

# U N IN RUSSIA

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Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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The humanitarian situation has significantly improved in the North Caucasus. Stabilization has become a reality, tangible positive changes have taken place, in particular, in Chechnya. This is the opinion of Jo Hegeuer, Head of the UN Refugee Agency Office in the region

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## The UN Secretary-General Message on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Today, we celebrate the contributions which indigenous peoples make to humanity through their rich civilizations. We also celebrate the partnership that has existed for three decades between indigenous peoples and the United Nations. From that partnership have emerged significant international achievements, including the proclamation of two International Decades of the World's Indigenous People, the establishment of a Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, and a United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Today, indigenous peoples have a home at the United Nations.

But today is also a time to remember those indigenous peoples who continue to suffer discrimination, marginalization, extreme poverty and conflict; who face dispossession of their traditional lands and livelihoods, displacement, destruction of their belief systems, culture, language and way of life -- and even the threat of extinction.



Recently, the international community has grown increasingly aware of the need to support indigenous people -- by establishing and promoting international standards; vigilantly upholding respect for their human rights; integrating the international development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals, in policies, programmes and country-level projects; and reinforcing indigenous peoples' special stewardship on issues related to the environment and climate change.

Our fast-paced world requires us to act with urgency in addressing these issues. As we do, let us be guided by the fundamental principle of indigenous peoples' full and effective participation. Let us give life to "Partnership in action and dignity" -- the theme given by the General Assembly to this Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. On this International Day, let this be our motto and inspiration.

**9 August 2007**

**Ban Ki Moon**

(on indigenous peoples in Russia see page 8)

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## Moscow to Become a City of Happy Childhood

On 23 August 2007 in Geneva, the Moscow Government and the United Nations Children's Fund signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to carry out joint activities aimed at making the Russian capital child-friendly, i.e. a city responsive to children's and young people's needs. Ms. Ludmila Shvetsova, First Deputy Mayor of Moscow, commented on the event in an exclusive interview.

– *How relevant is the 'Child-friendly City' idea for Moscow?*

– Let's see how the main documents of the UN General Assembly define it. A world suitable for children is a society, which gives all children the best educational opportunities from the beginning of their lives and provides access to high quality basic education (with primary education being compulsory and free for all). It is a world, where all children have equal opportunities to develop their personal capacities in a safe and friendly environment. It is a world where the healthy development of children, without distinction of any kind, such as sex, race or religion, is essential. That's how it should be in all countries, cities and towns. Moscow, as the capital of a large and strong country, just cannot neglect the rules that all civilized countries observe.

Moscow announced its participation in the UNICEF initiative, 'Children-friendly City', and identified the priorities of its development. One of the key goals is to guarantee the respect of children's rights and to create conditions for their enforcement. We strongly believe that the future life of our society, its development and prosperity depends primarily on our financial and moral investments in our children.

The Moscow Government reflected its vision of a 'child-friendly city' in its 2007 'Year of the Child' programme, which includes a series of additional social support measures for children's development. Our overall strategy is based on seven key principles. For all children and their parents, Moscow will be a city of real rights and opportunities; health and sports; knowledge and culture; new technologies; peace; love; and safety.

We can't name all the programme's expected results, because the programme strategy consists of more than 120 pages. So I will tell you only about

some of them. The standard of living of many families, including families with disabled children, adoptive families and guardians, rose significantly thanks to social benefit increases.

Measures within the framework of the programme should result in a future baby boom and a significant decrease in infant mortality. We also plan to increase protection of maternity through use of advanced medical technology in child health care institutions and maternity hospitals. Maternity hospitals are sup-



Ms. Ludmila Shvetsova (left) and Ms. Maria Calvis sign the Memorandum

plied with biochemical and haematological analyzers for timely round-the-clock blood testing of pregnant women and infants, as well as ultrasonographs for planned examinations and preclinical research. Starting from 2007 all children from large families are provided with medicines until the age of 18. During this year we will also strive to ensure that all children in Moscow obtain medical examinations.

The second important issue is education. Beginning from 2007, the compulsory secondary education is guaranteed to all children. We have opened new educational centres, which apply innovative educational approaches that motivate children, prompt their desire for knowledge, discovery and research. We also conduct projects such as 'The School of the Future' and 'The Kindergarten of the Future'. By the way, 100 new kindergartens will be

built in Moscow this year alone. We will also double the number of children who can go to theatres and museums for free, and at music schools, 80 per cent of the musical instruments will be replaced with new ones.

Our children already can't imagine their lives without Internet access, so we need to do our best to make the information they get from the Internet useful, reliable and safe. We open intellectual development centres with Internet access at city libraries. There are also libraries for family reading. This year, we will open 112 libraries of a new kind, where readers will be provided with services, such as information for mothers-to-be and for families with disabled children. A special section for children was launched on the Moscow City Government's official web-site.

– *In your opinion, what are the priorities for Moscow?*

– It is extremely important to help disabled children. We have almost finished developing a three-year programme on making decent living conditions for disabled children. It will be discussed at a Moscow Government session during the second half of 2007. The Moscow municipal district administrations have started to examine the financial situation and living conditions of families registered with family and children social support centres and branches. From these examinations, we have developed lists of families in need of household items. Our main goal is to obtain detailed information about support needs for disabled children and to take measures for their rehabilitation. The special city register of disabled people has been launched to coordinate the work of institutions from social protection, medical care, education, employment spheres; The Medical and Social Service Bureau; and the Moscow City Social Security Fund branch.

Every Moscow resident, regardless of his or her age, should have access to needed information or counselling. We have launched several 'hotlines' and counselling sessions are provided to adoptive and foster families.

I'd like to note particularly that within programme we are taking measures to provide housing to approximately 300 families with five or more children. Families registered before March 1, 2005, will be provided with housing. New housing is also being provided through the programme 'Affordable Housing for a Young Family', where qualification has been raised from 30 years to 35 years. New mechanisms of payment write-offs for families with new-borns are also being implemented.

Another issue concerns many Muscovites, especially young mothers, is a lack of specially equipped facilities. There are no ramps and no special space to keep bicycles and baby prams. There is often poor street lighting near children's institutions. As a result, the programme plans to make children's living conditions comfortable. For example, 40 million roubles will be allocated for street lighting and repair school and pre-school educational institutions. More than 1,500 buses and trolleys will be reequipped with special seats

for children, space for prams. The number of school buses will be increased. In particular, 70 buses will serve solely for disabled children.

*– And what has already been done?*

– Starting from January 1, 2007, many benefits have been significantly increased, such as benefits for large families that address the issue of inflation. The Moscow Government provides not only financial support but also several types of in-kind benefits. More than 23,000 Moscow residents already have 'The Muscovite's Social Card'. We have taken measures to support families with disabled children. The monthly welfare for a non-working parent who takes care of his or her child was more than quadrupled for families with children under 18 years and for families with the disabled children under 23 years.

