

To Support IDPs in Georgia

Introduction

In the last couple of weeks the situation in Georgia has dramatically changed. Currently Georgia is in State of War. Namely, in violation with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the Russian Federation has used force against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, thus forcing Georgia to act in self-defense in accordance with requirements given in article 51 of the UN Charter. It is also contended, that Georgia is in situation of an international armed conflict with the Russian Federation which governed by the relevant rules of the International Humanitarian Law and unfortunately, the Russian Federation is committing grave violation of the rules of humanitarian law by targeting civilian population and cities, rather than directing its attacks against military objective.

After announced ceasefire, Russian troops still are staying outside of conflict zone and continued military occupation of Georgia. In the town of Gori together with Ossetian and other Caucasian armed "volunteers", they blocked the main road connecting west and east part of country. During last two days, the town was totally destroyed and robbed by "peacekeepers". The one of the most deplorable fact happened is that, Abkhazian and Russian troops conquer Kodori Gorge, the last and most strategic territory of Abkhazia controlled by Georgian government. Russian troops still are staying in town Poti on black sea side, where they destroyed almost all Georgian navy; they are in the town of Zugdidi, where they pillaged all governmental facilities and took computers, furniture, office equipments. In the town of Senaki, they destroyed the newly built Georgian army base. All these places are located 200-300 km far from conflict zone and these facts reaffirms once again that the main purpose of Russia is to annex Georgia rather conflict resolution.

Situation in Kutaisi.

Fortunately Kutaisi was not bombed, but situation as in whole country is tense. According to the United Nations about 100.000 people left their homes during war. Within Georgia approximately 60.000 people are now considered as Internally Displaced People (IDPs), mainly coming from the city of Gori and the territory of South Ossetia. Most of the IDPs are in emergency need of shelters, food, water, hygienic kits and medical supplies. Large amount of IDPs are situated in and around Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, but others are also situated in Western Georgia far away from any humanitarian help.

Country already received humanitarian assistance from different states and organizations, but due to the blocked roads destroyed electronic connections no financial and technical assistance were provided for western Georgia. Local Government in assistance with business and NGO sectors is trying to manage provision a minimum requirements for the IDPs, but resources became less and less. West part of country really is facing the problem with humanitarian assistance and is looking for the additional resources first of

all for providing the food for displaced persons.. According to the situation and the unknown timetable of withdrawal of Russian troops, it looks like that next 5-7 days road between Tbilisi and Kutaisi still will be blocked.

Out of the 8500 IDPs allocated in Imereti Region 1600 are in Kutaisi. They are allocated in 12 different places. Most of IDPs are children, youth and old people. All IDPs are accommodated in old, not functional and non-residential premises like schools, admin buildings etc. Their living conditions are below to the any living standards. Most of them even don't have a mattress (nothing to say about bed) to sleep; Hygiene–sanitation condition of these buildings are very bad and in some buildings there is no water at all. That's why some infection diseases mainly among children already are obvious.

Coordination committee in Kutaisi is functional from the very beginning of conflict and LDA Georgia is the member of this committee. Committee is chairing by Head of Ministry for Refugees Imereti Department. Representatives of LG and NGO sectors are also the members of committee. Every evening we are discussing and sharing info about situation in different shelters and planning activities for next day.

Due to the situation in the City, first and urgent need still is the food for refugees, especially for babies. In some shelters kitchen are still more or less maintained and as it was preliminary decided, if needed funds will be available to use it for rebuilding of kitchens and providing needed products not ready food, which is more difficult for technical point of view and more expensive. Next need is the bed, mattress, pillows, and blankets. Clothes are more or less provided by local population and for the moment, there is no urgent need on it. One of the big problems is the lack of potable water in the shelters. In Kutaisi the central water supply system is working for several hours once it two days and in the shelters there are no reservoirs to collect the potable water. There is no refrigerator and TV set in the shelters, no tables and chairs, just only walls.

Based on the situation LDA Georgia would like to ask ALDA to lead the fundraising process to support IDPs living in City of Kutaisi and Imereti Region. From our side we express our ready ness to provide any needed information and manage provided recourses on local level. I think that with joint efforts of ALDA and LDA network we can help the people who lost everything and are waiting for any kind of assistance to survive. Thanks in advance for your support.