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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 #15, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 29, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 27, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- New displacements of people from villages north of Gori along the border area of South Ossetia occurred on both August 26 and 27, although UNHCR reported that no newly displaced people arrived in Gori on August 28. Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) in western areas of Georgia remain with host families or in collective centers, according to UNHCR, although up to 20 percent of IDPs from Batumi and Lanchkhuti towns have returned.
- On August 28, President George W. Bush authorized the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Populations, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) to provide up to \$5.75 million, including \$3.75 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and \$2 million to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to address the needs of IDPs and other Georgian conflict victims.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Newly* Displaced Persons in Georgia (total)	128,703	U.N. Georgia Flash Appeal - August 18, 2008
Newly* Displaced Persons in Russia (total)	30,000	U.N. Georgia Flash Appeal - August 18, 2008
Returnees from parts of Georgia to Gori	21,000	OCHA- August 27, 2008
Returnees from Russia to South Ossetia	23,609	EMERCOM ¹ / OCHA - August 27, 2008

* Since August 8, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....	\$5,100,043
State/EUR/ACE ² Assistance to Georgia	\$3,489,583
State/PRM Assistance to Georgia	\$5,750,000
DOD ³ Assistance to Georgia	\$15,307,381
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....	\$29,647,007

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- On August 28, UNHCR reported that Georgian civil registration authorities have started a detailed data collection process in order to obtain a more accurate tally of the IDP groups and an assessment of the damage in places of origin.
- Relief agencies continue to have reliable access to the capital and most conflict-affected areas, excluding South Ossetia. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), ICRC remains the only international humanitarian actor operational in Tskhinvali, South Ossetia.
- Major road networks and the east-west railway line are open and available for humanitarian cargo shipments. According to OCHA, commercial transporters are only willing to travel to areas north of Gori in Shida Kartli Region as part of U.N. convoys due to insecurity.

Protection

- On August 29, Human Rights Watch reported that U.N. satellite images of South Ossetia depict many damaged and destroyed buildings in and around Tskhinvali due to fires between August 10 and 22. The human rights organization cites reports of armed Ossetian militia looting and setting fire to homes in the area in an attempt to displace ethnic Georgian residents, particularly in Tamarasheni, Kekhvi, Kvemo Achabeti, Zemo Achabeti, and Kurta towns. Access to South Ossetia remains largely restricted for humanitarian organizations, although ICRC continues to operate some relief programs in the area.

¹ The Russian Federation's Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM)

² U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE)

³ U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

Non-Food Items / Emergency Relief Supplies

- On August 27 and 28, implementing partners collected a total of 24,000 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs), 19,000 meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), and 6,000 hygiene kits for distribution to more than 100 collective IDP centers in and around Tbilisi. According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the distribution of US Government (USG)-provided MREs and HDRs concluded on August 28.
- Following improved access to cooking facilities in collective IDP centers, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and partner organizations are scheduled to resume distribution of staple food commodities in Tbilisi on August 29.

Agriculture and Food Security

- As of August 27, WFP reports that 137,100 people have received emergency food assistance since the beginning of the conflict. WFP is working to establish a distribution system for Gori town in advance of further population returns from Tbilisi.
- On August 29, USAID/OFDA provided \$600,000 through USAID/Georgia to three non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to procure complementary food items for conflict-affected populations.

Shelter and Settlements

- USAID DART staff estimate that the conflict damaged fewer than 100 housing units in Gori, or less than one percent of the city's total housing supply of 15,000 units. In addition, DART staff noted that some damaged units required only minor repairs.

Health and Nutrition

- A temporary IDP center for pregnant women and mothers with infants has been established in Tbilisi by Georgian authorities, according to OCHA. In response to a request by the Government of Georgia (GoG), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided hygiene supplies, beds, and baby clothes to the center.
- As of August 25, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) continued to report no outbreaks of communicable diseases in conflict-affected areas. As of August 26, the GoG announced that all major IDP centers have dedicated primary care providers to identify, treat, and refer patients for primary health or hospital services. IDPs are receiving free health services in government health facilities, according to WHO.

Logistics and Coordination

- On August 27, two U.S. European Command (EUCOM) flights arrived in Tbilisi delivering 17,280 HDRs and 1,418 tent sets. Two additional flights arrived on August 28, with 33,140 HDRs and 1,355 cots. Since August 13, EUCOM has dispatched a total of 57 flights carrying State, DOD, and USAID humanitarian relief commodities to Georgia. The total value of EUCOM's transportation assistance, including operational and personnel support, stands at more than \$13.6 million.
- OCHA has reported that humanitarian response plans will be based on likely returns scenarios. Humanitarian responders are assuming that most IDPs will return to Gori and nearby towns under GoG control by late-September, while populations from areas bordering South Ossetia and other locations not yet under GoG control are expected to return between March and June 2009. The anticipated timeline for population returns to South Ossetia and Abkhazia is unclear, according to OCHA.

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 29, the USG has committed more than \$36 million, including more than \$5 million from USAID/OFDA, \$9.2 million from the U.S. Department of State, and \$15.3 million from DOD. USAID/OFDA anticipates funding an additional \$7 million in emergency programs.
- Since August 9, USAID/OFDA has provided 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 and \$600,000 through USAID/Georgia for three NGOs to implement nutrition activities.
- 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 has provided additional emergency relief commodities valued at \$2.3 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 more than \$5.4 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.
- The USS McFaul and USCGC Dallas docked in the port of Batumi on August 24 and 27, respectively, delivering nearly 115 tons of emergency relief commodities for conflict-affected populations.

- 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.
- On August 28, President George W. Bush authorized State/PRM to provide \$3.75 million to UNHCR and \$2 million to ICRC to address the needs of internally displaced persons and other Georgian conflict victims. State/PRM's assistance reflects 25 percent of the two organizations' respective emergency appeals.
- 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
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$112,714
Save the Children (SC)	Emergency Relief Supplies and Protection	Tbilisi, Ajaria, Imereti, and Kvemo Kartlin	\$316,709
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	\$800,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$265,370
	Administration and DART Support		\$481,918
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,100,043
STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE²			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$3,489,583
TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE			\$3,489,583
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Protection and assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Protection and assistance	Countrywide	\$3,750,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$5,750,000
DOD ASSISTANCE			
	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,665,530
	Airlift of USG emergency relief supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$13,641,851
TOTAL DOD			\$15,307,381
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$29,647,007

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 29, 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