



USAID's Economic Prosperity Initiative is helping Georgia's mandarin farmers get the training they need for a successful harvest. Mandarins are one of the leading agricultural exports for Georgia. This project is one of the ways USAID is working with the private sector in Georgia to improve performance of targeted businesses and sectors.

Photo credit: EPI/ Deloitte Consulting

## Country Profile

Georgia is a key U.S. ally in the Caucasus region and is a gateway for energy resources from the Caspian Sea to Europe and beyond. The Government of Georgia (GOG) is committed to advance democratic and economic reform, strengthen the rule of law, and improve social services. Georgia's 2012 Parliamentary Elections were historic and represented the first peaceful, competitive, and constitutional transfer of power in the region.

USAID began operating in Georgia in 1992. For more than twenty years, the American people have provided over \$1.5 billion in assistance to Georgia through USAID. Building on this successful partnership, the U.S. Government will dedicate its resources to new and continuing USAID programs over the next five years to enhance Georgia's democratic, free-market, Western orientation. Programs include initiatives to stimulate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, enhance energy security, and improve health and education.

## OUR WORK

The U.S. Government will dedicate its resources to new and continuing USAID programs over the next five years to achieve the goal, Georgia's democratic, free-market, Western orientation enhanced. Major development objectives include:

- Democratic checks and balances and accountable governance enhanced
- Inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- Increasingly stable, integrated, and healthy society

By 2017, USAID programs will contribute to a Georgia that practices more accountable governance, achieves more broad-based and sustainable economic growth and development, and has more tangible progress reaching out to people in the separatist regions and in regions with significant minority populations.

## DEMOCRATIC CHECKS AND BALANCES AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE ENHANCED

In 2012, Georgia witnessed its first peaceful and constitutional transition of power. The new government has initiated a series of reforms, which provide renewed opportunities to strengthen multi-party democracy and good governance. USAID supports the GOG and nongovernmental actors through a broad range of democracy-related activities, including for free and fair elections, competitive political processes, and an independent judiciary, as well as for transparent, accountable and responsible governance. USAID continues to promote robust civic participation in the new government's reforms, as well as in governance systems and processes. Through many of its democracy and governance activities, USAID supports education and youth to ensure the construction of a base of citizens that are aware of their rights and responsibilities in a democratic society and have the capacity to support democratic development now and in the future.

## INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Since 2005, Georgia has moved up to 9th place from 112th among 181 countries surveyed on the World Bank's annual Ease of Doing Business ranking. This is without doubt a remarkable success story, and one that has been supported by numerous USAID economic growth programs. Nonetheless, many challenges remain. To help Georgia's economy improve in the long term, USAID programs in this area focus on improved economic governance, increased competitiveness, and the responsible management and development of Georgia's natural endowments, including agriculture and water resources, will contribute to sustainable commercial utilization of these endowments for growth and the benefit of the people of Georgia on an environmentally sustainable basis. Projects also focus on developing human capital to fuel the economic growth and meet the demands of the modern market-based economy.

## INCREASINGLY STABLE, INTEGRATED, AND HEALTHY SOCIETY

A stable, integrated, and healthy society, capable of participating in the democratic process and contributing to Georgia's economic growth is essential for Georgia's continued development. USAID programs in this area promote greater integration and inclusion of Georgia's minorities, women, peoples with disabilities, and internally displaced persons, which will contribute to inclusive economic growth and citizen participation in governance. Improved health outcomes will benefit all Georgians and contribute to an increased sense of personal security. USAID's increased engagement and confidence building efforts aim to reduce tensions with the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and may help Georgia to make progress toward peace and eventual reconciliation.

## CONTACTS

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Georgia Primary Education Project (G-Pried) is working to improve reading and math skills of Georgian and ethnic minority students.



USAID-supported eco-club students plant trees to commemorate Earth Day.



USAID works with the Georgian Government to make elections accessible for people with disabilities.