

U N IN RUSSIA

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Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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More than 173 million people
took part in the fourth global campaign
'Stand Up and Take Action against Poverty' / 11

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Every day, 7,400 people are infected with HIV in the world (of which 110 are Russians), and it is essential to find better ways to reduce HIV transmission. Michel Sidibe, UNAIDS Executive Director, made this statement during his recent visit to Russia in an interview that was initially published in *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper

People /9

No one knows for certain the exact number of street children in Moscow. According to expert estimates, their number ranges from 2,000 to 7,000. The recent study entitled 'Street Children' the Current State of Things' has come to the conclusion that the problem has taken a latent form

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In 2009, according to official statistics, 503,000 drug users were registered in the Russian Federation. However, some experts believe that the total number of drug users is higher, exceeding 2.5 million. Eighty percent of drug addicts in Russia are young people. The average age when they start to use drugs in Russia is 15-17

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The Secretary-General Statement on the Outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference

The Secretary-General welcomes the outcome of the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. He thanks the Government of Denmark for hosting the conference and leading the negotiations to a successful conclusion with substantive outcomes.

The collected decisions of the Parties fulfil in large part the benchmarks for success laid down at the September 2009 Summit on Climate Change at United Nations headquarters. The Secretary-General particularly appreciates the many Heads of States and Government who have demonstrated their global political leadership to make this deal possible.

Among the decisions of the Conference, the Copenhagen Accord marks a significant step forward in negotiations for the first truly global agreement that can limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation for the most vulnerable and help to establish a new era of environmentally sustainable growth.

Through the Accord, countries agreed to work toward a common, long-term goal to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius.



Developed countries have committed to establish and implement targets for greenhouse gas emissions, and a number of developing countries, including major emerging economies, have agreed to implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions and communicate their efforts every two years.

Countries also agreed on the importance of acting to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and also agreed to provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable to cope with climate change. To support these priorities, countries pledged up to thirty billion dollars a year between 2010 and 2012 to be disbursed through a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund. Countries also backed the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion dollars a year by 2020 for developing countries.

In the coming months the Secretary-General will work with Member States to ensure that the commitments enshrined in the Copenhagen Accord can be converted into a global legally binding treaty as soon as possible in 2010.

20 December 2009

Ban Ki-moon

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Learning from Finland: Climate Change Adaptation

In preparation to the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, UNDP, in cooperation with the Russian Regional Ecological Centre, initiated a trip of a group of Russian journalists to Finland. The purpose of the trip, sponsored by the Finnish government, was to acquaint them with the country's experience in developing climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and measures, including the promotion of sustainable energy and advancement of low-carbon approaches.

Why Finland? Because for the United Nations in Russia, one of the focuses is the impact of climate change on Russia's Arctic, the territory most affected by this phenomena. To promote the climate change agenda, in particular in these regions, it already organized a seminar on the topic for journalists from the North West Federal District of Russia last October. A field trip to a Nordic country was considered to be a useful practical step to help them learn from the experience of similar territories.

The group, which traveled to Finland, included representatives of several leading St. Petersburg printed editions and a radio journalists from Karelia, who participated in the seminar, as well as a REN TV crew from Moscow. The Finnish partners combined a very intensive and varied agenda – from excursions to energy-efficient and ecologically clean enterprises and renewable energy sites, to meetings with local stakeholders involved in climate change and environmental issues as well as with local journalists experienced in climate change – related topics.

The trip started with a visit to Nuuksio National Park, which is situated right at the doorstep of Helsinki. Despite its proximity to the busy city life, visitors there can experience true Finnish wilderness. This is one of 35 national parks in Finland visited by almost 2 mln people annually. In many of them ecotourism is well developed , like it is in Nuuksio National Park, where a private businessman rents part of the territory and organizes facilities for tourists.

Journalists learned about the so called MetsKhallitus – a state enterprise that administers more than 12 million

hectares of state-owned land and water areas. MetsKhallitus provides natural resources sector services to a diverse customer base, from private individuals to major companies.

It was interesting to visit the Olkiluoto nuclear plant and to learn about how its safety is ensured and environmental impact is assessed. Nuclear energy has played a major role in the Finnish electricity production. Since 2007, the proportion of nuclear electricity totaled 25% of electricity consumption and about 9% of domestic production. Increased nuclear power production is expected to play an important role in meeting greenhouse gas emission target set for Finland by the Kyoto Protocol.

In the middle of Helsinki, the delegation went underground to see the Katri Vala power plant. The facility excavated under the Katri Vala Park houses the world's largest heat pump plant, producing district heat and cooling in a single process. Various parts of a similar type of production are used elsewhere in the world, but so far have not been combined in this way. This was a good example of power generation with emission-free renewable energy sources.

The last but not the least important topic covered during the trip was the use of solar energy as an alternative and fully renewable energy source generating zero emissions. The journalists visited the 'NAPS Systems Oy' company, which provides systems and services related to solar power, and has already done it in 50 countries. They learnt that if 0.015% of the globe is covered with solar panels, the world energy needs would be fully satisfied. Though in northern countries, such as Finland, the solar energy could account only for a small portion of energy production, it is still popular among private consumers. Journalists were taken to see an apartment house in one of Helsinki districts, where solar panels serve as balcony screens and allow the owners of the building to save electricity and to even supply the excess to the city network.

The journalists were acquainted with the work of two very different enterprises – Russian owned Norilsk Nickel Harjavalta, the only nickel refining plant in Finland, and a confectionary factory of Fazer Group on the outskirts of Helsinki. Both companies are focused on compliance with all social and environmental responsibility principles in the various countries in which it operate, which is





The energy is produced by both nuclear and wind

essential for ensuring sustainable and efficient business development. Fazer is one of the biggest bakery companies in Russia.

The agenda included meetings with environmental experts from the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), which is both a research institute and a centre for environmental expertise, and with civil society organisations, which work in the environment protection area. Two of them, which the delegation visited, the John Nurminen Foundation and the Foundation for a Living Baltic Sea, implement projects aimed at the reduction of eutrophication of the Baltic Sea and increase of the environmental awareness of its condition.

Victoria Zotikova,
RC Office Communication Analyst

Society

Human Rights through the Prism of Cinematography



This year, Human Rights Day on 10 December focused on ending discrimination. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". These first few famous words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established 60 years ago the basic premise of international human rights law. Yet today, the fight against discrimination remains a daily struggle for millions around the globe.

This year was also special, because the world celebrated anniversaries of two major human rights instruments: the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November and the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women on 18 December. The conventions bring children and the female half of humanity into the focus of human rights concerns, they affirm human rights for all children and women; they speak about ending all forms of discrimination against children and women, which hamper the realization of their rights.

The United Nations in Russia selected these two topics as the main theme of the UN day in the framework of XV 'Stalker' International Film Festival on Human Rights, acknowledging the role of cinematography, of film-makers, actors, in highlighting human rights challenges and abuses, in bringing them close to the heart of everyone, in reaching to a very wide and diverse audience.



