

U N IN RUSSIA

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Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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Said-Khamzat Elmurzaev
is the winner of the children's poster
contest "We Will Fight Tuberculosis!" /8

Publications /3

According to the latest revision of the World Population Prospects released by the United Nations Population Fund, the world population will rise by 2.5 billion people from today's 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion in 2050 if decline in fertility rates in developing countries continues

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The Russian government has committed itself to providing annual financial contributions to the World Food Programme for the delivery of food assistance to the needy countries in the amount of 11 mln dollars, Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator, noted among other things in his interview to Interfax

People /11

Sasha was eight when he witnessed his mother's murder and was turned out of home by his father. "I remember pretty well my first day in the street. I was shocked and asked passers-by for help but nobody paid attention to me. I was so frightened," Sasha says

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Ban Ki-moon: the First Interview for Russia

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon granted his first interview to Russian media to Interfax news agency. *UN in Russia* publishes extracts from this interview.

– *Following your approval for the post, you spoke about the need to strengthen the UN's authority and to revive trust in the Organization.*

– *As Secretary-General, I am investing a lot of time and energy in bridging the divides that exist at the UN and winning the trust of all delegations. There is no magic to this other than hard work and sincerely reaching out for genuine dialogue.*

– *Do you share Russia's view, which does not see merit in increasing the number of veto-wielding Security Council members?*

– *Regarding the Security Council, it is necessary, and every Member State will agree, that there needs to be expansion and reform in that body. Unfortunately, so far, in recent 10 years, Member States have not been able to agree on this matter. As Secretary-General, I will try to facilitate consultations among the Member States so that they can arrive at the broadest possible consensus formula on this matter.*

– *Do you believe the UN could play a larger role in the fight against poverty, hunger, disease?*

– *The UN, like everyone else, can and should do more in these key areas.*

Let's take a look at some of the ways the UN has made a difference already. Aid for development, or official develop-



ment assistance, has gone from about US\$ 50 billion in 2000 to over US\$ 100 billion last year, and it is now more sharply focused on fighting poverty and disease. That money does not come from or go through the UN, but the impetus for the build-up came from the UN Millennium Summit of 2000, our Financing for Development summit of 2002 and our 2005 World Summit. Likewise, new funds have been established to fight killer diseases like AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, independent of the

UN but with our encouragement and cooperation. Pharmaceutical firms, for their part, came through with essential drugs for victims in the poor countries. AIDS is only one of many areas where the UN has galvanized corporations to do their share as good corporate citizens. On a very large scale, our Millennium Development Goals campaign, in which all countries and all UN agencies are participating, is directing a frontal assault on hunger, poverty, illiteracy, disease and environmental decay.

– *When do you plan to visit Russia in your new capacity? What is your assessment of Russia's role in UN activities?*

– *At this time, I have no immediate plans to visit the Russian Federation. However, I do feel that the Russian Federation is a major political actor. As a permanent member of the Security Council, it plays a prominent role on peace and security issues. For my part, I would encourage the Russian Federation to be more active on development issues and to become a generous donor.*

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How Many People Will Live on the Planet in 2050?

Access to family planning services will determine if the world adds 2.5 billion or 5 billion people by 2050, new report says



*Thoraya Ahmed Obaid,
UNFPA Executive
Director*

“New world population projections for the year 2050 by the United Nations are yet another wake-up call to the urgency of giving couples the means to exercise their human right to freely determine the sizes of their

families,” said Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

“World Population Prospects: the 2006 Revision’ – highlights of which were released in March 2007 by the Population Division of the United Nations – projects world population to rise by 2.5 billion people from today’s 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion in 2050. This, according to the report, assumes that fertility will continue falling in developing countries. If it stays at current rates, the world will add about 5 billion people, nearing 12 billion by 2050, with the less developed nations’ population

increasing to 10.6 billion, instead of 7.9 billion.

“Currently, about 200 million women in these countries lack access to safe and effective contraceptive services,” said Ms. Obaid. “Funding for family planning must be increased to meet the needs of these women, not only to determine the world’s future, but also to prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce maternal and infant death.”

“The projections should remind leaders of their 2005 World Summit commitment to provide universal access to reproductive health by 2015, including family planning, to free women from unintended childbearing and empower them to help reduce poverty,” said Ms. Obaid. “We must work together to expand access to comprehensive reproductive health services, such as skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric care and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.”

“World Population Prospects’ also makes projections on population ageing and other trends that are mostly prevalent in developed countries.

“Population ageing is a twentieth-century phenomenon resulting partly from improvements in life expectancy,” continued Ms. Obaid. “It also coincides with history’s largest-ever cohort of young people. The challenge is to meet the needs of older persons while at the same time meeting the urgent needs of the young, especially in developing countries.”



“Rich nations concerned with too-low fertility should emulate neighbours that have successfully introduced family-friendly policies to make careers and parenthood more compatible,” she added. The policies include flexible work schedules, paid parental leave, and the provision of day-care services, as recommended by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. “They should create an environment that makes it easier for men and women to combine parenthood and careers,” the UNFPA Executive Director emphasized. “No one should be forced to choose one or the other.”



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Appointments

Josette Sheeran Heads WFP

Josette Sheeran became the eleventh Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme in April 2007.

As leader of WFP, Ms. Sheeran oversees the world's largest humanitarian agency, which each year gives food to an average of 90 million people in at least 80 of the world's poorest countries.

WFP reaches out to hungry people who cannot help themselves, with a special emphasis on women and girls who suffer disproportionately from hunger and malnutrition.

WFP aid recipients include victims of war and natural disasters, orphans and families affected by HIV/AIDS, and schoolchildren in poor communities.

Ms. Sheeran was appointed to the post at the end of 2006 by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf and her appointment was unanimously approved by the WFP Executive Board.

She comes to the post after serving as Under Secretary for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs at the United States Department of State. There she was responsible for economic issues including development, trade, agriculture, finance, energy, telecommunications and transportation, with much of her focus on economic diplomacy to help developing nations advance towards economic self-sufficiency and prosperity.

Believing that effective policies to address global issues such as hunger and poverty must focus on long-term solutions in addition to urgent responses, Ms. Sheeran has developed several important U.S. initiatives and aided development of critical multilateral projects to aid reconstruction in Afghanistan, in Pakistan after

the 2005 earthquake, and in Lebanon after the 2006 war.

