

UN IN RUSSIA

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Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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Mikhail Zurabov, Nikolay Gerasimenko and Alain Mouchiroud see the ways to solve the fertility problem /3

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"Russia is increasingly making a contribution to solving the most acute global problems ... This is particularly visible within the CIS context, where Russia plays the role of a regional leader", Ms. Marta Ruedas, UNDP Regional Director for Europe and CIS a.i., emphasized in Moscow

Society /10

More than 14,000 people have become our beneficiaries; 75% of them are refugees and IDPs from Georgia, 5% – from Chechnya, other 5% – from Tajikistan, and the rest 15% are local orphans and disabled people, Vera Vorobyeva, the North Ossetia Children Fund Director explains

People /12

"But for my child, I would have stayed there. I already could neither think nor move. But when I saw him standing there waiting for me I realized that he needed me" – recalls Marina Kantemirova, who together with her little son survived the hostages' peril

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The Secretary-General's Message on UN Day 24 October

For the tenth and last time as Secretary-General, I offer friends and colleagues around the world my best wishes on United Nations Day. I have spent almost all my whole professional life working for the United Nations – so this day, and the values that it stands for, will always be special for me. Over the past 10 years, we have made some big steps forward in our common struggle for development, security and human rights.

- Aid and debt relief have increased, making the world economy somewhat fairer.
- At last, the world is scaling up its response to HIV/AIDS.
- There are fewer wars between States than there used to be; and many civil wars have ended.
- More Governments are elected by, and accountable to, the people whom they govern.
- And all States have acknowledged, at least in words, their responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

But, there is so much that still needs doing:

- The gap between rich and poor continues to grow.
- Very few countries are on track to reach all eight of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.



Kofi Annan and his successor Ban Ki Mun

- Many people still face atrocities, repression and brutal conflicts.
- The nuclear non-proliferation regime requires urgent attention.
- Terrorism, and the reaction to it, are spreading fear and suspicion.

It seems we don't even agree which threats are most important. Those who live in small islands may see global warming as the biggest danger. Those who live in a city that has suffered terrorist attacks – like New York, or Mumbai, or Istanbul – may feel that confronting terrorism is more urgent. Others, again, may cite poverty, disease, or genocide. The truth is, these are all global threats. All of us should be concerned about all of them. Otherwise, we may not succeed in dealing with any of them. At this time of all times, we cannot afford to be divided. I know that you, the peoples of the world, understand this. Thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me, throughout these 10 difficult but exciting years. Please urge your leaders to work with my successor, and make the United Nations ever stronger and more effective. Long live our planet, and its peoples. Long live the United Nations!

24 October 2006

Kofi Annan

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Highlights

Fertility in Russia: A Glance into the Future

Over the last 15 years, the diagram of mortality in Russia has looked like a line going upwards, while fertility goes downwards. Demographers have called this gloomy picture “the Russian Cross”. The result is that the population of the Russian Federation has shrunk by 11 million and decreases by 700 thousand every year. In his most recent address to the Federal Assembly, President Putin called this situation “the most acute problem facing our country today”. The President’s concern over this issue is shared by the Russian and foreign scientists who took part in the international seminar entitled “Low fertility in Russia: Challenges and strategic approaches”, that was held at the President Hotel in Moscow on 14-15 September. The event was organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Academician Nikolay Gerasimenko, Deputy Head of the Health Committee of the State Duma, greeted the participants of this seminar “of great importance for Russia”. He stated: “Our goal is not only to raise fertility; the



“quality” of children is a major problem”. “There are about 3 million homeless and disabled children, and children with developmental problems are more likely to be adopted by foreigners than by citizens of the Russian Federation”.

Anatoly Vishnevskiy, Head of the Centre for Demography and Human Ecology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, analyzed demographic trends in Russia and compared them to those in other industrialized countries. Fertility decline is a global process in which Russia and some other industrialized countries have taken the lead. In Russia fertility has fallen considerably: the total fertility rate decreased from 4 children per woman in 1959 – to the current 1.4. By the mid 1960s, the reproduction rate, which takes into account both births and child mortality, had dropped below 1. This is partially explained by a one-child per family trend: in the USA one-child families account for 40%, in Sweden – 45%, in Russia – 60%. Another feature that Russia shares with other industrialized countries is that, on average, women



increasingly have children at a later age: they prefer to delay births until they have received proper education and obtained a certain social status. Therefore, fertility policy should also focus on those women who wish to have children after 30. Another global trend that can also be observed in Russia is the growing number of children born outside marriage. One area, however, where Russia differs from industrialized countries with similar levels of fertility is the reliance on abortion. Unfortunately, in Russia an estimated 120 abortions occur for every 100 live births, compared to 24 abortions per 100 live births in Italy, and 18 in Germany.

