

**May 3, 2008**

**II Eastern Europe and  
Central Asia AIDS Conference**

# **Leadership in Response to HIV/AIDS in Georgia**

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**Coordinator**

**Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical**  
**Immunology Research Center**



# GEORGIA





# Role of Georgian Government in Terms of HIV/AIDS

- **Working on the HIV/AIDS problem has been started in 1984**
- Georgia has identified AIDS as priority, but the progress over the last 5 years is commendable.
- The new leadership of the Government is strongly committed to follow recommendations of G8, UNGASS, WHO and UNAIDS.
- We are pleased to acknowledge that Georgia has turned the HIV/AIDS programme into a success story.

# The Number of Reported Cases of HIV Infection in Georgia

**1582**

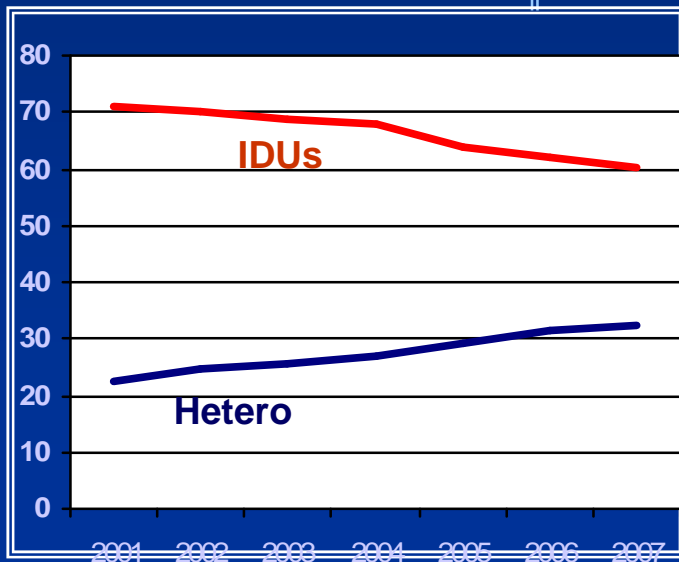
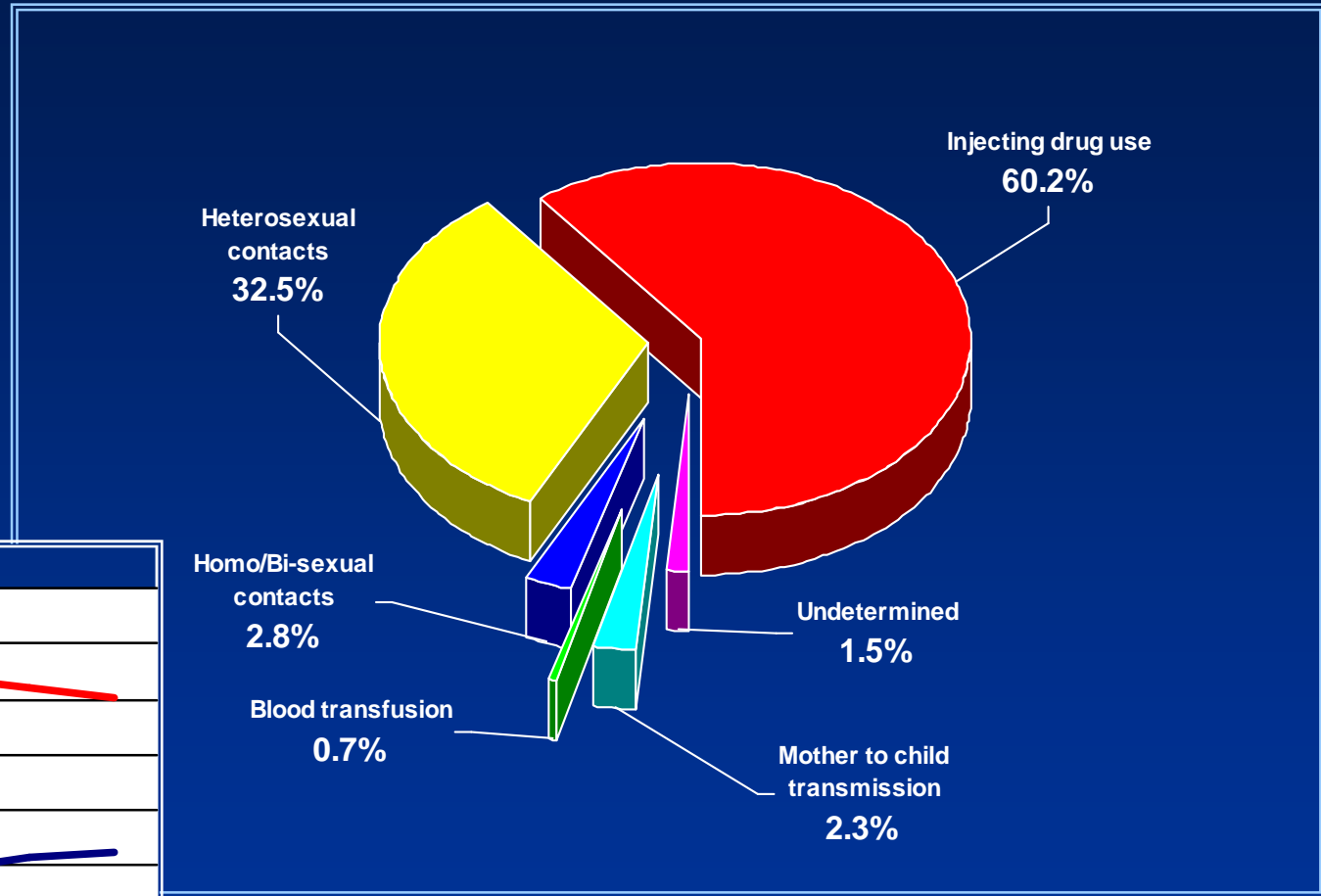
**650 - AIDS**