In 2006, she was appointed by Secretary-General Annan to the High-level UN Panel on System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

As part of the UN Panel, Ambassador Sheeran has conducted hundreds of interviews with development and



humanitarian experts, NGOs and national leaders throughout the world, and found WFP to be a gem in the UN system.

Ms. Sheeran has also served as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). There she advanced the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which helps African countries develop trade capacity so they can successfully compete in international markets.

She was responsible for trade negotiations in Asia and Africa, and was instrumental in launching the first USTR trade capacity building department.

Ms. Sheeran has a 20-year proven track record as a management leader, including overseeing the U.S. Department of State's economic diplomatic corps of 2,000.

Before joining USTR, she was Managing Director of Starpoint Solutions, a leading Wall Street technology firm that works with Fortune 500 clients. She also served as President and CEO of Empower America, a Washington D.C. think tank, where she advanced the agenda of economic empowerment for inner cities and developing nations.

Ms. Sheeran has a distinguished background in media. During her tenure as managing editor of a U.S. major newspaper, she was a regular commentator on television news programmes and twice served as a Pulitzer Prize juror, including for foreign reporting.

She has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations for more than a decade and has served on its Washington advisory board. She has served on a number of other boards, including the Washington boards of the Urban League and the United Negro College Fund.

She has received numerous awards, including the Press Award for Journalistic Achievement by the National Order of Women Legislators and a national award for developing and promoting African-American journalists.

She earned her BA from the University of Colorado in 1976.

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Interview

Marco Borsotti on UN Objectives in Russia

Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator and UN Development Programme Resident Representative, has granted an interview to Interfax news agency on various aspects of UN operations in Russia. The following is an abridged version of the interview

– *What is your view of Russia's role as an international donor?*



– Russia, and before the Soviet Union, has always been very active in assisting other countries, both financially and technically. Moreover, your country is traditionally a highly committed member of the United Nations, its programmes and bodies, as well as a major contributor to many other multilateral initiatives: ranging from environmental protection to emergency assistance to cultural exchanges. For instance, the Russian government has committed itself to providing annual financial contributions to the World Food Programme for the delivery of food assistance to the needy countries in the amount of 11 mln dollars. Another example is the support of UN High Commissioner for Refugees projects in different parts of the world, which amounts to 2 mln dollars annually since 2005.

The real news is that the Russian Federation for the first time after the collapse of the Soviet Union has started to conceptualize a mechanism and a unified framework for what in international language is called Official Development Assistance. This mechanism should ensure that the assistance is channelled in a transparent, efficient and coordinated way and reflects both Russia's strategic interests and the internationally defined development priorities. UNDP is proud to be supporting this initiative through its joint project with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and we see our role in making all the best international experience and expertise available to our government partners, as well as in facilitating the contacts with other donor countries and UN agencies.



– *When will the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Moscow become fully functional?*

– Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, visited the Russian Federation twice, in 2005 and 2006, which provided an opportunity to consolidate and strengthen cooperation with national partners. Already during the first visit, an agreement was reached with the government that a representative of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights will be permanently stationed in Moscow. In the meantime, OHCHR has deployed Senior Human Rights Officers a.i to the UN Country Team on temporary basis.

As a result, comprehensive consultations concerning the content and forms of

cooperation relevant to human rights have already been carried out with governmental, civil society, and international partners with a view to designing the most adequate and sustainable programme.

– *Recently Russia has embarked on improving its demographic and migration policies. Do you think the efforts have been successful?*

– I think it is crucial that the Russian Government has identified the demographic situation as one of the priorities, and that a number of important social policy initiatives have been launched in this regard, like the maternity capital or housing support to young families. We all understand however that both extreme mortality rates and insufficient fertility are consequences of broader socio-economic problems, and thus only comprehensive social and economic policies can help reverse the population decline. This is why UN in Russia sees as its priority to support the government efforts with research, analysis and capacity building measures – that would enable elaboration and implementation of a wide range of tools – from balanced migration policy,



which is naturally part of the solution, to socially stabilizing employment generation, a key factor of demographic situation in depressed regions, to making the existing safety nets more effective, so that people with so to say shaky income and social status could be encouraged to create families.

– The problem of HIV/AIDS is one of the most serious in Russia. How can UNDP assist in this area?

– The Russian Federation is experiencing one of the fastest-growing epidemics of HIV/AIDS in the world. In a country facing demographic decline, it is important to note that Russia's youth bear the greatest burden – nearly 80 percent of all peo-

ple living with HIV and AIDS. We help civil society groups in their important work to reach the most vulnerable populations. And of course, we also work with key health authorities to enhance the effectiveness of the medical response, including promoting universal access to prevention of HIV infection and care and treatment for people living with HIV.

– What about UNDP support to economic and democratic governance reforms? What economic projects will be promoted by UNDP, in particular in the North Caucasus?

– Today, the Russian government undertakes comprehensive administrative and budget reforms. For instance, in the past year, it approved changes in the Budget

authorities, business and civil society. In the area of economic development, UNDP, with its mandate of helping people build a better life, supports projects aimed at attracting foreign direct investments to Russia's regions as well as promoting export of goods and services to foreign markets with a focus on CIS countries. As an example, a number of high profile events (conferences, exhibitions, roundtables) have been conducted in Russia and abroad to present the investment opportunities in the North West Federal District of the country. Another joint initiative of UNDP and the Moscow City Government foresees provision of advisory support to the Moscow based enterprises in strengthening their export capacities. In 2006, within the framework of this project, a House of Moscow was opened in the Kyrgyz Republic on a pilot basis to facilitate trade relationships between Moscow and countries of Central Asia.

In the North Caucasus, where our activities are focused on supporting economic growth and employment creation, we initiated over 30 projects in 2006 alone. They include development of small and medium-size enterprises, business education and training, creation of business incubators and business centres, supporting microfinance and other forms of local entrepreneurship. Income generation activities are based on agricultural development, one of the most important sectors of the local economy.

– Compared to other countries where you worked, to what extent is the UN presence relevant in Russia?

