



COUNTRY FACT SHEET AZERBAIJAN

(2016)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. To do before the return:

The returnee should:

- request documents from the German authorities that might be needed later on. Bring diplomas / certificates and other relevant official documents obtained from schools in Germany.
- get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey.

There is a direct express minibus route number 116 operating from the airport to Baku city centre. Service runs every 30 minutes beginning from early in the morning until late night. The bus leaves outside the airport building, across the parking area. The service terminates at S. Vurgun's Park on the 28 May Street. The journey takes approximately 30–40 minutes. The airport is located 20 km northeast of the capital Baku and is linked to the city by two modern highways – Airport Highway (14 km) and Zigh-Airport Highway (17 km). The journey from city centre to the airport by car takes approximately 30 min-40 min.

Taxis in Baku are the purple London cabs. To use the service of "London" taxis, it is enough to call Baku Taxi Company to short code * 9000. Another convenient twenty-four-hour taxi service is provided by "Motor Service" Company, which receives the orders by calling (99412) 189.

- check vaccinations (especially for children): take vaccinations certificate/s from clinics/hospitals that will be necessary when returning to the country of origin for the (re-) registration in public hospital, especially for children. No vaccinations are needed to (re-) enter the country
- find a temporary accommodation.

2. To do immediately after the return:

The returnee should:

- register with relevant authorities: apply at the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ASAN) to obtain documents (http://www.asan.gov.az/), if he/she travelled with a re-entry certificate (i.e. laissez-passer) and his/her national ID or passport is expired. Otherwise no registration is mandatory after arrival
- (re-)register for the health insurance and the pension insurance system: recheck the registration in a public hospital near to the residing area. All public clinic/hospitals are free of charge if you have a valid national ID. There is no health insurance system available in the country.
- apply for social welfare: targeted social assistance is provided by the Government to lowincome families, if applicable. There is no particular State program available for the increase of returnee's social welfare.
- approach the State Employment Service under Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population for the possible employment purpose.
- contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing.
- apply for child care, schools or other educational institutions: contact the Ministry of Education or nearby schools for his/her children's enrollment to primary schools. There is no fee considered for the enrolment.

II. HEALTH CARE

1. Health care system

a. General Information on the health care system

There is no public health insurance system available in the country. All public clinic/hospitals are free of charge if you have a valid national ID. The Ministry of Health (MoH) is responsible for certain central, typically specialist, institutions, and the

administrations of regions and cities are responsible for all other services. MoH is the leading body for the reform implementation. It provides policy support for project development, initiates the legislative basis and monitors the implementation process. In addition, there are several parallel health establishments run by other ministries, e.g. the hospital of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Central Hospital of State Customs Committee. Accountability is complex as the regional health administrations are accountable for some issues to MoH but receive their funds from the district administrations. Private health insurance companies are ATASHGAH Sighorta, AXA MBASK, AzerSighorta, Xalq Sighorta, Baku, and Standard Insurance, International Insurance Company (IIC) with head offices in Baku and branches in regions.

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Eligibility and requirements: All public clinic/hospitals are free of charge if you have a valid national ID.
- Registration procedure: Returnee need to contact with the Ministry of Health or nearby hospital/clinic according to his place of registration.
- Required documents: Valid National ID

c. Benefits

There is no public health insurance system available in the country.

d. Costs

Patient/s should cover the cost of prescribed medicines.

2. Medical treatment and availability of costs of medication

a. Medical facilities and doctors

- Specialized Republican Hospitals: Central Hospital, Centre of Orthopedics and Prosthetic, Centre for Neuro-Surgery, Ophtalmology Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital, Tubercolosis Hospital, Urology Hospital, Children's Clinical Hospital, Centre for Oncology.
- Private Hospitals and Clinics: Hospital and clinic of Leyla Shikhlinskaya
 (http://www.shiklinskayaclinic.com), Oksigen Medical Clinic (http://www.oksigen.az/),
 Turkish-American Medical Centre (http://www.tamc.az), Baku Clinic
 (http://www.mediclub.az/), HB Guven
 (http://www.merkeziklinika.az/)
 For the full list please see following URL: http://medportal.az/clinic/

b. Procedures of admission

There is no a special unit available that returnee/s should to approach for the further referral, they need to first visit a nearby hospital/clinic according their place of the residence.

c. Availability and costs of medication

A manual on essential drug use has been published and distributed by the MoH. Drugs are purchased and distributed to hospitals by the pharmaceutical department of the MoH. The annual drug supply is usually sufficient for only a 2–3 week period. Drugs are free-of-charge for in-patient treatments. Patients are charged for the drugs for out-patient treatments, except for cancer and some psychiatric diseases. Drugs are comparatively expensive. The quality of drugs is controlled by a special inspection of MoH. Most drugs are available but some may not in Azerbaijan. In some cases the names are different from those in the EU. Pharmacies are private.

