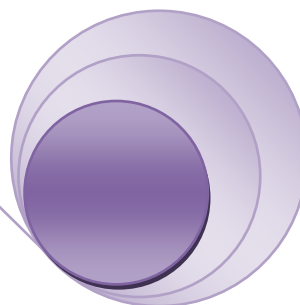
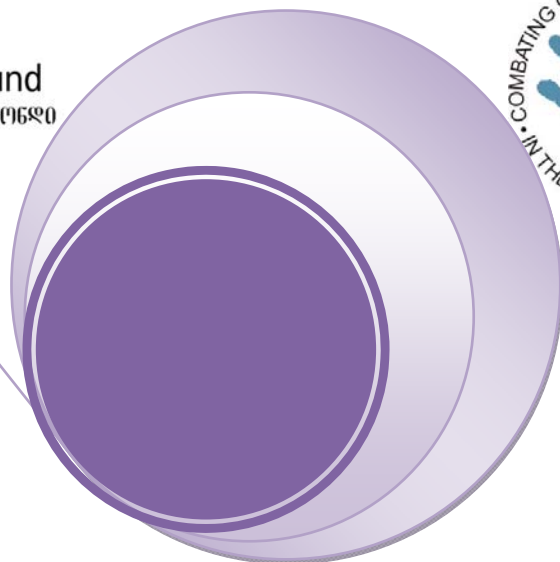


United Nations Population Fund
გაერთიანებული ერების მოსახლეობის ფონდი

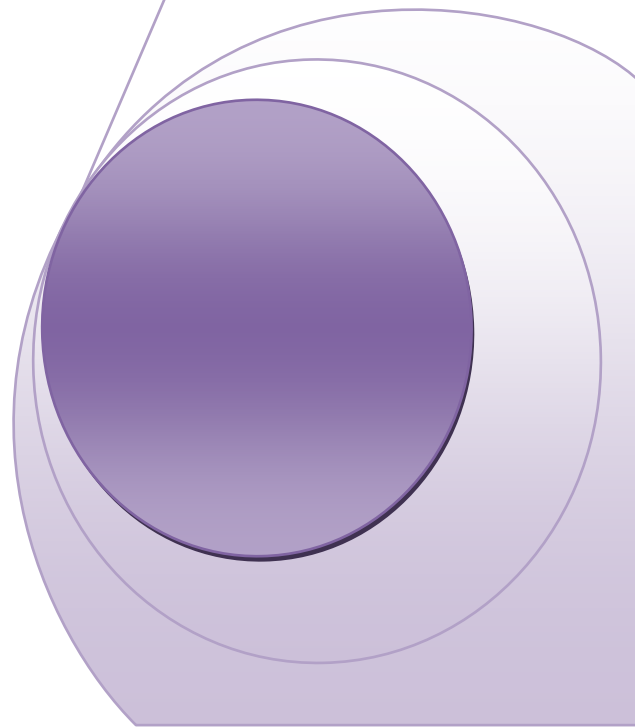


GBV-SC Georgia Newsletter

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September, 2008



UNFPA GEORGIA CELEBRATES THE WORLD POPULATION DAY: GBV-SC GEORGIA PROJECT LAUNCH AND OFFICE OPENING

The launch and the office opening of the new UNFPA-implemented project "*Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus*" was held on July 10, 2008.

Up to 60 guests, including the Vice speaker of the Parliament of Georgia - H.E. Giorgi Tsereteli, officials from various governmental agencies, including the Parliament, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Public Defenders Office, representatives of the international organizations and local NGOs working in the field of gender-based violence, gathered to celebrate the World Population Day and the GBV-SC project launch at the new project office.



The head of the UNFPA/Georgia - Ms. Tamar Khomasuridze gave an opening speech. "*UNFPA Georgia with the opening of new project celebrates an important date to mark –the World Population Day, when UNFPA, together with other UN agencies and the governments of more than 140 countries pledges its commitment to support health and equal opportunity for all people*". In her speech she also outlined the major project directions and introduced new project staff to the invitees.

"The message of the 2008 World Population Day is "It's a right, let's make it real", emphasizing the women's right to family planning, participation and equal opportunities" – T. Khomasuridze

The Vice Speaker of the Parliament in his speech touched upon the importance of collaboration among the NGOs, international organizations and governmental institutions in countering domestic violence. He expressed hope that the project would serve as an important tool for coordination

contributing to national response to domestic violence.

The official launch was followed by a reception on an open-air terrace with Champaign, festive cake and fireworks. The event was aired on three major TV channels in Georgia: *the Public Broadcaster, Rustavi2* and *Alania* and was covered by a variety of news agencies and online publications.

"We believe our project will assist governments of the three countries of the Caucasus to fulfill their international commitments and achieve the Millennium Development Goals" - projected Ms. Khomasuridze. "The doors of the new office will always be open for all who are committed to the idea of women's advancement". The office is located in the newly built Business Centre, at 47/57 Kostava Str., in downtown Tbilisi.

