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WFP has distributed 200,000 metric tons of food in Georgia since it began operations in 1993

"The conflict has caused civilian casualties and more are at risk... Many people need help and many are seeking safety elsewhere. It is essential that humanitarian agencies be able to reach the affected and the displaced, and that those trapped in conflict areas be granted passage to safer areas as soon as possible."

Antonio Guterres,
UN High
Commissioner for
Refugees

Topic of the month: Georgian Crisis

Ban urges parties to implement proposed Georgia peace plan

(13 August 2008)

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the acceptance by Georgia and Russia of a proposed peace plan to end the conflict that has raged in Georgia for nearly a week and urged the parties to move quickly to halt the fighting.

"He calls for immediate follow through in implementing the agreed principles, including the full end to hostilities and the withdrawal of forces to previous positions,"

Mr. Ban's spokesperson said in a [statement](#), welcoming the plan proposed by President Nicolas Sarkozy of France.



[More Details](#)

UN agencies assist thousands affected by Georgian conflict

(11 August 2008)

United Nations agencies have begun providing emergency aid to thousands of people affected by the escalating conflict in Georgia, as a senior UN official told the Security Council today that Russian forces have now entered Georgian areas outside the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Government, WFP distributed a 10-day food ration to more than 1,900 internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in shelters in the capital, Tbilisi, with more distributions taking place today.



To donate to the UNHCR's emergency appeal, please visit:

<http://www.unhcr.org/donate/index.htm>

The World Food Programme (WFP) said it has begun providing critical humanitarian aid to more than 2,000 people displaced by the violence in South Ossetia, where the fighting first erupted last week.

In response to a request from the Georgian



[More Details](#)

Beijing Olympic Games 2008

UN fetes volunteers' contributions to Beijing Olympics

(7 August 2008)

The United Nations and the Organizing Committee of the Beijing Olympics have celebrated the work of volunteers to help prepare for the Games and their contributions to development in China.

"No matter who wins the most medals at the Games, one thing is clear – these volunteers will win the hearts and minds of visitors to Beijing," Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)), said at today's festivities.

He voiced hope that the volunteers can inspire millions of others to contribute to their communities.



Image Credit: www.olympic.org

[More Details](#)

More on Energy & Environment

- [UN Human Rights expert on toxic waste holds talks in Cote d'Ivoire](#)
- [UN-backed expert group takes steps to establish new biofuel standard](#)
- [Youth plea for more action to combat climate change in their own words - UNDP](#)

Energy & Environment

New UN -backed report suggests how to boost cities' resiliency to climate change

(6 August 2008)

With eight of the world's 10 most populous cities situated near rivers or seas and already being exposed to such hazards as flooding, earthquakes and typhoons, a United Nations-backed report released today offers suggestions on how to enhance resiliency to threats emanating from climate change.

Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) – serves as a primer for East Asia and the Pacific to curb vulnerability to climate change and bolstering disaster risk management.

"Climate Resilient Cities" – jointly produced by the UN International Strategy for

[More Details](#)

More on Health & Poverty

- [Video: World AIDS Summit begins](#)
- [Global anti-poverty goals threatened by breakdown of WTO-talks](#)
- [UN hails Canada's decision to provide escorts for food ships heading to Somalia](#)

Health & Poverty

UN agency provides \$214 million to help 16 countries cope with food crisis

(12 August 2008)

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has announced the roll-out of a \$214 million response to help millions in 16 countries hit hard by high food and fuel prices.

The funds will provide critical assistance by providing life-saving food rations to highly vulnerable groups, continuing to feed school-aged children even while school is out, and giving supplemental food to pregnant women and young children whose mental and physical development is at stake.

WFP also aims to expand food aid to urban areas hardest hit by high food prices, including through cash and vouchers, and to support small farmers and markets in countries where the agency will purchase food assistance locally, through the initiative.