– I do recognize the challenges associated with the position of the UN ambassador in the Russian Federation. It is not the first time that I work in a large country, where, for instance, the role of the UN Development Programme is not fully obvious. I personally think that in a country like Russia a UN aligned to its principles and mandate can assist it to better fulfil its obligations to citizens. This is the role the UN should play working with the authorities on the federal and regional levels to assist them to work better for their constituents.



In the North Caucasus, UNDP activities are focused on supporting economic growth and employment generation

ple living with HIV are under the age of 30, many of them teenagers. And women of reproductive age in particular are increasingly vulnerable to infection, accounting for nearly 40 percent of newly registered cases.

In recent months, the Russian Government has significantly stepped up its response. Yet there is lot to be done as the epidemic continues to mount, with nearly 40,000 new infections in the past year alone. As a co-sponsor of the UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) UNDP works to broaden the range of partners responding to HIV/AIDS beyond the health sector. For example, we work with the Ministry of Defence to increase HIV awareness among young soldiers and conscripts. We support faith-based organizations including the Russian Orthodox Church in their initiatives on caring for

Code and ratified the UN Convention against Corruption. UNDP works provides on-demand policy support to Russian government's and civil society initiatives in the sphere of local governance, budgeting, fight against corruption, development assistance to poor countries, gender mainstreaming and civic engagement from Kaliningrad to Kamchatka. Whatever we do, human development remains in the heart of our work. For example, we educate librarians and municipal servants from distant and rural municipalities of Buryatia and Karelia republics how to use computers and Internet in order to timely provide vital information to the citizens. We also publish and widely discuss annual human development reports, looking at the most acute problems in Russia's regions and proposing a common action plan for

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World Health Organization

Highlights

Building a Safer Future

World Health Day, established by the World Health Organization, is marked every year on 7 April. This year, the World Health Day slogan is “Invest in health, build a safer future.” This slogan is a reminder of the fact that threats to health know no borders, and such communicable diseases as avian influenza, HIV/AIDS, SARS and others spreading from one country to another and from region to region threaten the stability of many nations. Besides, there is a constant threat of emergencies, natural disasters, technological hazards and bioterrorism, which take thousands of lives.

In the period from 1990 to 2006, 1,483 disasters were registered in the WHO European Region. They include earthquakes, floods, heat-waves and other natural and technological hazards, causing 98,119 deaths and affecting over 42 million people with an estimated economic loss of over US \$168 billion.

National health systems are vital for effective management, prevention and response to health and security crises. Therefore, Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization, underlined that “every country should invest in health in order to create a capacity for prevention of new and existing risks by strengthening its own health care system.”

WHO has created global mechanisms to quickly mobilize expertise from a well established network of experienced international experts to respond to disasters, emergencies and disease outbreaks. The establishment of a joint operational regional platform for quick mobilization of international expertise and resources will be instrumental to improve future crisis response operations. In this context, the revised International Health Regulations, to come into force in June, will help build and strengthen current mechanisms for outbreak alert and response at the national and international levels.

On 3 April 2007, a press-conference devoted to the World Health Day was conducted in RIA-Novosti. It aimed to attract the attention of government officials and public to international health and safety issues and to mobilize additional resources in this area. Representatives of the Federal Service on Surveillance of Consumers' Rights

As of 1 January 2007, about 370,000 people living with HIV are registered in the Russian Federation. Every year the number of HIV infected people in the country increases by 39,000 people. At present, 14,000 people receive treatment. A total of 200,000 people have gone through medical treatment for HIV.



Protection and Human Well-Being (Rospotrebnadzor), the Ministry of Emergencies, World Health Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other international and non-governmental organizations took part in the press-conference.

According to Rospotrebnadzor, in 2006, 29 million cases of communicable diseases of 50 varieties were registered in Russia, including 95 percent of acute respiratory virus infections and flu. However, as a result of vaccine prevention measures the total number of such communicable diseases as diphtheria, rubella, measles, hepatitis A, B, C is gradually decreasing every year.

Mr. Yuri Brazhnikov, Director of the International Activities Department in the Ministry of Emergencies of the RF, emphasized that the ministry pays much attention to international cooperation in the field of preparedness and effective response in emergency situations and closely collaborates with the World Health Organization, the main coordinator and partner in identifying reserves for emergency response operations.

“This is another argument in favour of the idea that in our interconnected world we should cooperate to tackle international health safety issues,” Yuri Brazhnikov said.

We Will Fight Tuberculosis



A children's poster contest under the motto "We Will Fight Tuberculosis" brought together young artists from 15 Russian regions, including Karelia, Astrakhan and the Chechen Republic. The contest organized annually for the past six years to mark the World TB Day aims at attracting the attention of schoolchildren to the problem of tuberculosis, raising their awareness of the first symptoms and basic prevention principles, and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

This year, the winner of the contest is Said-Khamzat Elmurzaev, a 14-year old 8th grade pupil of Nadterechnaya

School No. 1 named after A.Mamakayev in Chechnya. At a press-conference dedicated to the World TB Day in RIA Novosti on 22 March 2007, Dmitri Fedotov, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Red Cross, awarded the winner with a digital camera.

Other winners of the contest are Danil Kiryakin, a 12-year old schoolboy from grammar school No. 2 of Guryevsk in the Kalinigrad oblast, Aleksander Trepalin, a 12-year old pupil of secondary school No. 10 of Dolgoprudny in the Moscow region, Elena Smurova, a 14-year old pupil of secondary school No. 2 of Rodniki in the Ivanovo region, Veronica Poletayeva, a 10-year old student of 'Semitsvetik' studio at the Children's Ward of the Ivanovo Tuberculosis Dispensary, and Aslan Epsirkhanov, a 16-year old pupil of the Grebenskaya School in Chechnya. Two winners of the second place and three - of the third place were awarded with MP3 and DVD players.

The winners' sincere joy was shared by some 50 Russian and international partners and nearly 20 media representatives, including TV and radio journalists, who attended the press-conference conducted under the motto "Tuberculosis somewhere is the tuberculosis among us!" This has become a universal motto for all events organized within the framework of the World TB Day 2007.

