

Georgia Health Cluster

Bulletin No. 2
20 October 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) will be presented at a donor conference in Brussels on October 22nd
- No communicable disease outbreaks reported
- Relocation efforts of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are continuing
- Health Cluster Coordination meetings are held regularly, hosted by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA)
- The Flash Appeal revision has been completed and harmonized with the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)



GENERAL SITUATION UPDATE

- The majority of the 130 000 people displaced after the conflict has now been relocated. Government-funded construction activities to provide permanent housing to IDPs unable to return to the places of their permanent residence are progressing rapidly;
- Currently 21 949 IDPs are located in Tbilisi and 15 448 are scattered in different regions¹;
- The IDP tent camp in Gori was closed on October 12 and dismantled on October 14;
- European Union observers are monitoring the ceasefire between Georgia and Russia.

JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JNA) TO BE PRESENTED AT THE DONOR CONFERENCE ON GEORGIA IN BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 22

- The **Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)** final document was prepared as a collaborative effort by the Georgian Government, the UN, the EU and the WB, based on the Post Conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA) methodology. It is a comprehensive compilation of rehabilitation and recovery needs in Georgia and outlines a sequenced implementation plan for agreed interventions over a three year period;

¹ Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, October 16, 2008.

- It proposes to the donor conference in Brussels that donors commit a total envelope of **US\$ 3.25 billion** over 3 years, out of which US\$ 930 million are estimated for budget support; US\$ 1 billion are estimated needs for the social sector, and US\$ 1.25 billion for infrastructure support;
- The needs based implementation plan covers three sequential time periods for the identified priority interventions:
 - Phase one: 6 months; October 2008 – March 2009
 - Phase two: 12 months; April 2009 – March 2010
 - Phase three: 18 months; April 2010 – September 2011;
- The UN has been leading the social sector component, with WHO as health cluster lead, collaborating with the MoLHSA to compile the health needs and to outline the necessary immediate and medium term health interventions;
- The health component of the JNA identified aggregated financial needs of **US\$ 174.2 million** for the three years period covered, with main expenditures planned for:
 - Expanded coverage and entitlement package of the **Medical Assistance Program** for Poor and Vulnerable Populations;
 - Reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged health infrastructure;
 - Health services provision, prioritizing mobile medical teams to support IDPs, the physical rehabilitation of conflict victims (prosthesis and physiotherapy), and mental health and psychosocial support.

CONSOLIDATED APPEALS PROCESS/FLASH APPEAL REVISION (CAP/FA)

- The CAP/FA has been revised, based on further assessments available, with total funding requirements of **US\$ 109 311 307** for the 6-months period from October 2008-March 2009;
- The appeal for the health sector is requesting **US\$ 3 445 000** for three UN agencies and seven NGO partners for the following jointly identified key objectives:
 - coordination and monitoring of the health and nutrition status of the IDP population;
 - access to essential health services - in particular primary health care (PHC);
 - mental health and psychosocial support, and reproductive health;
 - rehabilitation of health facilities.

HEALTH SITUATION UPDATE

- The rehabilitation plan for damaged health facilities is progressing. Requests for funding will be submitted to donors;
- Disease surveillance including water quality testing in affected areas is continuing with the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDCPH) closely monitoring the epidemiologic situation;
- As of 18 October, no outbreaks of communicable diseases among IDPs in the affected areas have been reported;
- Social Mobilization for Supplementary Measles & Rubella (MR) Immunization Campaign is ongoing. Immunization of population aged 6 to 27 will start at the end of October.

HEALTH CLUSTER COORDINATION

- WHO and the MoLHSA are coordinating health activities in Georgia with all partners involved;
- Health Cluster coordination meeting was held on October 17, 2008 at the UN House. WHO shared with partners ongoing discussions with the MoLHSA to re-integrate 250 displaced health professionals from South Ossetia and to engage them in the health service provision for IDPs.

Partners of the Health Cluster include: ACTS, ADRA, CARITAS, CIF, CLARITAS XXI, Counterpart, GRCS, Hellenicare, IMSS, IRD, IWA, Merlin, MdM, MSCI, MSF, OXFAM, SCF, UMCOR, WF, WVI, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNWHO, EC, EC/ECHO, USAID, WB (see Annex 2 for acronyms)

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA)

Nutrition subsector:

(For more information on infant and young children feeding in emergencies please see: <http://www.who.int/hac/crises> and <http://www.unicef.org/nutrition>)

- Nutritional Subsector meeting was held on October 16 at the UN House. CLARITAS XXI presented findings of a study of child feeding practices among IDPs. In order to improve the nutritional status of 0-2 year-old ID children the promotion and preservation of breastfeeding and adequate nutritional support practices were emphasized;
- UMCOR Georgia announced that it will provide Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS) to 100 children for the duration of two months, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, in compliance with international guidelines and practices.