Businesses in Moscow have also started to think about children. Today, city stores frequently have children's play rooms. Cafes and restaurants have special children's menus and have made furniture comfortable for children. Special discounts in services for children exist at hairdresser's and dry-cleaner's shops. While such activities are limited it's important that the process has started.

A child's life in a big city should be not only comfortable but also safe. The programme includes a list of measures to achieve this goal. I would like to mention just one of them - construction of children's auto towns and auto playgrounds in all the city's administrative districts. In 2007 alone, it is planned to build twelve auto playgrounds in the south-eastern administrative district of Moscow.

It is very important to create conditions that will allow children to obtain high quality education, ensuring accessibility for all groups of children, including disabled. Innovative computer technologies are widely used in the city's educational institutions. The Government has invested 240 million roubles for purchase of computers and software and ensuring Internet connection in all schools.

One of the programme's main purposes is to improve children's health care. Three-year programme to repair the old children's hospitals and in-patient clinic buildings, and to construct new buildings. The reconstruction of the children's cinema buildings into the chain of the modern cinema centres for young people with common advertising and repertoire policy has started. They are being



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technically reequipped. Today, four children's cinemas are equipped with the modern complexes for the demonstration of old children's cognitive. The classical children's cartoons will be also digitally copied.

– How are you going to cooperate with the UNICEF?

– Various Moscow Government departments have already worked with UNICEF. However, after the signing of the Memorandum on Cooperation, we plan to work on a more regular basis. We agreed with UNICEF to have joint projects and information campaigns. For example, the big charity concert held on Universal Children's Day. On September 2-3, the international conference 'The Cities for Children' was held, which I hope will become annual. The Moscow Government is interested in UNICEF's practical experience in children's rights protection. We are also happy to share our skills and experience in supporting families with Moscow children. So I think there is a big potential for our cooperation.

– How did you take into consideration the children's opinions while working on the programme?

– It's a good question. This programme is special because it was developed for children and with their active participation. We held a series of events – debates, round tables, quizzes for school students on different topics, such as 'Me and my rights', 'I

were a mayor...' It was children's ideas and opinions that provided the basis for the project 'The school of the future'. Such programmes help to determine priorities and new work areas with children.

– Please, tell about your vision of 'Children-friendly Moscow'.

– It is important that the programme is not built from scratch. The city has a dynamic system of support for families with children. We do a lot in the area of family policy, children's education and medical care centres, culture and sports centres for children. However, I don't think it's enough! We need to provide for convenient, comfortable and safe living within Moscow and to ensure a system that provides total protection of their rights and interests. We need to increase the level of the government support in healthcare, sports, education and culture. We put emphasis on the importance of family upbringing. Unfortunately, we have witnessed changes in moral and ethical values. It, of course, influences the demographic processes in this country. The problem can't be solved without returning to traditional family values, strengthening the family as a social institution, increasing prestige of motherhood and fatherhood. There is a need for government support at every stage – during pregnancy, childbirth and child's personal development. The children-friendly city is not just about social support for children but also improvement of working conditions and employment of

women who have children, guarantying professional retraining of women who are back to work after the maternity leave. Successful programme implementation mainly depends on civil society and employer's policies. New programmes and projects devoted to provision of support to working parents in large families and parents of disabled children are in the process of development. At many enterprises parents are awarded for good children's upbringing, large families are honoured. Important family events are celebrated (the children's births, the employees' children's significant achievements, etc.). They also have family parties and tours, go camping together.

– How will the programme 'The Children-friendly city' be built into the strategy of further Moscow development?

– It is important to understand that the Moscow government's policy on the support of families with children, children's rights enforcement and protection is not a one-time action that will be finished at the end of the year. At the end of the 2007 year the Moscow Government will develop the new ten-year programme strategy on children that will be mainly focused on the "Children-friendly City". Our city has a lot of potential, unique technologies, on which to base this development strategy is based. However, every strategy consists of specific programmes. Every programme needs to have a purpose, innovative approaches, and a real analysis of city demands as well as future forecast.

During the Year of Child we will continue working on all our launched projects. It will be also a starting point for new programmes, a new vector of social policy focused not just on the preservation, but also development of future generations.



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UN Development Programme

## Events

# 'Youth and Human Rights' Film Festival

On 27 June 2007, Russian Youth Day, the UN Office in the Russian Federation launched the Youth and Human Rights film festival in Veliky Novgorod in order to attract attention of the public, especially young people, to human rights issues and promote the region's positive image as one of the most successful in the area of targeted programmes aimed at support and development of young people. The best cinema hall of Veliky Novgorod, the Cinema Centre, became the venue of the festival. During the three days of the festival, everybody could watch new Russian and foreign films and meet young film directors. A total of ten full-length and short feature films and documentaries were demonstrated at the festival.

The film 'All the Invisible Children' produced with the support of UNICEF was the first in the programme. Eight famous film directors, including Emir Kusturica, Ridley Scott, and John Woo, filmed stories about the life of children in different countries of the world, which formed a single movie. These novels touch upon topical and sensitive issues, such as crime, family violence, AIDS, poverty, consequences of military conflicts. Each story leaves its mark making spectators think about the problems we



are trying to ignore. Excellent camera and sound work add to the spectacular effect of the film.

On 27 June in the evening, the opening ceremony of the 'Youth and Human Rights' film festival was held. Mr. Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Representative in the Russian Federation, who came to Veliky Novgorod on a one-day visit, opened the festival. Delegation of the UN Office in Russia, representatives of the Novgorod Oblast Administration, and young filmmakers took part in the ceremony. In the evening, a new film by Igor

Apasyan 'Graffiti' was demonstrated. It tells a story of a young artist who prefers practicing in the Russian province and drawing portraits of countryside people to discovering the beauty of European masterpieces. Sergey Potapov, a leading actor of the Moscow Maly Theatre, who played one of the main parts, presented the film.

On 28 June, a new feature film by Ilya Rubinstein and Marat Rafikov 'May' was demonstrated in the framework of the 'Serving in the Army' programme. The film is about a 28 year old senior lieutenant Pechalin, who is going to Moscow for three days in order to ensure supply of new conscripts and to give the demob album of a young soldier to his parents who do not know that their son is dead. The film features a true hero from whom we can learn a lot - not to betray people and to help those in need. The role is brilliantly performed by actor Andrei Kuzichev.

At 5 pm, a young filmmaker Ella Arkhangelskaya presented her film 'Megapolis' in the framework of the 'Cinema Protecting the Rights of Children' programme. The matter of concern of the filmmaker is a new tendency of bringing up children by babysitters and governors when parents do not understand the happiness of being together with their children and the risk that their indifference will make their children go to the streets.



