



Rue De Pascale, 4  
1040 Brussels - Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0) 2 280 02 80

Fax: +32 (0) 2 230 16 58

Email: [info@caritas-europa.org](mailto:info@caritas-europa.org)  
Website: <http://www.caritas-europa.org>

## Concurrent emergencies in Europe

### Albania, Georgia, Turkey

#### Update for Caritas Europa and wider Confederation members

11. September 2009

During the last couple of days the region of Europe was hit by several small and medium scale emergencies which happened concurrently in Albania, Georgia, and Turkey. With this information Caritas Europa would like to update both European and wider Confederation members on how the European region is responding to / supporting the further development of the response to these emergencies.

More information on these emergencies can be found by accessing the following websites:

Earthquake in Albania – [ReliefWeb » Document » Strong quake jolts Albania-Macedonia border region](#)

- **TIRANA, Sept 7, 2009 (AFP)** - A strong earthquake jolted mountainous north-east Albania, destroying homes, schools and hospitals but no casualties were reported, officials said Monday.
- Authorities revised the strength of the quake, which struck 11 minutes before midnight (2149 GMT) Sunday, down from an initially reported magnitude 7.0 to 5.2.
- "Some 30 houses, two schools and two hospital centres are totally destroyed, as well as a number of old buildings," Deputy Interior Minister Ferdinand Poni told AFP.
- The Albanian Seismology Institute said about 1,000 houses were damaged in the villages of Gjorice and Shupnze, some 180 kilometers (110 miles) from the capital Tirana.

Earthquake in Georgia – [ReliefWeb » Document » EADRCC urgent disaster assistance request: Earthquake in Georgia](#)

- 3.1. At 02:41 a.m. local time on 8 September 2009, an earthquake occurred in the Oni Region in the South of Georgia. It measured a magnitude of 6 on the Richter scale at the epicentre, 80km north-east of Kutaisi City.
- 3.2. Damage region: Racha and neighbouring districts of Imerety Region, Oni Municipality villages (Runda, Dchori, Chkmori, Dcedisi, Sorgiti, Onchevi, Ori, Nakieti, Nigvziani, Vanisxevi), all 34 villages of the Oni Region. (appx 250 km from Tbilisi).
- 3.3. The earthquake has caused large scale damages. Number of damaged buildings: 738. Size of affected area: 13.000km(2). Estimated number of persons affected: 6.000

Inundations in Turkey - [ReliefWeb » Document » Turkey floods highlight need for climate change adaptation](#)

- **Istanbul, Turkey** – Recent flooding in parts of Turkey has underscored the need to focus on ecologically-sound flood management practices to shield urban areas from extreme weather events, particularly those caused by climate change.
- "The presence of deadly floods right in the heart of Istanbul first of all points at the insufficient infrastructure of the city," said Dr. Filiz Demirayak, the CEO of WWF-Turkey. "Unregulated urban development and infrastructure have become barriers preventing rain water to reach the sea via its natural path."
- Turkey's Thracian region and the capital Istanbul this week received a month's worth of rainfall during two days -- or four times the total amount of average precipitation for this entire month -- causing massive flooding that led to the death of 30 people and widespread damage estimated at US \$90 million dollars. Turkey's Meteorology Institute recorded 13.2 centimetres of rain fell in the area.

**Caritas Europa is coordinating** the emergency response and appointed **Caritas Germany** as being the **focal point** organisation which maintains direct contact with all the Caritas Members in the affected countries.

For Caritas Europa members:

Caritas Europa members are kindly requested to follow the advice and instructions provided under each section.

For the wider Confederation members:

For the wider network this update is simply for the purpose of information sharing as the events have received considerable media coverage. At this stage Caritas Europa is not asking to mobilise wider Confederation support for its affected members as it is assumed that any response program can be financially covered by members of the region of Caritas Europa.

**Albania**

Caritas Albania developed a proposal for the first phase focusing on 150 families (750 people) which are left without food, medicines, tents, clothes, furniture, bed linen or other necessities of personal hygiene. The total amount of this proposal is 25.000 EUR which DCV is willing to cover.

Thomas Hackl, Emergency Coordinator of Caritas Romania, is going to visit Albania between 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September and will assist Caritas Albania to elaborate a proposal for reconstruction.

