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

Georgia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

October 31, 2008

BACKGROUND

In early August, heightened tensions led to armed conflict involving Georgian and Russian armed forces and South Ossetian separatist forces, affecting populations in South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and additional areas within Georgia and along the Georgia–Russia border. On August 13, the Government of the Russian Federation (GORF) and the Government of Georgia (GOG) signed a ceasefire agreement, and Russian troops withdrew in late August from locations across Georgia. However, through September, Russian forces remained in a buffer zone along the administrative boundary of South Ossetia, encompassing a network of villages with an estimated population of 24,000. The GORF, the GOG, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) estimated the number of deaths due to the conflict between 300 and 1,800 people. In October, the U.N. estimated the conflict displaced approximately 30,000 persons within South Ossetia, more than 135,000 individuals within other parts of Georgia, and an additional 35,000 South Ossetians who crossed the Russian border into North Ossetia.

On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi to procure emergency relief supplies for approximately 10,000 people. In addition, USAID/OFDA deployed a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to Tbilisi to conduct humanitarian needs assessments, coordinate with the GOG and relief agencies, and inform further USAID assistance priorities. At the peak of the emergency, the USAID/DART consisted of 18 members, including administrative, programming, and technical sector specialists. Following the demobilization of the USAID/DART, USAID/OFDA deployed a Tbilisi-based emergency disaster response coordinator to continue early recovery initiatives, conduct field assessments in affected regions, and facilitate coordination and information sharing. USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$19.1 million to date in response to the crisis, assisting conflict-affected populations with emergency relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter, food security and agriculture, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. To date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided approximately \$55 million in humanitarian assistance to Georgia, including more than \$16.3 million from the U.S. Department of State (State) and nearly \$17.5 million from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at Height of Crisis	135,500*	OCHA ¹ - October 2008
Returnees to Parts of Georgia**	99,500	OCHA – October 2008
Population Displaced for Long Term***	36,000	OCHA – October 2008

* The estimate does not include the estimated 30,000 people displaced within the disputed area of South Ossetia, and an additional 35,000 people from South Ossetia who fled into the Russian region of North Ossetia.

** This figure does not capture returnees within South Ossetia. This represents the total number of the 135,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in other areas of Georgia who have returned to areas of origin.

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

FY 2008 AND FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....	\$19,110,302
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Georgia	\$2,103,200
State/EUR/ACE³ Assistance to Georgia	\$3,487,583
State/PRM⁴ Assistance to Georgia	\$8,319,204
State/PM⁵ Assistance to Georgia	\$4,500,000
DOD Assistance to Georgia	\$17,486,434
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....	\$55,006,723

CURRENT SITUATION

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace

³ U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE)

⁴ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁵ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (State/PM)

In early October, the European Union (EU) deployed 200 monitors to observe Russian troop withdrawal. By October 8, Russian forces had withdrawn from Georgian territories outside of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. On October 15, the EU, U.N., and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe co-chaired talks for senior Russian and Georgian officials. The discussions, which focused on creating a negotiating process to resolve outstanding issues, including the rights of tens of thousands of refugees, are scheduled to resume in November.

Access

Humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations in South Ossetia remains constrained for most emergency actors, although the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was able to obtain access in early September. In October, ICRC reported that lack of security, isolation due to severing of road links, and limited access to food and health care remain an issue for the local populations, particularly for the elderly and rural populations.

Donor Conference

On October 22, the European Commission and World Bank held a conference in Brussels. Donors pledged approximately \$4.5 billion to meet urgent post-conflict and priority investment needs between 2008 and 2010. Donors allocated approximately \$450 million for IDP support and to repair damaged infrastructure. According to an October U.N. and World Bank Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) and revised consolidated appeal, immediate challenges include ensuring adequate shelter, access to health and education services, and appropriate social protection to the estimated 220,000 pre-2008 and new IDPs.

Population Movement and IDP Returns

According to the U.N., restricted access to affected areas, spontaneous population settlements with host communities, and an ongoing return process have complicated IDP assessments. OCHA estimated 75,000 IDPs in Georgia had returned to areas of origin by the end of September. The withdrawal of Russian troops from the buffer zone resulted in an additional 24,500 IDP returns in October. As a result of increased returns and IDP relocation to collective centers, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) closed the Gori IDP camp in October.