Peter McDonald, Head of socio-demographic programs of the Australian National University presented a comparative analysis of family and fertility policies in industrialized countries. He concluded that it is States that are responsible for increasing the risks associated with family life. Therefore, States must also play a principle role in re-establishing confidence among young people that they



can start a family without suffering undue economic loss or unacceptable impact on their individual wishes and aspirations. According to Peter McDonald it would be a great mistake to tell women to “fulfill their national duty” and bear children - without supporting them.

The presentation of Wolfgang Lutz, Director of the Vienna Institute of Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and Sergey Shérbov, Head of the research team of the same Institute, was entitled “Low fertility: effects and policy in Russia, Bulgaria and Austria”. Mr. Sherbov, among other observations, noted that even if fertility increases, the population of the Russian Federation is likely to continue its decline, though at a slower pace.

François Héran, Director of the French National Institute of Demographic Research in Paris, shared the decades-long French experience regarding family and fertility policies. Dr. Heran spoke in detail on fertility boosting practices, including the system of family and child benefits and incentives. In 2003, an estimated 6,5 million French families received monthly family benefits amounting to an average of over 300 Euro per family.

The Director of the Institute for International Family Studies, Sergey Zakharov, presented a demographic analysis of family policy in Russia in the 1980s. The implementation of this policy from 1981-1990 contributed to a 2,280,000, or 9.8%, increase in the Russian population, after which followed a dramatic decline. Other interesting policy trends in the 1980s were a tendency towards younger childbearing and an increase in the proportion of two-child families. The number of childless families remained unchanged, while three-child families slightly increased. There were more births among women with a higher level of education who lived in big cities, for instance, teachers. The main incentive was the introduction of a paid maternity leave.



At the press-conference held within the framework of the seminar, Mikhail Zurabov, Minister of Health and Social Development, said that the Government of the Russian Federation needed scientific discussion on ways to



improve the demographic situation of the country. He noted that in 1987 the fertility rate stood at 2.19 children per woman, greater than the rate of 2.14 needed to replace the existing population. But by 1997 the fertility rate had fallen to 1.17. This decline in fertility was people’s response to the difficulties that resulted from the transition period, during which it was impossible to ensure stable livelihoods. At the moment, support to families in Russia represents less than 0.3% of GDP, while in the West it is 2-3%. In Russia, the household income of 54% of families with two children and of 72% of families with three or more children is below the poverty line. According to the Minister, reproductive behavior of the Russian population is flexible, i.e. it responds to government policy. For a maximum effect of policy measures, it is necessary to act today, as the number of women of reproductive age is expected to be growing until 2012 only. The Minister noted the need for a stable source of financing for family support and mentioned taxation on vodka and tobacco as possible sources to be considered. Direct financial support to women will be comple-

mented by the introduction of differentiated payment for child care services and pre-school education: the State will compensate 20% of child-care related expenses to families with one child, 50% - to those with two, and 70% to families with three children. Next year, 250 million dollar will be allocated for re-equipment of women’s consultation clinics. Mikhail Zurabov believes that the so-called “maternal capital” - 250 thousand roubles payable for every second child from January 2007, should be spent on children’s health.

The Minister’s participation was not limited to the dialogue with journalists. Together with Alain Mouchiroud, Director of UNFPA Technical Support Group for Europe and Central Asia, he then chaired a Round Table discussion on the current policy proposals related to fertility and family in the Russian Federation. After summarizing the lively discussions, Mikhail Zurabov thanked organizers and participants of the Round Table discussion for the opportunity to meet with the expert community and for their proposals, which he found quite interesting.

The second day of the Forum started with the report “Current socio-economic factors affecting fertility in Russia” by Oksana Sinyavskaya, Director of the Independent Institute for Social Policy. She presented the results of



the survey conducted among about 11 thousand women in 2004. The main conclusion is that Russia has a potential for increasing fertility – but only if the right policy is implemented. Such a policy should focus not only on registered marriages but also satisfy the needs of women with higher education, by providing more flexible employment opportunities. The survey results coincide with the findings of a pilot survey conducted by the Federal State Statistics Service in the Republic of Marij-El, Nizhniy-Novgorod and Tver Oblasts, presented by Olga Antonova.

