

**PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
**Project Monitoring Sheet: OSRO/GEO/802/USA**  
**Tbilisi, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

<b>Region/Country:</b>	Caucasus / Georgia
<b>Project title:</b>	“Emergency Supply of Animal Feed to Conflict Affected Small Scale Farming Households and Support to the Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster Coordination in Georgia”
<b>Grant Agreement No:</b>	114-G-00-09-00010-00
<b>FAO Project Code:</b>	OSRO/GEO/802//USA
<b>Grantee:</b>	<b>FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)</b>
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<b>Budget:</b>	US\$5,500 000 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Effective starting date:</b>	15 October 2008
<b>Planned end date:</b>	15 January 2010
<b>Reporting period:</b>	15 July – 14 October 2009 (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter )
<b>Context:</b>	<p>The escalation of armed conflict between Russian and Georgian forces in August 2008 led to the displacement of approximately 128 000 persons in Georgia. The majority of families living in the conflict zone depended on agriculture for their livelihoods. This population suffered significant losses resulting from displacement, looting and destruction. The outbreak of the conflict coincided with the summer harvest, which resulted in many farming families losing almost their entire summer crop as they fled to safety.</p> <p>While active engagement of armed forces has ended, the general humanitarian situation remains critical in some areas. A total of 24 777<sup>2</sup> Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) continue to live in collective centres, new settlements constructed for IDPs and private accommodation in Tbilisi, Gori, Rustavi, Kutaisi and other cities and towns in Georgia. At the same time thousands of IDPs have returned to the areas adjacent to conflict zone and are facing problems associated with the aftermath of the conflict, including disruption of livelihoods, poverty and food insecurity.</p>

<sup>1</sup> NB: The Financial Report (SF-269) shall be provided separately by FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. Financial Reports shall be in compliance with Standard Provision "Audit and Records".

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (MRA) figures October 2009.

**Summary:**

**Operation of FAO Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (ERCU)**

Since January 2009 the Emergency Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU) of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has provided assistance through humanitarian actors, government line departments and local communities in order to restore the affected population's resilience by increasing food production and access to food.

The USAID project "Emergency Supply of Animal Feed to Conflict Affected Small Scale Farming Households and Support to the Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster Coordination in Georgia" originally planned to end on 15 October 2009 has been granted a 'no cost' extension until 15 January 2009. This much needed extension has permitted FAO to use savings to support beneficiaries and provide additional targeted assistance for the upcoming 2009/2010 winter. Moreover, this fourth quarter report will be followed by a final report end of December 2009.

An additional 300MT of concentrated animal feed for survival of cattle will be procured to assist over 1700 farming households in Shida Kartli region who have lost access to pastureland and arable land, and who did not benefit from the previous animal feed distribution. Fourteen additional water troughs will be installed in newly identified villages where cattle have poor or no access to water. Around 25 000 head of cattle will be treated against exto- and endo-parasites to improve their nutritional intake during the winter. Finally, FAO was able to carry out training on how to make silage and techniques for mixing formulas of self produced animal feed concentrates. The silage and feed production process is being filmed in order to produce training material that can be widely disseminated in the future.

The operation of FAO ERCU significantly contributes to the in-country humanitarian coordination mechanism, specifically the Food Security Cluster, which FAO continues to co-chair with the World Food Programme (WFP). Coordination of agricultural activities through the cluster approach remains important during the transition from emergency to rehabilitation phases, ensuring that the recovery of rural livelihoods and food security are properly addressed. The cluster system is in process of being transformed to a sector approach for national development issues; while the clusters are currently merging or being phased out completely for operations that continue to respond to the conflict related and population movement needs. FAO and WFP are currently discussing with UNDP on how best to merge the Food Security Cluster and the Livelihoods Cluster given the need to ensure close coordination of programme activities for the "new" IDP settlements and IDP returnees to villages near South Ossetia.

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO's Representative Office and ERCU published the first edition of the Agriculture Sector Bulletin, envisaged to be produced on a regular basis together with a variety of other communications and visibility products such as an occasional newsletter, human interest stories, fact sheets, and corresponding website updates that aim at updating and informing the wider public about news in the agriculture sector and about FAO's emergency activities in Georgia.

## **Objectives<sup>3</sup>:**

### **2.1. Overall Objective (Long Term Goal)**

The project's overall objective is to protect livelihoods of vulnerable livestock holders in conflict-affected areas and provide technical assistance and coordination support to ensure that the affected population accrues greater benefits from all related rural household food security interventions.

