

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESIDENT/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS

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| Country | Georgia |
| Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator | Jamie M^cGoldrick |
| Reporting Period | 1 December 2009 to 1 March 2010 |

I. Summary of Funding and Beneficiaries

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|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------|
| Funding (US\$) | Total amount required for the humanitarian response: | | \$3,428,954 | |
| | Total amount received for the humanitarian response: | | \$1,000,450 | |
| | Breakdown of total country funding received by source: | CERF | | \$1,000,450 |
| | | CHF/HRF COUNTRY LEVEL FUNDS | | 0 |
| | | OTHER (Bilateral/Multilateral) | | 0 |
| | Total amount of CERF funding received from the Rapid Response window: | | \$1,000,450 | |
| | Total amount of CERF funding received from the Underfunded window: | | 0 | |
| | Please provide the breakdown of CERF funds by type of partner: | a. Direct UN agencies/IOM implementation: | | \$409,242 |
| | | b. Funds forwarded to NGOs for implementation (in Annex, please provide a list of each NGO and amount of CERF funding forwarded): | | \$525,758 |
| | | c. Overhead costs | | \$65,450 |
| d. TOTAL: | | | \$1,000,450 | |
| Beneficiaries | Total number of individuals affected by the crisis: | | 80,000 | |
| | Total number of individuals reached with CERF funding: | | 5,724 households (around 22,643 people) | |
| | | | Around 1,250 children under 5 | |
| | | | Around 11,800 females | |
| Geographical areas of implementation: | | Shida Kartli | | |

II. Analysis

In Georgia there are nearly 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and asylum seekers in need of humanitarian assistance from the Government, , who are being supported by the international community. This includes some 130,000 who were displaced during armed conflict August 2008, and some vulnerable IDPs from the conflict during the early 1990s. Of the former, some 100,000 returned home in October 2008 to find damaged or destroyed homes and ruined harvests; of the latter, around 50% still live in dilapidated collective centres, many of which lack proper heating systems. Many families rely on firewood for their only heating and cooking source, whilst others have broken windows and doors, exposing residents to the elements. The Government of Georgia (GoG) initiated a programme to improve shelter conditions and provide all households with functioning gas heating and stoves. However, the programme lacks resources and cannot reach all families.

The Government's resources, which were already negatively impacted by the global financial crisis and further exacerbated by an economic downturn following the 2008 conflict, were further depleted following an earthquake (measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale) in central-northern Georgia in September 2009. Fortunately there were few casualties but over 1,000 people were left without proper shelter and many lost their assets.

In November 2009, it became apparent to the UN Country Team (UNCT) that the GoG was experiencing budget shortfalls in a number of critical areas and would not be able to provide services that it had promised, nor could it include all newly vulnerable people in social safety net programmes. On the understanding that GoG would have been providing for these needs, UN agencies had not factored this additional humanitarian assistance into their 2009 operations, and nearing the end of the operational year, there was insufficient funds to meet this new crisis. With winter temperatures in Georgia liable to fall as low as -5°C, and in the knowledge that nearly 100,000 people would be living in conditions during the winter which would be far worse than the previous one, the UNCT was prompted to request financial assistance from the CERF's Rapid Response window to help the following people:

- 6,000 IDP households living in particularly run-down collective centres and in urgent need of a warm, dry room and a regular source of heat to survive the winter and / or vulnerable households affected by the earthquake.
- 80,000 IDPs and returnees (particularly those in collective centres or newly resettled in government housing) who financially had still not been able to recover from the August 2008 conflict and therefore were unable provide for themselves with non-food items (NFIs), health care and medicines during the severe winter months, nor receive support from the GoG.
- 8,000 families, identified through United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) protection monitoring, living in villages of areas adjacent to South Ossetia who had lost access to forests (traditional places for firewood collection) and who might be tempted to venture into insecure areas near the administrative boundary line thereby risking possible detention.

Four UN agencies (UNHCR, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), and International Organization for Migration (IOM)) submitted a request for just under \$3.5 million. The final response from the Emergency Relief Coordinator was to assist the most vulnerable people in urgent need of life-saving assistance, and a grant was allocated to UNHCR for \$1 million (out of a \$3 million UNHCR emergency assistance plan) to cover specific winter needs such as firewood distribution and collective centre repairs for the most vulnerable IDPs.

The UNCT in Georgia enjoys an exceptional good inter-agency coordination (with joint programmes being run throughout the country), however with only UNHCR receiving funds under this particular grant, implementation was carried out by UNHCR alone.

Implementation

In total, 10,943m³ firewood was distributed to 5,471 households in 33 villages, which were the most severely affected by the August 2008 armed conflict, on the basis of 2m³ of firewood per households as follows:

- UNHCR Field Office Gori distributed 6,340m³ firewood to 3,170 households in 7 villages in areas adjacent to South Ossetia, namely Kirbali, Bershueti, Tkviavi, Tirznisi, Brotsleti, Kveshi, Akhalubani;
- CARE International distributed 4,603m³ firewood to 2,301 households in 6 villages, namely Dvani, Kvemo Khviti, Zemo Nikozo, Zemo Khviti, Megvrekisi, Kvemo Nikozi and to 400 vulnerable households in 20 villages in Kaspi district.