More on Human Rights

- [Georgia: UN calls for protection of civilians and access to victims of conflict](#)
- [Unicef provides \\$ 3 Million for Mozambican children affected by food crisis](#)
- [UN human rights expert to visit Myanmar next week](#)

Human Rights

UN rights officials call on countries to back declaration on indigenous peoples

(8 August 2008)



Two senior United Nations human rights officials called today for political commitment from States and the support of the public at large to fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples around the globe, in a joint statement released on the eve of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

[More Details](#)

More on Peace & Security

- [Senior UN official departs for talks on Zimbabwe's political crisis](#)
- [UN-African Union officials confer with Sudan on Darfur Peace Force](#)
- [Senior UN official named as peacebuilding chief](#)

Peace & Security

Central African Republic: UN envoy voices deep concern over recent violence

(13 August 2008)

The Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Central African Republic (CAR) today expressed his deep concern over insecurity in the country's north-east, stressing that violence threatens the ceasefire and peace accord signed by the parties in May.

In a press release issued by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in the country, known as BONUCA, he urged both sides to follow their agreements and to act with restraint.

François Lonsény Fall condemned the latest shooting incident on 7 August between Government forces and the rebel Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD).



[More Details](#)



UNAA NEWS AND EVENTS

30th UNAA Media Peace Awards Presentation Dinner 2008

Nominations opened July 1 for the 30th United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards. These Awards recognize those in the media whose work serves to promote understanding and awareness about social justice and humanitarian issues. Winners will be announced at a gala 30th Anniversary Presentation Dinner

Date: Friday 24 October, 2008
Time: 6:30pm
Venue: The Arts Centre ANZ Pavilion

For further information regarding the Awards Presentation Dinner please contact the UNAA Office.



The UNAA (Victorian Division) accepts a sponsorship cheque for the Media Peace Awards 2008 from the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

(From left:)
 Martin Foley MP, Member for Albert Park;
 Laura Szekfy, UNAA Victoria Communications and Events Manager;
 James Merlino MP, Minister advising the Premier on Multicultural Affairs;
 Tony Lupton MP, Member for Prahran.

Mon 18th:

Model UN Conference
@ St. Catherine's College

Wed 20th:

Model UN Conference
@ Trinity College

Thurs 21 - Sat 23rd:

UN Association National
Conference in Brisbane

Fri 30th:

Model UN Conference
@ RMIT Uni

The UNAA Victoria is pleased to announce its support of the Australian Information Industry Association's significant Climate Change Event on October 7th at Sofitel Melbourne.

The key topic for the forum is *Climate Change: Preparing for the Carbon Future*.

Key areas of focus and thought leadership discussion will include:

- The role of Government
- Carbon Reporting Requirements
- Financial Preparation for the Carbon Future

For further information please visit the website at

<http://www.aiaconference.com.au/>.

For sponsorship, exhibition or registration enquiries please contact Rosemary Cotton by phone 0409 364468 or email rosemary@gener8.com.au.



UNAA Education Program

Model UN Conferences

A successful Model UN Conference was held at Methodist Ladies' College on Wednesday 30 July. The Year 10 and 11 students involved represented 19 countries and debated the topic, "Refugees: Rights and Risks."

The young women heard from guest speakers Pamela Curr (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) and Ruth Wardlaw (Hotham Mission) before participating in the day-long Model UN, which was specifically designed to cater for

secondary school students.

The conference was aimed at enhancing understanding of complex global issues, the United Nations system, and the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in international affairs.

The next Model UN Conference will be held St. Catherine's College on the 18th of August. The conference topic is *'The future of Indigenous Peoples — Rights, Recognition and Respect'*.

[More Details](#)

UN Observances

23 August: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade in the memory of all peoples. In accordance with the goals of the intercultural project "The Slave Route", it should offer an opportunity for collective

consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

The Director-General of UNESCO invites the Ministers of Culture of all Member States to organize events every year on that date, involving the entire population of their country and in particular young people, educators, artists and intellectuals.



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