

Migration and Higher Education: Building Skills and Capacities

Analytical assessment report on migration in Azerbaijan

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Executive summary

Since regaining its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has faced the many challenges associated with contemporary migration. The migration process started with repatriation of various (Jews, Russians, Ukrainians and etc.) nationalities to their homeland, which was followed by the emigration of significant number of Azerbaijani citizens to other countries mainly because of the post-Soviet economic decline and instability in the region. The decline continued until 1996 and, along with it, various other socio-economic difficulties inherent in a transition period acted as emigration push factors. The conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan led to the emergence of approximately one million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The conflict also caused flees of Armenian population from Azerbaijan.

At the same time however, Azerbaijan also became host to an increasing number of foreign citizens and stateless persons. Conflicts and instability in the neighbouring regions increased transit through Azerbaijan as forced migrants left their homes in search of security and better livelihoods. Nowadays, the economic revival of the country has created favourable conditions for the reverse of migration flows. In recent years, Azerbaijan has experienced high annual GDP growth, driven by a vibrant oil and gas sector, and it is expected that Azerbaijani expatriates will continue returning to their country. This has already affected the migration cycle. According to State Statistics Committee, while net migration in 1991 was -40.1, in 2010 – it reached +1.4, i.e. approximately 1,400 persons positive.

At present, as a result of rapid socio-economic progress and the realization of important projects in the fields of energy, construction, transportation and in other sectors, Azerbaijan is being transformed into an increasingly attractive destination country for migrant workers. This tendency, on the other hand, creates some serious problems that need to be urgently tackled, including the irregular migration, trafficking of human beings, forced labour and etc.

The Government of Azerbaijan in turn has developed its legislation and institutions in order to advance orderly and well regulated migration. The State Migration Programme of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2006-2008 forms the basis of these actions and it defines the main objectives to be achieved by the government bodies involved. On 19 March 2007, the President of Azerbaijan signed an order on establishment of the State Migration Service. Currently the Azerbaijani government is working on the draft of a new State Migration Programme for 2012-2014.

General statistics on migration in Azerbaijan¹

Emigration, 2010

- Stock of emigrants: 1,432.6 thousands
- Stock of emigrants as percentage of population: 16.0%
- Top destination countries: the Russian Federation, Armenia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Israel, Germany, Turkey, the United States, Turkmenistan, Georgia

Skilled emigration, 2000

- Emigration rate of tertiary-educated population: 2.0%
- Emigration of physicians: 86 or 0.3% of physicians trained in the country

Immigration, 2010

- Stock of immigrants: 263.9 thousands
- Stock of immigrants as percentage of population: 3.0%
- Females as percentage of immigrants: 57.1%
- Refugees as percentage of immigrants: 0.9%
- Top source countries: the Russian Federation, Armenia, Ukraine, Georgia

¹ World Bank's Migration and Remittances Fact book 2011, 2nd edition

Legal migration

As provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, every person lawfully present in the territory of Azerbaijan may leave the country; and as such, every citizen of Azerbaijan has a right to return to his/her country at any time without hindrance².

As laid down in the national legislation, foreigners and persons without citizenship who possess passports and, where required, visa, may enter the country by crossing through border and customs control points. It is clearly stated that persons who wish to enter the Azerbaijani territory should be holding valid documents.³

Azerbaijan is a leading exporter of labour. Statistics indicate that between 16 to 25 per cent of the total Azerbaijani population have been identified as labour migrants. Even though those who work in foreign countries are very diverse in terms of their profession and specialization, they mainly engage in individual entrepreneurship, trade and the service industry and the majority of them are concentrated in large industrial cities. However, the World Bank puts the emigration rate of tertiary educated at 2.0 per cent only.⁴

The *Table 1* demonstrates some comparative figures on movement of people from and to Azerbaijan for permanent residence. According to the State Statistic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan⁵, beginning from 2008 a net migration has become positive.

