

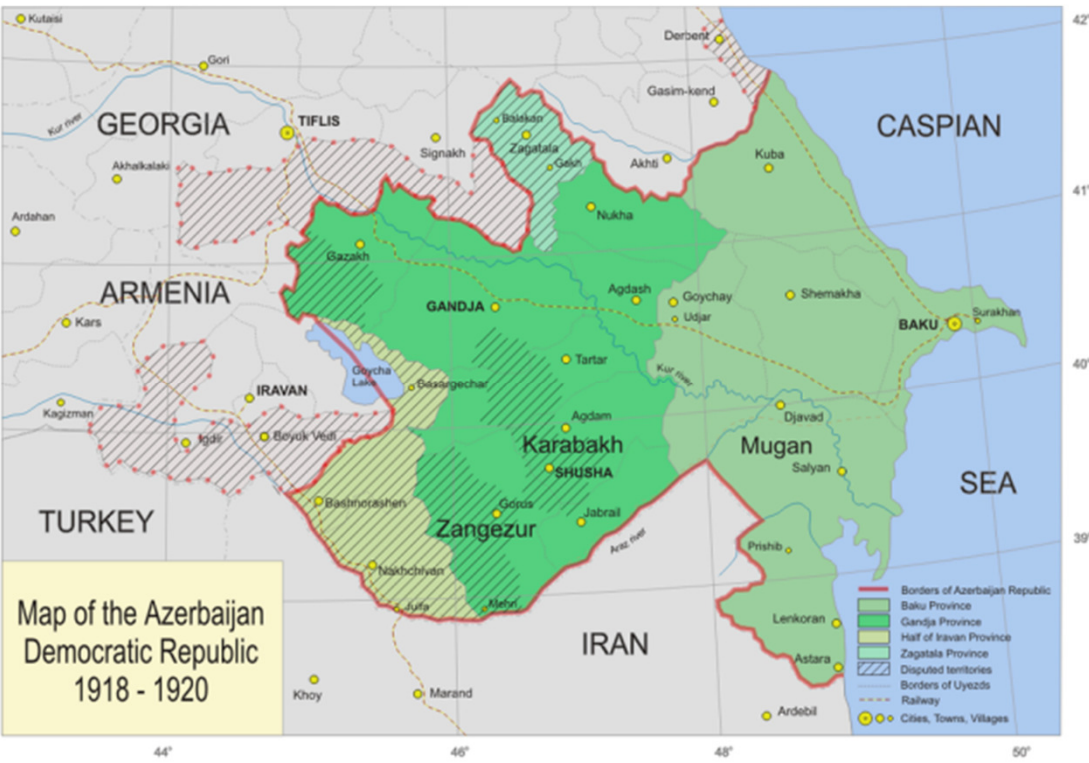
Reconsidering the role and impact of higher education on IDP in Azerbaijan:

A personal story and perspective
from a refugee-turned IDP

Dr. Rahman Shahhuseynli

Geneva, September 2018

How refugee?



Transfer/Relocation/Deportation:

- 1920—transfer of Zangazur etc. to Soviet Armenia;
- 1920—1980 several mass re-location of Azerbaijanis from highlands of Karabakh and surrounding regions;
- 1988—mass deportation of Azeris from Soviet Armenia

How IDP?



Occupation:

- Nagorno-Karabakh – 1988-1992 (Shusha – May, 1992)
- Lachin – May 1992; Kalbajar – April 1993; Aghdam – July 1993; Fizuli – August 1993; Jabrayil – August 1993; **Gubadli – August 1993**; Zangilan – October 1993

Azerbaijan's adherence to the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement

