

U N IN RUSSIA

Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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**The safety of blood transfusion
is one of the major tasks in HIV/AIDS prevention /4**

Events /6

"If you take a close look at the chain of events from the moment when someone is diagnosed with HIV till this person turns for help to a specialized medical institution, it becomes clear that the link of quality counselling is missing," says Marina Khalidova, representative of 'Novoye Vremya' public fund from Ekaterinburg

Society /12

There are about 14.5 million disabled in Russia. This means that problems of people with disabilities concern every fourth Russian family. Eighty five percent of disabled people in Russia are not employed, while about 45 percent of them are people of working age willing to work and provide for themselves. What can be done to help these people?

People /15

This descendant from the Rurics dynasty and princes of Chernigov was a famous artist, a senator of the Russian Empire, and a confidant of Emperor Alexander I. But if he had created a single musical composition, his name would have been remembered by the generations to come

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The UN Secretary General Statement to Regional Groups of Member States

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies,
I am grateful for this opportunity to address you so early in the new year.

The year 2008 provides a unique opportunity to enhance the central role of the United Nations in world affairs. A number of developments align to make this so: the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the midpoint in the work to reach the Millennium Development Goals and the high-level meeting on financing for development; the climate change negotiations; the unprecedented peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

As the vast international agenda expands the possibilities for collective action by States and people, it also calls on us to strengthen the capacity of the Organization to serve nations and populations in need, while upholding the principles of the Charter and values of United Nations.

In the year ahead, I propose to proceed on three fronts simultaneously.

I will work to deliver results; to create a stronger UN through full accountability of all parties; and to advance the global



common good by securing global public goods.

We must deliver results for a more prosperous and healthy world.

Development should not be a privilege of the few, but a right for all. Yet passing the midpoint to the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals, we face a development emergency. Millions of people are still trapped in structural poverty and go hungry every day. In

sub-Saharan Africa, despite pockets of progress, not a single country is on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

I will pursue vigorously the MDG Africa Steering Group initiative, which brings together the entire UN system in partnership with key International Financial Institutions to work for increased aid volumes and predictability.

In consultation with the President of the General Assembly, I will convene a high-level meeting on the MDGs in September to find ways to bridge the implementation gap. I am convinced that this event, along side the Africa's Development High-level meeting in September, will contribute to marshal support for Africa's development needs.

(Continued on page 3)

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Founder:
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Editor-in-Chief: Victoria Zotikova
Editor: Vladimir Sadakov

Address:
119034, Moscow,
Ostozhenka St., 28
Tel. 787-21-00
Fax: 787-21-01
E-mail: vladimir.sadakov@undp.ru

Within the UN itself, we must undertake a fundamental review of our development machinery and programming across the system. We need a more coherent, focused, and reinvigorated approach. As requested by the General Assembly, I will soon present proposals to its resumed session.

The General Assembly will also soon begin work on system-wide coherence, including on the question of gender architecture, where urgent action is required. We must be bold. Delivering as one at country, regional and global levels in virtually every area of our work is not only possible; it is essential.

We must deliver results for a more secure world.

This year will put us to new tests in peacekeeping, bringing it to an unprecedented scale, complexity and risk level. The UN is better equipped to support peace operations following the strengthening of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the creation of the Department of Field Support.

But success depends first and foremost on how Member States match the mandates they have set. It depends on their political support and on their actual

contributions – troops, police, vital capabilities and finance.

The immediate peacekeeping priority for the Organization is the deployment of UNAMID, an unprecedented joint operation with the African Union.

I am equally resolved to enhance cooperation with regional organizations, so as to create, in the future, a predictable, interlinked and reliable system for global peacekeeping under the Charter. And I will propose extending the UN role in the vital area of security sector reform.

Politically, this year promises to be even tougher than the last. We must nurture a fragile peace process in the Middle East, and do more to help the people of Iraq emerge from conflict and rebuild shattered lives.

We must stay the course in Afghanistan, so that it does not again fall into lawless anarchy. We must do our utmost to push the Darfur peace talks to a successful conclusion, and move forward with a process to determine Kosovo's future status.

At the same time, we will strengthen our overall capacity for preventive diplomacy, and instil a more integrated

and effective UN approach in responding to conflict and supporting sustainable peace processes. This requires us to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs, so as to make it more field-oriented and pro-active.

We must deliver results for a more just world.

2008 will be a milestone year for efforts to promote international justice and to work for an end to impunity. A global awareness campaign is already underway to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I will also advocate for the universal ratification of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. I will create a task force on the global scourge of violence against women, and take steps to make operational the responsibility to protect.

We must work to ensure the Human Rights Council lives up to the high expectations of the international community, invigorating its work through the Universal Periodic Review, and addressing serious cases of human rights violations in all parts of the world.

(to be concluded in the next issue)





World Health Organization

Highlights

Krasnodar Gives Hope in Combating HIV



Resort areas are normally associated with a high risk of HIV-infection. The Krasnodar Krai is no exception. Nearly 700 new HIV-cases are registered here annually. The region is among the 20 most HIV-affected Russian territories with 7000 HIV-positive people officially registered by the end of 2007.

This is the reason why the Krasnodar Krai was designated one of the pilot areas for the WHO-EU joint project HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in the Russian Federation, Phase II. The main objectives of the project were to pass skills and knowledge about HIV/AIDS, antiretroviral treatment (ART), and blood safety to medical professionals in the regions, and to provide local blood transfusion stations and information units at AIDS centres with modern equipment.

In the course of the past two years, European and Russian experts conducted over 20 training sessions for nearly 400 health care workers of various specializations in the Krasnodar Krai. The specialists of the region exchanged information and shared practical experience with their colleagues from other areas covered by the project (Irkutsk, Leningrad and Kaliningrad oblasts) at interregional conferences and seminars.

“We had enough problems before - lack of money, scarce enthusiasm of local specialists, who were reluctant to attend

refresher courses,” recalls Dr. Irina Milovanova, Deputy Head of the Krasnodar Regional Clinical Centre for AIDS and Infectious Diseases (AIDS Centre). “However, right after the first WHO project trainings were conducted, the requests for repeated participation started arriving in heaps. The specialists are interested not exclusively in acquiring theoretical knowledge, but in getting practical evidence as well. Our main objective now is to cover as many specialists as possible, and WHO recommendations help us to correctly assemble the groups of participants of various backgrounds”.

“Infection disease doctors and laboratory assistants are not the only ones to deal with HIV-infection, confirms Dr. Svetlana Topolskaya, Head of the Clinical and Diagnostic Department of the Krasnodar Regional AIDS Centre and one of the trainers of the project. An HIV-positive person can be a patient of any doctor. For example, an injecting drug user, upon initial manifestation of HIV-infection, similar to a common cold, will first turn to a general practitioner or an otolaryngologist rather than to an expert in drug abuse. A pregnant woman will go to a gynaecologist. The main objective of these specialists is to detect the infection at this stage and engage everyone into the patient's treatment, including infectious disease doctors, laboratory assistants and nurses.”



Krasnodar regional blood transfusion station

Specialists themselves notice considerable changes in their working style. The acquired knowledge enables them to act calmly and take right decisions even in the most complicated cases. Furthermore, the doctors can work now with an unconfirmed diagnosis, without waiting for the patient's HIV status certificate. Obstetricians and gynaecologists, who initiated counselling on HIV/AIDS treatment among HIV-positive women claim considerable decrease in abortions in this group.