Table 1. International migration (thousands persons)

Years	Arrivals to the country for permanent residence	Departures from the country for permanent residence	Net migration	including:	
				urban places	rural places
1990	84.3	137.9	-53.6	-52.7	-0.9
1991	66.3	106.4	-40.1	-39.4	-0.7

² Article 28 – Paragraphs III and IV of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan

³ Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Exit from the Country, Entry into the Country and Passports

⁴ World Bank's Migration and Remittances Fact book 2011, 2nd edition, p.6

⁵ Official website of the State Statistic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan www.azstat.org

1996	5.8	13.2	-7.4	-7.2	-0.2
1997	7.5	15.7	-8.2	-8.1	-0.1
2002	1.2	4.3	-3.1	-2.0	-1.1
2003	2.5	3.8	-1.3	-1.6	0.3
2007	2.0	3.1	-1.1	-1.4	0.3
2008	3.6	2.5	1.1	0.5	0.6
2009	2.3	1.4	0.9	0.1	0.8
2010	2.2	0.8	1.4	1.2	0.2

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has outlined the motivations for migrant workers to leave Azerbaijan⁶:

- Insufficient money for food: 19 %
- We can only buy food and some other things: 48 %
- We can buy normal food and clothing, but cannot afford a computer, refrigerator or TV set: 17 %
- We can purchase expensive things, but cannot afford a personal car or an apartment/house: 7 %

According to the ILO, age group of migrant workers leaving Azerbaijan is 20-35 for men and 20-30 for women.

The *Table 2* demonstrates the number of people left Azerbaijan during 1995-2010 period to obtain a permanent residence in foreign countries (*this also includes the foreign citizens who came to Azerbaijan before and now returns to their country of origin or go to the third country*):

Table 2. Departure from Azerbaijan for permanent residence (persons)⁷

Countries/years	1995	2000	2003	2006	2008	2010
Total	16033	9947	3754	2644	2530	799
<i>Including</i>						
Germany	74	62	46	4	8	9
Georgia	178	97	10	10	13	2
Iran	3	24	3	1	-	-
Kazakhstan	204	174	149	153	201	260
Russian Federation	11312	8393	3140	2160	2028	430
Turkey	3	23	6	8	7	10

⁶ Sub-regional Trade Union Conference on the role of trade unions in migration, Baku, 27-28 April 2011

⁷ Official website of the State Statistic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan www.azstat.org

Ukraine	860	513	181	162	97	42
USA	570	103	18	10	21	6

According to the State Migration Service, there are 452,475 foreigners in Azerbaijan (by 01 April 2011). This number includes migrant workers – 25 % (113,118), students – 20 % (90,945), relatives of Azerbaijani nationals – 18 % (81,445) and the remaining number consists of refugees and asylum seekers.

There are 9,557 migrant workers in Azerbaijan possessing work permits (last update on 30 September 2011). If we group the migrant workers in Azerbaijan by their economic activities category, we can get the following approximately estimated figures:

- Construction (almost 40 %)
- Oil (almost 33 %)
- Manufacturing (almost 7 %)
- Education (almost 4 %)
- Trade & transport (almost 3 %)

The following countries are leading in terms of migrant workers number:

- Turkey (almost 45 %)
- UK (almost 19 %)
- Georgia (almost 4 %)
- India (almost 3 %)
- USA (almost 3 %)

The *Table 3* includes the figures announced by the State Statistics Committee⁸ concerning the number of people arrived to Azerbaijan from foreign countries to obtain permanent residence (*this also includes the Azerbaijanis who left the country before and now return to the country of origin*):

Table 3. Arrival from foreign countries for permanent residence (in persons)⁹

Countries/years	1995	2000	2003	2006	2008	2010
Total	6222	4361	2500	2232	3957	2228

⁸ Official website of the State Statistic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan www.azstat.org

⁹ Official website of the State Statistic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan www.azstat.org