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UNFPA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In response to the armed conflict in Georgia in August 2008, UNFPA/Georgia has launched an active humanitarian assistance program. UNFPA has been actively collaborating with international organizations, local NGOs and gov't institutions to activate and make use of all resources available. UNFPA mobilized and directed the efforts of all project staff to the UNFPA emergency response.



Since August 22, 2008 UNFPA contributed to the health and dignity of the displaced population through the provision of basic personal hygiene kits. UNFPA and volunteers from the Georgian Medical Students Association, assembled packages containing multivitamins, soap, towels, toothbrush and paste, underwear, sanitary napkins and razors. Each kit was designed to serve a family of four. To-date, UNFPA has distributed 4,956 hygiene (dignity)

kits in over 75 locations in Gori, Rustavi and Tbilisi encompassing over 19,824 IDPs. In addition, UNFPA has distributed up to 1,800 youth kits in Gori and Tbilisi IDP collective centres.

In order to address the reproductive health (RH) needs of the displaced population, UNFPA has deployed four RH Mobile Teams providing IDP women with examination, counseling, medicines and Information and Education Communication materials on reproductive health. UNFPA doctors have assisted over 2,184 IDP women in more than 45 IDP collective centers across Georgia.

Lack of access to quality RH services, damaged health infrastructure and increased poverty enhances risks of specific sexual and reproductive health concerns. In response, on September 20, 2008 UNFPA opened a Youth Reproductive Health Center in Gori — the area most affected by the conflict. The newly established Youth RH Center has two components: clinical center and a service center for information and counseling. UNFPA licensed and trained a number of health service providers in accordance with the UNFPA standards and guidelines. The Center operates and is funded within the framework of the EU/UNFPA RHIYC project.

The UNFPA/Georgia actively participated in the work of the Joint Assessment Mission to Georgia, carried out by the World Bank, the UN and the European Community in close cooperation with the Government of Georgia. UNFPA input was particularly salient in the sector of Basic Social Services with the focus on the Reproductive Health. The mission aimed at providing a unified and consolidated view of the early recovery needs in Georgia linked to the recent armed conflict.

UNFPA is also focusing on countering gender-based violence in its humanitarian efforts and therefore mobilized extra financial resources: USD 150,000 from CERF and 500,000 Norwegian Kroner from the Norwegian Gov't. Funds will be used in line with the commitments of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.



GBV-SC GEORGIA LAUNCHES THE FIRST COUNTRYWIDE SURVEY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Because the lack of comprehensive data on the scope of and the perceptions about gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most important factors hindering design and implementation of targeted and tailor-made programs to combat violence, UNFPA launched a countrywide quantitative and qualitative survey on causes and consequences of the GBV. After highly competitive selection process, UNFPA issued awards for conducting the survey to: ACT Research (ACT) and to the Center of Social Sciences (CSS).



ACT, established in 2002, has a track record of administering, efficiently and with high quality, the large-scale social science research projects in Georgia, while the CSS established in 2003, boasts unmatched academic knowledge and profound staff competence in gender issues in Georgia.

In collaboration, ACT and CSS are expected to conduct the survey in compliance with highest technical and



academic standards. The survey will collect the representative data at the national level from approximately 3,000 women on the prevalence and perceptions on GBV, causes and consequences of GBV, the extent to which intimate partner violence is associated with range of health, educational, legal and administrative outcomes, the effect of internal displacement on GBV, the strategies and services that women use to deal with violence and other relevant information.

The CSS and ACT are working with International Experts on the development of survey instruments and the methodologies for quantitative and qualitative surveys, designing the training curriculum and conducting trainings for interviewers on gender-based and domestic violence, conducting the qualitative research and drafting the final country report. Despite of the suspension of project-related activities due to the August war, it is projected that the survey implementation will be completed, with the drafting of the Country Analytical Report, in mid 2009.

To-date, the quantitative survey methodology and the survey questionnaire have been adapted to the Georgian context and were translated into the Georgian and Russian languages. The adapted quantitative methodology was piloted in the field through pre-testing of approximately 50 questionnaires.

Meanwhile, the systematic selection of a sample of 236 clusters was completed. The sample of respondents was based on a weighted stratified, multistage cluster sampling approach. The clusters are equally distributed between the urban and rural domains echoing the demographic situation in Georgia. The sample selection was undertaken in close collaboration with the State Department of Statistics. Also, in collaboration with the State Department of Statistics, the listing/updating of 23,600 households from the selected clusters was completed in October 2008. The updated household information was entered into a census database, from which a randomized household selection was done.

Additionally, the CSS is moving ahead on the qualitative methodology development, which includes the focus group discussions-, observations- and in-depth interview methodologies. The final qualitative methodology will be elaborated with the help of an International consultant before the end of 2008.

GBV-SC GEORGIA CONDUCTS THE TARGET GROUP EDUCATION MEETINGS ON GENDER ISSUES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



In Georgia, the general public (both men and women) have limited information on women's rights and domestic violence and its consequences for individuals and society. To aid the public awareness-raising around GBV, the Target Group Education sessions will be conducted. For these purposes, UNFPA selected, through a competitive bidding process, the International Centre on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN).