The winterization project targeted the emergency repair of ten Collective Centres in Tbilisi which house IDPs who had fled Abkhazia in the early 90's but who have not yet received any durable housing solution either from the Government of Georgia (GoG) or the international community, as planned under GoG committed 'Key Principles – Improvement of housing conditions for IDPs in Georgia 2009' programme.

Following consultations between UNHCR and the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (MRA), the latter provided a list of 20 collective centres in Tbilisi that required emergency repairs to maintain an adequate standard of living for the IDP occupants. Based on assessments undertaken by International Relief & Development (IRD) engineers, ten of these Collective Centres were selected for this project in which 253 families (759 people) reside.

Major interventions undertaken were: repairing water and sewage systems including cleaning existing wells and restoring old ones; fixing electricity supply problems; minor works to fix damaged roofs; replacement of broken windows and doors; improving bathroom facilities at few sites. These interventions were completed by end February.

Impact

Distribution of firewood was beneficial in a number of ways including: protecting the environment in / around the villages from illegal logging; providing necessary heat and cooking facilities for the families, especially vulnerable members such as children under five, elderly and sick; avoiding the need to forage near / over the administrative boundary line with South Ossetia which frequently results in people being detained, fined, ill-treated, etc.

Repairing and fixing ten collective centres not only provided clean sanitary conditions for nearly 800 IDPs, but also protected them from the harsh winter conditions in Georgia thereby reducing the likelihood of illness and possible death. Targeting people who have been displaced for some 16 years, with little or no assistance from any entity, also had an added benefit of giving these people some hope of a future of years of despondency and neglect.

Value Added

By late 2009, the Government of Georgia realised that they had insufficient funds to help vulnerable IDPs survive the winter. The UN had not budgeted for this assistance and had insufficient funds to meet this new crisis.

Being able to quickly access 1m USD, albeit it only one third of the funds needed, meant that UNHCR was able to help nearly 23,000 out of the original 80,000 individuals that had been identified as in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The timeframe from submitting a request for urgent funding to CERF (early November) to confirmation that \$1 million would be allocated (out of the \$3.5 million submission) was less than one month. Such a fast response enabled UNHCR and its implementing partners to quickly procure and distribute firewood, and to undertake urgent winterization activities in ten collective centres.

III. Results

| Sector/ Cluster | CERF project number and title (if applicable, please provide CAP/Flash Project Code) | Amount disbursed from CERF (US\$) | Total Project Budget (US\$) | Number of Beneficiaries targeted with CERF funding | Expected Results/ Outcomes | Results and improvements for the target beneficiaries | CERF's added value to the project | Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms | Gender Equity |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Shelter | 09-HCR-042 Winterization assistance for vulnerable displaced population | \$1,000,450 | \$3,428,954 | 5,724 households (approx. 22,643 people) Approx. 1,250 children under 5 Approx. 11,800 females | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Firewood distribution: 5,234 households receive an average of 2 m³ of firewood each (approx. 11,000 m³). ■ Emergency shelter repairs: 800 IDP households living in 30 sub-standards collective centres provided with quick winterization fixes. | <p>10,943m³ firewood was distributed to 5,471 households in 33 villages.</p> <p>Distribution of firewood was beneficial in a number of ways including: protecting the environment in / around the villages from illegal logging; providing necessary heat and cooking facilities for the families, especially vulnerable members such as children under 5, elderly and sick; avoiding the need to forage near / over the administrative boundary line with South Ossetia which frequently results in people being detained, fined, ill-treated, etc.</p> <p>Ten collective centres were selected for this project in which 253 families (759 people) reside.</p> <p>Major interventions undertaken were: repairing water and sewage systems including cleaning existing wells and restoring old ones; fixing electricity supply problems; minor works to fix damaged roofs; replacement of broken windows and doors; improving bathroom facilities at few sites. These interventions were completed by end February.</p> <p>Targeting people who have been displaced for some 16 years, with little or no assistance from any entity, also had an added benefit of giving these people some hope of a future of years of despondency and neglect.</p> | <p>Being able to quickly access \$1million, albeit it only one third of the funds needed, meant that UNHCR was able to help nearly 23,000 out of the original 80,000 individuals that had been identified as in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>Repairing and fixing ten collective centres not only provided clean sanitary conditions for nearly 800 IDPs, but also protected them from the harsh winter conditions in Georgia thereby reducing the likelihood of illness and possible death.</p> <p>Targeting people who have been displaced for some 16 years, with little or no assistance from any entity, also had an added benefit of giving these people some hope of a future of years of despondency and neglect.</p> | | The needs of particularly vulnerable families were considered (single-headed households, elderly, etc.) and half of the beneficiaries were females. |

Annex 1: NGOs and CERF Funds Forwarded to each Implementing NGO Partner

| NGO Partner | Amount Forwarded | Date Funds Forwarded |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| CARE International | \$318,273 | 20/01/2010 22/02/2010 |
| IRD | \$207,485 | 20/01/2010 |

Annex 2: Acronyms

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|--------------|---|
| GoG | Government of Georgia |
| IDPs | Internally Displaced Persons |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IRD | International Relief and Development |
| MRA | Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation |
| NFIs | Non-food Items |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| WHO | World Health Organization |