



UN in RUSSIA

Activities for Sustainable Human Development

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Consolidated Appeal-2005: US\$ 60 Million to Help Chechnya and Neighboring Republics



UN Humanitarian Coordinator Kasidis Rochanakorn launches 2005 Consolidated Appeal

On 19 November in Moscow UN Humanitarian Coordinator Kasidis Rochanakorn on behalf of humanitarian agencies working in Chechnya and neighboring republics launched their 2005 Consolidated Appeal (CA). This CA is part of a global UN-led process of providing principled and effective assistance to 26 million people in need in 14 emergency situations around the world. The USD 1.7 billion programme globally is a vitally important investment into our common future. The humanitarian operation in the North Caucasus has been going on since 1999.

Donor countries have generously supported the operation over this period: from 1999 to date more than USD 170 Million was contributed and spent within the framework of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) to provide assistance in protection, food, shelter, health, education, water and sanitation, mine action, and economic recovery and infrastructure sectors to alleviate human suffering in the region. The current 2004 Consolidated Appeal for Chechnya and Neighboring Republics is

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among the best funded in the world. The total amount of funding requested in the 2005 Consolidated Appeal is nearly US\$ 60 million. These funds will enable the 29 humanitarian agencies directly participating in this Appeal to work towards the following common goals:

- Protection of the affected civilian population;
- Humanitarian relief and emergency support to meet the most basic social and physical needs;
- Support for the capacity of local government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide needed public services;
- Assistance that contributes to recovery and rebuilding livelihoods.

The CAP 2005 clearly reflects a shift in humanitarian action from relief aid to recovery. The humanitarian community will increasingly include elements of recovery and

capacity building in its relief programmes, especially in the health and education sectors, but also in the economic recovery and infrastructure sector. The food sector will see a major reduction in its direct food relief programme. On the other hand, the food sector plans to increase its ‘food for work’ and ‘school feeding’ programmes. It is important to stress that implementation of the CAP projects is a shared UN and NGO responsibility aimed at complementing the relief and recovery effort of the Russian government.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Russian Government, UN Agencies, donors and NGOs who after the official CAP 2005 presentation engaged in a productive dialogue.



A lively dialogue between the Consolidated Appeal presentation participants

On behalf of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Alexander Smirnov made a short statement, in which he expressed gratitude for the efforts of the humanitarian community and commended the participating agencies for a successful CAP document which reflects the current needs and rightfully recognizes such essential elements of the planned humanitarian action as job creation, rebuilding livelihoods in the region, thereby providing an interface between relief and development aid. Mr. Alexander Smirnov also thanked the donor community, and all international and non-governmental organizations for their continuous support.

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, supported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), facilitates overall coordination of humanitarian agencies in Chechnya and neighbouring republics of the Russian Federation. Further information on the humanitarian activity in the region is available at the OCHA Office in Moscow and Nazran or on OCHA web-site: www.ocha.ru



The meeting is attended by representatives of the Russian Government, UN Agencies, donors and NGOs



Towards a Successful Integration of Refugees from Georgia

“I am happy to have our own house for my family where we can feel happy again”, says Galina Tadtaeva, a refugee from Georgia who got a house constructed under the UNHCR/ North Ossetian-Alanian Government project. Like thousands of others she went through exile, loss of relatives and many years of hardships in the last 10 years in her country of asylum.



Photo by K. Rochanakorn, UNHCR

UNHCR team is visiting a new completed house together with a representative of the Children's Fund, a UNHCR implementing partner

Since 1991 until today, the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania has welcomed more refugees, mainly ethnic Ossetians that fled turmoil in Georgia in 1991–1992, than any other republic in the Russian Federation. According to UNHCR data, the conflict in Georgia created more than 55,000 refugees with the North Ossetian-Alanian Government asserting the number was as high at 110,000 people. As the Government Migration Services did not exist at the time, and considering the chaotic situation after the collapse of USSR, a rather significant number of refugees remained unrecognized even beyond 1993.

In 1993 with the adoption of the federal law “On Refugees” and setting up of the Federal Migration Service and its affiliations in regions, in North Ossetia-Alania some 45,000 persons were recognized as refugees while some 10,000 others from South Ossetia were not. When fleeing to North Ossetia people found refuge with relatives, friends, in rented shelter or, having no other choice, or abandoned or unused communal building such as pioneer camps, hostels, etc.

In 1997, after conducting the survey of the situation, UNHCR started the programme of voluntary repatriation to Georgia. However, the number of organized return initially was

quite small – 508 families/ 1,704 persons returned to the places of former residence and received assistance in rehabilitation of their houses. Many others, however, at the time returned spontaneously.

At present, it is the general feeling that the vast majority of refugees do not link their future with going back to Georgia and accordingly UNHCR programs have shifted to focus on integration activities. Of top priori-

ty was to provide legal assistance to the people of concern assisting them in finding durable solutions. For those willing to stay in North Ossetia-Alania the most acute problem was regularization of the status and gaining proper documentation via acquisition of RF citizenship. Through close cooperation with Passport-Visa Services and due to persistent work of UNHCR and the NGO Children's Fund, quite significant progress was achieved in helping refugees and those with no legal status to become Russian citizens.

Today, there are only 240 persons still holding refugee status from Georgia on the territory of North Ossetia-Alania officially recognized by the Migration Department of North Ossetian Interior Ministry.

