

**PERFORMANCE REPORT**  
**Project Monitoring Sheet: OSRO/GEO/802/USA**  
**Tbilisi, 15<sup>th</sup> April 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>
<b>Author (s):</b>	C. Mandrà / FAO Emergency Coordinator in Georgia
<b>Budget:</b>	US\$5,500 000 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Effective starting date:</b>	15 October 2008
<b>Planned end date:</b>	14 October 2009
<b>Reporting period:</b>	15 January-15 April 2009 (2 <sup>nd</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. An estimated 30 000 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 submitted separately by FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. Financial Reports shall be in compliance with Standard Provision "Audit and Records".

## **Summary:**

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

The Emergency Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) became operational in early January 2009, and currently comprises four international staff and 10 national staff, operating out of Tbilisi and Gori. Emergency distribution of 4 240 MT of concentrated animal feed in conflict affected areas of Shida Kartli Region was completed by 31 March 2009, with cattle de-worming to be concluded in April and May.

As part of the in-country inter-agency coordination agreement to strengthen the humanitarian response, FAO continues to co-chair the Food Security Cluster (FSC) in Georgia together with the World Food Programme. 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.

Further to the coordination of the FSC and support to the agriculture sector, FAO has started collating information on agriculture related activities and projects across Georgia, and will make this information available to other FSC members in coming weeks and months.

In addition, the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture was invited by the FAO Representative to Georgia, Ms Fernanada Guerrieri, to engage in a national consultative process to develop a National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) for Georgia, the planning and management tool of FAO assistance to member countries. A positive outcome to this invitation is expected.

### **Procurement**

The procurement of project inputs has been undertaken in full compliance with FAO procurement rules and regulations. The supply of concentrated animal feed was determined as a result of international competitive tendering, with three separate companies invited to provide concentrated animal feed meeting FAO technical specifications. The concentrated animal feed supplied by the project meets the technical specifications determined by FAO's animal health and production experts to provide improved nutrition to cattle.

The FAO Procurement Panel together with implementing partner CARE International reviewed offers for materials needed to install 35 water troughs in 20 villages in the area of operation. Potential suppliers have been identified in accordance with FAO procurement rules, and works are expected to be completed as scheduled during May 2009.

### **Letters of Agreement**

Selected implementing partners (CARE International (CARE), World Vision (WV), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and Save the Children (STC)) have worked with FAO under Letters of Agreement to implement activities including (i) beneficiary identification, (ii) distribution of feed according to agreed plans, (iii) endoparasitic treatment of cattle belonging to most vulnerable farmer households, and (iv) emergency water trough construction to secure adequate water supply for livestock.

An additional Letter of Agreement was signed with CARE International for the identification of additional beneficiaries and the distribution of 483 MT of surplus animal feed resulting from the previously agreed decrease in quantity of animal feed per household to 250 kg.

**Selection of Beneficiaries**

Beneficiary identification and distribution criteria were based on procedures developed by the Food Security Cluster. The FSC, in conjunction with key implementing partner NGOs including CARE, WV, STC and IOCC and others, developed harmonized criteria in October 2008 for use on the ground. In addition, special community level commissions have been created to identify beneficiaries for both farmer related support and humanitarian aid.

**Distribution**

4 240 MT of concentrated animal feed was distributed to a total of 18 248 beneficiaries in 127 villages in Shida Kartli Region by 31 March 2009. The first round of cattle de-worming in the conflict affected is ongoing and is expected to be completed by 30 April 2009 with more than 35 000 head of cattle treated.

The second round of de-worming, to ensure that cattle reintroduced to common grazing and pastureland are not reinfected. is expected to finish by the end of May 2009. Project activities are in line with the proposed work plan and are expected to be finalized within the specified timeframe.

The records of all beneficiary lists are held at FAO ERCU office, Tbilisi, Georgia, and are available for inspection.

**Objectives<sup>2</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

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<sup>2</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.

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.**

**Planned activities as per work schedule:**

- Complete de-worming treatment of cattle in the area;
- Installation of 35 water troughs in 20 villages.

**Actual Progress on Activities implemented during the reporting period (15 January-15 April 2009):**

**Output 1**

**a) Animal feed distribution**

From 26 January to 20 March 2009, 3 757 MT of animal feed was distributed to 15 028 beneficiaries in 110 villages in Shida Kartli Region. Each beneficiary received 250 kg of concentrated animal feed. The table below illustrates the distribution plan by implementing partner and amounts allocated.