III. LABOR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

1. Labor market situation

a. Labor force

Of October 1, 2016, the number of employees engaged in the country economy were 1516.4 thousand people, 886.7 thousand of them were the employees of the public sector and 629.7 thousand person were the employees of the private sector. 22.0% of employees were engaged in education, 18.9% in trade; repair of transport means, 12.9% in industry, 8.8% in health and social services, 7.1% in public administration and defense; social security, 6.5% in construction, 4.6% in transport and warehouse, 3.7% in

professional, scientific and technical activity, 3.1% in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 1.7% in finance and insurance and 10.7% in other fields of economy.

b. Average income

In 2016, the amount of minimum monthly wage was defined 136 manat and the average monthly nominal wage of employees is 490.5 manat.

c. Unemployment rate

The official unemployment rate was 6.048%

2. Ways / assistance to find employment

The state employment agency under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population provides assistance on employment. More information at: http://www.ses.gov.az/
On-line recruitment websites: http://www.jobsearch.az/, http://www.rabota.az/, http://ejob.az/

3. Unemployment assistance

a. General information on public and/or private unemployment assistance No national legal act provides placement services for returnees.

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Eligibility and requirements: No national legal act provides assistance to returnees.
- Registration procedure: Returnee need to approach state employment agency under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population.
- Required documents: National ID and pervious labor record book (if available).

4. Benefits and costs

The benefit is equal to 70% of average gross monthly earnings of the 12 months before unemployment. The benefit must not exceed the national average monthly wage. The benefit is paid for a maximum of 26 weeks in any 12-month period. Since 1 February 2016, by Decision #31 the Cabinet Ministers of Azerbaijan has introduced the amendments to the Decision on approval of the minimum unemployment benefit. According to the amending Decision, the size of the benefit has been increased from 55 to 75 manat.

5. Further education possibilities and vocational trainings

Establishments of primary and secondary specialized education is in subordination of the Ministry of Education. More information at: http://edu.gov.az/az/page/354

IV. HOUSING

1. Housing situation

a. Average rent, running costs/utilities (e.g. electricity, water, etc.)

The rental costs for an apartment in the capital city vary, depending on the location, from AZN 300 per month to AZN 600 or up. Apartments can be rented based on an agreement certified by a public notary. The state duty for this notary action is 20 AZN and the returnee's valid nation ID is required.

b. **Demand and supply:** Returnee may easily find a place for rent in cities/countryside.

2. Ways / assistance to find accommodation

No accommodation assistance is provided to returnees at national level. Only re-admitted nationals may stay at the State Migration Service Reception Center for 3 or 6 months until solving their housing problems. Reconstruction assistance is provided to refugees / ethnic Azerbaijanis from Armenia and IDPs from Nagorno Karabakh by the Social Fund for IDPs and Refugees. No construction assistance is provided to returnees. Real estate agencies websites (house rent/sell announcements): www.bina.az, http://www.mekan.az/, http://emlakbirjasi.com/, http://emlakbirjasi.com/, http://emlakbirjasi.com/, http://emlakbirjasi.com/, http://emlakbirjasi.com/

3. Social grants for housing

According to the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic on "Forming of mortgage loans systems in the Republic of Azerbaijan", dated 16 September 2005, numbered 299, the Azerbaijan Mortgage Fund under the National Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established to improve the living conditions of the population, build an efficient housing finance mechanism, adapt the supply with real demand and attract local and foreign investors to mortgage lending. More information at: http://www.amf.az/

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

1. Social welfare system

a. General information on the welfare system

<u>Legislation:</u> Law on Social Allowances adopted on 7 February 2006 under the presidential decree № 55-IIIQ.