(To be continued on p.4)



Photo by V. Sokolova, UNHCR

The houses for refugees from Georgia in Tsalyk settlement, North Ossetia



(Continued from p. 3)

Despite the fact that majority have acquired Russian citizenship, many still face significant problems on the road to integration. According to the Children's Fund, which is the key UNHCR implementing partner in North Ossetia-Alania, some 4,000 refugees and ex-refugees still reside in 54 collective centers scattered throughout the republic. Living conditions remain unsatisfactory due to lacking basic facilities like water, gas and electricity.

In 1999 the Government of North Ossetia-Alania developed an integration plan aimed at facilitation of successful and smooth process of local settlement of refugees. UNHCR supported the plan and in 2000 began a pilot project to construct 24 houses for refugees. The project has the dual purpose of providing shelter to vulnerable families, while at the same time providing them a permanent residence enabling them to get citizenship. This partnership with the Government and programme has continued, and since the year 2000 UNHCR has constructed over 200 houses for refugees with a financial contribution over 31 million rubles. An equally important, and highly successful, activity was assisting with the steady acquisition of citizenship by the refugees. Also, other joint programmes were undertaken with the Government such as providing elec-

tricity and water to the village Sunja as well as assistance to vulnerable families with shelter materials to make their houses habitable.

The Children's Fund has been the main UNHCR implementing partner in North Ossetia-Alania for many years. The Counseling Center run by the Children's Fund provides refugees with the ongoing opportunity to receive free qualified legal assistance and social and medical counseling if necessary. The Children's Fund social workers and a doctor, all refugees themselves, widely cover the refugees and ex-refugees in all districts of the republic, and are very often the only source of information for refugees residing in the remote areas. Children's Fund monitors are highly active in the field and possess the most updated information enabling them to provide personalized assistance to vulnerable families. Together with Children's Fund UNHCR implements integration oriented "quick-impact projects" in Kirovsky and Pravoberejny Districts, the beneficiaries of which are both refugees and the communities that host them. Here are a few examples: a sewing workshop for refugees have been organized, a sports gym and social club have been equipped, and a greenhouse was established. The special attention while planning and implementing the projects is paid to women, adolescents and lonely elderly people.

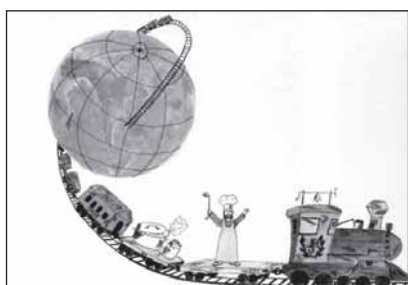
Another key UNHCR implementing partner in North Ossetia-Alania, the Center of Psychological- Pedagogical Assistance "Doverie", successfully implements psychological rehabilitation project for refugee children. Along with the assistance provided in the primary center, the "Doverie" project covers 5 schools in Vladikavkaz and one kindergarten attended by many refugee children. The psychologists of "Doverie" regularly visit schools in villages Komso-molskoe and Tsalyk, where UNHCR together with the Government has constructed houses, where they conduct sessions for refugee and local children through individual and group counseling. Within the framework of the project some 800 children received psychological support.

A significant and important recent development has been the partnership focused on integration developed between UNHCR, UNDP, the Swiss Development Corporation, and the Danish Refugee Council. This partnership is focused on undertaking the preparatory steps for starting up an area-based integration programme in North Ossetia-Alania in cooperation with the Government.

*Madina Chedzhemova,
staff member of UNHCR
Protection Unit in Vladikavkaz*



The United Nations World Food Programme Awards a Young Artist in Chechnya



On 2 December the United Nations World Food Programme in Russia's representatives went to Grozny to present an award to a Chechen boy in Grozny as one of the winners of the agency's 2004 International School Feeding Design Competition.

The winner, Aslan Zubairae, is a 16-year-old student at secondary school in Grozny. He was impressed when he learned that the hot meals provided by WFP to children at his school were made of food products delivered from around the world. He drew a pic-



ture with a train traveling the globe and bringing food and hope to people in need.

The competition was conducted early this year in all countries where WFP provides school feeding, including 250 schools in Chechnya. The best drawings were selected and sent to WFP headquarters in Rome. The results have been recently announced and Zubairaev was among the 17 winners whose designs are now being used for WFP greeting cards, 2005 calendar, T-shirts and other media. Hundreds of school children in 36 countries competed the awards. Only 17 children won the awards out of 175 finalists.

Chris Czerwinski, WFP Senior Emergency Coordinator in Russia, presented the award – an oil color case and video player - at the ceremony arranged at the school. “It is a sign of hope that such a talent can flourish in such a devastated city.” In 2005, thousands of copies of post cards with Aslan’s drawing will be sent out to people around the world



Aslan Zubairaev (left) together with his family

while thousands offices and homes in many countries will have the WFP calendar. “Thus Aslan’s dream will start to come true,” said Czerwinski. Lema Dadaev, Minister of Education of Chechnya emphasized that “the priority of his Ministry is to re-establish the system of education in Chechnya and WFP is doing a lot to help the Ministry to achieve this goal.”

WFP in Russia has been implementing a School Feeding Programme in Chechnya since December 2001 to help improve enrolment and attendance rates, relieve short-term hunger and normalize the school environment. The programme started with 6,000 primary school children and expanded to cover some 79,500 children from 379 schools in 11 districts of Chechnya in 2004/2005 academic year.



A New Social and Economic Recovery Programme for the North Caucasus

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Governments of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and humanitarian non-governmental organizations working in the North Caucasus, has launched a new initiative aimed at facilitating integration of displaced persons and refugees into host communities through strengthening local economic development. The programme is co-funded by UNDP and the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom

with the initial budget of US \$1,500,000 in 2005.

