

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND ACCESS TO
SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN SOUTH
CAUCASUS**

REGIONAL REPORT

Extract – Country Specific Highlights - Azerbaijan

20 September 2022



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1.5 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

Azerbaijan

- A vast majority of surveyed migrants come from five countries, four of which are in southern Asia: Pakistan (37%), Nigeria (22%), Bangladesh (20%), India (8%), and Sri Lanka (5%). Over 90 per cent are men and nearly all respondents reside in Baku.
- The main two reasons for migration are study and work. Nearly all are non-working, students or unemployed, and rely on external support, often from family residents abroad. Only 15 per cent are employed (some of them informally) or own a business. Tourism, hospitality and construction are the most popular sectors of activity.
- Migrants most commonly share housing quarters or stay in a hostel (three-quarters of them do so without a formal agreement). Nearly half of the respondents had to move into cheaper accommodation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Most respondents tend to interact with groups that belong to their close community. As a result of the COVID-19 impact, nearly all of those who were financially supported reported issues in receiving funds, around 80 per cent saw their pay or working time reduced.
- A significant share of respondents (28%) and one in five family members reported having serious health conditions. None of the respondents have health insurance, and the high cost remains the main obstacle to obtaining insurance as well as to accessing health services, seeking treatment, or obtaining medicines.
- The majority of respondents were not willing to take any measures when they need medical assistance. Nearly a quarter would not contact a doctor in case they develop COVID-19 symptoms with the majority prevented by the high cost of healthcare. Nearly two-thirds would not be able to self-isolate as they shared housing.
- Almost all those interviewed took various precautions and 97 per cent are vaccinated (nearly all in Azerbaijan). As many as 88 per cent declared that they have sufficient information about the COVID-19 vaccination process, relying on social media, government sources, or word of mouth. About three-quarters were able to receive information on the measures in force, mainly relying on the internet or social media.
- While the majority of respondents expressed a moderate (17%) to high (61%) level of concern about the COVID-19 pandemic, the group of those concerned is smaller than in 2020.
- More than half of the respondents had received some kind of assistance since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, consisting mainly of cash (93%) or food (48%). The main providers were international organizations (including the IOM), the embassy, or consulate of the country of origin, and local organizations. While doctors' services are in the highest demand, migrants also reported the need for psychosocial support and legal aid.
- Instances of discrimination or hostile behaviour were reported by 14 per cent of the respondents. Nearly two thirds of those consisted of verbal abuse while 19 per cent encountered physical incidents. Nearly all (95%) migrants felt comfortable staying in Azerbaijan during the COVID-19 pandemic.