Dr. Milovanova is guiding us through the new, freshly painted and furnished premises of the AIDS Centre: «As far back as two years ago, we could have only dreamt about such a miracle! The WHO trainings helped us a lot. Little by little we started reorganizing our work according to international standards. And our efforts have not gone unnoticed: the regional administration and the local health department provided funds for the renovation and re-equipment of the centre. National priority health project also helps a lot, covering 500 HIV-positive patients with necessary treatment; new medications and test-systems are regularly supplied.”

The Krasnodar blood transfusion station also contributes to HIV control in the region. A tiny blood transfusion room established in 1934 on the basis of a surgical clinic of Kuban Medical Institute eventually transformed into a big institution with its own laboratory premises and territory. One of the top priorities of the station's personnel is to ensure the safety of donated blood. To detect health problems of blood donors and provide timely assistance a careful medical examination is needed.



Dr. Irina Milovanova

“In this regard, the WHO’s support arrived just at the right time,” confesses Dr. Alexey Kodenev, Head of Krasnodar regional blood transfusion station. “The international experience proved to be invaluable for us. The participation in the trainings changed the psychology of our medical workers. They became much more responsible for their key functions, now they realize the vital role they have in ensuring blood safety and controlling the spread of HIV infection.”

The WHO’s project became a powerful incentive to the overall renewal. In the course of only two years, 2005-2007, the blood transfusion station was technically modernized: the station’s premises went through a major overhaul; new progressive methods of collection, processing and storage of blood and blood components came into action; modern equipment was installed; mechanisms of quality management in blood service were launched.

Dr. Kodenev plans to go further. Inspired by the impressive results of the project, he and his colleagues currently develop new projects aimed at safe blood donorship in the Krasnodar Krai.

As in the early 90s, injecting drug use remains the main route of HIV transmission in the towns and villages of the Krasnodar Krai remote from ports and resorts. Intense drug trafficking is an acute problem of so-called route-side territories and one of them is Belorechensk.



Dr. Galina Dvodnenko checks a stock of medicines in the veteran ZIL fridge

In Belorechensk Central Clinical Hospital, the town blood transfusion station adjoins the AIDS unit located in the office of the infectious disease specialist.

Bristol fashion is reigning over the blood transfusion station. Dr. Galina Dvodnenko, Head of the station, is very proud of it. For over 45 years of work not a single emergency has occurred. Even an old ZIL fridge, the station’s coeval, works perfectly and can easily outclass any modern refrigerator. Ampoules and test-tubes, all neatly signed, are kept there.

“The knowledge we received at the WHO training sessions is very important to us,” Dr. Dvodnenko explains. “Even if right now there is no possibility to procure expensive equipment, the most important thing about all this is that we managed to adapt our operational methods to international standards - the electronic database of donors was significantly reorganized; donor record cards were updated to include safety indicators.”

Transfusion of blood containing HIV-infection is absolutely excluded here. In accordance with international recommendations, blood and blood components undergo a multilevel severe control along every link of the vein-to-vein transfusion chain, i.e. from the education and recruitment of safe blood donors through testing and processing to the careful consideration of reasons for its clinical use.

Dr. Dvodnenko encourages further education and development among her younger colleagues. She strongly believes that the young generation will not only be able to keep the precious experience of the predecessors, but will continue to introduce advanced international technologies of blood safety control at the home station, thus strengthening barriers against any infection.

Dr. Elena Spirina, infectious disease doctor of Belorechensk City Hospital, works 7 days a week. Elena is a rare doctor. In her mobile phone she keeps the names and phone numbers of all patients. She makes sure that they take antiretroviral drugs in time, and, if necessary, contacts them directly and reminds about the dates and schedules.

Isn’t this a solution for the adherence problem on the regional scale?!

Here her mobile phone is ringing again. “Yes, keep taking this medicine today and tomorrow please come and I will exam-



Dr. Elena Spirina

ine you,” replies Elena kindly smiling to an invisible patient.

“We are grateful to the WHO for this high level project. Not only we could learn from our foreign colleagues, but also realize that all we had been doing before by intuition is correct.”

It is good to know that the personnel of the AIDS Centre transfer the acquired knowledge to their colleagues. Ms. Tamara Yurchenko, a nurse and Dr. Spirina’s assistant, conducts regular seminars on the basis of the project trainings information for the staff of Belorechensk City Hospital.

The joint WHO-EU project HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in the Russian Federation, Phase II came to its end. Time will tell if the undertaken joint efforts have been effective, and from now on it will depend on the commitment of the local decision makers and the capacity of the other parties involved. Nevertheless, the experience of the Krasnodar Krai and those of other three project regions demonstrate that a combination of international standards and advanced technologies with the best human qualities and professionalism of medical specialists can bring about truly reassuring results in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. And that is probably the secret of success and sustainability of international projects.

Natasha Shapovalova,
Communications Officer
WHO HIV/AIDS Programme
in the Russian Federation

WHO, Russia

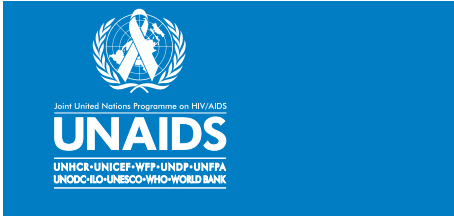
Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-17

Fax: (7 495) 787-21-19

E-mail: wborus@who.org.ru

Web sites:

www.who.int and www.who.dk



Events

Civil Society Against HIV/AIDS



The first all-Russian conference 'Civil Society in Response to HIV/AIDS: Progress, Challenges, Prospects' was held in Moscow under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Representatives of civil society, people living with HIV as well as governmental, international, non-profit, scientific, medical and human rights organizations took part in the conference - overall from over 200 public organizations and initiative groups from around 65 cities of Russia.

It was for the first time that such a representative forum of activists working in the area of epidemic response gathered together in Russia. The conference has become possible due to the great preparatory work and precise coordination among the leading networks - All-Russian Harm Reduction Network, All-Russian Union of People Living with HIV (PLWH), National Forum of NGOs working in the area of HIV/AIDS in RF.

It is for a good reason that Denis Kamaldinov, former Chair, Council of National NGOs Forum working in the area of HIV/AIDS in RF, called his presentation 'HIV Epidemic and Russian Public Sector: Current Issues.' What happens in the area of HIV in Russia? What is being done? Are the efforts sufficient? Where is prevention? Where does stigma come from? What do NGOs do? How are relations between NGOs on the federal and regional levels built? Today, one cannot turn a blind eye on these and other key questions Denis posed to the conference participants and to himself.

In the process of searching for answers, a range of problems of the NGO sector were revealed that need to be solved via a dialogue between the sector and the government, as well as business, mass media, international and non-governmental organizations. The problems were discussed by working groups on reproductive health and gender rights of women living with HIV, as well as on challenges, successes and

tasks of achieving national targets of ensuring universal access for drug users and convicts. The participants highlighted the importance of greater involvement of PLWH in the process of achieving the national targets and outlined the principal directions of work in the area of ensuring universal access for the most HIV-stricken groups.

