

AZERBAIJAN: a glance at the country

Geographical-administrative information on Azerbaijan

- Village - 4246
- Settlement – 262
- Town - 79
- District (rayon) – 63

Population growth

Total population – 10127,1 mln. Included:

Town – 5502,5 mln.

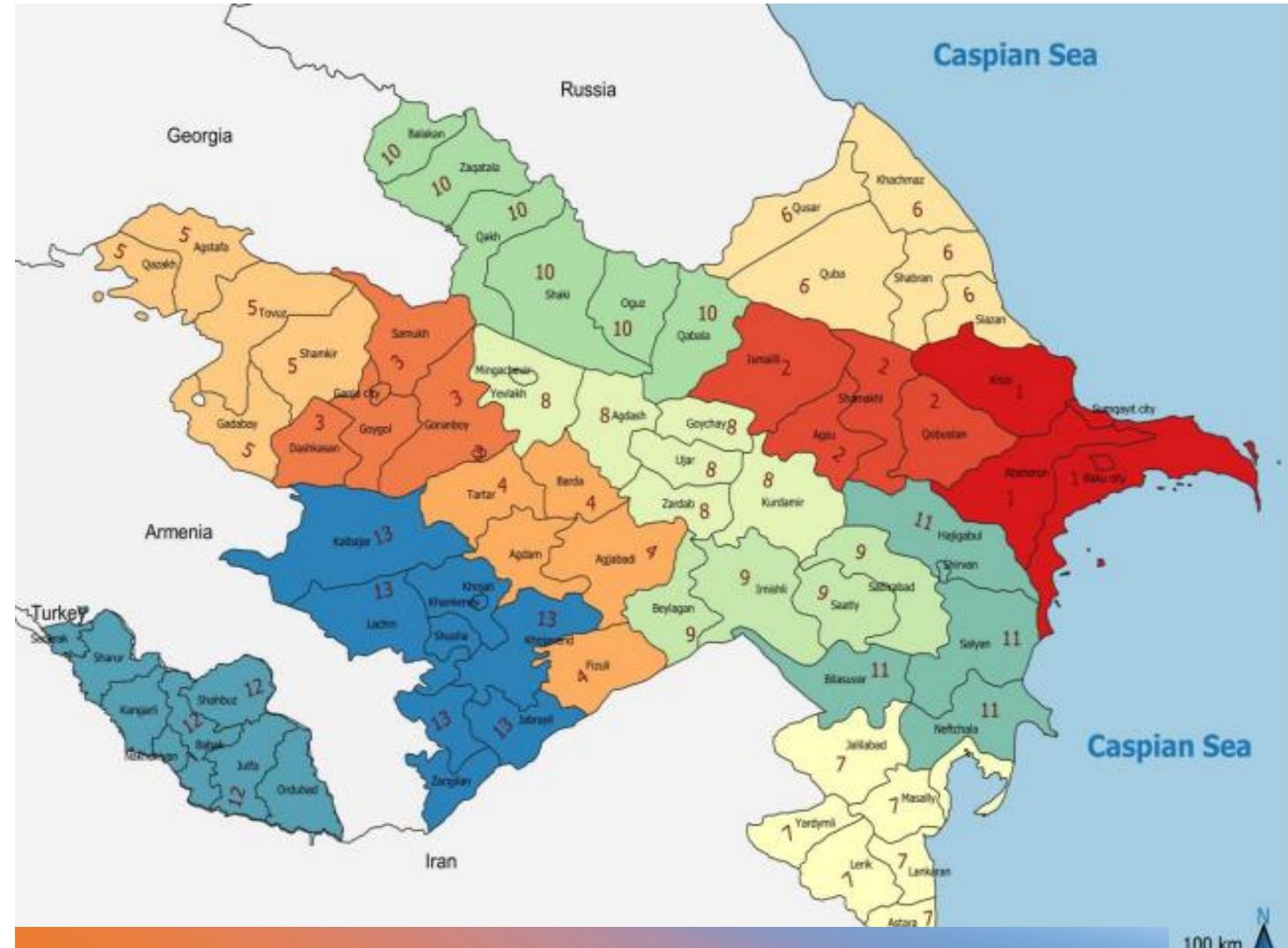
Urban – 45,4 mln.