In November 2004, the new programme opened its office in Vladikavkaz and began executing seven projects to rehabilitate public areas and public infrastructure in key communities of Ingushetia and North Ossetia-Alania. Projects include repairs or improvements to roads, drainage, schools, community centres, parks, and play areas and are generating approximately 250 temporary labor jobs.

During its first months of operations the programme will also concentrate on establishing partnerships, carrying out area research assessments, and planning with governments in each republic to develop agreed frameworks for economic recovery and integration. Information and experiences gained through these efforts are expected to result in a 3-year recovery programme that will increase communities’ resilience and enhance employment generation through agricultural, small business and micro-lending activities.

A Knowledge-based Society: How Far Is Russia?

On 18 November 2004 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented the Human Development Report 2004 for the Russian Federation, which examines perspectives, opportunities, and challenges along Russia's path "Towards a Knowledge-based Society".

Russia must continue to restructure its economy in favor of innovation, to shift from development based on the exploitation of natural resources toward harnessing the most powerful renewable resource available: knowledge.

Commenting on the Report, Mr Vassily Nebenzya, Deputy Director of the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stressed the importance of the topic or Russia's current situation as positive tendencies are being observed in the economy against the background of rising prices for extractive resources. "The Report makes you think about what will happen if and when the situation changes. Is the country prepared for the change? Do we have an alternative to export-based and natural resources-based development?"

Presenting the Report, Mr Stefan Vassilev, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, noted that Russia has extensive research and human potential, which remains underexploited and even decreasing due to a lack of investment and such factors as brain drain. Further, he highlighted such challenges as negative demographic tendencies; the social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS, and access to quality education. According to Mr Vassilev, the purpose of the Report is not to give answers, but to highlight certain issues, suggest potential solutions, and initiate a vibrant discussion in society and among decision-makers. "I sincerely hope



Photo by A. Yakunchikov, UNIC Moscow

Left to right: Mr Stefan Vassilev, Professor Sergei Bobylev, and Mr Vassily Nebenzya

that the Report could play a role in rethinking policies regarding the restructuring of the economy and its further development," Mr Vassilev concluded.

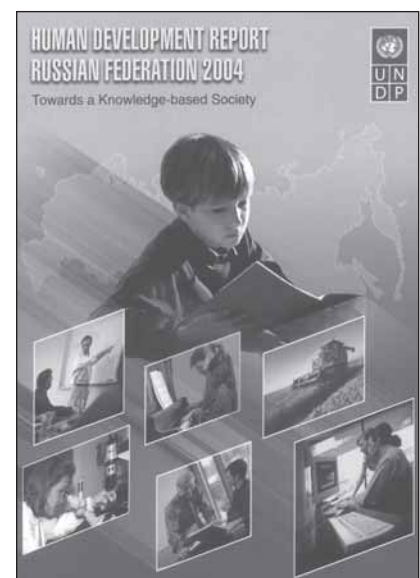
Professor Sergei Bobylev, the chief author of the Report, called it an attempt to identify a new path to development not only in the framework of the internationally recognized concept of knowledge-based society and economy, but also prevailing context in Russia, where economic development is based on exploitation and depletion of natural resources. "This can not lead to sustainable development...sustainable development can only be based on such a renewable resource as knowledge," said Mr Bobylev.

In keeping with tradition, the Report presents a regional comparative analysis of socio-economic conditions via the Human Development Index (HDI), developed for 79 regions of the Russian Federation. The HDI has been recently selected by the Russian Government as one of the key indicators for measuring

progress against national socio-economic goals and objectives.

This Report, a joint initiative of the Government of the Russian Federation and UNDP, is the ninth in a series of annual reports providing rigorous analysis of leading social, economic, and environmental challenges within the framework of sustainable human development and the Millennium Development Goals. Prepared as before by leading Russian

experts, it maintains conceptual continuity with previous national reports. UNDP, with approval of the Government of the Russian Federation, announced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the topic for the next year's Human Development Report. MDGs is a programme of action adopted by the United Nations member-states in 2000 to help eradicate poverty and improve general standard of living.



Business Respond to Society

On 17 November 2004, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Russian Managers Association, launched the Report on Social Investments in Russia.

The report is based on materials taken from Russian and foreign sources, research conducted by the Managers Association and primary data obtained from 100 Russian companies that participated in a questionnaire on “The Russian Business Social Investment Index”. The core of the report is an analysis of the role Russian business has in social development.

On the subject of corporate social responsibility (CSR) as raised by the business sector, it is interesting to note the transition from unorganized and sporadic philanthropical endeavors towards pragmatic social investments.

Corporate social responsibility is a code of conduct and a conceptual philosophy for the business community, companies and individual busi-

ness representatives in the places where they operate with a focus on:

- providing high quality products and services for consumers;
- creating a positive work environment, paying documented salaries and investing in staff potential and further development;
- strict adherence to legal requirements: fiscal, labor, environmental, etc.;
- building conscientious or bona fide relations with all the stakeholders;
- efficient business operating procedures, oriented at creation of value added cost and improvements in the interests of shareholders;
- giving consideration to social expectations and generally accepted ethic norms in business practices;
- contributing to the emerging civil society through partner programs and local community development projects.

The report introduces the concept of social investments as a practical form of engaging CSR.

On average, business provide social investments amounting to 28,330 RuR annually per employee, the ratio of social investments to gross sales is 2%, and the ratio of social investments to the balance sheet profits is approximately 11%.

The “Social Investment Index” point to the uneven distribution of social expenses with a skewed proportion being borne predominantly by the traditional heavy industries.

Growth in social investments by the private sector will increase by 10% in 2004, as compared to 2003.

