



Who We Are

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an inter-governmental organization that promotes humane and rights-based approaches to migration and development and assists governments in facilitating and regulating migration and fighting human trafficking. IOM was established in 1951 and today includes 162 Member States, a further 9 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries.

Background

IOM Mission in Azerbaijan started its operations in January 1996. On the 8 December 1999, IOM and the Republic of Azerbaijan signed an agreement establishing a legal basis for further cooperation in handling migration issues. Following the agreement's ratification by the country's National Assembly on the 8 February 2000, the Council of IOM, at its 81st Session in Geneva, agreed to accept Azerbaijan as an IOM Member State on the 7 June 2001. IOM enjoys similar privileges and immunities to those of the UN Specialized Agencies despite not being a UN Agency itself, and is a proud member of the UN Country Team in Azerbaijan.

Our Activities in Azerbaijan

IOM in Azerbaijan started its interventions with a multi-year project on capacity building in migration management in 1996. The activities of the Mission were followed by the numerous projects implemented under mainly eight program areas which are counter trafficking, immigration and border management, migration and development, international migration law, migration, environment and climate change, movement programmes, assisted voluntary return and reintegration and visa solutions.

IOM works closely with government and civil society partners, as well as with international organizations.

Currently, IOM Azerbaijan Mission continues its activities in the following intervention areas:

(a) Counter-Trafficking

Since 2000, IOM has been providing assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan in analysing the national counter-trafficking legal framework and providing recommendations. IOM has conducted the country's first ever assessment of human trafficking. IOM organizes awareness-raising campaigns to inform the population at large, as well as those belong to risk groups, about the dangers of human trafficking. It provides capacity building support through targeted interventions to both Government agencies and civil society organizations. So far, IOM Mission in Azerbaijan has provided assistance to more than 2500 victims and potential victims of trafficking in particular to children, women and migrant workers in the country. Presently, IOM is implementing following projects on combatting trafficking in persons:

- **“Enhancing National Capacity in Identifying and Assisting Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Azerbaijan”** – The 24-month project is funded by the United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The specific objectives of the project are to strengthen efforts to identify foreign and local victims of trafficking by building the capacities of NGOs, press/media, trade unions and labour inspectors through a multidisciplinary approach based on international and European best practices, to continue efforts to sensitize and educate consular officials and labour attaches, and to enhance funding opportunities to NGOs, press/media and victim service providers.
- **“Enhancing Measures and Cooperation to Effectively Combat Trafficking in Persons through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance in Azerbaijan – Phase IV”** – The project is funded by the United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The 24-month project aims to inform the society of the benefits of legal migration and the risks associated with irregular migration and the dangers of trafficking, and assists victims of trafficking in their efforts to reintegrate into their society.

Mission in Azerbaijan:

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- **“Enhancing Measures and Cooperation to Effectively Combat Trafficking in Persons through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance in Azerbaijan – Phase V”**- The objectives of INL-funded one-year project are to enhance the capacities of health professionals in identifying victims of trafficking and caring for victims by providing them with relevant assistance in partnership with the Centre for Assistance to Victims of Trafficking of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, to raise awareness among the local population and migrants on the risks of irregular migration and dangers of trafficking, and provide direct assistance to migrants, victims/potential victims of trafficking who needs legal, medical, voluntary return and reintegration and other forms of support.
- **“Counter-Trafficking in Persons Activity”** – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded 36-month project aims to assist the Government of Azerbaijan and civil society organizations to further improve Azerbaijan's effectiveness in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings through raising public awareness on trafficking in human beings and providing technical and financial support to the shelters operated by civil society organizations for assisting potential and actual victims of human trafficking.
- **“Identifying Gaps and Assessing Need: A Comparative Assessment of Counter Trafficking Efforts in Countries in the South Caucasus”**- The implementation of the one-year project funded by IOM International Fund started in 2015. Project's general objective is to use a comparative analysis to generate current evidence of the regional CT landscape, on which to base future results-oriented interventions and ensure more holistic approaches at the national level and, where possible, build cross-border initiatives in the region.

(b) Immigration and Border Management

IOM started its interventions in 1996 with a multi-year “Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme (CBMMP)”, which included technical assistance in policy development, structural reform, legislation and operational performance on migration and border management. IOM's immigration and border management activities are directed at helping governments develop improved policy, legislation, administrative structures, operational systems and the human resource base necessary to respond more effectively to diverse migration and border challenges and to institute good migration governance.

On 1 September 2014, IOM Mission in Azerbaijan began to implement the **“Consolidation of Migration and Border Management Capacities in Azerbaijan (CMBA)”** project jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Migration Service, State Border Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population funded by European Union and co-funded by BP and co-ventures. The 36-month project seeks to consolidate Azerbaijan's migration management capacity to effectively implement the reforms foreseen by the EU-Azerbaijan Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements in line with the Institutional Reform Plan II (IRP-II) of the EU-Azerbaijan Comprehensive Institutional Building Program, adopted by the EU and the Government of Azerbaijan in 2012, in full observance of international and European human rights standards. It aims to contribute to the efforts towards achieving an effective management of procedures and processes vis-à-vis the emigration, immigration, transit and asylum flows by following a tailored approach and taking into account the specific roles and needs of key State agencies of Azerbaijan.

