



A devastating earthquake in 1988, followed by the collapse of the Soviet Union three years later, left Armenia in a fragile state. Widespread corruption and social injustice continue to affect the lives of the most vulnerable people. Oxfam is helping people to access health care, legal services and economic opportunities.





Overleaf: Nellie Antonyan with a jar of homemade cherry juice. Oxfam is establishing a new fruit processing plant which will help Nellie get a better price for her produce. Photo: Emily Maccines; Above left: Anechka is receiving business support from Oxfam so that she can produce her jam in the new fruit processing plant. "I try to sell my fruit at the roadside stall, but I don't make very much money. I am very excited about the new processing plant and when it opens I will be able to sell much more of my fruit and make a better living." Photo: Emily Maccines; Above centre: Khachik village: Artush Mkztchyan, suffered a stroke and was treated by a village nurse as part of Oxfam's healthcare scheme. Photo: Toby Adamson; Above right: Beekeeper Sofik Nikolayn used to rent some hives but since Oxfam gave her 10 she has been able to expand her business and now has over 80 hives. Photo: Abbie Traylor Smith

In Armenia, Oxfam supports women to have a say in decision-making and empowers farmers to form cooperatives and market their produce.

Raising her Voice

Oxfam's 'Raising her Voice' project is working in poor and remote communities to give local people, particularly women and youth, a voice in decision-making. Oxfam is training women on how to be effective leaders and to campaign for change at government level. More women are able to take part in political life, run for local elections and become community leaders.

Access to justice

In Armenia many villages remain isolated and cut off from mainstream society. As a result, people are often unaware of their legal rights. Oxfam supports several civic centres which offer free legal support, lawyer services and a fair trial to people who lack access to justice. This support is helping around 150,000 poor and vulnerable people to better understand their economic and legal rights.

These centres also act as social hubs for the local community and are a platform for Armenians to engage and participate in politics. They can hold meetings, plan actions and community budgets, and hold the government to account.

Transforming healthcare through technology

Armenia's state health care system has suffered from both corruption and severe under-funding for years, leaving many communities without the essential drugs and trained health workers they need. Oxfam is helping 10,000 people access health care, and is raising awareness about their right to essential services. Oxfam's 'My Health, My Right' campaign encourages the government to be more transparent and accountable in its delivery of health services as well as to increase its funding.

Oxfam has set up a hotline to provide people with essential information on medical services as well as their health care rights. Oxfam is also campaigning for better reproductive and sexual health services for rural women and young people. Women receive essential information on healthy pregnancy and motherhood directly to their mobile phones.

"WITHOUT THE HEALTH SCHEME WE WOULDN'T SURVIVE. I REALLY WOULD HAVE DIED WITHOUT IT." ARTUSH MKZTCHYAN IS A MEMBER OF OXFAM'S COMMUNITY HEALTH SCHEME.

Supporting farmers to earn a living

Oxfam is supporting 50,000 farmers across Armenia to have a say in shaping the future of their agricultural system. We are helping to improve the income of smallholder farmers by developing their links to markets and helping them to set up co-operatives so they can get a better price for their produce. We are also providing business support and low interest loans to around 1,800 women producers, and establishing a fruit processing plant so they can sell their jam to international markets.

"I TRY TO SELL MY FRUIT AT THE ROADSIDE STALL, BUT I DON'T MAKE VERY MUCH MONEY. I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE NEW PROCESSING PLANT AND WHEN IT OPENS I WILL BE ABLE TO SELL MUCH MORE OF MY FRUIT AND MAKE A BETTER LIVING." ANECKKA, 76, IS TAKING PART IN OXFAM'S CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT IN ARMENIA.

Oxfam is helping farmers cope with unpredictable weather patterns, and is also campaigning for better agricultural policies which support poor farmers.

In the south east of Armenia, Oxfam has established social enterprises which help communities to improve incomes and regenerate their area. In addition, a farm research school has been established to share advanced agricultural techniques throughout the region.

Reducing the impact of disasters

Oxfam has established voluntary community emergency groups, to help school children, teachers and farmers respond to natural disasters and extreme weather. Oxfam has helped the Armenian government to develop a national strategy to help communities prepare and respond to disasters.