<i>Including</i>						
Germany	-	2	1	-	7	3
Georgia	942	307	204	238	403	35
Iran	31	44	12	4	32	5
Kazakhstan	341	150	96	94	196	177
Russian Federation	2968	2710	1656	1394	2204	1706
Turkey	23	17	13	7	267	4
Ukraine	367	291	165	127	174	97
USA	-	5	-	1	4	3

The following figures reflect the migrants' countries of origin for the period of 2001-2009:

- Russia (62 %)
- Georgia (10 %)
- Ukraine (6 %)
- Turkey (6 %)
- Kazakhstan (4 %)
- Others (12 %)

The State Migration Service statistics for the period from 1 January to 31 November of 2011 show that:

- Number of applications received 48,250 (per month: 4,386.4)
- Number of violations of immigration legislation 11,154 (per month: 1,014)
- Number of regularizations 2,139 (per month: 194.4)
- Number of return decisions issued 7,211 (per month: 655.5)
- Number of removals 1,804 (per month: 164)

Irregular migration

Azerbaijan is used as a transit country for irregular migration from the Middle East and Central Asia towards the North, West and East. The main routes of irregular migration to and through Azerbaijan to Europe originate from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, countries of South-East Asia, and go further via the territory of Russia, Georgia and Turkey¹⁰. Along with these routes, irregular migrants are also using the route from Iran to Azerbaijan through China to Japan. Every year, hundreds of potential migrants from the Middle East and Central Asian countries (such as Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan) attempt illegal entry to Azerbaijan on the border with Iran.

According to the Interior Ministry's Office to Combat the Illegal Migration, 3023 foreigners living illegally in Azerbaijan were deported from the country in 2011. See below the statistics of deported migrants by country of origin:

- Turkey – 1319
- Pakistan – 825
- China – 339
- Turkmenistan – 236
- Russia – 45
- Georgia – 41
- Iran – 50
- Uzbekistan – 24
- Israel – 19
- Bangladesh - 25

Main intended countries of destination for irregular migrants trying to transit through Azerbaijan: Bulgaria, France, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Germany¹¹

According to NGO data and information available in the mass media¹², there are approximately 30,000 – 50,000 undocumented migrants living in Azerbaijan¹³. Nearly

¹⁰ “Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe”, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), 2005, p. 41

¹¹ ICMPD (2005): Overview of the Migration Systems in the CIS Countries; Chapter on Azerbaijan.

¹² <http://www.hafta-ichi.com/newv/2009/04/24/read=5657>

¹³ Report of Citizens' Labor Rights Protection League (PU) on situation with provision of the rights of migrants workers and their family members in Azerbaijan

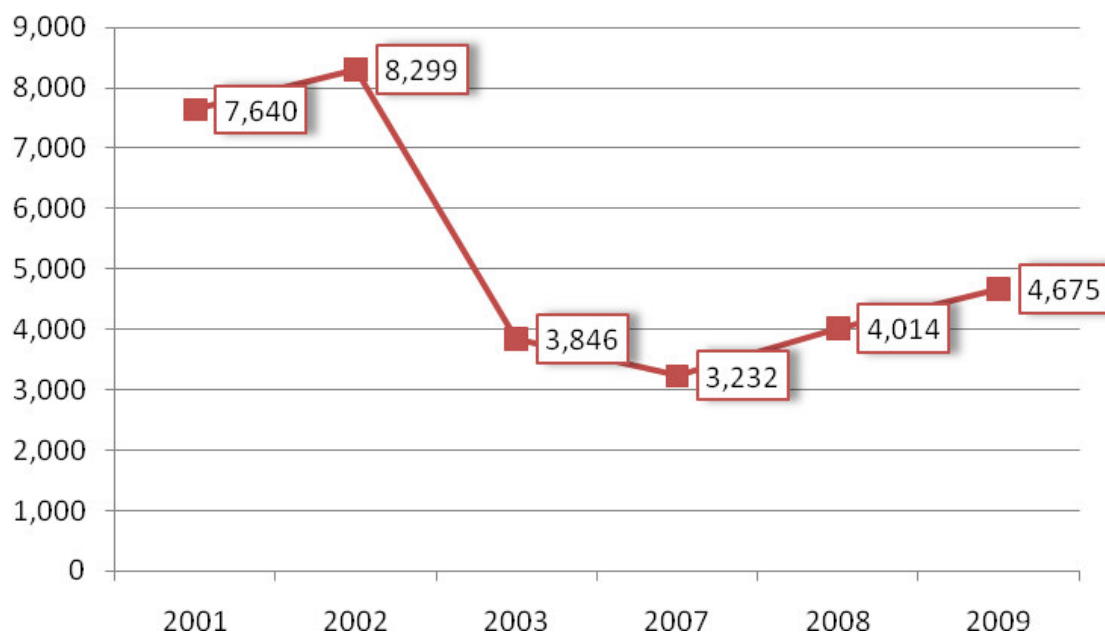
5,000 of them have work permits. The remaining ones are illegally working in Azerbaijan.

