

USAID | GEORGIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COUNTRY PROFILE

January 2010



Humanitarian assistance provided by USAID.

OVERVIEW



Tbilisi

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 Revolution, the Government of Georgia (GOG) has carried out numerous democratic and economic reforms, raising the living standards of its citizens. It has had to cope with major protests in November 2007 and spring 2009, as well as the effects of an August 2008 war with Russia. To help Georgia become a vibrant, free-market and stable democracy, USAID focuses on good governance and

the rule of law, economic growth, energy security, health and education.

PROGRAMS

STABILIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION

In early August 2008, heightened tensions in the region escalated into armed conflict between Georgia and Russia. Fighting displaced more than 130,000 people, and damaged or destroyed public infrastructure and private resources. The U.S. Government pledged \$1 billion to support internally displaced people, rebuild infrastructure, reestablish economic growth, expand democratic initiatives and restore investor confidence in the Georgian economy. USAID implements the majority of this special pledge.

EXPANDING DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION & STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

While political tension between the majority party and the opposition colors many aspects of political life in Georgia, the GOG has stated its commitment to expanded democratic initiatives, including strengthening the checks and balances of Georgia's democratic institutions; providing protections to foster greater political pluralism; helping select GOG institutions increase institutional accountability, promoting public sector dialogue with civil society; and strengthening the rule of law. USAID works with the Parliament of Georgia to improve its human and institutional capacity and is strengthening the ability of members of parliament and parliamentary party caucuses to engage one another in constructive policy debate. USAID supports increased public confidence in elections by improving the electoral code and elections administration. U.S. assistance is helping ethnic minorities integrate into the country's social, political and economic life, promoting an increased sense of national unity among the citizens of Georgia. USAID is strengthening political parties' organizational capacity and links to society and increasing the ability of parties to represent their constituencies, to compete in elections, and to broaden the pool of potential young leaders who enter into the political sphere. USAID has been assisting local governments, as they assume greater responsibilities and engage communities in decision making, and assisting government institutions in developing institutional capability and improving systems for providing citizen services. USAID is helping to improve the quality and timeliness of judicial decision making, improving court practices, providing resources for court staff to process cases in a timely and efficient manner, and

GEORGIA SNAPSHOT

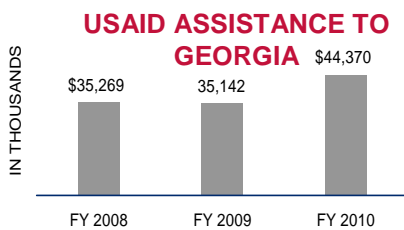
Date of Independence:
April 9, 1991
Capital: Tbilisi
Population: 4.5 million
GDP per person: \$2,921

For more information, see
www.georgia.usaid.gov

improving the public's access to, use of and understanding of the courts and their facilities.

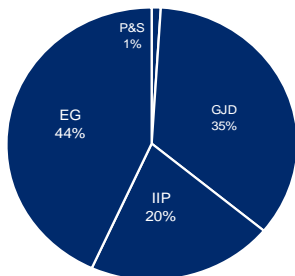
STIMULATING GEORGIA'S ECONOMY

Since 2005, Georgia has moved up from 112th to 11th place among the 183 countries ranked on the World Bank's annual Doing Business survey. Yet many challenges remain to create a more stable and efficient economic environment that can attract foreign investment, create jobs, generate broad-based and sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty. Constraints to achieving these goals include fragmented markets, a lack of reliable economic information, low productivity and limited access to capital. USAID helps to address these constraints by strengthening public and private sector economic institutions; building sustainable capacity; developing systems to enable the flow of economic information; implementing and institutionalizing reforms; supporting agricultural and non-agricultural micro, small, and medium-sized businesses; assisting in the development of mechanization service centers to enable affordable and sustainable use of technologies for agricultural production; and targeting vulnerable groups to reduce poverty and improve food security.



*FY 2011 Combined CBJ Request: \$68,660

FY 2010 Budget Allocation by Assistance Objective



Peace & Security \$500,000
 Governing Justly & Democratically: \$15,565,000
 Investing In People: \$9,025,000
 Economic Growth: \$119,280,000

Based on FY 2010 Assistance to Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia (AEECA)

CAPITALIZING ON GEORGIA'S ENERGY POTENTIAL

The GOG has implemented reforms in the energy sector that have resulted in significant increases in Georgia's power supplies. Still, the country's energy potential remains largely untapped. USAID is working to catalyze change in the energy sphere. USAID supports the GOG and the private sector in developing Georgia's energy resources, lessening dependence on imports, increasing exports, diversifying supply and import sources and infrastructure, and maximizing the benefits of regional energy transit and trade. USAID resources are used to increase investments in hydropower plants, build natural gas transit and electricity transmission infrastructure to expand internal access and develop export opportunity, leverage financing for energy efficiency projects and promote their benefit to the economy, and build human and institutional capacity to strategically manage and develop the sector.

WORKING FOR A HEALTHIER, MORE SECURE POPULATION

USAID also delivers programming to improve health, education, and social welfare in Georgia. USAID's education programs are helping the GOG improve education management and administration, increase equality in education funding, and strengthen vocational training to develop Georgia's workforce in tourism and construction. The programs in social area help to protect rights and assure quality services to the most vulnerable children and people with disabilities. The health program includes activities to improve maternal and child care and increase the use of quality reproductive health services; programs for HIV prevention, tuberculosis treatment and control, and Hepatitis B prevention; management capacity building and technical assistance on wide arrays of health policy issues in support of the reform; establishment of new business relationships between the insurance industry and health service providers; and support of clinical trainings for nurses and emergency medical personnel.

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