At 12 on 29 June, a romantic drama entitled 'Stone Brambleberry. Summer Time' by a young filmmaker Dmitry Fedorov was presented in the programme 'Cinema for Equal Rights for All'. This film tells a love story of a disabled girl Nika, a daughter of a famous artist, and a common boy, showing a conflict of generations and an internal conflict in the generation. The filmmaker reflects on dreams and aspirations of today's young people.

The film 'Pavlov's Dog' and a meeting with film director and playwright Ekaterina Shagalova closed the three days festival in Veliky Novgorod.

Short films by young filmmakers were also demonstrated at the festival. A film 'While He Was Flying' by a graduate of the Courses of Scriptwriters and Film Directors, Alexander Kessel, representing school of Vladimir Khotinenko, tells us



*Participants of the seminar for journalists*

about the fragile soul of a teenage girl who convinces herself that her father she has never met is a hero. Yegor Anashkin, a graduate of VGIK film director's department (school of Vadim Abdrashitov) presented the film 'Reported to Service!' about the problem of bullying in the army. Alexander Lamakin from VGIK (school of Vladimir Khotinenko) presented the film 'Express 95' about a soldier who was discharged for three days... Pavel Dunyaev, a VGIK student (school of V.A. Mann, M. Babak), presented the film 'Voodoo Land' about addiction to computer games.

During the festival, representatives of regional media from Novgorod, Pskov, Leningrad and Moscow regions came to Veliky Novgorod. They took part in the seminar 'Youth and Human Rights. Bringing up a Healthy and Successful Generation' held on 28 June. The seminar was organized by the UN Office in the RF, in cooperation with the Russian Union of Journalists.

The aim of the seminar was to train regional journalists in the area of human rights and help local media build a dialogue with UN agencies, familiarize regional journalists with UN work in Russia, particularly in the area of human rights and youth problems.

The interactive discussion related to a number of aspects of human rights issues important for the region and for the Russian Federation as a whole. The participants touched upon the question of covering human right issues in media, the state of disabled, the problem of HIV and AIDS, discrimination of people living with HIV, employment of young people and discrimination in this area, juvenile delinquents and juvenile justice as a means of fighting teenage crime.

The agenda of the seminar included presentations by representatives of the Union of Journalists of the RF, Administration of the Novgorod Oblast, experts of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Information Centre in Moscow, UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS, and the International Labour Organization.

The festival programme included the talk show 'Young People and Human Rights: Juvenile Justice' on the Slavia TV channel, a branch of VGTRK GTRK. The hour long programme was broadcast live at 7.10 pm on 28 June 2007. The following topics were discussed by the participants: situation with youth, teenage, and children's crime in the country and in the Novgorod Oblast; major reasons for youth crime; responsibility of the society for children and young people; involvement of mass media and cinema in their



*Marco Borsotti while interviewed by the regional TV*

upbringing; social rehabilitation and adaptation of delinquents; the role of juvenile justice in crime prevention and adaptation of juvenile delinquents.

Natalia Shumilova, a presenter of the Slavia TV channel, and Igor Stepanov, Director General of the Guild of Russian Film Makers, hosted the show. The Ombudsman for the Novgorod Oblast, Ms. G. Matveeva, Chairman of the Novgorod Regional Committee for Youth, Physical Culture and Sports, Mr. S. Fyugov, UNHCR Human Rights Advisor, Mr. Rachid Alouach, UNDP expert in juvenile justice, Mr. Nodari Khananashvili, and Secretary of the Russian Journalists' Union, Ms. Nadezhda Azhgikhina, took part in the discussion.



# Birds of Kamchatka Ecological Festival



Environmental education is one of the most important components of the UNDP/GEF project 'Demonstration Sustainable Conservation of Biological Diversity in Four Protected Areas in Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula'. Ecological holidays, such as 'Kamchatka brown bear', 'Wood-grouse day', organized on the project territories, have become traditional.

This summer, environmental festival 'Birds of Kamchatka' took place on the territory of the ethno-cultural center 'Menedek' in the nature park Bistrinsky, situated in the very heart of Kamchatka. Preparations for the festival had started in advance. A series of drawing, costume and craftwork competitions and quizzes have been conducted since spring at schools, kindergartens, and libraries of the Bistrinsky district, in which both children and grown-ups have participated.

On one August sunny day, the performers, local people, guests from the district center, from 'near and far abroad' gathered at the stage at 'Menedek'. The audience enjoyed poetry and songs, solved riddles. The performance was skillfully directed by the head of the 'Menedek' center, Lidia Banakanova. And then the most important began! Popular ethnic ensembles – 'Nurgenek' and 'Nulgur', which had performed all

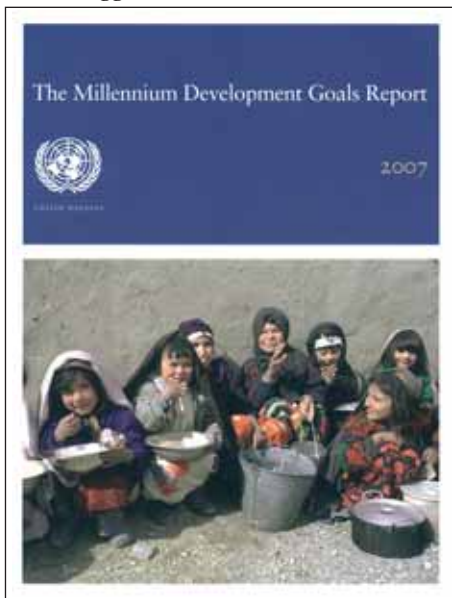
over the world, children ethnographical dance ensemble 'Oryakan', guests from Ossora and Palana presented their new programmes produced for the festival 'Birds of Kamchatka'. The audience was fascinated by 'Wood-grouses', 'Kutkhini Zabavi', 'Falcon dance', 'Tundra cranes' and other dancing performances. The show was met with applause and endless 'bravo'. At the end, the winners of the spring competitions were given prizes and gifts.



## How to Ensure Implementation of MDGs?

Halfway to the 2015 deadline, there has been clear progress towards implementing the Millennium Development Goals, a set of global commitments to lift millions of people out of extreme poverty. However, according to the progress report by the United Nations, their overall success is still far from certain.

"The results presented in this report suggest that there have been some



gains and that success is still possible in most parts of the world," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declares in the foreword to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2007 launched in Geneva on 2 July. "But they also point to how much remains to be done."

There has been significant progress toward the target of halving extreme poverty by 2015, the report found, noting that the proportion of people worldwide living on the equivalent of a dollar a day has dropped from 32 per cent (1.25 billion in 1990) to 19 per cent (980 million in 2004). If that trend continues, the report estimates, "the MDG poverty reduction target will be met for the world as a whole and for most regions."

The report also cites other signs of progress. Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has increased from 80 per cent (1991) to 88 per (2005). Child mortality declined worldwide largely because of effective and inexpensive interventions to save children from such threats as measles. A major expansion of key interventions to control malaria was carried out. The tuberculosis epidemic is

on the verge of decline, although progress has not been fast enough to put the world on track to meet the target of halving prevalence and death rates by 2015.