For example, participants of the working group Reproductive Health and Gender Rights of Women Living with HIV discussed in detail the lack of specific large-scale prevention programmes for women. In the view of rapid feminization of the epidemic, this issue has become a priority. The work of groups assisting women living with HIV was broadly disputed.



Irina Moiseeva, head of 'Nadezhda' club operating in Rostov-on-the-Don, says:

“Fifty-one percent of the overall number of HIV positive registered with us are women. Our goal is protection of reproductive rights, HIV prevention and eradication of discrimination against HIV positive women and their children. Women who are infected via a sexual intercourse are afraid to openly come to club meetings. They do their best to pretend that they have nothing to do with this problem, which in turn, extremely complicates their life. We try to involve them in a dialogue while counselling on the phone. We try to convince them that AIDS is not a sen-

tence and that we can help. How to help HIV positive children and healthy children living in HIV positive families is another issue.”

“Nadezhda” club, like many other assistance groups, operates mostly on its own as well as in collaboration with other NGOs and businesses, which sometimes respond to its needs. In this respect, the conference provided NGO representatives with a unique opportunity to personally discuss challenges that they are facing in their work and relations with local government structure, and to share experience.

Even for activists working in the same city, the conference became a venue for a productive discussion on further development of their organizations. Irina Kuprik, also from Rostov-on-the-Don, has been working in 'Kovcheg-Anti-AIDS' and has been head of 'Karapuz' club for four years.

“We work with children, whose parents are HIV-positive, and with HIV-positive children”, says Irina. “We try to improve the quality of their life. Our programmes aim at helping children under 12 to get rid of various complexes and be fully socialized. In addition to conducting trainings, group and individual sessions, we try to assist these families with organizing their leisure and providing clothes. We became partners with several business structures which realize the importance of such work and regularly help us. We managed to organize vacations on the Black Sea for these children. Four times a year, we provide new clothes for our club members. We are planning to open a special children's room where parents could leave their children for the day free of charge.”

The issue of psychological help and counselling was heatedly discussed

at a session of the women's group. The shortage of specialists is obvious, and NGOs can make a significant contribution to the solution of this problem.

Marina Khalidova, representative of 'Novoye Vremya' public fund from Ekaterinburg, shared her work experience with the professional medical community.

"If you take a close look at the chain of events from the moment when someone is diagnosed with HIV till this person turns for help to a specialized medical institution, it becomes clear that the link of quality counselling is missing," notes Khalidova. "During five years, our organization trained 500 doctors from Ekaterinburg and the region. Now they are able to provide quality and effective counselling to those whom they diagnose with HIV."

Experience sharing, training colleagues, providing counselling and methodological assistance were among the issues discussed at the conference. The powerful potential of the civil society is in its accumulated experience, knowledge of challenges, ability to work under difficult circumstances and with scarce resources. The participants of all working groups discussed how this potential could be most effectively utilized to overcome challenges that vulnerable groups were facing on the way to universal access.

A conference participant from Kazan shared her very personal and difficult problems. Only a while ago after a regular medical check up this girl learned that she was HIV positive. Then she experienced two traumas at a time. Firstly, a nurse had informed her parents of her diagnosis earlier than the girl reached home. Secondly, she knew that she had been faithful to her boyfriend with whom they were going to become married. After overcoming the initial shock she decided to file a law



suit against him, since he apparently knew about his disease and did not take any precautions. It appears to be the first case of this nature in Kazan. It took the girl great courage to file such a law suit.

"This conference gave me additional strength, energy and faith in myself. I feel that I will be able to move on with my life and overcome difficulties. I plunged into community's problems and felt its support," she noted.

Issues of improving information sharing, working in public information space, creating information methodical centres were discussed. Great attention was paid to the development and support of AIDS service NGOs and communities, organization of interagency collaboration and creation of new opportunities for joint decision making and implementation.

In the course of the conference, the participants sought to find an answer to the question, which had been posed at the opening by the Head of the Federal AIDS Centre Vadim Pokrovskiy: "Why does the spread of the epidemic continue despite all the measures taken?" Professor Pokrovskiy emphasized that the effectiveness of strategies of response to HIV can be determined along two criteria: decrease of the number of new cases of infection and increase of life expectancy and life quality of PLWH. Until now this has not happened in RF.

The following decisions and recommendations for achieving universal access were adopted at the conference.

Universal Access

1. Taking into account that effectiveness of response to epidemic challenges means decrease of the number of new HIV cases and mortality rates caused by AIDS, as well as improvement of life quality of PLWH, it is necessary to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

2. Acknowledge the need for designing a unified national strategy of achieving universal access, which will take into account key trends and particularities of the epidemic, needs of the most vulnerable groups, and problem-solving methods, which proved to be effective.

Collaboration

1. Success and effectiveness of a national strategy of achieving universal access directly depends on the level and quality of collaboration within the civil society, as well as between the state and private sector. Thus, it is important to



develop different forms and mechanisms of such collaboration, paying special attention to PLWH participation in decision-making.

2. Special attention should be paid to mechanisms of funding of NGOs, to improvement of legal control over the mechanisms of collaboration between NGOs and public and private sectors, including issues of NGO funding.

Sustainability and Development

1. Adequate response to HIV epidemic is possible only under the condition of official recognition by authorities at all levels of the importance of civil society efforts as well as programmes implemented by NGOs, which proved to be effective, and of their sustainable development and funding from a variety of sources, including federal, regional and local budgets.

2. For a more effective participation of the public sector in the implementation of measures of response to the epidemic it is necessary to improve the professional level of NGOs and initiative groups of PLWH in the area of providing social services, organizational development, and multisectoral partnership.

3. Acknowledge the necessity of support and development of network public organizations and unions as well as of expert and working groups on social issues, such as HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. It is important to take into account the specificity of the most vulnerable groups.

4. Acknowledge that significant progress in ensuring universal access to HIV pre-

vention, treatment, care and support has been recently achieved, highlight the leading role of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Federal Service of Surveillance over Customer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being, Federal AIDS Centre.

5. Develop the progress achieved, and acknowledge the necessity to intensify efforts directed at HIV prevention among the most vulnerable groups, such as youth, children, women, drug users, convicts, men having sex with men, and commercial sex workers.

6. Express concern in relation to the negative effects of non-constructive and non-evidence-based statements about harmful consequences of innovative methods of HIV prevention and treatment currently used in Russia and in the world, which are contradictory to the position of the state and scientific community.

7. Acknowledge the importance of similar forums and consider it necessary to convene the next civil society conference in two years.

8. The conference came up with recommendations on achieving universal

access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. It is necessary to share them with decision makers and other interested parties.

Anna Chernyakhovskaya
Additional information
is available on www.conf aids.ru

UNAIDS

Tel.: (7 495) 232 55 99

Fax: (7 495) 232 92 45

www.unaids.ru



Global Appeal UNHCR 2008–2009. The Russian Federation

Working environment

The context

Migration management is high on the agenda of the Government of the Russian Federation. A number of legal acts addressing migration, which affect UNHCR's protection and assistance activities, were approved in 2006, and a revision of the 1997 Law on Refugees is under way. Efforts undertaken so far have visibly improved access to national procedures for asylum-seekers. The reorganization and strengthening of the Federal Migration

Service has reduced the gap between laws and their implementation. Nonetheless, there continues to be a need to eliminate inconsistencies between the various legal texts and restrictive interpretation of existing legislation.