Uniting Voices against AIDS

On 14 December 2004, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the musical “We Will Rock You” joined forces to present a charitable performance of the renowned musical, featuring Queen hits. The show, completing a series of events across Russia devoted to World AIDS Day 2004, is an inspiration of the UN initiative “Leadership in Action – For a Russia without AIDS.” Supporting partners included the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The “Leadership in Action” initiative seeks to advance leaders across all sectors and levels of society in Russia - to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic with a positive social epidemic of activism.

The epidemic has already taken hold in the country: over the last five years, Russia has experienced one of the most explosive rates of HIV spread in the world. There are already some 300,000 people living with HIV registered by the health authorities, with UNAIDS estimating some 860,000 total Russians living with HIV.

The show was opened by the UN Resident Coordinator in the Russian Federation Mr Stefan Vassilev and the Director of the musical, a renowned Russian film director Mr Dmitri Astrakhan. Mr Vassilev pointed to the importance of the event, citing the words of Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director



of UNAIDS, that in the fight against the epidemic of HIV/AIDS the arts and media community, through their unrivaled influence on people of all ages, have the potential to ‘save even more lives than doctors.’ In addition to the general public, representatives of the Russian government, NGOs, arts and media, religious organizations and people living with HIV/AIDS attended the show. All proceeds will go to support the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Russian Population: Charting the Way Forward



Left to right: Director of the Information and External Relations Division of UNFPA Safiye Cagar, UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation Sietske Steneker, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development Vladimir Starodubov

National Forum “Russian Population: Charting the Way Forward” took place on 3–4 November 2004 at the Russian Academy of State Service under the President of the Russian Federation in Moscow.

The event was organized by UNFPA in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, to mark the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. More than 250 policy-makers and population professionals participated.

The four thematic sessions of the forum were: “Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action Worldwide and in Russia,” “Health and Life Expectancy,” “Fertility, Family and Reproductive Health,” and “Migration and Migration Policy”. The key note address was given by Ms. Safiye Cagar, Director of the Information and External Relations Division of UNFPA in New York. Some of the main points of her address follow below.

Ten years ago in Cairo, 179 nations agreed on a global plan to improve the well-being of the world’s people

and to safeguard the planet’s natural resources.

In Cairo it was agreed that every country’s economic and social planning should consider population factors – growth or decline, spacial and age distribution and migration, among others – and how these factors interact and how they affect production, consumption and other societal processes.

Most critically, the Cairo conference moved the population discussion away from numbers and achieving demographic targets, to a focus on improving human well-being and increasing respect for human rights. These rights include the right of every woman and couple to determine the number, spacing and timing of their children, and to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, violence and coercion.

A global survey that was conducted by UNFPA of 169 countries showed that the Cairo consensus is working. Many countries already have incorporated its recommendations into their national plans, policies and legislation. Recent macro-level research suggests that, from 1960 to 1995, about a fifth of economic growth worldwide was attributable to reductions in mortality and about a fifth to reductions in fertility.

Whereas the population of the least-developed countries stands to triple in the next 50 years, low fertility is a major concern in many parts of the European region, particularly in relation to projected population and labour force declines. As with all emerging challenges, the vital prerequisite for successful public policies in these areas is data collection and re-

search, both as a basis for policy-making and to monitor experience. As for the solutions, we can at this point only say that new approaches will not work that do not respect rights and choices.

Poor maternal health continues to be a problem world-wide and also contributes to infant and child mortality. UNFPA is working with governments and other partners to provide access to reproductive health services – not only care during pregnancy and delivery, but also family planning and services to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

AIDS is one of the horrors of our time and it is taking a brutal toll, particularly in southern Africa, but increasingly also in parts of Asia, the Caribbean and in Eastern Europe, including the Russian Federation.

UNFPA was very pleased to learn that the Russian Federation took the very positive step of establishing a multi-sectoral “Coordination Council on HIV/AIDS” in the Ministry of Health and Social Development. At this time, Russia is the only nation in the world that faces the double challenge of a declining population and a growing AIDS epidemic.

Ms. Cagar concluded her address with the following words: “The Programme of Action that was adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo ten years ago points the way forward for all nations. This 20-year programme of action is now at its mid-point and I encourage all of you to continue to use it as a guide as you grapple with the population challenges facing the Russian Federation. I am here to deliver our assurance that UNFPA is ready and willing to partner with you every step of the way.”



Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent and the Wrangel Island Natural State Reserve Included in the UNESCO World Heritage List

As it was reported earlier, Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent and the Wrangel Island Natural State Reserve were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004. Upon the “UN in Russia” request the UNESCO Moscow Office agreed to comment on the event.



The Novodevichy Convent

The Novodevichy Convent, in south western Moscow, built in the 16th

and 17th centuries, was part of a chain of monastic ensembles that were integrated into the defense system of the city. The Convent was di-

rectly associated with the political, cultural and religious history of Russia, and closely linked to the Moscow Kremlin.

It was used by women of the Tsar’s family and of the aristocracy. Members of the Tsar’s family and entourage were also buried in its cemetery. The Convent provides an example of the highest accomplishments of Russian architecture with rich interiors and an important collection of paintings and artifacts.

This outstanding architectural complex of the 16-th – 17-th centuries located at the Moscow-river bank became the 21-th property in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Wrangel Island

The World Heritage Committee recognized the site as an outstanding example of evolution of the various natural complexes (mountain, plain and coastal) of Arctic. Regarding the Arctic zone, the territory is extraordinary rich in biodiversity and meets all the requirements of its conservation; the site contains habitats of rare and endangered species of global significance (Nii and Niv criteria).

However the Committee pointed to the necessity of elaboration for the site of a long-term management plan and the strategy of its realization.