Dirk Hebecker, Senior Human Rights Advisor to the UN Country Team in the Russian Federation, greets the festival guests

The UN in Russia has a long and successful experience of cooperating with 'Stalker' festival, which is organized by the Guild of Russian Film Makers and traditionally starts on 10 December,

International Human Rights Day. It has long been an important forum for the United Nations in the Russian Federation and its individual agencies for the promotion of human rights messages to a very wide audience.

As Frode Muring, UN Resident Coordinator in Russia, noted in his address to organizers and participants of the festival, "when we say 'Stalker', we remember the famous film by Andrei Tarkovsky about a guide to a dangerous and mysterious 'zone' for those who seek to regain hope, the 'stalker', who makes people think about their moral obligations, conscience, personal responsibility for what they are doing. This is how we perceive the festival itself.

The UN thematic day on 12 December was organized by the Resident Coordinator Office and supported by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNICEF, UN Population Fund, and World Health Organization.

Five feature films and 10 documentaries, included into the programme of the UN day, reflected on the two selected topics, the rights of children and women. The United Nations in Russia

awarded two prizes to films in the programme. The winning feature film 'Roof' by a renowned film director, Boris Grachevsky, is a story of three teenage girls and their parents, very different but

similar in ignoring their daughters' problems. The best documentary, 'Documents of Love', by a young director, Tatyana Soboleva, is about two women of different backgrounds, living difficult lives, but happy with their big families of many children.



In his address, Frode Mauring referred to Bernardo Bertolucci, the famous film director, once said that people come to see movies to share a joint dream. He expressed hope that the festival "will not only make all of us dream about how the rights of children and women should be guaranteed, but will inspire change for the better." And the films, which the audience could watch during the UN day, could not serve the purpose better.

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Opinions

Aid as Factor of Sustainable Development

This year will mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption in 2000 at the UN Millennium Summit of the Millennium Declaration, a unique and truly historic document. For the first time, countries succeeded in agreeing on main areas, goals, and a time frame for the joint work towards a more safe and just world and the achievement of important targets by 2015.

The central role in this mission invariably belongs to the United Nations Organization, and certainly its main development institution, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP is responsible for coordination of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals closely related to International Development Assistance (IDA) and Official Development Assistance (ODA).

It seems that globalization brings new meaning to both terms. It has become more evident that in both cases, we speak about the global task of uniting the efforts of the international community not just for the sake of development, but for sustainable development capable of addressing today's challenges at a global level. In



Frode Mauring, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Russia, presents awards to journalists

this context, it would be more logical to characterize both IDA and ODA as global

assistance to sustainable development. All the more so as international development assistance and official aid often overlap, while there is no such thing as unofficial assistance between countries. In a while, aiming assistance at sustainable development is likely to be reflected in a new term.

In recent years, a new reality has emerged: a group of countries has formed referred to as 'emerging donors'. A lot of them, including such global powers as China and India, are new to the international donor community. They remain recipients of significant assistance through bilateral channels and multilaterally. Russia is sometimes ranked among donors of this category. However, speaking about Russia, the definition voiced in

the April 2006 statement of G8 finance ministers, “countries returning to the category of donors” is more accurate.

In February 2010, for the first time, Moscow will host a high level international conference dedicated to international development assistance and the role of new and re-emerging donors. It is not accidental that the capital of Russia was selected as a conference venue.

However, one should take into account the lack throughout the period of the existence of the Russian Federation of any programme documents on the country's participation in IDA at the government level. Russia remains the only G8 country where the notion of official development is included neither in legislation, nor in government decrees. The Concept of Russia's Participation in International Development Assistance that establishes the sequence and key principles of the creation of national international development assistance system is the first step towards changing the situation.

The Concept of Russia's Participation in International Development Assistance approved by the President of Russia in 2007 gives a strong impetus to Russia's relations with the donor community. The actual Russia's IDA has considerably exceeded the amount of Russia's ODA, primarily in the CIS. Today, we see the first signs of the prospective bridging of the IDA-ODA gap.

Accumulating a sufficient amount of Russia's IDA and the experience in this area on the basis of the Concept, will further contribute to the establishment of a specialized state IDA institution, implementation of special programmes and instruments of assistance, adjustment and modernization of current mechanisms, as well as expansion of development assistance programmes.

In this context, UNDP implements a new project 'International Development Assistance. Preparatory Project'. Its main goal is to contribute to Russia's valuable participation in the global IDA architecture corresponding to the country's growing role on the international arena as a major international donor.

A programme of trainings, study trips and presentations of best practices in the area of IDA has been proposed to the Russian side (and agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and Rossotrudnichestvo). The Memorandum envisages a joint medium term programme aimed at systematization of Russia's IDA in the CIS, which should result in higher effectiveness of the assistance provided.

At the same time, a number of joint projects on the creation of the International Energy Effectiveness and Climate Change Centre have been discussed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Energy, and the

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Negotiations with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and Rospotrebnadzor are under way in the framework of HIV/AIDS IDA Programme in the CIS countries. Discussions with Vnesheconombank about its participation in international development assistance programmes are envisaged. UNDP has established contacts with Russian NGOs, in particular the Centre for the Millennium Development Goals Implementation, which should help promote the ODA topic.

We are to fulfil our commitments to such international documents as the Millennium Declaration, Monterrey Consensus, Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, World Summit 2005 Outcome Document, Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 200, etc. The Russian Federation continues developing joint approaches with UNDP in this area. Both parties believe that the integration of Russia in the international economy would be incomplete without Russia's systemic participation in IDA.

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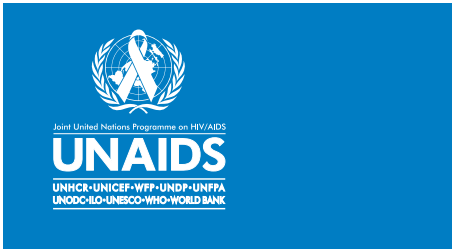
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A round table in Rosotrudnichestvo is dedicated to the problems of assistance to international development



Interview

Michel Sidibé, Enemy of AIDS No.1



The first All-Russian conference 'HIV/AIDS as It's Reflected in Mass Media. Open Dialogue of the Key Decision Makers of the Russian Mass Media, Representatives of Civil Society, and Health Care Institutions' was held on the eve of the World AIDS Day in Moscow. For the first time, editors-in-chief of national and regional mass media outlets, TV companies, and radio stations from 27 Russian regions, representatives of public organizations and expert community, medical practitioners, and health care administrators gathered together to discuss the issue and the role of mass media in overcoming HIV epidemic in Russia. Dr. Denis Broun, Regional Director of the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, Vadim Pokrovskiy, Head of the Federal AIDS Centre, Jonathan Kamin, Representative of the United States Agency for International Development, Vladimir Mayanovsky, Chairman of Coordination Council of All Russian Union of PLHIV, and other experts supported the discussion. As a result of the conference, a memorandum on covering HIV/AIDS in mass media was adopted. It is based on the Code of Ethics of Russian Journalist and on international recommendations on HIV/AIDS coverage. HIV/AIDS in mass media is a vital



element of HIV response. The interview with Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director, on this topic was initially published in *Moskovsky Komsomol's* newspaper.