An assessment of the cases involving irregular migrants and exploited persons shows that foreign nationals subject to labour exploitation come or are brought to Azerbaijan using tourist visas or through simplified procedures (i.e. without a visa). They become irregular upon the expiry of their tourist visas or registration in Azerbaijan. Lacking valid documents, migrants are employed without work permits and labour contracts leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. Without valid documents migrants can not sign an agreement with a lawyer or representative to access justice and claim their rights through legal channels.¹⁴

Although both sexual and labour exploitation are considered a crime under the legislation of Azerbaijan, state authorities give preference to investigating sexual exploitation as they are more experienced with it. Trafficking of labour exploitation has only recently become more prevalent and more time is needed for law enforcement agencies to build practice on identifying and investigating cases of trafficking and labour exploitation. In this context exploited migrants should have other avenues to claim their rights.

The following chart shows indicators of border violations (including by Azerbaijanis)

Figure 1. Border violations trend



¹⁴ Report of Citizens` Labor Rights Protection League (PU) on situation with provision of the rights of migrants workers and their family members in Azerbaijan

As it is seen from the chart, 2003 marked a sharp decline in number of border violations. Some experts link this with the establishment of the State Border Service in Azerbaijan in July of 2002, which was followed by capacity building programmes for the State Border Service staff members by the international organizations.

Violators by *country of origin* (2009)

- Iran: 680
- Turkey: 373
- Georgia: 166
- Russian Federation: 144
- Pakistan 128

Figures and information on trafficking in human beings

Azerbaijan is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour, and women and children subjected to sex trafficking. Men and boys from Azerbaijan are subjected to conditions of forced labour in Russia and Moldova. Women and children from Azerbaijan are subjected to sex trafficking in the UAE, Turkey, Russia, and Iran. Azerbaijan serves as a transit country for women from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan subjected to forced prostitution in Turkey and the UAE. Azerbaijan is a destination country for women from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan subjected to forced prostitution. Azerbaijan is also a destination country for men from Turkey, Afghanistan, and China subjected to conditions of forced labour, primarily in the construction industry.¹⁵

The government of Azerbaijan identified 31 adult female victims of sex trafficking, three child victims of sex trafficking, and three male victims of forced labour in 2010, a decrease from 220 total victims identified by the government in 2009. The victims of forced labour (three persons) were identified as trafficking victims and repatriated by the government after being jailed in Poland.

The government provided medical, psychological, financial and housing assistance to all identified victims of trafficking; it also provided medical and

¹⁵ Trafficking in Persons Report 2011 by the US State Department

psychological assistance to an additional 319 women, who were potential victims of trafficking. During the year, the government funded one trafficking shelter which assisted 27 victims of sex trafficking, compared with 48 victims assisted by the government-funded trafficking shelter in 2009.

