

ASSESSMENT OF THE IDP SITUATION IN AZERBAIJAN AND COOPERATION MECHANISMS IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS



**UNHCR-OCHA Mission to the Republic of Azerbaijan
14-24 March 2005**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1. BACKGROUND	11
2. PURPOSE OF THE MISSION	12
3. PROGRAMME OF THE MISSION	12
4. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	13
4.1 Government Policies and Support.....	13
4.2 Coordination.....	15
4.3 Vulnerability of IDPs	16
4.4 Housing Conditions.....	18
4.5 Employment, Self-employment and Income Generation.....	22
4.6 Environmental Concerns	27
4.7 The Role of UNHCR.....	28
ANNEXES	
Annex A Terms of Reference of the Mission.....	33
Annex B Programme of the Mission	37
Annex C Map of Azerbaijan	39
Annex D List of Persons Met Before & During the Mission.....	41
Documents Consulted.....	43
Acronyms	45

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of the Government of Azerbaijan and the UNHCR office in Baku, and in close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator, two UN officials from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNHCR carried out a mission to Azerbaijan in March 2005.

The purpose of this mission was to:

- assess ground realities on the IDP situation, including identifying specific needs and issues that may potentially be addressed by other organizations. As an example, environmental implications will be studied, which could encourage a follow-up mission by a specialized agency on environment;
- find out where UNCT stands in the present process of finding durable solutions for the IDP population in Azerbaijan;
- interview stakeholders involved in the IDP situation and other potential actors to bring onboard;
- issue recommendations that will enhance cooperation on IDP-related issues;
- ultimately, issue recommendations that will help the UNHCR Bureau and Branch Office in Baku to define a strategy for UNHCR's future advocacy and coordination role in Azerbaijan. Recommendations will have an impact on the preparations of UNHCR Country Operation Plan for 2006.

Prior to the mission, the Terms of Reference (ToRs) were shared with the Azerbaijan Permanent Mission in Geneva during a meeting with Ambassador Elchin Amiirbayov held at UNHCR on 17 February. The ToRs were also shared with Mr. Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator, on 4 March. In an email dated 18 February, the Resident Coordinator agreed to the joint mission according to the ToRs shared by UNHCR.

Programme of the Mission

The mission was carried out by Messrs. Dusan Zupka, Head of OCHA's European Desk, Response Coordination Branch, and Pablo Mateu, Chief of UNHCR's Reintegration and Local Settlement Section, from 14 to 25 March 2005¹. It included meetings with all stakeholders (including local authorities) and visits to refugee- and IDP-affected areas in rural and urban areas.

The mission included field visits to IDP and refugee-affected areas in Aghjabedi, Baku, Barda, Imishli, Mingechevir, Sabirabad and Sumgayit regions. Field visits were facilitated by UNHCR and the Cabinet of Ministers's Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and Work with International Organizations. Messrs. Nijat Kerimov (UNHCR Assistant Field Officer) and Mr. Ramin Talibli (Leading Adviser to the Department) accompanied the mission the field visits and provide substantive inputs and information.

¹ Due to previous commitments, Mr. Zupka was unable to stay for the entire period.

The mission met with central Government officials (including twice with the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of refugee/IDP matters and relations with international organizations), regional government officials (including representatives of regional governments “in exile”), UN agencies (including the UN Resident Coordinator), international financial institutions (World Bank and Asian Development Bank), local and international NGOs and donors (both private and governmental). The mission also held extensive meetings with UNHCR staff, particularly with the UNHCR Representative, Mr. Jean-Claude Concolato. The discussions with UNHCR centered on this agency’s involvement with IDPs in Azerbaijan and not necessarily on refugees and asylum seekers.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government Policies and Support

Findings:

- Key government policies and strategies for the improvement of living standards and economic opportunities for IDPs are in place.
- The Government has steadily increased its assistance to IDPs, including through the use of the State Oil Fund and of loans from international financial institutions.
- Government coordination of interventions on behalf of IDPs is vested upon one of the Deputy Prime Ministers and has gradually improved according to all stakeholders consulted by the mission.
- The fact that there are less NGOs and international organizations providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs has also improved coordination.

Recommendations:

- The UN System, and UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP in particular, should continue to support the Government in making sure that the outstanding, specific needs of IDPs are adequately covered by major national programs as well as by punctual interventions of a more humanitarian nature.
- More specifically, the UN System should support Government efforts aimed at improving living conditions and employment opportunities in both urban and rural areas.
- This should be done through advocacy at both local and international level, and regular monitoring of the conditions of IDPs both in large urban centers (such as Baku and Sumgait) and the regions.
- The UN, including humanitarian agencies like UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP, should continue its support to the Government’s poverty reduction and regional development efforts. In doing so, the UN must ensure that the needs and concerns of IDPs are adequately addressed in the strategies and programs emanating from poverty reduction processes.

2. Coordination

Findings:

- International agencies and donors based in Baku share the view that the Government of Azerbaijan recognizes its primary responsibility for addressing the needs of the internally displaced persons. Several major line ministries and central institutions also have direct responsibilities relating to the internal displacement. In light of the important number of government bodies concerned with this issue, there is a significant need for an effective coordination mechanism.
- As regard to the International Community, UNHCR has been performing as a lead agency for the internal displacement in Azerbaijan, under the UN Resident Coordinator. UNCT support to national efforts in the area of IDPs takes place within the context of the 2005-2009 UNDAF, though the latter does not have IDPs as one of its main collective outcomes. Furthermore, there are 72 INGOs and 22 national NGOs working with IDPs. It is recognized that coordination among all stakeholders still needs to be improved.
- The shift of national and international assistance programmes for IDPs from relief to development entails coordination challenges, which require efficient and flexible coordination structures. It's therefore recommended that the close cooperation between the UN agencies and the State entities entrusted with the coordination of assistance to IDPs continue, especially with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and Work with International Organizations.

Recommendations:

- The close cooperation between the UN agencies and the State entities entrusted with the coordination of assistance to IDPs must continue, especially with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and Work with International Organizations.
- The UNCT should increase its efforts, under the leadership of the UN RC to inform the public on the UN approach to IDPs in Azerbaijan and to change certain wrong perceptions of ongoing, collective efforts. This public awareness campaign should include informing IDPs on the efforts being made through the SPPRED to improve their living conditions. UNHCR at the field and Headquarters level and the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division/OCHA in Geneva should play a leading catalytic role in this process.
- The UN Country Team should also share periodically comprehensive reports on IDPs with the IDD based in OCHA Geneva to assist IDD in more effectively advocacy on behalf of IDPs in Azerbaijan, including through the Global IDP project.

3. Vulnerability of IDPs

Findings:

- The vulnerability of IDPs has been the subject of extensive debate among the UN agencies, donors and international financial institutions in Azerbaijan, with no consensus on the relative vulnerability of the displaced population.

- The recent WFP survey has confirmed earlier studies which show that IDP household seem to be slightly better off than the population at large, simply because of the many benefits and subsidies received from the Government, as well as from the fact that IDPs tend to live in “free” or low cost housing.
- Should such support be withdrawn, IDPs would see their welfare considerably undermined.

Recommendations:

- The UN System, together with the IFIs and the donor community, should continue discussions with the Government on the establishment of regular poverty surveys, including an IDP survey, in order to assess not just the vulnerability of IDPs but also the implications of such vulnerability for the eventual return and reintegration in their places of origin.
- At the same time, the UN System should increase its efforts to increase the self-reliance of IDPs in their current place of residence. This will reduce their vulnerability, reduce poverty and prepare them better for a rightful return and reintegration.

4. Housing Conditions

Findings:

- The housing situation of IDPs varies according to their location, with those living in public buildings and railway wagons experiencing difficulties due to overcrowding, use of collective facilities and inadequacy of dwellings. The housing situation in rural and semi-rural settlements is also varied, with mud-brick houses, prefabricated houses and other types of housing, offering a precarious shelter yet more space and less promiscuity than public buildings or railway wagons.
- The Government’s program to provide adequate shelter through the construction of new settlements is providing IDPs with decent housing conditions and basic social services. The new settlements will also serve to accommodate the natural increase of IDP families or could serve to house poor citizens, once IDPs return to their places of origin.
- The fact that in all cases, IDPs are living in free or low-cost housing is factor that needs to be taken into account in any IDP vulnerability assessment exercise².

Recommendations:

- Until a housing solution, even if temporary, is found for urban IDPs currently living in public buildings, projects aimed at periodic repairs of the communal areas of these buildings should be maintained.
- The UN Country Team should encourage the involvement of specialized agencies, such as UN-Habitat and The Urban Institute, in supporting the Government in its efforts to improve the housing conditions of IDPs, especially those living in urban centers and not targeted by the Government’s efforts to build new settlements for IDPs.
- Increased efforts at improving current housing conditions of IDPs must also be based on the fact that, once return takes place, it will most likely be spaced over a certain

² As recommended by a World Bank publication (Holtzman and Nezam, page 140).

period of time. It should also be based on the premise that some IDPs may not be able to go home, in view of natural increases in family size or assimilation into large urban centers. The latter will probably be the case among many young IDPs, based on experiences in similar situations in other countries.

- At the same time, the UN should look into ways and means to support the livelihoods of those IDPs who have moved into Government-funded new settlements. This could be done through projects aimed at enhancing agricultural production and other forms of self-employment.