To date, the GOG estimates 36,000 people remain internally displaced. Of remaining IDPs, the GOG plans to accommodate 24,000 individuals by the end of 2008 in durable housing. USAID/OFDA-funded programming has focused on supporting IDPs residing in collective centers and with host families.

Emergency Relief Supplies

By the end of FY 2008, the USAID/DART had distributed more than 1 million units of USG-provided commodities through U.N. agencies and NGO partners to

conflict-affected Georgians. USAID/OFDA supplied 9,900 regionally-procured mattresses, 26,422 hygiene kits, and 6,050 blankets from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Pisa, Italy, valued at more than \$611,000, including transport. USAID/OFDA relief commodities and logistics assistance included the local transportation and distribution of USG humanitarian assistance to IDP families, valued at nearly \$3.5 million.

In addition, USAID/OFDA supported the local distribution of commodities transported as part of a U.S. European Command (EUCOM) airlift and through three U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard shipments. Between August 13 and September 4, DOD conducted 59 humanitarian missions, delivering relief commodities from State and DOD warehouses in Germany and USAID stockpiles in Italy through EUCOM. DOD delivered a total of 356,380 humanitarian daily rations, 154,368 meals-ready-to-eat, 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 Department of State and DOD also responded 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. State/EUR/ACE provided emergency relief commodities from storage warehouses in Germany. State/PRM contributed through U.N. agencies for IDP and refugee assistance.

According to USAID/OFDA-funded partner *Première Urgence*'s October assessment, wood stoves provide the main form of heating and cooking in buffer zone communities near the border of South Ossetia. Prior to the conflict, residents purchased vouchers for forest access and utilized wood from South Ossetia for fuel. However, the conflict restricted access to wood resources, creating vulnerabilities for the forthcoming winter. In response, USAID/OFDA committed more than \$590,000 to CARE and nearly \$390,000 to Mercy Corps for the purchase and distribution of stoves, firewood, winter clothing, blankets, and heaters in FY 2009.

Agriculture and Food Security

The JNA noted that agriculture is the basis of the economy of the most conflict-affected region, Shida Kartli. The conflict resulted in significant losses in agricultural production in the region. According to a September U.N. World Food Program (WFP) assessment, IDPs in collective centers lacked assets and livelihoods opportunities, resulting in a dependency on governmental and non-governmental aid.

In response to concerns over food security, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$113,000 for an agriculture and food security needs assessment in conflict-affected areas. A USAID/OFDA livelihoods

specialist deployed to Georgia in mid-September to coordinate the implementation of a livelihoods strategy with USAID/Georgia. The strategy focused on restoring household purchasing power and replacing or repairing productive assets of IDPs and conflict-affected populations.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to support the livelihoods initiative. To support food security initiatives, USAID/OFDA committed \$2.9 million to the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA) to supply farmers with seeds and farming machinery for the winter growing season.

Shelter and Settlements

In October, Première Urgence reported urgent IDP humanitarian needs for winter. The assessment noted the onset of winter in the region is marked by heavy snow and extreme cold. On October 6, a revised U.N. consolidated appeal noted an estimated 35,000 persons required winterization activities, including 15,000 IDPs that host families can no longer accommodate. These IDPs do not have sufficient funds to rent new accommodations, and the U.N. expects them to move to collective centers in the near future.

To address the shelter needs of an estimated 54,000 IDPs through the winter, USAID/OFDA has worked closely with other donors, the GOG, and UNHCR to develop a strategy for temporary and longer-term shelter solutions. Short-term shelter assistance, targeting approximately 7,000 IDP households, has emphasized support of hosting arrangements.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$5.1 million to International Relief and Development (IRD) and CHF International for emergency shelter activities in support of the overall GOG IDP settlement plan, including home repairs and upgrades. In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA committed more than \$1 million to CARE for shelter materials needed to winterize collective centers and damaged houses for approximately 2,600 IDPs in Shida Kartli Region.

