

Russian Invasion of Georgia

Impact on Georgia's education

8 October, 2008

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<http://georgiaupdate.gov.ge/>

The Russian invasion and subsequent military actions has had serious consequences on Georgia's education system.

The start of the academic year 2008-09 has had to be postponed for the first time in many areas, and many schools and other educational institutions have been damaged or looted, especially in the zones within or close to South Ossetia. The widespread use of landmines and cluster bombs by the Russian army meant that many buildings were unsafe and needed to be carefully defused.

Hundreds of various schools, from kindergartens to higher education institutions, were turned overnight into emergency accommodation for displaced civilians. Thousands of students and their teachers have been displaced. Many children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety crises, and depression. Children with special needs and those from socially deprived backgrounds are particularly exposed to hardship.

In the longer term, additional problems are likely to arise. Displaced children are at higher risk of academic failure—the ratio of those who drop out of school is much higher among displaced populations.

The Ministry of Education and Science has been compelled to terminate or suspended a number of education and research programmes. If other programmes have to be suspended or terminated as well, the entire future of Georgia's education reform agenda could be put at risk.

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| Number of educational institutions destroyed or damaged: | 99 |
| Total number of educational institutions with settled IDPs: | 234 |
| Total number of IDPs settled in the educational institutions: | 42 801 |
| Total Damage Inflicted to the Education system: | over 19 000 000 Euro |