Georgia remains among the poorest countries of the former Soviet Union. Many of its problems have been exacerbated by the global economic crisis: paid employment is hard to come by and basic services are under-resourced. However, with help from Oxfam and its local partners, things are starting to change.

OXFAM

In Georgia, Oxfam works to boost agricultural production, improve access to health care and empower women to take part in political life.

Farming for the future

Georgia has been badly affected by global food price hikes, leaving many families struggling to put enough food on the table. However the agricultural sector has the potential to boost food production given that more than half the population works in farming. Oxfam is working to create 40 co-operatives across five regions in Georgia, which will be the first of their kind since the collapse of the Soviet Union. These co-operatives will help smallholder farmers pool their resources, access bigger markets and get a better price for their produce. Together with our partners, we're also supporting women farmers who have been displaced by conflict to form producer groups, and export organic juice as far as Japan.

"BEFORE WE HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE OR STAYING WARM, NOW WE HAVE A STEADY INCOME." LIA, BENEFICIARY OF OXFAM'S ORGANIC JUICE PROJECT.

We're also lobbying the government to support co-operatives and improve food security. As part of this, Oxfam is supporting 50,000 farmers, especially women, to relay their concerns on agriculture to the government.

Access to health care

Oxfam helps marginalised and vulnerable children to assert their rights and access health care services.

The 'My Rights My Voice' project aims to improve access to health care for 20,000 children and young people displaced from post conflict regions. Oxfam supports institutions to strengthen the health rights monitoring system across the country.

"HEALTH CARE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN, AS THEY ARE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY," YOUTH CLUB MEMBER MEDEA GIGGANI, AGE 13.

Oxfam also works with partners to improve Georgia's health care system by campaigning for change and lobbying the government. We work through youth clubs and family doctors to empower young people to express their health rights.

Empowering women

Oxfam supports women and girls as community leaders and strengthens networks to make that happen. Oxfam has set up development committees to help train women to better understand their rights, and empower them to play an active role in political, social and economic life.

Oxfam further works with public institutions, including national and local governments, to ensure they introduce laws, policies and plans promoting gender sensitive governance.

Reducing the impact of disasters

Oxfam works with local partners to help communities cope and better prepare for natural disasters, such as flooding, landslides and earthquakes. We want local groups to be empowered and involved in decisions around disaster planning. We have been working with more than 30 communities across the country to reduce their vulnerability to climate change through education, skills-building, and by encouraging them to use renewable energy. Oxfam also worked with local authorities to improve the water and sanitation situation within communities across Georgia.

OXFAM