Quite logically, the seminar ended with a Round Table on “Strategic options to influence fertility in the Russian Federation” which provoked passionate interventions and frank debate. Sergey Zaharov criticized the stance of the Ministry of Health and Social Development: “We shall buy only those children that can be bought”. The goal is clear: to boost birth rate by all means. However, as Mr. Zakharov pointed out, surveys results contradict the model proposed by the ministry. Pointing to a reduction of intervals between births in the 1980s, he draws two conclusions: firstly, due to shorter birth intervals, a significant proportion of women will be withdrawn from the labour market; secondly, children will be borne by those women who need neither education nor career.

Natalia Rimashevskaya, Director of the Institute for Socio-economic population issues, expressed her concern about the health of new-born babies. She reminded the participants that in Russia, 40% of women suffer from anemia, and 35% of children are born with various health problems. “The sick give birth to the sick, while 17% of couples cannot have children at all because of infertility”.

“We sometimes hear that low fertility is a part and parcel of a highly developed civilization. But we shouldn’t overestimate the civilization which cannot reproduce itself”. This idea belongs to Vladimir Arkhangelskiy, the author of a treatise entitled “Fertility Factors”. His statement during the seminar focused on a paradoxically inverse relationship: the higher the standard of living of a family, the fewer children it has. Mr. Arkhangelskiy sees “the root of evil” in the prevalence of small families (1-2 children per family). The determining factor of reproductive behavior is the desire to have children. This desire depends on the system of values and social norms and on a family’s ability to put this desire into practice. According to Mr. Arkhangelskiy, policy measures should include: social and financial sup-



port of families with children, encouraging families to have a second and a third child; promoting appreciation of 2-3-child families, raising the prestige of motherhood and fatherhood; and improving reproductive health. In addition, a key socio-economic measure would be improvements in the housing conditions of young families.

Valeriy Elizarov, Head of the Moscow State University Demographic Center, suggested organizing a permanent “round-table” on demographic issues, involving also international experts.

Summarizing the results of the seminar, Alain Mouchiroud, Director of the UNFPA Technical Team for Europe and Central Asia, supported professor Elisarov, promising that UNFPA would continue organizing similar policy forums on demographic topics, both in Russia and at the international level.

Sietske Steneker, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Russia, thanked the Presidential Administration and the Ministry of Health and Social Development for their invaluable assistance in organizing the international seminar. Ms. Steneker also expressed her gratitude to the Russian and international experts for their inputs into the discussion of this issue of such paramount importance for Russia.



UNFPA had cooperated with the Swedish photographer Ivar Sviestins to mount a photo exhibition in the seminar hall. His Global Photo Project is a study of faces of people around the world. The Moscow series consists of 73 large close-ups of Russians aged 0 to 72. The photo exhibition added “a human face” to the discussion on demographic trends, and was appreciated by both participants and media.

Vladimir Sadakov



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Организация Объединенных Наций

"A Book Can Save Lives..."

This year, the UN Russian Book Club founded by diplomats, famous writers, artists and employees of the UN Secretariat marks its 40th anniversary. **Vladimir Sokolov**, the Club's president in 1958-1973, shares his memories with 'UN in Russia.'

In the title I used the words belonging to a great citizen and intellectual Dmitri Likhachev whose centenary anniversary is celebrated this year.

At the start of my diplomatic career I managed to promote, as much as I could, the implementation of this wise saying. In 1967, when I worked in the UN Secretariat in New York, I became involved, quite unexpectedly, in the work of the UN Russian Book Club, which was gaining popularity among international staff, American intellectuals and naturally among my compatriots.

The Club was established in 1966 by Nikolai Fedorenko, a distinguished diplomat, philologist, chinologist and USSR Permanent Representative to the UN, and Mikhail Bolysov, the first president of the Club, editor of the Russian Translation Section.

The idea of the Club – to popularize Russian fiction by inviting famous writers to the US – became very popular in the cold war times, when a moral factor was lacking in the Soviet-American dialogue, against the backdrop of harsh political debates in the Security Council and a rather negative media coverage.

Films based on Russian classics turned out to be most valuable in this dialogue. We even had the luxury of organizing special festivals of screen versions of Dostoevsky's, Chekhov's, Turgenev's, Sholokhov's books, as well as of films based on books by Konstantin Simonov, then in good health, who represented style, sophistication and aristocratism of the soviet era and appeared to be very good in speaking to foreign audience.



Sergei Bondarchuk in the UN

When Simonov was asked in the UN, if there were writers in the USSR whose books were not published, he replied: "As for other writers, I don't know, as I do not pry into other people's affairs. As for me, I do have such books. There are three reasons for this: some books I do not like myself, others are not appreciated by publishing houses. Also, there are memoir books where people who are still alive are featured, and they should not be published now for moral reasons."

