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

Georgia – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 24, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 23, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 24, three staff on USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) traveled to the Port of Batumi to receive a scheduled shipment of relief commodities, including hygiene supplies, water, and paper goods, transported by the USS McFaul. The commodities will be consigned to non-governmental organization (NGO) partners for further distribution to conflict-affected populations. The USS McFaul is the first of three planned U.S. government (USG) vessels to reach Georgia with emergency relief supplies.
- Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff in Gori have confirmed that Russian forces have departed the town and that the streets are patrolled by Georgian police. U.N. and Government of Georgia (GoG) reports indicate that Gori's infrastructure is largely intact and can support IDP returns. Humanitarian responders are anticipating increased returns to Gori in the near future and have noted that the return of displaced populations could alter assessments of humanitarian need. In a recent assessment of collective centers in Tbilisi, the USAID DART noted that IDPs are seeking assurances of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mine clearance before returning home.

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	\$3,793,329
State/EUR/ACE¹ Assistance to Georgia	\$2,844,581
DOD² Assistance to Georgia	\$11,647,355
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia	\$18,285,265

CURRENT SITUATION

Priority Needs

- Humanitarian organizations continue to report that overall priority needs include hygiene kits, water containers, blankets, mattresses, pillows, bed sheets, and cooking stoves.

Non-Food Items / Emergency Relief Supplies

- According to the USAID DART, six NGO partners—Counterpart International, Samaritan's Purse, CARE International, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), World Vision, and Save the Children—collected and distributed MREs on August 24 to displaced populations in and around Tbilisi. A total of seven NGOs, including Mercy Corps, have been delivering USG emergency relief commodities on a regular basis to populations in need.

Food

- On August 23, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) issued a food distribution strategy identifying varying plans for IDPs residing in collective centers with functional kitchens, collective centers without kitchens, and host families. To offer broader food options for IDPs in collective centers and support the local economy, WFP has contracted bakeries to provide fresh baked bread.
- WFP is planning to distribute high-energy biscuits and other ready-to-eat foods to IDPs without access to cooking facilities and dry rations, including pasta, sugar, oil, beans, and salt, to IDPs in host families and collective centers with kitchens. Where available, WFP and other food aid partners plan to provide complementary food, such as porridge, vegetables, and canned meat.

¹ U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia

² U.S. Department of Defense

Protection

- The GoG has been airing public services announcements on TV and radio encouraging host families to come forward and register with the Civil Registry in order to receive appropriate benefits.
- According to the USAID DART, UNHCR is working with the GoG to reconcile differing databases of IDPs, including separation of old and new caseload IDPs, and to identify specific needs at particular locations as well as overall gaps in emergency assistance.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- On August 23, USAID DART staff participated in a joint WASH assessment of three IDP centers in Tbilisi and noted that the centers had limited water and sanitation infrastructure. The USAID DART staff confirmed that all three IDP sites had received USG-donated humanitarian daily rations (HDRs) and meals-ready-to-eat (MREs). The team identified hygiene supplies, including diapers and feminine hygiene products, and mattresses as priority needs for the assessed locations.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

- The GoG is reportedly conducting mine clearing activities in anticipation of IDPs returning to Gori. International media reported that a train carrying crude oil from Kazakhstan to a Georgian Black Sea port hit a mine outside of Gori on August 24. The incident highlights the challenges for UXO removal.
- The NGO Halo Trust has expressed the need for immediate mine risk education in and around villages where munitions were dropped and for populations displaced from affected areas.

Logistics

- On August 23, five U.S. European Command (EUCOM) flights arrived in Tbilisi delivering 52,500 HDRs and 17,280 meals-ready-to-eat MREs, 8 tent sets, and 432 cots from DOD stockpiles; 335 sleeping bags from State/EUR/ACE warehouses in Germany; and 5,010 hygiene kits from USAID/OFDA's warehouse in Pisa, Italy, according to EUCOM staff. Since August 13, EUCOM has flown 42 missions to Georgia, with additional flights of DOS, DOD, and USAID relief commodities scheduled through late August. The total value of EUCOM's transportation assistance, including operational and personnel support, now stands at nearly \$11.6 million.
- The USAID DART has secured three pre-positioning warehouses in Tbilisi, representing a total of 864 square meters of storage for incoming emergency relief supplies. According to the WFP- and UNHCR-led interagency logistics working group, the amount of relief commodities arriving in Georgia has increased demand for interagency warehousing space.

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 nearly \$18.3 million, including nearly \$3.8 million from USAID/OFDA, \$2.8 million from the U.S. Department of State, and more than \$11.6 million from DOD.
- On August 9, USAID/OFDA provided an immediate \$250,000 through USAID/Georgia to four NGOs—CARE, Counterpart International, UMCOR, and World Vision—for the provision and distribution of emergency relief supplies to benefit up to 10,000 people. On August 19, USAID/OFDA provided a further \$123,000 to Counterpart International to assist an additional 2,500 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.
- 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.
- 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>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$129,000
Counterpart International	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$158,332
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	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$63,000
USAID/Georgia	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		\$204,627
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,793,329
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	\$10,061,225
TOTAL DOD			\$11,647,355
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$18,285,265

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 24, 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/