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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 #17, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 5, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 3, 2008

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 5, the final of three scheduled shipments of relief commodities transported by the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard arrived in Poti, Georgia. The emergency relief commodities aboard the USS Mount Whitney will be distributed to affected populations by USAID partners.
- Participants at the September 4 U.N. coordination meeting, including the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) noted increased tensions among IDP populations in anticipation of rumored Government of Georgia (GOG) plans to vacate schools serving as collective centers. The international community continues to advocate with the GOG for a clear, phased approach to consolidation of Tbilisi-area centers.
- According to the USAID DART, the Early Recovery Coordination Group has developed a sub-group focusing on livelihoods programs and support for returnees. The coordination group discussed damage to agricultural areas and potential repairs, noting that many assessed villages have sustained limited damage and overall, damage occurred in a small geographic area. USAID DART staff is prioritizing livelihoods programs that include activities for IDPs in collective centers throughout Georgia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Displaced Persons at Height of Crisis	185,000*	U.N. Georgia - September 1, 2008
Returnees to parts of Georgia	90,500	UNHCR ¹ - September 3, 2008
Population Displaced for Long Term**	30,000	UNHCR - September 3, 2008

* Estimate reflects population movements at the height of the crisis, estimates have since declined significantly.

** Estimate reflects IDPs displaced in August 2008 and unable to return home in the medium to long term.

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....	\$12,100,043
State/EUR/ACE² Assistance to Georgia	\$3,487,583
State/PRM Assistance to Georgia	\$5,750,000
DOD³ Assistance to Georgia	\$17,026,434
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....	\$38,364,060

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- At the September 4 interagency coordination meeting, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported a continued lack of access to South Ossetia. Since the beginning of the crisis, international humanitarian agencies and donors have been supporting relief operations in South Ossetia through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); however, access for other organizations continues to be limited, particularly for groups attempting to access the region from Georgia rather than Russia. According to relief agencies and USAID DART team members, access to villages in the buffer zone remains inconsistent. In recent days, several NGOs have successfully negotiated access at individual checkpoints; however, the U.N. notes Government of the Federation of Russia approval is required to cross Russian military checkpoints. The U.N. has submitted a request to the Russian Embassy to conduct assessments of several villages within the buffer zone and is awaiting a response.
- Following assessments in the accessible buffer zone villages, USAID DART staff report minimal damage, below the levels originally anticipated. USAID DART staff note that a wider range of damage that may be present elsewhere in the area, particularly considering reports that villages not yet accessible were subject to aerial bombardment.
- To date, the U.N. reports no access constraints in Abkhazia. On September 5, WFP is scheduled to conduct an assessment in the region.

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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)

Population Movement and Displacement

- On September 3, UNHCR reported that 90,500 individuals have returned to places of origin, following the August conflict. UNHCR staff note that this number may underestimate the number of returnees due to the difficulty of accurate, in-field returnee counts. According to UNHCR, approximately 30,000 individuals may be displaced for the long term.
- As of September 3, the GOG Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (MRA) field office in Gori registered 2,400 IDP families, approximately 7,200 people, living with host families in Gori. The MRA started the registration list on August 30, indicating an average of 480 families have registered each day during the first five days. On September 4, the U.N. reported that the MRA anticipated that the completion of IDP registration will continue for two weeks. UNHCR is distributing ration cards and working closely with the local MRA office to obtain information regarding the number of beneficiaries in Gori, places of origin, and possible vulnerabilities.

Agriculture and Food Security

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) resumed food ration distributions in Tbilisi on August 29. Prior to the resumption of the 10-day ration distribution, IDPs in Tbilisi had been receiving daily distributions of USG-provided meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) and humanitarian daily rations (HDRs). As a result of this shift, on September 4, WFP reported confusion among IDPs regarding the intended duration of WFP distributions. On September 5, WFP launched an information campaign to educate beneficiaries on the planned schedule and duration of food rations. In addition to the 10-day food ration, IDPs continue to receive bread distributions every other day.
- On September 6, WFP is scheduled to begin a new 10-day ration distribution to IDPs in collective centers in Tbilisi.
- Additional complementary food commodities were not provided during the first round of WFP distributions in Tbilisi but are scheduled to accompany the WFP distribution on September 6. Food aid partners are working to include complementary food commodities in the overall food aid pipeline and are discussing the quantities and composition of future ration distributions.
- As of September 4, WFP has provided food assistance to 5,400 IDPs in Gori District, Shida Kartli Region.