But there is another side to the statistics cited in the report presenting a far less encouraging picture. Over half a million women die annually of preventable and treatable complications in pregnancy and childbirth; there has been little progress in halving the proportion of underweight children; and AIDS deaths worldwide has risen to 2.9 million last year (2.2 million in 2001), while over 15 million children have lost one or both parents to the disease.

Moreover, half the population of the developing world still has no access to basic sanitation, and the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change are already being felt.

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World Food Programme

People

## Chechen Republic: Bread for Work



**F**ood for Work (FFW) is one of the key programmes implemented by the United Nations World Food Programme worldwide. It benefits food insecure families, which are willing and able to participate in projects, aimed at restoring or creating from scratch local infrastructure. As an outcome of these projects, individual households and entire communities improve their livelihoods and longer-term income generating opportunities. The benefit of FFW is twofold: it provides participants with direct food support and prospects of future self-reliance. With regard to the North Caucasus, there is yet another positive aspect in the programme: WFP procures food to it in Southern Russia, which has helped stimulate local agricultural production and marketing.

**FFW** in the North Caucasus has come a long way from its inception in 2002, when WFP started off with small-scale projects in Grozny, which included repairs of schools, clinics, parks and roads as well as cleaning away rubbish and debris. For this work the participants were paid in food commodities at the end of each month.

**2003** saw the expansion of the programme into rural areas where the participants were involved in reconstruction of irrigation channels, gas and water supply systems

and rebuilding of administrative buildings, cemeteries and roads.

**D**uring 2004, the number of communities, institutions and local administrations, involved in the programme, continued to increase. Local communities more often contributed to individual projects, in a form of tools, heavy machinery and building materials. In 2005-2006, FFW expanded into the mountainous districts of Chechnya, promoting the restoration of local agriculture. Several pasture rehabilitation projects were implemented upon the request of a number of local communities. Other good examples included projects, one of which pruned 754 hectares of fruit orchards and the other increased the sugar beet-root production.

**I**n 2007, FFW gained a new momentum following to the strong support from the Chechen Ministry of Agriculture, which helped identify beneficiary farms, assisted in the design of individual projects, and contributed to their implementation by providing expertise and machinery. The programme is now implemented at 44 farms in ten districts of Chechnya, and has benefited over 10,000 people since the beginning of the year. In July, during visits to FFW project sites, WFP staff had a chance to talk to project participants and farms directors and to find out how the programme helps the communities.

**T**he Republican Bee-Keeping Enterprise located in the village of Chervlennaya in the Shelkovskoi District of Chechnya survived years of turmoil and conflict. However, its honey production reduced enormously. "Fortunately, all the equipment remained undamaged," says its director. "Now the enterprise is restored, mainly thanks to WFP support." We drive with him to the project site, where the enterprise's bee hives are used for fertilization of the watermelon plantations. A watermelon-growing project is also part of WFP Food for Work Programme.

**T**he bee-keeping and the watermelon projects involve 70 families; one of them is the family of Saidkhan Dadaev who used to live in the mountains of the Vedeno District amidst devastation and extreme poverty. There, he tried stock-raising, bee-keeping, and other activities.





He worked around the clock, but could barely make ends meet.

When he heard from his relatives about WFP's Food for Work Programme, he got interested in joining the bee-keeping project. He moved to the village of Chervlennaya in the Shelkovskoy District, and registered for the project. Now, he feels completely happy with the favourite job of bee-keeping. Professional bee-keepers share their experience with Saidkhan. From them he learned many secrets of how to make honey production more effective.

“My entire family is involved in the project,” Saidkhan said. “Look at my sons, Ramzan and Dalkhan! They help me all the time during the summer. When massive work begins, my wife and daughters will also come to help. My family life is slowly coming back to normal. We were promised that after this project is over, we will receive five bee hives per person to start individual business, and if we join the Bee-Keepers Association, our honey will be purchased on preferential terms. Now we believe that we will recover and become self-reliant and... let's hope we'll be able to help other people as well.”



Driving further along the once wealthy Naurski District, we approach the state wine farm Burunny, where we were shown the so-called vine-growing nursery spread along five hectares. Some new sorts of vines for planting are grown here. We were pleased to see the neat and well-cared vine rows. “We take care of the vines the same way we take care of our children. Otherwise, we'll never have good crops. And all this is now possible, thanks to WFP's project,” say the workers we meet at the farm. “Nobody wanted to work in the fields before; salaries are very low, and sometimes they are not paid on time. WFP gives food for the work, which has been done; and people are happy to return to the fields.”

Our trip continues through another grape-growing farm ‘Komsomolsky’, where Ramzan, a newly recruited WFP monitor, explains the benefits of the projects and tells us about espaliers installation, as well as their importance for good crop production. “Over 30 hectares will be restored in this farm. Next year, we'll have grape crops; and the nearby wine-producing factory Alpatovsky will start functioning at its full capacity for the first time after war,” he says.

Zaudin Taramov meets us on the road to the farm. He has been managing it since 1997. He came to the farm as a young boy, fresh from high school, and stayed for more than 20 years. He started as a farm worker, then switched to book-keeping, and 10 years ago became the farm director.

“Thanks to WFP's project many hectares of formerly dilapidated vineyards have already been restored,”



Zaudin says. “Look at the amount of work done within such a short period of time and how neatly the project participants tied up the vine. It is a pleasure to see it. Your Food for Work Programme has saved the fields and helped people recover. Now they can get food products in shops again as the debts with the shop-keepers have been paid.”

“We cannot pass the state farm Kalinovskiy without seeing the project site,” Ramzan insists. “There is such a good team working at the farm. It has formed in the process of the project implementation.”

Kalinovskiy's team leader is a joyful and energetic woman Toita Alkanova. Toita's enthusiasm encouraged her neighbours and friends to join the project and work with her in the field. They drink tea after long working hours, sing, dance, and celebrate birthdays together; and Toita is the body and soul of such celebrations.

“When a little girl, I used to come to these fields to help my mother,” Toita recalls. “Now I myself am a mother of seven children. The eldest son works here as a guard, the rest of them help me in the grape growing. Our agriculture urgently needs to be rehabilitated. It was dying in front of my eyes and I couldn't bear it any longer. Thank you so much for the project! Now we believe that our life will come back to normal because you have supported the farm and provided jobs to people. Look at this young girl! She and I have the same name, Toita. She can do all the work in the field. She is a quick learner and works very well. I am happy that there are young people to replace us in the future.”

We talked to junior Toita and learned that she likes history and English, is fond of reading books, particularly about kings and emperors. She does not like modern history, having heard her grandmother's stories about her family's deportation to Kazakhstan in the 1940's. We sat with the team talking and eating the newly grown grapes...