### **2.2. Immediate Objective**

The immediate objectives of the project are in two folds:

- A. To ensure the survival of up to 12 000 livestock by distributing concentrated animal feed to the most vulnerable small-scale farmers affected by the conflict. This will complement existing limited resources in order to prevent further de-stocking of cattle, re-establish livestock's productive capacity and enhance livestock reproduction chances in the spring. In order to achieve this objective the project will focus on massive distribution of concentrated animal feed to most vulnerable households.
- B. To ensure that a coherent and technically sound agricultural assistance programme for the region is implemented through coordination of NGOs and UN agencies involved in emergency agricultural relief operations in Georgia. In order to achieve this objective, the project will establish an Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (ERCU) which will strengthen the Food Security Cluster by engaging relevant stakeholders (UN, World Bank, NGOs and CBOs) and technical line ministries (central and district level) in agriculture and food security matters. The Unit will encourage humanitarian partners involved in agricultural relief operations to implement coherent, relevant and effective programmes, which will ensure consistent beneficiary coverage, avoid gaps and overlap, and provide technical advice when requested.

### **Expected Outputs and Activities:**

The project will deliver two independently verifiable outputs as a result of the activities undertaken by the project:

**Output 1 consisting of the emergency provision of livestock feed and related supplies**

**Output 2 consisting of support to agriculture sector and food security cluster coordination.**

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<sup>3</sup> These objectives represent a synthesis of the main Grant Objectives as contained in the Grant Agreement. They have been presented in summarized form in compliance with the Quarterly Update format. More detailed reporting on objectives and activities will be included in the Final Narrative Report upon project completion.

**Actual Progress on Activities implemented during the reporting period (15 July to 14 October 2009):**

**Output 1**

**Anti-parasitic treatment**

Although two rounds of de-worming was completed on 14 May 2009, the Georgian State Veterinary Service officially asked FAO to facilitate an autumn round of anti-parasitic treatment of an additional 25 000 cattle in 51 villages of Shida Kartli region with *Ivermectin* (active component). FAO ERCU procured and received 150 000 ml of *Ivermectin* and 25 000 syringes to carry out this anti-parasitic treatment. The treatment will take two weeks starting from 26 October 2009 to maximize the utilization of animal feed to be provided to the same beneficiaries, as well as feed produced by them, and to also to address specific parasitic infestations characteristic during this time of the year.

**Concentrated Animal Feed**

FAO ERCU also launched a local tender to procure additional 300MT of concentrated animal feed on 02 October 2009 to be distributed to 1700 most vulnerable households who lost access to arable and pasture land due to the conflict. The targeted households remain vulnerable and dependent on assistance having no feed reserves for the upcoming 2009/2010 winter.

**Water Troughs**

FAO ERCU procured and delivered to CARE International all necessary materials for installation of 18 additional water troughs and rehabilitation of 2 damaged ones. This ensures the availability of water for the cattle in the region where there was limited access. This will improve animal sanitation and general health, as well as utilization feed.

**Letters of Agreement**

The Letter of Agreement with CARE International has been extended for two months until 30 November 2009. The extension will allow using the savings for construction of additional 14 water troughs and rehabilitation of two damaged water troughs in ten additional villages, as mentioned above.

An extension of the Letter of Agreement was signed with World Vision to facilitate the anti-parasitic treatment of about 25 000 cattle, identification and selection of beneficiaries for distribution of additional 300MT of concentrated animal feed. FAO already procured the required supplies for subcutaneous injections for 25 000 heads of cattle. World Vision completed identification of beneficiaries in close collaboration with local authorities and FAO for all target areas as well as cross checking all household lists.

**Silage**

○ ***Hands on Training***

During August/September 2009, FAO ERCU office conducted ‘training of trainers’ course on silage preparation for individual farmers and 14 demonstration cases/trainings in different settlements. About 1 000 beneficiaries as well as all state veterinarians from Gori attended the trainings further adding to the sustainability of the intervention. As an added value to the training, one day demonstration cases were attended by 14 veterinarians from Gori who successfully concluded the course and were awarded with certificates. During October, FAO finalised the preparation and printing of brochures for training in silage production for

individual smallholder farmers. A total of 5 000 brochures were printed and will be disseminated to beneficiaries. Approximately 500 brochures will be provided to the Tbilisi Agricultural University to be provided to interested students at end of October 2009.