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Eligibility and requirements:
 - Potential beneficiaries of social welfare allowances are handicapped/disabled persons (including those under 16), women who reached 62, men who reached 67, women under 57 who gave birth and brought up 3 or more children or disabled children since his/her birth till 8 years old, men who reached 62 and without next marriage brought up 3 or more children or disabled children since their birth if their mother died or was deprived of maternity right, children of dead breadwinner till they reach 18 and above 18 if they are handicapped and if they study but not reached 23 (paragraph 1.0.2. of article 1 of the a/m law).
 - Potential categories are citizens of Azerbaijan, stateless persons and aliens permanently residing in Azerbaijan as well as those categories indicated in the relevant conventions and agreements which Azerbaijan is signatory (article 3 of the a/m law)

Preconditions for obtaining allowances:

- resignation from the work due to age or health problems but with 5 years of working length of service in conformity with the Law on State Service;
- inability to work due to the age;
- physical disability (including those under 16) /unable to work;
- loss of the breadwinner of family;
- inability to work due to health problems since childhood;
- taking care of children under 8 who lost their parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents by unemployed persons;
- for use of transport, municipal and other services by aged persons if pensions are unavailable:
- care for a child under 3 (usually paid to those who are on maternity leave);
- for education of child under 18 is paid to special category of people determined by the relevant state executive agency;
- for officially registered guardians of children who lost their parents or whose parents were deprived of their parental rights under the courts' decision;
- for low income families who have children under 1 (status of the family is determined in conformity with the law on "Addressed Social Allowance");
- for infected persons who participated in emergency operations in the high radiation zones if they have relevant medical certificate on X-ray infection issued by Medical Social Expert:
- for birth of baby;
- for funerals of state servant, aged person, handicapped person, handicapped person under 16, family breadwinner. Those who fall under points 1-11 are paid monthly allowances and those under points 12-14 single allowances (article 7 of the a/m law).
- Registration procedure for social security/insurance: The returnee needs to approach
 the State Social Protection Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan. More information at:
 http://www.sspf.gov.az
- Required documents: Identity documents of the applicant and the person who will benefit from the allowance as well as documents confirming facts for payment of allowances.

c. Benefits

The amount of allowance is determined by the relevant state executive agency depending on the status of the applicant and the situation and is subject to indexation at least once per year (article 8 of the b/m law). Allowances are monthly or single paid depending on the situation (article 1 of the a/m law).

Amount of social allowances: Age allowance is AZN 60. Disability allowance in relation to general and professional diseases is set at the level of AZN 67 for disabled persons of group I, AZN 50 for disabled persons of group II and AZN 43 for disabled persons of group III. The allowance for disabled military men will make AZN 83 (group I), AZN 66 (group II) and AZN 60 (group III). The allowance for persons disabled as a result of performing theirs duties will be AZN 77 (group I), AZN 66 (group II) and AZN 50 (group III). The allowance for the children up to 18 years old with limited physical abilities is set at the level of AZN 67; the survivor allowance will make AZN 55. The allowance for veterans not entitled for labor pension is set at the level of AZN 37. The allowance for children of military men engaged in basic military service is set at the level of AZN 55, the allowance for caretakers (trustees) of the children without parents and parental custody will make AZN 50. The allowance for low income families having a child up to 1 year old will make AZN 45. The allowance for the children of martyrs up to 16 years old is set at the level of AZN 17 and the allowance for the children of war invalids - at the level of AZN 12. Annual treatment allowance for persons suffered from radiation will make AZN 195, birth allowance - AZN 90 and funeral allowance - AZN 120.

The allowances is paid by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan. More information at www.mlspp.gov.az

d. Costs

There is no beneficiary's finical participation for the documentations in order to approach/receive the respective allowance.

2. Pension system

a. General information on the pension system

There are different types of labor pension: 1. old-age labor pension; 2. disability labor pension; 3. survivor's labor pension. Old-age and disability labor pensions consist of 3 parts: basic part, insurance part, funded part

Address of State Social Protection Fund: http://dsmf.gov.az/

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Eligibility/Requirements
- Preconditions for obtaining a pension:
 - Women who reached the age of 60 when resigning from work and men who reached the age of 63 when resigning from work are entitled to obtain a pension if they have 5 years of insurance record
 - Women aged from 44 to 51 who bring up 3 or more children or disabled children as well as male headed households aged above 55
 - Guardianship of underage abandoned children or orphans
 - Women above the age 42 and men above the age 47 who suffer from hypovisganism are entitled to obtain a pension
- Registration procedure for social security/insurance: Returnee needs to approach the State Social Protection Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan. More information at: http://www.sspf.gov.az
- Required documents: identity documents, written application, labor record book, other documents requested by relevant executive agency.

c. Costs

The pension insurance is calculated in conformity with the calendar (days, months, years) and depends on the period of work of the applicants/beneficiaries.

d. **Benefits**

Minimum pension rate on average is AZN 115.

