



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## ***Georgia – Complex Emergency***

Fact Sheet #12, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 25, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 24, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- International media reported that a train carrying fuel reportedly struck a landmine near Gori town in Shida Kartli Region on August 24, damaging a second rail line in the country. The Government of Georgia (GOG) currently estimates that the main east-west rail line connecting the capital of Tbilisi to the Black Sea ports will be fully operational within 30 days, following repairs to the bridge damaged in an explosion on August 16.
- The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is working to facilitate the offloading of relief commodities from the USS McFaul in Batumi port and onward transport to Tbilisi. Two additional ships are scheduled to deliver humanitarian supplies in the coming days.
- According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Government of Georgia (GOG) reports that between 10,000 and 15,000 people have returned to Gori since August 22. Other humanitarian organizations are reporting as many as 40,000 returnees. Many of the returnees are reportedly men traveling alone to ascertain the conditions of homes in Gori before bringing families back. UNHCR is planning to assist local government authorities with tallying the number of returnees and with mapping return locations.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Newly Displaced Persons in Georgia</b>	128,703	U.N. Georgia Flash Appeal - August 18, 2008
<b>Newly Displaced Persons in Russia</b>	30,000	U.N. Georgia Flash Appeal - August 18, 2008

### **FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$3,933,334</b>
<b>State/EUR/ACE<sup>1</sup> Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$2,844,581</b>
<b>DOD<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$13,963,367</b>
<b>Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$20,741,282</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

#### ***Humanitarian Access***

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team of 20 delegates and national staff are continuing to evaluate humanitarian needs in South Ossetia and are expecting a new convoy of supplies on August 26.
- ICRC has also established full-time offices in Gori to provide assistance to conflict-affected populations and returnees in the town and surrounding villages.

#### ***Non-Food Items / Emergency Relief Supplies***

- On August 24, implementing partners collected a total of 45,620 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs) and 16,950 meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) for distribution to 333 collective centers in 10 municipalities in and around Tbilisi. In addition, the GoG Ministry of Finance collected 35,620 MREs and 19,950 HDRs for distribution in Gori.
- As of August 25, UNHCR has distributed emergency relief supplies to 15,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) staying in 21 towns throughout western Georgia. UNHCR is also working to provide blankets, kitchen sets, and water containers to the estimated 6,000 IDPs in eastern Georgia.

#### ***Health***

- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) had received no significant reports of communicable diseases among populations affected by the conflict in Georgia as of August 20, and notes that the Georgia National Center for Disease Control is assessing health conditions in centers housing IDPs. GoG health officials have indicated that all

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Defense

major IDP centers have dedicated primary care providers, and IDPs have access to free medical care in government health facilities.

- ICRC is providing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to the main hospital in Tskhinvali, South Ossetia, which was damaged during the recent fighting. According to ICRC, priority assistance for the hospital include provision of sterile materials.

#### ***Food***

- Recent U.N. World Food Program (WFP) assessments in Tbilisi indicate that more than 75 percent of IDPs staying in collective centers have access to cooking facilities, reducing the need for widespread stove distributions, according to the USAID DART. The USAID DART noted that individual gas stoves are available for local purchase.
- WFP is reportedly delivering flour to bakeries in Gori for free bread distribution.

#### ***Shelter and Settlements***

- On August 24, a USAID/OFDA Shelter and Settlements specialist arrived in Tbilisi and is working with U.N. agencies and relief organizations to identify appropriate shelter options for IDPs in Tbilisi as well as returnees moving to pre-crisis areas. According to the Shelter and Settlements specialist, humanitarian organizations are reporting that most shelter damage in Gori is limited to broken windows, with houses around GOG military installations experiencing more significant damage.
- ICRC has reportedly started repairing the seven IDP shelters in Senaki, which were housing 1992 caseload IDPs and were seriously damaged by the recent fighting.

#### ***Protection***

- ICRC continues to help restore family links between separated family members in Georgia and respond to tracing requests from people who have lost contact with their relatives.

#### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

- Relief partners are discussing immediate and long-term WASH activities in Tbilisi-area IDP centers and other areas of Georgia. The WASH coordination group is planning to work with the GoG to prioritize sites for WASH interventions and divide locations and responsibilities among relief partners.

#### ***Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)***

- A non-governmental organization Halo Trust is training relief staff on mine awareness and notes that unexploded ordnance (UXO) are likely concentrated between Gori and Tskhinvali towns, where intense fighting occurred.
- UNHCR has publicly cautioned IDPs against returning to villages that have not been cleared of mines and declared safe by authorities.

#### ***Logistics***

- On August 24, five U.S. European Command (EUCOM) flights arrived in Tbilisi delivering 66,500 HDRs, 13,824 MREs, 17 tent sets, and 352 sleeping bags. Since August 13, EUCOM has dispatched a total of 47 flights carrying DOS, DOD, and USAID humanitarian relief commodities to Georgia. Additional flights are scheduled through late August. The total value of EUCOM's transportation assistance, including operational and personnel support, now stands at more than \$12.3 million.

#### **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. As of August 23, the USG has provided more than \$20.7million, including more than \$3.9million from USAID/OFDA, \$2.8 million from the U.S. Department of State, and nearly \$14 million from DOD.
- Since August 9, USAID/OFDA has provided an more than \$370,000 through USAID/Georgia to four NGOs for the provision and distribution of emergency relief supplies to benefit up to 12,500 people.
- To respond to immediate emergency needs for conflict-affected populations, the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi released U.S. Department of State pre-positioned disaster packages, including medical supplies, tents, blankets, bedding, hygiene items, and clothing valued at \$1.2 million. State/EUR/ACE provided additional emergency relief commodities valued at \$1.6 million from storage warehouses in Germany.
- On August 13, EUCOM began airlifting USAID/OFDA, DOD, and State/EUR/ACE-provided relief and medical supplies to Tbilisi. As of August 23, the total value of USG emergency relief commodities, including shelter, emergency food assistance, hygiene kits, sleeping bags, and medical commodities, is nearly \$4.7 million. Seven NGO partners, including Counterpart International, Samaritan's Purse, CARE International, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), World Vision, Save the Children, and Mercy Corps, have been delivering USG emergency relief commodities to populations in need.

- On August 14, USAID/OFDA in collaboration with USAID Office of Food for Peace provided \$1 million to WFP for the procurement of 653.5 metric tons (MT) of emergency food commodities for populations affected by the ongoing emergency. Following the release of the August 18 U.N. Flash Appeal, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$1 million to WFP to coordinate the distribution of emergency relief supplies and \$750,000 to UNICEF for WASH issues in conflict-affected areas. On August 25, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$113,000 to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to conduct an agriculture and food security needs assessment in conflict-affected areas.
- The enhanced USAID/OFDA regional team for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia transitioned to a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team on August 13 to coordinate USG humanitarian response efforts, identify priority needs, and program additional emergency assistance.
- A USAID DART has been in Tbilisi since August 15 to conduct humanitarian needs assessments, coordinate with the GoG and relief agencies, and inform further USAID assistance priorities.

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$129,000
Counterpart International	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$158,332
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$112,714
UMCOR	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$23,000
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$750,000
WFP	Nutrition, Logistics, and Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$63,000
USAID/Georgia	Local transportation and distribution of Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$200,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$265,370
	Administration and DART Support		\$231,918
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$3,933,334</b>
<b>STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,844,581
<b>TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE</b>			<b>\$2,844,581</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,586,130
	Airlift of USG emergency relief supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$12,377,237
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$13,963,367</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$20,741,282</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 25, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> State/EUR/ACE has facilitated the provision of emergency relief supplies to non-governmental organizations for distribution in cooperation with the GoG Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation. The funding amounts represent the approximate value of relief commodities; the costs of transportation of the commodities by U.S. European Command military flights is reflected in the DOD Assistance section.

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Georgia may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)