– Mr. Sidibé, the results from the largest vaccine trial ever conducted show a modest but encouraging 31% efficacy in preventing new HIV infections. Does it mean that we can expect prophylactic vaccine from HIV to be developed?

The vaccine trial in Thailand was organized to prove that the concept of a 'combination vaccine' could work. The fact it showed some efficacy provides a direction for future work of researches for a new vaccine that will protect better than this one. A lot of scientific data was gene-

rated during this trial, which were announced at the AIDS Vaccine 2009 conference in Paris.

For all who work in the fight against HIV, this is an important moment. After years of research and many disappointing clinical trials, we have a first and promising success. Many years of investment and perseverance are paying off. For the research community, it is a great encouragement.

A vaccine that could be used against HIV could still be more than a decade away. We already have to prepare funding mechanisms because, when it does become available, it needs to be accessible for all regardless of income. In the meantime, it is important to repeat that only the 'social vaccine' of awareness, prevention and risk-free behaviors can prevent HIV infection today.

– *There is a lot of information and prevention campaigns against HIV undertaken within last 25 years in different countries. Can you name the best results if it's possible at all?*

Many countries have achieved progress, not always on all fronts. Russia, for example, has been one of the most successful countries in implementing access to treatment and prevention of transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies. Several African countries (such as Rwanda and Uganda) have managed to reduce transmission through changes in sexual behavior of young people. Thailand has decreased HIV prevalence through broad prevention, community mobilization and increased access to treatment. Brazil has achieved great results through the mobilization of their whole health system, taking advantage of the national health insurance system.

In all cases, there is one common factor for successes: the engagement of political leaders, who made the fight against HIV a national priority and the involvement of people living with HIV in the national programme. To progress further, there is a need to openly discuss and address the needs of sex workers, drugs users, men who have sex with men, regardless of the

stigma and discrimination to which they are often subjected.

– *What's the input of harm reduction programmes into HIV response in the world? Should Russia strengthen harm reduction?*

It is important to first define harm reduction. People should not use drugs and in particular injecting drugs. The first priority for a country is to make sure that young people are not using drugs.

Harm reduction programmes only apply to those who are already injecting drugs. They are at great risk of transmission of HIV and hepatitis through unsafe injection. These programmes aim at reducing the risk of HIV transmission, notably through syringe and needle exchange, so that they do not reuse of share injection equipment and eventually 'oral substitution', which consists in providing those who are dependent to injecting drugs with products that are not injected.

Harm reduction programmes work in many countries and have been widely effective in preventing drug users from dying of HIV infection. They have been studied in detail, and the results were published in scientific journals worldwide. For example, in France between 1996 and 2003, the national harm reduction programme led to a decrease in syringe sharing and re-use, and HIV prevalence among injecting drug users decreased from 40% to 20%. In addition, crime related to drug use also decreased sharply (from more than 17,000 arrests per year to about 4,000), and deaths by overdose reduced by 5.

In Russia, according to the Federal Drug Control Service, about 2 million people inject illicit drugs. No country in the world can keep two million people at high risk of HIV. Elements of harm reduction that are allowed under Russian law have to be implemented as a component of AIDS prevention. Such programmes have been successfully implemented by civil society organizations in Russia and need to be strengthened.

– *You must have heard of a complicated situation with the purchase of ARV treat-*

ment drugs in Russia in 2009. Government officials declare that the prices should not be raised, while distributors claim that they can't reduce prices. Can you comment on this situation?

It is the government's right and responsibility to negotiate the lowest possible prices for ARV drugs. The Russian Government has achieved a 15% reduction in prices in 2009 compared to 2008 and should not hesitate to continue negotiating for lower prices with pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors. ARVs stock-outs and disruption of treatment for people living with HIV would be a major problem otherwise.

– What's the impact of financial crisis on the prices of ARV drugs in the world?

Prices are influenced by volumes of drugs purchased and an open competition in the procurement process. As such, the economic crisis does not affect them, but it has a major impact of the capacity of countries in international funds to purchase ARV for all who need them. And this is already creating tensions and disruption of treatment in several countries. Interruption or slowing down of access to treatment access would be a disaster for the 4 million people currently on treatment in developing countries and for the delivery of services for 12 million AIDS orphans. Now that investments in AIDS are beginning to show results, it is essential that funding continues to avoid undermining them.

– What's your vision of HIV epidemic development in Russia?

In spite of political commitment, increased funding and a more active role of people living with HIV in the AIDS response, the Russian AIDS epidemic continues to grow. Injecting drug use remains the main driver of the epidemic although sexual transmission of HIV has been identified as the source of 36% of registered cases in 2008 – against 18% in 2002. The proportion of women among new infections is also increasing.

Russia has acknowledged HIV as a serious problem. However, Russia has to do more on the front of HIV prevention. As I said earlier, we do not have a vaccine yet and without effective prevention, the number of people requiring treatment will keep on growing, creating a heavy burden on the country's human and financial resources. Effective prevention requires addressing the needs of sexual minorities and drug users.

– What is missing in HIV/AIDS response? What should be done additionally?

Worldwide, the epidemic remains a major public health concern. A stronger push is needed to expand access to HIV treatment and prevention towards 'universal access'. Every day, 7,400 people are infected by HIV in the world (of which 110 are Russians), and it is essential to find better ways to reduce HIV transmission. UNAIDS recommends that countries adopt a combination prevention approach that combines bio-

medical, behavioral, and structural interventions to reduce sexual transmission of HIV, including condom use, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and harm reduction for injecting drug users. The engagement of people living with HIV is essential for the response.

– The stigma and discrimination against PLHIV are decreasing very slowly in Russia. Is it only our problem or is it typical for other countries as well?

The reality is that fighting stigma and discrimination takes a long time as it involves changing people's behaviors and attitudes, creating an environment of tolerance, as well as repealing laws that criminalize sexual orientation. Stigma and discrimination are widespread and not specific to any part of the world. However, it is important to fight all forms of discrimination, as they impede access to HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care, and support. Informing about HIV, providing messages of tolerance and unbiased reporting in mass media play a critical role in the fight against stigma and non discrimination. I am grateful to *Moskovski Komsolmolets* newspaper for being one of such media.

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A round table "AIDS and mass media" at the House of Journalists

Street Children: Who Are They and How to Help Them?

UNICEF-sponsored research findings



Homeless and neglected children, street children... Over the last few years, we have been seeing them increasingly less often in the streets of Moscow. Everything seems to be fine now, but is it really so? Has the problem been indeed resolved in Russia's capital? What should be done to prevent the appearance of street children?

No one knows for certain the exact number of these children in Moscow. According to estimates, their number ranges from 2,000 to 7,000. The authors of a recently completed study entitled 'Street Children' the Current State of Things' have come to a conclusion that in the last few years, the problem has taken a latent form, which is more difficult to identify and address.