**Table1: Breakdown details as per letter of agreements of four partners as of 20 March 2009:**

Implementing Partner	Total MT	Distributed MT	Number of beneficiaries
Save the Children	316	316	1 264
IOCC	595	595	2 380
CARE International	1 276.75	1 276.75	5 107
World Vision	1 569.25	1 569.25	6 277
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3 757</b>	<b>3 757</b>	<b>15 028</b>

On 20 March 2009 a supplementary Letter of Agreement was signed with CARE International for distribution of surplus animal feed totaling 483 MT (as a result of decreased packages of 150 kg per household), for which CARE International identified an additional 3 216 beneficiaries in 17 villages.

The distribution method used was a mixture of a voucher system and signing of beneficiary

lists, ensuring that project beneficiaries receive procured inputs. By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 the project has distributed a total of 4,240 MT reaching 18,244 beneficiaries in 127 villages. This represents an increase of 52.03% on the originally proposed number of beneficiaries under the project (12 000).

Initial positive feedback has been reported by farmers through implementing partners where inputs have been distributed, specifically that milk yields have increased by up to 60%. This information is being verified through ongoing project Monitoring and Evaluation activities including data collection through beneficiary surveys and questionnaires.

Under a Service Level Agreement, World Food Programme (WFP) provided FAO with warehousing and transportation of commodities to final destination, with 69.7% (USD 192 436) of the cost covered from WFP Special Operations Funds,

Ongoing monitoring of project activities and progress is ensured through contracted national ERCU staff. At the same time, a process has been put in a place by international FAO Monitoring and Evaluation staff for the assessment of impact and results at beneficiaries' level. An independent service provider, Institute for Polling and Marketing (IPM), based in Tbilisi, has been contracted to conduct post distribution monitoring survey fieldwork. IPM conducted 700 interviews at beneficiaries' level in 36 villages after the distribution on a random basis based on a predefined questionnaire. The information gathered was entered into a database and handed over to FAO's M&E Officer. At the time of writing a FAO Beneficiary Assessment Specialist's Monitoring and Evaluation Mission is ongoing and results will be presented to the FSC meeting at the end of April. A post animal feed distribution Beneficiary Results Assessment report is also in preparation and will be submitted at a later stage.

**b) De-worming**

The first phase of the de-worming process started on 12 February 2009 and is currently ongoing. The entire cattle population in the region (approximately 37 000 head of cattle) is being treated. All treatments are carried out by licensed veterinarians employed in the target areas.

The final round of de-worming will take place during April and May 2009 with the close cooperation of Veterinary Services of the MOA and the assigned implementing partners. For the second de-worming round, the drug Fenbendazole has been selected to improve efficacy of providing feed and to generally improve animal health.

**c) Water troughs**

The assigned implementing partner, CARE International, in cooperation with IOCC, WV and SC have already assessed the locations for construction of 35 water troughs in 20 villages. As noted above FAO is in the process of procuring the necessary materials from local suppliers.

**d) Success stories and any press coverage as an attachment**

Now that the distribution of animal feed has been successfully completed, FAO is in the process of developing associated publicity and visibility materials relating to the project, including success stories and 3W (Who, What, Where) maps.

## **Output 2**

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

An FAO ERCU office at 5 Radiani Street, Tbilisi was established in January 2009, and recruitment of remaining project staff was quickly finalized. The ERCU is now fully functional and meets prescribed UNDSS security and safety standards. The project vehicle fleet is also complete with the procurement of two MOSS compliant 4WD vehicles used for field monitoring and project implementation.

### **b) Support to Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster Coordination**

Together with WFP, FAO continues to co-chair the Food Security Cluster providing a coordination platform with regular meetings for a large numbers of organizations (including UN Agencies, NGOs, ICRC, OSCE, CNFA, Donors, MOA and others). The cluster meetings have provided a open forum to share information and coordinate operations.

Thematic sessions have been held with updates from specialists such as the HALO Trust, concerning the dangers and risks of farming in areas with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

The FSC has also been used to ensure standards and norms are being applied by the different actors to avoid conflict among beneficiary communities. This forum also allowed for technical issues to be raised and resolved including the appropriate distribution of drugs for deworming to ensure maximum impact, and building consensus for adaptation of criteria given unforeseen circumstances.