Member organisations in Europe are requested to indicate to CE up to which amount they could make pledges to such a reconstruction appeal so that the appeal can be based on realistic figures.

Caritas Albania is kindly requested to let Caritas Europa and Caritas Germany know with whom they are in contact with and from whom they receive offers for assistance.

Any forthcoming appeal shall be sent first to Caritas Germany and will be then communicated via Caritas Europa to all its members in due course.

## **Georgia**

Having consulted different sources of information, the first impression is that there may be sufficient UN/INGO resources in-country to cope. However, Caritas Georgia has access to the affected area and is assessing the needs on the ground as well as their organisational capacities to work in the area and implement a first phase relief program.

A proposal will be developed if there is clear rationale for it and if it corresponds with the available capacity of Caritas Georgia. Whether or not a second project for reconstruction can be developed is subject to further investigation by Caritas Georgia.

Caritas Germany is prepared to potentially finance a first phase emergency appeal in the range between 25-50.000 EUR under the condition that the project is meeting the required standards and criteria for funding. However, this start-up commitment is only made in order to enable Caritas Georgia to conduct a serious assessment which allows that expectations of potential beneficiaries could be later met by organisational commitment. DCV highly welcomes financial contributions from the wider Caritas Europa membership, be it for a first phase appeal and/or for a follow-up reconstruction phase, if the latter is deemed necessary and feasible.

In order for appeals to be based on realistic figures, member organisations in Europe are requested to indicate to Caritas Europa up to which amount they would be prepared to make pledges.

Caritas Georgia is kindly requested to let Caritas Europa and Caritas Germany know with whom they are in contact with and from whom they receive offers for assistance.

Any forthcoming appeal shall be sent first to Caritas Germany and will be then communicated via Caritas Europa to all its members in due course.

## **Turkey**

Caritas Turkey is in the process of assessing the situation on the ground and how they can best aid the people suffering. In the exercise of preparing a small scale emergency appeal they will be assisted by a Karl Amman, a former DCV emergency consultant, who travels to Turkey on Monday, 14 September. He will be ready to release further information on the situation in Turkey on Tuesday morning, 15 September. If a follow-up appeal in the area of rehabilitation shall be considered depends very much on the needs identified and the capacity of Caritas Turkey and potential other partner organisations. If the situation should become more serious, due to expected ongoing rainfalls over this weekend, then Caritas Europa/Caritas Germany would need to turn to other national partner organisations in Turkey in order to deliver a bigger, medium sized program. Provided the situation would be developing into a major emergency, Caritas Europa would be handing this over to Caritas Internationalis.

In order for the appeal to be based on realistic figures, member organisations in Europe are requested to indicate to Caritas Europa up to which amount they would be prepared to make pledges.

Caritas Germany is prepared to potentially finance a first phase emergency appeal in the range between 25-50.000 EUR under the condition that the project is meeting the required standards and criteria for funding. However, this start-up commitment is only made in order to enable Caritas Turkey to conduct a serious assessment which allows that expectations of potential beneficiaries could be later met by organisational commitment. DCV highly welcomes financial contributions from the wider Caritas Europa membership in financing any forthcoming appeal.

**Due to the very limited organisational capacity of Caritas Turkey which is in phase of complete restructuring, Caritas Europa urgently advises its member organisations to refrain from sending in-kind-donations to Caritas Turkey!**

Caritas Turkey is kindly requested to let Caritas Europa and Caritas Germany know with whom they are in contact with and from whom they receive offers for assistance.

Any forthcoming appeal shall be sent first to Caritas Germany and will be then communicated via Caritas Europa to all its members in due course.

**Contact details:** For further information, please contact:

- **Caritas Germany**
- Gernot Krauß
- Desk Officer Europe, Freiburg, Germany
- Desk: 0049-761-200392
- Mobile: 0049-1703416118
- [Gernot.Krauss@caritas.de](mailto:Gernot.Krauss@caritas.de)

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- **Caritas Europa**
  - Harald Happel
  - Humanitarian Officer, Brussels, Belgium
  - Desk: 0032-2-2350393
  - Mobile: 0032-478585435
  - [hhappel@caritas-europa.org](mailto:hhappel@caritas-europa.org)

Harald Happel, Caritas Europa