○ **Video Training**

In addition to the training sessions, the office has recruited a film crew that documented the entire silage preparation process. The ERCU office has selected a TV production company that is currently editing, synchronising and finalising the training video. It is expected that the final product of 12-15 minute video will be available by the end of October for local and national broadcast.

**Communication/Information products as an attachment**

1. Silage Production Brochure
2. Agriculture Sector Bulletin
3. Newsletter

**Output 2**

**a) Establishment of a fully fledged FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU)**

The FAO ERCU office in Tbilisi, has been functional since January 2009 meeting all prescribed United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) standards. The office located near the UN main building is in the Vake, Tbilisi. ERCU is staffed with 15 persons to support and implement emergency and rehabilitation projects of which the following 12 positions are core personnel funded by this project:

- a. Emergency Coordinator
- b. Chief Technical Advisor / Livestock Expert
- c. Logistics Officer
- d. Communications Officer
- e. Reporting and Information Officer
- f. Monitoring & Evaluation Expert
- g. Finance & Administration Officer
- h. Food Security Officer
- i. Office Assistant/Interpreter
- j. Filed Officer
- k. Driver
- l. Custodian

The Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit also operates two other major recovery projects and has carried out a number of assessments requiring the consultants that were supported with funds from other donors including:

1. Norwegian Refugee Council – Gender Capacity Advisor,
2. FAO TCP Facility (Technical Cooperation Programme Funds) – Irrigation Expert and Hydro-geologist,
3. Italian Cooperation – sharing part of the ERCU core staff costs and Chief Technical Advisor – Agronomy Expert, driver and field officer, and
4. European Commission – recruitment was in progress during this quarter and will include irrigation experts, bee experts, livestock experts, agronomist for the next quarter

The majority of existing core ERCU staff will continue to be hired under the EC project from 2010.

#### **b) ERCU's support to Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster Coordination**

Together with the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO continues to co-chair the Food Security Cluster (FSC) providing a coordination platform with regular meetings for a large numbers of organizations (including UN Agencies, NGOs, ICRC, OSCE, CNFA, Donors, Ministry of Agriculture and others). The FSC members voted to continue to provide a mechanism for sharing of information, coordination of operations and strategic planning purposes. However, with the end of emergency phase and reduced volume of activity dealing with the recovery and rehabilitation needs of the victims of the recent conflict, it has been decided at the Heads of the UN Country Team, that the cluster system can be phased out while other forms of coordination will replace the clusters. Clusters are however free to continue to coordinate in their current form until the need subsides; however, the majority of clusters are likely to transform and merge or cease. FAO and WFP are currently discussing with UNDP how to merge the Food Security and Livelihoods Clusters given the need to ensure close coordination of programme activities for the "new" IDP settlements and IDP returnees to villages near South Ossetia. The UNCT envisages the return to sector coordination as the appropriate form to share information that existed prior to conflict.

The latest topics on the FSC agenda included thematic sessions on the operationally relevant topics of demining works to update members with the latest developments that affect them either directly or indirectly. The FSC has also been used to ensure standards and norms are being applied by the different humanitarian actors to avoid conflict among beneficiary communities. This forum also allowed for technical issues to be raised and resolved such as building consensus for criteria on selection of water trough locations for most vulnerable villages lacking access to drinking water for livestock.

#### **Planned activities for October 2009 to January 2010**

- FAO expects to finalize the preparation of the beneficiary lists and the distribution of additional 300 MT of concentrated animal feed to the most vulnerable beneficiaries during the next quarter. The distribution will take place from 15 November to 05 December 2009.
- Distribution of anti parasitic treatment medicine is planned during end of October and first week of November 2009. FAO will facilitate anti-parasitic treatment of about 25 000 cattle in Shida Kartli before the winter;
- Farmers will also receive training importance of timely anti parasitic treatment of animals.
- FAO will provide training on farm level produced mixes of feed concentrate from existing resources that can be found locally. This will be completed by end of November 2009.
- Expected arrangements with implementing partners include World Vision to finalize the distribution of animal feed and anti parasitic treatment.
- A final survey to assess the use and performance of the animal feed, anti parasitic drugs, and installed water troughs will be carried out in December 2009.
- FAO ERCU plans together with WFP to merge the FSC with the Livelihoods Cluster and will continue to co-chair the new body on rotation basis until the end of ERCU operations

planned to phase out during the second half of 2010.