5. Employment, Self-employment and Income Generation

Findings:

- Employment opportunities for IDPs, as well as for the population at large, are extremely limited in Azerbaijan. However, unemployment among IDPs is higher than among the non-IDP population.
- In urban centers, IDPs seem to find employment more easily but often in low-paying jobs and in the informal economy.
- The preservation of government jobs among IDP civil servants has resulted in steady employment and wages benefiting a number of IDPs. The maintenance of civil service structures “in exile” will also facilitate the re-establishment of local government structures upon return to the areas currently under occupation.
- Employment opportunities in the rural areas are even scarcer thus making IDPs rely almost exclusively on income from agricultural activities. The latter however is limited in view of the size and quality of allocated lands

Recommendations:

- Improvement of living conditions and self-reliance of IDPs should remain a priority for both the Government and the international community. The UN must therefore support efforts to improve the self-reliance of IDPs. In doing so, it must bear in mind that self-reliance is not a substitute for a durable solution (i.e. return to their places of origin) nor should be equated to local integration. Instead, self-reliance must be based on the development of skills and the eventual acquisition of assets, which the IDPs could easily take with them upon return.
- One way to improve the self-reliance of IDPs is through support to programs aimed at creating employment and fostering self-employment. In particular, employment and self-employment should be encouraged among young IDP women and men.
- To do so, the UN should encourage the International Labour Office (ILO) to expand its support to Azerbaijan. Since UNHCR has a joint technical support project with the ILO, UNHCR Baku should activate this scheme and request a technical expert who could assist the office in expanding its support to vocational training schemes, as well as Government efforts to further develop the private sector through small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and expanded microfinance services in IDP-affected areas.
- More specifically, ILO technical expertise in the areas of employment, vocational and skills training should complement the future involvement of the Refugee Education Trust (RET) in Azerbaijan. In the area of SME promotion, ILO could support

Government plans to establish food (fruits and juices; bakeries), leather, and wool processing enterprises in Agdam, Aghjabedi, Barda, Bilasuvar, Fizuli and Goranboy.

- Since Azerbaijan is one of eleven lead countries in the joint UN-ILO-World Bank Youth Employment Network (YEN) initiative, the UN, and UNHCR in particular, should facilitate the involvement of YEN in programs and activities targeting IDP youth. Partnership with YEN should also be linked to the UN's advocacy work in favour of IDPs. In doing so, the UN should make sure that the Ministries of Labour and Social Protection, and Youth, Sports and Tourism are involved in any efforts linked to YEN.
- The UNCT should encourage FAO to look into a potential intervention in projects aimed at rehabilitating irrigation systems in IDP-affected regions. At the same time, FAO should consider supporting the government's plans to establish of agricultural resource centers in IDP-affected rural areas (Agdam, Barda, Bilasuvar, Fizuli, Goranboy and the Lachin winterlands in Aghjabedi), where tools, technical support and skills training would be provided. In doing so, FAO should closely coordinate with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other organizations involved in the funding or implementation of similar or related projects.

6. Environmental Concerns

Findings:

- The lack of maintenance of Soviet-era irrigation systems has contributed to the build-up of salinity, which now affects more than a third of all irrigated lands. IDPs have been allocated some of this land and the salinity severely undermines agriculture production and therefore IDP livelihoods.
- Overcrowding in public buildings in urban centers, coupled with inadequate housing conditions in some rural settlements, have contributed to problems related to waste disposal.
- The influx of IDPs and their animals into the central regions has resulted in overgrazing of pasturelands.

Recommendations:

- The UN, together with NGOs, should explore the possibility of establishing reforestation projects in IDP-affected regions. These projects could include a combination of food for work (foodstuffs to be provided by WFP) and cash payments, and involve communities. IDPs, particularly young women and men, could be engaged in the implementation of these reforestation projects and thus provide them with temporary and semi-permanent employment opportunities.
- The UN should ensure that specialized agencies support the Government in the establishment and implementation of a return and reintegration program so that environmental concerns are adequately addressed by such program in both the former IDP-hosting areas and the regions of origin.

7. The Role of UNHCR

Recommendations:

- UNHCR should do its utmost to maintain its presence at the same level, as recommended by a mission of the Inspector General's Officer and confirmed by the High Commissioner during his last visit to Azerbaijan. At the same time, UNHCR should act as a catalyst for the establishment of additional activities in favour of IDPs, particularly those aimed at strengthening the self-reliance of IDPs.
- UNHCR should remain closely engaged in the process leading to the establishment of the next 10-year poverty reduction program, and advocate for the outstanding specific needs of IDPs. To do so effectively, UNHCR should dedicate one staff member, full time, for this endeavour, as well as for the identification of new opportunities and following up on development processes.
- UNHCR should increase and regularize its field visits to the regions in an effort to monitor the living conditions and concerns of IDPs. Enhanced monitoring of the IDP situation in both urban and rural areas should result in improved advocacy for IDPs in development processes. This effort should include the establishment of an IDP Monitoring Form. Field visits should also include the Public Information Officer and result in PI activities related to IDPs.
- UNHCR should maintain its assistance to IDPs at an adequate level and within the same sectors. At the same time, UNHCR should encourage other actors to continue or increase their support for IDPs.
- UNHCR should also monitor how IDPs are faring when it comes to the achievement of the national-specific MDGs. A continuation of UNHCR's contribution towards the UNDP project related to MDG reporting should continue, together with additional support from HQs.
- UNHCR should increase its advocacy and public awareness activities at both the field and Headquarters level. At country level, advocacy and public awareness, as related to IDPs, should be closely coordinated with the Government, the UN Resident Coordinator and the Country Team. At Headquarters, the advocacy in favour of IDPs in Azerbaijan should be closely coordinated with the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division (IDD) within OCHA. Among other things, UNHCR should take the lead in contacting and encouraging FAO, ILO and other specialized agencies and entities to expand their activities in Azerbaijan. At Geneva level, advocacy should be coordinated with the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan. UNHCR should stand ready to support the Government in the development and implementation of a voluntary repatriation program ("The Great Return"), including its reintegration components. This should be done in close coordination and collaboration with the UN Country Team, major bilateral donors and international financial institutions.

1. BACKGROUND

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh started in 1988 and led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Azeris who fled into other parts of Azerbaijan. An estimated 200,000 ethnic Azeris were forced to flee from Armenia, while half a million others were displaced within Azerbaijan. A cease-fire was negotiated in May 1994. According to Azerbaijan's official registration, the conflict resulted in 209,000 refugees and 576,000 IDPs (roughly 10% of the total population of the country)³. In the most recent government statistics (December 2003)⁴, 571,272 persons are still considered to be IDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied areas.

According to WFP, only one third of the IDPs reside in ordinary houses while more than 90,000 are living in 28 camps/settlements and around 300,000 people are settled in public buildings, including rail wagons. It is estimated that at least half of the IDPs are living in urban areas, especially Baku and Sumgait. Those IDPs in urban centers have a comparative advantage over IDPs in rural areas and camps/settlements, where services are randomly provided and employment opportunities are extremely limited. As a result, WFP has been mainly targeting food assistance to IDPs outside the major urban areas.

In 1992-93, UNHCR launched an emergency relief operation for Azeri IDPs, upon the request of the Government of Azerbaijan and the approval of the UN Secretary-General. In 2000, UNHCR started to scale down its involvement in IDP assistance as other actors, particularly the Government and development agencies, became increasingly involved in programmes aimed at supporting the IDPs. For the same reasons, OCHA office in Baku was closed in 2000.

As a political settlement to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabagh has not yet materialized, the Government of Azerbaijan and the international community (both humanitarian and development) have increased efforts to improve the standards of living of the IDP communities, including through some local integration initiatives. Thus, since 2001, the Government has been addressing the needs of the IDP population more actively than in the 1990s. The adoption of several presidential decrees in 2001 and 2002 regarding the situation of IDPs, together with the allocation of large proceeds from the State Oil Fund (SOFAR)⁵, has led to an improvement in the socio-economic conditions of IDPs. In 2004, President Ilham Aliyev made a commitment to resettle the IDPs still remaining in the so-called "tent camps" in new settlements built by the Government. Finally, in July 2004, the President issued a decree launching a broader programme for further improvement of the living conditions of IDPs.

³ As recognized in the 2003 CCA, statistics on IDPs and refugees vary according to data presented by different UN agencies as well as government structures.

⁴ *UNHCR Azerbaijan Country Operations Plan for 2005*.

⁵ Under a Presidential Decree (August 2001), the State oil company is obliged to transfer USD 190,000 per month to the State Committee for Refugees and IDPs.

2. PURPOSE OF THE MISSION

At the request of the Government of Azerbaijan and the UNHCR office in Baku, and in close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator, two UN officials from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNHCR carried out a mission to Azerbaijan in March 2005.

The purpose of this mission was to:

- assess ground realities on the IDP situation, including identifying specific needs and issues that may potentially be addressed by other organizations. As an example, environmental implications will be studied, which could encourage a follow-up mission by a specialized agency on environment;
- find out where UNCT stands in the present process of finding durable solutions for the IDP population in Azerbaijan;
- interview stakeholders involved in the IDP situation and other potential actors to bring onboard;
- issue recommendations that will enhance cooperation on IDP-related issues;
- ultimately, issue recommendations that will help the UNHCR Bureau and Branch Office in Baku to define a strategy for UNHCR's future advocacy and coordination role in Azerbaijan. Recommendations will have an impact on the preparations of UNHCR Country Operation Plan for 2006.

Prior to the mission, the Terms of Reference (ToRs) were shared with the Azerbaijan Permanent Mission in Geneva during a meeting with Ambassador Elchin Amirbayov held at UNHCR on 17 February. The ToRs were also shared with Mr. Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator, on 4 March. In an email dated 18 February, the Resident Coordinator agreed to the joint mission according to the ToRs shared by UNHCR.

The ToRs were also shared with Mr. Roy Brooke, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, during a meeting between two technical sections of UNHCR's Division of Operational Support on 1 March⁶.

A complete version of the Terms of Reference is attached as Annex A.

3. PROGRAMME OF THE MISSION

The mission was carried out by Messrs. Dusan Zupka, Head of OCHA's European Desk, Response Coordination Branch, and Pablo Mateu, Chief of UNHCR's Reintegration and Local Settlement Section, from 14 to 25 March 2005⁷. It included meetings with all

⁶ Mr. Brooke suggested that, if during the joint UNHCR/OCHA meeting it becomes apparent that there may be acute environmental issues related to the IDP situation, the joint UNEP/OCHA unit would consider an intervention. This could include a rapid environmental assessment to identify urgent environmental issues and the actions required to address them.

