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USAID -Azerbaijan
Activities List
November 2011

I. Governing Justly and Democratically

Anti-corruption Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers (ALACs)

LOP: 07/01/08-06/30/12

Implementing Partner: Transparency Azerbaijan-a local chapter of Transparency International

This program supports Transparency Azerbaijan's (TA) Anti-Corruption Advocacy and Legal Aid Centers (ALACs) in Baku, Ganja, and Guba. Through a toll-free hotline, ALACs provide citizens with initial advice and, where evidence of corruption exists, referral for further legal counseling. ALACs' legal professionals and volunteers provide citizens with assistance on how to articulate, develop, file, and pursue their complaints. ALACs also collect data and statistics on complaints and progress which is tracked in a database and used to identify 'soft points' (e.g. particular legal or administrative loopholes) in the system that allow corruption to flourish. Advocacy is carried out through public awareness campaigns and dialogue with state authorities and civil society on specific institutional and legal vulnerabilities.

Azerbaijan New Media Program (ANMP)

LOP: 09/30/10 – 09/29/13

Implementing Partner: International Research and Exchange Board (IREX)

The new media program increases supply, demand and access to news and information important to Azerbaijani citizens by strengthening citizen driven virtual/on-line communities in Azerbaijan. Through 20 "FYI" community information centers, universities and selected rural facilities equipped with Internet/Wi-Fi connectivity, technical support, and training in the use of new technology and media, the program will strengthen on-line communities and promote information sharing. The program will build the capacity of media lawyers to assist journalists in need of legal services. Through training and innovative methods, the ANMP also supports local capacity to increase the quantity of high quality, in-depth and innovative media products. Support is also provided to regional TV channels to produce documentaries, talk-shows and investigative reports on issues that are up-to-date and matter to citizens.

Azerbaijan Rule of Law Program

LOP: 09/29/09-09/28/12

Implementing Partner: American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/ROLI)

The overall goal of the Azerbaijan Rule of Law Program is to promote and protect human rights and the implementation of laws in Azerbaijan through increased citizen understanding of, and ability to pursue, domestic and international legal remedies. Specifically, the program supports increased



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access to legal aid by targeted groups, individuals and NGOs; improved legal education and professionalism of lawyers, with a special focus on youth and women; and rule of law civic education projects. Illustrative activities include a “Traveling Lawyers Program” which offers free legal services to citizens outside of Baku; access to a searchable computer database with domestic legislative acts and "plain language" answers to frequently asked legal questions at information centers throughout the country; and a “Street Law Program” to teach primary and secondary school children about law, democracy and human rights.

NGO Legal Enabling Environment Program (LEEP)

LOP: 01/01/11-09/30/12

Implementing Partner: International Center for Not for Profit Law (ICNL)

Under the NGO Legal Enabling Environment Program (LEEP), the International Center for Not for Profit Law (ICNL) provides short term technical assistance and shares international best practices for improving the legal enabling environment for NGOs in Azerbaijan. Specific activities will include monitoring implementation of relevant legislation; technical assistance on legislative initiatives and their implementation; educating NGOs on NGO-related legal issues; creation of a “hot line” designed to provide assistance to NGOs to meet financial reporting requirements and resolve other legal matters. Under this program, the Azerbaijani Young Accountants Union assists local NGOs and Ministry of Finance to address weaknesses in NGO financial reporting. ICNL will also prepare and disseminate several publications including a Manual on How to Register Grants, a Manual on How to Register an NGO and a Manual on Financial Reporting.

Small Grants & Synergy

LOP: 08/02-12/13

Implementing Partner: Eurasia Foundation

The Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) provides grants and technical assistance in the areas of civil society development, small and medium entrepreneurship, and analytical capacity in independent, policy-related research. Programs implemented by EPF build institutional capacity, promote corporate social responsibility among private companies, increase youth activism, promote civic activity in support of social and economic reform and emphasize transparency in governance and fiscal management. Current partners in Azerbaijan include USAID, Carnegie Corporation of New York, UK Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Lodestar Foundation, StatoilHydro, and the US Department of State Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Small Project Assistance

LOP: 05/01/04-09/30/12

Implementing Partner: Peace Corps

The Small Project Assistance (SPA) program supports the efforts of Peace Corps Volunteers and their host communities to plan and implement community projects. The Peace Corps has provided



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AZERBAIJAN

grants to community groups to implement high visibility projects, including promoting preventive medicine and healthy lifestyles; English language training; and organizational development and project management skill-related training programs for Azerbaijan citizens.

Socio-Economic Development Activity (SEDA)

LOP: 09/30/11 – 09/29/16

Implementing Partner: East-West Management Institute

The purpose of Socio Economic Development Activity (SEDA, which means “voice” or “echo” in Azerbaijani) is to increase citizen participation in governance to address regional socio-economic development needs. SEDA addresses the dual challenge of development in regions outside of Baku and lack of opportunity for citizens to engage with their government on issues that affect their lives. The project will establish participatory mechanisms through which key stakeholders can identify and prioritize their social and economic needs at the regional and community levels. It will also help to address those needs through SEDA-funded small infrastructure and citizen participation projects. SEDA will strengthen the capacity of both civil society, to engage in socio-economic development, and government, to institutionalize participatory practices. The program is co-financed with the Government of Azerbaijan in support of various state programs for regional development and NGO sustainability.

Strengthening Civic Engagement in Political Processes in Azerbaijan

LOP: 10/16/09-10/15/12

Implementing Partner: Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS)/National Democratic Institute (NDI)

This three-year program seeks to develop a more pluralistic political system in Azerbaijan that accommodates multiple points of view. Specifically, the project’s activities support the following objectives: 1) Development of civic leadership skills outside traditional political groups in order to promote representation of diverse citizen and political viewpoints in policymaking; 2) Increase and expansion of popular political participation; and 3) Promotion of robust civic participation and transparency to ensure credibility of Azerbaijan’s democratic and electoral processes.