The study was initiated by the Moscow City Child Rights Ombudsperson and supported by UNICEF. The relevant data was collected in late 2008 through expert surveys, interviews with children on Moscow streets and in orphanages, as well as desk-review surveys.

The fundamental problem causing a child to leave his or her family and live in the street is unfavorable family circumstances. Four out of every five children driven into the streets come from single-parent families. In most cases, street children were maltreated and abused by their parents suffering from alcoholism. As to material factors, such as poverty or lack of

housing, they are not directly related to the child's decision to leave home. Having found himself or herself in the street and having mastered essential survival skills, the child nevertheless sees his or her future in terms of renewed contacts with his or her parents. The child dreams of having all the problems finally resolved and going back home.

According to expert estimates, the problem of street children in Moscow has recently acquired a new, qualitative



rather than quantitative dimension. Today, there are far fewer homeless children on the city's streets and railway sta-

tions. However, it does not mean that the problem has completely disappeared. It is just taking different forms and becoming less visible, moving to basements, attics, distributing points of heating mains, etc. In this far less visible form, the problem is much more difficult to identify and prevent in a timely fashion. It is estimated that the average duration of a child's stay in Moscow's streets ranges from 7 to 12 months.

All street children are very much neglected in terms of their schooling and social assistance. Almost all of them are badly in need of psychological counseling, as well as dermatologist's and otolaryngologist's medical assistance. Some of them need multiple medical treatment. As evident from interviews and focus group discussions, street children, nevertheless, do not seek contacts with social services and their help. They are often not aware of the existence of facilities where they can get assistance.

Those who are engaged in providing assistance to street children and addressing this problem will undoubtedly find useful the information included in the study report. The brochure containing the research findings can be accessed at the UNICEF web-site (www.unicef.ru) or obtained in the UNICEF Office.





In addition to efforts aimed to strengthen the services providing assistance to children already living on the street, the activities targeted at preventing the development of socially dangerous situations in families are also of primary importance. UNICEF, jointly with government agencies and non-profit organizations, has been carrying out activities in the area of early identification and early crisis intervention with families at risk. Legal, social and psychological assistance provided to dysfunctional parents allows to prevent disintegration of families and a great number of children from leaving their homes, and ending up either on the street or at residential institutions.

The Moscow-based Social Rehabilitation Centre 'Krasnoselsky' is one of the UNICEF partners operating in this area. With the support of UNICEF, a mobile service has been established under the Centre's auspices to provide emergency assistance to minors.

This project is only part of UNICEF's overall activities targeted to support the development of a social assistance network and a supportive social environment conducive to preservation of families and preventing children from being driven into the streets or to state institutions. UNICEF experts believe that sup-

port to families is a key component of activities aimed to prevent child neglect and homelessness.

The Krasnoselsky orphanage: a mobile service and prevention of child homelessness

The phone was ringing inside a room at Moscow's Krasnoselsky Social Shelter. "Twenty-four hour hot line. Good afternoon", said one of the psychologists on duty. After a brief exchange, the psychologist jotted down an address. "Don't worry. We'll help you". The phone call came from a concerned neighbor saying that she thought a child was at risk of abuse. The social workers from the Krasnoselsky Centre shall promptly check up on the information they received through their hot line. The psychologist summoned the driver and a security guard on duty, and several minutes later, the team was pulling out of the shelter's courtyard.

The mobile service was set up in January 2009 with support from UNICEF. "Before, we used to get calls asking for assistance but could not respond adequately enough. Now, thanks to UNICEF, teams of our highly skilled and trained workers can respond to such calls promptly, going out when there is an emergency", said the shelter's Director Elena Bashkatova, adding that the shelter typically received about 100 calls a month. Teams work in 24-hour shifts and consist of a psychologist, a medical worker, a social worker, and a driver. Families are provided with the assistance needed, and often the problem can be addressed immediately, on the spot. However, when the team comes across children who are not living in a safe environment, they bring them back to the shelter

or, if necessary, to a hospital for treatment.

At any one time, the shelter provides accommodation to up to 50 children ranging in age from 3 to 18. More children who live at home come to the centre after school. They do their homework here, talk with psychologists and social wor-



kers, and take part in various activities. Children end up at the shelter for different reasons. Some of them are recently orphaned, while others are from families in difficult circumstances where they suffer from negligence or the lack of care.

The principal goal of the shelter's workers is to work with children and their parents, assist them in resolving their problems and, ultimately, return the children back to their home environment. Typically, children live in the shelter for about a year before they return to their families or are placed in alternative care settings where adequate support and protection is ensured.

Thanks to the shelter's efforts, 8 out of 10 children living in the Krasnoselsky rehabilitation Centre go back to their parents.

The recent resolution on the implementation of the Law 'On Social Services Provided to the Moscow City Residents' contains a provision on the need to replicate the positive model experience gained by the Krasnoselsky shelter in all the administrative districts throughout the city.

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UN Information Centre

Resolute "NO" to Poverty

In mid-October, millions of people around the globe called on world leaders to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) during the fourth global campaign 'Stand Up and Take Action against Poverty'. Coinciding with International Day for the Eradication of Poverty marked on 17 October, these activities enlisted the participation of 116 million people in 2008, mainly from poor countries. In 2009, the number of participants increased by one third, making up more than 173 million people. Thus, this initiative was certified by Guinness World Records as the largest coordinated mobilization of human beings in recorded history.

The whole system of the United Nations supported the Stand Up campaign. More than 3,000 events were organized in 120 countries, actively supported by the UN Information Centres' network.

The UN Country Team in Russia joined the move as well. On 16 and 17 October, at the initiative of the UN Information Center, supported by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in the RF, special events involving students from Sholokhov Moscow State University of Humanities took place. At one of them – a meeting at the University campus at Riazansky Prospect – Mr. Karl Kulessa, UNFPA Representative in the RF, spoke with the youth audience. He highlighted that mankind has only six years left until the 2015 deadline, by which world leaders have pledged to achieve the MDGs. Evidence suggests that the least progress was made in the sphere of women's

empowerment, including the promise to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters by 2015. Women and children have been especially hard hit by the devastating impacts of the financial, food and climate crises, as they constitute more than 70 percent of those living in poverty.

In their turn, students talked about the activities of the Centre for the Youth Programmes created on the basis of the University. They spoke about projects developed and implemented by volunteers, namely, the distance education for persons with special needs and assistance to families with disabled children.

The event culminated in Bob Marley's song "Get Up, Stand Up" performed by the students, with all participants rising and joining hands. A large balloon with the campaign's logo was hung up in the hall, and the students were wearing T-shirts with the same logo. The dénoue-

ment of the meeting was the launch of dozens of small balloons – a symbolic farewell to poverty.