**340 - Death**

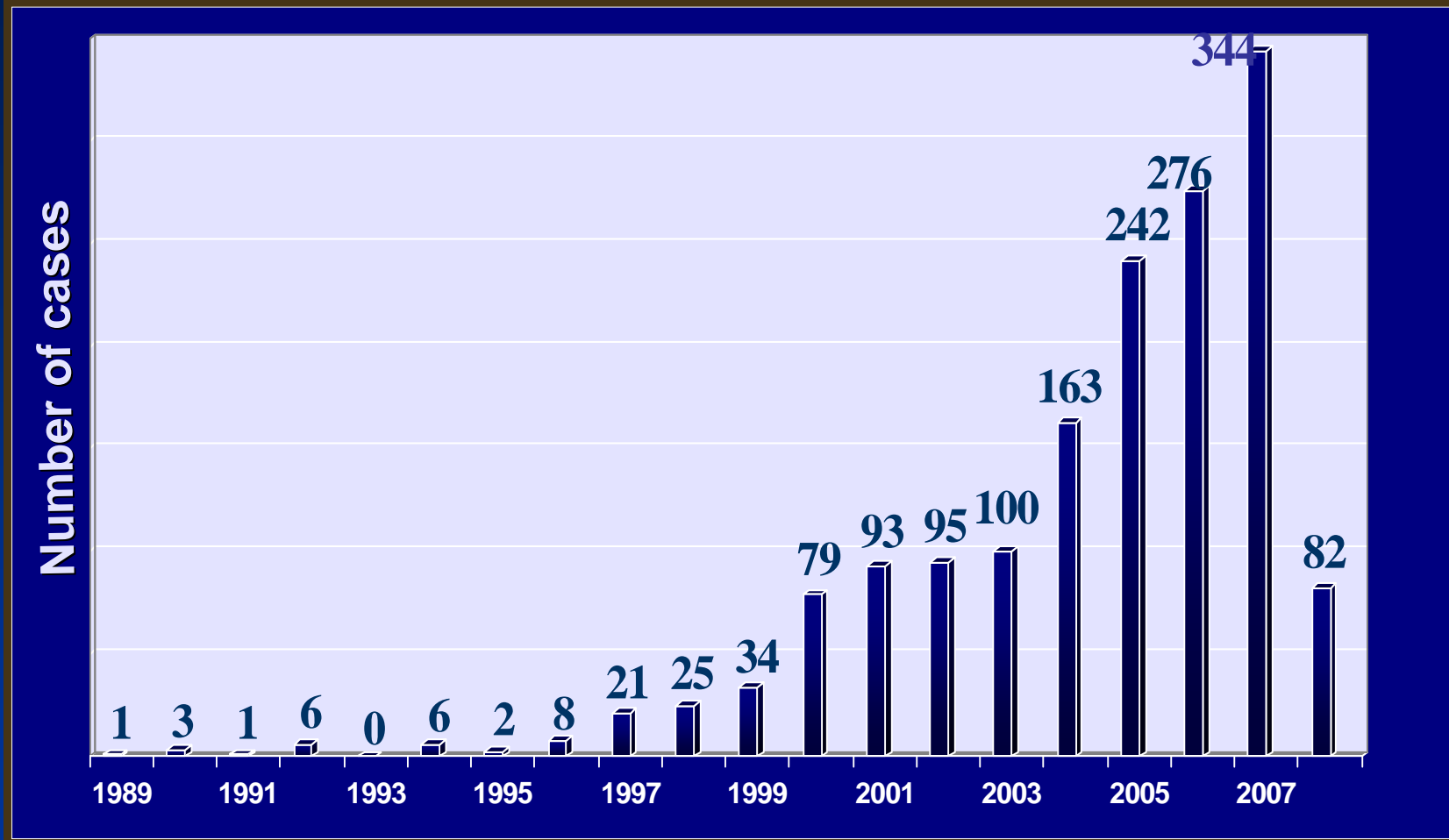
**Estimated Number  $\approx$  3 500**



