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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 #16, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 3, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 29, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 3, the U.S. Government (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.
- Prior to the September 3 announcement, total USG humanitarian assistance to Georgia was valued more than \$31 million, including nearly \$5.4 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$9.2 million from the U.S. Department of State, and more than \$15.9 million from the U.S. Department of Defense.
- On September 1, the U.N. announced that 83,557 of the individuals displaced during the conflict have returned to areas of origin. According to the U.N., 30,000 individuals returned from Russia, and more than 53,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned to places of origin from other areas of Georgia. To date, more than 101,000 individuals remain displaced. According to USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) staff, IDPs continue to shelter in collective centers or with host communities. As of September 2, USAID staff report that the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has registered 4,200 IDPs in Gori, and the Government of Georgia's (GOG's) Minister for Refugees and Accommodation reported that the GOG had accommodated approximately 45,000 IDPs in Tbilisi.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Displaced* Persons in Georgia (total)	150,000	U.N. Georgia - September 1, 2008
Displaced* Persons in Russia (total)	35,000	U.N. Georgia - September 1, 2008
Returnees from parts of Georgia	53,557	U.N. Georgia - September 1, 2008
Returnees from Russia	30,000	U.N. Georgia - September 1, 2008

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

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....	\$5,400,043
State/EUR/ACE¹ Assistance to Georgia	\$3,487,583
State/PRM Assistance to Georgia	\$5,750,000
DOD² Assistance to Georgia	\$16,430,434
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....	\$31,068,060

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- Between August 27 and 31, the USAID DART team conducted assessments of 65 villages along the South Ossetia border. According to the assessment, the villages sustained little or no war damage, and extended family farms have absorbed IDPs in the area. USAID staff also noted Russian Army checkpoints that remained along the Gomi-to-Sachkere road in western South Ossetia.
- During the week of August 24, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) conducted an initial distribution of 15.4 metric tons (MT) of mixed food commodities to more than 2,000 South Ossetian returnees. WFP is coordinating with the Russian Federation's Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) and North Ossetian authorities to continue distributions through September 6 to assist IDPs that have been residing with host families and are in the process of returning to areas of origin.
- On September 2, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided an update on access and ongoing programs in South Ossetia. According to ICRC, on August 31, staff distributed hygiene items, kitchen sets, bed linen, and other household supplies to 800 residents of Khetagurovo, 7km west of Tskhinvali. On September 1, ICRC staff

¹ U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE)

² U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

distributed similar items in Dmenisi, a village of 700 inhabitants located 5 km east of Tskhinvali. In addition, ICRC has been working to improve water access and waste disposal at Tskhinvali's hospital.

- To date, WFP report no transportation gaps for food aid distributions. On September 2, WFP reported that the ports of Batumi and Poti, airports, and rail lines were open and functioning. However, WFP noted that humanitarian agencies may experience rail delays ranging from two days to one week. In addition, humanitarian agencies have concerns regarding continuing delays in customs processing of relief commodities at airports.

Agriculture and Food Security

- On September 1, WFP completed the first 10-day food distribution to IDPs accommodated in Tbilisi collective centers since the completion of USG-provided meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) and humanitarian daily rations (HDRs) on August 28. WFP implementing partners World Vision International (WVI), CARE International, and Save the Children (SC) distributed rations in close coordination with municipalities and the GOG Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation. In addition, to the food ration that included bread, beans, pasta, sugar, oil, and salt, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) plan to provide complementary food to the extent that funding is available, including tea, tinned meat/fish, and fresh fruit and vegetables.
- As of September 1, WFP reported that WFP food assistance has reached 138,000 IDPs and local populations in conflict-affected areas. WFP is prepared to provide rations for up to 64,000 IDP beneficiaries; however, given recent returns to areas of origin, implementing partners expect the number of actual beneficiaries to be significantly lower. WFP plans to verify beneficiaries and is coordinating with Tbilisi municipal authorities to select and establish central distribution points for each municipality.
- On September 1, WFP reported that due to recent returns, the number of IDPs in western Georgia has decreased to approximately 8,600 people. On September 1, WFP's office in Poti began delivering food to IDP centers in the area.

Shelter and Settlements

- The USAID DART team continues to work with GOG officials, UNHCR, other donor governments, and NGO partners to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for providing appropriate shelter for Georgia's displaced population prior to the approach of winter. To date, the USAID DART has conducted several assessments of villages and discussions on appropriate and effective shelter options are ongoing.

Health and Nutrition

- On August 29, humanitarian agencies met to outline guidance for the newly established nutrition working group. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) plans to conduct a nutritional survey among IDP children in the coming days.

Logistics and Coordination

- Between August 29 and 31, the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) transported 3,518 cots to Tbilisi via EUCOM airlift of USG humanitarian relief commodities for the current relief effort to Georgia. Since beginning regular air operations from State and DOD warehouses in Germany and USAID stockpiles in Italy to Georgia on August 13, EUCOM has conducted 58 humanitarian missions, delivering a total of 356,380 HDRs, 154,368 MREs, 10,432 cots, 19,184 sleeping bags, 26,422 hygiene kits, 6,734 blankets, 6,040 sheets, 131 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.

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 September 3, total USG humanitarian assistance to Georgia was valued more than \$31 million, including nearly \$5.4 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$9.2 million from the U.S. Department of State, and more than \$15.9 million from DOD.
- \$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 Office of Food for Peace provided \$1 million to WFP for the procurement of 653.5 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.
- 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.
- Prior to the September 3 announcement, total USG humanitarian assistance to Georgia was valued more than \$31 million, including nearly \$5.4 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$9.2 million from the U.S. Department of State, and more than \$15.9 million from the U.S. Department of Defense.

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
	Administration and DART Support		\$481,918
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,400,043
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	\$14,764,904
TOTAL DOD			\$16,430,434
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$31,068,060

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 3, 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/