On 17 October, young people gathered at another campus of the University in Vykhino. Alexandre Gorelik, Director of the UN Information Center, addressed the participants on behalf of the UN Country Team. He stressed, that the 'Stand Up and Take Action' campaign's goal is not only to bring together as many participants as possible. "The key word for us is "responsibility", he said. "Not only responsibility for ourselves, but, first of all, for the poor, vulnerable, and weak. After all, it's about responsibility for our planet, for our future."

The attendees also signed a Pledge calling for immediate actions to achieve the Millennium Developments Goals which they intended to send to Russian parliamentarians.

It is worth mentioning that in 2009 the campaign 'Stand Up and Take Action' took place not only in the Russian capital, but also in various parts of the country, including Barnaul, Michurinsk, Novosibirsk, Severodvinsk, Togliatti, Tumen, etc. The total registered number of participants in Russia stood at 5,000 people (<http://standagainstopoverty.org/>).

Marina Shirshova,

UN Information Centre in Moscow

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UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Highlights

Young People Against Drugs



A threat to the future of Russia

In 2009, according to official statistics, 503,000 drug users were registered in the Russian Federation. However, some experts believe that the total number of drug users is higher, exceeding 2.5 million.

Eighty percent of drug addicts in Russia are young people. The average age when young people start to use drugs in Russia is 15–17, and recently there has been a dramatic increase in the percentage of drug users among children aged 9–13.

In 2007, the National Research Centre on Addictions, in cooperation with UNODC, conducted a survey among a representative sample of students of Russia and Moscow aged 15-16. At the same time, similar surveys were carried out in 34 countries of Europe.

Among experiments with illicit drugs in the Russian Federation, like in European countries, the prevalent were those with cannabis (marijuana or hashish). Around 19% of respondents in Russia tried this drug at least once (same as the average for Europe). Prevalence of other drugs use was much lower. Levels of lifetime experi-

ments with other drugs were much lower. The most frequent ones were ‘ecstasy’ (3%), LSD (3%), ‘magic mushrooms’ (2%)



The article's author, Svitlana Pkbidenko, Adviser, Drug Demand Reduction, UNODC Office for the Russian Federation

and amphetamines (1%). These figures do not differ much from European averages. Prevalence of inhalant use (aerosols, glue,

and other volatile substances) among students in Russia was 7%, which is lower than the average (9%).

According to experts, each drug user will involve 13-15 teenagers in drug misuse. The average life expectancy of an addicted drug user is from 1 to 4.5 years. What makes young people choose drugs?

Where is the way out?

A lot of young people became addicted to drugs simply because they are unable to say "No" to their peers when they are first offered a drug or because they do not know what to do with their free time. They need to be equipped with skills to help them resist external pressure. This may be done best through peers from the same age group. It is also important that state authorities take this work seriously ensure ongoing interaction with youth NGOs. These were the objectives of the project 'Participatory Approach to Limit the Spread of Drug Use Among Young People' implemented in Russia in 2008-2009.

The project is aimed at improving the situation with drug use prevention among young people. We are convinced that a





much greater effect can be achieved by encouraging youth organizations to play a more active role in this work. To be able to do this, members of such organizations had to study methods and approaches of drug use prevention that would be acceptable for young people and ways of conducting a dialogue with local authorities. The training was provided through the peer-to-peer approach, experience sharing meetings, and training events. Today, the newly trained staff is ready to independently carry out drug use prevention work and successfully demonstrate their skills. The project has contributed to the development of partnerships between NGOs. As a

result, a network of organizations was created, which provides young people from at-risk groups better access to counselling and social support services in eight Russian cities. These are Saint Petersburg, Irkutsk, Kazan, Veliky Novgorod, Nizhniy Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, and Tver. Over the period of the project implementation the participating youth organizations were not only involved in different training activities. They were in ongoing interaction with decision makers at various levels. As a result, local authorities and government agencies consider youth NGOs as fully legitimate participants of drug and alcohol misuse prevention work.

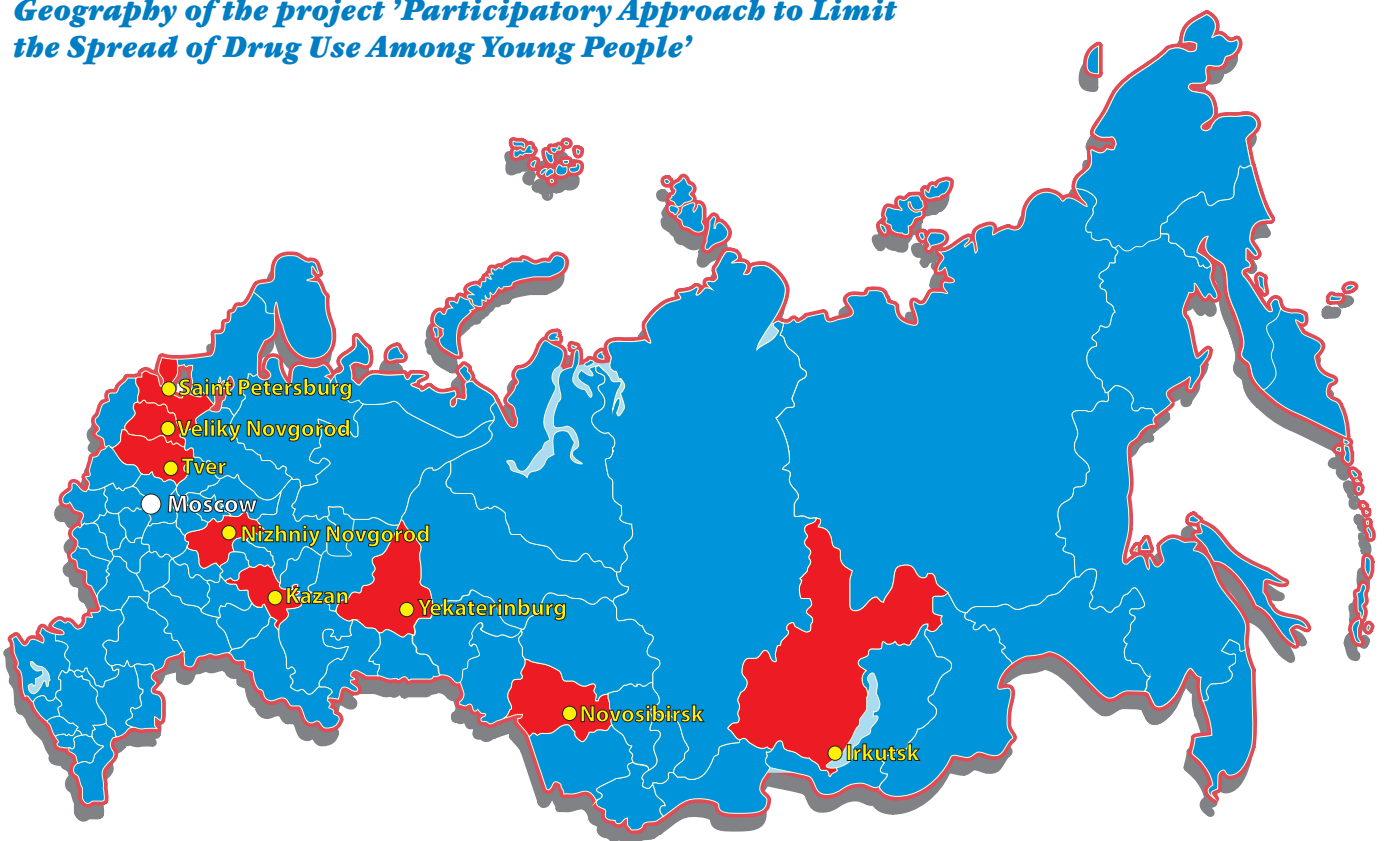
The three pillars of the project

The project consisted of three components:

1. Increasing skills and knowledge needed to develop and carry out drug use prevention programmes based on life-skills education.
2. Providing technical assistance in the development of psycho-social support services for vulnerable young people.
3. Improving interaction between state institutions and youth NGOs in the area of drug use prevention.