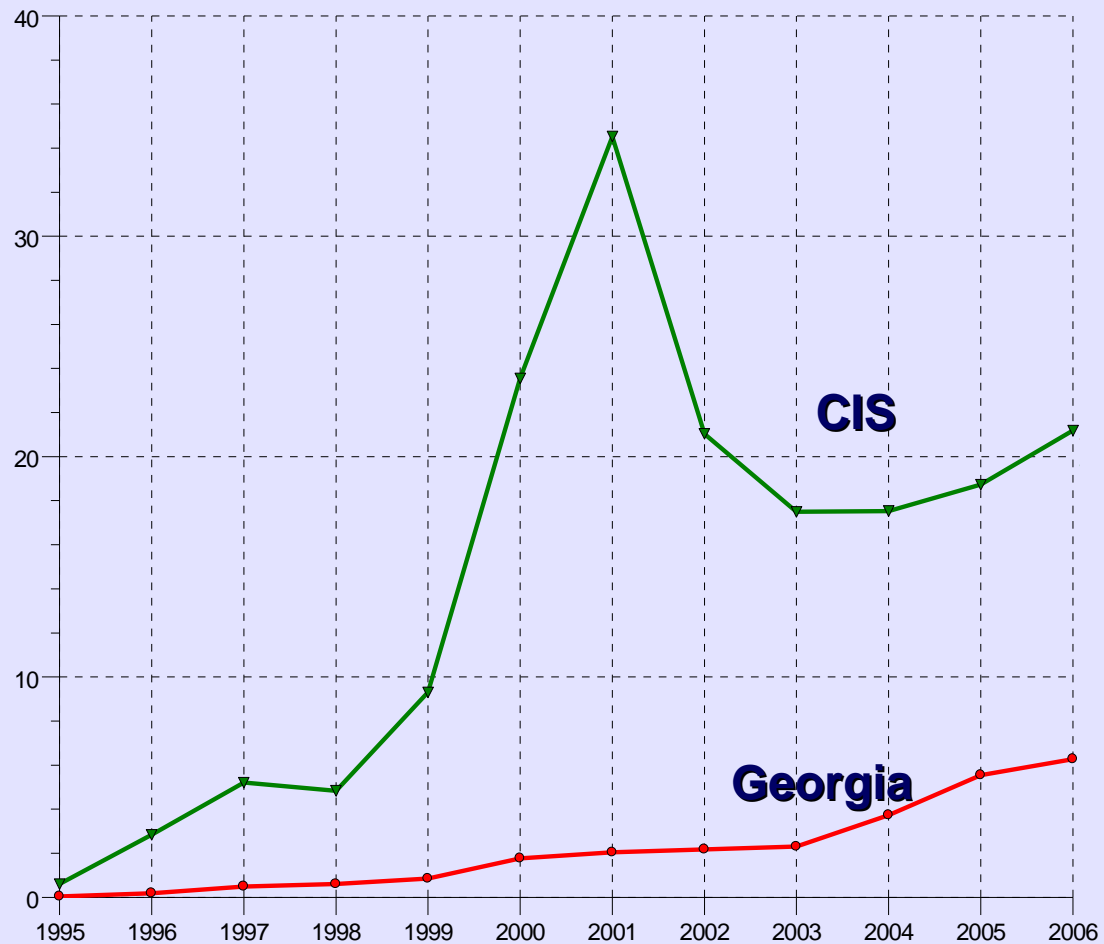
# Distribution of HIV Cases by Routes of Transmission