Shelter and Settlements

- On September 4, USAID/Georgia, USAID DART, and UNHCR representatives met with the GOG's MRA and senior GOG officials to discuss the international community's transitional shelter strategy to complement the GOG IDP Settlement Plan. Discussions are ongoing and the humanitarian community continues to emphasize the need for temporary and transitional shelter programs to complement proposed durable solutions outlined in the GOG Settlement Plan in order to meet IDP shelter needs prior to the onset of winter. In particular, USAID DART staff are encouraging the GOG to consider options that provide assistance to host and guest communities, as well as IDPs sheltering in collective centers.
- On September 4, the U.N. reported that the GOG has reopened Gori Tent Camp #2 after an initial closure due to water, sanitation, and hygiene concerns. Representatives from the WASH coordination group were scheduled to assess conditions in the camp on September 5.

Health and Nutrition

- According to field reports, the GOG Ministry of Health plans to request assistance from the World Bank to rehabilitate 17 ambulatory centers located in conflict-affected areas along the Gori-Tskhinvali corridor, including Shida Kartli Region.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- To date, relief partners have provided 50 latrines and 16 water taps for camp populations in Gori Tent Camp #1. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is scheduled to complete construction of 25 showers and two additional water taps by September 7, for a total of 50 latrines, 18 water taps, and 25 showers. IRC also plans to support the formation of community-based groups for the daily maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. A Polish NGO has also established a health clinic in the camp.
- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and IRC have identified a need for hygiene promotion activities in the Gori collective centers. During the week of August 25, Mercy Corps distributed more than 500 USAID/OFDA hygiene kits for IDPs in collective centers, and Prèmiere Urgence plans to distribute 320 hygiene kits in the coming days.

Livelihoods

- Recent USAID DART assessments of Gori and several surrounding villages indicated that populations temporarily displaced by the recent conflict have returned and resumed normal livelihood activities. However, areas that experienced heavy fighting and sustained damage to infrastructure and agricultural land are likely to require livelihoods interventions to assist conflict-affected populations to resume normal economic activities. USAID DART staff also anticipate a need for livelihood support programs for new IDPs unable to return home in the medium to long

term. In coordination with the USAID Georgia Mission, the USAID DART is developing a strategy to address priority needs and protect IDP and conflict-affected population's livelihood activities and purchasing power.

Logistics and Coordination

- On September 3, at the request of the USAID DART, the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) flew a C-130 with 2,520 USAID/OFDA-provided blankets from Pisa, Italy to implementing relief partners in Tbilisi. During late August, EUCOM has transported 3,518 cots to Tbilisi via EUCOM airlift of USG humanitarian relief commodities. Since beginning regular air operations from State and DOD warehouses in Germany and from USAID stockpiles in Italy on August 13, EUCOM has conducted 59 humanitarian missions, delivering a total of 356,380 HDRs, 154,368 MREs, 10,432 cots, 19,184 sleeping bags, 26,422 hygiene kits, 9,254 blankets, 6,040 sheets, 3,431 mattresses, 653 boxes of medical supplies, and other relief commodities. The USAID DART continues to coordinate closely with the GOG and seven relief organizations to facilitate the delivery of USG relief supplies to IDPs and other conflict-affected populations in Georgia.
- Humanitarian aid partners have begun a coordination group based in Gori town to discuss humanitarian interventions in Gori Tent Camp #1, collective centers, host families, and in surrounding areas. Relief partners plan to work with IDPs to develop a camp committee for Gori Tent Camp #1 to allow residents to participate in camp management.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. To date, total USG humanitarian assistance to Georgia was valued at nearly \$38 million, including more than \$12.1 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$9.2 million from the U.S. Department of State, and more than \$16.4 million from the U.S. Department of Defense.
- Since August 9, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$378,000 through USAID/Georgia to five NGOs for the provision and distribution of emergency relief supplies 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 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. Seven NGO partners, including Counterpart International, Samaritan's Purse, CARE International, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), WVI, SC, 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's Office of Food for Peace, provided \$1 million to WFP for the procurement of 653.5 metric tons 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.
- On September 3, the USG announced plans to provide \$1 billion of aid to support Georgia's humanitarian needs and economic recovery. The multi-sector support includes funds for humanitarian assistance, as well as funds to rebuild Georgia's infrastructure and economy.

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
Première Urgence	Emergency Relief Supplies	Kutaisi, Imereti Region	\$300,000
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
WVI	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$63,000
USAID/Georgia	Local transportation and distribution of Emergency Relief Supplies, Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$800,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$265,370
Various Partners	IDP Support	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$6,700,000
	Administration and DART Support		\$481,918
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$12,100,043
STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE²			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$3,487,583
TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE			\$3,487,583
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	\$15,360,904
TOTAL DOD			\$17,026,434
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$38,364,060

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 5, 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/