The security situation in the Northern Caucasus is still troublesome. UNHCR has had limited access to people of concern in that area, even more so after it closed its office in Ingushetia in spring 2007 for security reasons.

The needs

Allowing a needs assessment concluded in early 2007, priority measures being taken for persons of concern to the UNHCR Office include humanitarian assistance through cash grants and medical care for asylum-seekers. Outside Chechnya, within the Northern Caucasus, an estimated 22,000 people are internally displaced, of whom 15,000 live in Ingushetia and 7,000 in Dagestan.

Approximately 20 per cent of those in Ingushetia reside in temporary housing and the remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) in private accommodation. UNHCR is working with the authorities to identify the most appropriate solutions for the IDPs according to their wishes.

Total requirements

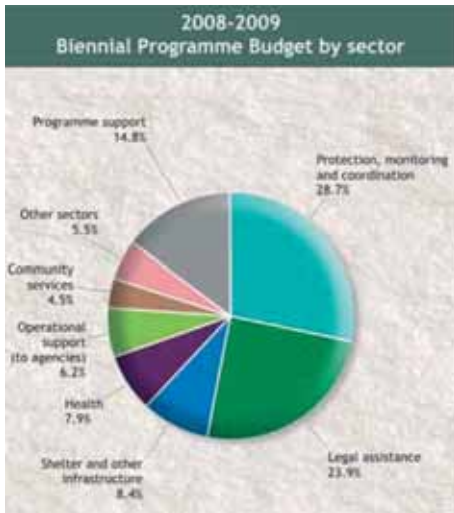
2008: USD 12,511,699

2009: USD 12,447,737

Main objectives

- Support the development of an asylum system in accordance with international standards and ensure full and unhindered access to asylum and effective protection.
- Promote accession to the Statelessness Conventions.
- Identify and pursue appropriate durable solutions for refugees.
- Help meet the assistance and protection needs of IDPs and returnees.
- Work with development and other actors





towards (re-)integration, while working to support local capacity building.

- Strengthen public information and awareness and develop local fundraising capacities.

Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- All asylum-seekers, refugees and IDPs have legal support, proper documents and effective judicial protection.
- All IDPs and refugees in the Northern Caucasus are provided with permanent shelter by the end of 2009.
- Returns to Chechnya are voluntary.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers in need of international protection in Moscow and St. Petersburg have access to basic, preventive and reproductive health services, including HIV and AIDS prevention.
- Refugee and asylum-seeker children have access to and receive education.

- Cases of statelessness reported to the Office are provided with assistance.
- Training on statelessness and citizenship is supported at the institutional level.
- Local fund-raising capacities are increased by targeting the private sector.
- Public information activities combat xenophobia and encourage more tolerant attitudes towards populations of concern to UNHCR.

Strategy and activities

UNHCR will pursue a strategy to improve protection for populations of concern. Technical recommendations will be provided to assist in the revision of the 1997 Law on Refugees. Resettlement remains a protection tool extended to refugees unable to avail themselves of national protection.

The Office will provide qualified legal advice, analysis and training and will work closely with the competent authorities on the legislative revisions, as well as conducting advocacy and promotional activities.

UNHCR will cooperate with the authorities to design a strategy to promote accession to the Statelessness Conventions as well as solutions to address statelessness.

To respond to domestic violence among identified people of concern, a social protection coordinator will counsel

women who are victims of violence and provide appropriate links to available legal, medical, psychological and social assistance.

In the Northern Caucasus, UNHCR's collaborative strategy with the Government and the international community will shift from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development. In North Ossetia-Alania, measures are being undertaken to address shelter needs and to regularize the legal status of refugees from Georgia by mid-2009. Refugees willing to return to their country of origin will be eligible for UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme.

In Chechnya, UNHCR will monitor the return of refugees and IDPs and work closely with authorities to identify and support vulnerable people of concern who are unable to benefit from the governmental housing programmes.

In Dagestan, UNHCR will extend voluntary return assistance to those who wish



Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Afghanistan	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
	Various	160	160	130	130	120	120
Asylum-seekers	Afghanistan	250	250	250	250	250	250
	Various	50	50	50	50	50	50
Returnees (refugees)		100	100	100	100	100	100
IDPs		136,550	118,270	116,550	97,710	96,550	77,710
Returnees (IDPs)		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Stateless Persons		45,000	45,000	40,000	40,000	35,000	35,000
Others of concern	Afghanistan	82,720	2,720	62,380	2,380	42,040	2,040
	Russian Federation	132,580	57,910	132,580	45,260	132,580	45,260
	Various	2,480	2,480	2,420	2,420	2,360	2,360
Total		404,390	231,440	359,060	192,890	313,650	167,480

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,698,479	3,616,867	3,541,733
Community services	503,198	591,924	530,144
Domestic needs	401,687	402,775	402,775
Education	408,232	327,924	247,890
Health	833,856	989,403	984,671
Income Generation	11,827	0	0
Legal assistance	3,900,508	3,011,791	2,964,089
Operational support (to agencies)	1,011,992	688,496	863,859
Shelter and other infrastructure	648,528	1,039,437	1,063,229
Total operations	11,418,306	10,668,617	10,598,388
Programme support	1,997,350	1,843,082	1,849,349
Total	13,415,656	12,511,699	12,447,737

to return to Chechnya. The protection situation and durable solution options for those wishing to remain will also be pursued.

Constraints

Prospects for local integration in the Russian Federation are limited, leaving resettlement as the only durable solution for refugees. Although Moscow city authorities have taken administrative responsibility for the education of refugee children,

families require continued support to ensure regular school attendance.

In the Northern Caucasus, the overall security environment remains a concern and is affecting the return of refugees and IDPs and their (re)-integration prospects.

Organization and implementation Management structure

UNHCR's operations in the Russian Federation

will continue to be led and managed by the office in Moscow, of which the Refugee Support Centre is an integral part. UNHCR will have presence in Vladikavkaz. Security permitting, the reopening of a field office in Ingushetia and/or the establishment of a permanent presence in Chechnya will be sought to ensure effective delivery of UNHCR's assistance.

Coordination

UNHCR cooperates with government counterparts at the federal and republic levels. A Northern Caucasus theme group within the UN Country Team will ensure continued coordination following the closure of the OCHA office. UNHCR will retain its lead role in the sectors of protection and for remaining shelter activities.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

NGOs: Association of Media Managers, Centre for Inter-Cultural Education Ethnosfera, Children's Fund of North Ossetia-Alania, Civic Assistance, Danish Refugee Council, Equilibre Solidarity, Guild of Russian Filmmakers, Magee Women's Research Institute and Foundation, Memorial Human Rights Centre, Nizam, Stichting Russian Justice Initiative, St. Petersburg Centre for International Cooperation of the Red Cross, St. Petersburg Red Cross Society, Vesta.

Others: IOM, UNV.

Operational partners

Government: Federal Migration Service of Russia and its Departments in the regions, Governments of Chechnya, Ingushetia and North Ossetia-Alania, Moscow City Education Department, Ombudsman Offices.

NGOs: Psychological Support Center Gratis.

Others: Council of Europe, European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNAIDS, UNDP.