The Wrangel Island Reserve with the total area of 2 225 650 ha includes the islands of Wrangel and Herald and 12 nautical mile water area around every island (1 430 000 ha



Wrangler Island landscapes

totally) of the Chuckchee Sea and the East Siberian Sea.

The islands of Wrangel and Herald boast Arctic's richest flora and fauna biodiversity. Here we can see a mixture

of typically Arctic and relatively southern – Asian and American taxones.

The Wrangel Island became the eighth World Natural Heritage property in Russia.

The photo provided by Mr. ALEXEI BUTORIN

Childhood Under Threat

*Childhood Is A Brutal Experience For Half of World's Children,
UNICEF Says – Crucial Years Destroyed by Poverty, Conflict and AIDS*

Despite the near universal embrace of standards for protecting childhood, a new UNICEF report “The State of the World’s Children, 2005” shows that more than half the world’s children are suffering extreme deprivations from hunger, war and HIV/AIDS, conditions that are effectively denying children a childhood and holding back the development of nations.

Launching the 10th annual report The State of the World’s Children, 2005, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said more than 1 billion children are denied the healthy and protected upbringing promised by 1989’s Convention on the Rights of the Child – the world’s most widely adopted human rights treaty. The report stresses that the failure by governments to live up to the Convention’s standards causes permanent damage to children and in turn blocks progress toward human rights and economic advancement.

“Too many governments are making informed, deliberate choices that actually hurt childhood,” Bellamy said in launching the report at the London School of Economics. “Poverty doesn’t come from nowhere; war doesn’t emerge from nothing; AIDS doesn’t spread by choice of its own. These are our choices.”

“When half the world’s children are growing up hungry and unhealthy, when schools have become targets and whole villages are being emptied by AIDS, we’ve failed to deliver on the promise of childhood,” Carol Bellamy said.

The report – entitled “Childhood Under Threat” – examines three of the most widespread and devastating factors threatening childhood today: HIV/AIDS, conflict, and poverty.

Working with researchers at the London School of Economics and

Bristol University, UNICEF concluded that more than half the children in the developing world are severely deprived of one or more of the goods and services essential to childhood.

- 640 million children do not have adequate shelter
- 500 million children have no access to sanitation
- 400 million children do not have access to safe water
- 300 million children lack access to information (TV, radio or newspapers)
- 270 million children have no access to health care services
- 140 million children, the majority of them girls, have never been to school
- 90 million children are severely food deprived

Even more disturbing is the fact that at least 700 million children suffer from at least two or more of the deprivations, the report states.

“But the quality of a child’s life depends on decisions made every day in households, communities and in the halls of government. We must make those choices wisely, and with children’s best interests in mind. If we fail to secure childhood, we will fail to reach our larger, global goals for human rights and economic development. As children go, so go nations. It’s that simple,” Carol Bellamy said.

In the Russian Federation launching the report took place at the Higher School of Economics. Carel De Rooy, UNICEF Representative for Russian Federation, Andrey A. Yakovlev, Vice-rector of the HSE,



Launching the new UNICEF report “The State of the World’s Children, 2005” in Moscow

Sergey N. Smirnov, Director of the Institute of Social politics and Social and Economical Programs, N.I. Isaev, Deputy Director of the Institute of Social Politics and Social and Economical Programmes, other key professionals of the HSE and the students participated in the discussion.

“The children in the Russian Federation are of higher risk of poverty than other population of the country, – Carel De Rooy said in his presentation. 20% of the population in Russia lives below official poverty threshold and for children this ratio is 57 %. In 2002 47,7% of families with children under sixteen had their income lower than the country poverty level (approximately \$70 per month).”

Carel De Rooy also spoke about the state of orphaned children. More than 2% out of all children population in Russia are in this state. The amount of children under three, placed in the orphanages, has doubled in comparison with 1990. UNICEF Representative talked about the economical aspect of this human problem. According to the World Bank research, the Government spends from 4,500 to 12,000 rubles per month on supporting one child in the orphanage. At the same

time the development and support of the system of patronage families is an effective and working tool not only from the human and social point of view, but it is more efficient from the economical perspective as well.

During the discussion of the report the speakers also talked about the state of children with physical and mental disabilities, ecological situation, support and development of the education on the native languages, interactions between the government and NGOs, etc. The Representative of the UN Children's Fund and the representatives of the HSE expressed the hope that the cooperation between the UNICEF and the Higher School of Economics shall continue in the future.

Launching the report "The State of the World's Children, 2005" in

Finland was organized by the National Committee for UNICEF and took place in Helsinki, in the hall "Finland".

The staff of the Finnish National Committee for UNICEF, Karina Vartanova, Coordinator of UNICEF program "Young People's Health and Development" in Russia and two volunteers of this program, who work in the project "Care of Adults of Tomorrow" participated in the press conference. In cooperation with UNICEF this programme has been implemented in Kaliningrad from 1998.

– When I learned about UNICEF programme "Young People's Health and Development" in the youth club "Romantic", – seventeen year old Alexey Shestakov said, – it became a very important event for

"As Children Go, So Go Nations"

me. It is like I saw another side of life... I got new friends; I started to feel more comfortable. Then I went to the volunteers' camp, had a training. Now I go to rural schools and city dormitories and talk about the necessity of giving up drugs, speak about possible consequences of drug addiction.

Eighteen year old Alexey Manzya supports his friend. He also participates in the programme of preventing drug addiction in Kaliningrad and Kaliningrad oblast and thinks that participation of young people in the programs of that kind is very important.

So, the subjects of the report "The State of the World's Children, 2005" were thoroughly discussed by professionals, researchers and young people.

