In this issue:
Why donors are giving less to the region
Azerbaijan is an emerging humanitarian donor
Donor governments gather in Astana

Highlights

- In 2013, countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia saw a dramatic drop in the incoming aid.
- Only 1 per cent of the aid received by the region was provided directly to the affected government and the rest was channeled through non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies.
- Outgoing humanitarian aid from the Caucasus and Central Asia continues to decline with the region giving just $1 million in aid during the reporting period.
- In 2013, diplomatic representations of donor governments gathered in Astana twice to discuss humanitarian situation in the world and in the Caucasus / Central Asia region.

Incoming humanitarian aid at all-time low

In 2013, humanitarian aid coming into countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia hit an all-time low since 2006. At close to $19 million, it is a considerable decline from $46 million in 2012. The slump of donor interest in the region is surprising given that 2013 was not particularly calm for this part of the world. The inflow of Syrian Armenian refugees into Armenia continued reaching some 11,000 people by the end of 2013. Communities in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan went through seasonal disasters, and Armenia experienced an unusually strong hailstorm that damaged 5,000 ha of agricultural land. The year ended with a 5.2-magnitude earthquake shattering already poor and vulnerable communities in Tajikistan, forcing hundreds of families to celebrate New Year in tents.

Outgoing aid from the region in 2013 also decreased compared to 2012: $1 million vs. $1.6 million, respectively. Kazakhstan remains the region’s largest donor. Remarkably, the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) is gaining momentum. Established in late 2011, the agency has formulated its mission that includes the provision of humanitarian aid. Although in 2013 Azerbaijan provided just 12 per cent of all the aid going out of the region, its share in global humanitarian affairs is expected to increase in years to come.
Humanitarian funding flows into the region

In 2013, nine donors gave $19 million in humanitarian aid to the Caucasus and Central Asia. One of the reasons why in 2012 the region received $46 million is because the year coincided with the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) Disaster Preparedness programme cycle (DIPECHO): in 2012, some $12 million were given within the framework of DIPECHO VII for Central Asia and South Caucasus and Humanitarian Implementation Plan for Tajikistan (HIP) towards building resilient communities across the region and improving the food security situation in Tajikistan. In 2013, DIPECHO partners were still implementing or wrapping up their projects under the 2012 programme cycle. In 2014, ECHO is launching the next cycle of DIPECHO and HIP for the region.

The second reason as to why the region received more aid in 2012 than in 2013 is because of the food security situation in the region’s vulnerable countries – Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In 2012, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that 1.3 million in Kyrgyzstan and over 2 million people in Tajikistan were food insecure. This prompted donors such as the Russian Federation to send food and donate money to tackle the crisis. In the absence of such large-scale threats in 2013, donors gave less aid to the entire region.

In 2013, Switzerland provided aid to all three countries in the Caucasus, with Georgia receiving over half of the Swiss aid. Russia supported WFP in Kyrgyzstan and Armenia and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Tajikistan. Sweden supported International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) programmes in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

Donors to the Caucasus and Central Asia, 1 January – 31 December 2013 (in million $)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FTS fts.unocha.org

Major trends in humanitarian aid giving to the Caucasus and Central Asia

During the reporting period, aid trends in the region largely remained steady compared to previous years with some slight changes.

The food sector, which traditionally gets the most boost from donors, is the most funded sector in 2013. The protection sector comes second thanks to Sweden’s support to ICRC programmes across the region.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)* remains one of the top funded sectors in 2013, which is characteristic of this region. Donors thus demonstrate a solid understanding of the value of building resilient communities and preparing disaster response actors. However, funding for this sector in 2013 dropped by $8.5 million compared with 2012.

Aid in the health and mine action sectors were provided to Tajikistan only, and aid towards economic recovery – only to Georgia, where the Danish Refugee Council (DRG) received $1.7 million to rebuild housing for returnees in Ergneti (Shida Kartli).

*Although DRR is not a standard Inter-Agency Standing Committee sector, it is singled out as a separate sector in this report for analysis purposes.
Regional Humanitarian Funding Update No. 09: 2013 overview

Humanitarian funding flows out of the region

In 2013, the region gave $1 million in humanitarian aid – the second lowest year since 2006. Since 2010, outgoing humanitarian aid has been steadily decreasing despite the region’s emerging donors’ (Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan) steps to institutionalize international development assistance and their aspirations to become more involved in international humanitarian affairs.

In Central Asia, only Kazakhstan provided aid in 2013, while in the Caucasus all three countries gave some assistance.

During the reporting period, in-kind aid made up over 50 per cent of the humanitarian aid provided by the region in 2013. However, only one contribution was given in-kind, while the other six contributions were made in cash and through multilateral channels. This is a significant shift for this region where countries still tend to provide in-kind aid directly to affected governments.

Georgia and Kazakhstan responded to the Syrian crisis. Georgia gave $50,000 to Syria Emergency Response Fund, while Kazakhstan gave $200,000 to assist Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Armenia and Azerbaijan supported OCHA’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) while the other two regular contributors – Kazakhstan and Tajikistan – refrained.

Humanitarian aid provided by the Caucasus and Central Asia, 1 January – 31 December 2013 (in million $)

![Graph showing humanitarian aid provided by the Caucasus and Central Asia, 1 January – 31 December 2013 (in million $)]

Source: FTS fts.unocha.org

Humanitarian donor briefing in Central Asia

In January and October 2013, some 40 diplomatic representations of donor governments and organizations gathered in Astana to discuss the humanitarian situation in the world and the region.

The UNOCHA Regional Office for Caucasus and Central Asia (ROCCA) briefed the participants on the latest figures on people that need emergency assistance worldwide and on humanitarian challenges in the region.

ROCCA will continue gathering donors on a regular basis to keep the donor community informed of the humanitarian trends and challenges.

For further information, please contact:
Zarina Nurmukhabetova, Public Information and Reporting Associate, nurmukhabetova@un.org, Tel: +7 777 0789778

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int | www.unocha.org/rocca.
To subscribe to ROCCA publications please go to http://bit.ly/ocharocca