⁷ Due to previous commitments, Mr. Zupka was unable to stay for the entire period.

stakeholders (including local authorities) and visits to refugee- and IDP-affected areas in rural and urban areas.

The mission included field visits to IDP and refugee-affected areas in Aghjabedi, Baku, Barda, Imishli, Mingechevir, Sabirabad and Sumgayit regions. Field visits were facilitated by UNHCR and the Cabinet of Ministers' Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and Work with International Organizations. Messrs. Nijat Kerimov (UNHCR Assistant Field Officer) and Mr. Ramin Talibli (Leading Adviser to the Department) accompanied the mission the field visits and provide substantive inputs and information.

The mission met with central Government officials (including twice with the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of refugee/IDP matters and relations with international organizations), regional government officials (including representatives of regional governments "in exile"), UN agencies (including the UN Resident Coordinator), international financial institutions (World Bank and Asian Development Bank), local and international NGOs and donors (both private and governmental). The mission also held extensive meetings with UNHCR staff, particularly with the UNHCR Representative, Mr. Jean-Claude Concolato. The discussions with UNHCR centered on this agency's involvement with IDPs in Azerbaijan and not necessarily on refugees and asylum seekers.

The mission was also covered by the local media, through a television interview given by Mr. Mateu to a private TV news program and articles in web-based Azerbaijan media⁸.

The programme of the mission and a complete list of officials met during the mission are attached as Annexes B and D.

4. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Government of Azerbaijan has been steadily increasing its efforts to improve the standards of living of the IDP communities. Government support is framed within a series of presidential decrees, laws passed by the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) and enactments and resolutions adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers that regulate assistance and protection of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in Azerbaijan.

These government-issued policies and programs cover educational, health, employment, pension and material assistance; the establishment of key posts (e.g. Deputy Prime Minister – Chairman of the State Refugee Committee) to centralize matters related to IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers; the establishment of the Social Fund for the Development of IDPs (SFDI); and monthly food and kerosene allowances, unemployment benefits and exemptions from paying taxes and utilities.

Of particular importance is the July 2004 *Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic Regarding the Approval of the "State Program for the Improvement of Living Standards and Generation of Employment for Refugees and IDPs"*. This presidential decree clearly establishes a broader programme for further improvement of the living conditions of

⁸ The interview with private station ATV appeared in their evening news program on 22 March, while articles related to the mission appeared on www.ucnoqta.com and www.zaman.com.az on 17 March.

IDPs. Also important is the *State Programme for Poverty Reduction and Economic Development (SPPRED)*, covering a three year period (2003-2005) and currently being updated as a 10 Year Programme for Economic Development and Poverty Reduction for the Period 2006-2015. The improvement of the living conditions and opportunities of the refugee and IDP population is one of the six strategic aims of the SPPRED. More specifically, the SPPRED identifies several directions for assistance, including the rehabilitation of the non-occupied areas near the ceasefire line, provision of improved housing for 5,000 families, upgrading infrastructure in IDP camps, addressing employment issues for IDPs, education and health, and development of a new repatriation plan.

It is forecasted that Azerbaijan's oil sector will receive a major boost in 2005 with a growth rate of around 40% (real growth in the non-oil sector is projected to average 9.7% between 2003 and 2005). These new oil revenues should allow the Government to take greater responsibility for the provision of assistance and improved services to IDPs.

In summary:

- Key government policies and strategies for the improvement of living standards and economic opportunities for IDPs are in place.
- The Government has steadily increased its assistance to IDPs, including through the use of the State Oil Fund and of loans from international financial institutions.
- Government coordination of interventions on behalf of IDPs is vested upon one of the Deputy Prime Ministers and has gradually improved according to all stakeholders consulted by the mission.
- The fact that there are less NGOs and international organizations providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs has also improved coordination.

However, despite growing efforts and new approaches of the Government of Azerbaijan to address the needs of the displaced population, a great number of IDPs continue to live in precarious conditions. While needs and problems on the ground persist in varying degrees according to location, international humanitarian assistance to IDPs has progressively decreased. Instead, major donors are concentrating on supporting poverty reduction and regional economic development programs, and advocating for the “mainstreaming” of IDPs into these programs.

Recommendations:

- *The UN System, and UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP in particular, should continue to support the Government in making sure that the outstanding, specific needs of IDPs are adequately covered by major national programs as well as by punctual interventions of a more humanitarian nature.*
- *More specifically, the UN System should support Government efforts aimed at improving living conditions and employment opportunities in both urban and rural areas.*
- *This should be done through advocacy at both local and international level, and regular monitoring of the conditions of IDPs both in large urban centers (such as Baku and Sumgait) and the regions.*
- *The UN, including humanitarian agencies like UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP, should*

continue its support to the Government's poverty reduction and regional development efforts. In doing so, the UN must ensure that the needs and concerns of IDPs are adequately addressed in the strategies and programs emanating from poverty reduction processes.

4.2. COORDINATION

International agencies and donors based in Baku share the view that the Government of Azerbaijan recognizes its primary responsibility for addressing the needs of the internally displaced persons. Several major line ministries and central institutions have direct responsibilities relating to the internal displacement. In light of the important number of government bodies concerned with this issue, there is a significant need for an effective coordination mechanism. At the national level, within the Cabinet of Ministers, the overall coordinating responsibility is being carried out by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ali Hasanov, who is chairing the State Committee for refugees and IDPs, as well as the Republican Commission on International Humanitarian Assistance. During the interviews with the key stakeholders the mission noted a broad recognition that the national Government has been gradually assuming greater responsibilities for addressing the needs of its displaced population and its capacities in this area, including in coordination, have been increasing.

Under the UN Resident Coordinator, UNHCR has been performing as a lead agency for the internal displacement in Azerbaijan. The UN Inter Agency meeting, convened on a monthly basis by the Office of the UN RC, deals with all issues related to IDPs on a regular basis. Key international NGOs and representatives of the Government are standing invitees to its sessions. UNCT support to national efforts in the area of IDPs takes place within the context of the 2005-2009 UNDAF, though the latter does not have IDPs as one of its main collective outcomes.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, there are 72 INGOs and 22 national NGOs working with IDPs. Some 40 of them participate regularly in the monthly NGO meeting convened by Save the Children. Some donors have supported NGO coordination through the channelling of their funds through "umbrella" agencies. An example is USAID, which chose Save The Children as the "umbrella" agency through which they channelled their humanitarian funding from 1993 until 1998, when relief assistance started to wind down. Subsequently, USAID entrusted Mercy Corps International (MCI) with the coordination of its Azerbaijan Humanitarian Assistance Program (AHAP), which originally focused exclusively on IDPs. In its last year, AHAP has been almost exclusively funding activities related to sustainable development as well as strengthening the more successful activities funded earlier. 2005 will be the close out year of AHAP.

Some stakeholders interviewed during the mission, especially NGOs, indicated that coordination among all stakeholders still needs to be improved. They felt that coordination within the Government, within the UN System and within the donor community, and among all stakeholders, was not always systematic or effective. For INGOs, coordination seems to be working for those under the USAID umbrella, while for national NGOs, the CRINGO network provides a coordination forum.

The shift of national and international assistance programmes for IDPs from relief to development entails coordination challenges, which require efficient and flexible

coordination structures. An important challenge is to ensure a common vision and strategy among all critical stakeholders involved in IDP-related issues in order to support a streamlined approach to IDPs through development, poverty reduction and, eventually, reintegration projects. These efforts need to be extended also to the international financial institutions and private sector.

Recommendations:

- *The close cooperation between the UN agencies and the State entities entrusted with the coordination of assistance to IDPs must continue, especially with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and Work with International Organizations.*
- *The UNCT should increase its efforts, under the leadership of the UN RC to inform the public on the UN approach to IDPs in Azerbaijan and to change certain wrong perceptions of ongoing, collective efforts. This public awareness campaign should include informing IDPs on the efforts being made through the SPPRED to improve their living conditions. UNHCR at the field and Headquarters level and the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division/OCHA in Geneva should play a leading catalytic role in this process.*
- *The UN Country Team should also share periodically comprehensive reports on IDPs with the IDD based in OCHA Geneva to assist IDD in more effectively advocacy on behalf of IDPs in Azerbaijan, including through the Global IDP project.*

4.3. VULNERABILITY OF IDPS

There have been various attempts to measure the vulnerability of the internally displaced in Azerbaijan, as many stakeholders, especially development agencies, feel that displacement should no longer be the sole determinant factor for vulnerability among IDPs. Instead, many members of the international community feel that displacement should “be used as an indicator of potential vulnerability rather than as a means of defining target groups”⁹. In general, the attempts to assess the vulnerability of IDPs in Azerbaijan have found that, while they tend to show above average patterns of consumption and do not seem to be any poorer than the non displaced families, their relative welfare is contingent upon continued assistance, particularly from the Government.

The Azerbaijan Household Survey on Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and the Resident Population (AIDPS)¹⁰ was carried out in selected cities and districts (or rayons) in July 2002. The main purpose of the survey was to provide information on IDPs needed for the preparation of the SPPRED. It covered a range of areas, including income, expenditures, education, access to land, poverty and social cohesion. The AIDPS is the largest survey carried out in Azerbaijan on IDPs, covering some 88.9% of all IDPs living in 5 cities and 15 districts. It also covered more than 50% of the resident population of the country. This detailed survey showed that, while there are certainly low socioeconomic indicators for refugees and IDPs, their plight may not differ much from that of average (i.e. non displaced)

⁹ Borton, John, Margie Buchanan-Smith and Ralf Otto, *Support to Internally Displaced Persons – Learning from Evaluations. Synthesis Report of a Joint Evaluation Programme* (Summary Version). Stockholm: SIDA, 2005.