# HIV Cases Registered in Georgia Annually



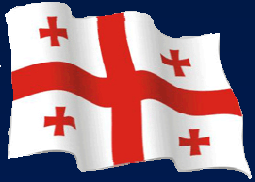
# HIV Incidence Rate per 100 000 Population



# Major Risk Factors for HIV/AIDS Spreading in Georgia

- **Georgia still belongs to HIV/AIDS low prevalence countries;**
- **By experts' consideration, unless urgent measures should be undertaken immediately, to avoid the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in close future**

- **High level of injecting drug use and STD**
- **Alarming situation on HIV/AIDS in neighboring countries**
- **Increased migration**
- **Low awareness about HIV/AIDS in population**
- **Traditionally Low demand on condoms**



# AIDS Control Service In Georgia

Ministry of Health  
and Social Affairs

Ministry  
of Education

Country Coordinating Mechanism  
(CCM)

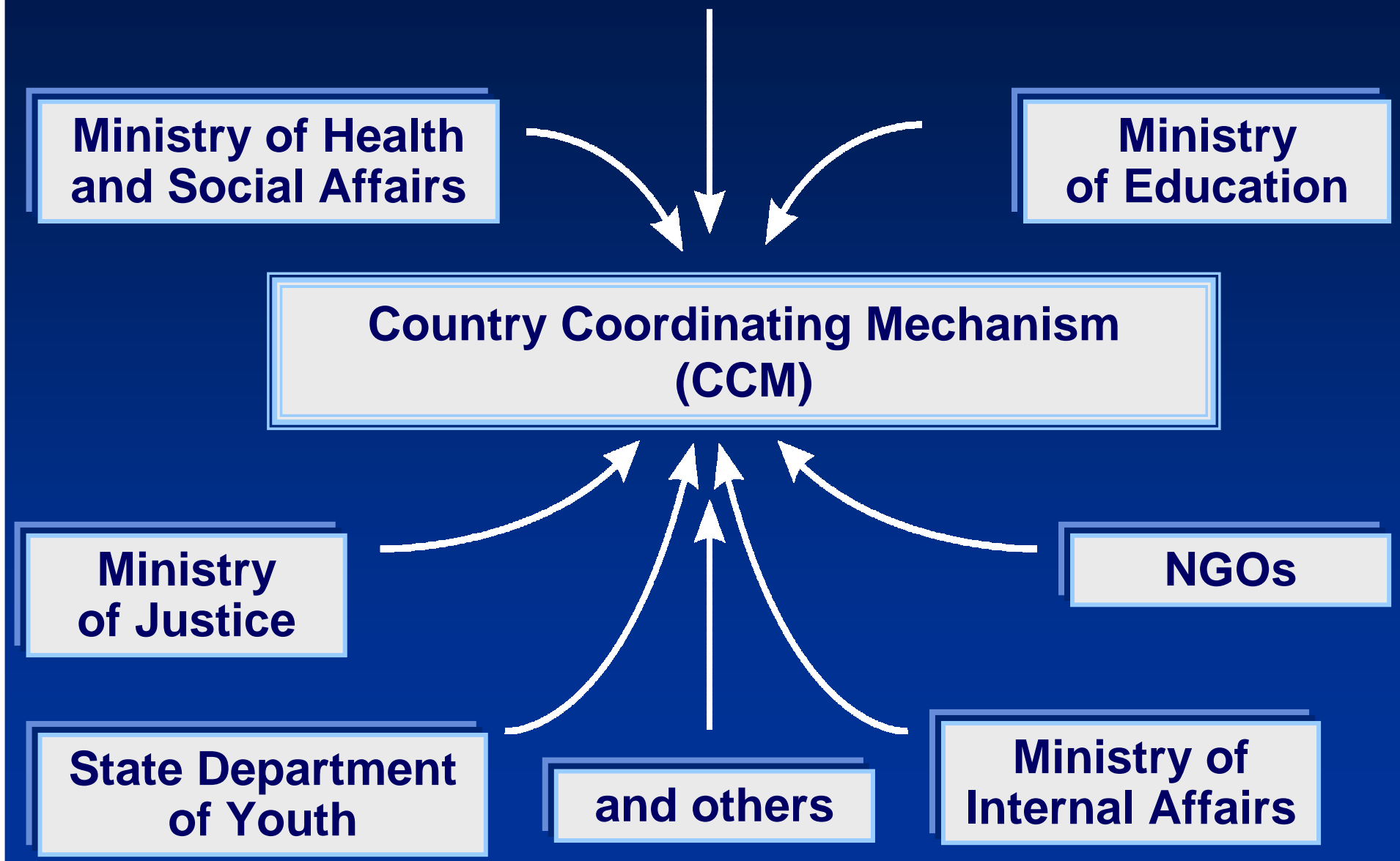
Ministry  
of Justice

NGOs

State Department  
of Youth

and others

Ministry of  
Internal Affairs



# Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention

- **Was developed in 1995**
- **First Revision-2000**
- **Second Revision -2007-2008**

**To meet the criteria of international standards and insure**

**Rights of PLHIV**

**Universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support**

# HIV/AIDS National Programs of Georgia

- **1 9 9 4 - National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program**
- **1 9 9 5 - National HIV/AIDS Treatment Program**
- **1 9 9 7 - National Blood Safety Program**

# National Strategic Plan of Actions

- Situation Analysis
- Response Analysis
- Strategic Plan 2003-2007 years; Budget - 15,500,000 USD
- Strategic Plan 2006-2010 years; Budget - 31,000,000 USD



UN Support

A white arrow points from the 'UN Support' text towards the right, indicating the direction of support towards the strategic plan formulation process.





# The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

**Round 2:** “Strengthening the Existing National Responses for Implementation of Effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in Georgia”

**Budget: \$12,125,644**

**Round 6:** “Accelerating HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Interventions in Georgia”

**Budget: \$11,385,859**

# National Strategic Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS in Georgia

2006-2010

Budget: 31,000,000 USD



National AIDS Programs



GFATM Projects

Activities are supported by



USAID



UN Agencies



# **The National AIDS Programs**

**Annual contribution: ~700,000 USD**

- **Epidemiological Surveillance on HIV/AIDS;**
- **Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT)**
- **Blood Safety**
- **Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT)**
