable children. The project currently supports nine new Child and Family Support Centers, which provide quality services to vulnerable children and families. In the relatively short time since they have opened, the Centers have become the central authority on children's issues in their districts and are well-known by community members. Their services effectively compensate for some of the most critical gaps in the local child protection system. It is expected that the Ministry of Finance will allocate funding for these centers so their operations can be handed over to a government counterpart by the end of the project.

### **FOCUS ON FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

The Azerbaijan Reproductive Health and Family Planning (AZ RH&FP) Project aims to foster increased access and use of quality family planning and reproductive health services by employing a comprehensive supply, demand, and advocacy model. The project works to improve FP/RH curricula, trains service providers on evidence-based protocols, builds the capacity of government counterparts to monitor trainees, and works with pharmaceutical companies and private pharmacies to ensure broad access to quality modern contraceptives. At the same time, AZ RH&FP works to increase the public's knowledge of modern contraceptive options through a range of public outreach activities and peer networks. In the past six months, the project trained 397 service providers on clinical protocols, IUD insertion, and family planning counseling, as well as supported 61 health facilities and 78 pharmacies to deliver family planning counseling or services. 98% of these pharmacies now have at least a three-month stock of three modern family planning methods.

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