	2008	2009
Number of offices	3	3
Total staff	86	82
International	12	12
National	51	49
UNVs	17	16
JPOs	6	5

UNHCR

Tel.: (7 495) 232-30-11

Fax: (7 495) 232-30-17/16

E-mail: rusmo@unhcr.org

www.unhcr.ru



Russian Economic Growth: Now Qualitative

According to the 2008 UN World Economic Situation and Prospects report presented in Moscow this January, a favourable economic situation for exporters of energy resources coupled with the radical improvement of macroeconomic and structural policies were a prime driving force of Russia's economic recovery from the 1998 crisis

The Russian Federation evidently recovered from the 1998 crisis, states the report, which was co-authored, from the Russian side, by experts of the Centre for Macroeconomic Analysis and Short-Term Forecasting (CMASTF). The driving force of this recovery was the overall economic situation that favoured the exporters of mineral fuel combined with a radical improvement of macroeconomic and structural policies. Owing to the stable economic progress and real growth of the national currency the nominal GDP in this country increased fivefold as compared to the post-crisis 1999. By the end of 2007, it would be fair to assume, Russia would become the seventh biggest economy in the world in terms of the purchasing power parity.

Presenting the report, CMASTF's experts, Dmitry Belousov and Viktor Salnikov, pointed to several trends typical of the Russian economy in the past year. Among these were a greater influence of global processes on the Russian economy; a much greater role of the state in the economy in the wake of the creation of state corporations; and greater volumes of state investments. However, the most spectacular development in 2007 was what the experts described as the beginning of transition from export-based to investment-based growth.

Given the overall growth of more than 7%, the rate of growth in extractive industries was much lower than the growth in the production sector and construction, the UN report says. At the same time, the document warns that the persistent

dependence of CIS economies on the export of oil, gas and other raw materials and metals remains a major source of their structural vulnerability. As if in response to this alarming trend, the analysts pointed out that the turning point in the diversification of the Russian economy seems to have been passed. As a result, the economic



growth in Russia is no longer based on the market expansion, including the oil and gas sales, but on the increasing competitiveness of the goods produced.

According to the UN report, after a long period of stagnation, the volume of direct foreign investments into the Russian economy went up remarkably, and by early 2007, the country ranked third among the most attractive new world markets. Employment rates also improved, mainly because of the construction boom. Despite much greater influx of migrants, Russia saw a rapid decrease in unemployment rates.

At the same time, in today's era of globalization it is impossible to visualize an isolated island of prosperity amid the sea of economic predicament. As expected, this year,

Russia, as well as other CIS countries, will demonstrate somewhat lower rates of economic growth. "Our economy is overheated, we are growing faster than the markets would permit us," Dmitry Belousov warned, predicting a 1% decline in economic growth in 2008 as compared to the previous year.

However, even after making all possible provisions, the experts, who presented the report, could not avoid accusations of excessive addiction to 'rosy colours' when depicting the future of the Russian economy.

Participants in the discussion noted that even backed by figures, the reports of ordinary Russians' income growth failed to sound convincing enough in a situation when the word 'inflation' has returned to the everyday vocabulary of the major part of the population. The major part, but not all, as here, too, the typical Russian inequality did manifest itself, and the inflation hit the poor and needy much harder than those who are much better-off economically.

It was for the second time that the UN Report World Economic Situation and Prospects was presented by the UN Information Centre in Moscow. The same as the first time, the actual presentation was done by the experts of the Centre of Macroeconomic Analyses and Short-Term Forecasting. We are confident that this partnership will work in the future, since the analytical potential and value of the report received high appraisal on the part of the Russian expert community.



UN Information Centre in Moscow

UNIC
Tel.: (7 495) 241-28-01 (Library),
241-28-94
Fax (7 495) 230-21-38
E-mail: dpi-moscow@unic.ru
www.unic.ru



Disabled in Russia: Have to Stay at Home?

According to the Ministry of Health and Social Development, there are about 14.5 million disabled in Russia, i.e. one tenth of the country's population. This means that problems of people with disabilities concern every fourth Russian family. Disabled are entitled for an allowance not exceeding 2000 roubles (US\$ 80). Eighty five percent of disabled people in Russia are not employed, while about 45 percent of them are people of working age willing to work and provide for themselves. What can be done to help these people?

Participants of the round table Social Partnership to Improve the Situation with Employment of Disabled tried to answer this question. The discussion was initiated by the UN Representative Office in the RF, together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Information Centre, as well as partners - 'Social Partnership' Centre and League for Protection of the Disabled n.a.Y.N.Kiselev. It was a timely discussion taking into account the forthcoming signing and ratification by the Russian Federation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the UN in 2006. On the one hand, it would be good if it happened as soon as possible, on the other hand, problems build up during years of neglecting the needs of disabled can affect the implementation of the Convention provisions. The goal of the round table organizers was to outline these problems, and it was not accidental that the State Museum and Humanistic Center 'Preodoleniye' State Museum was selected as a venue for the round table. Nikolay Ostrovsky who lost sight when he was young and was bedridden for most of his life did not give up and set an example for many generations.



Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator in the RF, opened the round table. Iraidia Leonova, Director of 'Social Partnership' Centre, and Nelli Salamatina,



Oleg Smolin

President of the League of for Protection of the Disabled n.a.Y.N.Kiselev, also welcomed the participants.

Elaine Fultz, Director of ILO Sub regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, presented ILO report 'The Right of Disabled People for Decent Work'. She gave examples of different approaches to the problems of disabled in various countries. For instance, in Sweden, the government will provide a wheelchair, but it will not be possible for a disabled person to use it, as public infrastructure and underground are not adapted to the needs of disabled. In the USA, a disabled person will have to buy a wheelchair, but he or she will be able to go anywhere. Too often government agencies encourage private entrepreneurs to hire disabled people; however, they do not do it themselves. Elaine Fultz's speech provided food for thought to the participants as to how to improve the policy in relation to people with disabilities in Russia.

Oleg Smolin, Deputy of the State Duma of the RF, member of the Education Committee, gave a presentation on 'Young Disabled: Possibilities of Education,

Qualification and Employment in the Desired Area'. "The notion of disability in the Russian legislation is more or less clear today, while the same cannot be said about the notion of 'loss of ability to work'. As a disabled person continues to work in any event, he or she is not considered disabled. If a disabled person is involved in employment of any kind he/she is no longer entitled to any social benefits. Speaking about education, the deputy noted that the most important thing would be to ensure preferential terms for disabled for entering higher education establishments. "Generally speaking, disabled people constitute a significant part of the country's human potential. We should look at the problems of disabled in this light," concluded Oleg Smolin, who had successfully worked as a Duma deputy for 18 years although he is blind.

Georgy Timofeev, Deputy Chairman of Moscow Public Communications Committee, spoke about the efforts of the Moscow Government aimed at helping over one million disabled people living in the capital. "Our principle is as follows: every disabled person, who wants to work, should have this opportunity," he emphasized.

Vadim Selin, representative of Johnson&Johnson, spoke about practical experience of employing disabled, and, on the basis of his personal experience, the responsibility of disabled people for their own life, the need to comply with high professional requirements of businesses to their employees.

"It would be impossible to create a 'society for all' in Russia nor achieve the Millennium Development Goals formulated in the UN Millennium Declaration without the eradication of social and economic inequality facing many disabled in the country," states the final document of the meeting. The participants call for the Russian Government and the State Duma to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a first priority. They also suggested initiating the development of a National Action Plan for improvement of the living standards of people with disabilities and conducting an all-Russian forum dedicated to the problems of these people.

