

*COVID-INDUCED INEQUALITIES: EDUCATION,  
HEALTH SERVICES, DIGITAL ACCESS AND FEMALE  
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION*

*Case Study from Azerbaijan*



Center for Economic and Social Development

Baku, Azerbaijan

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The COVID–19 pandemic has severely impacted the country of Azerbaijan in 2020.

The crisis had a negative impact on both the livelihoods of citizens and the economy of the country.

Even though the government of Azerbaijan took serious measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country and mitigate the impact of the economic consequences, citizens facing the economic fallout resulting from drops in oil prices faced decreased GDP per capita and increased unemployment rates.

The vaccination program launched in Azerbaijan made the country the first Caucasus to start the campaign.



## EDUCATION

The nationwide quarantine imposed in 2020 led to the closure of all educational institutions, affecting more than 1.9 million children and youth.

An emergency transition from traditional face-to-face learning to distance learning occurred.

70% of school children were supported by some form of remote education  
93% received regular support from teachers  
36% of preschool-age children were supported by home-based learning platforms



## HEALTH SERVICES

Healthcare services in Azerbaijan are provided by both public and private healthcare institutions and regulated through the Ministry of Healthcare. Public hospitals are managed by the state, and medical care is offered free of charge for Azerbaijani residents.

The geographic distribution of cases revealed that the greatest share concentrated in Baku, followed by Absheron, Aran and Ganja-Gazakh.

Women accounted for 54% of all cases of COVID-19 in Azerbaijan, while men accounted for 46%.