Today, when many things got uncovered and international relations are not restricted, we even more appreciate the role of our culture that helped to overcome the mediocre propaganda stereotypes of the cold war. In the USA of the 60s, locked in the Vietnam War, Lev Tolstoi's books were quite popular. To mark the centenary of 'The War and Peace', a New York radio station organized a twenty-four-hour reading of the book by prominent representatives of US artistic circles. As though to mark the anniversary, a prestigious Oscar award was given to Sergei Bondarchuk's screen version of this novel as the best foreign film. We decided to demonstrate the original undubbed version of the film in the UN Secretariat, and it was a success. Apart from Russians, a lot of foreigners who studied Russian and even those who did not speak Russian, watched this outstanding cinema epic with great interest, however unusual it was for them. We had an

opportunity to invite Sergei Bondarchuk and Irina Skobtseva who were on a visit to the USA. The film director was quite self-critical and noted that if he had another opportunity to make the film he would have made a lot of changes. The main conclusion that he came to after several years of working on the film, and this he emphasized at the meeting in the UN, was that humanity could no longer live from one war to another. If this were to continue, then there would be neither energy nor resources left to create such epics as "The War and Peace", as the humanity would be wiped out.

Poets Andrei Voznesensky and Evgeni Evtushenko, who were among founders of the Club, played a unique role during this period. They read their poems and spoke to the audience masterfully, carrying it away with their poetry music but also often touching upon quite sensitive issues. Evgeni Evtushenko responded with his "Bombs for Balalaikas" poem to the explosion in the office of a famous impresario Sol Hurok organized by local extremists, calling them anti-Russians, anti-Semites and anti-Americans.

It is impossible to tell about all that I have lived through and experienced in those years. As Kazakh poet and diplomat Olzhas Suleimenov put it, "the living nature of the Russian language" really helped us then and should help us today to destroy barriers in the relations between the peoples.



UN Development Programme

Events

UN and Russia: Solving Development Problems



On 25 October, the UN Office in the RF, with the support of the Institute for Complex Strategic Studies (ICSS), held a round table 'United Nations and Russia: Development Priorities', dedicated to the UN Day (24 October) and the end of the annual international poverty week.

The round table was aimed at discussing the emerging role of Russia, which is becoming an international donor and provider of technical assistance to the poorest countries regionally and globally, while continuing to implement an ambitious national poverty reduction programme, focused around the four National Priority Projects, with improved life expectancy and quality of life as two overarching priorities. In this context, UN through the lens of the Millennium Development Goals concept adapted for Russia (or MDG+) seeks to facilitate effective knowledge sharing on both the international and national poverty reduction agenda of Russia and socio-economic reforms in the country.

The agenda of the round table included an expert discussion of the two key topics: 1. World poverty and hunger: Russia's role as an emerging donor and regional leader in poverty reduction. 2. Poverty in Russia: paradoxes of sustainable economic growth. National Priority Projects and MDG+.

The participants of the round table included Ms. Marta Ruedas, UNDP Regional Director for Europe and CIS a.i., Mr. Oleg Vikhansky, General

Director of the Institute for Complex Strategic Studies, representatives of federal ministries and agencies, embassies, heads of UN agencies in the Russian Federation and independent experts.

Speaking at the round table on behalf of United Nations Development Programme, Ms. Marta Ruedas noted, that "Russia is increasingly making a contribution to solving the most acute global problems in areas as diverse as environmental sustainability, avian flu prevention, and food aid... This is partic-



Ms. Marta Ruedas addresses the forum

ularly visible at the regional level, within the CIS context, where Russia plays the role of a regional leader, often setting the standard for achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

Within the discussion of the second theme a new publication prepared by ICSS for the UN in the RF entitled 'The Millennium Development Goals and Russia's National Projects: Strategic Choices' was presented. The publication looks at the possibilities of implementing the Millennium Development Goals concept, adopted for Russia (MDG+), for improvement of the quality of implementation and further development of the national projects.

General orientation of MDG+ and national projects at poverty reduction and better access to education and healthcare resources allows for implementing approaches of the MDG+ concept and a system of progress indicators to improve monitoring of the national projects.

MDG+ approaches provide a possibility for strengthening the orientation of the national projects at poverty reduction. In particular, to make the measures, which are being taken, more targeted, an MDG+ approach can be used, based on identifying target groups on the basis of overlapping income, socio-demographics and geography poverty profiles.

Long-term development priorities formulated in MDG+ form a basis for intensifying the strategic component and setting additional tasks to provide better access to education and healthcare. The tasks in these areas could include development of pre-school education and modernization of the system of primary and specialized secondary vocational education and development of preventive care and promotion of healthy lifestyle.