UN Global Compact Mission Visits Moscow



On 4-6 February 2008, the United Nations Global Compact Mission including Mr. Soren Petersen, Head of GC Local Networks & Global Compact



Partnerships, and Mr. Jeff Senne, Head of Communications on Progress, visited Moscow. A series of meetings were conducted with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs to discuss the further alignment of the Social Charter of the Russian Business with the UN Global Compact following the acknowledgment of the Social Charter as a national document incorporating GC principles.

The Global Compact (GC) is a framework for businesses, which are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Internationally, more than 4,000 businesses have responded to the challenge of developing a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.

UNDP Russia, together with the Business Club on Non-financial Reporting of the Agency of Social Information, organized a meeting bringing together members of the Russian GC Network including UC RUSAL, Interros, Russian Railways and others, as well as members of the above mentioned club including Norilsk Nickel, Lukoil, BP, TNK-BP, RAO UES of Russia and others. The meeting was followed by a seminar on Communications on Progress (COPs) as a requirement to ensure and strengthen the commitment of Global Compact participants, safeguard the integrity of the initiative and create a rich repository of corporate practices, which will serve as a basis for the continued improvement of the reporting tool for the Global Compact.

In his opening remarks Mr. Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Russia, noted that he had high expectations that participants would use this opportunity to exchange their views and share information, discuss how business practices could be integrated and reconciled with the principles recognized in international agreements without hindering the companies' ability to remain competitive globally, as well as to shape expectation for the future growth of the Global Compact initiative in Russia. The enthusiasm of the Russian companies to support and promote the principles of socially responsible business is highly appreciated and welcomed by the United Nations Development Programme in the Russian Federation and other development



advocates. This initiative allows improving companies' image, exchanging experiences on issues of importance and implementing risk management strategies, as well as helps increase effectiveness in the processes of economic and social development.

The GC speakers provided an update of recent GC developments around the world and gave an overview of local GC networks and their increasingly important role in rooting the Global Compact within the national context and facilitating the progress of companies engaged in the Global Compact with respect to implementation of the ten principles. Furthermore, networks help develop the learning experience of all participants through their own activities and events and promote action in support of broader UN goals.

During the meeting, Mr. Rustam Zakiev, Director of Department for Regional Projects, UC RUSAL made a presentations entitled 'UN Global Compact as an important component of international recognition of the Russian experience in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)', and Ms. Lubov Alenicheva, Development Manager of the Agency of Social Information, presented 'Tendencies in the development of non-financial reporting of Russian companies'.

The participants had an opportunity to discuss major issues related to the advantages of participation in the GC initiative, integrity measures, and the importance of joining efforts in promoting CSR in Russia and sharing knowledge and

experiences of the Russian experts already working with GRI and AA1000 voluntary standards and international expertise.

Mr. Alexey Kostin, PhD, Executive Director of NGO CSR - Russian Centre, noted: "The discussion showed that the current situation with Russian business participation in UN GC is not clear enough, but promising. Twenty-four leading Russian companies and NGOs signed the UN GC, but only few of them produced and made public obligatory reports on Communications on Progress. A huge capacity of the Russian business participants can be used for taking a series of simultaneous and consistent steps towards UN GC's expansion to Russia."

Asel Abdurabmanova

GC Initiative Coordinator, UNDP Russia

UN Helps Develop Business Skills in the North Caucasus

On 29-30 January 2008, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Russian Federation, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), conducted the North Caucasus Entrepreneurship and Employment Workshop in Kislovodsk, which brought together 30 participants from the republics of North Ossetia-Alania, Ingushetia and Chechnya, including Government officials, represen-

trainers. UNDP and ILO jointly implemented the Entrepreneurship Training and Development pilot project in Ingushetia, North Ossetia, and Chechnya over the year of 2007 to promote small and medium enterprises (SME) development and employment growth primarily through creating local potential for business education in the three republics of the North Caucasus. UNDP provided financial and logistical support to the project under its

to start and develop one's business were presented during the workshop.

As a result of the project, some 140 potential and existing entrepreneurs received training on business plan development, marketing and resource management. From 15 to 20 trainers who would be able to consult entrepreneurs on these and other relevant issues were trained in each of the target republics.



Marina Kasaeva in her shop

tatives of public employment services, public and private business development agencies, as well as certified trainers to make the needs of existing and potential entrepreneurs known to policy-makers and to facilitate further development of business education in the region.

This was the final event of the Entrepreneurship Training and Development pilot project, which included trainings for existing and potential entrepreneurs, as well as trainings for

Programme of Sustainable Reintegration and Recovery in the North Caucasus. The trainings were based on Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) methodology developed by ILO and already successfully applied in other regions of Russia, Caucasus, Central Asia, and worldwide.

The results of the Assessments of Business Development Services conducted under the projects in each of the republics and directories for entrepreneurs providing practical advice on how

One of the participants, Marina Kasaeva, who owns a dress shop in Vladikavkaz, shared her opinion about the trainings: "I did not have enough knowledge and experience in cost calculation and planning. Consultants helped me to make an estimation of my business idea and to produce a feasibility report. The business game gave me an opportunity to feel myself in a real situation even though it was a virtual situation. Following the trainers' advice I managed to open my own shop! Already for almost a year and a half my business has been boosting. SIYB is an excellent programme, and it should be developed! The programme gives an opportunity to both estimate your business idea and to implement it in the future. And the most important thing - now we do not feel ourselves alone vis-a-vis our business problems, we know we have a support, and any time, we can turn to our trainers-consultants for advice on what to do and how to conduct our business."

Another impressive confirmation of the success of the project was the reaction of the SME Committee of the Chechen Republic: acknowledging the importance of such activities, it allocated funds to continue SIYB trainings for potential and existing entrepreneurs in the republic in 2008.

Selima Salamova,
UN Development Programme,
North Caucasus

UNDP
Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-00
Fax: (7 495) 787-21-01
E-mail: office@undp.ru
www.undp.ru



People

Memory of the World

This descendant from the Rurics dynasty and princes of Chernigov was a famous artist, a senator of the Russian Empire, and a confidant of Emperor Alexander I. But if he had created a single musical composition, his name would have been remembered by the generations to come. This composition is a solemn and sad polonaise entitled 'Farewell to Motherland'. Today, UNESCO's efforts aiming at preservation and dissemination of outstanding archive and library collections worldwide, and especially Memory of the World Programme, help to immortalize its author, Michal Kleofas Oginsky.

Memory of the World Programme was launched in 1992. It reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. Nowadays, Memory of the World Register includes 158 entries: archive and library collections as well as manuscripts in 67 countries. Eight of the entries included in the Memory of the World Register are held in archives, libraries, and museums of Russia.

One of the major projects aiming at documentary heritage preservation, which was implemented by



Khitrovo Gospel, Inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 1997

© The Russian State Library

Russian and Belarusian archivists and supported by the UNESCO Moscow Office, concerned the archive of the composer, musician, and political figure, Michal Kleofas Oginsky (1765-1833).

The Russian State Archive of Ancient Documents produced an archive description of the collection, including 5,930 pages (documents, letters, music-manuscripts, drawings and literary works), and copied it on microfilm, which was handed over to the State Museum of Theatrical and Musical Culture of Belarus for full digitalization.