- **Treatment and Care of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) – except of ARV Treatment**

# GFATM Projects

Annual contribution: ~3,000.000 USD

- **Care and treatment of PLHIV, including ART and palliative care;**
- **Advocacy for development of adequate legislative basis;**
- **HIV/AIDS Prevention among IDUs, FSWs and MSM including;**
- **HIV/AIDS prevention in penitentiary system;**
- **HIV/AIDS prevention among youth.**

# UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS

Annual contribution: ~300,000 USD

**UNAIDS**

**WHO**

**UNICEF**

**UNDP**

**UNFPA**

- Biennial Collaborative Agreement (BCA)
- Program Acceleration Funds (PAF)
- Strategic Planning and Development Fund (SPDF)

others projects

# Achievements

- **All major modern laboratory methods are implemented**
  - ELISA since 1984
  - Immunophenotyping since 1984
  - Western blot since 1985
  - Qualitative and quantitative PCR since 1995
  - HIV genotypic resistance testing since 2005
- **National protocols on HIV/AIDS treatment and care consistent with WHO guidelines**
  - Last updated in 2007

**Universal Access  
to HIV  
Treatment, Care and Support**

**Georgia Is the First  
Among FSU Countries  
that from 2004 Ensured  
Universal (100%) Access  
to ARV Treatment**

# Universal Coverage with ART

**Investigation of all HIV infected persons  
by Special Algorithm**

**Selection of patients eligible for ART**

**To offer ARV therapy to all patients  
requiring treatment**

**Monitoring ART outcome**

**Monitoring adherence**

# ART in Georgia

**383 Patients being treated  
with ARV as of May 1, 2008**

**369  
adults**

**15  
children**

# HIV Electronic Data bases

(demographic, epidemiological, laboratory,  
clinical variables)



# Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV

- **Since 2005 All Pregnant Women in Georgia have access to full package of PMTCT services:**
  - **Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT);**
  - **ARV Prophylaxis;**
  - **Counseling on mode of delivery and infant feeding;**
  - **Follow-up care for mother and infant.**

# **The Georgian CCM is strongly committed to meet the goals set by “Three ones” Key Principles**

- **One Authority: Effective Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) exists;**
- **One agreed National Strategic Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS is in place;**
- **M&E working group is established and system will become operational at the end of September 2008.**

# **Universal Access Initiative**

- **Universal (100%) access to ART**
- **Universal coverage with PMTCT**

**Georgia steps-up further efforts to scaling-up towards Universal Access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010**