



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 #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 20, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 19, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- According to the U.N., the GOG's Minister of Finance and Minister of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs are coordinating the GOG's overall response to the ongoing emergency with support from different line ministries for particular sector issues. The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), which has been in Tbilisi since August 15, continues to conduct site visits with non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and work with coordination groups operating in and around Tbilisi to provide needed assistance to conflict-affected populations and inform U.S. government assistance priorities.
- As security has improved in Gori, multiple relief agencies have made preliminary damage assessments of Gori town and surrounding areas. Despite media reports that Gori sustained critical damage to most or all dwellings, the assessments indicate that 10 to 15 residential buildings in Gori that previously housed between 300 and 500 individuals are heavily damaged, and approximately 30 percent of houses in Gori town sustained some window damage, but little structural damage.
- To date, the USG has provided more than \$10.7 million in humanitarian assistance for the ongoing complex emergency in Georgia. The total includes more than \$2.8 million in U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE) emergency relief commodities; more than \$2 million from USAID/OFDA for emergency relief supplies and emergency food commodities; and more than \$5.8 million in U.S. European Command (EUCOM) flights and Department of Defense emergency relief commodities.

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

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia	\$2,043,329
State/EUR/ACE Assistance to Georgia	\$2,844,581
DOD Assistance to Georgia	\$5,845,468
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia	\$10,733,378

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- On August 20, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) humanitarian staff were able to gain access to South Ossetia to assess conditions and priority needs on the first such visit since the beginning of the conflict. The assessment followed an August 19 meeting between the ICRC and GoRF regarding the critical need for humanitarian access.
- On August 19, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported moving an 11-truck convoy carrying 220 metric tons (MTs) of flour from Poti port to Tbilisi in the first successful road convoy since the destruction of a railway bridge. To date, WFP's assistance has reached 121,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including beneficiaries in conflict-affected villages in Kaspi District and the town of Senaki in western Georgia.

Priority Needs

- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is coordinating the shelter and relief commodity coordination group in Tbilisi, and has developed a pipeline for relief commodities to distribution sites in Tbilisi. According to the USAID DART, the coordination group has identified priority relief commodities, including hygiene kits, water containers, blankets, mattresses, pillows, bed sheets, and kitchen sets. The USAID DART has recommended that humanitarian food assistance focus on providing IDPs with resources to prepare meals rather than procuring and distributing ready-to-use foods.

- The Government of Georgia, USAID/Georgia, and U.N. and NGO partners have emphasized that additional medical supplies are no longer needed, given a large influx of supplies at the onset of the crisis. In addition, humanitarian partners report that low-priority commodities, such as baby bottles, baby formula, perishable food, and paper goods, could present logistical difficulties by straining the capacity of NGOs to deliver appropriate assistance to individuals in need.
- Multiple organizations, including ICRC and UNHCR, as well as international media reports have expressed increasing concern over the need to ensure protection of displaced, vulnerable, and other conflict-affected persons during the continued conflict.

Displacement Figures

- According to UNHCR, the conflict has displaced an estimated 128,700 individuals within Georgia, and the Government of the Russian Federation (GORF) reports that approximately 30,000 individuals were displaced from South Ossetia into Russia during the clashes.
- The Government of Russia's Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Disaster Response has noted that between August 12 and 18, an estimated 13,600 people returned to South Ossetia from Russia.

Emergency Relief Commodities and Food Items

- As of August 19, UNHCR monitoring teams have visited approximately 75 percent of collective centers housing newly displaced persons in and around Tbilisi, and the agency is planning to release a complete assessment of the number, locations, and priority needs of this population. Following an initial assessment, UNHCR also reports that between 20,000 and 25,000 people in areas of central and western Georgia require immediate assistance.
- As of August 19, ICRC has delivered 445 metric tons (MT) of relief commodities, including food, medicine, water treatment supplies, and blankets, to sites around Tbilisi. ICRC is working to repair water and sewage systems in public and abandoned buildings currently housing IDPs in and around Tbilisi. In addition, the relief organization is distributing stoves to enable IDPs to prepare meals using emergency food rations.
- Between August 12 and 19, Counterpart International delivered emergency relief supplies, including USAID-, State/EUR/ACE-, and DOD-donated supplies, to 40 locations around Tbilisi. In total, Counterpart distributed more than 1,000 beds, more than 6,700 sleeping bags, nearly 2,500 blankets, more than 4,000 bed sheets, and more than 7,400 meals-ready-to-eat to nearly 11,000 newly displaced Georgians.
- On August 20, the USAID DART visited four IDP collective centers in northwest Tbilisi during a Samaritan's Purse distribution of USG relief commodities, including sleeping bags and blankets. Samaritan's Purse staff, church leaders, and GOG representatives noted that IDP collection centers continue to receive new arrivals, primarily as a result on ongoing insecurity in areas located approximately 50 km from the capital.

Logistics

- On August 20, six EUCOM flights arrived in Tbilisi delivering more than 37,400 humanitarian daily rations and 17,000 meals-ready-to-eat from DOD stockpiles and 3,300 sleeping bags and 300 blankets from State/EUR/ACE. The emergency assistance will be distributed to IDPs in and around Tbilisi and Gori. EUCOM flights are scheduled to continue through late-August. Since August 13, EUCOM has flown 24 missions to Georgia with 320 tons of humanitarian commodities. The total value of EUCOM's transportation assistance is more than \$4.2 million.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi for the provision of emergency relief supplies to benefit up to 10,000 people. 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.
- 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 MT of emergency food commodities for populations affected by the ongoing emergency. On August 19, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$300,000 to various NGOs to assist with the transport and distribution emergency relief commodities on the ground in Tbilisi.
- On August 12, EUCOM began airlifting State/EUR/ACE-provided relief and medical supplies to Tbilisi. As of August 20, the total value of USG emergency relief commodities, including relief, shelter, emergency food assistance, hygiene kits, and medical commodities, is nearly \$4.7 million.
- On August 13, the enhanced USAID/OFDA regional team for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia transitioned to a Response Management Team based in Washington D.C. to coordinate USG humanitarian response efforts, identify priority needs, and program additional emergency assistance.
- A 14-person 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.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Georgia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Khashuri, Borjomi, Akhaltsikhe	\$250,000
WFP	653.4 MT of Emergency Food Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Various	Transportation and distribution of Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$323,332
Logistics	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$265,370
	Administration and DART Support		\$204,627
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,043,329
STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE²			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,844,581
TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE			\$2,844,581
DOD ASSISTANCE			
	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,586,130
	Transportation of USG emergency relief supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$4,259,338
TOTAL DOD			\$5,845,468
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$10,733,378

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 20, 2008.

² 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.
- 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 – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/