

Primary Health Care Strengthening - Azerbaijan

Background

The Primary Health Care Strengthening (PHC) Project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, provides technical assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan in a collaborative effort to strengthen Azerbaijan's primary health care (PHC) system. Abt Associates fields the chief of party and provides technical assistance in health systems strengthening, while serving as a sub-contractor to the PHC Project primed by the International Medical Corps.

Objectives

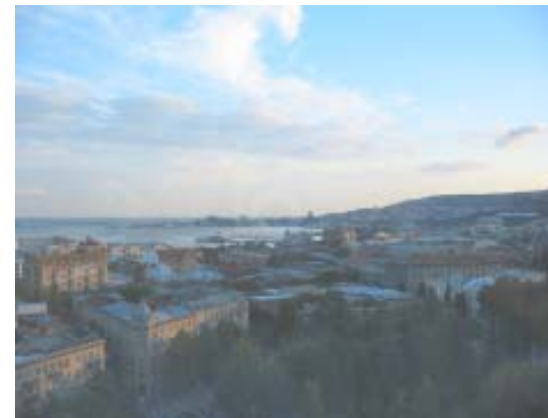
Because fundamental reform of the hospital- and specialist-centered health system inherited from the Soviet Union is still in its early stages, the project concentrates on assisting the government in the development of major national-level health policy and financing changes, while simultaneously testing critical interventions at the level of individual facilities and communities in selected districts that serve as pilot demonstration sites.

The project seeks to:

- Increase public expenditures for health generally and for PHC in particular
- Create a policy and legal framework that strengthens PHC and the PHC delivery system
- Improve the quality of PHC services
- Promote personal responsibility for health among individuals and families

Principal Activities

The PHC Project works closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to develop institutional capacity enabling the ministry to identify key policy options for strengthening health financing and the organization and delivery of PHC and to develop strategies and programs for the successful testing and implementation of selected options. Each of the four components of the project addresses a critical dimension of any well-functioning PHC system. Therefore, significant progress under each component is necessary in order for there to be movement toward the project's overall goal of helping to establish a more effective, accessible, equitable, and sustainable PHC system. At the same time, progress achieved under each component will help to reinforce efforts underway in other components.



Progress to Date

Ongoing and future work include:

- Assisted national coordinator for PHC to develop official scope of work
- Assist head of family medicine department at post-graduate medical institute to strengthen "family physician" retraining program
- Organize and lead initial technical seminar at MOH on health care financing options and strategies for strengthening PHC
- Assist MOH organize national expert working groups on health financing and PHC
- Assist MOH and World Bank prepare new \$50+ million health sector reform project to be financed jointly by government and loan from the bank
- Prepare national multi-media advocacy and information campaign on importance of "healthy lifestyle" combined with good PHC

Client: USAID

Duration: 2005-2007 (base period); 2007-2010 (option period not yet funded)

Project Team:

International Medical Corps (prime)

Abt Associates Inc.

Curatio International Foundation

Johns Hopkins University/ Center for Communications Programs

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