



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## **Georgia – Complex Emergency**

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 14, 2008

### **BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Since early August, heightened tension between a South Ossetian separatist group and Georgian and Russian armed forces escalated into armed conflict, affecting areas within Georgia and along the Georgia-Russia border. Fighting and aerial attacks have killed an unconfirmed number of civilians, displaced populations, and damaged or destroyed public infrastructure including hospitals and additional medical facilities.
- On August 12, the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) and the Government of Georgia (GoG) agreed to a cessation of hostilities brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy on behalf of the European Union, according to international media. However, the situation remains tense, particularly in South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and around Gori town in Shida Kartli Region as of August 14.
- On August 13, President Bush reiterated USG support for GoG and called on all parties in the conflict to protect civilians from attack. Secretary Rice is traveling to Paris to confer with President Sarkozy en route to the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, to convey support for the ceasefire and populations affected by the conflict.
- On August 13, the U.N. Country Team (UNCT) reported that President Sarkozy is traveling to Moscow, Russia, and Tbilisi, Georgia, to present a three-phase plan aimed at resolving the conflict and mediating a ceasefire.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>Newly Displaced Persons in Georgia</b>	70,000	OCHA <sup>1</sup> - August 12, 2008
<b>Newly Displaced Persons in Russia</b>	30,000	OCHA - August 12, 2008

### **FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....</b>	<b>\$1,350,000</b>
<b>State/EUR/ACE<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Georgia .....</b>	<b>\$2,420,000</b>
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....</b>	<b>\$3,770,000</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- Although insecurity is complicating efforts to determine the precise number and locations of people displaced in the recent fighting, U.N. agencies estimate that up to 70,000 people are displaced within Georgia, and approximately 30,000 people may have fled to North Ossetia in Russia, as of August 13. Estimates of civilian casualties vary from approximately 170 to nearly 2,000 deaths, according to media and UNCT references of GoG and GoRF figures. The number of casualties and internally displaced persons (IDPs) may increase as additional information becomes available.
- As of August 13, the UNCT reported that the security environment continues to hinder initial humanitarian assessments in South Ossetia Region and western areas of Georgia. A joint-U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) security assessment of Gori town reported evidence of looting and noted that police and local government buildings are abandoned. However, conditions in Tbilisi are returning to normal, as of August 14.
- The UNCT notes that Tbilisi International Airport and Batumi port are reportedly operational, although the situation at Georgia's main port of Poti is currently unclear.

#### ***Displacement***

- USAID field staff in Georgia note UNHCR and GoG estimates that between 40,000 and 60,000 of the IDPs within Georgia are currently in and around Tbilisi, with the remainder seeking temporary shelter in Gori, Poti, Senaki, Zugdidi, and Mestia towns. On August 13, OCHA reported that approximately 56,000 of the total number of IDPs were displaced from heavy fighting in and around Gori town.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE)

- As of August 13, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports 48 registered centers for IDPs in Tbilisi and nearby areas. The GoG and relief agencies are prioritizing the registration of IDPs in order to determine priority humanitarian needs. To date, USAID/Georgia reports GoG and UNHCR estimates that approximately 25,000 people require immediate assistance.

### ***Emergency Relief Supplies***

- UNHCR worked to identify existing stocks of emergency relief supplies within Georgia and has received sufficient emergency relief commodities for up to 40,000 people in the past two days. Recent shipments supplement existing stocks of blankets, water containers, kitchen sets, and shelter material in-country.
- ICRC has established an air bridge from its logistics center in Amman, Jordan to Tbilisi, Georgia. On August 13, the first of five scheduled ICRC flights arrived in Tbilisi, delivering food and non-food commodities for 5,000 beneficiaries. ICRC is preparing to ship 35 tons of emergency relief supplies, including blankets, plastic sheeting, water cans, and hygiene supplies in the coming days.
- On August 13, the first of two U.S. European Command flights carrying USG-provided emergency relief and medical supplies arrived in Tbilisi. The second flight, carrying additional commodities including 104,000 doses of antibiotics requested by the GoG Ministry of Health, arrived on August 14. The total value of the shipments is more than \$1.2 million.

### ***Humanitarian Coordination***

- On August 11, ICRC issued an initial appeal for \$7.4 million to provide immediate relief targeting 50,000 people affected by the ongoing conflict.
- On August 13, the UNCT reported that U.N. agencies are preparing a Flash Appeal for international assistance scheduled to be released on August 18. U.N. agencies are facilitating sector-specific coordination groups for more than 30 U.N. and additional relief agencies operating in Georgia.
- The logistics coordination group is working to identify existing transportation, storage, and communication infrastructure within the country.

### ***Emergency Food Assistance***

- On August 13, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) dispatched two flights carrying 34 metric tons (MT) of high energy biscuits from Brindisi, Italy to Tbilisi, Georgia. As of August 13, WFP has sufficient stocks in country to meet the emergency needs of approximately 16,000 people for ten days, and the incoming flights will supplement existing stocks.
- Since August 9, WFP has provided food assistance to a total of 10,050 beneficiaries, including ten-day rations of flour, oil, beans, sugar, and salt to IDPs gathered in temporary shelters. WFP also plans to provide high energy biscuits to individuals without access to cooking facilities and has identified bakeries in areas with concentrations of IDPs in order to support local production and distribution of bread to affected populations.
- On August 14, USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million to WFP for the procurement of more than 650 MT of emergency food commodities from Georgia and additional countries in the region, including approximately 31 MT of high energy biscuits currently in-country.

### **USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi for the provision of emergency relief supplies to benefit up to 10,000 people. USAID/OFDA has also provided \$1 million for the local procurement of emergency food commodities.
- On August 13, the enhanced USAID/OFDA regional team for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia transitioned to a Response Management Team based in Washington D.C. to coordinate USG humanitarian response efforts, identify priority needs, and program additional emergency assistance. In addition, USAID/OFDA is deploying a Disaster Assistance Response Team to Tbilisi to conduct humanitarian needs assessments, coordinate with the GoG and relief agencies, and inform further USAID assistance priorities. USAID/OFDA continues to work closely with the U.S. Department of State, Department of Defense, and humanitarian agencies on the ground to coordinate relief activities.
- The U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi released Department of State pre-positioned disaster packages including medical supplies, tents, blankets, bedding, hygiene items, and clothing valued at \$1.2 million.
- As of August 14, two U.S. European Command flights have transported State/EUR/ACE-provided relief and medical supplies to Tbilisi. The flights, carrying additional relief commodities and medical supplies, including 104,000 doses of antibiotics requested by the GoG Ministry of Health, are valued at more than \$1.2 million.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
USAID/Georgia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Khashuri, Borjomi, Akhaltsikhe	\$250,000
WFP	653.40 metric tons (MT) of Emergency Food Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Administration and DART Support		\$100,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,350,000</b>
<b>STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE</b>			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,220,000
Multiple	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,200,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE</b>			<b>\$2,420,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$3,770,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 14, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> 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 and do not include the cost of U.S. European Command military flights that have transported the supplies from warehouses in Germany to Georgia.

**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](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)