According to Ekaterina Kakorina, Deputy Director of the Department for Medical Aid Development of the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development, currently, 82.4 TB cases per 100,000 people are registered in the Russian Federation as compared to 83.8 TB cases per 100,000 people in 2005. "We can see a positive trend towards a decrease of mortality rate since 1998: 22.5 cases per 100,000 people were registered in 2005, whereas in 2006, there were 19.3 cases per 100,000 people", Dr. Kakorina noted. She also emphasized that the TB morbidity and the mortality rates in Russia remained among the high-



Danil Kiryakin – the second place



Elena Smurova – the third place



Veronica Poletayeva – the third place

est in the world. In 2006, 118,000 new TB cases were registered among people who had never been in the TB registry.

Dr. Kakorina described a typical person with TB: “A man of 43, who, in 70 percent of cases, has served a penitentiary term. The risk factors are alcohol abuse, absence of permanent residence and family.” She informed the press-conference participants that 26.3 billion roubles would be allocated for 2007-2011 within the framework of the Federal Target Programme on TB Control, with 40 percent of funds to be paid from the federal budget.

According to Deputy Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service (FPS), Alexander Kononets, 50 percent of TB-infected people, who come to penitentiaries, learn about their illness only in detention centres. Mr. Kononets believes that the effectiveness of TB treatment in the penitentiary system is higher than in civil health institutions. There was a two-fold decrease in the number of TB cases in penitentiaries for the last seven years. However, as the representative of FPS noted, after a TB patient is released from prison, he does not normally go to health institutions to register, thus creating a risk to those around him.

Williams Berns, US Ambassador to Russia, emphasized that Russia had achieved good results in TB control, pointing to the 10-year collaboration

between the two countries in the area of combating this social disease.

Elena Bogorodskaya, Head of the Department for Organization of TB care TB Control Strategy at the Research Institute of Phthiopulmonology of Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy, spoke about the TB control strategy in Russia. Mikhail Bionyshev, Deputy Director of the Project supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, outlined current activities carried out by the project.

The press conference also featured an awards ceremony for the winners of the journalist contest conducted by the World TB Day Steering Committee. The awards went to authors of the best publications in printed media:

- 1st place – Nina Kamayeva, *Zdorovie* regional newspaper, Yaroslavl;
- 2nd place – Nikolay Chernyaev, *Chitinskoe Obozrenie* newspaper, Chita;
- 3rd place – Aleksander Ivanov, *Meditsinskaya Gazeta*, Moscow.

Acting Head of WHO Office in Russia, Mary Collins, presented the winner with a laptop. The second and third place winners were given a digital camera and a smartphone.

On the threshold of the World TB Day, celebrated each year on 24 March, a number of media agencies dedicated their programmes to the



Aleksander Ivanov – the third place

problem of TB. The Coordinator of WHO TB Programme in Russia gave interviews to the TV-Centre channel news programme, UN Radio, the Russian service of the Voice of America, the Voice of Russia radio, and chief of bureau of *Washington Post* newspaper in Russia.

At the Saint-Petersburg Summit, the G8 leaders confirmed their commitment to stop tuberculosis and made a statement supporting the Global TB plan for 2006-2015 aimed at halving the TB related mortality rate by 2015 compared to 1990. In the communique, the G8 leaders called for support to the effective implementation of the plan from donors and partners. In this context, the awareness events held on World TB Day in 2007 have greatly contributed to combating the infection causing the deaths of 88 people in Russia daily.

Olga Oleinik
WHO TB Programme
in the Russian Federation



Aslan Epsirkbanov – the third place

How to Cope with Non-communicable Diseases

At present, Russia is facing a demographic problem caused by low birth rates and high level of mortality. Main causes of mortality in Russia include cardiovascular diseases, responsible for 56 percent of deaths, followed by poisoning, casualties and road traffic accidents (14 percent), and neoplasm (13 percent).

By these appalling indicators the Russian Federation takes the lead over developed countries in Europe and in the world. Mortality caused by blood circulation diseases in Russia is 4.2 times higher among men and 3.6 times higher among women compared to the countries of the European Union. Correspondingly, life expectancy in Russia is 14 years lower than in the European Union and reaches 58.9 years for men and 72.6 for women.

In light of these problems, the Ministry of Health and Social Development of Russia and the Regional Office of the World Health Organization for Europe tried to answer the traditional Russian question "What to do?" They agreed to jointly develop a non-communicable diseases prevention and control strategy for Russia. The Health Care Committee of the State Duma also confirmed its interest in this work. With this purpose, on 26-27 March 2007, an International Consultative Meeting was conducted in Moscow.

International experts from WHO Regional Office for Europe, the World Bank, USA, Great Britain, Canada and Finland shared their experience of developing national strategies in this area. Representatives from Russian scientific research centres that have extensive experience in the area of non-communicable diseases prevention policy development took part in the conference.

The initial draft of the non-communicable diseases prevention strategy and the actions to be taken for its implementation were discussed at the meeting. The aim of the strategy is to



increase the role of prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in Russia in the improvement of health and quality of life of the population, strengthening of workforce and economic capacity of the country. It was recommended to coordinate the suggested strategy with the implementation of national priority projects 'Health' and 'Demography'. Ways of increasing funding for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, as well as necessary federal and regional legislative acts to strengthen health of the population were discussed.

Russian and international experts especially underlined the necessity of building the capacity for prevention activities, as well as the development of interagency cooperation in the area of healthcare and prevention issues.

They also discussed the role of the Russian Countrywide Integrated Non-Communicable Diseases Intervention Program (CINDI) and WHO European CINDI Programme in the development of non-communicable diseases prevention strategy in the Russian Federation.

This was the first from a series of meetings planned for 2007. The participants came up with a number of proposals and recommendations for

the non-communicable diseases prevention strategy in Russia to be further discussed at the next meeting in autumn.

Dr. Irina Solovieva,

Senior Researcher

State Scientific Research Centre

of Preventive Medicine

Ministry of Health and Social Development

of the Russian Federation

WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 192 Member States. It has four main functions: to give worldwide guidance in the field of health; to set global standards for health; to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes; to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information, and standards.

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Street Children Are on Our Conscience

Sasha was eight when he witnessed his mother's murder and was turned out of home by his father. "I remember pretty well my first day in the street. I was shocked and asked passers-by for help but nobody paid attention to me. I was so frightened," Sasha says.

Now Sasha is sixteen. Unlike many other boys of his age who look forward to starting an adult life, he has already lived through many different experiences: he has witnessed the death of an immediate relative, suffered from loneliness, alcohol and drug dependence, lived in the streets, he has been sentenced to jail, and diagnosed with an incurable disease. And yet he has tried to start his life anew.

