

Situational and Economical Analysis on Migration and HIV Health Services in Azerbaijan #2

March 10, 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

For a Consultant to conduct a Study on provision of HIV services to migrants.
We are looking for a **Social Researcher (Sociologist or anthropologist)**.

We are waiting for your applications, including CV and a financial proposal (financial proposal must be submitted as a separate annex indicating the total cost of work in US dollars and the cost for 1 hour / day) no later than **March 26, 2023, 18:00 CET** send via e-mail to: abrosimova@gmail.com indicating the subject "Study in Azerbaijan – Social researcher". The application can be submitted separately for a Social researcher or as a joint project with a health economist. (see Terms of Reference for health economist).

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATOIN

Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health (REG) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia was established by civil society activists and researchers to develop an expert position that would help improve the quality of life of international migrants in the countries of the region. The aim of the group is to provide expertise to ensure continuous access of mobile populations to health services along the entire route from countries of origin to countries of destination in the EECA region.

- The goals of the Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health are the following:
- To conduct researches to assess the health situation of migrants and access to healthcare services;
- To present researches results to the public and discuss evidence-based arguments with decision-makers, representatives of civil society, the academic community, and international organizations;
- To initiate and support expert dialogue to foster cross-border cooperation between sending and receiving countries of migration, as well as creation of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the area of mobile populations health;
- To create a common information space for cross-border cooperation.

REG, registered in Georgia, is a public non-profit association consisting of individual expert members, an Advisory Council, country representatives, as well as an Executive Committee that coordinates the activities of the REG.

For details, pls. follow <http://migrationhealth.group/en/>

RESEARCH RATIONALE

Migration Police Institute suggests that number of global migrants from Azerbaijan is 1 164 000¹.

¹ Migration Policy Institute tabulation of data from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, International Migrant Stock 2020. Available at :

According to UN Migrant Stocks, at mid-year 2020 Azerbaijan had an emigration rate of 10.6% of its entire population². The Russian Federation has been and remains the country of destination hosting the largest number of migrants from Azerbaijan. Kazakhstan, Turkey, EU countries are also host countries.

According to RF's Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2022 number of migration registration of Azerbaijan citizens is 492 839; work as a purpose of entry were indicated by 294 899 Azerbaijani³.

In the Russian Federation, in the structure of migrants, Azerbaijani citizens occupy the fifth largest group⁴. Studies suggest positive trends in the socio-economic situation of Azerbaijanis in Russia — in all labor areas, there are more prosperous positions of Azerbaijanis in comparison with ethno-cultural groups of migrants from Central Asia⁵.

However, migrants from all countries are equally vulnerable when it comes to providing HIV and TB services⁶.

Labor migration is associated with huge economic and social opportunities for the migrants. However, one area of particular concern is the growing vulnerability of migrants to HIV/TB and their lack of access to HIV/TB prevention, testing and treatment information. Migrants with HIV and TB are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and other negative factors that affect their physical and psychological well-being, as they live in conditions of legal uncertainty that deprives them of the opportunity to claim their right to health.

Taking into account the restrictions in receiving countries on access to HIV/TB services, it is important to determine whether citizens of Azerbaijan who have returned from migration face barriers in accessing HIV treatment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY IN AZERBAIJAN

The proposed project aims to gain an understanding of the legal and institutional barriers to receive HIV/TB care and treatment the citizens of Azerbaijan face when they return home from migration.

To implement this study, it is planned to involve a **project coordinator** and two researchers — a **social researcher** and a **health economist**.

It is planned to collect and analyze national HIV/AIDS epidemiological surveillance data in the context of migration issues, to identify barriers at the legislative and law enforcement levels in access to HIV/TB services for returning migrants, to assess the burden on the national healthcare system in connection with the treatment of HIV infection and TB among returnees from migration of citizens of Azerbaijan, taking into account the possible interruption / late start of treatment due to the inability to receive HIV and TB services in migration. It is important to describe how such barriers affect the fate of people and their relatives.

Special attention will be paid to the description of access to HIV and TB services among foreign citizens living in Azerbaijan.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-and-emigrant-populations-country-origin-and-destination?width=1000&height=850&iframe=true>

² Integral Human Development. Azerbaijan. 2022. Available online at: <https://migrants-refugees.va/country-profile/azerbaijan/>

³ Russian Migration Statistics. 2022 Available online at: <https://мвд.рф/dejatelnost/statistics/migracionnaya/item/35074711/>

⁴ Finexpertiza 2022. The number of labor migrants who entered Russia reached a six-year high <https://finexpertiza.ru/press-service/researches/2022/trud-migr-max/>

⁵ Endryushko A.A. (2018) Social and economic potential of Azerbaijani migrants who entered Russia in 2014-2017. Monitoring of Public Opinion: Economic and Social Changes. No. 6. P. 216—233. <https://doi.org/10.14515/monitoring.2018.6.11>

Available at : <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/sotsialno-ekonomicheskij-potentsial-azerbaydzhanskih-migrantov-pribyvshih-v-rossiyu-v-2014-2017-gg/viewer>

⁶ REG 2021. Situation analysis of HIV-related health services for foreign migrants in the Russian Federation. https://migrationhealth.group/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SITUATION_ANALYSIS.pdf

EXPECTED TASKS OF THE STUDY (will be specified during the methodology group meetings and could be adopted to country's need):

To conduct a situational analysis of migrant health and HIV and TB health services in Azerbaijan, including:

1) To conduct a review of available epidemiological data on HIV and TB among migrants in Azerbaijan (data from Republican AIDS Centers, The National TB Program, The State Statistical Committee, other available studies with references to sources);

2) To describe the key legal and institutional barriers faced by citizens of Azerbaijan upon returning home from labor migration (based on interviews with migrants, doctors, social workers and community-based activists of people living with HIV and TB champions);

It is important to analyze the following sub-categories of migrants:

HIV-positive migrants who already know about their status before leaving for migration

- ✓ HIV-positive migrants who learn about their status in the host country
- ✓ HIV-positive citizens of Azerbaijan who found out their status upon return

It is also necessary to describe typical trajectories and barriers for the following special categories:

- Students
- Women (single/married)
- HIV-positive pregnant women
- Other significant categories

3) To make a brief analysis of the national policy in the field of migrant health, including support for migrants living with HIV and people with TB abroad, the dynamics of the conclusion of international and bilateral agreements in the field of migrant health with other countries;

4) To collect information on the activities of civil society partners and projects working in the field of migrant health.

