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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 #14, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 27, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 26, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) notes that large-scale returns from Tbilisi to the Gori area since August 22 have likely shifted humanitarian needs from Tbilisi to Gori. In response, relief agencies are working to identify and assess needs and to address logistical challenges related to providing support for both the new internally displaced person (IDP) population as well as long-term displaced persons from previous conflicts.
- On August 26, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that approximately 400 people have arrived in Gori town, displaced from nearby towns along the border of South Ossetia following incidents of harassment, theft, and assault by armed militia operating in the area. UNHCR is providing immediate assistance to the new arrivals. The Government of Georgia (GoG) and additional relief organizations are also preparing to provide emergency food relief and primary services for IDPs unable to return to homes in nearby towns due to security concerns from the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and militias.
- On August 27, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter (USCGS) Dallas docked in the port of Batumi delivering 34 tons of humanitarian assistance. The USCGS Dallas follows the earlier arrival of the USS McFaul on August 24, which delivered nearly 80 tons of assistance.

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	10,000	OCHA ¹ - August 25, 2008
Returnees from Russia to South Ossetia	19,255	EMERCOM ² / OCHA - August 25, 2008

* Since August 8, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....	\$4,183,334
State/EUR/ACE³ Assistance to Georgia	\$2,844,581
DOD⁴ Assistance to Georgia	\$15,190,676
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....	\$22,218,591

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- U.N. organizations continue to report improvements to humanitarian access, with relief agencies operating in Batumi, Poti, and Senaki towns in western Georgia, as well as in the capital of Tbilisi and Gori town. The U.N. has reportedly established coordination hubs in Tbilisi, Batumi, and Gori within Georgia, as well as in Vladikavkaz in the Russian Federation. Access to South Ossetia remains restricted for most relief agencies, although the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNHCR continue to conduct assessments and provide relief services in the area.
- As of August 27, Georgian media report that the east-west railway line connecting Tbilisi and Poti and Batumi ports on the Black Sea has been restored following damage to two areas of the track in recent weeks. Cargo traffic is scheduled to resume within several days, and passenger traffic is expected the following week.
- On August 27, USAID DART staff traveled to Gori to assess the humanitarian situation and progress of IDPs returning to the area. USAID DART members confirmed the resumption of everyday activities in Gori city center; the prevalence of crops, agricultural tools, and livestock in nearby fields; and minimal damage to buildings in Gori.

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

² The Russian Federation's Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM)

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 Defense (DOD)

Agriculture and Food Security

- Following improved access to cooking facilities for IDPs staying in collective centers and the conclusion of USG-provided meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) and humanitarian daily rations (HDRs), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and additional relief agencies are scheduled to resume distributions of staple food commodities in Tbilisi on August 29. Numerous Georgian charities and private sector organizations have been distributing perishable food items to IDPs since the beginning of the conflict, and some relief agencies are planning to provide food items to supplement the standard emergency rations of flour, oil, beans, salt, sugar, and bread.

Shelter and Settlements

- UNHCR has reported that nearly 1,000 returnees to Gori on August 26 slept in municipal shelters and a tented camp. According to UNHCR, the Gori tent camp consists of 100 five-person tents and 63 twenty-person tents. UNHCR has noted that the tented camp offers only a temporary solution and that a more sustainable solution need to be found before the cold season begins.

Logistics

- On August 26, two U.S. European Command (EUCOM) flights arrived in Tbilisi delivering 3,840 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs), 1,340 cots, and 16 tent sets. Since August 13, EUCOM has dispatched a total of 53 flights carrying DOS, DOD, and USAID humanitarian relief commodities to Georgia, as requested and validated by the USAID DART and USAID/Georgia. USAID DART staff report that EUCOM airlifts of MREs and HDRs will conclude by August 27, with final distributions of ready-to-eat commodities on August 28. The total value of EUCOM's transportation assistance, including operational and personnel support, now stands at more than \$13.5 million.

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 more than \$22.2 million, including more than \$4.1 million from USAID/OFDA, \$2.8 million from the U.S. Department of State, and nearly \$15.2 million from DOD.
- 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.
- 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 \$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 more than \$4.7 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.
- 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
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	\$200,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$265,370
	Administration and DART Support		\$481,918
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$4,183,334
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	\$1,665,530
	Airlift of USG emergency relief supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$13,525,146
TOTAL DOD			\$15,190,676
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$22,218,591

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 27, 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/