

COUNTRY PROFILE

MAY 2009



Internally displaced children outside a former medical center in Tbilisi look on as USAID hygiene kits are distributed to families.

OVERVIEW

Georgia is a key U.S. ally in the war on terrorism and a gateway for energy resources from the region to Europe and beyond. Since the 2003 Rose



Tbilisi

Revolution, the Government of Georgia (GOG) has carried out numerous democratic and economic reforms, raising living standards of its citizens. To help Georgia become a vibrant, free-market, and stable democracy, USAID focuses on good governance and the rule of law, economic growth and energy security, health, and education.

In early August 2008, heightened tensions between a South Ossetian separatist group and Georgian and Russian forces escalated into armed conflict, affecting areas within

Georgia. Fighting and aerial attacks killed a number of civilians, displaced more than 100,000 people, and damaged or destroyed public infrastructure. To date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$62 million in humanitarian assistance. During the October 2008 Georgia Donors Conference, USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore pledged \$1 billion to support internally displaced people, rebuild infrastructure, reestablish economic growth, expand democratic initiatives, and restore investor confidence in the Georgian economy.

PROGRAMS

STRENGTHENING POST-ROSE REVOLUTION GOVERNANCE

After the August 2008 conflict with Russia, the GOG renewed its commitment to expanded democratic initiatives, which include strengthening the checks and balances of Georgia's democratic institutions; provision of protections to foster greater political pluralism; strengthening the rule of law by introducing enhanced due process trials by jury and lifetime judicial appointments; and expanding the protection of private property. USAID works with the Parliament of Georgia to support multi-party debate on reform policy and legislation and to improve legislative research and policy development capacity of targeted parliamentary bodies, which includes a campaign to improve the organizing skills of emerging women leaders. USAID helps local governments take on increased responsibilities and engage citizens in decision-making. USAID helps the Georgian judiciary with the magistrates system, updating the ethics code, opinion writing and

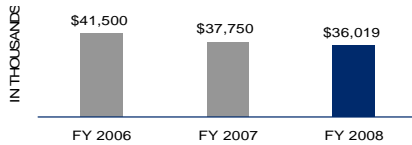
GEORGIA SNAPSHOT

Date of Independence:
April 9, 1991
Capital: Tbilisi
Population: 4.5 million
GDP per person: \$2,315

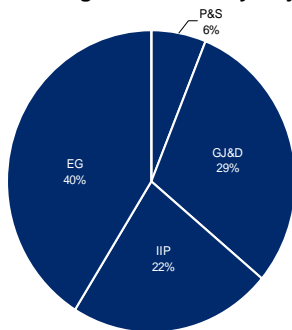
**For more information,
see www.usaid.gov
Keyword: Georgia**

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA



FY 2008 Budget Allocation by Objective



Peace & Security: \$2,140,000
 Governing Justly & Democratically:
 \$10,489,000
 Investing In People: \$8,017,000
 Economic Growth: \$14,332,000

Based on FY 2008 Freedom Support Act and Child Survival and Health funds.

These data do not include monies under the \$1 billion pledge made by the United States Government at the October 2008 Donors' Conference.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Joakim Parker
 Acting Mission Director
 USAID/Caucasus
 11 George Balanchine Street
 Tbilisi, Georgia 0131
 Tel: +011-995-32-54-40-00

Donald Harrison
 Desk Officer for Azerbaijan and Georgia
 Tel: 202-712-0295
 Email: dharrison@usaid.gov

court administration, and case management. USAID supports the GOG in developing anti-trafficking in persons legislation, providing help to protect victims and assisting with public awareness campaigns. Working at the local level, USAID helps minority groups living in isolated regions.

STIMULATING GEORGIA'S ECONOMY

Since 2005, Georgia has moved up to 15th place from 112th among 181 countries surveyed on the World Bank's annual Doing Business ranking. Nonetheless, many challenges remain. USAID works with the GOG to develop and implement reforms that make it easier for businesses to operate, pay taxes, and attract investment. Small and medium-sized businesses are supported by increasing their access to capital, improving their ability to advocate to the government, and upgrading their business skills. Agri-businesses are provided with assistance to find new markets, increase the competitiveness of Georgia's exports, and develop locally produced goods. With USG support, rural communities are developing economic development plans that expand rural enterprises. USAID also assists the GOG in completing the privatization of state-owned agricultural lands.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY SERVICES

The GOG has implemented reforms in the energy sector resulting in increased power supplies nationwide. Yet, energy services still do not meet the country's needs. USAID supports the GOG in developing Georgia'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 technical assistance to support institutional capacity to implement energy policy and regulations which encourage investment in the sector.

WORKING FOR A HEALTHIER, MORE SECURE POPULATION

USAID also delivers programming to improve health, education, and child welfare in Georgia. In education, USAID helps the GOG decentralize education, improve management, and create a national accreditation system. The health program includes partnerships between Georgian and American health institutions; activities to improve maternal and child care and increase the use of family planning and reproductive health services; disease management and prevention programs for STI/HIV and tuberculosis; children's immunizations; and technical assistance to implement reforms.