

# CARD in Azerbaijan



Central Asian Research and Development (CARD) started its work in Azerbaijan in September 2001. Seeing the overwhelming need of children in institutions, psychiatric patients, Internally Displaced People, refugees, children with disabilities, and those from very poor families three programmes were established over the last years three programmes were established.

- CARD Vocational Training Programme
- CARD Mental Health Programme
- CARD Children's Welfare Programme

These Programmes are based in Ganja which is the second biggest city of Azerbaijan and lies 380 km west from the capitol Baku.

CARD is committed to the process of deinstitutionalisation and supporting vulnerable people to become integrated in mainstream society with every opportunity to lead full lives.

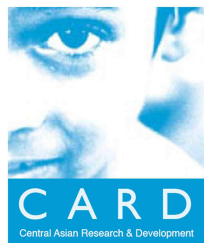


English lesson in the CARD Vocational Training Centre

This leaflet gives a short overview of the work of CARD in Azerbaijan. In addition there are more detailed leaflets for each of the three programmes available.



CARD Office & Vocational Training Centre in Ganja



*“Offering aid to the most vulnerable sectors of society in the form of education, vocational training and development projects in Azerbaijan”*

## How can you help?

Our work is supported by charitable donations.

If you would like to contribute to the work by sponsoring a student, patient or baby then please contact us on email at the addresses below, or in Azerbaijan, please contact:

Katja Bittel or Sevil Abbasova at:

CARD, 27 Pushkin Kuchesi, Ganja, Azerbaijan.

Tel: (+994 22) 578997 or 578997

CENTRAL ASIAN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (2000)



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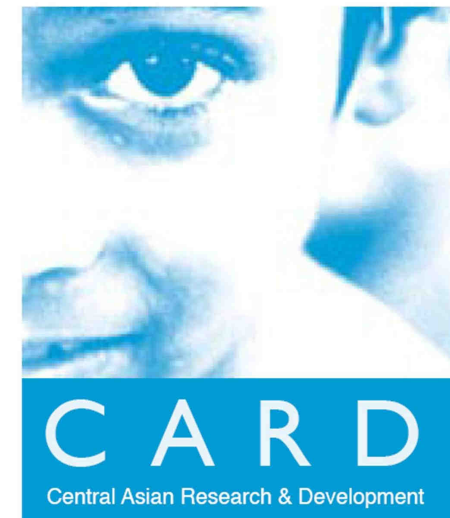
### UK Bank Details:

Bank: HSBC Bank Branch: East Dulwich  
Account Name:  
Central Asian Research & Development  
Sort Code: 40-02-32 Account Number: 21369253  
BIC: MIDLGB2140G  
IBAN: GB03MIDL400232221369253

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# Serving the Disadvantaged in Azerbaijan



CARD(2000) is a UK Registered Charity  
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## Vocational Training Programme

### Vocational Training

The programme centres around a house renovated for vocational training in the city of Ganja, Azerbaijan.

Children and young adults between the ages of 12 and 20 are supported and trained in a number of practical skills, including **computing**, **carpentry**, **spoken English** and **traditional carpet making**. In 2009 CARD also started a **cooking class**. All students have come from vulnerable backgrounds including, Internally Displaced People as a result of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, refugees, children with disabilities,



the children's home in Ganja, and those from very poor families. A number of these children have been unable to attend school or have left at an early age. This means they are unlikely to find employment & these skills will provide them with a chance to break out of the poverty cycle.

### CARD's Ethos

As well providing free courses, the centre focuses on small group teaching to maximise the opportunities for individual learning. The centre also strives to encourage and develop the children's social development outside classes through games and other recreational break-time activities & challenges their thinking through various one-off projects—e.g. an environmental action day. For those children who have the opportunity to continue their local school education study areas, additional support and advice to enable them to do well at school is provided. For some of the students this is the first opportunity to receive some sort of practical education.



## Mental Health Programme

### Background

Ganja Psychiatric Hospital is one of the main facility's for Central and West Azerbaijan. It is presently home to around 140 patients. Mental health care continues to be a developing area in Azerbaijan, and like in many western countries, it has a lower profile within the health sector. Families and even medical professionals can often fail to understand patients' ongoing needs or when they can be returned home. Patients may remain at the hospital for many years because families cannot afford to collect them or may be afraid of having them back. CARD works with the doctors to identify those patients



who could be returned home and liaises with their families. Since working at the hospital CARD has **returned home** over 70 patients to all parts of Western & Central Azerbaijan and reunited them with their

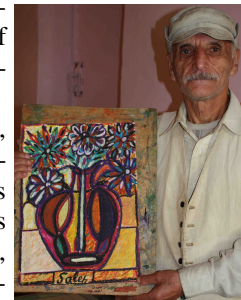
families. Without this help these patients might still be in this institution today.

### Therapy Classes

Therapy work is a critical part of CARD's work at the Psychiatric Hospital, and over time, as food provision and living conditions improve, it will become the primary focus of help.

Both patients and doctors see the benefits of the classes which has prompted the chief doctor to recognize that this aspect of patient care is as equally important as medicines.

CARD presently provides Music, Art and Sewing Classes for patients—each 3 times a week, plus additional recreational activities such as chess and board games, TV, a library, aerobics & gardening. Where possible, patients are taken outside the hospital for activities such as music concerts or picnics in the mountains. This can often be the only opportunity in a year a patient gets to leave the confines of the hospital.



## Children's Welfare Programme



### Child Development

Years living in an institution mean children are deprived of warm, loving care, stimulating play and variety in their day, which all aid their development into well-rounded, secure people.

CARD has been working to improve the lives of institutionalized children for many years. Essential care is provided by:

- Stimulating child development
- Renovating accommodation and providing new equipment & play areas where necessary
- Helping to send children for treatment to correct various physical problems such as cleft palates, club feet & sight and hearing difficulties
- Working with institutions to enable children to return home
- Providing clothing and other basic needs



One person who visited the babies home for the second time after a gap of several years commented,

*“ Before everything was dull and sadness, now it's wonderful; the children are cared for and loved but most of all, they are smiling ”*

### Operations

Often dealing with the stigma of a physical problem and lack of understanding leads to families abandoning children at the homes. CARD has been able to help by educating staff and parents and seeking expert medical help in Azerbaijan and overseas for many of the babies who have come through the babies' home. Many times this has led to parents accepting their child back or adoption into loving local families.