In big cities, you can see unsupervised children like Sasha in the streets almost daily. They often require urgent medical or psycho-social help. With UNICEF support, such assistance is provided to street children in Moscow and Saint-Petersburg. In addition, social workers provide guidance and support needed to help youngsters get back to normal life and childhood. Many street children are not orphans, they have parents who for one reason or another are unable to provide the necessary care and

support a child needs. The goal of UNICEF activities is to prevent children from ending up in the streets where they are vulnerable to violence and exploitation and exposed to the danger of drug and alcohol abuse. UNICEF supports the work with families at risk before the situation becomes irretrievable in order to prevent children from trying to survive in the streets.

According to statistics, there are over two thousand homeless children in Saint-Petersburg. In many cases, these are in fact neglected children who have both homes and families.

Svetlana Yegorycheva, a social worker at the Child Protection Foundation supported by UNICEF, notes that many street children have similar backgrounds. "Families often come into conflict when a parent marries for the second time, and a new baby is born," she says. "This can strain a relationship with the elder child who may look for a way out and end up living in the street with other abandoned kids." Children run away not only from their homes but also from orphanages where they often suffer violence from other inmates and teachers.



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To escape from tough reality many street children begin using toxic substances and drugs that help them not to feel hunger, cold, and pain, but at the same time kill them. The majority of street teenagers are HIV-positive or have hepatitis B and C. They live in the present and do not make any plans, sleeping in squats, basements, or attics and spending their days begging and stealing for food and drugs.

In this situation, social workers are often the only people who care about street children. The social workers' routine is to move around the city all day. They regularly go to see street children, talk to them, give them food, and try to persuade them to change their way of living.

So Sasha, whose story opened this article, agreed to start treatment. He went to a hospital and then to a rehabilitation centre. Although Sasha finds the regime strict, he now believes that he will recover to fulfil his dream of moving to the country to become a tractor driver.

Yelena Andreyeva

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UN Development Programme

Society

Chernobyl Children on the Threshold of Maturity

Many trials have fallen to the lot of the children born in the Chernobyl affected areas in 1986 and during the first years following the disaster: fear of the Chernobyl meltdown, resettlement from the contaminated areas, perestroika, the collapse of the Soviet Union, economic



deterioration in the nineties, the advent of the market economy with its new harsh requirements...

The thyroid cancer morbidity rate has grown dramatically among the children who were exposed to comparatively high radiation doses in the first years of their lives. According to the findings of the Chernobyl Forum, a lot of new cases of thyroid cancer can be expected among this highly at-risk group in the next few years. In 2005, the Forum brought together eight UN agencies and governments of the three most affected countries to produce a scientifically substantiated picture of the medical, ecological and social impact of the Chernobyl disaster. These children are the main concern of everyone involved in the Chernobyl impact mitigation work.

The children who were not exposed to high doses of radiation nevertheless suffered from the impact of the meltdown, as they grew up against the back-



ground of fear. There is still debate about what has greater influence on the general decrease of immunity and growth of morbidity in this generation: radiation, resettlement stress, constant fear or lack of true information.

Some were luckier: fleeing from Chernobyl fallout, Maria Sharapova's family moved from the affected town of Gomel in Belarus to Siberia, where Maria was born in April 1987. She grew up in Sochi, became a world-famous tennis player and now spends most of her time abroad. Yet Maria still remembers Chernobyl. That is why her first step as a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador was to allocate US \$100,000 from her charitable foundation to support projects for young people and children in the affected countries.

The problems of the Chernobyl generation are similar to those faced by their peers in other regions, including



poverty, collapse of the essential social infrastructure, lack of education and employment opportunities, apathy, and dependence on government subsidies.

For a long time aid from international organisations aimed at overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster was channelled primarily into construction of the shelter over the fourth reactor, mitigation of the radiation impact on people's health and humanitarian aid to the affected population.

In 2002, the UN adopted a new strategy for the recovery of territories affected by the Chernobyl disaster, which was presented in the report 'The Human



Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident. A Strategy for Recovery'. The new strategy was based on the conclusion that the main problem of those living in the affected regions was not radiation but the lack of normal socioeconomic conditions and opportunities. In 2005, this conclusion was confirmed by the Chernobyl Forum. Rehabilitation and recovery became a new platform uniting governments, international organizations, local authorities, scientists and NGOs.

The transition from humanitarian aid to a development strategy defined the coordinating role of UNDP: its new priorities included improving living conditions, creating jobs, promoting economic development, and supporting reviving local communities with a special focus on providing reliable information on the norms of safe living on the affected territories and healthy lifestyle. UNDP continues working with governments to streamline the costs of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

In Belarus, entrepreneurship is developed in the affected territories. In Russia, new regional and local initiatives are piloted in the affected territories to create mechanisms of economic recovery, attract investments, and create jobs. For instance, a centre for promotion of entrepreneurship and microcrediting is already running in the Bryansk oblast.

In Ukraine, independent community development initiatives are successfully implemented. Activities of 256 organisations in 174 villages cover over 20,000

people. Uniting their efforts with the resources of local authorities and the private sector, they implement projects focused on water and gas supply, reconstruction and re-equipment of medical centres, improvement of educational facilities, reconstruction of schools, and creation of youth and community centres in villages. In five affected districts local economic development agencies were established.

“Our main aim is to bring back faith to people living in the affected territories and offer effective solutions to the problems they face,” says Oksana



Leshchenko, UNDP Chernobyl Programme Coordinator. “All our activities have one goal – help the affected generation overcome the victim syndrome and regain confidence in their own abilities.”

Models of stimulating local communities have proved effective. Nowadays, many communities independently set priorities, raise funds and work with the authorities who are willing to co-finance local development projects. The first swimming pool since the time of the Chernobyl disaster was built in the town of Borodyansk in the Kyiv oblast with funds from local communities, authorities, entrepreneurs, and donors. A youth centre in Klavdievo and medical aid stations in Pylypovichi and Mykulychi also in Borodyansk district are to be opened soon. There were over 40 such projects in Ukraine in 2006 alone.