Table 4. Latest figures on human trafficking cases

<i>Trafficking in human beings</i>		<i>Registered</i>
		<i>2010 (Jan-Oct 2011)</i>
<i>Number of crimes committed</i>		<i>221</i>
<i>Types of crime</i>	<i>C. Code Articles</i>	
<i>Human trafficking</i>	<i>144-1</i>	<i>70 (70)</i>
<i>Forced labour</i>	<i>144-2</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Recruiting for prostitution</i>	<i>243</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Recruiting for prostitution of minors</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Running brothels</i>	<i>244</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>Forcing for engagement in sexual acts</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Forcing for the removal of human organs or tissues for the sale and transplantation (of them)</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Illegally distributing pornographic materials</i>	<i>242</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Number of criminals</i>		<i>137</i>
<i>Human traffickers (according to Art. 144-1)</i>		<i>39 (18)</i>
<i>Victims</i>		<i>34 (27)</i>

Refugees and asylum seekers

According to the information given by the MFA in February 2008, 708 persons applied for refugee status from the Refugee Status Determination Department (part of the State Migration Service) in 2007. In 2007, 62 asylum applications were approved, with refugee status granted to 90 persons, and 570 applicants were denied refugee status.¹⁶ Therefore, according to the information from the MFA as of February 2008, there were 989, 586 refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan – 250,000 Azerbaijanis deported from the Republic of Armenia, 50,000 Meskhetian Turks deported from Central Asia during the conflict with Armenia, up to 700,000 IDPs, and close to 3,000 asylum seekers from other countries

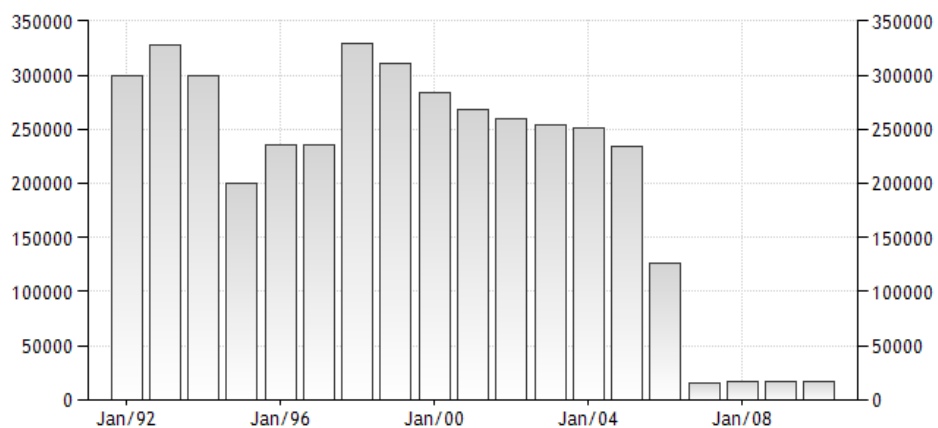
In addition, some 8,000 ethnic Chechens with Russian citizenship, 7,500 citizens of Afghanistan and 3,000 Iranians were seeking refuge in Azerbaijan.

¹⁶ Migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan, A Country Profile (IOM)

