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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 #18, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 11, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 5, 2008

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- A USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (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. Following the withdrawal of Russian troops, the accelerated pace of internally displaced person (IDP) returns, and the conclusion of the acute phase of the humanitarian emergency in Georgia, the USAID DART is preparing to demobilize on September 13. The interagency U.S. Government (USG) response worked with the Government of Georgia (GoG), U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide critical and timely assistance to populations affected by the recent conflict. To date, total USG humanitarian assistance to Georgia is valued at nearly \$39 million, including more than \$12.1 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$9.2 million from the U.S. Department of State (State), and nearly \$17.5 million from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).
- USAID/OFDA will continue to provide technical assistance and facilitate the identification and prioritization of early recovery activities in the livelihoods and shelter sectors. A USAID/OFDA Livelihoods Specialist arrived in Georgia on September 10. During the week of September 11, USAID/OFDA will dispatch a Shelter Specialist and an Emergency Disaster Relief Coordinator to Tbilisi to work with the GoG, U.N. and NGOs on programmatic issues.

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/PRM³ Assistance to Georgia	\$5,750,000
DOD Assistance to Georgia	\$17,486,434
Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....	\$38,824,060

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- On September 8, the U.N. reported that Russian authorities turned away a four-vehicle convoy attempting to enter South Ossetia from the checkpoint in Karaleti. The convoy which included staff from the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) turned back after an hour-long wait and a brief conversation with a Russian general. U.N. staff had hoped to conduct a preliminary humanitarian assessment mission and deliver food supplies, including wheat flour, pasta, sugar, and other staple items to villages around South Ossetia. According to Russian officials, soldiers turned the convoy away because the U.N. had not submitted an official request for passage. U.N. authorities reported communicating operation plans and submitting an access request to Russian authorities. Prior to the arrival of the U.N. convoy, Russian soldiers also turned away a vehicle from USAID's partner CARE International when staff were trying to access South Ossetia to conduct an interagency humanitarian assessment. Russian soldiers first turned away CARE staff on September 7, requesting that staff return after submitting a list, in Russian, of humanitarian agencies involved. Russian soldiers continue to permit a regular flow of civilian traffic to and from South Ossetia. USAID staff are following the situation closely and liaising with U.N. and NGO staff in hopes of securing more regular access to South Ossetia. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the U.N. and OCHA

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 State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM)

continue to discuss the importance of unimpeded access for humanitarian agencies with local and Russian authorities. OCHA also confirmed that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues to have unimpeded access to the security zone and South Ossetia.

Population Movement and Displacement

- Following the September 6 and 7 WFP food distribution in Tbilisi, WFP reported that preliminary results indicate that the number of IDPs in Tbilisi collective centers has decreased below 40,000 IDPs. CARE, Save the Children (SC), and World Vision (WVI) reported that some schools are already empty.
- Although the GoG and relief agencies have not updated earlier displacement estimates, the USAID DART team and humanitarian partners continue to report increased returns throughout Georgia. According to USAID DART, the remaining IDP populations continue to decrease from levels of earlier GoG estimates, and represented populations displaced from South Ossetia and Abkhazia may remain displaced for the medium to long term. In addition, USAID DART staff reported that some IDPs are moving between villages of origin and Tbilisi to tend to crops and livestock for short periods of time.

Protection

- On September 9, USAID DART staff visited Gori Camp #1, initially designed to accommodate 1,000 IDPs. USAID DART staff report that UNHCR and partner NGOs have successfully expanded the camp to accommodate 2,073 IDPs, representing 650 families living in 217 tents, for an average of three families per tent. According to UNHCR, on September 6 and 7, more than 100 new IDPs arrived each day. As of September 9, the daily rate of new arrivals slowed to approximately 30 individuals per day, although IDP numbers in Gori city continue to rise. On September 5, for example, UNHCR reported 6,400 IDPs in Gori city, including 1,600 in Gori Camp #1, 2,400 IDPs in collective centers, and nearly 2,400 IDPs living with host families. As of September 9, the total number of IDPs increased to approximately 6,900 IDPs, with the addition of nearly 500 people in Gori Camp #1, representing a 30 percent increase in the camp population since September 5. Out of the 500 new arrivals, approximately 220 people came from insecure villages and the remainder came from Tbilisi IDP collective centers.
- According to UNHCR staff, several factors triggered the recent movement of IDPs back to Gori, including host-family fatigue in Tbilisi; a shift by IDPs placed in schools and kindergartens in Tbilisi to move to Gori; and the possibility of Gori-level reunification of families and communities. To date, UNHCR reports that the basic needs of the increasing population have been addressed; however, due to dropping temperatures, humanitarian agencies hope to distribute sleeping bags to camp residents.
- On September 11, USAID's implementing partner SC received 111 DOD-provided tents for the creation of additional child-friendly centers in IDP collective centers.

Shelter and Settlements

- On September 5, international news agencies reported that the Government of Germany announced its intent to provide prefabricated houses for 1,800 IDPs in Georgia. The German Federal Foreign Ministry has granted 8 million euros (approximately \$11.5 million) to the German development aid agency GTZ which was scheduled to begin assembly of the 350 units during the week of September 9, in hopes of completion prior to winter. Previously, the German Federal Foreign Ministry provided 2.2 million euros to support emergency relief by aid agencies.
- On September 6, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation reported plans to support a cash voucher program for 1,000 to 1,500 host families in selected west Georgian settlements based on the results of a planned September 12 to 22 assessment.
- At a September 8 meeting, a GoG Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (MRA) representative reported that the GoG is planning on consolidating Tbilisi collective centers and relocating IDPs to make schools available for the resumption of classes. The GoG plans to maintain only 15 schools, in addition to other kindergarten and public buildings, for use as IDP collective centers in Tbilisi. The MRA representative requested that the humanitarian community provide resettlement packages for IDPs following relocation. The MRA representative agreed to provide participants with the list of post-consolidated centers in the coming days.
- On September 9, the USAID DART Shelter and Settlements Advisor accompanied UNHCR representatives to meet with the Deputy Governor of Shida Kartli Region, local officials, and U.N. and NGO staff to discuss temporary shelter measures incorporated in the Shelter Coordination Group's temporary and transitional shelter strategy. During the meeting, the Deputy Governor stated that the humanitarian community should commence temporary shelter activities immediately, including host family and community support, winterization of IDP collective centers, and rehabilitation of houses in surrounding villages that could become increasingly accessible as a result of recent events, as well as any other temporary shelter activities that could support IDPs. However, the humanitarian community is still waiting for national level approval.
- As of September 11, the GoG has not released an official GoG IDP Settlement Plan or approved the temporary and transitional shelter strategy developed by the Shelter Coordination Group to enable efforts to move forward. The

humanitarian community continues to emphasize the need for the inclusion of temporary and transitional shelter programs in complement to proposed durable solutions outlined in the GoG Settlement Plan in order to meet IDP shelter needs prior to the onset of winter.

Livelihoods

- The USAID/OFDA Livelihoods Specialist arrived in Georgia on September 10. USAID DART staff continue to prioritize livelihood support programs for IDPs remaining in collective centers for the medium to long term. In coordination with the USAID Mission, the USAID/DART livelihoods strategy focuses on restoring household purchasing power and replacing or repairing productive assets of IDPs and conflict-affected populations. 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.

Food Security

- According to WFP, ICRC has adequate food inventories to cover needs in the buffer zone through March 2009.
- USAID's implementing partners CARE International, Save the Children, and World Vision International have agreed to pool resources for a combined procurement of complementary food commodities for IDPs. USAID/OFDA has provided each of the three organizations with funding for complementary food programs.

Logistics and Coordination

- USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2.6 million for emergency relief commodities and the local transportation and distribution of USG humanitarian assistance for families displaced during the recent conflict, including \$1 million to WFP to coordinate the distribution of relief supplies. Through the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Pisa, Italy, USAID/OFDA provided 9,900 mattresses, 26,422 hygiene kits, and 6,050 blankets. In addition, USAID/OFDA financed and coordinated the local distribution of all USG provided humanitarian commodities transported as part of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) airlift and three U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard shipments.
- Between August 13 and September 4, EUCOM conducted 59 humanitarian missions, delivering a total of 356,380 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs), 154,368 meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), 10,432 cots, 19,184 sleeping bags, the 26,422 hygiene kits provided by USAID/OFDA, 9,254 blankets, 6,040 sheets, 3,431 mattresses, 653 boxes of medical supplies, and other relief commodities from State and DOD warehouses in Germany and from USAID stockpiles in Italy.
- In addition, the USS McFaul, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter (USCGS) Dallas, and the USS Mount Whitney delivered approximately 132 tons of emergency relief commodities, including 4,025 of the USAID/OFDA-provided blankets.
- As of September 11, the USAID DART distributed all USG-provided commodities stored in the USAID warehouse in Tbilisi to U.N. or NGO partners.

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 is valued at nearly \$39 million, including more than \$12.1 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$9.2 million from the State, and nearly \$17.5 million from DOD.
- 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.
- 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, the President approved an ERMA drawdown of \$5.75 million. State/PRM is processing these funds for contributions of \$2 million for ICRC and \$3.75 million for UNHCR.
- 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	\$15,820,904
TOTAL DOD			\$17,486,434
TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$38,824,060

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 11, 2008.

² State/EUR/ACE has facilitated the provision of emergency relief supplies to non-governmental organizations for distribution in cooperation with the GoG MRA. The funding amounts represent the approximate value of relief commodities; the costs of transportation of the commodities by EUCOM 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/