Restoring what was destroyed by the Chernobyl disaster is a task for several generations – both those graduating



from high school this spring and those just starting this autumn, who only know about Chernobyl from the stories told by their parents. According to the Strategy for Recovery, in 20 years, there will be no ‘Chernobyl territories’ except for the ‘exclusion zone’, however, the children of Chernobyl still need our care and help today.

Snizhana Kolomiets,
UNDP Regional
Communications Specialist

Regions

North Caucasus: to Revive the Granary

Agriculture is the main employment sector in the North Caucasus providing sustainable livelihood for the majority of local population. The unemployment rate in the region is three times above the average in Russia. During 15 years of the post-soviet era, most collective farms in the region collapsed due to economic downturn. The remaining entities are state property and still have limited financial and other resources, including lack of information that hinders their development.

Recent observations show that urban residents of North Ossetia-Alania, Ingushetia and Chechnya are highly interested in agriculture and invest into purchase and maintenance of cattle, orchards and private gardens. For those who have scanty information on how to make their modest funds and rural resources work in the best way, there is good news and practical support in the form of extension services organized and sustained by UNDP. Started in all three republics these agriculture consultancy centres provide support to both

state and private farmers working in various sectors of agriculture.

The year-long UNDP project has brought great results in cattle breeding. An extension centre opened with

UNDP support in North Ossetia-Alania in late 2005 conducted a research of cattle availability, milk yields, plans of local cattle owners, processing facilities and market. The results were shocking! After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the



Rural area in North Ossetia

number of state owned cattle reduced almost to a zero point whereas figures for privately owned cattle increased immensely. For instance, in Malgobek region alone, a territory in Ingushetia occupying about one third of the tiny republic, there are 9,400 privately owned cows,¹ which equals to the total herd of the Murmansk oblast. However, there are still problems in the dairy production chain. Although processing facilities are available, workers of milk processing plants are dismissed due to the lack of raw materials. As a result, neighbouring regions are the main suppliers of milk products for the local market.

How come there is no milk, while there are cows and milk processing plants? It was discovered that the quality of the herd did not allow local inbred cows overpass poor performance in daily milk yield (around 6 litres per cow). Once the problem was identified, UNDP started to tackle it from two sides. First of all, in cooperation with Heifer International Project, a revolving fund for cattle was established in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. It was meant to raise the interest of local population in breeding pedigree cows. Consultations and advisory sessions were arranged as immediate follow-up by the extension service. In addition, mobile stations for artificial cattle insemination were introduced to sustain spurring interest of the population in high quality cows.



Extension services centre at the Ministry of Agriculture, North Ossetia

Professional veterinaries hired for the artificial insemination stations checked health of the cattle. Full pack service offered to the farmers costs about 300 roubles.

As a result, within a year, over 150 of better quality young stock arrived in one of North Ossetian districts. Today a cow's market price is 74,000 roubles; thus around US \$427,500 - 429,000 was gained by this district alone. The practice is widely advertised by the extension

services. These efforts were highly appreciated by the Government of Ingushetia, which decided to allocate 700,000 roubles for 2007 alone to set up mobile insemination stations in the major communities of the republic.

Considering that locally selected breed of cows may give 45 litres daily yield, necessary measures were taken to make sure the excess of milk was channelled to processing plants. With the support of extension centres, milk consumers' cooperatives were organized, while UNDP provided them with milk coolers.

The scope of opportunities for local rural producers will increase with the launch of UNDP microfinance programme. There are a lot of possibilities in terms of rural communities development. It is just a matter of looking at what you have and trying to use it most effectively.

Natalia Andreyeva
Agriculture Expert
UNDP



Results of the artificial insemination project: young pedigree livestock

UNDP

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¹ According to the Ministry of Agriculture of Ingushetia, 2005



Wolfgang Milzow Appointed UNHCR Representative in the Russian Federation



In March 2007, Wolfgang Milzow was appointed UNHCR Representative in the Russian Federation. Mr. Milzow has worked for UNHCR since 1992. Before coming to Russia, he worked as Chief of Treasury Section (Financial Resources Services) in the UNHCR Headquarters, Senior Inspection Officer in the Inspector General's Office, and Acting Chief of Mission in the UNHCR Office in Pristina.

North Caucasus: Responding to People's Needs

Introducing the author: **Zarema Zulaeva** is a graduate of the Foreign Languages Faculty, Chechen-Ingush State University. After graduation she worked as a teacher in a secondary school and at the Oil Institute. From 2004 to 2006, Zarema worked as a monitor of the interregional NGO Vesta in the North Caucasus. She has been UNHCR staff member since October 2006

I worked as a teacher of English at the Oil Institute and in February 2003 was invited to work as a monitor for Vesta NGO, UNHCR's implementing partner in the Chechen Republic. The first question that came to my mind was: "Will I cope?" The office that I visited for the first time during the interview and the people who worked there seemed to live a life of their own incomprehensible for outsiders. There I heard unfamiliar words like IDPs, monitoring, compact centres

At that time, Vesta's legal monitoring team was not large – only 5 people (now there are 12). Each of us was in charge of specific sectors of responsibility that included both regions of the Chechen Republic and temporary accommodation centres (TACs) for people returning to Chechnya from Ingushetia and other regions of Russia. Unfortunately, the restoration of destroyed housing lagged behind the returnees' flow, while the payment of compensations was delayed. Former hostels, kindergartens and other municipal buildings were hastily repaired and used as TACs to accommodate Chechen returnees who had lost housing during the conflict.

First, I was assigned to monitor the lowland Gudermes district, the mountainous Kurchaloi district, and the TACs that were located only in Grozny at that time. Six months later I worked in the Urus-Martan and the

municipal Leninsky districts. We were assigned to specific areas, but if necessary, we would go to any settlement in Chechnya and help each other conduct legal monitoring of families returning from Ingushetia. During these trips, we



Monitor from Vesta NGO talks to Chechen women living in a temporary settlement, Ingushetia

needed to find returnee families, a task that was not easy in itself in a ruined country given the lack of plates with street names and house numbers. We were to determine the composition of households and the type of assistance they needed, to assess their living conditions, and to find out what these people needed in the first place. Since most archives in Chechnya had been destroyed, various legal problems emerged, and we informed the families about the network of free legal counselling centres maintained by UNHCR partner NGOs Nizam, Memorial and Vesta. To help returnees solve their

check points, a one-way trip would take four to five hours. My colleagues were often unable to get to a particular area as all entries were blocked for several hours or days; on several occasions they were caught in crossfire. However, but for several marks from stray bullets on some of our vehicles, we were lucky.