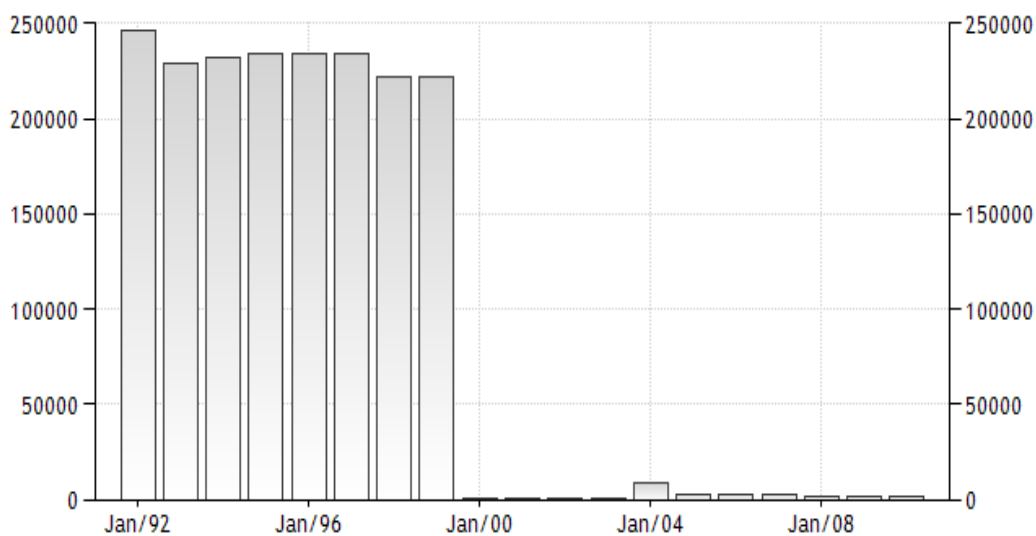
Additional and smaller such groups were said to be from Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, Sudan and Kyrgyzstan.¹⁷

According to recent estimates compiled by one of the leading global agency with IDP issues, the Geneva-based International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) the current number of IDPs in Azerbaijan could be somewhere between 579,000 (UNHCR’s estimate in 2006) and 687,000 which was the estimate of the Government of Azerbaijan in March 2007.

According to a World Bank report released in 2011, the refugee population by country or territory of origin in Azerbaijan was last reported at 16753.00 in 2010:



According to the same report, the refugee population by country or territory of asylum in Azerbaijan was last reported at 1891.00 in 2010:



¹⁷ Aliyev Alovzat, “Migration to and from Azerbaijan”, Migration Perspectives 2006

Internally displaced persons

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict led to the displacement and/or forced migration of nearly one million and a half people, according to estimates of the Azerbaijani government.¹⁸ At the same time, approximately 50,000 Meshketian Turks fled Uzbekistan and were granted asylum in Azerbaijan. The flow of ethnic Azerbaijanis from Georgia increased as well. As a result of these flows, 947,586 refugees or IDPs were residing in Azerbaijan at the end of the armed conflict in 1994.

While an estimated 300,000 ethnic Azerbaijanis left Georgia in the past 10 years, the census carried out in Georgia in the early years of 2000 recorded the presence of nearly 285,000 ethnic Azerbaijanis in the country. A law enacted by Azerbaijan in 1998 granted the Azerbaijanis that fled Georgia Azerbaijani citizenship, but those who had arrived earlier were still living in Azerbaijan without proper documentation.¹⁹

Remittances

Remittance inflows have been registered in the balance of payments (BOP) of Azerbaijan since 1995. Thus, total remittance inflows in BOP were equal to 38.2 million US\$ in 1997 and 1,5 billion dollars in 2010²⁰, indicating that remittances are bound to play an increasing role in the economy of the country. Therefore, the balance of remittance flows during the last 13 years has changed from negative to positive.

The main reason for positive changes was improving registration process of remittances in the country and increasing positive balance in migration. In addition, migrants that left the country several years ago, have already arranged their businesses and increased contributions to their families and relatives in Azerbaijan. Studies show that a majority (around 60%) of remittances are sent to rural areas in Azerbaijan.