Food Assistance

On September 18, WFP reported that IDPs are nearly fully dependent on governmental and NGO assistance. Emergency food aid has satisfied short-term needs, but a lack of cash resources and an uneven and insufficient supply of complementary foods have resulted in low dietary diversity. The U.N. expects that up to 110,000 people will need basic and complementary food rations or cash transfers through March 2009.

USAID/OFDA has contributed \$1.5 million to WFP for procurement of approximately 1,100 metric tons (MT) of

basic food commodities and distribution of food and emergency relief items for IDPs. USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$600,000 to NGOs through USAID/Georgia for food commodities to support IDPs. In FY 2009, USAID/FFP provided 1,550 MT of food commodities valued at more than \$2.1 million through WFP. To date, the USG has provided approximately \$4.2 million in food assistance to Georgia.

Protection

Despite ongoing psychosocial support to vulnerable populations by the GOG and NGOs, nearly 68 percent of IDPs exhibited post-traumatic symptoms according to a September to October Georgian Society of Psychotrauma assessment.

In response, the GOG, NGOs, international organizations, universities, and health care institutions held a conference on psychotrauma in Tbilisi during October. Conference attendees recommended local experts support sustainable psychosocial assistance services for traumatized communities. In addition, representatives noted that indirect assistance activities, such as primary care personnel training, support for self-help groups, and community mobilization activities, would enable programs to reach more individuals. On October 21, the U.N. World Health Organization organized a seminar on organizational aspects of psychosocial care in Georgia. Attendees discussed the importance of psychosocial trainings, the standardization of assessment tools and curricula, and the need to include the old IDP caseload in current assistance.

In response to psychosocial needs, a USAID/OFDA-funded program is promoting the psychosocial well-being of IDPs through child-friendly spaces, youth activities, and psychosocial training for teachers, benefiting 23,000 people in up to 47 collective centers in Gori and Tbilisi.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

USAID/OFDA contributed \$750,000 to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support hygiene promotion activities in collective centers housing IDPs. In addition, USAID/OFDA funded efforts by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to improve the health and wellbeing of conflict-affected populations through the provision of water and sanitation facilities for IDPs in collective centers.

USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi	\$388,887
CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies and Food, Shelter and Settlements	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$339,660
CHF International	Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Agriculture and Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas, Kvemo Kartli Region	\$3,124,977
Counterpart International	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$165,046
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$112,714
International Orthodox Christian Charities	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi	\$200,000
IRD	Shelter and Settlements	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,528,404
Mercy Corps	Emergency Relief Supplies, Economy and Market Systems	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$29,952
Première Urgence	Emergency Relief Supplies	Kutaisi, Imereti Region	\$300,000
SCF/US	Emergency Relief Supplies, Protection, and Food	Tbilisi, Ajaria, Imereti, and Kvemo Kartli regions	\$516,795
UMCOR	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$427,955
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$750,000
WFP	Nutrition and Logistics	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,499,402
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies and Food	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$287,146
	Stockpile Commodities and Logistics		\$611,428
	Administration and DART Support		\$466,181
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$12,748,547
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
IRD	Shelter and Settlements	Imereti Region	\$569,204
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$6,319,204
DOD ASSISTANCE			
	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,665,530
	Airlift of USG emergency relief supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$15,820,904
TOTAL DOD			\$17,486,434
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$40,041,768
FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			

CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies and Food, Shelter and Settlements	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,015,056
CHF International	Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Agriculture and Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas, Kvemo Kartli Region	\$416,118
CNFA	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$2,899,999
IRC	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene and Protection	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$882,229
Mercy Corps	Emergency Relief Supplies, Economy and Market Systems	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,144,330
	Administration and DART Support		\$4,023
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,361,755
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	Food	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,103,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$2,103,200
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Protection and assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$2,000,000
STATE/PM ASSISTANCE			
	Mine abatement	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$4,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PM			\$4,500,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2009			\$14,964,955
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008 AND FY 2009			\$55,006,723

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 31, 2008.

²Estimated value of food assistance.



Ky Luu
 Director
 Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance