



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**GEORGIA**

15 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

# COUNTRY PROFILE

NOVEMBER 2007



*More than half of Georgia's workforce is employed in agriculture. This woman has benefited from a USAID agribusiness project that is working to increase Georgia's exports. The cilantro she is holding will be exported.*

## GEORGIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence:  
9 April 1991  
Capital: Tbilisi  
Population: 4.5 million  
GDP per capita: \$1,763

For more information,  
see [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)  
Keyword: Georgia

## OVERVIEW

Georgia is an important U.S. ally in the war on terrorism and a gateway for energy resources from the region to Europe and beyond. Since the Rose Revolution of 2003, the Georgian government has carried out a number of



democratic and economic reforms aimed at raising the living standards of its citizens. With the support of the U.S., other members of the international community, and the commitment of Georgia's leadership and people, Georgia can become a vibrant, free-market, and stable democracy. Towards this aim, the USAID program in Georgia focuses on good governance and the rule of law, economic growth and energy security, health, and education.

**Tbilisi**

## PROGRAMS

### STRENGTHENING POST-ROSE

#### REVOLUTION GOVERNANCE

After the Rose Revolution, there has been little doubt of the Georgian government's commitment to reform and USAID is supporting this effort. USAID works with the Parliament of Georgia to develop the structure of national parliamentary factions, promote parliamentary committee outreach, and support multiparty discussion and debate on reform policy and legislation. USAID helps the parliament to improve the legislation research and policy development capacity of specific parliamentary bodies through an internship program and an advisory board to the Speaker of Parliament; and through development of a targeted campaign to improve the organizing skills of emerging women leaders. On a local level, USAID helps municipal governments take on increased responsibilities, engage citizens in decision-making, and provides assistance to involve minority groups living in isolated regions.

USAID helps the Georgian judiciary with implementation of the magistrates system, updating the ethics code, and skills training such as opinion writing and court administration, and case management. USAID supports the Georgian government in developing anti-trafficking in persons legislation, provides assistance to a local NGO to protect victims, and assists with public awareness campaigns.

#### STIMULATING GEORGIA'S ECONOMY

In 2006, Georgia was named by the World Bank's Doing Business Survey as the world's number one reformer; tax revenue increased by 30 percent, and real GDP expanded by more than 9 percent. However, poverty rates remain just under 40 percent, and economic growth outside the capital and two port



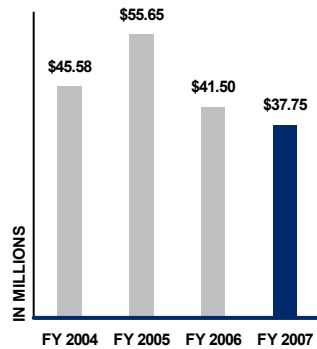
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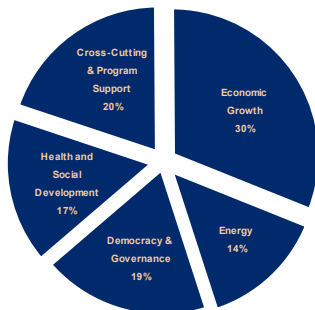
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## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA



### FY 2007 Funding per Program Area



Governing Justly & Democratically: \$7,000,000  
 Economic Growth: \$10,000,000  
 Energy: \$9,000,000  
 Health and Social Development: \$10,000,000  
 Cross-Cutting & Program Support: \$4,500,000

Funding Source: Freedom Support Funds

Data Source: Congressional Budget Justification 2006

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cities remains slow, threatening future economic and political stability. Moreover, the Russian ban on Georgian agricultural products has placed an additional strain on rural incomes and the agricultural sector, which employs more than half of the population. USAID works with the government to continue to develop and implement reforms that make it easier for businesses to operate, pay taxes, and attract investment. Small and medium sized businesses are being supported by increasing their access to capital, improving their ability to effectively advocate to the government, and upgrading their business skills. Agribusinesses are being provided assistance to find new markets, increase the competitiveness of Georgia's agricultural exports, and develop locally produced goods. With USAID support, rural communities have helped to create and implement community economic development plans and expand rural enterprises. USAID also assists the government to complete the privatization of state-owned agricultural lands.

### IMPROVING ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY SERVICES

During the last few years, the Government of Georgia has implemented a number of energy sector reforms which have yielded increased power supplies nationwide. Yet overall, energy services still do not meet social needs or the economic demands of investors. Currently, USAID supports the government of Georgia in developing the country's energy resources; lessening dependence on imports; diversifying supply and import sources; and maximizing the benefits of regional energy transit and trade. USAID resources are used to increase electricity capacity at hydropower plants; leverage financing for rural energy and energy efficiency projects; and provide training and technical assistance to support human and institutional capacity to develop and implement energy policy and regulations which encourage investment in the sector.

### WORKING TOWARD A HEALTHIER, MORE SECURE POPULATION

USAID also works closely with the Government of Georgia to effect health, education and child welfare reforms. An education project helps the Government of Georgia to decentralize education, improve management and create a national accreditation system. USAID resources are used to help street children and other vulnerable and at-risk children and improve government coordination and community involvement in social policy. USAID's health program includes partnerships between Georgian and American health institutions and a vast array of women's health activities targeted to improving maternal and child care, increasing the use of family planning and reproductive health services, managing infectious disease, preventing STI/HIV, and boosting immunizations among children. USAID provides technical assistance to the Government of Georgia to implement healthcare sector reforms.

On behalf of the American people, the U.S. government has provided humanitarian assistance and economic development to those in need around the world since the Marshall Plan.