Table 5 shows the inward and outward remittance flows for Azerbaijan:

¹⁸ ICMPD (2005)

¹⁹ Aliyev Alovzat, "Migration to and from Azerbaijan", Migration Perspectives 2006

²⁰ World Bank's Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011, 2nd edition, p.26

Table 5. Remittances²¹

<i>US\$ millions</i>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Inward remittance flows	171	228	693	813	1,287	1,554	1,273	1,472
<i>of which</i>								
Workers' remittances	154	191	490	662	1,192	1,416	1,182	-
Compensation of employees	2	12	133	128	76	102	73	-
Migrants' transfers	15	24	70	22	20	36	19	-
Outward remittance flows	169	200	269	301	435	593	652	-
<i>of which</i>								
Workers' remittances	78	65	127	149	273	399	522	-
Compensation of employees	54	108	112	125	131	168	116	-
Migrants' transfers	38	28	29	26	31	25	14	-

Source: World Bank's Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011

Following a study carried out by the Asian Development Bank in 2007, 77 per cent of remittances sent to Azerbaijan are used for basic household expenses, and less than half a per cent for business investment.²² The greatest parts of the 77 per cent are used by households to compensate for low income; moreover, remittance-receiving households have become dependent on these remittance flows. Remittances also contribute indirectly to political and economic stability in Azerbaijan.

According to a survey carried out by the aforementioned study, a third of the transfers are made through official channels. The high cost and lack of guaranteed confidentiality seem to be the main reasons for avoiding the use of these official channels. If this proportion is true, the real amount of remittances arriving to Azerbaijan would be threefold compared with the figure presented by the World Bank.

²¹ World Bank's Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011, 2nd edition, p.65

²² Vagif Rustamov, "A study on International Migrants' Remittances in Central and South Caucasus – Country Report on Remittances of International Migrants and Poverty in Azerbaijan", Asian Development Bank, October 2007

Assessment and analysis of migration policies

The National Security Concept, a document approved by the President of Azerbaijan in May 2007 indicates that “the rapid socio-economic development of Azerbaijan, the expansion of international energy and transportation communications and the geopolitical position of the country have accelerated the migration processes. This requires adaptation of migration policy and improvement of the management of migration processes to take into account the national interests aimed at development of the country and ensuring its security.”

According to the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan dated 19 March 2007, the State Migration Service was set up with the responsibility to implement Azerbaijan’s migration policy, to manage migration processes as well as to coordinate the activities of relevant governmental bodies and with competencies in matters of international cooperation. The State Migration Service considers citizenship applications, decides on the prolongation of temporary residence permits of foreigners and stateless persons in Azerbaijan, issues permits for foreigners and stateless persons to reside temporarily in the country, grants immigrant status as well as carries out refugee status determination.

Earlier and with another Presidential Decree No. 254, dated 29 June 2005, Migration Service was created within the MIA and came into service on 16 May 2006; it is now called the Chief Passport and Registration and Migration Department.

The Passport and Registration Department is a separate structural unit within the MIA which registers Azerbaijani nationals, foreign citizens and persons without citizenship by their residence, issues identity registration documents including national passports for Azerbaijan citizens, and manages immigration issues within the competence of the Ministry.

Immigrant status in the Republic of Azerbaijan is determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, international conventions that Azerbaijan is a party to, the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons” and “Immigration,” as well as other legislative acts. Foreigners and stateless persons may enter Azerbaijan for the purpose of permanent or temporary residence only after obtaining immigrant status as determined by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Immigration and through the observance of relevant immigration quotas. Immigrants have the right to benefit from the rights and freedoms reserved for foreigners and stateless persons according to national legislation and also

to uphold certain responsibilities. Immigrants receive a document certifying his/her status.

In general, there is lack of internal consistency within the current Azerbaijani legislative framework. Such inconsistency constitutes a major challenge since it jeopardizes the proper and uniform implementation of the legal norms by the State institutions. In several cases, the national legislation fails to clearly provide the requirements, procedures, rights and obligations. The terminology used is often ambiguous which can lead to arbitrary decisions. The lack of clarity often encountered in Azerbaijani legislation constitutes a significant obstacle to the foreigners' access to reliable and complete information regarding both the available channels of migration and the consequences of illegal migration. Access to information is moreover seriously hindered by the lack of concrete references in the documents studied.²³

The current Azerbaijani legislation does not ensure clear and comprehensive regulation of all aspects of immigration. While, owing to its booming economy in the recent years, Azerbaijan is becoming a country of destination, the issues regarding illegal migration or the integration of immigrants is expected to become issues of increasing relevance and therefore should be regulated as soon as possible.