More than 45 % of populations live in urban environment

Challenges of the Caucasus region:

The Caucasus region – including Azerbaijan – has the potential to be an emerging infectious disease hotspot.

As a geographic crossroads between the Europe and Asia, the Caucasus' are a critical region for global security and travel, and improved pathogen bio surveillance in this region is warranted to support rapid detection and response.



Landscape in Azerbaijan

PLAN OR ASSESSMENT	COMPLETED? (YEAR)	
JEE	Yes (2023)	
PVS Evaluation	Yes (2008)	National Bridging Workshop was pilot in 2013 but the report is not available
PVS Evaluation Follow-Up	Yes (2015 & 2022)	Joint External Evaluation (JEE) is completed, and recommendations are underway
PVS Gap Analysis	Yes (2011)	
PVS Legislation	No	A laboratory assessment mission (8–19 May 2023) was conducted to evaluate and improve laboratory systems, followed by a workshop to develop a national laboratory policy and strategic plan. The plan has not yet been approved by cabinet of Ministers
IHR-PVS Bridging Workshop	Yes (2013)	
NAPHS	No	NAPHS is in process in line with the JEE Recs
STAR	Yes (year)	WHO Strategic Tool for Assessing <u>Risks</u> (2019)
OHZDP	Yes (2015)	An Assessment of One Health Operations and Capacities (Ecohealth 2023)
National AMR Action Plan	No	Multisectoral coordination mechanism (MCM) workshop in 2023: Action plan to establish a multisectoral coordination mechanism
NBSAP	Yes	
JRA	No	Ministries of Environment and Health are committed to implement One Health through the Budapest Declaration, July 2023

Source: Ecohealth 2023



What is available now?

National Strategy on Strengthening Zoonotic Diseases Prevention and control through One Health in Azerbaijan (2025-2030)

Comprehensive Action Plan Against Bird Flu

Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and AFSA

Ministry of Ecology: a working group between AFSA and State Service of Protection of Biodiversity has been established and is operational.

An Assessment of One Health Operations and Capacities (Ecohealth 2023): main recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<i>Coordination and Governance</i>	Formally establish a National One Health Committee that includes representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Safety Sector, Ministry of Science and Technology, military or defense sectors, universities, and other potential One Health stakeholders.
	Finalize, renew, and implement not yet completed national plans and assessments, including a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) with a multisectoral group of government experts.
<i>Disease Risk Reduction</i>	Expand zoonotic disease monitoring and surveillance in wildlife using nonlethal methods.
	Enhance public communication about the importance of biodiversity preservation, and safe practices regarding interactions with wildlife.
<i>One Health Capacity Building</i>	Improve the transparency and timeliness of health-related information dissemination to additional sectors, departments, and academicians
	Expand joint work-training with veterinarians, environmental health specialists, epidemiologists, and other professionals across the human-animal-environmental health landscape