In spring 2003, the process of closure of major Ingushetia-based tent camps (Bella, Bart, Satsita, and Alina) was launched. As a result, Chechen residents returned en masse to the places of their former residence (if their housing was still in place), temporary



Monitor from Vesta NGO talks to Chechen family living in a temporary settlement, Ingushetia

social problems we referred them to international agencies that had local offices in Chechnya. We visited newly arriving families all over Chechnya. I believe there is no location in Chechnya that I have not visited at least once. Very often for various reasons we failed to meet a family, or else only children would meet us on the doorstep; in such cases, we had to come repeatedly. Given relatively large distances and the bad state of local roads, a trip to a family living in a remote village could take an entire day. For example, even in peaceful times, a trip to the mountainous Itum-Kalinsky district took longer than a trip to neighbouring Ingushetia. After the war, given the decrepit roads and numerous

accommodation centres or rented dwellings. Our small team was to monitor each family returning from Ingushetia, and the working week increased from five to seven days. At the same time, we monitored housing conditions and availability of temporary registration for TAC residents. During the post-war time, the latter was a guarantee of security during ongoing passport checks conducted by local law-enforcement agencies and military commandant's offices. We also managed to establish normal working relations with the officials of the Federal Migration Service Department in the Chechen Republic who initially were quite suspicious of frequent visits of Vesta's legal unit staff to TACs.

Since early 2004, I continued working for Vesta as a Programme Coordinator in the Chechen Republic. By that time, our NGO consisted of three units: legal protection, legal counselling, and construction. Lawyers provided consultations to residents of the Chechen Republic, filed claims and represented defendants in courts, provided field consultations in TACs. In the same year, the construction unit launched another UNHCR project – provision of alternative shelter, so-called box tents, for IDPs leaving Ingushetia and returning to the Chechen Republic. My working day often started with unplanned meetings with applicants coming from all over Chechnya with the only request – to receive a box tent. Chechnya still suffers from severe shortage of housing and, as a result, any construction programme very soon becomes known to residents. We had to explain that the project addressed only those located in Ingushetia and willing to return to Chechnya, while the restoration of fully or partially destroyed housing was the responsibility of the government. I heard many bitter words and complaints that no one cared about the people whose fate was crippled by war. We tried to listen attentively to all visitors, since many of them had made long trips from remote villages to meet with us. Quite often it turned out that legal advice was needed, and then our legal experts got involved. I believe that no one took offence at us; we attempted to explain our programmes in detail, and many of our visitors were grateful to us for having listened about their problems. Constant shortage of professional psychologists to work with people most of whom have survived a terrible tragedy, lost their homes, relatives and friends, and whose life has been ruined for many years, is a bitter reality. Those working in humanitarian organizations in the Chechen Republic often have to act as psychologists acquiring essential skills in the course of their work.

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UN Information Centre

Opinions

The World as Reflected by Cartoons

An exhibition of political cartoons has been on display in the UN Information Centre in Moscow. On the occasion of its opening, we are talking to the Centre Director Alexandre Gorelik

– Where does the idea to organize an exhibition of cartoons at the UN Information Centre come from?

– An idea of presenting in a graphic way the role of political cartoons occurred to me quite some time ago. Partly, it was related to the competition of cartoons annually held in New York with the UN support (unfortunately, we haven't yet managed to draw due attention of Russian cartoonists to it). The intention became more certain last autumn, when the Department of Public Information organized a seminar 'Cartooning for Peace: the Responsibility of Political Cartoonist'. At the same time, the UN Secretariat hosted a special exhibit of political cartoons. In short, the idea has been maturing for some time, and finally we decided to organize a personal exhibition of a well-known cartoonist Victor Bogorad.



– How did the cartoons attract the attention of the United Nations Organization?

– To begin with, the UN is genuinely interested in how the global and national media cover today's major and complicated problems, to what extent they foster solidarity and rapprochement between countries and people, if, on the contrary, they focus on hot news, violence, scandals? In this context, one cannot ignore cartoons, an essential element of modern press. The way this



genre affects a reader is quite well-known. An image generally has a stronger, more direct impact on the brain, so the signal emitted by a cartoon will be caught by almost anyone, while not too many people would read through lengthy articles.

Besides, caricature is now in the focus of attention as a result of, let's say, socio-cultural circumstances. Amid today's technological revolution the boundaries of our world have contracted, and information products are circulating freely, especially in Internet. As it transpired, cartoons can strongly influence the way different groups of people look at each other. And if in some cases, such influence favours better awareness and mutual understanding, in other cases, cartoons can increase distrust, aloofness, and even hatred.

– What should be done, according to the UN?

– The first thing that comes to mind is that we need to talk louder about the responsibility of cartoonist. The best cartoons do not just make you laugh but also provoke thought. However, cartoons can sometimes play a negative role. It was demonstrated by a recent cartoon scandal, which echoed in many countries, Russia included. Therefore, we have to speak directly about both the educating potential of a political car-

toon and the damage it can sometimes cause. It is important not to replicate stereotypes and simplified notions about a nation, a religion or a political agenda, but to always remember that satire, paradoxically enough, should further a deeper knowledge and tolerance between people and societies.

– In this case, a cartoonist should only draw flowers, clouds and sun, shouldn't he?

– Certainly, it is not the subject of a caricature. If a drawing is not impactful and biting, the very idea of its presence on the pages of newspapers and magazines would be absurd. Cartooning should remain a form of social and political comment and embody the freedom of expression. Political correctness cannot be the main factor while conceiving a cartoon. The way in which moral responsibility and ethical attitudes of an artist are reflected in the impact of a caricature is revealed by each particular picture: just have a look at those exhibited at the UN Information Centre.

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Events

Congress of UNESCO Chairs in Russia

On 1-2 March, 2007, the Congress of UNESCO Chairs, dedicated to the issues of participation of Russian universities in the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, was organized in Moscow in the premises of the Russian Academy of Civil Service. The Russian National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO Moscow Office supported the event.

