



CERF IN UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE DECEMBER 19, 2008

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In response to the armed conflict in Georgia, August 2008, under the WASH and Health clusters, UNFPA Georgia applied for Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funding, 150 000 USD to provide response to Reproductive Health and Hygiene needs of displaced population through the provision of quality RH services and basic personal hygiene kits. Upon reception, together with HRU and UNFPA core resources UNFPA launched an active humanitarian assistance programme.

CERF is a stand-by fund established by the UN to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts by rapidly and effectively channeling resources to humanitarian agencies.

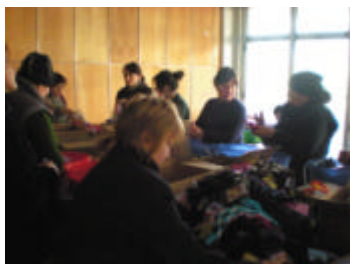
FAMILY DIGNITY KITS

According to the needs assessment carried out in August, while food and clothing was generally accessible for to the IDPs, items of personal hygiene were scarce but of high demand. Consequently, UNFPA Georgia initiated provision of family hygiene kits containing the most demanded items for male and female population: multivitamins, underwear, soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes/paste, wet napkins, women's sanitary pads, disposal towels, and shaving set for men. The composition of the kits was slightly modified in November: Female and male stockings, washing powder and panty tights have been added to the hygiene kits to correspond to the needs for the winter. The family kits were distributed together with IEC materials on safe motherhood, healthy life style and GBV prepared and available through UNFPA supported projects.



To-date, UNFPA has distributed up to 8, 396 family kits in 100 facilities across Georgia covering up to 33, 584 IDPs in total, as each kit serves a family of four members. Out of these, 69,75 per cent has been allocated in Tbilisi, while the rest has been distributed to the Regions of Gori, Rustavi and the buffer zones. According to the UNFPA distribution plan, the last stock of the 2604 assembled kits in a week time will reach newly settled IDPs in the Tserovani Region. Out of 11, 000 Hygiene Kits 7,000 have been purchased from CERF funding.

UNFPA INITIATIVE: DISPLACED WOMEN FOR CONFLICT AFFECTED POPULATION



Bagebi Collective Center.

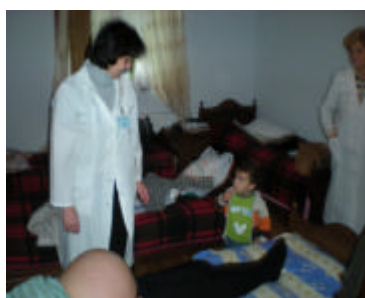
As the humanitarian program proceeded with success, UNFPA Georgia team introduced a new initiative to advance the women: IDP women and youth became involved in the process of assembling the kits. Such scheme allowed displaced population to be directly involved in the humanitarian response. In addition, this initiative served as a modest source of income, the incentives for the displaced women, who have complained of cash shortage. The space for the above-mentioned activities was provided by the

“Such cooperation has been particularly helpful for IDPs” – explained coordinator of the humanitarian efforts at the Bagebi Collective Center Ms. Tsiuri Margiani – “Working together for the common goal facilitated team building and raised community spirit within the IDP community”.

“Instead of sitting and waiting for help, we can actually do something to help ourselves and other displaced people. Finally we can do something to contribute to the humanitarian process thanks to UNFPA”, - a 43-years old IDP women in Collective Center commented.



RH SERVICES FOR CONFLICT AFFECTED WOMEN



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 leading to degeneration of women’s health and increased maternal morbidity in the conflict Region.

In order to address these issues, UNFPA/Georgia CO has deployed four RH Mobile Teams to four Regions of Georgia (Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli, Adjara and Imereti), providing quality RH services to 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. Since August 22nd UNFPA doctors have already assisted over 2,304 IDP women in over 45 locations in IDP collective centers across Georgia.

Since November, 5th Gori Mobile Team is operating in Shida Kartli Region, in area most affected by the conflict to provide systematic and regular RH services to IDP women. Gori Mobile Team serves the IDP women of Shida Kartli Region for the period of 26 days per month. To-date, over 500 IDP women have been assisted by Gori Mobile team in 16 villages of Gori, Kareli and Kaspi districts. The Mobile Team Vehicle and equipment have been purchased by UNFPA through UNFPA Core and HRU. CERF covers



UNFPA local coordinator of Shida Kartli who has been the focal point for coordination and implementation of UNFPA emergency response activities in the Region. Communication equipment for the mobile team and all necessary items has been purchased through CERF funding as well.

In addition, UNFPA ordered and will distribute reproductive health emergency kits in primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities in the Region.

UNFPA PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

UNFPA Georgia has been actively collaborating with international organizations, local NGOs and governmental institutions on design, assembling and distribution of the hygiene family kits.

The volunteers from Georgian Medical Students Association (GMSA) were mobilized to assemble the kits in the headquarters of the UNFPA implemented project - Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Southern Caucasus (RHIYC), which transformed itself into a successful humanitarian relief effort in response to the crisis.

A local implementing partner Caucasus Social Marketing Association (CSMA) was engaged in procurement and assembling Youth Hygiene kits to be distributed by youth volunteers at collective centers.

Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, Group of Humanitarian Assistance at the Parliament of Georgia headed by Deputy Chairs - Mrs. Rusudan Kervalishvili and Mr. George Tsereteli and local non-governmental organization SOCO were also actively involved in distribution operations. UNFPA partnered with Czech Development Agency "People in Need" in order to distributed family kits into the buffer zones. NGO "Healthy Generation" has been collaborating with UNFPA on mobile team operations in Shida Region. UNFPA also successfully collaborated with Patriarchy and city municipalities of Gori and Rustavi and Gori Governor's Office of Shida Kartli.

UNFPA, as the member of the WASH and Health clusters regularly shares and coordinates its operation plans with UN agencies and other members of the cluster to continue timely and comprehensive humanitarian response.