Dr Jong –Wook Lee on the Past, Present, and Future of WHO

Dr Jong–Wook Lee, WHO Director-General visited Russia from 19-22 October 2004. One of his meetings was with Russian Medical Doctors, Professors and Academicians in the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences where he overviewed the work of WHO and outlined the short-range perspectives. "UN in Russia" acquaints the readers with this overview.



Foundation and purpose

The World Health Organization was founded in 1946 as a specialized agency within the United Nations system "to promote and protect the health of all peoples". The founders could see that unequal development in health in different parts of the world was a danger for the whole world. WHO came into existence officially on April 7 1948, when 26 of the 51 Member States of the United Nations had ratified its Constitution.

First 30 years: optimism

In the early years of WHO, many people thought that science and technology would solve the world's health major problems. Global campaigns were launched to control sexually transmitted diseases with peni-

cillin, malaria with DDT, and smallpox with vaccine. The development of chemotherapy for tuberculosis and leprosy, and a vaccine for polio, soon added to the optimism.

In the 1970s the global eradication of smallpox was achieved. It was celebrated as a great victory for modern science and social solidarity.

Alma-Ata Declaration, 1978

Although it was clear that science could do wonders, many people were still dying from curable and preventable diseases. The emphasis shifted to social justice as the way to make the benefits of health science accessible to everyone. In 1978 the Declaration of Alma-Ata brought east and west together in an effort to achieve this glo-

bally through primary health care. The slogan was "Health for all".

From 1978 to the present: challenges

In the 1980s major difficulties became apparent. Malaria resisted prevention efforts mainly because use of DDT had to be limited. Tuberculosis became harder to treat mainly because of drug resistance. A new disease, AIDS, had appeared, which science and technology were powerless to prevent or cure. It was spreading rapidly throughout the world.

In the 1990s two further difficulties arose. Centralized health financing systems controlled by government

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began to fail. Privatization schemes solved some of the problem but were unable to ensure equal access to health services. This was linked to the rise of chronic diseases and ageing populations, which increased the cost of care.

In response to these challenges, our current work is focused on three related areas: security, justice and unity.

Security

Last year SARS made the world highly aware of the danger of a global pandemic. SARS was controlled by an effective emergency response. It involved the combined effort of scientists and health professionals in many different countries. This kind of danger is still with us, however. There is the strong possibility of a global pandemic of avian influenza unless we very quickly find the means of preventing and controlling outbreaks in the Asian and Pacific regions.

In addition, we have to respond to disasters caused by accidents, conflict and natural events.

WHO's work on security includes upholding international health regulations, coordinating information exchange and response activities, and supporting relief efforts in crisis areas.

Justice

Some disasters happen more slowly, and they are linked with poverty. An example is the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which began in the 1980s. Thirty eight million people are living with this disease and three million died of it last year. Most of those who are dying are poor, because the rich now have access to effective treatment.

HIV/AIDS has become a particular concern in Russia, where one million people are thought to be infected and the numbers are increasing rapidly. HIV/AIDS is also fuelling the TB epidemic through co-infection.

The response of WHO and its partners to the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a

campaign to get three million people onto antiretroviral therapy by the end of 2005, as a first step towards universal access. We see this as an essential support for prevention activities, a catalyst for reform and renewal in health systems, and a matter of fundamental human justice.

Other major health hazards related to justice are tobacco use which currently kills nearly five million people a year, and unhealthy diets which are a major cause of cardiovascular diseases. In 2003, 60% of the deaths which occurred globally were from chronic diseases. The World Health Assembly adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control last year, and the global Strategy on Diet and Physical Activity this year.

Unity

In a globalized world, countries and communities have to support one another to maintain their own health. Unity is indispensable, as the founders of the United Nations system already saw in 1945.

For WHO now this means coordinating the health needs of Member States, and working with other organizations and other sectors.

Health work often unites people in a common cause that overrides the objectives of conflict. In Iraq 20 000 health workers and volunteers joined a campaign to immunize the nation's 4,6 million children against polio. Because everyone can see the value of saving children from a crippling disease, combatants allowed this activity to take place.

Our special focus this year is on partnerships to reduce maternal and childhood deaths. A large number of United Nations and nongovernmental organizations have combined forces to take up this challenge. Our annual World Health Report and World Health Day will both be on this theme.

Conclusion

Compared to the needs, WHO is small. It has a staff of about 10 000 working in national and regional offices and at headquarters, and an annual budget of US\$ 1,4 billion. It cannot directly solve the world's health problems but it can set standards, provide technical support and coordinate international cooperation. These activities help to give the world the security, the justice and the unity it so badly needs today.

World Health Organization (WHO) works with others to improve the health of population, by helping Member States. WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 192 Member States. WHO Headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The European Regional Bureau is in Copenhagen, Denmark.

WHO has four main functions:

- to give worldwide guidance in the field of health;
- to set global standards for health;
- to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes;
- to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.

For further information please visit

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Special Representative of the Director – General in Russia –
Dr. Mikko Vienonen.



Russian Orphans Benefit from Solidarity Fair Raffle

During his mission to Russia in October, Dr Jong-Wook Lee, the WHO Director-General visited an orphanage in St. Petersburg, home to 40 HIV-positive children. The orphans live in a medical facility and

receive antiretroviral treatment provided by the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development. Attempts to find foster or adoptive families for the children are mostly unsuccessful. These orphans live in a medical facility where they receive care and education but are not surrounded by a loving family or home setting.



The Director-General, deeply touched by these children, decided to organize a raffle of all gifts he received in his position.