VI. EDUCATION

1. Educational system

General information on the system

The languages of instruction is Russian, English and Azerbaijani. There are 1,790 functioning preschool institutions, which serve 111,000 or 16.1 percent of children of the respective age. 82% of preschool establishments for 1st year pupils are located in urban localities. 5 special purpose and 5 sanatorium-type preschools are for physically or

mentally disabled children to complement the general preschool facilities. 6 pre-school establishments have special units where 404 children receive both education and treatment. 14 kindergartens accommodate special groups for dumb, deaf and blind children. There are 225 specialized schools, including 7 gymnasiums and 33 lyceums, teach 84,000 high academic achievers. 90% of those who finish secondary school want to continue with their education in some form with 65% wishing to enter university.

- There are 3 levels of education:
 - Elementary education: 4 years; Age level is from 6 to 10
 - Pre-higher education: 5 years; Age level: from 10 to 15; Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificate of Primary Education
 - Higher secondary education: 2 years; Age level: from 15 to 17; Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificate of General Education
- There are 3 University Level:
 - First stage "Bakalayr": Length of program: 4 years, Certificate/diploma awarded: Bachelor's Degree or Bakalavr, Study of the Humanities and Natural Sciences as well as the basis of the chosen specialty
 - Second stage "<u>Magistr":</u> Length of program: 1.5-2 years, Certificate/diploma awarded: Master's Degree or Magistr; Acquire in-depth knowledge and professional training in the Humanities and in Natural Sciences
 - Third stage / post-graduate course: Length of program: 2 or 3 years;
 Certificate/diploma awarded: Candidate of Science (PhD)

Please find list of public/private schools and colleges in Section VII

Educational level	Age
Child care / nursery school	0-2
Kindergarten	2-6
Primary level	
elementary school, etc.	6-10
Secondary level	
middle school	10-15
high school, vocational training, etc.	15-17
Higher education	
college, university, professional school, etc.	from 17

2. Access and registration procedure, especially for returnees

Admission of pupils to comprehensive schools is carried out on I and X classes. The admission of pupils to the first class is implemented by the Commission organized based on the order of the director of the school. The Commission is comprised of the deputy director, primary school teachers, school psychologists and a doctor. The chairman of the commission is the director of the school.

The admission of children to the first classes is conducted based on the application of one of the parents (other legal representative). Electronic document submission will be made through the site www.mektebeqebul.edu.az. The following documents are required for the admission to the first class:

- Original and copy of the document confirming the identity of (the child's birth certificate; the temporary or permanent residence permit in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee Protection Certificate);
- The medical record of children (Form 26U);
- Two 3x4 photos;
- Preschool graduation certificate (if applicable)

In the application of a parent (other legal representative) reflected the main and foreign languages which the child will learn should be indicated, and information on whether or not he or she attended preschool training level. More information at http://edu.gov.az/en/page/303/5339

There are 702 schools for refugees/ethnic Azerbaijanis from Armenia. IDPs from Nagorno Karabakh teach 88,000 pupils from refugee-families.

3. Costs, loans and stipends

a. General information on tuition fees

Depending on the test score a person (student candidate) may be offered either a paid place or one totally free of charge.

b. Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition

The State Student Admission Commission conducts one undergraduate and two graduate exams each year to complete university enrolments. The enrolment is very competitive where the places are offered based on the test results. Majority of free places are considered for public Universities. More information at: http://www.tgdk.gov.az/

4. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

The Ministry of Education approves and verifies foreign diplomas only in conformity with bilateral agreements signed with other countries. More information at: https://www.nostrifikasiya.edu.az

VII. CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES

- No reintegration assistance programs available at national level.
- No financial and administrative support available upon return.
- No state fund allocated for financial support to start income generating activities.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

International Organizations:

Tel.: (+99412) 465-90-71/72

International Organization for Migration

iombaku@iom.int

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Tel: (+99412) 497-10-82, azeba@unhcr.org

United Nations Development Programme

Tel.: (+99412) 498-98-88 office@un-az.org

United Nations Population Fund

Tel.: (+99412) 492-24-70

office@unfpa.az

United Nations Children's Fund

Tel.: (+99412) 492-30-13 baku@unicef.org

Council of Europe

Tel.:(+99412) 599-05-27-28

fieldbaku@coe.int

Delegation of the European Union to Azerbaijan

Tel.: (+99412) 497-20-63

Delegation-Azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu

Food and Agriculture Organization

Tel.: (+99412) 498-02-57,

FAO-AZ@fao.org

World Health Organization Tel.: (+99412) 498-98-88

whoaze@euro.who.int

International Monetary Fund

Tel.: (+99412) 497-01-88-89

agadirli@imf.org

World Bank

Tel.: (+99412) 492-19-41 azerbaijan@worldbank.org

Asian Development Bank

Tel.: (+99412) 437-34-77 adbazrm@abd.org

European Bank of Reconstruction and Development

Tel.: Tel:(+99412) 497-10-14

AliyevaE@ebrd.com

International Labor Organization

Tel.: (+99412) 497-13-00 hamzayev@ilo.org

International Committee of the Red Cross

Tel.: (+99412) 465-63-35 / 564-27-08 / 465-63-34,

bak_bakou@icrc.org)