¹⁰ Hancioglu, Attila. *Internal Displacement in Azerbaijan. Main Findings from the Azerbaijan Household Survey on Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and the Resident Population*. (September 2002).

poor citizens. The AIDPS was funded by UNDP but its results were never officially published¹¹.

Similarly, the 2002 World Bank poverty assessment found that IDPs, on average are slightly better off than the local population, except for IDPs residing in Baku. However, once targeted humanitarian assistance from both the Government and the international community was taken out, IDP household expenditures were consistently lower than those of other groups. The fact that IDPs live in “free” or low-cost housing also contributes to their above-average conditions.

The latest attempt at measuring IDP vulnerability, the WFP food security and nutrition survey, did not focus exclusively on IDPs, although WFP’s program is designed for IDPs only. It covered 210 rural communities (3,078 non-IDP households) and 25 IDP settlements (363 IDP households located in six economic zones (the Absheron peninsula and Nakhchivan excluded). The survey included questions related to household demography, housing, assets, income sources and expenditures, food consumption, food sufficiency, maternal and child health, nutrition and coping mechanisms.

The survey results were released on 11 March 2005. The survey found that 94% of IDP families have average or good food consumption level, and this is mostly due to WFP’s and/or the Government’s assistance programs. There is a certain level of malnutrition (e.g. 24% of the children are malnourished), with malnutrition and other conditions (e.g. anemia) being particularly high among the non-IDP population. The survey also identified pockets of food insecurity, such as the south-eastern regions.

The survey indicates that if food assistance is withdrawn, the IDP population will suffer, especially the women and children. In other words, for the time being, food aid is absolutely necessary.

The above mentioned attempts to assess the vulnerability of IDPs have been punctual exercises and have not been conducted to identify those individuals or families who could be considered as vulnerable and thus subject to continued assistance. As a result, an IMF/IDA assessment of the Government’s August 2004 report on their implementation of the SPPRED recommended the establishment of annual surveys, including an IDP survey, “that would assist Azerbaijan in setting up a credible database for monitoring poverty and living standards”¹².

The assessment of IDP vulnerability has implications for an end of humanitarian assistance to IDPs as a specific group, as opposed to vulnerable IDPs only. As a recent review of evaluations of programmes supporting IDPs (which did not include Azerbaijan) recommend, “donors should only halt the use of humanitarian funds to IDPs once objective assessments have demonstrated that their vulnerability is no greater than that of the average population (as opposed to the adjacent population which may be experiencing high levels of vulnerability if the area is affected by prolonged conflict)”¹³.

¹¹ According to UNDP, the Ministry of Economic Development used the AIDPS results in the design of the PRSP.

¹² International Monetary Fund and International Development Association. *Azerbaijan Republic Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report – Joint Staff Assessment* (12 August 2004)

¹³ Borton et al., 2005.

In summary:

- The vulnerability of IDPs has been the subject of extensive debate among the UN agencies, donors and international financial institutions in Azerbaijan, with no consensus on the relative vulnerability of the displaced population.
- The recent WFP survey has confirmed earlier studies which show that IDP household seem to be slightly better off than the population at large, simply because of the many benefits and subsidies received from the Government, as well as from the fact that IDPs tend to live in “free” or low cost housing.
- Should such support be withdrawn, IDPs would see their welfare considerably undermined

Recommendations:

- *The UN System, together with the IFIs and the donor community, should continue discussions with the Government on the establishment of regular poverty surveys, including an IDP survey, in order to assess not just the vulnerability of IDPs but also the implications of such vulnerability for the eventual return and reintegration in their places of origin.*
- *At the same time, the UN System should increase its efforts to increase the self-reliance of IDPs in their current place of residence. This will reduce their vulnerability, reduce poverty and prepare them better for a rightful return and reintegration.*

4.4 HOUSING CONDITIONS

As a World Bank study of displaced populations in Europe and Central Asia concluded, housing is perhaps the greatest difference between local populations and displaced persons. Not only are housing conditions significantly better for the local population but home ownership is also greater among the non-IDP population. In Azerbaijan, home ownership among IDPs is extremely low (15% according to the 2002 World Bank data), particularly when compared to that of local families (83%).

The IDPs in Azerbaijan continue to be dispersed throughout the country. In addition to those living in urban areas (around 50% of the total number), mainly Baku, Sumgait, Ganja and Mingechevir, important numbers of IDPs live in rural and semi-rural settlements around the towns of Imishli, Sabirabad, Bilasuvar, Aghjabedi and Barda.

a) Tent Camps and Railway Wagons

While majority of ethnic Azeri refugees coming from Armenia have received permanent accommodation, a high percentage of IDPs remain in temporary shelters of a very simple nature, including inadequate public buildings, camps and railway wagons. Those living in so-called camps have basic dwellings, in the form of mud brick houses that do not provide adequate protection against harsh weather conditions, particularly during winter and

summer, and heavy rains. A similar situation is confronted by IDPs still living in railway wagons. A few IDP families continue to live in “dugout” shelters, especially in the Lachin winter lands (Aghjabedi region), though the mission was unable to find any IDPs who are still living in such shelters¹⁴.



Living Conditions in an IDP Camp in Sabirabad

Potable water supply and sanitation conditions are highly precarious in some IDP settlements. Poor access to drinking water and poor sanitation facilities are factors contributing to health problems confronted by IDPs. In some of the IDP camps visited in rural and semi-rural areas (including in those where IDPs occupy railway wagons), IDPs have access to communal water taps, yet some of these were not always in working condition.

b) New Government Settlements

In line with its stated policies, The Government is in the process of constructing new, temporary settlements where IDPs currently living in the so-called “tent camps” will be transferred. Some 35,000 IDPs have moved to these new settlements where they now enjoy better living conditions and access to basic services. The mission was able to visit two of these new settlements in Bilasubar and Mingechevir. While the latter is close to an urban center with some employment opportunities, the one in Bilasubar is situated far from employment opportunities, a fact which may jeopardize the long-term sustainability of these settlements. It should be noted that the new settlements are also meant to accommodate the natural increase of IDP families. The Government, therefore, is not precluding a situation where a part of the family returns to their regions of origin while another part stays behind in the regions of displacement¹⁵.

¹⁴ Those “dugout shelters” visited were empty though there were indications (kitchen utensils, furniture, etc.) that they could be inhabited.

¹⁵ In Holtzman and Nezam, page 52.

c) **Urban IDPs**

Urban IDP settlements provide more solid structures (i.e. public buildings such as schools and student dormitories), however they are highly overcrowded with communal kitchen and sanitation facilities, lack of privacy and security and considerable potential for promiscuity. In Sumgait alone, there are an estimated 140 public buildings sheltering IDPs, while in Mingechevir some 130 public buildings (schools, hotels and kindergarten) are occupied by IDPs. The mission was able to visit a few of these IDP-inhabited public buildings in Baku and Sumgait.

An administrative building visited by the mission in Baku and belonging to an industrial plant exemplifies the situation in which many IDPs live. The building accommodates some 245 families, of which 34 currently live in the basement of the building, where natural light is minimal. Each family occupies a room which is maintained in extremely clean conditions and which has electricity. The toilets, showers and kitchens, however, are collective and not always in working or clean conditions. The one-room dwellings are usually too small to accommodate an entire family and allow for little privacy. A similar situation was found in a technical school dormitory visited in Sumgait, where 150 families (550 persons) live. In this building, there is one toilet and one shower for every 20 families.

UNHCR has a project, implemented through the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which funds basic rehabilitation of public buildings sheltering IDPs in Sumgait. The Public Building Rehabilitation project (PBR) has, so far, rehabilitated 20 public buildings, with three large buildings scheduled for rehabilitation this year. The PBR project improves only common areas (i.e. kitchens, toilets, showers), as well as the roofing and sewage systems. The rehabilitation works count on community participation, as 2 to 4 unskilled IDPs have to volunteer their labor each day per rehabilitated floor. A second condition for a public building to be rehabilitated by NRC is that 50% of its inhabitants are IDPs. This condition points to the fact that poor Azerbaijanis who have migrated to large urban centers but who are not necessarily IDPs, are also living in occupied public buildings.

The UNHCR-funded project is not the only one targeting the repair of IDP-inhabited public buildings. The Government also has funds for similar rehabilitation works together with other NGOs (e.g. World Vision). One aspect which often goes unattended and which was mentioned by the Government and some NGOs, concerns the psychosocial impact of living in these crowded, public buildings, as well as in the IDP camps and railway carriages¹⁶. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Tourism has been working together with UNICEF in the area of psychosocial support for the last 10 years. Its programs include psychosocial rehabilitation, especially for girls, and the establishment of organizations that play a mediating role between youth and the Government. The Ministry also runs a hotline for children in difficult circumstances. Special attention is given to children living in the so-called tent camps.

In summary:

- The housing situation of IDPs varies according to their location, with those living in public buildings and railway wagons experiencing difficulties due to overcrowding, use of collective facilities and inadequacy of dwellings. The housing situation in rural and semi-rural settlements is also varied, with mud-brick houses, prefabricated houses

¹⁶ A notable example is the ADRA Vocational Training Center in Aghjabedi, where psychosocial support is provided together with the training courses.

and other types of housing, offering a precarious shelter yet more space and less promiscuity than public buildings or railway wagons.



Elderly IDP couple in front of their house at an IDP camp in Sabirabad

- The Government's program to provide adequate shelter through the construction of new settlements is providing IDPs with decent housing conditions and basic social services. The new settlements will also serve to accommodate the natural increase of IDP families or could serve to house poor citizens, once IDPs return to their places of origin.
- The fact that in all cases, IDPs are living in free or low-cost housing is a factor that needs to be taken into account in any IDP vulnerability assessment exercise¹⁷.

