



Embassy of the United States of America
Office of Public Affairs
Baku, Azerbaijan



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

83, Azadlıq Prospekti
AZ1007 Bakı, Azərbaycan
Email: MirzoyevaSO@state.gov
Phone: +(99412) 498 03 35
Fax: +(99412) 498 93 12
URL: <http://baku.usembassy.gov/>

PRESS RELEASE

February 15, 2006

Primary Health Care Strengthening Project Launched

U.S. Ambassador Reno Harnish and Minister of Health Shiraliyev both spoke at a conference on February 15 launching a new collaborative project to help strengthen Primary Health Care in Azerbaijan. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing technical assistance to conduct this 2-year Primary Health Care Strengthening Project. The project will concentrate on assisting Azerbaijan in the development of major national-level health policy and financing changes, as well as conducting programs that educate and promote healthy lifestyles.

The project will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Health to develop and test critical interventions at the level of individual facilities and communities in selected “pilot demonstration” districts. The goal is that as these interventions demonstrate their effectiveness, they will be used nationwide by the Ministry of Health to create broad improvements in the health care delivery system. The project has four main areas of concentration:

- 1) Assist the Ministry of Health to develop health care system policies that help to build a more accessible, affordable and effective primary health care system;
- 2) Assist the Ministry of Health to develop health system financing policies that ensure maximum resource effectiveness;
- 3) Work with the Ministry of Health to develop and implement innovative methods for the improvement of quality primary health care services; and
- 4) Work with the Ministry of Health to develop of health communication programs that educate and promote healthy lifestyles.

The project is presently working with the National Coordinator of Primary Health Care and Family medicine, as well as with the department of Family Medicine and the Doctors' Advancement Institute; and has recently organized expert working groups on primary health care and health financing.

This USAID project is being managed by a consortium of American health organizations, including International Medical Corps, Abt Associates, Curatio International Foundation and Johns Hopkins University/Center for Communication Programs.