



UNFPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 19 - 26, 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.

UNFPA ADVANCES EFFORTS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



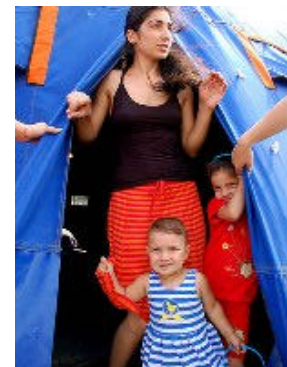
UNFPA/Georgia strengthens its humanitarian efforts with focus on countering gender-based violence. For these purposes UNFPA mobilized extra financial resources: CERF allocated USD 150,000 and Norwegian government apportioned some additional 500,000 Norwegian Kroner. Funds will be used in line with the commitments of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. UNFPA plans to further advance emergency response in relation to the gender-based violence, hygienic/sanitary and reproductive health needs and concerns of the affected population. UNFPA-implemented project: “Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus” is being modified to meet the newly emerged needs of the humanitarian situation; the project will coordinate the national “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence” Campaign and will support awareness-raising activities to sensitize the displaced and other conflict-affected population grave consequences of GBV and the benefits for the community of preventing it.

UN JOINT PROJECT “UN INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF GREATER GENDER EQUALITY” TAKES ACTION

UNFPA-implemented UN Joint Project “UN Initiative in Support of Greater Gender Equality” has been revised upon agreement with the participating UN agencies and has diverted part of the available resources to strengthening gender dimension of the humanitarian action in response to the recent crisis.

The UN Joint Project Steering Committee will contribute funds to the expansion of the ongoing UNHCR-funded project that offers psycho-social aid to women IDPs – victims of SGBV (establishing women’s club in Gori, individual and group psycho-social counseling in Tbilisi and Gori,) and contributes to establishing the Gender Resource Center in Gori, initiated by the Advisory Council on Gender Equality Issues under the Speaker of the Parliament.

The UN Joint Project has also modified the target audience and the priorities of the Capacity Building Training for UN staff to be delivered. Taking into consideration the current developments in the country it was agreed to organize training for the UN Staff as well as the representatives of the key INGOs to introduce the materials developed by IASC (such as Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies) and other relevant materials to be applied in the humanitarian crises response in Georgia.





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UNFPA FOCUSES ON AIDING RAPE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

Within the framework of strengthening gender dimension of the humanitarian action in response to the crisis, UNFPA plans to conduct the series of trainings on “SGBV and Clinical Management of Rape Survivors”. The trainings are designed to raise the awareness and sensitivity of the healthcare service providers on GBV issues in conflict situations while providing practical knowledge and training on management of rape survivors in emergencies. More specifically, the trainings will strengthen the knowledge of the target audience on concept, forms and manifestations of the SGVB in conflict, post conflict and humanitarian situations focusing on the phenomena of rape and specificities of working with the survivors of rape. Another outcome of the training will be the guidelines on “Clinical Management of Rape Survivors”. The guidelines will be translated in Georgian and adapted to reflect the specific needs of the Georgian medical personnel.

UNFPA also plans to recruit 45 social workers as a part of the RH mobile teams, thanks to the Norwegian Government’s grant under the recent UN Flash Appeal for Georgia. Social workers will systematically disseminate information to raise awareness of SGVB and contribute to the prevention of SGVB through education and empowerment of IDP women, as well as linking them to existing services. Negotiations with “Social Workers Association” on special training of social workers are underway. The training will cover the practical aspects of SGVB interventions in humanitarian settings, focusing on developing critical skills for the social workers to identify and assist persons who have suffered sexual and gender-based violence as a result of the conflict.

UNFPA CONTINUES SUPPORTING RH MOBILE TEAMS AND PROVIDING DIGNITY KITS FOR FAMILY AND YOUTH



UNFPA/Georgia continues its support to RH Mobile Teams in various regions of Georgia to provide RH assistance to the internally displaced women. UNFPA doctors have already assisted over 2,084 IDP women in more than 40 locations in IDP collective centers across Georgia.

To-date, UNFPA/Georgia has distributed 2,670 hygiene (dignity) kits over 60 locations in Gori, Rustavi and Tbilisi encompassing over 10,680 IDPs in total. In addition, UNFPA has distributed up to 910 youth kits in Gori and Tbilisi IDP collective centers.