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies
Tel.: +99412) 493-84-81
redcrescent@redcrescent.az

<u>International Islamic Relief Organization</u> Tel.: (+99412) 438-84-97/497-04-02

TRACECA

Tel.:(+99412)598-27-18

mircea.ciopraga@ps.traceca-org.org

Relevant Non-governmental organizations:

Azerbaijan Children's Union Tel.: (+994 12) 511-34-09

kagazade@rambler.ru

SOS Children Village Tel.: (+99412) 490-39-13,

info@sosushaqkendleri.az

NGO Symetria

Tel.: (+994 12) 493-40-56/493-40-56/771-99-23/621-08-

84

kdsgender@yahoo.com

NGO Hayat

Tel.: (+99412) 497-30-52

NGO Place for Hope

Migrants Labor Rights Protection League

Tel.: (+994 12) 530-86-25)

the World of Law

Tel.: (+994 12) 480 22 31 nazirguliyev@yahoo.com)

Azerbaijan Migration Centre

Tel.: (+994 12) 498-91-74/498-09-72

Clean World Aid to Women PU

Tel.: (+994 12) 511-34-15 tamizdunyasu@gmail.com

Education Public Support Association of Youth of

<u>Azerbaijan (EPSAYA)</u> Tel.: (+ 994 51) 814-44-42

info@epsaya.az

Educational Institutions:

Public universities:

Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University, ADA University, Azerbaijan Medical University, Academy of Public Administration (Azerbaijan), Azerbaijan Technical University, Azerbaijan State Agrarian University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, Azerbaijan State Marine Academy, Azerbaijan State Oil Academy, Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku Academy of Music, Baku Slavic University, Baku State University, Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, Ganja State University, Lankaran State University, Mingachevir Polytechnic Institute, Nakhchivan State University, Sumqayit State University

Private universities:

Azerbaijan University, Baku Eurasian University, Khazar University, Odlar Yurdu University, Qafqaz University, Western University, Nakchivan Private University

Schools/colleges:

Azerbaijan art college under the Academy of Arts; Technical college of Baku: Baku Oil-energy college: Baku college of management and technology; Azerbaijan Finance-Economic College; Baku technical school of food industry: Baku state college of social economy; Baku computer college; Music college under Azerbaijan National Conservatory; Baku industry pedagogical technical school; Aghdam music technical school; Shamakhy cultural and educational technical school; Shusha cultural and educational technical school; Shusha music technical school; Astara pedagogical technical school; Aghdam state college of social economy; Goychay state college of management and technology; Zagatala state college of management and technology; Barda state college of management and technology; Kazakh state college of social economy; Tovuz state college of social economy; Nakhchivan state technical college; Sabirabad state college of social economy; Shamakhy state industry and Economy College; Guba state college of social economy; Baku college of communication and transport; Azerbaijan sea technical school of fish industry; Aghjabadi pedagogical technical school; Construction college under Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction.

Websites of relevant Ministries and Services:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (+99412) 596-90-00, katiblik@mfa.gov.az
- Ministry of Internal Affairs Hotline -102, (+99412) 590-92-22, info@mia.gov.az
- State Migration Service Hotline 919, (+994 12) 565-61-18/19/20/21/22, info@migration.gov.az
- Ministry of Economy and Industry (+99412) 493-88-67, office@economy.gov.az
- Ministry of Taxes (+99412) 403-89-70, office@taxes.gov.az
- Ministry of Transport (+99412) 431-74-37, common.dept@mintrans.az
- Ministry of Communications and High Technologies (+99412) 498-58-38, mincom@mincom.gov.az
- Ministry of Health Hotline -9103, office@health.gov.az
- Ministry of Education (+99412) 599-11-55, office@edu.gov.az
- Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population Hotline 142, (+99412) 596-50-33
- Ministry of Culture and Tourism (+99412) 493-43-98/493-30-02, mct@mct.gov.az
- Ministry of Youth and Sports (+99412) 465-84-21, mys@mys.gov.az
- State Employment Service (+99412) 596-50-33
- State Social Protection Fund (+99412) 434 60 18, info@sspf.gov.az
- State Border Service (+99412) 493-36-65/493-19-23/498-01-43
- Main Department on Struggle Against Human Traffic (+99412) 590-90-28