The digitalization of Oginsky's archive collection opens it to scholars and music lovers from all over the world. It also fosters Russian and Belarusian archivists' cooperation and promotes UNESCO's policy of open access to archive and library collections.

Another example of international cooperation between archivists and librarians of Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Finland supported by the UNESCO Moscow Office is the preparation of the Memory of the World dossier of the Nesviz Archive and the Library Collection of the Radziwill family.

Viacheslav Nosevich, Director of the Belarusian Research Centre of Electronic Records, told us about the dossier preparation: "Archive and bibliographical description of the collection as well as nomination dossier preparation required close cooperation of Belarusian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian and Finish archivists and librarians. The Nesviz Archive and the Library Collection, accumulated from the 15th century by members of the



© The National Library (Warsaw, Poland)

The Supras'l Codex
Joint nomination submitted by Poland, Russian Federation and Slovenia; Inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2007

Radziwill family, one of the most prominent aristocratic families in Eastern Europe, by the end of the 18th century, had become one of the greatest Eastern and Central European documentary collections. As a result of 19th -20th centuries events, the collection was dispersed among Belarusian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian and Finnish archives and libraries. I am sure the work we have done is important for mutual enrichment of our cultures, as well as for better understanding of our common past."

Yelena Krasovskaya, Secretary General of the National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO, added to what her colleague had said: "The dossier of the collection has been submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat. We hope for the positive decision of the International Advisory Committee of the Programme and for the inclusion of the collection in the Memory of the World Register."

UNESCO
Tel.: (7 495) 637-28-75
Fax: (7 495) 637-39-60
www.unesco.ru



Lucy Liu Visits Russia

UNICEF Ambassador and actress Lucy Liu visited a UNICEF project in the Russian capital on 15 February and recorded a video appeal to Russian donors.



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She was able to meet with children at the rehabilitation art center 'Maria's Children', which UNICEF has been supporting for several years. The facility uses arts therapy to assist the social, psychological and intellectual rehabilitation of orphans and children with special needs. She also had the pleasure of spending the day there and getting to know them all by working together on an art collage.

“Maria's Children” is like a little diamond in the middle of the city,” says Lucy, “where children from orphanages can come and just be themselves. Even though I don't speak Russian, and they didn't speak English, we still had such a great connection with one another.

They were open to me, and I love that about children. I know that they are in good hands because UNICEF is taking care of them, and that reassures me that they won't be taught the discrimination and the hatred that a lot of other people learn once they get older.”

UNICEF recently started a joint project with 'Maria's Children' to work with severely disabled children at an orphanage in Sergiev Posad, a small historic town in the Moscow Region. It will include entertainment with clowns and building specially adopted playgrounds. The project will be funded by individual donations from Russia.

Recording an appeal to potential Russian individual donors, Lucy said: “For many years I have been sending money to charities without knowing how the money was spent. After I became a UNICEF Ambassador, I had a unique opportunity to personally experience where my donations to UNICEF go and how the donations of millions of people from around the world are spent. I can say now, from first hand experience, that every penny that is donated



© UNICEF/2007/Alyona Strid

goes to children that are in need all over the world.”

Lucy is best known for her roles in Charlie's Angels and Kill Bill, and the television series Ally McBeal. She is currently starring in the ABC series Cashmere Mafia, about four successful New York career women in their 30s who have been friends since business school.

Lucy has been a celebrity ambassador for UNICEF since 2004, and in that time, she has visited Lesotho, which has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world; regions of Pakistan, which suffered from an earthquake in 2005; and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where many children are affected by ongoing violence. Lucy also took part in various fundraising activities, including auctioning her own original art works at an exhibition held in New York City in 2006.

UNICEF is on the ground in 156 countries. It has worked in Russia since 1997. The main goal of the United Nations Children's Fund in Russia is to protect and support the rights of children for a safe, healthy and happy childhood. UNICEF seeks to make sure that children's voices are heard and children's needs are provided for by respective policies and funding.

Andrey Muchnik



© UNICEF/2007/Alyona Strid

UNICEF

Tel.: (7 495) 933-88-18
 Fax: (7 495) 933-88-19
www.unicef.org/russia

Joining Efforts in Implementing Youth Policy



On 15 January, a round table on the review of the current situation in youth policy was organized by the UN Thematic Group on Youth Policy in Russia. The Deputy Head of the recently established State Committee on Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation attended the meeting. In preparation to this event, international experts from UNFPA regional Country Support Team in Bratislava prepared a desk review report on youth policy in the Russian Federation.

Since 2006, the UN Thematic Group on Youth Policy, currently chaired by UNFPA, has worked closely with the Russian Government to develop a monitoring and evaluation system for youth policy in Russia. The initial situation analysis has been recognized as an essential part of this process.

To initiate the discussion, Yael Ohana, UNFPA consultant, presented the paper 'Generation Russia: an International Perspective on Youth Policy in the Context of Russian State and Nation Building'. Based on the discussion of the report and the debate, that followed, the participants of the round table came up with the following suggestions in regard to the future work:

- Further comprehensive research of the current youth situation in the Russian Federation is of great interest now, as the results can be used for the effective development of programmes aimed at out-

standing needs of the youth and the society, including programmes supported by UN agencies.

- The presented review can be expanded to include the findings of extensive existing national research. Today, many Russian research centres cooperate with international organizations to produce high quality research.



- It is necessary to involve youth at all stages: design and implementation of research as well as data analysis and monitoring. In this way alone, we can help secure a true understanding of the needs of young people.

- It is necessary to build a system of scientific research, which reflects values and cultural preferences of the youth since it is the culture, which determines the target-setting for the future.
- Taking into consideration the diversity of youth needs it is necessary to define priorities for research. For example, it could be youth health, since youth morbidity has increased threefold as compared to adult morbidity in recent years.
- It is also necessary to take into account data disaggregated by age groups and regions as the needs of different youth groups vary considerably.

It was recognized that the UN agencies and the government share common interests in the area of youth policy and that there is added value to cooperating and joining efforts in order to increase the effectiveness of youth policy in Russia.

Olesya Kochkina,
Youth/HIV Consultant,
UNFPA, Russia

UNFPA

Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-13

Fax: (7 495) 787-21-37

E-mail: russia.office@unfpa.org

www.unfpa.ru



World Food Programme

Regions

Treatment and Food: Together Against Tuberculosis

In 2005, the mortality rate associated with tuberculosis in Russia grew to 22.1 cases per 100,000 of population - this is 2.3 times higher than in 1992. During 10 years, from 1995 to 2004, 275,718 people died of tuberculosis, which equals to the population of a city. It is not by mere chance that doctors call TB the most deadly opportunistic infection and often compare it with HIV.

Unlike HIV, TB is curable. After a full course of treatment up to 95 percent of patients are cured. Since the treatment involves several powerful drugs that must be taken in the right combinations and at the right times, its initial stage must be observed by a trained medical staff. The very successful Directly Observed Therapy Short-course (DOTS) was devised to meet this need. Given that it takes six months to be cured, as well as some unpleasant side effects associated with the medications, TB patients are more likely to drop out of the treatment before it is completed. If a patient does not finish the full course of treatment he or she can develop and spread drug resistant strains of TB, which are much harder to treat and up to 100 times more expensive to cure.

