



South Caucasus

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Regional Snapshot

Population:
Life Expectancy:
Literacy Rate:*
Access to improved water source:
GDP per capita:*
Infant mortality rate:
 (per 1,000 live births)
Maternal mortality rate:
 (per 100,000 live births)
HIV prevalence:

Georgia

4.3 million
 72 years
 100%
 99%
 US\$2,313
 27
 66
 0.1%

Armenia

3.1 million
 74 years
 99.5%
 98%
 US\$3,059
 21
 76
 0.1%

Azerbaijan

8.7 million
 70 years
 99.5%
 78%
 US\$3,652
 32
 82
 0.2%

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2009, *UNDP Human Development Report 2009

Program Overview CARE has been working in the Caucasus, a region located on the border of Europe and Asia, since 1993 implementing an integrated approach to development. CARE combines income generation and business development, agriculture extension and infrastructure rehabilitation, good governance, and civil society development to address the underlying causes of poverty. Responding to common needs and challenges, CARE works at a cross-border and regional level to support the development of civil society and reduce poverty. In partnership with local organizations, CARE strives to increase women's roles in peace-building and support dialogue across existing dividing lines in the South Caucasus. CARE was among the first aid agencies to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Georgia in August 2008. CARE's efforts focused on helping those who fled their homes, those who returned to damaged and looted houses, and those struggling to make ends meet. CARE has offered both humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflict, and development assistance to the poorest in the rural areas of the South Caucasus.

Support for Internally Displaced People

Bridging the gap between humanitarian relief and development work, CARE started the three-year program Stabilization & Integration of IDPs into Mainstream Georgian Society after the August 2008 conflict. The program targets displaced people from the newly built settlements and their host communities in neighbouring villages. A range of income-generating activities are combined with infrastructure building, civil society development and psychosocial activities for children and youth. The program supports start-up entrepreneurs with agricultural machinery, business skills training and grants for the establishment of small enterprises.

Strengthening Women's Capacity for Peace-Building

In 2010, CARE launched a program with six partner organizations to support local organizations in empowering women from conflict-affected areas to advocate for their rights and participate in decision-making. Overall, CARE and its partners aim to reach 1,500 to 2,000 women from around 24 communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The program involves a series of workshops that include local expertise, training and outreach initiatives, which aim to strengthen awareness and advocacy for gender equality concerns related to peace-building in the South Caucasus. CARE remains involved with local, national, regional, and international actors to work towards the realization of women's rights.

Continued on back



Humanitarian Assistance

With the August 2008 conflict in Georgia, CARE re-established large-scale humanitarian operations supporting the displaced population. CARE's projects provided life-saving support to 70,000 internally displaced people and returnees in Shida Kartli, Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti. Through provision of shelter, firewood, food and animal feed, CARE responded to the basic needs of internally displaced people and returnees in the areas bordering South Ossetia.

Good Governance and Civil Society Development

CARE works with local, regional and central authorities to strengthen their capacity and improve the services they provide to citizens. Civil society organizations - community-based organizations, farmers' associations and non-governmental organizations - represent key partners, and intermediaries between the local population and decision-makers. CARE supports capacity building of community organizations on the border areas of Georgia and Armenia in order to strengthen cross-border confidence and reduce poverty. The program is in its second phase and targets civil society organizations and local self-government institutions, aiming to build their capacity to advocate for sustainable rural development.

CARE also supports business development through training and funds: the creation of women's small businesses, assisting farmers to access larger markets in urban centres, and the establishment of processing and packaging factories for agricultural products such as milk and honey.

All of CARE's projects promote good governance and civil society development, using participatory approaches to development and empowering individuals to make a change in their communities. At municipal and regional levels, CARE works with representatives of the government and self-government structures to produce socio-economic development plans and determine priority projects. CARE's projects also support civil society organizations to provide services to citizens and advocate for their rights.

Pro-Poor Economic Development

To support sustainable economic development that benefits the poor, CARE works with municipalities, community organizations and committed individuals to improve the regions' development potential and create jobs. In partnership with municipalities, CARE funds infrastructure projects in rural areas, which increase business opportunities and improve rural livelihoods. CARE's projects generate small businesses, support agricultural service providers and help farmers increase their production.

Agriculture Development

Agriculture, a major area of CARE's work, is a sector in dire need of development; this affects the livelihoods of more than half of Georgia's population. CARE has implemented a number of agriculture development projects in the regions of Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe Javakheti, Adjara, Samegrelo, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti. CARE co-financed agricultural consolidation centres purchasing milk and honey from farmers and selling packed and labelled products in large market centres; offered more than 4,000 consultations to farmers on agricultural techniques; ran 250 trainings; organized more than 170 on-farm demonstration plots; established 35 farmers' groups of producers and service providers, and co-funded the purchase of machinery; and established a supply shop in Akhaltsikhe offering quality seed, materials, and machinery to 12,000 customers.

Major Donors

European Union, Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe (ADC), BP, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, UK Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Howard Buffett Foundation, Embassy of German Federal Republic in Georgia, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Germany/Luxembourg), United Nations World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO), NIKE.

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