Recommendations:

- *Until a housing solution, even if temporary, is found for urban IDPs currently living in public buildings, projects aimed at periodic repairs of the communal areas of these buildings should be maintained.*
- *The UN Country Team should encourage the involvement of specialized agencies, such as UN-Habitat and The Urban Institute, in supporting the Government in its efforts to improve the housing conditions of IDPs, especially those living in urban centers and not targeted by the Government's efforts to build new settlements for IDPs.*
- *Increased efforts at improving current housing conditions of IDPs must also be based on the fact that, once return takes place, it will most likely be spaced over a certain period of time. It should also be based on the premise that some IDPs may not be able to go home, in view of natural increases in family size or assimilation into large urban centers. The latter will probably be the case among many young IDPs, based on*

¹⁷ As recommended by a World Bank publication (Holtzman and Nezam, page 140).

experiences in similar situations in other countries.

- *At the same time, the UN should look into ways and means to support the Government in its efforts to improve the livelihoods of those IDPs who have moved into Government-funded new settlements. This could be done through projects aimed at enhancing agricultural production and other forms of self-employment.*

4.5 EMPLOYMENT, SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION

The lack of employment opportunities found in many regions of Azerbaijan also affects IDPs. In large urban centers, like Baku and Sumgait, employment and self-employment in the informal sector is more easily available yet is insufficient for the number of IDPs and non-IDPs looking for gainful employment. In the case of young IDPs, the employment situation is even more critical, as a study carried out by ILO in 2004 showed that “young people below the age of 25 experience considerably higher unemployment rates than those in other age groups”. For young females, particularly in urban areas, the unemployment rates were even higher¹⁸.

Poverty surveys conducted by the World Bank in 1997 and 2002 found that the local population has wage employment in percentages much higher than those of IDPs. The 2002 survey, for example, found that while some 76% of local incomes are from employment-related activities, only 39 to 48% of IDP incomes come from wage employment. According to the WFP survey conducted in 2004, there is a 70% unemployment rate among IDPs and many of them are not doing any meaningful activity.

During meetings with Government officials, they confirmed that unemployment was one of the most pressing problems affecting IDPs. This also prompted the Minister of Labor to recognize to the mission that, even in the absence of a durable solution (return to their areas of origin), employment opportunities, including temporary ones, need to be created. This will help to reduce their dependency on outside assistance.

a) Employment in Urban Centers

In large urban centers, especially in Baku, IDPs can be at disadvantage in view of their predominantly rural origins, as mentioned by the Ombudsman during her meeting with the mission. This is confirmed in a restricted sample of 40 families used for a qualitative survey of urban IDPs. Other disadvantages for IDPs seeking employment in Baku relate to their lack of savings, necessary to pay for the kickbacks demanded by certain employers (the so-called shapka) and their lack of established networks¹⁹. Of the 40 IDP families included in the sample, at least 37 can be considered of rural or semi-rural background. Despite this, all able-bodied men in the sample admitted to having remunerated work or searching for one. In the 40 families surveyed, there were 25 unskilled daily workers, 8 small traders and 26 involved in different occupations (taxi drivers, teachers, gardeners, etc.). IDPs seem therefore to be confined to lower paying jobs in the informal sector of the economy.

¹⁸ Godfrey, Martin, Towards a National Action Plan for Youth Employment in the Azerbaijan Republic (Draft), ILO, June 2004.

¹⁹ Balikci, Asen. *IDPs in Baku: A Qualitative Approach* (Université de Montréal, May 2004).



An IDP woman making a living on a vegetable stand in front of her home. In 2004 she received a US\$90 credit to set up her small-scale-business. After four months she repaid her micro-credit and the 4% interest, and took out a second credit for US\$130 which she promptly repaid.

The reticence of some IDPs to move out of railway wagons or public buildings, coupled with the fact that there are non-IDP families living in public buildings located in Baku, point to the fact that employment opportunities, albeit mostly in the informal sector, are found in urban centers. Also, vocational and skills training programs may result in gainful employment in urban centers, as demonstrated by an apprenticeship project funded by UNHCR and implemented in Sumgait by Umid, a local NGO. Similarly, the follow up done by ADRA for graduates of its vocational training courses²⁰ in Aghjabedi five months after the course, showed that 40% found jobs and that success was greater among non-IDP graduates living in towns.

A program currently being finalized by the Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust (RET) will be a welcomed complement to the efforts of NGOs like ADRA and Umid related to the training of young IDPs. RET intends to start a multi-dimensional program that will include centers for professional training for market-driven vocations. The skills to be proposed in these centers range from basic masonry to higher technology professions (e.g. medical laboratory technicians). The professional training consortium will include the Government and the private sector as key partners. While the program will be initiated in the Greater Baku area, RET intends to expand it to other regions.

b) State Employment

One of the few permanent employment opportunities available to IDPs is provided by the State. In Azerbaijan, according to World Bank data (2002), one third of IDP families rely on

²⁰ The vocational training center has courses in accounting, cosmetology, computer, English language, sewing, and small business development.

government salaries, particularly those employed as teachers and school administrators in the so-called IDP schools (attended by some 60% of IDP children). Also, all officials and employees of the local administrations from the occupied regions have retained their jobs and receive their monthly salaries²¹. The maintenance of local government structures and jobs has provided an income to a significant number of IDP families and will result in a swifter re-establishment of local authorities and structures upon return.

c) **Income Generation in Rural Areas**

Azerbaijan used to be a significant producer of agricultural products and foodstuffs in the former Soviet Union. The multitude of microclimates found in the country, together with an adequate supply of water resources, led to a strong agricultural tradition and the production and processing of a variety of crops (e.g. cotton, tobacco, tea, fruits and vegetables). The loss of markets and the deterioration of agricultural infrastructure after the collapse of the Soviet Union led to decline in agricultural production. As a result, only a small amount of Azerbaijan's agricultural products are exported.

For those IDPs living in rural areas, the employment situation is dramatic as agricultural productivity is, in general, low and the lands allocated to IDPs are not large enough to sustain most families, are usually of poor quality and have a high degree of salinity. Unpaid family work in agriculture is also prevalent. Off-farm employment in the rural areas where some of the IDPs find themselves is practically non-existent, except for self-employment in a limited number of trades and services (such as tailoring and hair-cutting) which can only provide a low income.



**Self-employment and apprenticeships in an IDP camp:
IDP barber is training a young IDP a new trade.**

²¹ In Holtzman and Nezam, page 42.

Access to land is also limited among IDPs, despite Government efforts to allocate land to those living in rural areas, including IDPs who have moved to the new, Government-sponsored settlements. According to studies, only a minority of IDPs own (9-17%) or have access to (22% outside Baku) land, while almost half of non-IDP citizens own or have access to land. Even those who have access to land are constrained, in terms of agricultural production, by the distance from their homes to the allocated land, the poor soil conditions in parts of the central Kura-Arak valley and floodplains, and the lack of agricultural inputs. In view of the small plots and poor lands allocated to IDPs, they tend to consume less home-produced food than the locals.

The 2004 WFP survey found that 50% of the IDPs stated that they have been allocated a piece of land, yet only half of them are using it. The Government allocates half a hectare of land plus USD 200 per family. One of the problems is the distance from the house to the allocated land, the size of the allocated plots and the poor quality of the soil, as the allocated land is usually left over from the privatization process. During the mission's meeting with the Ombudsman, she also noted the inadequacy of the land plots allocated to IDPs.

In a few instances, some IDPs were able to bring significant moveable assets, in the form of livestock, into displacement. These IDPs are the ones that traditionally used winter pasturelands in regions outside the occupied areas. More specifically, these are IDPs originating from Lachin region and currently settled in the so-called Lachin winter lands. Also, they have been able to settle in grazing lands over which they had usufruct rights prior to the displacement. However, on average and when compared to the local population, IDPs tend to have less livestock (as shown in the 2002 World Bank poverty assessment).

FAO, the UN agency specializing in food and agricultural production, does not have a presence in Azerbaijan. In April 2004, FAO carried out a mission and looked into liberated areas in Aghdam region. The mission resulted in two project proposals dealing with institutional support and agricultural production. Since a significant number of IDPs reside in rural or semi-rural areas, and in line with the Government's efforts to encourage the development of the regions and of the non-oil sector of the economy, it would be advisable to count on FAO's engagement in Azerbaijan beyond Aghdam region²².

The ecosystems in some of the areas where the IDPs are currently residing differ significantly from their regions of origin (e.g. residents of mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh currently displaced in the central, flat regions). This means that the skills and agricultural traditions which the IDPs had in their regions of origin are not as useful in their current areas of residence. This requires some training programs in agricultural practices and techniques more appropriate to the ecosystem of the central regions, for example.

Support by FAO to the agricultural sector should take into account the products and processing which have been identified as having a big potential. These products include tobacco, apple, nuts, tea, oil seeds, raw cotton and medicinal plants. The processing being proposed includes fruit juices, manufactured tobacco, animal skins, carded and combed cotton, cotton seed oil and safflower oil²³.

²² Azerbaijan is currently covered by FAO's regional office in Budapest, though discussions have taken place about a possible transfer of this responsibility to FAO Ankara.

²³ Ministry of Economic Development, Center of Economic Reforms, Employment in Azerbaijan: Study of Current and Potential Comparative Advantages, Baku, 2003.

d) Migration and Remittances

The lack of employment opportunities seems to be encouraging the migration of many Azerbaijanis, including IDPs, to neighboring countries, particularly to the Russian Federation. While official figures for Azerbaijanis emigrating are low and seem to have fallen from 137,900 in 1990 to 4,320 in 2002, most of the persons interviewed admitted that a significant proportion of the population, particularly young men and including IDPs, are currently living and working abroad. Estimates provided to the mission varied from one to two and a half million citizens abroad. This has resulted in some USD 163 million received as remittances in 2002 and, according to an official interviewed during the mission, remittances are partly fuelling the construction boom in Baku. On average, according to a World Bank official, immigrants send USD 300 per month to their respective families. During the mission's meetings with Government officials, there was recognition that migration in search of employment, both to large urban centres and abroad, is a reality and a one of the more pressing problems currently facing Azerbaijan.