ICCN is an independent, non-profit research and training institution, established in 1994, with solid expertise in research and analysis, including human rights and gender equality, IDP/refugee studies, regional security studies, sociological surveys and public opinion polling, etc.

ICCN is responsible for developing training modules on gender issues, gender rights and equality, domestic violence and male involvement for educators. Target Group Education will reach cross-section of beneficiaries: high school- and university-aged youth, young men in military services, and representatives of public institutions and NGOs and women in general. The activity engages a large number of educators and trains them using the specifically designed training curriculum.

It is envisaged that in year 2009 and 2010, the trainings will be transformed into a larger-scale informational campaign, where trained educators will be deployed to various locations in Georgia to educate broader audiences (approx. 4,000 youth, men, and women) on gender issues, gender rights and equality, gender/domestic violence and male involvement.

Because of the conflict, and the increased number of cases of violence against women, girls and men, the Target Group Education activity was expanded to reflect the reality on the ground. According to the changes agreed between UNFPA/Georgia and ICCN, the total number of educators to be targeted have increased from 160 to 200; the number of trainings have gone up from the original 7 to 9; The ICCN is incorporating additional themes such as “GBV during the armed conflicts” into their training curriculum; importantly, an additional target group - that of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) from a new wave of violence in the South Ossetia has been added to the original list of target groups.

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON ELIMINATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In May of 2006 the Republic of Georgia took an important step to address domestic violence - the Georgian Parliament enacted the Law of Georgia on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection of and Support to Its Victims (hereinafter the Law). Furthermore, the Action Plan for 2007-2008 on Elimination of Domestic Violence and Protection and Support of Its Victims (hereafter Action Plan) was approved by the government in July 2007.

As the validity of the Action Plan expires, and in order to further the capacity building of national and local actors responsible for protecting and enforcing the rights and participation of women, the GBV-SC Georgia Team recruited two national consultants for the development of the Assessment Report of the Implementation of the National Action Plan on Elimination of Domestic Violence 2007-2008 (the Action Plan). The report includes a range of findings on the following:

- The compliance of the Action Plan with the priorities outlined in the Law of Georgia on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection of and Support to Its Victims
- The progress of implementation of the Action Plan
- Assessment of the degree of knowledge/awareness about the Law and the Action Plan among the public officials
- The review of budgetary allocations and their spending for the implementation of Action Plan
- Assessment of the role and sufficiency of the state coordination Mechanisms.

After the report has been submitted to UNFPA, an international consultant will complement the work of national consultants and finalize the Assessment Report. More specifically, the international consultant, whose recruitment is on-going, will critically review of the preliminary findings of the local experts and develop a set of recommendations on addressing the issues identified in Assessment Report. The task is planned to be completed in late November 2008.

Furthermore, the presentation of the findings and recommendations of the Assessment report will take place on December 9, 2008 in Tbilisi Marriott.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

On November 25—December 10, 2008, the GBV-SC Georgia is planning to join the global campaign of “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” with a large-scale public awareness-raising campaign.

The Global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based, celebrated since 1991, has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all



forms of violence against women. The original founders chose the date missing parts here Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women with human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights.

Within the framework of the 16 days of activism, GBV-SC Georgia plans to conduct a series of activities – to raise awareness about gender-based violence as a human right issue at the local, regional and national level, strengthen local work around violence against women and demonstrate

solidarity with women around the world.

An official opening press conference, a TV talk show, a photo and journalist’ contests on women’s rights and other activities are planned within the framework of the campaign. In order to coordinate national efforts of all contributors in Georgia and ensure the maximum visibility, an *ad hoc* National Coordination Committee, to coordinate, together with UNFPA Georgia, the activities of the campaign was established and is operational;

National Coordination Committee is composed of representatives of key women’s NGOs and NGO coalitions, and UN agencies. Deputy Public Defender of Georgia is also a member of the National Coordination Committee.

The campaign theme for 2008 is:
Human Rights for Women – Human Rights

Additionally, a Campaign Assistant was recruited and the design and printing company was identified, through a competitive bidding process. Efforts are being put into the production of the TV and Radio PSAs on GBV and 16 days of Activism.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be distributed on December 23, 2008



UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund
ზანაღორციანობის უწყისი ორგანიზაციის ფონდი



Combating Gender-Based Violence in South Caucasus Project is a multi-pronged, 3-year initiative funded by the UNFPA and the Government of Norway. Project is contributing to the national response to domestic violence in the countries of Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The project is implemented in close cooperation with key government entities, NGOs, and academia.

The project is strengthening the democratic governance through supporting the respect for human rights, gender equality and women's participation. The project will also promote GBV-free environment by empowering women to participate and contribute to the sustainable development and democracy in the region.

It is a first region-wide project to combat gender-based violence using a comprehensive approach to empowering women by:

Communicating, informing and educating the public-at-large on gender rights and issues;

Engendering laws, policies and plans;

Supporting establishment of service mechanisms to prevent, protect and respond to gender-based violence acts;

Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts aiming at addressing gender based violence;

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