



**USAID**  
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**AZERBAIJAN**

# COUNTRY PROFILE

September 2011



## **AZERBAIJAN SNAPSHOT**

**Independence:** August 30, 1991

**Government:** Republic

**President:** Ilham Aliyev

**Capital:** Baku

**Population:** 9.077 million (*State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan*)

**Area:** 33,774 sq. mi slightly smaller than Maine.

**GDP (2010 est.):** 41,6 bln AZN = \$52 billion. (*State Statistical Committee*)

## **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 importance as a source of oil and gas. While the country's oil wealth has resulted in impressive economic growth and poverty reduction, it is important for Azerbaijan to diversify its economy as the recent oil production boom is coming to a close. To increase non-oil exports, it will be necessary to improve the business environment, encourage competition and attract more foreign strategic investors.

The United States has an abiding interest in helping Azerbaijan become a broad-based, market-driven democracy. Since 1991, USAID has provided over \$300 million in technical assistance and training to effect positive, lasting change within the country's institutions and the lives of its people. USAID programs cooperate with ministries, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and communities to improve laws, promote human and political rights, engage citizens, expand jobs, increase incomes, and improve the health and quality of life of Azerbaijan's people.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC REFORMS**

Democratic reforms are essential to Azerbaijan's long-term stability and development as a reliable strategic partner. USAID works alongside its public and private sector partners and civil society to help foster an increasingly democratic government that is accountable and responsive to its people, while helping its citizens to recognize their abilities to make a difference within their communities.

USAID programs promote media freedom, support electoral reforms, and encourage citizens to engage their government in solving community problems. USAID also works to promote greater government institutional transparency, strengthen parliamentary capacity, advance the rule of law, and fight corruption.

Independent media plays a critical role in building an engaged, empowered, and educated citizenry. USAID focuses on training journalists, establishing and fortifying alternative media outlets, and organizing legal defense services for journalists. USAID provides the government and other key stakeholders with technical assistance to improve the transparency of its electoral and political processes. In addition, USAID works to increase citizen advocacy and civic engagement in the fight against corruption. USAID provides civil



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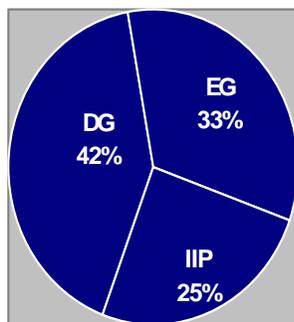
# AZERBAIJAN

## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO AZERBAIJAN



#### FY 2011 Budget Allocation by Objective



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information see:  
<http://azerbaijan.usaid.gov>

society organizations and community-based organizations with technical assistance to increase public participation, foster advocacy campaigns, and cultivate community development projects as a means of meaningfully engaging and empowering citizens in local decisionmaking.

#### 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 non-energy sectors of the economy remain fragile and underdeveloped. As a result, the Azerbaijan government faces major challenges in translating single-sector economic growth into a broadly diversified and sustainable economy. USAID works to strengthen the competitiveness of the selected non-oil and gas sectors in Azerbaijan by partnering with key local businesses and associations to address barriers to growth.

USAID helps Azerbaijan move towards World Trade Organization (WTO) accession by contributing to the development of a competitive, transparent, and business-friendly environment that is conducive to job creation, private sector growth, and long-term prosperity.

USAID programs seek to improve the transparency and efficiency of public expenditure planning and administration systems. USAID supports monetary management policy and oversight reforms and market-based financial intermediation services for small and medium enterprises.

#### EMPOWERING AZERBAIJANIS TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH

Key indicators such as rates of abortion, infant and maternal mortality, and tuberculosis (TB), are high in Azerbaijan relative to other countries in the region. Access to quality healthcare services remains a serious concern. High out-of-pocket expenses coupled with low public expenditures for health care pose a considerable obstacle to development.

USAID programs focus on strengthening primary healthcare, family planning, maternal and reproductive health, emergency medicine, and TB prevention and treatment. USAID also provides policy development assistance to the Ministry of Health to reform the health care system so that all Azerbaijan's citizens can access quality primary health care, family planning, and reproductive health services for their families. USAID also works with the Ministry and local authorities to increase health care financing and engage communities in the operation of an effective healthcare service provision system.