In summary:

- Employment opportunities for IDPs, as well as for the population at large, are extremely limited in Azerbaijan. However, unemployment among IDPs is higher than among the non-IDP population.
- In urban centers, IDPs seem to find employment more easily but often in low-paying jobs and in the informal economy.
- The preservation of government jobs among IDP civil servants has resulted in steady employment and wages benefiting a number of IDPs. The maintenance of civil service structures "in exile" will also facilitate the re-establishment of local government structures upon return to the areas currently under occupation.
- Employment opportunities in the rural areas are even scarcer thus making IDPs rely almost exclusively on income from agricultural activities. The latter however is limited in view of the size and quality of allocated lands

Recommendations:

- *Improvement of living conditions and self-reliance of IDPs should remain a priority for both the Government and the international community. The UN must therefore support efforts to improve the self-reliance of IDPs. In doing so, it must bear in mind that self-reliance is not a substitute for a durable solution (i.e. return to their places of origin) nor should be equated to local integration. Instead, self-reliance must be based on the development of skills and the eventual acquisition of assets, which the IDPs could easily take with them upon return.*
- *One way to improve the self-reliance of IDPs is through support to programs aimed at creating employment and fostering self-employment. In particular, employment and self-employment should be encouraged among young IDP women and men.*
- *To do so, the UN should encourage the International Labour Office (ILO) to expand its support to Azerbaijan. Since UNHCR has a joint technical support project with the ILO, UNHCR Baku should activate this scheme and request a technical expert who could assist the office in expanding its support to vocational training schemes, as well as Government efforts to further develop the private sector through small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and expanded microfinance services in IDP-affected areas.*

- *More specifically, ILO technical expertise in the areas of employment, vocational and skills training should complement the future involvement of the Refugee Education Trust (RET) in Azerbaijan. In the area of SME promotion, ILO could support Government plans to establish food (fruits and juices; bakeries), leather, and wool processing enterprises in Agdam, Aghjabedi, Barda, Bilasuvar, Fizuli and Goranboy.*
- *Since Azerbaijan is one of eleven lead countries in the joint UN-ILO-World Bank Youth Employment Network (YEN) initiative, the UN, and UNHCR in particular, should facilitate the involvement of YEN in programs and activities targeting IDP youth. Partnership with YEN should also be linked to the UN's advocacy work in favour of IDPs. In doing so, the UN should make sure that the Ministries of Labour and Social Protection, and Youth, Sports and Tourism are involved in any efforts linked to YEN.*



Youth employment in Sumgait: Under an apprenticeship programme, a young IDP who learned how to repair mobile phones is now employed by a small business in Sumgait.

- *The UNCT should encourage FAO to look into a potential intervention in projects aimed at rehabilitating irrigation systems in IDP-affected regions. At the same time, FAO should consider supporting the government's plans to establish of agricultural resource centers in IDP-affected rural areas (Agdam, Barda, Bilasuvar, Fizuli, Goranboy and the Lachin winter lands in Aghjabedi), where tools, technical support and skills training would be provided. In doing so, FAO should closely coordinate with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other organizations involved in the funding or implementation of similar or related projects.*

4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

As is the case in all cases of massive displacement, refugees and IDPs in Azerbaijan have contributed to environmental degradation but to a very limited degree. According to an ADB study²⁴, the environmental dimension of human displacement in the country is largely

²⁴ Ruzicka, Ivan. *Azerbaijan: Country Environmental Analysis*. (Baku, 1 February 2005).

due to the use of pasture lands (soil erosion) and housing (e.g. poor solid waste management), and to a much lesser degree to increased pressure on forests. The fact that electricity and kerosene supply to IDPs is regular and more stable than for the population at large means that IDPs do not have to rely on firewood for cooking and heating purposes.

Environmental concerns, as they relate to IDPs, could be summarized as follows:

- The lack of maintenance of Soviet-era irrigation systems has contributed to the build-up of salinity, which now affects more than a third of all irrigated lands. IDPs have been allocated some of this land and the salinity severely undermines agriculture production and therefore IDP livelihoods.
- Overcrowding in public buildings in urban centers, coupled with inadequate housing conditions in some rural settlements, have contributed to problems related to waste disposal.
- The influx of IDPs and their animals into the central regions has resulted in overgrazing of pasturelands.

Recommendations:

- *The UN, together with NGOs, should explore the possibility of supporting the Government in the establishment of reforestation projects in IDP-affected regions. These projects could include a combination of food for work (foodstuffs to be provided by WFP) and cash payments, and involve communities. IDPs, particularly young women and men, could be engaged in the implementation of these reforestation projects and thus provide them with temporary and semipermanent employment opportunities.*
- *The UN should ensure that specialized agencies support the Government in the establishment and implementation of a return and reintegration program so that environmental concerns are adequately addressed by such program in both the former IDP-hosting areas and the regions of origin.*

4.7 THE ROLE OF UNHCR

The UNHCR office in Baku was established to provide support to the Government in their efforts to assist the internally displaced, as well as to provide international protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan. While it used to have a field presence in Barda, UNHCR has now only an office in Baku and concentrates its activities in the urban areas of Baku and Sumgait. Through both direct interventions and NGO implementing partners, UNHCR provides assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, mostly from Afghanistan, Chechnya and Iraq. UNHCR has also supported the Government in the drafting of legislation on asylum and displacement.

In view of increased Government assumption of responsibilities towards IDPs and the transition of the international community towards development assistance, UNHCR has focused its assistance in the last couple of years on vulnerable urban IDPs. The concentration on urban IDPs is based on the findings of the World Bank's IDP poverty assessment that found that extreme poverty had "migrated" from the rural areas to the large urban centers. UNHCR-funded activities include the repair of public buildings hosting IDPs (described in 4 above) and of IDP primary schools; apprenticeship programmes for young IDPs; contingency planning for the return of Azeri IDPs to their areas of origin if and

when a peace settlement is reached; promoting the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; and playing an advocacy role for IDPs within the international community.

When it comes to education, UNHCR is funding basic repairs to IDP primary schools through two national NGOs, Hayat and Umid. The Hayat project, for example, has benefited 33 IDP schools (88 classrooms) between 2001 and 2004. As most classrooms are used for two shifts, the number of school children utilizing the rehabilitated infrastructure is large (some 3,729 students from both primary and secondary levels). While the project repairs classrooms only primary schools, the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) established through the project repair those in secondary schools. The project has resulted in increased attendance (roughly jumping from 75 to 96% by the end of the school year). It has also resulted in increased participation of IDP parents in school activities and organizations.

Besides rehabilitating the classrooms, the project also provides school furniture, books and other didactic materials. Donors have also provided in-kind contributions, such as sports uniforms, books and reference material, blackboards, schoolbags, etc.



IDP school in Sumgait

Hayat is also mobilizing communities to establish PTAs in all the rehabilitated schools. Until 2004, some 31 PTAs have been established, with membership in these groups being more than 75% female. The PTAs have been used to mobilize community contributions towards the rehabilitation and maintenance of the schools, as well as for the mobilization of additional donor resources. The community contribution can be technical (construction materials and tools, transport, etc.), labor or financial. This contribution until 2004 has been calculated at USD 23,647. PTAs have submitted 22 school projects to 11 donors. According to UNICEF, the PTAs established by Hayat and Umid in some IDP schools “have improved school management and helped to bridge the gap between schools and communities”²⁵.

²⁵ UNICEF Revised Country Programme document, 26 March 2004.

Finally, UNHCR also facilitates the delivery of in-kind donations by international NGOs and private companies. For example, UNHCR will facilitate in June 2005 the delivery of 4,000 to 4,500 pairs of glasses, including vision screenings, to IDPs by Fuji Optical (a Global Compact participating company). UNHCR also facilitates the distribution of used clothes donated by religious organizations.

In terms of staffing dedicated to IDP issues, most of the UNHCR team is involved in IDP matters. One staff member is the designated focal point for UN common programming processes (e.g. CCA and UNDAF), participates in PRSP-related processes, monitors micro-credit projects benefiting IDPs and ensures UNHCR's participation in the SFDI. A second UNHCR staff member has overall responsibility for IDP issues and carries out periodic field visits to IDP-affected regions.

UNHCR's role in Azerbaijan is in line with the UNHCR Bureau for Europe's goal for the northern and southern Caucasus "to strengthen partnerships that facilitate solutions, notably by integrating displacement into broader conflict resolution and development processes and initiatives..." Also, as part of the Bureau's Strategic Directions, UNHCR Baku intends to maintain a strong advocacy role throughout the region beyond 2005. This role was confirmed by the High Commissioner during his visit to Azerbaijan in November 2004, when he stated that UNHCR will continue its involvement with IDPs in Azerbaijan and will be ready to assist an eventual return to the IDPs' places of origin.

