



UNFPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 5 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

UNFPA/Georgia has launched an active humanitarian assistance program following the armed conflict in Georgia. Since August 22nd 2008, 4 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 provided through the provision of basic personnel 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/GEORGIA COUNTRY DIRECTOR VISITS TBILISI AND GORI

On September 10 2008 UNFPA country director Mr. Peer Sieben arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia for a ten day visit to assess the humanitarian situation, meet with program implementing partners and government officials to identify priorities for mobilizing donor funding.



Ms. Sieben and UNFPA/Georgia CO staff visited Gori on September 11 2008 to meet the local counterparts and to identify the priorities for further assistance. Many of the RH care facilities are damaged and need immediate support. UNFPA aims to address identified needs by expanding the outreach activities of the Mobile Teams and strengthening the capacity of the functioning RH facilities. The rapid assessment of RH facilities conducted by UNFPA in 6 RH facilities at 1st and 2nd health care levels has provided the necessary information for further support.

The priorities and strategies for UNFPA operations have been presented at the RH National Council Meeting and further discussed during the meetings with Minister of Labor, Health and social Affairs Mr. Kvitashvili, the First Lady of Georgia and the Chairman of the RH NC Ms. Ruelofs, and the Vice-Speaker of the Parliament and the Head of the National Gender Equality Council Ms. Kervalishvili.

UNFPA TO INSTITUTE A YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER IN GORI

The displaced as well as returnees remain affected by the humanitarian crisis and women and girls are particularly vulnerable. Destroyed infrastructure, lack of access to quality RH services and poverty led to increased risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery. Unless the specific sexual and reproductive health concerns particularly of women and girls are addressed, the crisis risks to lead to increased maternal morbidity and mortality.

As a response UNFPA has already initiated instituting a Youth Reproductive Health (RH) Center in Gori, area most affected by the conflict. The premises are already identified: The Center will operate on the basis of Sukhishvili University. The newly established Youth RH Center will have two components: clinical center and a service center for information and counseling. Center will be operated and funded within the framework of the EU/UNFPA RHIYC project.



UNFPA CONTINUES TO DEPLOY RH MOBILE TEAMS AND TO DISTRIBUTE FAMILY KITS



UNFPA Georgia continues to deploy RH Mobile Teams in various regions of Georgia to provide RH assistance to the internally displaced women. UNFPA doctors have already assisted over 1435 women in more than 34 locations in IDP collective centers across Georgia.

Distribution of family hygiene kits (with multivitamins, soap, towels, toothbrush-paste, shampoo foam, underwear, sanitary napkins and razors) continues at a high speed as well. Total amount of family kits distributed up to date covers 36 locations and amounts to 1681 covering approximately 6724 IDPs.

UNFPA PARTICIPATES IN JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION

UNFPA actively participates in the work of the Joint Assessment Mission to Georgia, particularly in the sector of Basic Social Services with the focus on the Reproductive Health. Joint Needs Assessment Mission to Georgia is a common endeavour carried out by the WB, the UN and the European Community in close cooperation with the Gov. of Georgia. The mission aims at providing a unified and consolidated view of the early recovery needs in Georgia linked to the recent armed conflict.

UNFPA is also actively involved in the ongoing work over revision of the Flash Appeal in accordance with the emerging needs of population affected by the conflict.