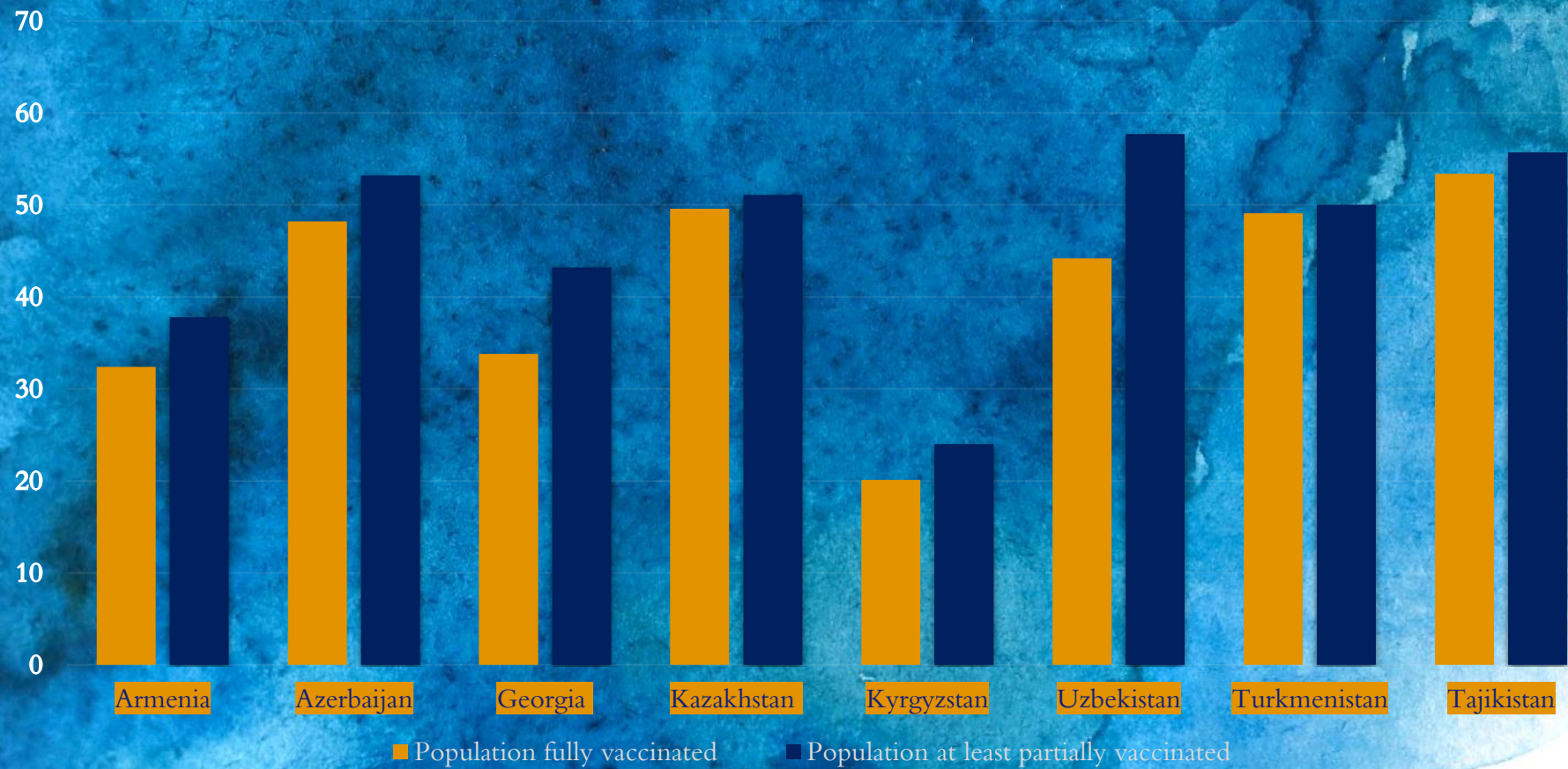


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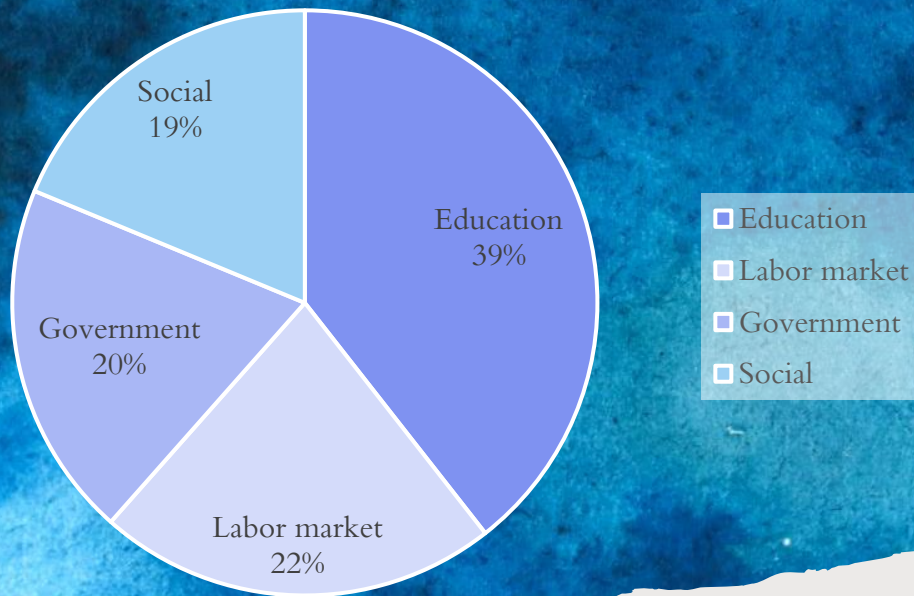
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# Vaccination in the South Caucasus and Central Asia (%)



## DIGITAL ACCESS

In 2020, ICT accounted for 2% of GDP. The biggest increase over the last 10 years was observed in the use of websites and software development.



Shift to digital processes was observed in major sectors of the economy, including health, business, and education.

Varying from sector to sector, the transition differed in its context.

While in business communities digitalization brought more optimism and raised expectations about the further implementation of reforms related to remote work, education faced several shortcomings and expansion of existing gaps.



## FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Women became more vulnerable since the spread of COVID-19 due to increased workloads and losses of income, exacerbated by a decrease in paid working hours.

Allocated support by the government was not gender-sensitive, falling short of meeting women's general needs resulting in an overlook of special needs.

24% of men lost their jobs, while women ended up with 8%.  
Females who own and operate businesses (55%) were affected more by the pandemic compared to employed women (48%).





Transition to remote working differed in its composition. More women (47%) than men (16%) reported home working.

Out of 198.305 individual women entrepreneurs and 659.739 women wage workers in the country, 243.930 work in the areas most affected by COVID-19.



Despite significant challenges that emerged due to the spread of COVID-19 in Azerbaijan, the country was comparatively successful in crisis management because of existing policies and legislations aimed at economic development.

Although the impact of the pandemic differed from sector to sector, the common tendency of increased indicators related to digital technologies was revealed.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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