Strengthening Access to Justice in Azerbaijan

LOP: 09/29/11-09/28/13

Implementing Partner: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The grant will support Legal Resource Centers in Sheki and Lankaran to provide free legal services for citizens and training for legal professionals. The OSCE Office will organize a series of study trips for representatives of MoJ, Collegium of Advocates and defense lawyers to train them on best practices of functioning bar associations and legal aid systems, and develop a new cadre of Azerbaijani lawyers with expertise in promoting compliance with fair trial standards. The grant also will support the translation, printing and distribution of key legal reference materials.



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AZERBAIJAN

Supporting Anti-trafficking in Azerbaijan

LOP: 09/29/11-09/28/13

Implementing Partner: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The program will improve coordination and capacity among key government (anti-trafficking focal points at relevant ministries, Victim Assistance Center, etc.) and non-governmental actors in assisting victims of trafficking and forced labor. OSCE also will support three shelters run by local NGOs whose beneficiaries are women, men and children, and secure legal services to register undocumented children with authorities to reduce their vulnerability to trafficking. The program will train journalists on traditional and new media tools for investigating and reporting trafficking and forced labor cases and provide understanding of relevant domestic and international legal instruments applicable to Azerbaijan.

Women's Participation Program in Azerbaijan

LOP: 09/23/11 – 09/22/13

Implementing partner: Counterpart International

Women's Participation Program (WPP) seeks to improve the status of women in Azerbaijan by raising public awareness on issues that affect women; advancing women's influence in the political process and developing the capacity of women-focused Civil Society Organization's and government institution's that work on women's issues. WPP is implemented by Counterpart International and five competitively selected Azerbaijani Civil Society Organizations (TBD). Key interventions include: supporting broad public awareness and issues based advocacy campaigns on women's issues; building institutional capacity of 5 partner civil society organizations, building linkages and networks among women political activists, CSOs and other stakeholders; organizing women's leadership conferences and leadership awards; and promoting political platforms on women's issues. The program will also work with the State Committee on Family, Women and Children and the State NGO Council.



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AZERBAIJAN

II. Economic Growth

Azerbaijan Competitiveness and Trade (ACT) Program

LOP: 09/30/2010–08/29/2013

Implementing Partner: Sibley International

The ACT project is designed to improve the domestic business enabling environment; develop a liberalized, more transparent trade environment; and improve targeted value chains in the agricultural sector in Azerbaijan. ACT has three interlinked components: Domestic Business Environment Improved, especially in agriculture; Liberalized, more Transparent Trade Environment Developed; and Targeted Agricultural Value Chains Improved. ACT will support the Government of Azerbaijan's efforts toward WTO accession, meeting AML/CFT international best practices, meeting international trade requirements for select agricultural products, and improving the legislative framework and related implementation to encourage more investment and growth in Azerbaijan. This project is co-financed with the Government of Azerbaijan. Sibley International will work in partnership with the Economic Integration Forum, the Pragma Corporation, and ASR Consulting.

Community Based Support to Producers of Dairy Products program

LOP: 10/01/09–09/30/12

Implementing Partner: UMID-98

The goal of this project is to expand dairy production of small/medium sized farmers and promote regional collection center linkages to commercial processors for the sustainable development of the existing private dairy farming households and small farmers. UMID-98 works with seven communities of small farmers to help them increase raw milk production and sales to collection centers by strengthening linkages between producers and commercial milk collection facilities, providing training to improve hygiene, nutrition and health of dairy cattle, and integrating producers with support services (i.e. access to credit, veterinary resources, agriculture educational institutions and regional associations) to improve sectoral cohesion. This project is co-financed with BP and with its contribution the total cost of the project is \$577,020.

Development Credit Authority (DCA) program

LOP: 09/30/2010 – 08/29/2015

Implementing Partner: Access Bank and Demir Bank

The goal of the facility is to help improve access to finance for micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, with a special emphasis in the agriculture sector. Under this agreement, USAID/Azerbaijan provides a \$3.3 million multibank guarantee to increase access to finance to the above specified borrowers. These public-private partnerships have development impacts: they offset some of the risk the banking sector perceives in lending in the agricultural sector and to borrowers without extensive credit histories, while allowing borrowers to access the resources they need to invest in their businesses.



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III. Investing in People

Azerbaijan Strengthening Health Systems through Integrated Programs (AZ SHIP)

LOP: 09/27/11 – 09/26/13

Implementing Partner: Abt Associates, Inc.

The program addresses Azerbaijan's health system constraints in the areas of governance, resource management, quality of services, and the education and empowerment of health care consumers. AZ SHIP strengthens the country's health care system and builds upon achievements to-date under the previous USAID health activities. Emphasis will be placed on comprehensive national health system reforms, evidence-based, best practices in health system management and health care delivery to improve health in Azerbaijan. The program will address all diseases and health conditions, however special attention will be paid to Reproductive Health/Family Planning (RH/FP), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), and Tuberculosis (TB).

UNICEF Umbrella Grant

LOP: 10/01/10 – 01/01/12

Implementing Partner: UNICEF

The project is designed to improve the availability of information, the quality of clinical practices, and the policy framework to improve maternal and child health in Azerbaijan.

The program will contribute to improvements in nutritional status of pregnant mothers, women of reproductive age and children through i) advocacy and capacity development for high-level policy interventions to improve nutrition status of women and children; ii) innovative approaches in behavioral change communication in promotion of nutrition and hygiene practices in individual, family and community levels.