

**IMAGES Country Study
Documentation**

Azerbaijan

2018

1

KEY OBJECTIVES

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) was conducted by Promundo and partners in the regions of Baku-Absheron, Ganja-Gazakh, and Aran in Azerbaijan from April to July 2016. The study aimed to understand men's practices and attitudes as they relate to gender equality, roles and dynamics, parenting and caregiving, household relationship dynamics, health (including sexual and reproductive health and rights), and son preference. The study consisted of both a quantitative survey (with data collected from 631 men and 271 women), as well as a qualitative component consisting of semi-structured interviews with respondents living in urban areas. The qualitative research focused on exploring men's and women's gender roles, beliefs, and perceptions in terms of sexual and reproductive health-related decision-making (including son preference), intimate partner violence, early marriage, and family planning.

1

KEY OBJECTIVES

In the past decade, there has been increasing recognition among practitioners, researchers, policymakers, decision-makers, and activists of the crucial role that men play in promoting gender equality. The need to transform men's gender-inequitable practices in relation to violence, health, and family life – and make efforts to dismantle the underlying factors that prompt and perpetuate these practices – is now reflected in the global gender equality agenda. This is because men's conceptualizations of gender norms have an enormous impact on their behavior in ways that are often harmful to women and girls. For example, if it is the norm that men are in charge of sexual and intimate relationships, then women will lack autonomy and may experience physical and sexual violence.

1 KEY OBJECTIVES

Such norms are also often harmful to men and boys themselves; if norms on the gendered division of labor stipulate that it is not manly to take care of children, generations of men have reduced empathetic ties towards younger people. In addition, failure to engage men as partners and allies in gender equality unfairly burdens women and girls with the task of ending global injustices and also misses opportunities to tap into men's own self-interest in change.

1

KEY OBJECTIVES

Though many stakeholders agree that men and boys must be engaged in gender equality, there is a lack of research within the Azerbaijani context on how men conceptualize, act on, and become involved in achieving it. We need to understand how and why men become gender-conscious and contribute to the equality agenda by taking parental leave, equitably sharing childcare and housework responsibilities with women, speaking out about the ways gender inequality limits their opportunities as men, supporting the development and implementation of legislation and policies to foster gender equality, and serving as role models for the promotion of gender equality in the family, workplace, and society at large. In short, there is a substantial lack of concrete, reliable empirical data about current attitudes, perceptions, and practices on gender equality in contemporary Azerbaijani society. The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) aims in part to fill in the knowledge gaps and establish an actionable policy agenda.

1

KEY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of IMAGES is to understand men's and women's practices and attitudes in order to inform policy development and interventions that promote gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and violence prevention, including efforts that involve boys and men. While there are several research reports dedicated to gender relations in Azerbaijan, as described above, there is a paucity of comprehensive, up-to-date data on multiple facets of gender relations from the perspectives of both men and women. The IMAGES-Azerbaijan study is unique and significant in its scope, including quantitative and qualitative studies of the current state of men's and women's perceptions and practices on a broad range of important issues related to gender equality. It fills existing gaps in terms of specific, in-depth knowledge about men's role in relation to gender equality in Azerbaijan.

1

KEY OBJECTIVES

The study aims to address the following research questions:

1. How are gender roles, relations, and dynamics – in particular masculinities and men's roles – shaped and constructed in the context of Azerbaijan?
2. How does this relate to the use of gender-based violence, to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to equality in different social spheres such as the home, caregiving, public life, and others?

2 DATA COLLECTION

IMAGES Azerbaijan was a mixed-methods study that included both a quantitative survey and qualitative interviews.

Quantitative Study

Data collection was completed between February and April 2016 with 631 men and 271 women between the ages of 18 and 59.

To collect quantitative data, researchers used a version of the IMAGES questionnaire that was adapted by Promundo-US, the International Center for Social Research (ICSR), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Azerbaijan in collaboration with various stakeholders. The questionnaire was adapted to reflect issues of specific relevance to the current context of Azerbaijan, including attitudes related to gender, early marriage, and sex-selective abortion, among others. Questionnaires were translated into Azerbaijani and pre-tested with 20 respondents from different socio-demographic groups. After pre-testing, the wording of questionnaire items was corrected and revised.

