

September 2009

GEORGIA



*Agriculture  
Food Security  
Livelihoods*



*Silage production training in targeted villages  
in Shida Kartli region*

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.

The USAID provided a USD5.5 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 EUR800 000 (**OSRO/GEO/803/ITA**) for emergency assistance to small-scale farmers for crop production in conflict affected areas.

Recently, the European Commission (EC) has funded the FAO with EUR1 million (**OSRO/GEO/902/EC**) for the restoration and improvement of agriculture based livelihoods and food security for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in newly established settlements and returnees in the Area 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\\_sheet/cty\\_fs\\_GEO.html](http://hdrstats.undp.org/2008/countries/country_fact_sheet/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?pform=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.

FAO plans to treat additional 25 000 cows for endoparasites in 51 villages and distribute 255 MT of concentrated animal feed to the most vulnerable house-holds in 47 villages who lost access to arable and pasture land.

The FAO has developed a plan to ensure continuity and sustainability of the newly introduced feeding practices through training to beneficiary communities to learn how to produce silage and introduce modern production techniques.

Furthermore, 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



## “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 livelihoods of vulnerable livestock holders in conflict-affected area and to restart their agricultural production through the provision of vegetable seed varieties, fertilizer and technical assistance in planting and cropping vegetables.

The intervention included distribution of vegetable seeds (tomato, cabbage, carrot, cucumber and beetroot) and complex NPK fertilizer. Instructions were prepared and disseminated amongst farmers, introducing improved cultivation

technologies, crop production practices and on-farm water management.

FAO and its implementing partner World Vision International have also completed detailed training on vegetable harvesting, storage, conservation and marketing techniques in 22 target villages in Shida Kartli region. The detailed script on the follow up training will be also prepared for production and airing of TV documentary during this fall season.

## “Restoration and improvement of agriculture based livelihoods and food security of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in newly established settlements and returnees in the Area Adjacent to South Ossetia (AASO)” (OSRO/GEO/902/EC)

The main objective of the project is to assure the food security and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable conflict-affected population in Georgia through the recovery and establishment of agricultural production and provision of solutions for improved irrigation sources and supply.

The project will be implemented in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP). WFP will implement Cash for Work/ Food for Work incentive measures linked to FAO proposed technical activities and livelihood inputs such as provision of livestock, agriculture inputs and technical guidelines.

The joint food security, agricultural livelihoods and nutrition needs assessment, conducted by WFP, FAO and UNICEF during February 2009, led to the formulation of this project. The assessment 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 on-going provision of basic food rations; however, kitchen gardens will be key to establishing sustainable food security in order to improve nutritional diversity, as well as improvement of water management to increase availability of water for irrigation.

A 'Hydrology and irrigation assessment in Shida Kartli region of Georgia' has already been carried out. It assessed the current status, needs and feasibility of irrigation in support to returnees and internally displaced populations in resettlement areas. The objectives were 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. Various recommendations from the assessment have been reflected in the European Commission funded project, and aim to address water management problems affecting conflict affected populations and their agricultural livelihoods.

It is critical that over the next few months the affected populations 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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