The irrigation sub group continues to work on seeking alternative solutions for accessing and harvesting water and advocates strongly for more attention to be given to the subject matter. Identification of the duplication of activities in the livelihoods sector, and seeking solutions to improve coverage of gaps, and avoidance of overlaps both geographically and technically have been critical functions. The FSC seeks to continue to provide coordination to the group members beyond the Emergency Phase marked by the end of the Flash Appeal period on 31 March 2009.

A review of the cluster coordination mechanisms will take place during June 2009 with a possible merging of the Livelihoods and Food Security Clusters, although discussions are ongoing amongst stakeholders.

### **c) Other activities**

In February 2009, a Joint FAO/WFP/UNICEF Food Security, Agricultural Livelihoods, and Child Nutrition Needs Assessment Mission was fielded, with the intention of reviewing the situation six months after the conflict. The findings were presented at a roundtable meeting on the same day as the February 2009 Donor Conference in Tbilisi. The level of humanitarian assistance during the winter has been imperative for adequate food security; however, the main concern underlined that insufficient action has thus far been taken for the full recovery of agricultural livelihoods of conflict affected populations, and that there is a high risk of protracted food insecurity amongst these populations into 2010.

### **Planned activities for April to June 2009**

- FAO has started a second round of de-worming in April and plans to complete this during May 2009.
- With support from FAO's Technical Cooperation Project Facility a hydrogeological and irrigation assessment of Shida Kartli Region (focusing on conflict affected areas and IDP resettlements) will be undertaken in May 2009 in order to identify technically viable and appropriate alternative irrigation solutions for the area.
- Provision and construction of cattle water troughs is expected to be completed during May 2009.
- Post animal feed distribution monitoring and evaluation mission was completed in April. A second survey to assess the use and performance of the animal feed, de-worming drugs distributed, and water troughs installed is foreseen for August 2009.
- Farmers will receive continued training on livestock management (including appropriate feeding, access to water, shed space and mobility, biosecurity risks, de-worming, etc.).
- FAO ERCU will continue to Co-Chair the FSC and plans to review the make up of the group in June 2009.
- FAO ERCU is currently collecting information for an agriculture sector database for ongoing and future interventions and plans in Georgia. The first prototype will be tested by June 2009.
- In close cooperation with the Government of Georgia and FAO's Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU), the FAO ERCU will take a lead in coordinating and developing a National Medium-Term Priority Framework (NMTPF)<sup>3</sup>, to identify priority areas for FAO assistance to Georgia over the next five years. This will allow FAO and the Government of Georgia to achieve a strategic vision for FAO assistance in the short and medium-term, with the advantages of (i) increasing the effectiveness of assistance; (ii) improving performance through the inclusion of a result based approach; (iii) improved alignment with other development partners and, (iv) heightened transparency and accountability, and (v) linkages and sustainability of the emergency assistance with transition phase..

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<sup>3</sup> NMTPFs are Government-FAO agreed programmes for FAO assistance and support in a country, introduced in 2005. NMTPFs constitute FAO's input to the UN Common Country Programming Process (UNDAF).

**Main challenges encountered and response provided:**

Delays with customs at the border near Batumi although supplier managed to catch up with the deliveries in a timely manner.

Slow delivery from local producer although delays were insignificant allowing for timely final distribution to the village level.

One supplier had to be penalized for inappropriate markings of the feed bags (500 MT) had to be marked with FAO and USAID logos post delivery but in time for distribution.

Some villages have been hiding cows initially speculating that they would be compensated for cows lost. These cows materialized when farmers realized that they would receive feed for each household and deworming drugs for all cows. There are therefore about 2 000 cows that still need to be dewormed for a first round in April to ensure complete coverage of the area. This will be done with a second round in May.

- **Results and lessons learned as well as recommendations for future similar kind of efforts**
  - Indicators show that the project is meeting its goals as the number of cattle remains uninfected.
  - The interventions improved the animal health system (veterinarians in the target areas) and allowed support to the existing service to take stock of the disease condition in the targeted areas.
  - Identification of water trough locations has revealed that water access for animals was more precarious than initially estimated.
  
- **Success at accomplishing intermediate results, including a comparison of actual vs. planned accomplishments and an explanation any shortfalls if they occurred**
- The health status of new born cattle has significantly improved allowing for early vaccination of the animals.
- Initial feedback from farmers report an average increase of 3 liters or in many cases more of milk production per cow.
- Findings from the Monitoring and Evaluation will be soon shared in a separate report.

The objectives are being reached and the project progresses on target.