Transformative, Sustainable Development

The IOCC Foundation-funded project in western Georgia places special emphasis on reaching underserved populations, especially women and families displaced by conflict.

Families train with experts on maximizing natural resources to create new livelihood opportunities—from fruit found growing in nearby forests to the power of the sun to dry produce. Dried goods fetch a much higher price than fresh produce does and can be sold year-round because they last in storage—allowing for steadier earnings.

Dovetailing with additional IOCC work providing low-cost plastic greenhouses, this Foundation-funded program aims to develop income-generation opportunities and encourage new businesses. As a whole, the Georgia program is building villagers’ agricultural skills, enabling smallholder farmers to rise out of poverty by increasing their food security and household incomes.

History and Purpose of the IOCC Foundation

The IOCC Foundation began in 2004 out of a commitment to advance the mission of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. The IOCC Foundation was also born out of a desire by those committed to this humanitarian mission to have a vehicle through which assets contributed to IOCC receive stewardship so that these gifts have long-term impact on IOCC’s global philanthropic work.

The IOCC Foundation is dedicated to supporting existing humanitarian relief and development programs and providing seed money to establish new programs and strategic humanitarian initiatives. Gifts to the IOCC Foundation are disbursed to support the mission of IOCC. The IOCC Foundation is a nonprofit organization which exists to further the work of IOCC and support its charitable mission.
Investing in Lasting Change

We pray that you and your loved ones are safe as we look back at 2019 from a changed world. Our humanitarian work continues amid the crisis and is perhaps even more urgent now.

Last year, the IOCC Foundation funded innovative agricultural development in the country of Georgia and continued health and nutrition work in rural Uganda.

In western Georgia, smallholder farmers—many displaced by conflict—are forging new lives and livelihoods. With Foundation funding, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) helped 71 families across 10 villages learn to sustainably collect, process, and dry seasonal fruits and forest products. Thirty production groups of four households each received a locally built solar dryer, equipping them to preserve food for their own tables and for year-round income. The dryers, farmers found, work faster and yield higher-quality products than traditional sun-drying does.

In Uganda, where IOCC works with Church-run schools, the focus remains education. Teaching students about healthful diets and training young women in menstrual health management help them complete high school. Access to nutritious food provided firsthand experience with balanced nutrition. And in a place where menstruation is often stigmatized, female students’ attendance grew by 60% as they received sanitary pads and learned to better manage their periods.

This work contributes to lasting change. The number of people each initiative serves (and their modest budgets) belies their powerful long-term impact as changes ripple through communities.

Your vision and generosity are creating a dynamic, forward-looking future for those we serve. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Charles J. Hinkaty
Chair, IOCC Foundation Board

Constantine Triantafilou
Executive Director & CEO, IOCC