Recommendations:

- *UNHCR should maintain its presence at the same level (e.g. in terms of staffing), as recommended by a mission of the Inspector General's Officer and confirmed by the High Commissioner during his last visit to Azerbaijan. At the same time, UNHCR should act as a catalyst for the establishment of additional activities in favour of IDPs, particularly those aimed at strengthening the self-reliance of IDPs.*
- *UNHCR should remain closely engaged in the process leading to the establishment of the next 10-year poverty reduction program, and advocate for the outstanding specific needs of IDPs. To do so effectively, UNHCR should dedicate one staff member, full time, for this endeavour, as well as for the identification of new opportunities and following up on development processes.*
- *UNHCR should increase and regularize its field visits to the regions in an effort to monitor the living conditions and concerns of IDPs. Enhanced monitoring of the IDP situation in both urban and rural areas should result in improved advocacy for IDPs in development processes. This effort should include the establishment of an IDP Monitoring Form. Field visits should also include the Public Information Officer and result in PI activities related to IDPs.*
- *UNHCR should maintain its assistance to IDPs at an adequate level and within the same sectors. At the same time, UNHCR should encourage other actors to continue or increase their support for IDPs.*
- *UNHCR should also monitor how IDPs are faring when it comes to the achievement of the national-specific MDGs. A continuation of UNHCR's contribution towards the UNDP project related to MDG reporting should continue, together with additional support from HQs.*

- *UNHCR should increase its advocacy and public awareness activities at both the field and Headquarters level. At country level, advocacy and public awareness, as related to IDPs, should be closely coordinated with the Government, the UN Resident Coordinator and the Country Team. At Headquarters, the advocacy in favour of IDPs in Azerbaijan should be closely coordinated with the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division (IDD) within OCHA. Among other things, UNHCR should take the lead in contacting and encouraging FAO, ILO and other specialized agencies and entities to expand their activities in Azerbaijan. At Geneva level, advocacy should be coordinated with the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan.*
- *UNHCR should stand ready to support the Government in the development and implementation of a voluntary repatriation program (“The Great Return”), including its reintegration components. This should be done in close coordination and collaboration with the UN Country Team, major bilateral donors and international financial institutions.*

**Terms of Reference for
Joint OCHA-UNHCR Mission to the Republic of Azerbaijan
14-24 March 2005**

1. OBJECTIVE

The Republic of Azerbaijan has been confronted with one of the largest IDP populations in the world for more than a decade. This protracted displacement situation has yet to be resolved²⁶. Upon the request from the Government of Azerbaijan, the UNHCR Bureau for Europe has asked the Reintegration and Local Settlement Section (RLSS) to conduct a ten-day mission (seven working days) between 10 and 19 March 2005 in order to identify ways and means to enhance the support currently being provided by UNHCR to Government's efforts to find durable solutions for the IDPs. In more concrete terms, formulation of a strategy for the Bureau and UNHCR Baku will be provided upon completion of the mission, which will define future advocacy and coordination roles to be played by UNHCR in the Republic of Azerbaijan. UNOCHA has received a request from the Government of Azerbaijan to review the present cooperation arrangements established for the IDP situation and identify areas where cooperation could be enhanced. Following consultation with IDD, it was decided that a Desk from Coordination and Response Division of OCHA would join UNHCR mission to conduct this task.

Through interviews, consultations and briefings with relevant stakeholders in Baku and in the field, the mission will be able to better understand the context in which the IDPs are living and to what extent co-operation mechanisms today provide effective assistance. Subsequently, more targeted mission(s) by other stakeholders will be encouraged to follow-up specific matters identified during the mission. A better picture of the IDP situation and the different actors involved in the country will be crucial in formulating an approach yet to be pursued by the international community, with the ultimate goal of finding a durable solution to the protracted IDP situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The areas and types of interventions by UNHCR and partner UN agencies will obviously be based on the agency's comparative advantage and progress made in the area of durable solutions and poverty reduction. Once they are clearly identified, and also incorporated in the UNHCR Country Operations Plan for 2006, continued support from RLSS/DOS and partners (e.g. ILO) may be provided.

At the specific request of the Government, the mission will pay due attention to the environmental implications of protracted displacement in IDP-hosting areas. Eventual support to the Government in this sector will need to be provided by a specialized agency, such as UNEP.

Thus, the purpose of this mission is to:

- Assess ground realities on the IDP situation, including identifying specific needs and issues that may potentially be addressed by other organizations. As an example,

²⁶ UNHCR Global Appeal 2005.

environmental implications will be studied, which could encourage a follow-up mission by a specialized agency on environment.

- Find out where UNHCR and partners stands in the present process of finding durable solutions for the IDP population in Azerbaijan.
- Interview stakeholders involved in the IDP situation and other potential actors to bring onboard.
- Issue recommendations that will enhance cooperation on IDP-related issues.
- Ultimately, issue recommendations that will help the UNHCR Bureau and Branch Office in Baku to define a strategy for UNHCR's future advocacy and coordination role in Azerbaijan. Recommendations will have an impact on the preparations of UNHCR Country Operation Plan for 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

According to World Food Programme (WFP), more than 90,000 IDPs in Azerbaijan are living inside 28 camps/ settlements and around 300,000 people are settled in public buildings. It is estimated that at least half of the IDPs are living in urban areas, especially Baku and Sumgait. IDPs in urban centers seem to have a comparative advantage over IDPs in rural areas (in the camps and settlements)²⁷.

In 1992-93, UNHCR launched an emergency relief operation for Azeri IDPs, upon the request of the Government of Azerbaijan and the approval of the UN Secretary-General. In 2000, other agencies became more involved in programmes aimed at supporting the IDPs; especially development agencies increased their operations.

The adoption of several presidential decrees in 2001 and 2002 regarding the situation of IDPs, together with the allocation of proceeds from the State Oil Fund (SOFAR), has led to an improvement in the socio-economic conditions of IDPs.

As outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Azerbaijan 2005-2006, the UN Country Team will work closely with the Government and other development partners to facilitate Azerbaijan's fulfilment of the State Programme for Poverty Reduction and Economic Development (SPPRED), the State Programme of Socio-Economic Development of the Regions (SPSEDR) as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its commitments to the goals of international conventions and summits²⁸.

Azerbaijan faces environmental challenges. Environmental organizations exist in Azerbaijan, yet few funds have been allocated to begin cleanup and prevention programmes.

²⁷ World Food Programme estimations

²⁸ United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Azerbaijan 2005-2009

3. TIME FRAME AND ITINERARY

The mission will be completed within seven working days. During the first three days the mission will remain in Baku and meet with Government officials and representatives from UN agencies and international organizations. The team will furthermore discuss with NGOs that are active in Azerbaijan (e.g. the CRINGO²⁹ network members), as well as with the private sector. Subsequently, the team will reserve three days to travel to selected field locations and visit IDP households and their hosting populations. On the field, the mission will hold discussions with local authorities and the development and humanitarian actors involved in the settlements around. Date of arrival of the mission in Baku will be 9 or 10 of March 2005, depending on flight arrangements.

4. METHODOLOGY

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to collect detailed and accurate information that would reflect ground realities and their intricacies is suggested.

Available secondary and primary data will be used through the following methodologies:

- interviews and focus group discussions;
- review and analysis of documentation (to be provided by UNHCR Azerbaijan);
- review of partners' reports containing observations and assessments;
- review and in-depth analysis of country documents, including the SPPRED, UNDAF;
- national Development Plans, Country Frame of major bilateral donors; etc.

In this regard the team will interview UNHCR staff in Azerbaijan; partner agencies³⁰ and Government counterparts³¹ in Baku and on the field; hold discussions with selected donors; interview implementing and operational partner NGOs (CRINGO)³² and officials in the private sector in Baku and in the field; hold discussions with the private sector³³; interview IDPs and the host population in areas of concern (visit locations and households); interview with civil society and the private sector. The interviews will take into consideration current initiatives, such as the SPPRED, SPSEDR and SOFAR.

²⁹ The CRINGO network was originally initiated by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in 2001, is currently embracing 60 NGOs in the Caucasus region and focuses on finding solutions for the region's displaced people. The objective of the regional network is to bring the NGO network together and provide assistance in legal and social issues to the displaced populations and elaborate on durable solutions. Furthermore, the network aims at improving the quality of co-operation between Caucasian NGOs working with displaced populations and ensuring the transparent information exchange between them. Caucasus Networking Initiative- January 2004 to December 2004, Danish Refugee Council, International Department.

³⁰ Examples of UN Agencies, International Organizations and Banks present in the country: Asian Development Bank, GTZ, IFRC, ILO, IMF, International Finance Cooperation (IFC), IOM, National Coordinating Unit for EU Technical Assistance in Azerbaijan, Save the Children, Turkish Cooperation Development Agency (TIKA), UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank, WFP, WHO and World Vision.

³¹ Ex. Of Ministries within the Government of Azerbaijan: Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan (CMAR); the SPRED; the Ombudsperson; Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population (MLSPP); Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism (MYST); and Ministry of Economic Development.

³² For list of CRINGO members: http://www.cringo.net/whatiscringo_en.shtml.

³³ Private sector is included as key counterparts for the expansion of employment and productivity in the non-oil sector.

5. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

A clear summary of findings and recommendations will be outlined in a mission report following the field visits and interviews with above mentioned stakeholders. The report will aim to provide information on the presence and roles of all parties involved in the IDP situation in Azerbaijan, and efforts made to co-ordinate activities for the implementation of assistance activities for this population and their hosts. The report will make some specific recommendations on potential, additional UNHCR support to the Government's efforts to find durable solutions to the internal displacement through poverty reduction and improved targeting of social assistance. It will also abet the preparations of the UNHCR Operation plan for 2006.

Furthermore, the report will provide tentative recommendations on potential expansion and enhanced efficiency of interagency support to the IDP population in Azerbaijan, while recommending a coordination structure between relevant stakeholders. This will include some recommendations of needs to be further assessed through targeted follow-up missions by specialized organizations to specific issues, like environment, socio-economic matters, etc.