Protection during displacement—*Principles # 10-23*

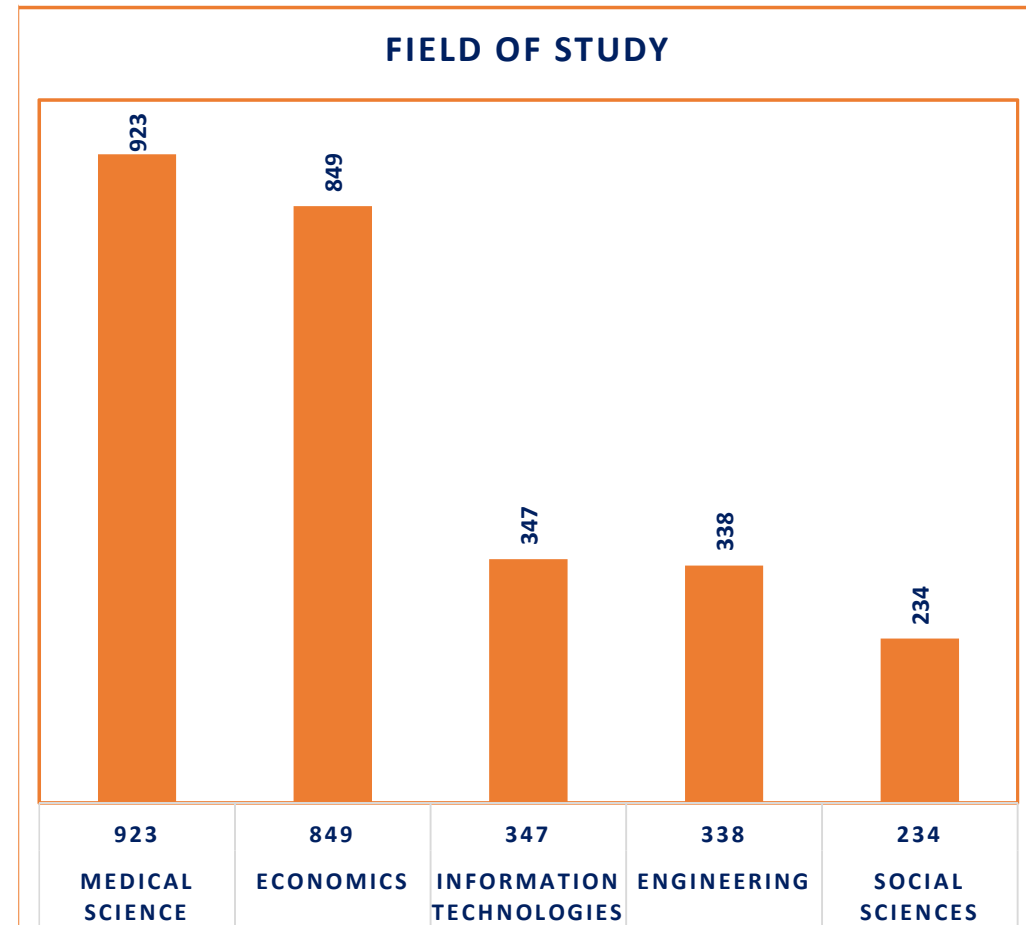