The EC Delegation in the Russian Federation funded the project. UNODC Office in

Geography of the project 'Participatory Approach to Limit the Spread of Drug Use Among Young People'





Gennady Kazakov, Deputy Chief, Department of the Federal Penal Service for the Tver Region: "In penal institutions of the Tver Region, 11.2 % of the prisoners are convicted for drug-related crimes. As for such crimes as theft, robbery, murder, 45 percent of the offences are committed in a state of narcotic or alcoholic intoxication or for the sake of a dose, which, in turn, accounts for another 25 percent of all those convicted. The most horrifying thing is that 80 percent of them are young people under 30.

It may sound paradoxical, but penal institutions are one of the best places for conducting effective drug prevention work. Prisoners are in a state of remission; they have free time to review what they have committed, time for reflection. At this moment, it is very important to direct their thinking into the right channel and provide support to them after release.

This project is an attempt to unite the efforts of the public and non-governmental sectors and it therefore deserves praise, further dissemination and expansion of its impact".

the Russian Federation implemented it, in collaboration with two main partners: Drug Abuse Prevention Centre NGO (St. Petersburg, Russia) and Mentor Foundation UK.

Increasing skills and knowledge needed to develop and carry out drug use prevention programmes based on life-skills education.

Within the framework of Component I, five three-day training workshops on 'Development of Modern Drug Use Prevention Programmes Based on the Development of Life Skills Among Vulnerable Groups of Youth' were conducted. These workshops took place on 19-21 May 2008 in Kazan, 2-4 June 2008 in Veliky Novgorod, 1-3 September 2008 in Novosibirsk, 13-15 October 2008 in Yekaterinburg, and 24-26 November 2008 in Irkutsk.

In the course of these workshops, the participants were trained to develop and implement long-term drug use prevention programmes based on life skills education (LSE) principles. The workshops were conducted in interactive format and included familiarization with the theory of LSE programmes and the methodology of development and conducting of such

programmes with vulnerable young people. The participants had an opportunity to learn how to develop healthy lifestyle skills and anti-drug attitude in teenagers and improve their knowledge about psychoactive substances.

Russian and international drug prevention experts conducted the training sessions. The workshops in Kazan, Veliky Novgorod, and Irkutsk were delivered by the Russian experts T.V.Vorobyeva and A.V.Yaltonskaya from the National Research Centre on Addictions. The workshops in Novosibirsk and Yekaterinburg were delivered by an international expert Ruth Joyce from the Mentor Foundation UK with support from Russian experts. Overall, 135 participants from 29 youth NGOs and 64 government agencies involved in the prevention of drug misuse increased their expertise in the development of long-term drug use prevention programmes based on life-skills approach.

The trainings organized by UNODC have helped NGOs and state agencies raise their level of knowledge on development of long-term drug use prevention programmes based on life skills education.

Another two training workshops on 'Monitoring and Evaluation of Drug Use Prevention Programmes' were held in Saint Petersburg on 21-23 October 2008 and on 16-18 February 2009. The workshops were facilitated by E.Carlin and L.O'Connor, experts from the Mentor Foundation UK, and by D.O.Kamaldinov, UNODC local consultant. They brought together 45 participants from 23 NGOs and 16 government organizations from eight regions of the Russian Federation.

Each of them received a set of educational materials, including the Evaluation Manual Guide developed by the Mentor Foundation UK, and a CD containing guidelines prepared by UNODC HQ.

Providing technical assistance in the development of psycho-social support services for vulnerable young people.

This component of the project included workshops on 'Psycho-Social Support to Young People from Vulnerable Groups' in Veliky Novgorod (4-9 February 2008) and Novosibirsk (12-17 May 2008). S.M.Yat-syshin and G.V.Latyshev from the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre NGO, St. Petersburg, facilitated the training. The participants learned why and how psychosocial support services for vulnerable young people are established and how this could be done more effectively through a network of state and non-government organizations. They included 49 representatives from 17 NGOs and 20 state and community-based organizations from eight project regions.

In each region, local coordinators were selected to carry out analysis and monitoring of the provision of social and psychological support services to young people from at-risk groups (access to services, types, efficiency, etc.). In addition, they established contacts with local partners with the aim of setting up systems of long-term medico-social support for vulnerable young people. The number of partner organizations involved in the provision of social and psychological support increased from 73 to 105.

In all of the eight cities covered by the project, two-day initial training seminars



**Alsu Sayetova,
Youth Work
Expert, Republic
Centre of Student
Labour Teams,
Kazan:**



"Theoretical knowledge on drug prevention issues that we got at the seminars proved to be very useful. The best impressions are from the training part. It allowed us to better understand the realities of trainers' work: possible mistakes and ways of avoiding them in a real context of working with vulnerable young people".

'Development of Socio-Psychological Support Services for Young People from Vulnerable Groups' were held. Over 80 psychologists and social work experts from institutions and organizations providing social and psychological support to vulnerable young people attended the course. In 2009, experts from the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre NGO conducted two one-day experience sharing meetings for representatives of NGOs and government organizations participating in the project (on 28 June and 20 October). Twenty participants took an active part in these meetings.

Improving interaction between state institutions and youth NGOs in the area of drug use prevention.

This component of the project included seven advocacy meetings of UNODC, local authorities and NGOs representatives. The representatives of local policy-makers and government agencies had an opportunity to learn more about the role of NGOs and youth volunteers in implementation of effective drug use prevention programmes among vulnerable young people. Five one-day seminars 'Effective Methods of Drug Prevention among Vulnerable Young People' were conducted for local authorities and policy-makers. They took place on 22 May 2008 in Kazan; 5 June 2008 in Veliky Novgorod; 4 September 2008 in Novosibirsk; 16 October 2008 in Yekaterinburg; and 27 November 2008 in Irkutsk. The participants included 140 representatives of 5 government agencies and 15 municipal organizations.