The benefits gathered by this year's Solidarity Fair Raffle will be used to purchase furniture and material for creating a more home-like atmosphere in the wards. This initiative will also make possible to provide 15 children with an opportunity of recreation or a holiday outside of the hospital.

More than 400 raffle numbers have been sold during several lunchtime sessions in WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Grand total of money collected through the sales of raffle tickets for the orphanage in St Petersburg is CHF 4,340, which is equivalent to US\$ 3,807. This money will be shortly forwarded to the orphanage to use it at their own discretion according to the needs.

WHO TB Control Programme Goes on in Russia

Although Russia witnesses trends towards stabilization, tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the most serious public health issues. Inadequate TB laboratory services, low treatment efficiency and human resources capacity hinder the Russian Federation in reaching WHO global targets. High rate of multidrug-resistant TB cases, spread of HIV infection and high probability of an increase of TB prevalence among HIV-positive people are serious challenges.

WHO TB Control Programme in the Russian Federation held the following events during November-December 2004.

Interagency Coordination Committee meeting (ICC) was held on 10 November 2004 in Novosibirsk. The meeting gathered 50 representatives

of the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Railway Transport, Federal TB Research Institutes, WHO and other organizations.

International scientific and practical conference "Implementation of TB Control Programme in the Russian Federation in the Context of International Experience" was organized on 10-12 November 2004 in Novosibirsk. Some 255 delegates from all over the country participated. The purpose of the conference was to evaluate TB epidemiological situation in the Russian Federation, implementation of the WHO TB control recommendations, TB/HIV-infection control, multidrug-resistant TB control, TB laboratory diagnosis development, TB control activities in penitentiary sector and to im-

prove coordination of TB related activities carried out by technical agencies, international organizations and donors in the country.

Workshop on microbiological methods of TB diagnosis and unification of approaches to training, was held on 13-18 December 2004 in Moscow. The workshop targeted at unifying approaches to training in microbiological methods of TB diagnosis and training of trainers at federal level. It is planned that the trained experts will further act as trainers within implementation of the TB and AIDS control project in the framework of the World Bank loan.

National TB/HIV Workshop was organized on 14-15 December 2004 in Moscow. The National TB/HIV Workshop gathered about 130 Rus-

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sian and international experts to analyze the situation with TB, HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV in Russia, discuss appropriateness of TB/HIV collaborative interventions and mechanisms of coordination between the TB and the HIV/AIDS national programmes; review recent initiatives undertaken on TB/HIV in the Russian Federation. The workshop resulted in development of recommendations on TB/HIV collaborative interventions in the Russian Federation and joint plan for TB/HIV control interventions.

Meeting of the High Level Working Group on TB in the Russian Federation (HLWG) was held on 16 December 2004 in Moscow. Members of the High level working group on TB in the Russian Federation, Russian and international partners met



National TB/HIV Workshop was organized on 14-15 December 2004 in Moscow

for the 10th time to discuss current status of TB control in the country, achievements and challenges. Among other issues in the agenda was implementation of the World

Bank loan project on TB and AIDS control and the Russian Federation application to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Will Come into Force at the Beginning of 2005



In May 2003 the 56th World Health Assembly adopted unanimously the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the first world international treaty in the field of public health. The Convention has become a great step in the control of the tobacco epidemic at the global level and a document opening up new legal opportunities for interna-

tional cooperation in the field of public health.

The Member States of the WHO European region have played an active role in the FCTC negotiations. Owing to the political support of the Convention at the highest political level in a majority of the countries, an appeal to adopt a comprehensive convention mentioned in the Warsaw Declaration and the coordination of efforts of the countries of the entire region, Europe has made a considerable contribution to the preparation and adoption of the FCTC.

On November 30, 2004, Peru became the 40th country, which had ratified the FCTC. As a result of it in 90 days, i.e. on February 28, 2005, the FCTC will come into force and become the first international treaty in the field of public health that will be obliga-

tory for all WHO Member States, which have signed it. The FTCT will promote better health for millions of people by reducing tobacco use, which is now the second cause of deaths of nearly five million people in the world annually. WHO expects eagerly and impatiently other countries to join the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which sets international standards on tobacco product prices, a rise of taxes, sponsorships, tobacco advertisement, illegal sale and second-hand smoking.

Although Russia was an active participant in the discussions of the terms and conditions of the FCTC, it has not yet signed the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Now the FCTC is open to ratification, adoption and approval by the countries, which have signed it as well as to all other UN Member States wishing to join it.

Regional Journalists Focus on Development Problems

A ceremony at the Moscow House of Journalists in late December marked a successful completion of a journalist competition focused on the Millennium Development Goals. This, in many respects, was a pivotal communication project for UN agencies in Russia in 2004.

The idea of the competition dates back to the end of 2003, when the staff of UN agencies in Moscow racked their brains in an attempt to devise an inventive advocacy event on MDGs. Finally, everybody supported the project which combined encouragement of quality journalism with a present-day approach to the development issues.

The competition was first announced in mid-June at a meeting in the UN Information Centre Moscow and at a seminar for journalists, as well as at a much broader gathering, the All-Russian Mass Media Festival in Dagomys on 14–18 June. So, the project took off the ground – but its organizers got restless, for they could not stop worrying whether their brainchild will meet with enough interest among regional journalists.

To be true, it was only UN staff who got nervous, while the project's civil society partners from the Moscow Centre "Social Partnership" and Russian Journalists' Union were much better aware of how competitions of this kind proceed in Russia. And they proved to be right: the number of journalistic entries for the competition, originally a trickle, gradually picked up and grew stronger, so that the jury had to spend hours, days, and even weeks reading, watching and listening to the journalistic materials.