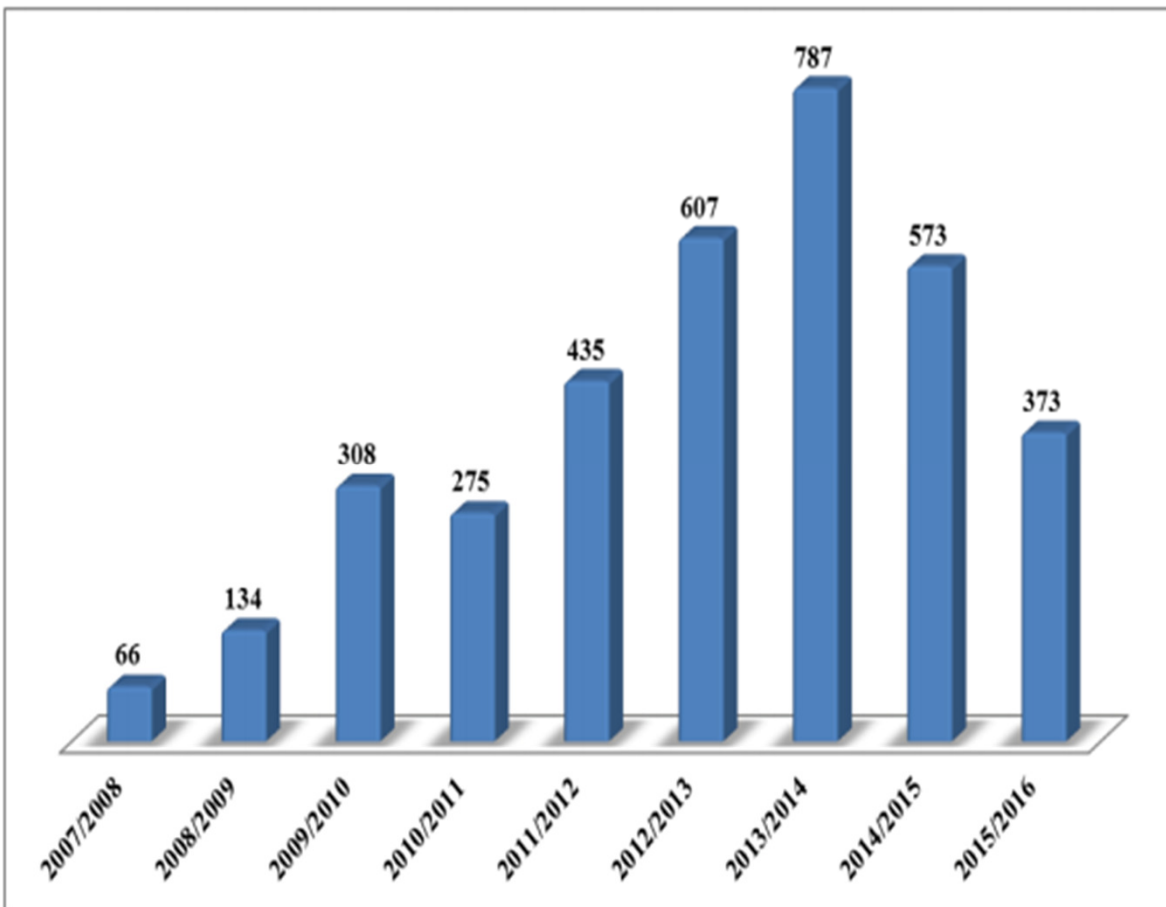
Principle # 18