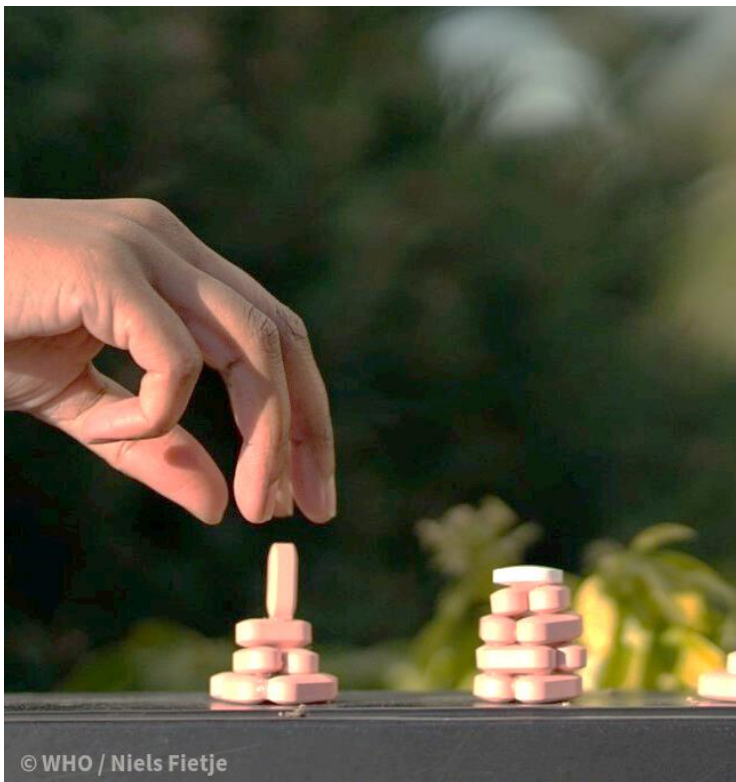




The One Health Context in Azerbaijan: Priorities

- **Create a National One Health Committee** (including strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks and align legal frameworks and policies across sectors).
- **Develop the NAPHS and complete the JEE** (All the scores and the considerations presented focus only on human health. An integrated approach aimed at adding value to a well-structured and effective system is important to close the gap between the human and animal health sectors in line with the One Health approach)
- **Develop a renewed National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** in line with the new COP 15 framework
- **Enhance communication mechanisms** across ministries, and other relevant actors (academia; scientific bodies; local authorities etc.) to link research activities to ongoing monitoring and risk analysis processes.
- Support a **multidisciplinary One Health workforce** by investing in educational and training programmes
- Improve **multisectoral collaboration** particularly in the fields of food safety and zoonoses
- **AMR:** develop veterinary legislation on antimicrobial use and a control program for the sale and use of antimicrobial products.

The One Health Context in Azerbaijan: activities to address



- **Strengthen capacity to assess risks posed by zoonotic disease hazards** using the Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT)
- **Following up on the COP 29** and implementation of the zoonotic disease prevention and control plan



Health emergency preparedness, response and resilience in the WHO European Region 2024–2029

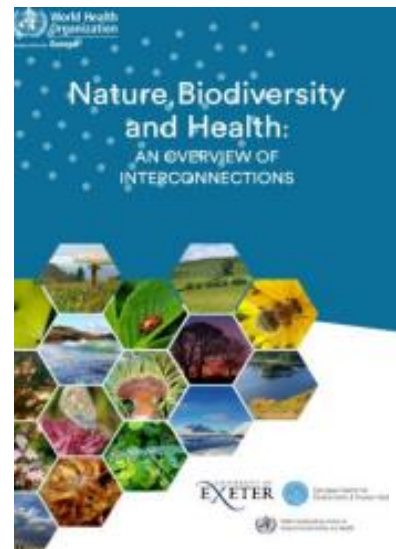
A new regional strategy and action plan (Preparedness 2.0)

Preparedness 2.0 is a new regional strategy and action plan to strengthen health security across the WHO European Region. It seeks to support Member States in enhancing the capacity and agility of health systems to manage the dual-track approach of maintaining essential health services while effectively managing any risk and hazard throughout the emergency management cycle. Preparedness 2.0 builds on a wealth of recommendations, experience and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies, as well as on the Action Plan to Improve Public Health Preparedness and Response in the WHO European Region 2018–2023. It is expressly tailored to the needs of the Region, while being consistent with WHO's broader activities to strengthen the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience (HEPR) through integration of the five core operational components of the HEPR framework.¹

Collectively, WHO Member States have made strong commitments to strengthen the global health architecture through agreeing to a comprehensive package of amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) in 2024, and through the progress made towards a new pandemic agreement. Preparedness 2.0 outlines actionable steps for countries to implement some of the 2024 amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) and the support that is available to Member States from the WHO Regional Office for Europe to implement the resulting outcomes of the evolving global health security architecture.

This working document is submitted, together with the implementation support guide and a draft decision, to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe for endorsement at its 74th session in October 2024.

¹ Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2023 (accessed 9 July 2024).



WHO/EUROPE

Adaptation guide on the One Health approach for the WHO European Region

