

June 2009



# GEORGIA

*Agriculture  
Food Security  
Livelihoods*



Newly installed water troughs for cattle in Shavshvebi village, Gori district., June 2009

Emergency Rehabilitation Coordination Unit

# Fact Sheet

The Food and Agricultural Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) responded rapidly to the August 2008 conflict, working with the Government of Georgia and international partners to conduct a comprehensive agricultural sector needs assessment and appeal for emergency agricultural support through the UN Consolidated Appeal Process.

In response to the Georgia Crisis Flash Appeal Launched in August, the USAID contributed USD 112 714 (OSRO/GEO/801/USA) to fund agriculture sector assessment mission. Based on the findings of this assessment an Agricultural-based Livelihoods and Rehabilitation Programme Formulation Mission report was produced. The USAID provided a USD 5.5 million (OSRO/GEO/802/USA) grant to the FAO for the emergency supply of animal feed in conflict affected areas of Shida Kartli, and in order establish an Emergency Rehabilitation Coordination Unit in Georgia.

To support the resumption of vegetable production, which was disrupted due to the loss of farming assets, damage to the 2008 summer harvest, and insufficient cash flow, the Government of Italy allocated EUR 800,000 (OSRO/GEO/803/ITA) for emergency assistance to small-scale farmers for crop production in conflict affected Areas Adjacent to South Ossetia (AASO).

## Georgia Facts

Population: 4 615 807 (Jul 09 est.)

Area: 69 700 sq km

Administrative divisions: 2 Autonomous republics, 9 Regions & 1 City (Autonomous Republics of Abkhazia and Adjara; Regions of Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, Samegrelo and Zemo Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Shida Kartli; Tbilisi City)

Land use: 11% Arable, 25% Pasture, 34% Forest

Main agricultural products: citrus fruits, grapes, tea, hazelnuts, vegetables and livestock

GDP composition by sector: (2008 est.)  
Agriculture: 12.8% Industry: 28.4%; Services: 58.8%

Labour force (2.02 million) by occupation: (2006 est.)  
Agriculture: 55.6%; Industry: 8.9%; Services: 35.5%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): (2008 est.) 11.3%

The Human Development Index (HDI) for Georgia is 0.763, ranking 93<sup>rd</sup> out of 179 countries with data.

For more information about the indicators please visit:  
[http://hdrstats.undp.org/2008/countries/country\\_fact\\_sheets/cty\\_fs\\_GEO.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/2008/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_GEO.html)

Sources: CIA-The World Fact Book & Human Development Reports, UNDP.

For Food Security Situation in Georgia, please visit:  
<http://www.statistics.ge/main.php?form=57&plang=1>

### Facts & Figures

**127** conflict affected villages

**18 244** beneficiaries

**4 240 MT** of concentrated animal feed

**46 905** cattle treated for endoparasites

**35** water troughs installed in **17** villages



## “Emergency supply of animal feed to conflict affected small-scale farming households and support to the Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster coordination in Georgia” (OSRO/GEO/802/USA)

The project aims to protect livelihoods of vulnerable livestock holders in conflict-affected area and provides technical assistance and coordination support to ensure that the affected population accrues greater benefits from all related rural households food security intervention. With this intervention, FAO managed to help most vulnerable small-scale farming households in Shida Kartli region.

The intervention included distribution of concentrated animal feed, dosing against endoparasites (de-worming) and provision of proper access to drinking water for cattle.

The intervention was implemented with close cooperation of FAO's four implementing partners (*CARE International, Save the Children, World Vision, International and Orthodox Christian Charities*) and also received logistical support from UN World Food Programme (WFP).

Furthermore, as part of the in-country interagency coordination agreement to strengthen the humanitarian response, FAO is co-chairing the Food Security Cluster in Georgia with WFP.

### Facts & Figures

**22** conflict affected villages

**7 369** beneficiaries

**4 800 kg** of vegetable seeds

**368.8 MT** of NPK fertilizers

Training sessions on modern vegetable planting and cultivation techniques



## “Emergency Provision of Agricultural Inputs and Support to Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster Coordination in Georgia” (OSRO/GEO/803/ITA)

The project aims to protect the livelihoods of vulnerable small-scale farming households in conflict-affected area and to restart agricultural production of most vulnerable small-scale farmers in conflict affected areas through the provision of vegetable seed varieties, fertilizer and provide technical assistance in successfully planting and cropping vegetables.

The intervention includes distribution of vegetable seeds (tomato, cabbage, carrot, cucumber and beetroot) and complex NPK fertilizer. For each vegetable variety, instructions have been prepared and disseminated amongst farmers, introducing improved cultivation technologies, crop production practices and on-farm water management.

To support this training sessions were designed and conducted in all target villages by FAO's implementing partners – *CARE International in the Caucasus* and *World Vision International*. The training overviewed main principles of modern vegetable planting and growing techniques.

Most of the activities detailed in the Revised Flash Appeal, and designed to guarantee the continuation of agricultural production capacity and food security to pre-conflict levels were not funded. Although the emergency phase is now over, the Revised Flash Appeal did not generate sufficient funds required to fully reboot agricultural activities and most recovery activities.

A joint food security, agricultural livelihoods and nutrition needs assessment, conducted by WFP, FAO and UNICEF during February 2009, took stock of the situation in IDP settlements and returnee villages since the onset of the immediate emergency response. The assessment revealed that in IDP settlements food security has been adequate due to ongoing provision of basic food rations; however, key to establishing sustainable food security will be kitchen gardens to improve nutritional diversity and improvement of water management to increase availability of water for irrigation. In returnee villages in the Area Adjacent to South Ossetia, re-establishing pre-conflict agricultural production levels will require agriculture and cash inputs and credit facilities. However, during the transition period sustainability of food security among returnee vulnerable small-scale farming households, provision of food and income support will be required through a low-tech, labour intensive food for work (FFW) and cash for work (CFW) programs.

A 'Hydrology and irrigation assessment in Shida Kartli region of Georgia' is currently being carried out to assess current status, needs and feasibility of irrigation in support to returnees and internally displaced populations in resettlement areas. The objective is to prepare a problem-oriented description and result-oriented analysis of the hydrology and irrigation situation in the Shida Kartli region promoting reduced dependency on traditional irrigation practices, improved and more efficient use of natural resources to augment agricultural production and promote more sustainable agricultural livelihoods for conflict affected populations.

A UNIFEM/FAO ERCU GenCap Gender Adviser is in-country supporting the work of a needs assessment in three regions in Georgia: Shida Kartli, Samtskhe Javakheti and Kvema Kartli. The needs assessment is aiming at identifying the specific needs in the agricultural sector, of conflict affected men and women. The objective is to capture the different needs, roles, priorities, abilities, responsibilities, etc of men and women in order to, in the next phase, develop programs and projects based on gender analysis. The method applied is semi-structured group interviews of mixed and single-sex groups.

It is critical that over the next few months the affected population should be provided with the agricultural livelihood support they need to ensure that sufficient harvest and livestock rehabilitation takes place in 2009. Without this, the food security emergency phase will be protracted well into 2010.



### FAO's Proposed Activities 2009-2010

- Provision of agricultural inputs to restart food and feed production as well as a seed sector analysis.
- Rehabilitation of agricultural production through restored irrigation and cultivation of horticultural crops, kitchen gardens, animal fodder and cereals.
- Restarting livestock production; animal and plant health control; technical support to extension services.

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