

NEWS

THIS WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY, U.S. VOLUNTEER LENDS EXPERTISE IN FOOD SAFETY TO GEORGIAN COMMUNITIES

JUNE 7, 2022 | DR. ALIYAR CYRUS FOULADKHAH, ACDI/VOCA VOLUNTEER



Dr. Aliyar Cyrus Fouladkhah is faculty director of the Public Health Microbiology Foundation, based in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of the food science and human nutrition master's and food microbiology doctoral programs of Colorado State University, from which he also holds a graduate certificate in applied statistics and data analysis. He completed public health training through Yale University's Advanced Professional Master's in Public Health program.

To share his expertise, he recently volunteered in the country of Georgia with ACDI/VOCA through an assignment sponsored by the USAID-funded Farmer-to-Farmer Program in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia and the Public Health Microbiology Foundation. Read about his experience in Georgia below and learn more about [volunteering with ACDI/VOCA](#).

Ensuring Better Food Safety in Zugdidi, Georgia

It was a great pleasure and lifetime honor for me to come to the culturally rich and beautiful country of Georgia for a three-week volunteer assignment. It was a timely experience, especially as we prepare to celebrate World Food Safety Day on June 7. This day honors the great work and collaboration among members in academia, governmental and non-governmental agencies, and private industries to ensure safety against foodborne diseases. It also offers a moment for us to reflect on what opportunities exist within private industry to mitigate the risk of microbial, chemical, and physical hazards associated with food commodities.

For my assignment, I traveled to the city of Zugdidi, in the northwestern region of Georgia. Zugdidi is home to roughly 42,000 Georgians who are historically underserved due to their long distance from the capital city of Tbilisi and its resources. My assignment was to provide food safety training to members of the Association for Agriculture Development in Zugdidi. By building their capacity in