



## UNFPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GEORGIA, AUGUST 22-29, 2008

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Following an increase in military incidents involving Georgia, South Ossetian and Russian forces in and around the breakaway region of South Ossetia, open hostilities broke out on 8<sup>th</sup> August. The situation deteriorated further with renewed fighting in and around the breakaway Georgian province of Abkhazia and there was more fighting in other parts of Georgia, concentrated in the area of the town of Gori. There are no reliable estimates of casualties available, but hundreds of people are reported to have been killed and injured. The fighting led to both internal and external displacement of large number of people. According to registers compiled by the Georgian Government, some 128,700 have been displaced inside Georgia, including about 30,000 inside South Ossetia. This figure does not include 30,000 reported by Russian authorities to have fled across the border into North Ossetia, inside the Russian Federation.

### **UNFPA PROVIDES IDPs WITH OVER 900 HYGIENE (DIGNITY) KITS**



UNFPA/Georgia CO has provided support for the health and dignity of displaced populations through the provision of basic personal hygiene kits. Volunteers from Georgian Medical Students Association (GMSA) were mobilized to stuff plastic bags with multivitamins, soap, towels, toothbrush-paste, underwear, sanitary napkins and razors. Approximately 900 packages of hygiene (dignity) kits for families (including multivitamins with micro elements and minerals, sanitary napkins, soap and other hygienic items) have already been distributed to IDP "collective centers" in Tbilisi and Rustavi. Each kit serves a family of four members. The 200 kits distributed in Rustavi, to 800 IDPs, meets the needs of 16% of the whole Rustavi IDP population at present. 900 kits already

distributed cover around 3600 IDPs in total.

### **UNFPA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MOBILE TEAMS PROVIDE RH SERVICES TO WOMEN IN IDP COMMUNITIES**

UNFPA/Georgia CO has deployed RH Mobile Teams to four regions of Georgia (Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli, Achara and Imereti), providing IDP women with examination and counseling, as well as medicines and IEC materials on reproductive health. UNFPA Georgia's four Mobile medical teams reach an average of 200 displaced women on a daily basis. Mobile teams are also collecting data on situation regarding gender-based violence and reproductive health such as the number of pregnant women affected by the conflict.



### **COORDINATION:**

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 collaboration with 25 other UN agencies and NGOs, UNFPA launched a Flash Appeal requesting \$58.5 million for an initial planning period of six months which is subjected to change in order to meet the needs of the situation.
- ☞ UNFPA/Georgia CO negotiated with the European Commission to transfer a portion of the ongoing Reproductive Health Youth initiative (RHYIAC) budget (25.000USD) to better address the needs of youth at collective centers.
- ☞ UNFPA operates in close cooperation with other counterparts on design, assembling and distribution of the hygiene family kits. A local implementing partner Caucasus Social Marketing Association (CSMA) is engaged in procurement and assembling some 1,800 kits to be distributed by youth volunteers at collective centers, while Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, Office of the Vice Speaker of the Parliament Rusudan Kervalishvili and local non-governmental organization SOCO are actively involved in distribution operations.
- ☞ UNFPA/Georgia Head of Office Ms. Tamar Khomasuridze and UNFPA/Geneva advisor, Ms. Maha Muna participated in a session of the Consultative Council on Gender Equality chaired by the Vice-speaker of the Parliament of Georgia where draft statement of the Council concerning ongoing situation in the conflict zone in relations with the gender rights and gender based violence was presented and discussed.

### **Resources**

UNFPA Humanitarian Response is funded by the HRU and UNFPA program resources. UNFPA HRB released USD 100,000 emergency funds to UNFPA/Georgia to expand its humanitarian response.



**UNFPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
GEORGIA, AUGUST 22-29, 2008**