At two other training workshops in Saint Petersburg, the participants learned how to interact more effectively with mass media and how to ensure coverage of drug use prevention work so that the pub-

lic were aware of its results. The first of these workshops entitled 'Using Mass-Media as Advocacy Tool. Information Campaigns as a Tool of Interaction with Mass-Media in Socially Oriented Projects', took place on 23-24 June 2009. The other one, 'Social Marketing Campaigns on Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle and Prevention of Risky Behaviour', was organised on 21-22 October 2009. Twenty representatives from seven NGOs and nine government organizations from eight project regions participated in this workshop and in a distance learning course. Over the four month period between the workshops, each participant was given a home task based on the needs and projects of his/her organization. During this time, participants regularly communicated with the trainer by e-mail. As an output of



**Boris Spitsyn,
Deputy Head,
Administration
of Veliky Novgorod:**

"Twenty four experts from governmental, municipal, and non-governmental organizations of Veliky Novgorod attended the seminar 'Effective Methods of Drug Prevention Among Vulnerable Groups of Young People' in June 2008. The introduction of these programmes, which today are the most effective tool in working with the younger generation, will certainly allow us to teach our children not to put their health at risk and choose a healthy lifestyle. Another success is the opening of a 'social support bureau' for vulnerable young people at the facilities of the Novgorod Social Rehabilitation Centre for Young People 'Teenager'. I would like to express my gratitude to all the participants of the UNODC project and wish them further success!"

this educational course, the participants prepared promotion materials on their drug use prevention projects and programmes and developed an overall strategy for dealing with mass media in their regions. Four thematic programmes on drug use prevention for local TV were prepared in Kazan, Irkutsk, Veliky Novgorod, and Nizhniy Novgorod.

Results in brief

What are the main results of the project?
– 49 NGO specialists and volunteers and representatives of partner state agencies developed their skills in the provision of

psychosocial support to teenagers from at-risk groups;

– 135 specialists from NGOs and government agencies acquired skills to apply the methodology for developing long-term comprehensive drug use prevention programmes among vulnerable young people based on life-skills approach;

– 180 representatives of local authorities, Federal Drug Control Service agencies, and municipal institutions learned about advanced approaches to drug use prevention among young people;

– 45 experts from NGOs and government agencies increased their expertise in monitoring and evaluation of drug use prevention programmes;

– 20 experts from NGOs and government agencies developed skills needed for interaction with mass media and development of information and social marketing campaigns in the area of substance use prevention;

– 2,000 copies of educational materials (1,300 copies of the Manual, 500 copies of the Practical Guide and 200 copies of the Methodological Guidelines) on the development of long-term comprehensive drug use prevention programmes for vulnerable young people based on life skills approach were issued and distributed;

– 500 copies of the Methodological Guidelines on the Provision of Psychosocial Support to Representatives of At-Risk Groups were printed and distributed among the participants of the project;

– Bases for psychosocial support services for vulnerable young people were created in eight regions of the Russian Federation. 1,300 vulnerable young people received psychosocial support from partner organizations in eight cities of the Russian Federation, of whom more than 1,000 had previously misused psychoactive substances. Today, dozens of NGO, hundreds of specialists and volunteers continue their hard, but the much needed work to keep the young generation from using drugs. And this may be the most important and the most satisfying result of our efforts.

Svitlana Pkhiddenko,

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Towards Sustainable Development of North Ossetia-Alania

The project entitled ‘Sustainable Integration and Recovery in North Ossetia-Alania’ and funded under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) started in November 2008 and shall end in October 2011. The total approved budget for the three years exceeds US\$ 3.6 mln. With UNDP acting as the coordinating agency, and UNHCR, ILO and FAO as executing partners, it is the first integrated inter agency project of the kind implemented in the region. It brought together specialized skills of various UN agencies for a common goal, which is to compliment local and federal governments’ efforts to find durable solutions for various categories of uprooted people and socially and economically impaired local population, including hundreds of vulnerable households. The project was designed and is implemented in close cooperation with local authorities. It is a concrete manifestation of the transition of UN agencies’ work in the North Caucasus from a humanitarian operation to a long term recovery and sustainable development programme. Each project component implemented by a UN part-

ner aims at enhancing local employment opportunities, developing sustainable livelihoods, providing permanent shelters, and enhancing capacity of local authorities and NGOs involved in economic and social recovery in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania.



Realizing a quick impact project: a poultry farm in the forced migrants’ settlement (North Ossetia-Alania)

The UNTFHS Project will ultimately benefit the entire local population of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania through strengthened local economies and improved local services. Specifically targeted beneficiaries include: govern-

ment officials and decision-makers, local administrations, small and medium entrepreneurs, NGOs, displaced and vulnerable persons, particularly women and youth. For UNHCR, direct beneficiaries are displaced persons from the first Georgia/South Ossetia conflict, who meet the criteria to participate in the project, and their low income local neighbors residing in the areas, where the project is implemented.

UNDP, ILO and FAO conduct activities aimed at building sustainable livelihoods through income generation and small and medium enterprise (SME) support, which is in line with the local government intentions and the Republican Programme of SME support. Meanwhile, UNHCR focuses on the enhancement of local integration and livelihoods for displaced persons through the construction of 48 houses and provision of at least 30 quick impact projects (QIPs) to displaced beneficiary families.

During the first phase of the project UNDP and FAO, among other



A sewing workshop in the Gizel centre of collective residence

things, set up four Business Development Services (BDS)/inter-district Agricultural Extension Services centres in urban and rural areas respectively. These centres compliment each other, and local entrepreneurs, interested in broadening their income generation capacities, get access the advisory services, business and agricultural know-how and other support. In order to enhance integration opportunities for the displaced persons in the republic and increase their overall resilience, UNHCR encourages and refers such persons to the Business Development Services (BDS)/inter-district Agricultural Extension Services centers. It is worth noting that when drafting their quick impact projects, potential beneficiaries made use of these service.

Another major component of the integrated project is building the capacity of local business trainers. To achieve this, ILO, promoting SME development, conducted a series of the 'Start and Improve Your Business' (SIYB) trainings for trainers, which involved parti-

cipants from the executing partners, implementing partners and other local



Inhabitants of the forced migrants' settlement in Vladikavkaz got access to pure water

NGOs. UNHCR and UNDP granted financial and in-kind support to several trainings, providing SIYB trainers. As a follow up, an UNHCR in-house trainer trained at a SIYB workshop, conducted a training on practical skills in business plans development for an UNHCR's implementing partner responsible for quick impact project.

In the first months of project implementation, lots of persons of concern to UNHCR have benefited from it through enhancing their business and agricultural skills and gaining access to expert consultations and other services. One of examples is the water-pumping system for clear water tested during a recent visit of Gesche Karrenbrock, UNHCR Representative, and Mary-Jane Meierdiercks-Popovic, Head of UNHCR Sub-Office in the North Caucasus, to a displaced persons settlement in Vladikavkaz. There is a hope that such a multi-faceted comprehensive project, complementary to national efforts has good prospects of being multiplied in the neighboring republics of the North Caucasus.