For the first time, the Congress brought together representatives of all 44 UNESCO Chairs established in Russian universities. Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and President of the Russian National Commission for UNESCO, addressed the participants with a welcoming speech. Other speakers included Alexander Dzasokhov, Deputy President of the Russian National Commission for UNESCO, Vladimir Egorov, President-director of the Russian Academy of Civil Service, Dendev Badarch, Director of the UNESCO Moscow Office, and, finally, representative of the Department of Educational Institutions of the Federal Agency for Education of the Russian Federation.

During the plenary session, Mr. Sadlak, Director of UNESCO-CEPES, Nikolai Kanaev, National Coordinator of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, and Grigory Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General of the Russian National Commission for UNESCO, made presentations on the status of the UNESCO Chairs network in Russia and in other countries as well as on their problems and prospects. The participants agreed that the increase

in the number of UNESCO Chairs in Russia requires the establishment of a permanent coordinating body for the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme in the Russian Federation. They adopted a draft Statute of the UNESCO Chairs Coordination Committee of the Russian Federation, elected its members and the chairperson, defined the criteria for the establishment of new chairs and elaborated a relevant monitoring mechanism.



Awards for Women Only

On 13 March 2007, the UNESCO Moscow Office and the L'Oreal company organized a grand meeting in honour of Prof. Tatiana Birstein, the winner of the annual UNESCO-L'Oreal award. It took place in the very heart of Russian science – at the Presidium Hall of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The UNESCO-L'Oreal prestige award aims to acknowledge the contribution of prominent women-scientists to the progress in science and encouragement of women's participation in scientific research. For the first time, this award was granted to a Russian scientist.

Members of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladimir Fortov and

Alexei Khokhlov, participated in the meeting.

Dendev Badarch, UNESCO Representative in the Russian Federation, and a representative of L'Oreal announced a new joint initiative that will further develop the partnership of the principal international organization in the field of culture and one of leading global companies at the national level. From now on, UNESCO and L'Oreal will award annual grants to five Russian women in science younger than 35 years old.

“Announcing today our decision to award five annual UNESCO-L'Oreal grants in Russia, we hope for active sup-

port of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, the Russian Academy of Sciences and the academic community,” Mr. Badarch noted.

The aim of the new UNESCO-L'Oreal initiative is to help young Russian women-scientists enter the fascinating world of science and to promote equal opportunities.

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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/ Ban Ki-moon: the First Interview for Russia

In his first interview to the Russian press, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon answers the questions of Interfax news agency regarding the UN reform and the UN role in the fight against poverty, hunger, disease.

UNFPA/ How Many People Will Live on the Planet in 2050?

According to the latest revision of the World Population Prospects report released by the United Nations Population Fund, the world population will rise by 2.5 billion people from today's 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion in 2050 if decline in fertility rates in developing countries continues. If it stays at current rates, the world will add about 5 billion people, nearing 12 billion.

WFP/ Josette Sheeran Heads WFP

In April 2007, Josette Sheeran was appointed Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme. She comes to the post after serving as Under Secretary for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs at the United States Department of State.

UN/ Marco Borsotti on UN Tasks in Russia

Marco Borsotti, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Russia, has granted an interview to Interfax on various aspects of the United Nations and UN Development Programme activities in the country.

WHO/ Building a Safer Future

This year, the World Health Day slogan is "Invest in health, build a safer future." A press-conference in RIA-Novosti dedicated to this day aimed to attract the attention of government officials and public to international health and safety issues and mobilize additional resources in this area.

WHO/ We Will Fight Tuberculosis!

The annual children's poster contest, organized by WHO on the eve of the World TB Day, brought together young artists from 15 Russian regions. The aim of the contest is to attract the attention of schoolchildren to the problem of tuberculosis, raise their awareness of the first symptoms and basic prevention principles, and promote a healthy lifestyle.

WHO/ How to Cope with Non-communicable Diseases

On 26-27 March, an International Consultative Meeting with participation of experts from WHO Regional Office for Europe, World Bank, USA, Great Britain, Canada and Finland was convened in Moscow with a view to develop a non-communicable diseases prevention and control strategy.

UNICEF/ Street Children Are on Our Conscience

UNICEF helps provide medical and psycho-social support to street children in Moscow and Saint-Petersburg. The goal of UNICEF is to prevent children from ending up in the streets where they are vulnerable to violence and exploitation and exposed to risks of drug and alcohol abuse.

UNDP/ Chernobyl Children on the Threshold of Maturity

The problems of the Chernobyl generation are similar to those faced by young people in other regions, including poverty, collapse of essential social infrastructure, lack of education and employment opportunities, apathy and dependence. The new UNDP development strategy for Chernobyl-affected areas focuses on employment creation, promoting economic development, reviving local communities, as well as providing information on a healthy lifestyle.

UNDP/ North Caucasus: to Revive the Granary

Agriculture is a major employment sector in the North Caucasus providing sustainable livelihood for the majority of local residents. UN Development Programme assists local farmers in a comprehensive way - from information and advice provided by UNDP-supported consultancy centres to cattle-breeding, and microfinance in the future.

UNHCR/ Wolfgang Milzow Appointed UNHCR Representative in the Russian Federation

In March 2007, Wolfgang Milzow was appointed UNHCR Representative in the Russian Federation. Mr. Milzow has worked for UNHCR since 1992 both in UNHCR headquarters in Geneva and in the field.

UNHCR/ North Caucasus: Responding to People's Needs

Before joining UNHCR in October 2006, Zarema Zulayeva spent two years working as a protection monitor in a local non-governmental organization 'Vesta'. Her article gives an insight into daily life of the NGO working in the area of monitoring and assessment of assistance needs, with a special focus on accommodation for those returning to Chechnya.

UNIC/ The World as Reflected by Cartoons

An exhibition of political cartoons runs in the UN Information Centre in Moscow. In an interview to 'UN in Russia', UNIC Head Alexander Gorelik speaks about the idea of the exhibition and the role of a political cartoonist in today's society.

UNESCO/ Congress of UNESCO Chairs in Russia

On 1-2 March, the Congress of UNESCO Chairs dedicated to participation of Russian universities in the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, was held in the premises of the Russian Academy of Civil Service in Moscow.

UNESCO/ Awards for Women Only

On 13 March, a ceremony in honour of Prof. Tatiana Birstein, winner of the annual UNESCO-L'Oreal award, was held in the Presidium Hall of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

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 |