“We can't help but visit the Vanguard farm in the neighbouring Naursky District. It is headed by a remarkable woman, Bakisat Alieva,” says Ramzan. It is a rare case in this region to have a woman as director. But Bakisat has been heading the farm for over 11 years.

“Our Vanguard is always in the vanguard,” Bakisat says, smiling. “For many years I have been struggling to preserve the farm; and now WFP supports me in this. Even during the Soviet times we could never cope with the weeding. Had we not been supported by WFP, we would have been bushed up with weeds to our ears. Nobody wanted to work here. Those who used to laugh at those who worked now come and ask to be included in the project. You help us prevent the outflow of the population from the village. If they leave, they will never come back and everything here will be ruined. Next year you will see how beautiful our grapes will be.”

We wanted to know more about Bakisat, and she told us how she fought for every single person on her farm.

“Once during the war, 12 of my guys were about to be taken away, and I did my best to protect them. I came to the person responsible and said that only over my dead body will he take the guys from



the farm. He stared at me and after a while let them go, saying that he was doing it for my sake. Thus, I saved the guys and the vineyards. This farm is everything to me. I got married when I was very young, gave birth to my son, who died at a very young age. After a while my husband left me. This farm filled the gaps in my heart left by my ruined family. These vineyards are my children. I look at them and feel happy and proud. I do not know what would have become of them if WFP had not started their projects here. If you help us next year, we can say for sure that the vineyards will be saved. Then we will be able to cope on our own and become self-reliant.”

In the nearby village of Savelyevskaya WFP implements a vegetable growing project. The farm director looks more like a professor than a farmer. His name is Ibrakhim Ispakhiev. He is proud of his farm and the project under which cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and other vegetables are grown. Though the weather was awfully hot and it was lunchtime, there were many women working in the field. “In the summer we never have rest,”

said an elderly woman spudding cucumbers. “We work every day and have some rest only when it rains. And even then there is a lot of work to do. The rains are scarce this year and we work continuously.” The woman's name is Tamila Masakova.

Tamila has been working on the farm since 1972. She had six sons; three of them were killed during the war. Now the youngest is 22; he went to Grozny to work in construction six months ago, but has not yet been paid for his work. Tamila applied to be included in the project and started working hard. “I took the food products received from WFP to Grozny to feed my son,” she said. “He needs food, doesn't he? Your projects feed both me and my son. Moreover, they make me extremely happy because I can do something for the benefit of the farm and the village. In a couple of years we will get good crops. The farm will start making profit, and we will have more income to support our families.”

Some of the agricultural produce has been used to support WFP beneficiaries in other parts of the republic. This summer, for example, 900 kg of watermelons and 1,335 kg of cucumbers, 500 kg of onions, 1,380 kg of kitchen beets and 1,770 kg of tomatoes produced under FFW were delivered to social canteens that provide daily hot meals to most destitute people in Grozny in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Caritas, as well as orphanages in various districts of Chechnya.



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## Stabilization in the North Caucasus Has Become a Reality

'UN in Russia' publishes with minor abridgements the interview of Jo Hegenauer, Head of the UN Refugee Agency Office in the North Caucasus, to 'Interfax' news agency

*– Please, assess the humanitarian situation in the North Caucasus. Can one say that the humanitarian crisis is over?*



– Since 2005, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has worked closely with the Republican level governments in providing durable solutions for inter-

nally displaced persons (IDPs). This has meant that UNHCR has built houses for families in North Ossetia - Alania, Ingushetia and Chechnya. We also work very closely with the Federal Migration Service and the Ombudsman Office on finding permanent solutions for these people still needing homes, compensation payment, documents etc. The humanitarian situation has significantly improved in the region. Stabilization of the situation has become a reality, tangible positive changes happened, in particular, in Chechnya. Nevertheless internally displaced persons and those who already returned to the places of their origin still are in need of continued help from the

international community. The primary responsibility for leading recovery planning and funding rests with the government. International support for longer-term recovery and development in the North Caucasus will be comparatively small. For this reason, the UN and NGOs will more play a supportive, catalytic role to complement government efforts in this important endeavor.

*– What is the volume of funding of UN programs, including the UN Refugee Agency, in the North Caucasus this year? What tasks do you set for your agency, and what programs does your organization implement in the region?*

– The budget for UN programs, including the UN Refugee Agency, in the North Caucasus this year is over USD 80 million. In response to the various conflicts in the North Caucasus, the UN Refugee Agency has been providing humanitarian and recovery assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons for more than a decade. In the Russian Federation, our agency currently coordinates the protection and shelter sectors within the Inter-

Agency Transitional Work Plan of the UNO and its partner organizations for the North Caucasus.

The UN Refugee Agency protects and assists IDPs from Chechnya in various locations of current displacement, primarily Ingushetia, as well as returnees and IDPs who never left Chechnya. In the Republic of Ingushetia, the number of IDPs from Chechnya has decreased from 240,000 persons in January 2000 to a little less than 16,000 as of end of May 2007.

We, at the UN Refugee Agency, assist both IDPs and returnees through legal counseling, temporary shelter, permanent housing to the extent feasible and quick-impact projects to facilitate their re-integration in Chechnya or integration in Ingushetia.

In the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, our agency and its partners provide similar assistance to facilitate the sustainable integration of thousands of Osset refugees who fled Georgia and have been granted Russian citizenship.

But I would like to emphasize one point. It is very important to understand that all the UN Refugee Agency programmes in Russia are designed with the Government to complement its efforts.

*– From the viewpoint of your agency, which republics of the North Caucasus have demonstrated better security conditions lately, and where the situation is still tense?*

– Our security is the responsibility of the Government. We are able to work in all republics.

*– By your estimates, how long will international agencies, including the UN Refugee Agency, need to provide legal protection to IDPs and refugees in the North Caucasus? How often do you have to provide such assistance?*

– Through Legal Counseling Centers run by our implementing partners – except



*New houses constructed under the UNHCR and Swiss Agency for Development shelter programme. Ardonsky District, Republic of North Ossetia-Alania*

© UNHCR / A. Sobolova



*At the legal counselling center of the Interregional NGO "Vesta", Grozny, the Chechen Republic*

one all local NGOs – the agency provided 6,832 legal consultations in 2006 to IDPs in Chechnya and Ingushetia where the majority of displaced population is residing. The agency's legal aid partners referred cases to law-enforcement, administrative and migration structures and courts. In courts of first instance there were 50% of positive decisions, in courts of the second instance 20%, and there were about 700 positive decisions on cases submitted to the above-mentioned governmental structures.

The UN Refugee Agency also supported the network of legal counseling centers in Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-

Cherkesia, North Ossetia-Alania, and Stavropol Krai.

How long this will UNHCR provide this type of assistance? I think when displaced people would be able to re-start a new life.

