



UNFPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 12 - 19, 2008

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

UNFPA/Georgia has launched an active humanitarian assistance program following the recent armed conflict in Georgia. Since August 22nd 2008, four RH Mobile Teams have been deployed to four regions of Georgia providing IDP women with examination, counseling as well as medicines and IEC materials on reproductive health. Support for health and dignity has been ensured through the provision of basic personal hygiene kits for families. Meanwhile, UNFPA/Georgia CO has been actively collaborating with international organizations, local NGOs and governmental institutions in order to mobilize and make use of all resources available. In response to the recent developments UNFPA redirected most of its humanitarian efforts to Gori and the conflict affected areas adjacent to Gori.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FACT FINDING MISSION ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEEDS VISITS GEORGIA

On September 19, 2008 a Fact Finding Mission of European Parliamentarians arrived in Georgia for a two-day visit to assess the situation of internally displaced persons and to evaluate the health infrastructure needs of the country, particularly with focus on RH services in the aftermath of the recent armed conflict in Georgia. The delegation included Parliamentarians from Belgium, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden.



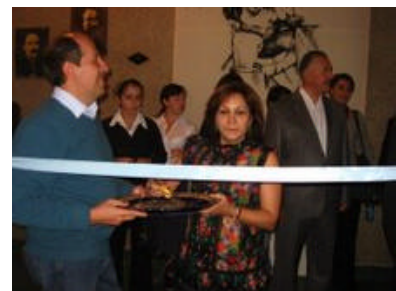
The mission has been organized on the invitation of Hon. George Tsereteli MP, Vice Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia, the member of the executive committee of EPF, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF).

European Parliamentarians assessed the necessary measures to be taken to meet the reproductive health needs of the displaced population and evaluated an appropriate European donor response to the immediate as well long-term needs in light of the IDP crisis. Mission visited temporary shelters/collective centres of IDPs in Tbilisi and Gori and met with the members of the Government, Parliament and international organizations including H.E. George Tsereteli, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Peer Sieben, UNFPA Country Director for Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey, Mr. Robert Watkins UN Resident Coordinator and UN Humanitarian Relief Coordinator and other high level officials.

The mission also visited UNFPA country office in Georgia and EC/UNFPA supported RHIYC project office to meet with program implementers and youth volunteers assisting UNFPA in humanitarian response.

UNFPA OPENS NEW YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER IN GORI

On September 20, 2008 UNFPA opened a Youth Reproductive Health (RH) Center in Gori. The initiative has been recently elaborated as the response to humanitarian situation in Shida Kartli within the framework of the EC/UNFPA supported project RHIYC (Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus). The Center will operate on the basis of Sukhishvili University. The newly established Youth RH Center consists of two units: RH service center and center for information and counseling. Health service providers are licensed and trained in accordance with the newly developed standards and guidelines through UNFPA assistance. Center operates and is funded within the framework of the EU/UNFPA RHIYC project.



"This is already a fourth RH center established within the framework of the EU/UNFPA RHIYC project," - said UNFPA/Georgia Head of Office, Ms. Tamar Khomasuridze, - " But opening an RH



UNFPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 12 - 19, 2008

center in Gori is of a special importance, as Gori is the area with highest number of youth affected by conflict. The youth RH center will meet the demand of youth on quality RH information and services.

TOWN HALL MEETING ON YOUTH RH/RR

Official opening was followed by a Town Hall meeting in Gori Municipality Hall, where representatives of UNFPA, EPF and other international organizations, as well as members of political parties, local self-governance institutions and community leaders including teachers and doctors gathered to discuss needs and priorities of RH with relations to the newly emerged humanitarian situation in Gori.

UNFPA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT RH MOBILE TEAMS



UNFPA/Georgia continues its support to RH Mobile Teams in various regions of Georgia to provide RH assistance to the internally displaced women. On Saturday, September 20 2008, Tbilisi Mobile Team assisted over 100 women in the Tent City of Gori. UNFPA doctors have already assisted over 1921 women in more than 38 locations in IDP collective centers across Georgia.

DIGNITY KITS FOR FAMILIES AND YOUTHS

Up to date UNFPA/Georgia CO has distributed 2586 hygiene (dignity) kits in Gori, Rustavi and Tbilisi encompassing over 10, 300 IDPs in total.

On September 20, 2008 UNFPA/Georgia supported Mobile Teams providing medical assistance and services to IDP women in Gori Tent City have distributed 40 additional family hygiene (dignity) kits in Gori Tent City.

On the same day UNFPA implementing partner Caucasus Social Marketing Association (CSMA) distributed 586 youth kits in the Gori Tent City providing support to health and personal hygiene to the IDPs.