As in many other countries, WFP in Russia allocates resources to provide food incentives for TB patients as a means to encourage full adherence to DOTS and address their increased nutritional requirements.

Within the framework of WFP activities in the North Caucasus, generously sponsored by donors worldwide, WFP has provided assistance to TB patients in Chechnya and Ingushetia since 2004. And since then, Medicines Sans Frontieres-Holland and World Health Organization (WHO) have become partners of WFP in distributing food aid to:

- 1,700 hospitalized TB patients in several districts of Chechnya and Ingushetia;
- 1,700 outpatients, including those registered under MSF DOTS programme.

Outpatients received monthly take-home rations of wheat flour, oil and salt. The ration is a key motivation for patients to attend the second-phase treatment, during which they receive regular medical consultations, have tests and take medicines.

Hospitalized patients are given 4-5 nutritious meals a day. WFP wheat flour, oil and salt are an important sup-



Akhmat Sh.

plement to the hospital menu. MSF in Chechnya and the Ministry of Health in Ingushetia provide other complementary food items.

Most patients who left the hospital applied for the second-phase treatment and continued to receive food aid from WFP. As a result, the risk of infection within the family is drastically reduced.

Akhmat Sh., a 53 year old ethnic Chechen, kindly agreed to talk about his illness, tuberculosis. He, like many people of his age, was born in exile in

Kazakhstan in 1954. In 1957, the family returned to Chechnya and settled in the native village of Oiskhar to start their life from scratch. "I am ashamed to say that I have always lived in poverty, though I have been working since the age of 15. I had nothing decent to wear when at high school and started to help my father to repair houses and roads. I remember once I earned 900 roubles and was extremely happy and felt like a millionaire."

"When the Chechen conflict erupted in 1999 my village was under bombardment for three days. The majority of the villagers escaped but I could not leave my cow behind as it calved on the first day of the shelling, I stayed in the cellar with the cow and the calf without heating and food. Soon I caught a flu, which brought on cough that would not disappear. Only several years later I was diagnosed with TB. I knew that from then on I will need good food and expensive drugs but the total monthly income of my 9-member family did not exceed 10,000 roubles. Medicins Sans Frontieres-Holland and the United Nations World Food Programme helped with both concerns by providing me with the necessary medicine and food."

"WFP food rations distributed to TB in- and outpatients encourage infected persons to come forward and seek treatment. People are applying to the clinic more actively. Ex-hospitalized patients are more inclined to proceed with outpatient treatment. The number of patients who interrupted their treatment decreased from 14 percent (in 2003) to 3 percent in 2007," says Elena Ausheva, Chief Doctor of the Central TB Prevention Clinic of Ingushetia.

Since 2004, WFP distributed about 700 tons of food to over 3,400 TB infected beneficiaries.

WFP

Tel.: (7 495) 956-49-68

Fax: (7 495) 956-49-89

www.wfp.org

Summary

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

UN / Secretary-General's Statement to Regional Groups of Member States

In his message to Regional Groups of Member States, the UN Secretary-General speaks about challenges facing the organization and calls to take advantage of the opportunity to enhance the role of the United Nations in world affairs.

WHO / Krasnodar Gives Hope in Combating HIV

The Krasnodar region is among the 20 most HIV-affected Russian territories. This is why it was designated one of the pilot areas for the WHO-EU joint project HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control. In the course of past two years, European and Russian experts conducted over 20 training sessions here for nearly 400 health care workers.

UNAIDS / Civil Society against HIV/AIDS

Moscow hosted the first all-Russian conference 'Civil Society against HIV/AIDS: Progress, Challenges, Prospects' organized with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

UNHCR / Global Appeal 2008-2009. Russian Federation

In its plan of action for Russia in 2008-2009, UNHCR prioritises support of development of an asylum system in accordance with international standards, provision of access to asylum and protection, as well as promotion of accession to the Statelessness Convention, identifying durable solutions for refugees, strengthening public information and awareness and development of local fundraising capacities.

UNIC / Russian Economic Growth: Now Qualitative

The UN report 'World Economic Situation and Prospects 2008', presented at the UN Information Centre in Moscow this January, contains analyses of the current trends in Russian economic development and its prospects. It was the second time that the annual report was presented in Russia, and the same as in 2007, got high marks from Russian expert community.

UNDP / Disabled in Russia: Have to Stay at Home?

According to official data, there are about 14.5 million disabled people in Russia, and 85% of them do not work. The round table 'Social Partnership to Improve the Situation with Employment for Disabled' was aimed at discussing the most acute problems in the area of labour and employment of the disabled in Russia in the light of expected signing and ratification by the country of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

UNDP / UN Helps Develop Business Skills in the North Caucasus

On 29-30 January 2008, the United Nations Development Programme in Russia, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, conducted the North Caucasus Entrepreneurship and Employment Workshop in Kislovodsk, Stavropol Krai. This was the final event of the Entrepreneurship Training and Development pilot project covering North Ossetia, Chechnya and Ingushetia, which included trainings for existent and potential entrepreneurs as well as trainings for trainers.

UNDP / UN Global Compact Mission Visits Moscow

On 4-6 February 2008, the United Nations Global Compact Mission including Mr. Soren Petersen, Head, GC Local Networks & Global Compact Partnerships, and Mr. Jeff Senne, Head, Communications on Progress, visited Moscow. A series of meetings were held with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs to discuss further alignment of the Social Charter of the Russian Business with the UN Global Compact following the acknowledgment of the Social Charter as a national document closely aligned with the GC principles.

UNDP / UN Helps Develop Business Skills in the North Caucasus

On 29-30 January 2008, the UNDP in the Russian Federation, in cooperation with the ILO, conducted a workshop in Kislovodsk which was the final event of the Entrepreneurship Training and Development pilot project. As result of the project, some 140 potential and existing entrepreneurs received training.

UNESCO / Memory of the World

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme was launched in 1992 aiming at preservation and dissemination of outstanding archive and library collections worldwide. It reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. Today, the Memory of the World Register includes 158 entries – archive and library collections as well as manuscripts – from 67 countries. Eight of the entries are held in archives, libraries and museums of Russia.

UNICEF / Lucy Liu Visits Russia

On 15 February, UNICEF Ambassador and actress Lucy Liu visited a UNICEF project in the Russian capital and recorded a video appeal to Russian donors. She met with children at the rehabilitation art centre Maria's Children supported by UNICEF. The facility uses arts therapy to assist the social, psychological and intellectual rehabilitation of orphans and children with special needs.

UNFPA / Joining Efforts in Implementing Youth Policy

On 15 January, a round table on the review of the current situation in youth policy was organized by the UN Theme Group on Youth Policy in Russia. Deputy Head of the recently established State Committee on Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation attended the meeting. In preparation to this event, international experts from UNFPA regional Country Support Team in Bratislava prepared a desk review report on youth policy in Russia.

WFP / Treatment and Food: Together Against Tuberculosis

WFP, the same as it does in many other countries, allocates resources in Russia to provide food incentives for TB patients as a means to encourage full adherence to DOTS and address their increased nutritional requirements. Within the framework of WFP's activities in the North Caucasus, generously sponsored by donors worldwide, WFP has been providing assistance to TB patients in Chechnya and Ingushetia since 2004.

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:

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