Although Azerbaijani legislation seems to be comprehensive in many areas, it still fails to fully comply with the provisions of the (i) UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; (ii) Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; and the (iii) UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Concerning international standards, it is recommended that the Azerbaijani law is amended in order to ensure the national legislation is brought in full compliance with international legislation, in particular, to uphold the fundamental rights and freedoms of stateless persons as well as migrant workers and members of their families.

Policies to address irregular migration

Situated at the crossroads of many international routes of irregular migration, both land routes and through the Baku airport, work against irregular migration is one

²³ Analysis of migration related legislation and practice in the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, November 2008

of the priority sectors of the State Migration Programme. According to the Azerbaijan MFA, the use of new technologies such as biometrics is being promoted. A task force with representatives of the relevant governmental bodies is active on biometrics and “the State Programme on Biometric Identification in the Republic of Azerbaijan”, drafted on the basis of proposals prepared by the aforementioned task force, has been endorsed by Presidential Decree No. 1963, dated 13 February 2007.

In 2011, Azerbaijani government has completed construction of special centres in Baku and Yevlakh (west of Azerbaijan) for holding illegal migrants.

Policies to address trafficking in human beings

The Government of Azerbaijan works actively against trafficking. In 2004, the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings was approved, and in 2005, the Law on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted. Efforts have been made to increase investigations, victim identification training and prosecutions. In October 2006, the government opened and fully funded a shelter for trafficked victims, providing victims with short-term care and access to legal, medical and psychological services. However, according to the 2007 US TIP Report, the effectiveness of such a shelter is reduced by the lack of a “formal nationwide victim identification mechanism.” A nationwide toll-free hotline for victims of trafficking has been opened within the Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the MIA.

Recognized victims may apply for temporary residency permits for up to one year and are allowed to apply for permanent residency status. Also, victims can stay in the country if they cooperate with law enforcement. In terms of prevention, however, little has been done so far. A campaign which distributed pamphlets was carried out in 2006, and the government has supported anti-trafficking campaigns by domestic NGOs in certain schools.

Academic researches related to migration

It is worth to noting that the migration-related issues were not popular for the academic circles in Azerbaijan until recently. Therefore, the number of research papers in this field is very few. The issue of migration has always been topical since Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence in 1991, but it has been shaded by other topics such as conflict settlement, political security, energy security, transportation and etc. Therefore, there is a need for more consolidated co-operation between the Intergovernmental Organizations, International Research Centres and the Academic Research Circles in Azerbaijan in order to develop a research basis that will contribute to the academic literature and studies in this field. In particular, the history of migration in Azerbaijan, its stages, nature and reasons, as well as its economic and security implications have to be thoroughly studied by the academic centres.

Sources

One of the difficulties for academic study of migration in Azerbaijan is merely related to the fact that, the majority of projects, researches and other activities in this field are generally planned with the focus on whole region, such as CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea Region rather than on national level.

Organisation	Title	Year	Character	Available at
World Bank	Migration and Remittances	2011	Fact book	http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLAC/Resources/Factbook2011-Ebook.pdf
Azerbaijan Migration Center, Public Union	On Struggle against Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in Azerbaijan	2010	Annual Report	http://www.migration-az.org/upload/files/2010_hes_elavelerle.doc
IOM	Labour Migration to the Republic of Azerbaijan	2008-2009	Survey	http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/azerbaijan_labour_migrant_survey.pdf
IOM	Migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan	2008	A country Profile	http://www.iom.hu/PDF/migration_profiles2008/Azerbaijan_Profile2008.pdf
International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	On Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe	2005	Yearbook	