- FAO is planning to support MoA with the next quarterly Agriculture Sector donor meeting planned to take place mid November 2009. This will complement ongoing cluster coordination meetings.
- Oversee the execution of the filming of silage training by the selected service provider/partner.
- FAO ERCU continues to quarterly update the “who does what where” (3w) agriculture sector database to record ongoing and future interventions and plans in Georgia. This table continues to be shared through emails and serves as a coordination tool.
- FAO shall continue to produce various visibility materials that can be found on the FAO country website [www.fao.org/emergencies/country\\_information/list/europe/georgia/en/](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/country_information/list/europe/georgia/en/) including a Fact Sheet, a regular Newsletter, maps and other material reporting on FAO’s project activities in Georgia.

#### **Main challenges encountered and response provided:**

##### ***Procurement***

- The identification of appropriate providers of anti-parasitic medicines for cattle registered in Georgia and according to USAID selection criteria was more difficult than anticipated as most suppliers did not meet US Government procurement requirements and required a waiver.
- The lengthy procedure for obtaining a waiver meant that the original number of proposed veterinarians (service providers) for the anti parasitic was not sufficient because of the reduced time frame. Consequently, the number of service providers had to be tripled in order to meet the tight treatment deadlines.
- Alternatives in procurement of the medicines such as procurement from CIS and the US countries were explored. The lengthy administrative procedures on registering veterinary products, as well as the inability of the Ministry of Agriculture to waive the import of registered medicines in alternative packing proved to be limiting in finding alternative solutions.
- Prices for iron as well as demand went up recently due to global price fluctuations. Therefore, there were difficulties in finding and procuring 630mm pipes for the construction of additional water troughs. The pipes have been procured with higher price compared to those procured in spring. However the adequate budget planning and accumulated savings allowed the procurement in an acceptable average price.

##### ***Communications***

- The draft of the Agricultural sector bulletin was completed end of August. However, printing and distribution was delayed because MoA demanded changes regarding the use of word “war” instead of “conflict”.

#### **Results and lessons learned as well as recommendations for future similar kind of efforts**

- Better understanding of required USAID procedures for approving medicines has been obtained by the project team including requirements on documentation and origin. This knowledge will be put into effect in future to improve planning and to have timely implementing.
- Due to limited human resources and enormous workload, the implementing partners

faced delays in implementation of activities.

**Success at accomplishing intermediate results, including a comparison of actual vs. planned accomplishments and an explanation any shortfalls if they occurred**

In consultation and with approval of the technical unit at headquarter in Rome which is responsible for livestock, it was decided to change the formula for the animal feed concentrate allowing more flexibility in the ash content for the mix. This negligible change in technical specifications of animal feed to be procured have allowed significant reduction of the procurement prices by 42% compared to the average price from the previous intervention. Given the conditions and the type of animals, this will not influence their condition or production. The changes in specification will allow increasing of the amount of feed to be procured and in turn increase the number of beneficiary households targeted by this intervention accordingly.

- The project identified nine additional villages in the target area that had insufficient water supply for their cattle through a participatory community based needs assessment. Emerging needs of 18 new additional water troughs and two repairs were required and covered by savings under the project. Findings showed that some cattle were faced with dry water troughs at the height of summer because old troughs leaked, had insufficient water at source or were forced to drink from lakes with high saline content.
- The training on production of silage was completed in the peak of the silage production season, providing opportunities for farmers to replicate the production. In addition the project supported the training of 14 local veterinarians (Training of Trainers course repeated during a period of one week), thus adding sustainability to the intervention by disseminating the knowledge through a snowball effect.
- According to famers recently interviewed in the village of Brotsleti, Gori district, after one month of the intervention, the produced silage was opened and used by the beneficiaries. Significant increase of milk yield was reported within two weeks of silage feeding.
- The project prepared, printed (5 000 copies) and distributed a manual on silage production for smallholder farmers.
- All delivery of animal feed has been completed to target villages, and arranged directly with the feed supplier thus saving time and costs (the FAO/WFP warehousing/transportation service level agreement expired in March).
- Implementing Partners have also been able to contribute a considerable amount of co-funding to contracts with FAO, which has significantly accelerated the project implementation and operations.
- FAO ERCU team and staff have maintained a consistent presence in-country to ensure stability and continuity of the project.