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In August 2011, Holcim Azerbaijan launched an employment center in the Garadagh region to promote employment and contribute to bettering the socio-economic situation in the region in which the company operates.



The center provides various services for the Sahil and Umid communities. These include help with career planning, advice on how to prepare effective CVs, and information about the labor market, including available vacancies. Sessions are also given on the subject of targeted social aid programs, and the center offers various skills training and seminars for students and recent graduates as well.

Besides working with job seekers, the employment center also strives to build strong relationships with both the public sector and private enterprise – with an eye to understanding employment needs and uncovering job opportunities for center participants.

1,000th applicant

In April 2013 the employment center registered its 1,000th applicant, a significant milestone. Of these 1,000 applicants, 800 have taken part in seminars, more than 60 have received governmental social support packages, and over 140 have found jobs. Many of these jobs are at leading private and public enterprises, including in the construction, oil and gas, industrial, services and other sectors. Of note is the fact that jobs were found at locations throughout the country, and not just in the Garadagh region.

"The employment center is a clear success story for our corporate social responsibility efforts," says Rena Tahirova, Communication/CSR Manager at Holcim Azerbaijan. "By continuing to support the local community, Holcim Azerbaijan plays an important role in ensuring its well-being. Our efforts also create value and enhance Holcim's image in the neighborhood."

While the initial idea for the employment center came from Holcim, the center is run in cooperation with a local NGO. As Tahirova points out, it is an excellent example of what can be done:

"This is a sustainable project. The center is run by a two-person NGO staff plus one volunteer," she says. "If you look at the results, especially being able to help 140 people get a job, I think that is a great achievement. It really shows the power of cooperation between the private sector, NGOs and the government."

<https://portal.holcim.com/irj/go/km/docs/documents/Public%20Documents/Global%20Homepage/Other%20Holcim%20Group%20News/d06622a2-c793-3010-77bf-a24c55c82383.xml>