**Programme for the OCHA-UNHCR Mission to Azerbaijan
14-28 March 2005**

Mr. Pablo Mateu, Chief RLSS/DOS, UNHCR

Arrival 12 March 21:40 BA6617; Departure 28 March 12:05 BA6614

Mr. Dusan Zupka, Head of European Desk, Response Coordination Branch, OCHA

Arrival 13 March 20:40 LH612; Departure 19 March 04:45 OS882

Monday 14 March

- 09:00 UNHCR – Briefing by Mr. Jean-Claude Concolato, Representative
- 11:30 Messrs. Triggve Nelkke (Save the Children) and William Holbrook (Mercy Corps International)
- 15:00 Mr. Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator (2 hours meeting)
- 17:00 Mr. Rahman Chowdhury, WFP Country Director

Tuesday 15 March

- 09:00 Ms. Elmira Suleymanova, Ombudsman
- 10:15 Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Youth, Sports and Tourism
- 12:00 Mr. Ali Nagiyev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection
- 14:00 Mr. Ali Hasanov, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Committee for Refugees and IDPs
- 17:00 Mr. Elshan Mammadzadeh, Department of Investments and International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Economic Development

Wednesday 16 March

- 10:00 Mr. Faraj Huseynbenyov, Project Implementation Officer, ADB
- 11:00 Mr. Drew Goodbread, Country Manager, ExxonMobil
- 12:00 Ms. Hanaa Singer, UNICEF Representative
- 16:00 Ms. Valerie Ibaan, Social Sector Adviser, USAID
- 17:00 Ms. Saida Bagirova, Officer-in-Charge, World Bank
- 19:00 Dinner hosted by Ms. Hanaa Singer, UNICEF Representative

Thursday 17 March

- 08:30 Departure Baku
- 11:30 Visit to IDP settlement in Sabirabad
- 13:00 Visit to railway wagons in Imishli
- 14:00 Lunch with local authorities in Imishli
- 15:00 Departure Imishli
- 17:00 Visit to new IDP settlement in Bilasuvar (constructed by GoA)
- 19:00 Arrival Barda

Friday 18 March

- 09:00 Departure Barda guesthouse
- 09:30 Visit to Barda IDP camps
- 11:00 Meeting with Barda local authorities
- 12:30 Visit to Lachin winterlands in Aghjabedi
- 14:00 Lunch with Lachin local authorities
- 15:30 Visit to ADRA's office and vocational training center in Aghjabedi
- 18:00 Arrival Barda

Saturday 19 March

- 09:00 Departure Barda
- 10:00 Meeting with Head of the Executive Committee of Mingechevir region
- 11:00 Visit to new settlement in Mingechevir
- 13:00 Lunch with Mingechevir local authorities
- 14:30 Departure Mingechevir
- 18:30 Arrival Baku

Sunday 20 March and Monday 21 March

Official Holiday in Azerbaijan (Novruz)

Tuesday 22 March

- 09:00 Meeting with Mr. Fuad Mammedov, Education for Development Project, Hayat Baku
- 10:00 Visit to UNHCR's Refugee Women and Youth Center, Baku
- 11:00 Visit to urban IDP settlements and IDP school in Sumgait, supported by UNHCR's implementing partner Umid
- 12:00 Meetings with IDP young apprentices and their "masters" in Sumgait
- 14:00 Meeting with Ms. Naila Huseynova, NRC Sumgait
- 15:00 Visit to IDPs living in public buildings in Sumgait
- 16:30 Interview with television station ATV

Wednesday 23 March

- 10:00 Mr. Seifu Tirfie, Officer-in-Charge, WVI
- 12:00 Debriefing with Mr. Ali Hasanov, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Committee for Refugees and IDPs
- 13:00 Visits to urban IDPs living in public buildings in Baku
- 14:30 Lunch hosted by Mr. Gurdan Sadigov, Head, Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and Work with International Organizations
- 16:00 Mr. James Goggin, USAID Country Director

Thursday 24 March

- 10:00 Mr. Farid Mammadov, Operations Officer, World Bank
- 12:00 H.E. Tadakhiru Abe, Ambassador of Japan
- 13:00 Lunch with UNHCR Representative
- 14:00 Mr. Mahmud Mammadgulyev, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 15:00 Meeting with CRINGO Network (grouping 15 national NGOs)

Friday 25 March

- 09:00 Mr. Symon Lord, UNHCR Associate Programme/Field Officer
- 10:00 Debriefing with Mr. Jean-Claude Concolato, UNHCR Representative
- 11:30 Mr. Shahin Huseynov, UNHCR Associate Programme Officer
- 15:00 Mr. Nijat Kerimov, UNHCR Assistant Field Officer

Saturday 26 March

- 13:00 Working lunch with Ms. Zeynep Gündüz, Refugee Education Trust (RET), hosted by Mr. Jean-Claude Concolato, UNHCR Representative

Monday 28 March

- 09:00 Debriefing with Ms. Amra Nuhbegovic, Administration/Programme Officer



List of Persons Met Before and During the Mission

Government of Azerbaijan

- Mr. Ali Hasanov, Deputy Prime Minister, Head of the State Commission for Refugees and IDPs,
Head of the State Commission on International Humanitarian Assistance
- Mr. Ali Nagiyev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection
- Dr. Garayev Aboulfas Mursal oglu, Minister of Youth, Sports and Tourism
- Mr. Mahmud Mammadgulyev, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Tunzala Aydamizova, Department for Human Rights, Democratization and Humanitarian
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Habib Mikayilli, Department for Human Rights, Democratization and Humanitarian Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Elmira Suleymanova, Ombudsman
- Mr. Gurdan Sadigov, Head, Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and Work with
International Organizations, Cabinet of Ministers
- Mr. Ramin Talibli, Leading Adviser, Department for Problems of Refugees, IDPs, Migration and
Work with International Organizations, Cabinet of Ministers
- Mr. Elchin Amirbayov, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan, Geneva
- Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev, Third Secretary (Political, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs,
Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan, Geneva
- Mr. Elshan Mammadzadeh, Department of Investments and International Economic Cooperation,
Ministry of Economic Development
- Mr. Elshan Isgandarov, Secretariat of the State Programme for Socio-Economic Development of
Regions, Ministry of Economic Development
- Mr. Hanifa Ahmadov, Deputy Head, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Labour and
Social Protection
- Mr. Natiq Haziyeu, Deputy Head of Executive Committee, Barda Region
- Mr. Gumshud Agayanov, Representative of State Committee on IDPs and Refugees, Barda Region
- Mr. Mahabbat Qarabakhly, Head of Executive Committee, Mingachevir Region
- Mr. Mahmood Guliyev, Head of Executive Committee, Gibrail Region (in exile)
- Mr. Shaheen Shirinov, Deputy Head of Executive Committee, Gibrail Region (in exile)
- Mr. Nizami Halilov, Deputy Head of Executive Committee, Imishli Region
- Mr. Asdan Abdulazimov, Representative of State Committee on IDPs and Refugees, Imishli Region
- Mr. Aiden Abbasov, Deputy Head of Executive Committee, Lachin Region (in exile)
- Mr. Ilgar Tagiyev, Representative of State Committee on IDPs and Refugees, Sabirabad Region

Donors (including private companies)

- Mr. Tadakhiru Abe, Ambassador of Japan
- Mr. Kazuya Harada, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan
- Mr. Faraj Husenynbeyov, Project Implementation Officer, Azerbaijan Resident Mission, Asian
Development Bank (ADB)
- Mr. James L. Goggin, Country Coordinator, USAID Caucasus, Baku
- Ms. Valerie Ibban, Social Sector Advisor, USAID Caucasus, Baku
- Mr. Farid A. Mammadov, Operations Officer, Infrastructure and Energy Sector Unit, The World
Bank

Ms. Saida Bagoriva, Operations Officer/External Affairs, The World Bank
Mr. Drew Goodbread, Venture Country Manager, Exxon Azerbaijan Operating Company LLC,
ExxonMobil
Ms. Leyla Rzakulieva, Government and Public Affairs Manager, Exxon Azerbaijan Operating
Company LLC, ExxonMobil

NGOs

Mr. Tryggve Nelke, Field Office Director, Save the Children, Baku
Mr. Nassir Farraj, Deputy Field Officer Director (Program), Baku
Mr. William R. Holbrook, Chief of Party, Mercy Corps, Baku
Mr. Seifu Tirfie, Officer-in-Charge, World Vision International, Baku
Mr. Gudrat Balakaishiyev, Director, ADRA Vocational Training Center, Aghjabedi
Ms. Kamalya Agayeva, Project Director, Community Health Development Program, ADRA,
Aghjabedi
Ms. Naila Huseynova, Coordinator Public Building Rehabilitation (PBR) Project, Norwegian
Refugee Council, Sumgait CRINGO Network of 15 national NGOs

UN System

Mr. Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Coordinator
Ms. Irada Ahmedova, Programme Adviser (IDP Focal Point), UNDP Baku
Mr. Rahman Chowdhury, Country Director, WFP Baku
Ms. Gayathri Sarangan, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Consultant, WFP Baku
Ms. Hanaa Singer, Representative, UNICEF Baku
Mr. Roy Brooke, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, Environmental Emergencies Section,
OCHA Geneva

UNHCR

Mr. Jean Claude Concolato, Representative
Ms. Amra Nuhbegovic, Administration/Programme Officer
Mr. Shahin Huseynov, Associate Programme Officer
Mr. Symon Lord, Associate Programme/Field Officer
Mr. Nijat Kerimov, Assistant Field Officer
Mr. Vugar Abdusalimov, Assistant Public Information Officer

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AGIP	Azienda Generale Italiana Petroli (Italian Petroleum Company)
AHAP	Azerbaijan Humanitarian Assistance Program (USAID)
AIDPS	Azerbaijan Household Survey on Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and the Resident Population
BP	British Petroleum
CCA	Common Country Assessment
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ENI	Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (Italian National Hydrocarburates Entity)
FVAM	Fuji Vision Aid Mission
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IDD	UN Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International NGO
JFPR	Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction
MCI	Mercy Corps International
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MFI	Microfinance institution
NGO	Non governmental organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PBR	Public Building Rehabilitation (NRC project)
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (WFP)
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
RET	The Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust
SFDI	Social Fund for the Development of IDPs
SME	Small and medium enterprise
SOFAR	State Oil Fund
SPPRED	State Program on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WVI	World Vision International