Partners of the Nutrition subsector include: CLARITAS XXI, SCF, UNICEF, UNWFP, UNWHO

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA), Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation (MRA)

Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS) subsector:

- On 14 October 2008 a coordination meeting on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support was held at the UN House.
- "Post-Emergency Responses: an Integrated Approach to psychotrauma" Conference was held on October 17-18 in Tbilisi. The Conference was organized by the Georgian Society of Psychotrauma (GSP) and the European Society of Traumatic Stress Study (ESTSS);
- WHO workshop on Trauma Counseling is planned to be held on Tuesday, October 21 at the UN House. The workshop will be conducted by Prof. Dr Berthold P.R. Gersons – former President of the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ESTSS), distinguished AMC professor, professor of psychiatry at the University of Amsterdam, and Senior Advisor at Centrum '45;
- The Public Defender's Office presented a special report on Human Rights and Mental Health on October 10. Georgian version of the report is available at: http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/special_reports/human_rights_and_mental_health_2008.pdf. English translation of the report is underway.

Partners of the MHPSS subsector include: CRS, COG, GAMH, GAPCP, GASW, GIP, GPS, GCRT, GRCS, Hellenicare, IOCC, IOM, INCD, IPS, IRD, Merlin, MDM, MSF, NDOBA, PIN, SCF, WVI, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNWHO

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA), Committee of Health Care and Social Issues (CHCSI), Parliament of Georgia, Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)

Contacts:

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) in Georgia

Ms Nino Mirzikashvili, Head of the International Relation Department

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

Tel: +995 77 222 887

E-mail: nmirzikashvili@moh.gov.ge

WHO Georgia Country Office in Georgia

Dr Rusudan Klimiashvili

Head of WHO Country Office

who.rklimiashvili@undp.org.ge

Tel: +995 32 998073

Dr Maria Cristina Profili

Health Cluster Coordinator

E-mail: MCP@euro.who.int

Ms Maya Mateshvili

Information/Communication Officer

E-mail : mateshvilim@gmail.com

Mobile : +995 77 48 78 77

Dr David Katcharava

Public Health Assessment, Coordination Officer

E-mail: Datka@msn.com

Mobile: +995 91 607208

WHO Regional Office for Europe

Dr Gerald Rockenschaub, Regional Adviser

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Tel: +45 39 171551

Mobile : +45 21 794207

E-mail : GRO@euro.who.int

<http://www.euro.who.int/emergencies>

WHO Headquarters

Dr Alessandro Loretta

Director a.i. Emergency Response and Operations
(ERO) HAC Tel: +41 22 79 12750

Mobile : +41 79 218 9800

E-mail : lorettia@who.int

<http://www.who.int/disasters>

Ms Liuba Negru

Press and Media Relations Officer

Tel: +45 39 17 13 44

Mobile: +45 20 459274

E-mail: LNE@euro.who.int

<http://www.euro.who.int/mediacentre>

Mr Paul Garwood, Communications Officer

Health Action in Crises Cluster

Tel: +41 22 79 13462

Mobile : +41 79 4755546

E-mail : garwoodp@who.int

<http://www.who.int/disasters>

ANNEX – Health Cluster partners

Acronyms	Organization
ACTS	ACTS
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
CARITAS	CARITAS, Georgia
CIF	Curatio International Foundation
CLARITAS XXI, Georgia	CLARITAS (Mother-Child Nutrition and Wellness Association)
CHCSI	Committee of Health Care and Social Issues, Parliament of Georgia
CoG	Children of Georgia
Counterpart	Counterpart
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
EC	Delegation of the European Commission to Georgia
EC/ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office
GAMH	Georgia Association of Mental Health
GAPCP	Georgia Association for Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychologists
GASW	Georgia Association of Social Workers
GCRT	Georgian Center for psychosocial and medical Rehabilitation of Tortured victims
GIP	Global Initiative of Psychiatry
GPS	Georgian Society of Psychotrauma
GRCS	Georgia Red Cross Society
Hellenicare	Hellenicare
IMC	International Medical Corps
IMSS	International Medical Support Services, Georgia
INCD	International Network for Civil Development
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPS	Institute of Policy Studies
IRD	International Relief and Development
IWA	International Women's Association
MdM	Medicine du Monde
MERLIN	Medical Emergency Relief International
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoHLSA	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
MRA	Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation
MSCI	Medicine Service Corporation International
MSF	Medicine Sans Frontiers
NCDCPH	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
NDOBA	Georgian Association of Psychosocial Aid
OXFAM	OXFAM
PIN	People in Need
SCF	Save the Children Fund
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
WB	World Bank
WF	Welfare Foundation
WVI	World Vision International
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNWFP	United Nations World Food Programme
UNWHO	United Nations World Health Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development