5) To describe options for HIV treatment for foreign citizens with HIV and with TB in Azerbaijan as a host country for migrants.

6) To prepare a brief analysis of a migrant health component of the National HIV Program and the Global Fund grant, as well as the agenda of the country coordination mechanism.

7) To include a brief description of existing State programs for pre-departure training of labor migrants on HIV issues (contacts of organizations providing assistance - if available).

8) Based on held analysis to propose recommendations for the a) public sector and b) civil society organizations to remove barriers to accessing HIV and TB services for migrants - citizens of Azerbaijan.

9) Prepare a summary of the study and recommendations (2-2.5 pages), which will be placed at the very beginning of the report.

METHODS OF THE STUDY:

- The main method for conducting an analysis of a legal regulation of residence and access to HIV and TB care will be desk-research
- Semi-structured interviews with experts (**ten with HIV and ten with TB experts' interviews**);

- Interviews with HIV-positive Azerbaijan citizens returned from migration (**twenty interviews**);
- Interviews with people with TB who are Azerbaijan citizens returned from migration (**ten interviews**)
- Interviews with foreign people with TB living in Azerbaijan (ten interviews)
- Analysis of public spending data on HIV and TB.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS (will be specified during the methodology group meetings and could be adopted to country's need):

A report on the results of the study in Russian or English and translation of the text into Azerbaijani language. Report volume: 25-35 pages in WORD format, 12 size, including:

- a review of available epidemiological data on HIV and TB among migrants in Azerbaijan (data from AIDS Centers, The National TB Program, The State Statistical Committee, other available studies with references to sources)
- an analysis of conducted interviews
- a description of key barriers to accessing HIV and TB services for Azerbaijan citizens planning and returning from migration
- a brief analysis of the National policy in the field of migrant health, including support for migrants living with HIV and with TB abroad, the dynamics of the conclusion of international and bilateral agreements in the field of migrant health with other countries
- a brief description of existing State programs for pre-departure training of labor migrants
- description of the prevention and treatment options for foreign citizens with HIV and TB in Azerbaijan as a host country for migrants
- a brief analysis of the health component of migrants in the National HIV and TB Program and in the Global Fund grant, as well as in the agenda of the country coordination mechanism.
- conclusions and recommendations
- bibliography

The text must be written entirely by the authors of the Study.

According to the donor's request, the full text of the report will be checked for plagiarism when the work is accepted by the customer.

PROPOSED TIMEFRAME

April 2023 – June 10, 2023: data collection, identification of experts, development of a methodology and guides for the interviews, obtaining approval from the ethics commission, preparation and conduct of expert interviews, data analysis, preparation and submission of the primary version of the report, transcripts, or audio files of interviews/fragments by researchers to the Regional Coordinator.

No later than June 20, 2023: receiving feedback from the Customer - the Regional Expert Group on the Health of Migrants

June 20 – June 30 2023: finalization of the text based on comments received from the Regional Coordinator and the Customer - the Regional Expert Group on the Health of Migrants

No later than June 30, 2023: provision of the final version of the report with all supporting documents and taking into account the Customer's comments.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

The payment is made in two parts after the provision of the developed methodology (70%) and the final text of the study approved by the customer and all related documents (30%).

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR TENDER PARTICIPANTS

Experience in participating in research projects in similar areas, experience in conducting desk research (Experience in analyzing publications and data on public health issues in EECA countries) — 20%;

Understanding of the topic (public health, in particular HIV / AIDS, TB and migrant health) - 10%;

Knowledge of qualitative data collection and analysis methods — 20%;

A degree in sociology/demography — 20%;

Experience of interacting with vulnerable groups is desirable — 15%;

Experience in writing scientific articles — 15%;

When receiving the same marks on quality criteria, preference is given to the applicant who declared the lowest cost of work.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

All information and data collected in the course of the study should not be transferred to third parties or used in other studies or reviews until the publication of this report. After the publication, the use of data is possible only with a link to the report of the Regional Expert Group on Migrant Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

The authors of the report retain the right to the name; the rights to the report and the results of the study will belong to the Regional Expert Group on Migrant Health (REG) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (dissemination, translations into other languages, etc.).

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Individuals, legal entities, self-employed who have the right to engage in relevant activities and are registered as single tax payers, can take part in the competition, by submitting tender proposals.

The deadline for submission of the proposals is **March 26, 2023, 18:00 CET**.

Please, submit a proposal by e-mail to Zinaida Abrosimova abrosimova@gmail.com (please, indicate in the subject of the email “Study in Azerbaijan – Social researcher”).

The proposal should include:

- Description of the experience of the consultant/organization corresponding to the fulfillment of the terms of reference;
- CV;
- Price offer and the budget for the assignment, the cost of one day of the consultant's work (based on 8 working hours per day in USD), an indication of the number of days to complete the tasks required for the implementation of the Study.