2 DATA COLLECTION

Qualitative Study

Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured, in-depth interviews conducted in the respondents' homes by sex-matched interviewers. Respondents were asked about their relationship histories and experiences with marriage, fertility and contraception, pregnancy, and child-rearing. Interviews were recorded and subsequently transcribed. Researchers used the findings from the qualitative analysis to triangulate the data obtained from the quantitative survey to ensure validity and reliability of collected information in multiple domains. Qualitative data also helped contextualize and improve understanding of some of the nuanced processes around sexual and reproductive health decision-making, including family formation, son preference, early marriage, and gender equality.

3

SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

Quantitative data were collected from men and women between the ages of 18 and 59 in three urban and rural regions of Azerbaijan:

The Baku-Absheron region, including the cities Baku and Sumgayit and the Absheron administrative district;

The Ganja-Gazakh region, including the city Ganja and the Agstafa, Gazakh, and Tovuz administrative districts; and

The Aran region, including the city Shirvan and the Sabirabad, Saatli, and Imishli administrative districts.

These areas were selected to represent geographic and urban/rural diversity.

A two-stage random sampling methodology was used. In the first stage, 30 primary sampling units (PSUs) were randomly selected (21 for sampling male respondents and nine for sampling female respondents). This selection was proportionate to the population for each of the three areas where selection occurred. In the second stage, 30 potential respondents were randomly selected within each PSU and 10 interviews were conducted.

3

SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The larger number of pre-selected respondents was included to account for expected levels of non-response.

Qualitative survey participants included 12 men between the ages of 29 and 39 and 12 women between ages 30 and 40 who already had children. Approximately 80 percent of the men and 65 percent of women had a higher education. The average age of marriage was 26 for the men and 22 for the women; the average age at which they had their first child was 27 for the men and 23 for the women.

The sampling process for qualitative interviews was informal – participants were found through personal contacts of the researcher. In order to maintain confidentiality and the safety of respondents, it was important that the interviewed women and men did not belong to the same family. All qualitative interviews were conducted in urban areas (Baku and Sumgayit).

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	Men		Women	
	N	%	N	%
Type of settlement				
Capital city	171	27.1	71	26.2
Large city (population 100,000 to 1,000,000)	140	22.2	50	18.5
Small town (population less than 100,000)	100	15.8	60	22.1
Rural	220	34.9	90	33.2
Age group				
18-24	68	10.8	34	12.5
25-34	173	27.4	71	26.2
35-49	218	34.5	89	32.8
50-59	172	27.3	77	28.4
Level of education				
Elementary or less	4	0.6	5	1.8
Incomplete secondary	12	1.9	17	6.3
Complete secondary	321	50.9	129	47.6
Vocational specialized	132	20.9	62	22.9
Higher	162	25.7	58	21.4

	Men		Women	
	N	%	N	%
Employment status				
Never worked	1	0.2	97	35.8
Student	13	2.1	13	4.8
Unemployed	73	11.6	49	18.1
Formally employed	220	34.9	69	25.5
Informally employed	303	48.0	29	10.7
Retired	21	3.3	8	3.0
Studying and working	0	0.0	1	0.4
On maternity or other leave	0	0.0	5	1.8
Employment situation is mostly stable (agree or strongly agree)	265	49.3	78	70.9

	Men		Women	
	N	%	N	%
Marital status				
Currently in a registered marriage	490	77.7	186	68.6
Currently in an unregistered marriage (kebin)	14	2.2	6	2.2
Single	114	18.1	51	18.8
Separated or divorced	7	1.1	13	4.8
Widowed	6	1.0	15	5.5
Religion				
Islam	620	98.2	298	98.9
Orthodox Christianity	1	0.2	2	0.7
No religión (atheist/agnostic)	10	1.6	1	0.4
TOTAL (N)	631		271	

4

RESPONSE RATE

The total response rate was 73.8 percent (71.1 percent for men and 80.7 percent for women). Reasons for refusal included sickness, unavailability of respondents (i.e., out of town or not at home), refusal to open the door or participate in the survey, and premature termination of the survey.

