

Reaching the malaria-free milestone

EPW core priorities and flagships

Promoting health and well-being

WHO collaboration

Strategic planning
National health review

Efforts to eradicate malaria in Azerbaijan have been ongoing since the 1930s. Cases increased in the 1990s following mass population displacement due to conflict along the country's borders. In response, the Government scaled up malaria interventions, including insecticide spraying, water management and health worker training. A key advance was the 2010 introduction of the electronic integrated disease surveillance system for near-real-time detection and rapid investigation. The Regional Office and Country Office provided guidance for these activities, and Azerbaijan detected its last case of locally transmitted malaria in 2012.

The Ministry of Health sought WHO's support for the malaria elimination certification process, which led to a technical consultation in 2018 and several pre-certification missions. In October 2022 WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Malaria Elimination reviewed Azerbaijan's specimen collection, laboratory services, data management, clinical management and prevention measures.

The impact

The Technical Advisory Group confirmed that indigenous malaria transmission had been interrupted for at least the past three years, and that the country had demonstrated its capacity to prevent the re-establishment of local transmission. WHO certified Azerbaijan malaria-free in March 2023.

Lessons learned

- Continuous training for doctors, parasitologists and health workers in prevention strategies and reactive protocols safeguards against resurgence.
- Investment outside the health sector – in quality housing, road networks and modern irrigation systems – contributes to interrupting malaria transmission.
- Sustained political commitment backed by resources can stamp out an age-old scourge.

Donors and partners

Ministry of Health; other ministries and national authorities; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); academic institutions and private entities



The WHO mission to Azerbaijan in 2022 was part of the malaria elimination certification process.
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“Azerbaijan has contributed to the stabilization of the epidemiological situation of malaria in the European Region, which is also important for us.”

Dr Nazifa Mursalova, Head of the Department of Public Health and Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Azerbaijan

What's next?

The Government is committed to maintaining the country's malaria-free status with WHO support. Epidemiological and entomological surveillance, monitoring, analysis, prevention activities, and work with partners and the population is ongoing.