- All IDPs have the right to an adequate standard of living (essential food, water, clothing, medical services, etc.)...

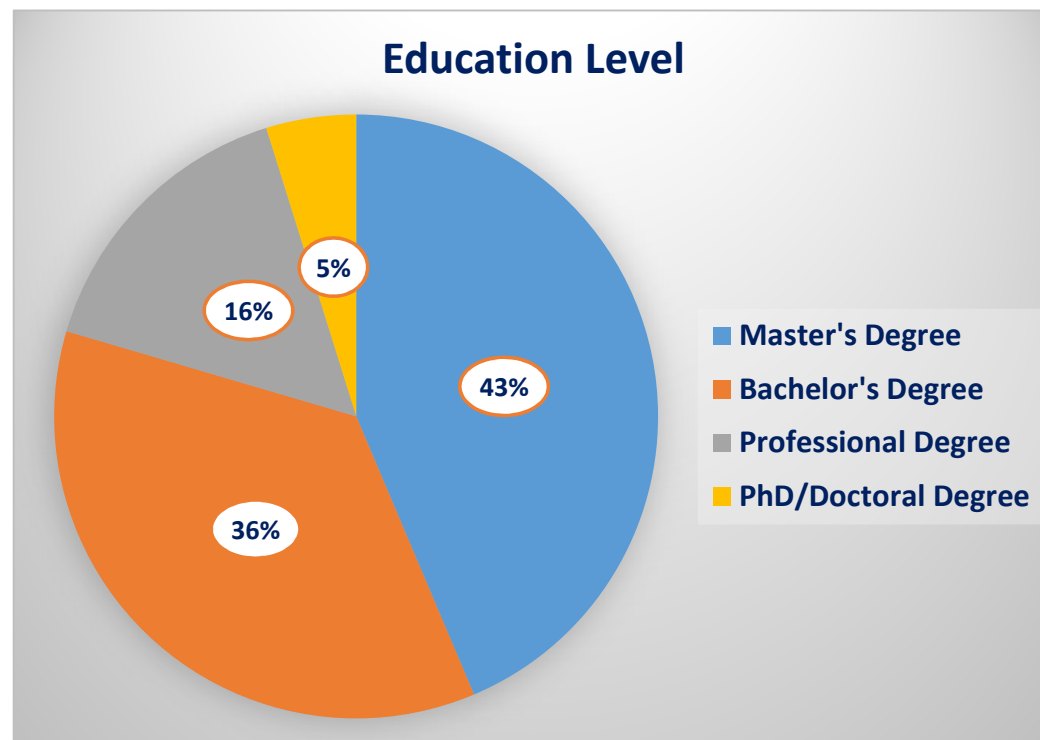
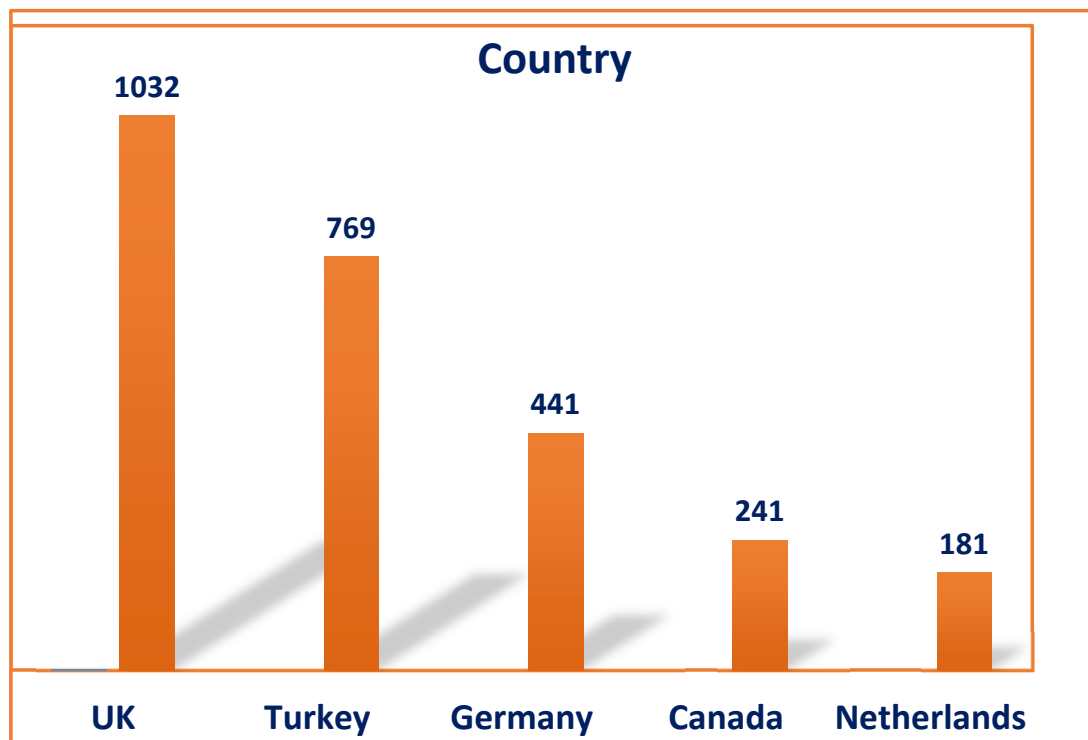
Principle # 23

- 1. Every human being has the right to education.
- 2. ... for IDPs, the authorities... shall ensure that such persons, in particular displaced children, receive education which shall be free and compulsory at the primary level.

Total of 3558 students through 2007-2015 to 379 universities in 32 countries



Top 5 destinations and education level



About 130 of those students are Azerbaijani citizens with IDP status. Nearly, 70 of them are the successful graduates of State Scholarship Program and 20% of those alumni are working at state agencies while the others are employed by private and international companies.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

“Quality education:

- facilitates the lifting of people out of poverty...
- empowers marginalized groups...
- reduces social, economic, and power inequality...
- drives sustainable and inclusive economic growth...
- facilitates peace, tolerance, and respect for human rights”*

***Source: Right to Education**

Education could be key to many of the SDGs as it proved to be true in case of the author, and in thousands of other refugee/IDP children cases in Azerbaijan!

THANK YOU!