*– Please, share your opinion about the safety situation for UN staff in the North Caucasus. Do you plan to downgrade further the security phase?*

– The UN takes staff safety and security in this region very seriously. Last year UN security phase in the Chechen republic was decreased from 5th to 4th, and as a result the UN Refugee Agency and other UN agencies have increased the number of

missions to the republic. It allowed us to improve planning and monitoring the implementation of our projects. Our staff can still travel in Chechnya only with very strict security measures.

How ever, in April our agency and other UN agencies temporarily closed their offices in Nazran, Ingushetia, and they are closed until now. Such decision was taken when several houses were damaged during attacks on the same night when the relative of the President Zyzikov was kidnapped at the end of March.

*– Have you achieved rapport with the governments of North Caucasus republics? Which of them displays most fruitful cooperation?*

– We have enjoyed constructive co-operation with both federal and regional authorities. In the North Caucasus these are regional departments of the Federal Migration Service and various ministries. Last April during his visit to the North Caucasus the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres met the presidents of the Chechen Republic and republics of Ingushetia and North Ossetia-Alania. Every month we participate in a meeting held under the supervision of the Ombudsman of the Chechen Republic. We maintain even relations with all relevant counterparts.

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*UNHCR shelter programme for IDPs who chose to stay in Ingushetia. Bert -Yurt, Republic of Ingushetia*

# By 2008, Half of World Population Will Live in Towns and Cities

On 27 June 2007, UNFPA organized a press conference on the occasion of the launch of this year's State of World Population Report, entitled 'Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth', at the RIA-Novosti news agency in Moscow. This year's edition is the 30th report in a series published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to highlight the world's major population issues.



**M**s. Sietske Steneker, UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, explained that urbanization was chosen as the theme of this year's report, because by 2008 half of world population will live in towns and cities, "The world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history. In developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, the urban population will double in a generation." Ms. Steneker stated that the future of cities depends on the actions taken by policy-makers now, "Foresighted policies can unleash the potential of urbanization", she said, "while dealing with the social, infrastructure and environmental challenges that arise". Ms. Steneker also stressed that rapid urban expansion has global implications and requires a global response.

**T**hree Russian experts on urbanization participated in the launch of the State of World Population 2007: Ms. Zhanna Zayonchkovskaya, Director, Center of Migration Studies, Mr. Alexander Puzanov, General Director, Institute of Urban Economics, and Mr. Andrei Treyvish, Lead Expert, Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences. They provided comments and views that complemented the information contained in the report.



with its decrease, by more than 600 thousand in 2005." The experts stressed that,

**A**lexander Puzanov pointed out that "contrary to developing countries, which have a growing proportion of urban population, Russia is faced

although rural to urban migration is no longer an issue for Russia, urban to urban migration is ongoing and that neglecting the challenges of urbanization could be hazardous for the country's future.



**A**ndrey Treyvish commented that "the problems that Moscow faces now are similar to those of other mega cities, like London and Paris.

Like these cities, Moscow was simply never planned to cope with such a large volume of traffic."

**Z**hanna Zayonchkovskaya said, "Population will inevitably redistribute itself at the global level, and the authors of the UNFPA report call for more effective and inclusive migration policies. We also need to be more tolerant to representatives of other cultures living in Russia. The fact that so many migrants wish to come to Moscow should be seen as a sign of the city's economic health."



The press conference on the occasion of the launch of this year's State of World Population Report (All photos are provided by RIA-Novosti)

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UN Information Centre

## Society

# Internet Opens a Window to the World for Disabled

For many people a computer connected to the Internet has long become an everyday instrument, a window to the world that expands the limits of usual contacts and interests, a means for learning and entertainment, etc. But have we ever thought to what extent people with visual, hearing or motor disabilities can benefit from all these possibilities?

Late last year, the United Nations conducted a study, the first of its kind, to gauge the existing status of accessibility of Internet resources for people with disabilities. A hundred leading websites from 20 countries were evaluated. The results are rather frustrating: the vast majority of websites from around the world, Russia included, failed to comply with the international standards for accessibility for the disabled.

Pondering over the issue UNIC staff did not expect that the idea to discuss it in the Russian context would gain such support. Our initiative was welcomed by the UN Resident Coordinator in Russia, the Offices of the World Bank, UNESCO, WHO and other UN agencies in Russia, state agencies and non-governmental organizations. As a result of intensive preparatory work, a seminar 'The Rights of Disabled Persons in Russia and E-Accessibility' was held on 15 June.

The aim of the seminar was to demonstrate to the public the possibilities that modern technologies offer to persons with special needs and give an additional impulse to public debates on the paramount aspect of an acute social challenge – to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Office of the

World Bank in Russia offered its premises for the workshop, while the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator extended its overall auspices to the project. The seminar was attended by representatives of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the RF, the Ministry for Information Technologies and Communications, MicrosoftRus Company and associations of disabled persons. Among foreign participants there were representatives of the Global Initiative for



Inclusive Information and Communications Technologies and InternetSpeech Company (USA).

Addressing the participants, the UN Resident Coordinator in Russia Marco Borsotti emphasized the critical importance of discussing the issue of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for the disabled in the context of the International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the UN General Assembly last year.

Natalia Malysheva, Advisor to the Chairman of the Federation Council, pointed out that access to elec-

tronic means of communications would not only help to address the problem of unemployment in the country, but also give persons with disabilities a chance to feel that they could be useful and take an active part in social life. She noted that the aspects equally crucial for development and implementation of new technologies in this sphere are cooperation, legal framework and information campaign.

Denis Kotlyarov, a manager from Microsoft Russia, said that the company had been engaged in developing the means of communications accessible for the disabled, including voice-controlled computers, for over 15 years. He mentioned that Microsoft was lending support to its partners in elaborating such means of communications and was making efforts to solve specific technological problems. For instance, Microsoft partners from Gravitonus Company have created and are now successfully implementing a computer mouse operated by tongue.

UsabilityLab Project Manager Dmitriy Filev briefed the audience about the efforts to update the website of the UN office in Russia to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. Special attention is paid to the installation of screen readers – software designed for visually impaired persons which transforms text on the screen into speech.

The seminar was really useful for the participants who could learn more about what is being done about different aspects of this major problem. It helped establish working contacts and lay the foundation for further action. The participants formulated specific recommendations that now need to be put into practice.



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## Highlights

# Migration and Discrimination

The Migration Research Centre (Russia), in cooperation with Central European University and with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office, organized the International Summer School 'Migration and Discrimination: Protection of Migrants' Human Rights and Promotion of Tolerance'. The summer school was held on 14-19 July 2007 in the framework of the project 'Migration as a resource of social development: positive effect and risks'. The project is designed for lecturers of CIS higher education establishments and aims to inform them about the role of migration in the contemporary world, in both global and national context, international approach to migration processes management and control, protection of migrants, as well as possible ways of developing tolerance and more effective prevention of xenophobia, extremism and human trafficking.