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Events

Russia Hosts International Celebration of World Philosophy Day 2009

A country with a long tradition in philosophy and a true passion for thought and word, this year the Russian Federation had the honour to organize and host the international celebration of World Philosophy Day. From 16 to 19 November, philosophers from different regions of the world gathered together in Moscow and in Saint Petersburg to share perspectives of their analytical and practical work and to discuss the overarching theme 'Philosophy in the Dialogue of Cultures' – a subject selected in an effort to foster the dissemination of philosophy in all its traditions.

The celebration preceded the commemoration of International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2010. In 2009, World Philosophy Day,

dedicated to the theme of dialogue of cultures, provided food for thought in the context of the exchange of ideas, opinions, and concepts.

The annual Philosophy Day has been marked on the third Thursday of November since 2002 at the initiative of UNESCO. The aim is to bring philosophy closer to everyone – academics, students, general public – to all those who show interest in this activity that offers new opportunities and space for philosophical reflection, critical thinking and debate. This celebration also seeks to raise public awareness on the philosophical issues of current interest and contribute to public debate on the challenges that the society is facing today. The themes of World Philosophy Day celebrations held in previous years in France,

Italy, Turkey, Morocco and other countries included cultural diversity, issues of war and peace, human rights, globalization, science and ethics.

Prominent Russian academics as well as distinguished philosophers representing different countries of the world (such as J. Habermas (Germany), Tu Weiming (China), K.R. Rao (India) took part in various events and activities held in the framework of the World Philosophy Day celebration in Russia. The participants included high-level representatives of UNESCO, Russian Federation, researchers, students, journalists and numerous philosophy enthusiasts.

World Philosophy Day activities included: round tables and thematic discussions, exhibitions and presentations

by leading chairs and faculties of philosophy of Russia's universities, celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as the presentation of the book 'Our Philosophy House' about the historical building of the Institute of Philosophy at Volkhonka street.

The international event was co-organized by UNESCO, the Institute of Philosophy at the Russian Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO. Various other activities took place at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris and in numerous countries around the world.



A dialogue between A. Guseinov, Director of the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences (on the left), and J. Habermas, a German philosopher

Russia and UNESCO: Forum of Partners

On 23 November 2009, the UNESCO Moscow Office and the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO held the round table 'Russia and UNESCO: forum of partners'.

The event aimed to discuss up-to-date approaches to the cooperation between Russia and UNESCO, taking into account the changes undergone by the country in recent years and based on the existing scientific potential, strong education system, cultural, and natural diversity of the Russian Federation.

The forum gathered together experts and representatives of different governmental and non-governmental organizations, which promote UNESCO's ideals at national, regional, and international levels, as well as representatives of expert networks operating in various fields of UNESCO's competence.

Mr. Fedotov and Mr. Sidorov, Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation to UNESCO in the past years, and Mr. Iouchkiavitchious, UNESCO Director-General Advisor, former Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, presented overall prospects and goals of future cooperation.

Participants of the meeting discussed new opportunities and reference-points of cooperation between Russia and UNESCO in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information, as well as prospects of the development of intersectorial projects. Special

emphasis was made on the mutually beneficial cooperation with partners for extra-budgetary financing, as was underlined in the addresses by the representatives of IFESCCO, Coca-Cola HBC Eurasia and L'OREAL-Russia.

The participants of the meeting reiterated the importance of tolerance, "new

humanism" and gender equality as UNESCO's key priorities for the development of successful cooperation in the future.

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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 / Statement of the Secretary-General on the Outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference

In his statement, the Secretary-General welcomes the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference and emphasizes the importance of the Copenhagen Accord. He welcomes it as a significant step forward in negotiations for the first truly global agreement that can limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation for the most vulnerable, and help to establish a new era of environmentally sustainable growth.

UN / Learning from Finland: Climate Change Adaptation

In preparation to the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, UNDP, in cooperation with the Russian Regional Ecological Centre, initiated a trip of a group of Russian journalists to Finland. The purpose of the trip, sponsored by the Finnish government, was to acquaint them with the country's experience in developing climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and measures.

UN / Human Rights through the Prism of Cinematography

This year was special, because the world celebrated anniversaries of two major human rights instruments: the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. The *UN in Russia* selected the rights of women and children as the main theme of the UN day in the framework of XV 'Stalker' International Film Festival.

UNDP / Aid as Factor of Sustainable Development

Russia, one of the 'new donors' on the global arena, remains the only G8 country with no 'official development assistance' category in its legislation. The Russian ODA Concept adopted in 2007 that outlines the main principles of creating a national system for international development assistance is the first step in changing the situation. In this context, the new UNDP project, 'International Development Assistance. Preparatory Project', aims to contribute to Russia's valuable participation in the global IDA architecture.

UNAIDS / Michel Sidibé, Enemy of AIDS No.1

Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director, visited Moscow on the occasion of the first all-Russian conference 'HIV/AIDS as It's Reflected in Mass Media. Open Dialogue of the Key Decision Makers of the Russian Mass Media, Representatives of Civil Society, and Health Care Institutions', held on the eve of the World AIDS Day. *UN in Russia* published his interview to *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper, where he speaks about the key role of mass media in HIV response.

UNICEF / Street Children:

Who Are They and How to Help Them?

No one knows for certain the exact number of street children in Moscow. According to expert estimates, their number ranges from 2,000 to 7,000. The recently completed study "Street Children: the current state of things" says that in the last few years, the problem has taken a latent form, which is more difficult to identify and address.

UNIC / Resolute "NO" to Poverty

In mid-October, millions of people around the world called on world leaders to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve MDGs, taking part in the fourth global campaign 'Stand Up and Take Action against Poverty'. These activities enlisted the participation of 116 million people in 2008, mainly from poor countries. In 2009, the number of participants increased by one third, making up more than 173 millions people.

UNODC / Young People Against Drugs

The project 'Participatory Approach to Limit the Spread of Drug Use Among Young People', implemented in 2008-2009, aims at improving the situation with drug use prevention among young people through 'peer-to-peer' approach. The major outcome of the project is the creation of a network of organizations providing better access to counselling and social support services for young people from at-risk groups in eight Russian cities.

UNHCR / Towards Sustainable Development of North Ossetia-Alania

The project 'Sustainable Integration and Recovery in North Ossetia-Alania' funded under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) is the first integrated inter-agency project. Implemented in close cooperation with local authorities, it marks the transition of the UN work in the North Caucasus from a humanitarian operation to a long term recovery and sustainability programme.

UNESCO / Russia Hosts International Celebration of World Philosophy Day 2009

From 16 to 19 November, philosophers from various parts of the world gathered together in Moscow and Saint Petersburg to discuss the key theme of World Philosophy Day 'Philosophy in the Dialogue of Cultures'. The event precedes the 2010 International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly.

UNESCO / Russia and UNESCO: Forum of Partners

On 23 November, the UNESCO Moscow Office and the National Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO held a round table 'Russia and UNESCO: Meeting of Partners' aimed at discussing new approaches and opportunities in the area of cooperation between Russia and UNESCO.

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:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 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 |