5

WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

To better assess men's and women's gender attitudes across multiple domains, the Gender-Equitable Men (GEM) scale was adapted to the Azeri context. The GEM scale consists of a set of items measuring attitudes related to gender roles, sexuality, violence, and caregiving. It has been widely used and validated in other studies in more than 20 countries. The GEM scale is constructed as a continuous variable, the sum of responses to selected attitudinal items, with higher scores reflecting more equitable attitudes. GEM scores in Azerbaijan, where the scale included 11 items, could range from 11 to 44.

6

MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

7

QUALITY CONTROL

The project coordinator and three fieldwork supervisors regularly assessed data quality, including through reviews of completed questionnaires and back-checks of about 20 percent of all surveys. Double-entry of data was implemented to detect technical errors during data entry.

8

INTERVIEWER TRAINING

For each respondent, one of 14 trained interviewers with experience in quantitative surveying and gender issues administered the paper-based questionnaire face-to-face in the respondent's household. Given the sensitive nature of the questions, and in accordance with typical IMAGES procedures, participants and interviewers were sex-matched so that female interviewers only interviewed women and male interviewers only interviewed men.

9

DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) AZERBAIJAN

UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA started its assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1994 to address the reproductive health concerns of the population. UNFPA established its full-fledged Country Office in Azerbaijan in 1996 and expanded its operations through the standalone projects aimed at further expanding access to quality family planning and reproductive health services, as well as increased availability of population data.

Within more than 20 years of partnership with Azerbaijani Government UNFPA joined efforts with the civil society organizations, private sector, bilateral and multilateral partners to accelerate progress on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda in Azerbaijan through contribution to the national development priorities.

9

DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

UNFPA in Azerbaijan continuously strives to advance sexual and reproductive health in the country.

The concerted advocacy efforts held by the organization to ensure strengthened national health systems for the purposes of improved family planning led to the adoption of the first ever National Reproductive Health Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2008-2015). The agency is now closely working with the Government to ensure the follow-up including inter alia through support for the endorsement of the second cycle of the Reproductive Health Strategy as well as adoption of the draft Law on Reproductive Health and Family Planning.

9

DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH (ICSR)

The International Center for Social Research (ICSR) is a non-profit international association. ICSR aims to facilitate sociological research, teaching and communication between sociologists, sociologists and other scientists, and to give sociology a voice in international affairs. Its *mission* is the development of sociological knowledge and the social research, supporting, conducting and facilitating social scientific research, stimulating and improving research, instruction, and discussion, and encouraging cooperative relations among persons engaged in the scientific study of society.

9

DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

PROMUNDO

Founded in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1997, Promundo works to promote caring, nonviolent, and equitable masculinities and equitable gender relations internationally. Promundo's independently registered organizations in the United States (Promundo-US), Brazil (Instituto Promundo), and Portugal (Promundo-Europe), and its representatives in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, collaborate to achieve this mission by conducting applied research that builds the knowledge base on masculinities and gender equality; developing, evaluating, and scaling up gender-transformative interventions and programs; and carrying out national and international advocacy to achieve gender equality and social justice.

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

The study followed standard ethical procedures for research on violence. Researchers sampled men and women in different clusters to avoid interviewing men and women in the same households. All respondents were fully informed about the purpose and procedures of this study and were told that their participation in the survey was voluntary and that they had the right to terminate the survey at any point or refuse to answer any questions. Confidentiality of the interviews was strictly guarded. Prior to data collection, interviewers received training on gender, violence, ethical procedures in gender and masculinities research, and how to ask sensitive questions and respond to respondents in distress.

11 NOTES ON STUDY

No additional information available in this section.



IMAGES

International
Men and Gender
Equality Survey