Currently, IOM is also performing the **“Enhancement of National Capacities for Integrated Border Management in Azerbaijan”** project funded by the United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The main objectives of 18-month technical cooperation project are to continuously enhance capacities of the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SBS) on integrated border management, to apply advanced practice of SBS in the field of integrated border management as a best practice in establishing and improving border management systems of other countries, as well as to establish close cooperation between SBS and IOM on strengthening the existing border management systems of these countries. The project explicitly addresses issues such as the prevention of migration-related crime through information/risk analysis and intelligence-led law enforcement intervention and transfer of specialized expertise in the area of document fraud. The project facilitates that border management systems and practices are brought into closer compliance with international standards through further introduction of the IBM concept at Azerbaijan's borders.

(c) Migration and Development

The objective of IOM's migration and development programme is to contribute to a better understanding of the links between international migration and development in order to harness the development potential of migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants and to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. In order to carry out its objective, IOM implements programmes in the form of research, capacity building for governments and communities, community stabilization in countries that have undergone conflict, delivery of social programmes, community development, and partnership building with relevant institutions, authorities and business.

IOM Mission in Azerbaijan is carrying out a 12-month project funded by UK Government on **“Assisting Mine Survivors Residing in Conflict Affected Rural Areas through Livelihood Support Grants”**, which aims to enhance socio-economic reintegration of mine survivors and their family members, as one of most vulnerable and

marginalized groups, into Azerbaijan society, by helping them to earn their livelihoods, improve their standard of living and become participatory members with enhanced self-esteem in their society.

Starting from January of 2016, IOM will perform the **“Migration and Development Local Entrepreneurship Networking Solution (LENS) in South Caucasus”** project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The 24-months project aims to foster economic and social benefits of migration in the South Caucasus. The activities clustered into three components will be contributing towards delivery of three specific outcomes: (1) raised awareness at central level and enhanced capacities in targeted local communities in the three South Caucasus countries to effectively mainstream migration into their development plans and programming; (2) pilot and comprehensive schemes of supporting migrant entrepreneurs and their families with expanding or setting up new businesses tested and models for replication identified; and (3) lessons learnt through local level activities shared and ready for replication throughout the South Caucasus.

(d) International Migration Law

IOM works to increase knowledge and acceptance of the legal instruments that protect migrants' rights, as well as the ratification and implementation status of these instruments. It also assists States in developing migration policies and legislation that conform to Integration Migration Law (IML) in order to manage migration more effectively and in a manner consistent with international law.

IOM presently implements the **“E-learning Solutions to Support Justice Academy of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan”** project funded by the United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The objective of the project is to contribute to attainment of high level of professionalism among judges and prosecutors in Azerbaijan that would support the Government of Azerbaijan in strengthening the respect for democratic principles, rule of law, good governance, human rights and freedoms in line with international and European standards.

(e) Migration, Environment and Climate Change

IOM applies its comprehensive migration management approach to the complex linkages between climate change, the environment and migration. Through its activities, IOM helps to reduce vulnerability of populations exposed to environmental risk factors; assists populations on the move as a result of environmental causes; and builds the capacities of governments and other actors to face the challenge of environmental migration.

In 2015, IOM Mission in Azerbaijan started to carry out the **“Development of Training Manual and Capacity Building on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC)”** project funded by IOM International Fund. The project aims to contribute to the formulation of policies on environment, migration and climate change within comprehensive migration management and adaptation strategies, in order to mitigate the adverse impacts of environmental change on migration.

(f) Movement programmes

IOM provides resettlement assistance for UNHCR-recognized refugees, displaced persons or individuals officially identified by third countries for humanitarian resettlement. The IOM's role is to provide the receiving and sending Governments with efficient movement arrangements. The Movement programmes in Azerbaijan include the United States Refugee Admission Programme (USRAP), the Canadian Warrants (CW) and re-settlements in Europe and elsewhere. The objective is to provide the migrants with secure, reliable, and organized transfer services.

(g) Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance

As a core activity of IOM, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) activities provide vital assistance to thousands of migrants returning home every year. Building on experience and a world-wide network of offices and partners, IOM's AVRR programmes promote international dialogue and cooperation on migration management issues among host countries and countries of origin.

IOM Mission in Azerbaijan continues to assist migrants in returning voluntarily from/to Azerbaijan and reintegrating into their communities. Thus far, Mission has facilitated returns from Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the UK, Uzbekistan and others followed by reintegration assistance when necessary and available.

(h) Visa Solutions

Since October 2013, IOM is operating the Canadian Visa Application Centre in Azerbaijan under a public-private partnership mechanism with VFS as an exclusive service provider for the Government of Canada, authorized to accept applications in all temporary resident categories (visitor visas, study and work permits) and travel document applications from Canada's permanent residents in Azerbaijan.