

Summary of Programs in Georgia

Elimination of Measles and Prevention of Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS)

Partners: Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia, UNICEF, WHO, and U. S. Department of Agriculture

- Routine vaccination of all children aged 12 months and 6 years against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). Over 570,000 children were vaccinated during 2004-2008. Additional 150,000 children are to be vaccinated by end of 2009.
- RVF provides MMR vaccine and cold chain equipment, finances training of medical workers, and organizes the deployment of mobile medical teams to remote regions of the country
- Vaccination coverage rates raised to 95 % from a low of 66% in 2003
- Mass immunization campaign against measles and rubella to be conducted in October 2008 to accelerate the elimination of measles and prevent congenital rubella syndrome (CRS). 1 million children and young adults (25% of the entire population of Georgia) will be vaccinated.



Orphans in Batumi, Georgia

Sustainability: The Georgian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare finances 25% of the MMR vaccination program in year 2008; 50% in year 2009; and 100% by year 2010.

Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission of Hepatitis B Infection

Partners: Georgian Ministry of and Social Welfare Health, Georgia National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Health and Social Programs Agency of Georgia, U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Screening of the entire cohort of pregnant women – approximately 50,000 annually - and timely, aggressive medical intervention in newborns of infected mothers with hepatitis B vaccine plus hepatitis B immunoglobulin
- 61,000 pregnant women have been screened for Hepatitis B infection since July 2007
- Nearly 1,000 newborns of infected mothers have been identified and successfully treated to prevent infection with hepatitis B virus

Sustainability: Hepatitis B screening programs are financed by the Government of Georgia as follows: 30% in years 2007 & 2008; 50% in year 2009; and 100% by year 2010.

Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV/AIDS Infection

Partners: Georgian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Georgian AIDS Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Georgia National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Georgia Center of Infection Pathology, AIDS and Clinical Immunology

- All pregnant women are screened for HIV. Since 2005, 110,000 pregnant women have been screened for HIV.
- HIV-infected women receive appropriate anti-retroviral treatment to interrupt the transmission to their newborns
- 19 HIV-positive pregnant women have been identified since 2005; of this total 16 women have given birth and all 16 babies are free of HIV

Sustainability: The HIV screening project is being co-financed by the Government of Georgia as follows: 30% during 2007 & 2008, 50% in 2009, and 100% in 2010.

Screening and Treatment of Newborns for Hypothyroidism to prevent retardation and growth failure

Partners: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, U.S. Department of Agriculture

- All newborns – approximately 48,000 annually – are tested for hypothyroidism to ensure early detection and prevent neurological and growth impairment. Since 2007, 48,075 newborns have been screened for TSH.
- Findings show that one out of every 400 newborns has this congenital metabolic disorder. Since 2007, 175 newborns were diagnosed with hypothyroidism.
- Screening is linked to availability of timely State-funded treatment of newborns with TSH.

Sustainability: In 2009, the Government of Georgia will finance 50% of the program; 100% by the year 2010.