Sixteen young lecturers and postgraduates from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus specializing in migration and related subjects studied in the Dobroie training centre of the Moscow region. The programme of the school included lectures and a review of methods of studying migration and sources of information in this field, as

well as various approaches to development of educational programmes on migration. The programme relied, inter alia, on the educational manual 'Methods and Methodology of Studying Migratory



Processes' published in 2007 with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office as a preparatory step to this project.

Dr. Zhanna Zayonchkovskaya from the Migration Research Centre was appointed the Research Supervisor of the project and Dr. Irina Molodikova from Central European University – the Project Director. They selected subjects and lecturers so that the participants could gain an understanding of diverse migration problems, including globalization and international migration, international law and protection of migrants' rights,

strategies and programmes of the Council of Europe in the field of integration of migrants, Russia's new migration policy, tolerance and combating xenophobia, etc. Theoretical courses were combined with courses provided by experts from international organizations who spoke about international approaches to protection of migrants' human rights.

The organizers invited well-known researchers and representatives of international organizations active in the field of migration to take part in the International Summer School as lecturers. Dr. Octavian Mohorea (UNHCR), Professor V. Moshnyaga (Moldova State University), Dr. V. Mukomel (RAS Institute of sociology), Dr. E. Tyuryukanova, (RAS Institute of Social and Economic Studies of Population), Dr. Yu. Florinskaya (RAS Institute for Economic Forecasting), Dr. S. Khrounchikov (Council of Europe), and Dr. A. Yastrebova (International Red Cross) were among those invited.

It is expected that young teachers who attended the school and gained competence in the field of protection of migrants' human rights and promotion of tolerance will further raise awareness in this area among their students.

## UNESCO Moscow Office Moves Back to Its Mansion



On 12 July, the UNESCO Moscow Office hosted a reception for its partners and friends on the occasion of reopening of the renovated office at 15/28, Bolshoi Levshinsky lane.

Mr. Yakovenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator in the RF and UNDP Resident Representative, directors and representatives of UN agencies working in Russia, as well as the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, including Mr. Vladimir Fortov, Academician-secretary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the UNESCO Moscow Office partners and friends were invited to celebrate the event.

Mr. Dendev Badarch, Office Director, welcomed the guests and the office staff in his opening speech. He congratulated those present on return to the building where the UNESCO Moscow Office began its work in 1994 and had been working until 2005. Mr. Yakovenko noted that the Russian Federation and UNESCO co-operation had always been very successful and productive.

After the official part the guests could learn about the history of the mansion and look at its renovated interior.

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World Health Organization

# Studying European Experience in Combating HIV/AIDS and Drugs



On 1 January 1987, the first HIV case was discovered in Moscow. Today, 20 years later, more than 388 thousand HIV-positive people and 3 million 400 thousand drug addicts live in the Russian Federation. Prevalence and growth rates of these diseases in Russia are among the highest in the world and pose serious risks to the present and the future of the country. Moreover, one illness “feeds” the other one: quite often intravenous drug use creates a channel for HIV transmission. Combination of such serious diseases requires new effective approaches to treatment and care.

WHO has a long tradition of working in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users (IDUs) and prisoners which is based on a comprehensive approach that promotes principles of equity and human rights and includes evidence-based interventions ensuring access to services through multiple entry points.

Dr. Corinna Reinicke, Coordinator of WHO HIV/AIDS Programme in the Russian Federation, advises that the combination of HIV epidemic and drug use requires a flexible approach, bound at the same time to the basic elements of the comprehensive model package for harm reduction. The five fundamental components of the model include interventions to reduce transmission; management and prevention of HIV/AIDS co-morbidities; appropriate multi-level models of service delivery; supportive policy, legal and social environment; and strategic information including clinical and behavioural surveillance among drug users.

WHO HIV/AIDS Programme in the Russian Federation organized with the support of the Open Society Institute (OSI) a study tour for Russian narcology specialists and infectious diseases doctors to observe substitution therapy and HIV/AIDS treatment and care programmes in European context.

The tour took place on June, 18-22, in Milan (Italy), a home for two thirds of all Italian HIV positive coming mainly

from IDU environment. It included a number of visits to public and private drug and HIV/AIDS treatment services (ASL, SerT, San Vittore correctional centre, Saman Association (drop-in centres and therapeutic communities), San Luigi AIDS Centre and Italian League for the Fight against HIV/AIDS (LILA)) as well as discussions with representatives of the respective structures, health authorities and other specialists, which presented concrete examples of socio-medical, preventive and rehabilitation interventions.

Russian participants were familiarized with successful experience of Italian



professionals such as, for instance, a country-wide network of SerTs (public services for drug and alcohol dependencies) providing free methadone treatment to IDUs and facilitating their contacts with public clinics to undergo free tests for HIV, hepatitis and other infections. The services have special electronic databases, which ensure effective control of methadone distribu-

tion and enable regular monitoring of patients' health status.

The SerTs also provide methadone treatment to imprisoned drug users, who have already been covered by the SerT services before their confinement. During the visit to San Vittore correctional centre the Russian specialists observed morning methadone distribution and became acquainted with the “advanced treatment” project ‘The Ship’, which combines medical treatment with intensive rehabilitation initiatives. Commenting on the overall efficiency of opioid substitution therapy, Italian specialists stressed that methadone treatment can only work if accompanied by other types of support such as psychological and social.

Psychosocial and rehabilitation services have also offered instructive examples of successful reintegration of former drug users, alcohol dependents, and people living with HIV into community.

The experience of the Saman Association in this regard was of particular interest. The Association operates in the field of prevention and social rehabilitation of drug addicts, alcohol dependents and people from high risk groups as of 1981. The concept of the organization based on a multilevel approach starting from drop-in centres, which offer initial basic services, followed by a smooth transition to therapeutic communities, which focus on each patient individually. At San Luigi AIDS Centre the participants famil-



Work therapy at the Saman Association

ialized with HIV testing and counselling services delivered in Milan and throughout Italy as well as with the drugs included in ART regimens. The staff of the Italian League for the Fight against HIV/AIDS (LILA) introduced the participants to HIV prevention and harm reduction programmes and presented the results of LILA's project on needle exchange machines in Milan.

The Russian specialists discovered a number of similarities in drug

dependency treatment programmes and HIV prevention initiatives implemented in the Russian Federation and Italy.

The tour presented a unique opportunity to bring together specialists from different areas such as drug addiction and infectious disease treatment.

Through constant intragroup communication the participants managed to learn from each other and broaden their

knowledge of adjoining professional fields.

As result of the visit, the Russian specialists once again realized the complexity of interaction between HIV/AIDS and intravenous drug use and understood the importance of comprehensive prevention, treatment and care programmes.

**Natalia Shapovalova,**  
WHO HIV/AIDS Programme  
in the Russian Federation

## WHO Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme Concluded in Russia

On June 27, the final conference of the WHO/CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme dedicated to the activities and results of the four year work was held in Moscow.

The Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme commenced in April 2003 and had worked with many partners to support the development of effective health policy in the Russian Federation for four years. International study tours, policy documents, and development of databases on health reform throughout Russia were the main components of the programme.

Representatives of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development, Centre for Strategic Studies, CIDA and the World Bank named the programme among the best international healthcare projects in Russia.

Mary Collins, Health Care Policy Advisor, provided a summary presentation on the work of the project with a focus on international activities.

The Central Public Health Institute responsible for the production of monthly health information bulletins, updating of the international health projects database and for the development and ongoing maintenance of the regional database on health reform, together with Independent Institute for Social Policy, presented a brief summary of the programme results.

Dr. Olga Sharapova, Director of Maternal and Child Health Care Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, spoke about policy support assistance provided by the programme. Mikhail Dmitriev, President of the Centre for Strategic Studies, emphasized the importance of the programme in assisting development of long-term scenarios for healthcare in Russia.

The Chuvash Republic, a pilot region of the programme, was represented by Dr. Dmitri Matveev, Head of Healthcare Department of the republican Ministry of Health and Social Development, who made a presentation on the project results and showed a video summarizing the project activities and outputs in the areas of healthcare restructuring and health promotion including the development of integrated intersectoral approach to health issues at the municipal level within the framework of the project.

At the end of the conference the results of the 2007 Journalists Contest were announced and the winners were presented with diplomas and prizes. The topic 'Healthy Youth – Healthy Russia' attracted over 350 entries. The first place winner was Elena Gertzen of 'Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk – Your Newspaper' from Sakhalinsky Oblast. Other winners came from Krasnoyarsk, Kazan, Altai Krai, Volgograd, Saratov, Kirov and Tver regions, and Moscow. Svetlana Svistunova represented the Russian Union of Journalists, a partner of the project.



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# Summary

You can find the full version of the UN in Russia Bulletin in English at [www.undp.ru](http://www.undp.ru) or [www.unrussia.ru](http://www.unrussia.ru) (Documents)

## UN/ UN Secretary-General Message on Indigenous Peoples Day

"Today, we celebrate the contributions which indigenous peoples make to humanity through their rich civilizations," the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon writes in his message on the Day's occasion. "We also celebrate the partnership that has existed for three decades between indigenous peoples and the United Nations."

## UNICEF/ Moscow to Become a City of Happy Childhood

On 23 August 2007 in Geneva, the Moscow Government and the United Nations Children's Fund signed a Memorandum on Cooperation to carry out joint activities aimed at making the Russian capital a child friendly city responsive to the needs of children and young people. Ms. Ludmila Shvetsova, First Deputy Mayor of Moscow, comments on the event in an exclusive interview.

## UNDP/ Youth and Human Rights Film Festival

On 27 June 2007, the UN Office in the Russian Federation launched the 'Youth and Human Rights' film festival in Veliky Novgorod in order to attract attention of the public, especially young people, to human rights issues and promote the region's positive image as one of the most successful in the area of targeted programmes aimed at support and development of young people.

## UNDP/ Birds of Kamchatka Ecological Festival

UNDP/GEF project 'Demonstrating Sustainable Conservation of Biological Diversity in Four Protected Areas of Kamchatka' supported the first ecological festival 'Birds of Kamchatka, held on 9 August in the Bystrinsky district of the Kamchatsky Krai. During the festival, a concert was organized to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

## UNDP/ How to Ensure Implementation of MDGs?

Halfway to the 2015 deadline, there has been clear progress towards implementing of the Millennium Development Goals, a set of global commitments to lift millions of people out of extreme poverty. However, according to a progress report, launched by the United Nations in Geneva on 2nd July their overall success is still far from certain.

## WFP/ The Chechen Republic: Bread for Work

Food for Work is one of the key programmes implemented by the United Nations World Food Programme worldwide. The benefit of FFW is twofold: it provides participants with direct food support and prospects for improved self-reliance. With regard to the North Caucasus, WFP food inputs are procured in Southern Russia, which has helped to stimulate local agricultural production and marketing.

## UNHCR/ Stabilization in the North Caucasus Has Become a Reality

"The humanitarian situation in the North Caucasus has significantly improved," says Jo Hegenauer, Head of the UN Refugee Agency Office in the North Caucasus in an interview to the Interfax news agency. Nevertheless internally displaced persons and those who already returned to the places of their origin still need assistance of the international community.

## UNFPA/ By 2008, Half of World Population Will Live in Towns and Cities

On 27 June 2007, UNFPA organized a press conference dedicated to the launch of this year's State of World Population Report 'Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth' at the RIA-Novosti news agency in Moscow. "The world is undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history," Ms. Sietske Steneker, UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, explained the topic of the report.

## UNIC/ Internet Opens a Window to the World for Disabled

On 15 June 2007, the UN Information Centre in Moscow organized a workshop 'Rights of Disabled in Russia: Access to Electronic Media'. Representatives of the Federation Council, the Ministry for Information Technology and Communication, MicrosoftRus Company, and NGOs working with disabled took part in the discussion.

## UNESCO/ Migration and Discrimination

On 14-19 July, the Migration Research Centre (Russia), in cooperation with Central European University and with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office, organized the International summer school 'Migration and Discrimination: Protection of Migrants' Human Rights and Promotion of Tolerance' for lecturers of CIS higher education establishments.

## UNESCO/ UNESCO Moscow Office Moves Back to Its Mansion

On 12 July, the UNESCO Moscow Office hosted a reception for the partners and friends on the occasion of reopening of the mansion located in 15/28, Bolshoi Levshinsky lane. Mr.Dendev Badarch, the Office Director, congratulated those present on returning to the premises where UNESCO started working in 1994.

## WHO/ Studying European Experience in Combating HIV/AIDS and Drugs

WHO HIV/AIDS Programme in the Russian Federation organized a study tour for Russian drug abuse specialists and infectious diseases doctors to observe substitution therapy and HIV/AIDS treatment and care programmes in Milan, a home for two thirds of Italian HIV positive coming mainly from IDU environment.

## WHO/ WHO Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme Concluded in Russia

At the concluding Conference of the WHO/CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) Health Care Policy and Stewardship Programme held in Moscow on June 27, activities and results of the four year work were discussed.

*United Nations*



## Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of specific and measurable targets aimed at reducing poverty and raising living standards, which was adopted by 191 United Nations member-states, including the Russian Federation, at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by 2015 or earlier, are as follows:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Goal 1</b> | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger         |
| <b>Goal 2</b> | Achieve universal primary education          |
| <b>Goal 3</b> | Promote gender equality and empower women    |
| <b>Goal 4</b> | Reduce child mortality                       |
| <b>Goal 5</b> | Improve maternal health                      |
| <b>Goal 6</b> | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases  |
| <b>Goal 7</b> | Ensure environmental sustainability          |
| <b>Goal 8</b> | Develop a global partnership for development |