Let us make a brief mention of the rules for the competition. The prima-

ry goal of the project was to attract more attention of the general public to the efforts at overcoming problems that underlay the Millennium Development Goals in Russia by encouraging the coverage by regional mass media of the subjects related to both conceptual principles and practical aspect of human potential. The Committee accepted materials that helped Russia meet the MDGs, with a constructive streak being a basic requirement. As a matter of fact, the organizing committee members, first of all V. Leonov, A. Zemskov, and experts of the "Social Partnership" Centre who thoroughly analyzed and summarized almost three and a half hundred applications (over a thousand of individual materials) were faced with many human dramas, sometimes even tragedies.

It is impossible to cover such issues as poverty, child and maternal mortality, spreading of dangerous infection diseases (HIV, malaria, tuberculosis), environmental pollution, gender inequality, gaps in education system without telling true life stories. A journalistic analysis done on a proper professional level further amplifies the impression, to the point of making one recall the Russian liberal-thinking writer A. Radischev, who was shocked as he got acquainted closely with the life of his ordinary countrymen.

As a result of the competition, prizes were awarded to eight journalists and two editorial boards. Two persons were awarded with the first degree certificate in the nomination "Regional mass media": Ms. R. Pechurkina, a staff writer in "Oblastnaya gazeta," Ekaterinburg, and to Mr. B. Semavin, a photographer

from the same newspaper, for a series of reports covering the use of freshwater sources in Ekaterinburg region. The second place went to another journalist from Ekaterinburg, Mr. S. Parfenov, for an analytical essay "Water of Life" that appeared in the "Ural" magazine. The third prize in this nomination was won by Ms. E. Aleksandrova for her essay "Living Soul of Russia" published by the newspaper "Moscow Region Daily News".

The jury decided not to award the first degree prize in the nomination "Municipal mass media". The second degree certificate went to Mr. V. Ilyin, a journalist from Kozelsk, Kaluga region, while Ms. N. Muzhichkova, a television journalist from Taganrog working for "Neva-TV" company, got the third place.

The organizing committee decided to honour with special certificates editorial boards of the newspapers "Kolymsky trakt" (Magadan) and "Zemlya Chaynskaya" (Tomsk region) for the series of materials on the themes "Maternity and Childhood" and "Social, Economic and Technological Development." The jury of the competition pointed out to the practical impact of materials published by the "Kolymsky trakt" that covered situation involving radioactive pollution of the Okhotsk Sea. The paper was able to involve not only regional, but also federal government bodies in an effort to resolve this problem, and it succeeded in organizing search and retrieval of the radioactive pollution sources dumped at sea.

Meanwhile, the organizers decided to publish abstracts from the best materials in a special booklet on the MDG which is already being prepared. Besides the prize winners' articles, the booklet will include the works by journalist who did not win any prize, but offer an accurate reflection of the problems associated with achieving MDGs in the Russian context.





Contest "Russia and the Millennium Development Goals"

The United Nations Association of Russia (UNA-Russia) announces its regular competition for the best composition. The essay theme is "Russia and the Millennium Development Goals".

In September 2000, leaders of 189 countries – UN members gathered for the UN Millennium Summit to approve the Millennium Declaration, which consisted of certain fundamental issues to be achieved in the new century.

1. Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day; reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
2. By 2015 ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.
3. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.
4. Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five (about 11 mln. children under five die today from the diseases that could be prevented).
5. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.
6. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
7. Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

8. Develop a global partnership for development. Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally. Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction. Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.

Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term. In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.

In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies.

This year UNA Essay Contest asks participants to think about the ways and methods for the achievement of each Goal. Write a letter addressed to the President of the Russian Federation answering the following:

1. What should the Russian Federation do to achieve a concrete Goal?

2. What are the impediments to the Millennium Development Goals implementation in the Russian Federation and what has to be done for their overcoming?

The essay must be 5–7 printed pages. Up to August 1, 2005 the participant should not be more than 18 years. The deadline is March 1, 2005. Please, send your essay with the note "Essay Contest 2005" to the address: United Nations Association of Russia, 36, Prospect Mira St., Moscow, 129010. Additional useful information is available at our website: www.una.ru

The winners will be invited to Moscow for presentation of the essays. The victory in the UNA Essay Contest 2005 will be taken into account when entering the Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations MFA RF.

Russian Committee on the United Nations 60th Anniversary

The meeting of the Board of the United Nations Association of Russia, 30 November 2004, Moscow was closed by the decision to set up a special Committee on the UN 60th Anniversary. Among the members of the Committee are outstanding pub-

lic figures, veteran diplomats, scientists and cultural workers.

The Committee is chaired by Mr. Anatoly Torkunov, United Nations Association of Russia Chairman, Rector of the Moscow State Institute

of International Relations (University) MFA RF.

The key objective of the Committee is to enhance the level of the RF contribution to the implementation of the UN Charter goals and principles.

Dear Readers:

UN in Russia welcomes your letters to the editor. You can send your letter by e-mail at vladimir.sadakov@undp.ru or by post to UN in Russia, 28 Ulitsa Ostojenka, Moscow, Russia, 119034.

You can write in Russian or in English. Your opinion on all issues raised in our articles would be interesting to us. It is up to you whether to criticize us or to praise, whether to comment on UN activities in the Russian Federation or to ask questions. We will try to respond to as many questions and comments as the magazine's space allows.

We may edit letters for grammar and style. Sometimes long letters may be cut, though in this case we will do our best not to distort the essence of your message.

We would appreciate if you could include your full name and postal address in case we need to get in touch with you.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Vladimir Sadakov, Editor-in-Chief