The MDG+ system of indicators can help improve monitoring of the national projects through introduction of additional indicators that reflect the quality and availability of education and healthcare services, in particular for specific population groups. In this case, in the course of the national projects



monitoring it will be possible to evaluate both budget spending and final results reflected in changes in the social sphere.

MDG+ potential can be also used in the course of implementation of the country's demographic policy. Within a set of measures to stimulate the birth rate, the MDG+ concept allows for the introduction of additional instruments that would ensure gender equality in the labour market and development of pre-school education by providing equal opportunities to children from various social groups.

More active involvement of civil society institutions in development, implementation and monitoring of the national projects can help increase their effectiveness. In this connection, measures aimed at providing support to NGOs in various forms are of high relevance.

An interesting comparative analysis of the MDGs implementation in the countries of Eastern Europe and the CIS

was presented at the launch of the UNDP report 'National Millennium Development Goals: a Platform for Action'.

The report presents a diverse picture of development trends in the region. Positive examples include the Czech



Ms. Olga Sbarapova, Head of Department of Medical-Social Problems of Family, Maternity and Childhood of the Ministry of Health and Social Development

Republic and Slovenia that managed to eradicate extreme poverty. In these and other Central European countries the

problems of economic inequality and integration of such vulnerable groups as the Roma are yet to be solved.

Other countries of the region face more serious challenges. Per capita GDP in Tajikistan is lower than per-capita GDPs of Rwanda, Uganda and Cote d'Ivoire. Uzbekistan's per capita GDP is lower than that in Sudan and Cameroon. About half of the population of Moldova and Georgia live below the poverty line. Obviously, these countries require urgent attention and assistance of the international community.

The experience of these countries demonstrates that prospects of achievement of the MDGs are closely connected with the quality of governance. The countries that succeeded in carrying out economic, political and social reforms managed to make better progress in poverty reduction, attainment of gender equality, improvement of the population's health and education, and successful combination of economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Social Investments for the Development of Russian Regions



Mr. Vladimir Dmitriev, Chairman of Vnesheconombank, and Ms. Kaarina Immonen, the UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in the Russian Federation, signed the Agreement on cooperation

The international conference Social Investments in the Economic Development of the Regions of Russia aimed at promoting corporate responsibility and regional development in Russia was held in Rostov-on-Don on 26

October. The conference was organized by the United Nations Development Programme in the Russian Federation and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in association with the UN Global Compact Office. The

event was supported by the leadership of the Southern Federal District and the Administration of the Rostov region.

The conference objectives included development of interregional and international cooperation, sharing experience and presentation of corporate initiatives in the area of responsible investing. The event was designed as a unique networking opportunity and will contribute to strengthening of direct contacts among Russian businesses, international companies and local authorities in order to attract socially oriented investments to the regions and foster the establishment of the Russian UN Global Compact Network.

Over 200 participants, including representatives of key ministries and agencies of the Russian Federation, major national and foreign companies' management, regional business, civil society, a number of embassies, international organizations, United Nations agencies and journalists, took part in the conference.

Mr. Alexander Shokhin, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Mr. Alexandre Pochinok, Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District, and Ms. Marta Ruedas, UNDP Regional Director for Europe and CIS and Deputy UN Secretary General a.i., participated in the conference.

Recent years have become a period of advancement of the corporate social responsibility concept in the regions of Russia. Regional business comes to realize that the sustainable development is impossible without establishing a dialogue and responsible relations with all stakeholders, including government structures, civil society and local communities. The introduction of this approach is the main goal of The Global Compact initiated by UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in early 2000 and currently uniting about 3,000 companies and 500 non-commercial organizations from 100 countries of the world. The United Nations Development Programme, with its mandate focused on eradication of poverty, sees promo-



Press briefing for journalists

tion of corporate social responsibility and strengthening of business partnership for development as its priorities in Russia.

During the conference, a signing ceremony of the Agreement between UNDP and Vnesheconombank on cooperation in implementing of the projects

aimed at sustainable economic and social development of the regions of Russia took place. The project will include the study of international best practices, formulating social and economic regional development strategies with a focus on poverty reduction and effective employment generation, attracting direct investments, implementation of recovery and reintegration programmes in the republics of the North Caucasus, support to small and medium business, infrastructure development, support to the housing and communal sector reform in the regions, assistance in increasing effectiveness of basic public services, development of public-private partnership, as well as assistance in enhancement of economic cooperation in the CIS.

On 27 October, after the conference, a training seminar for journalists and NGO representatives 'Corporate Social Responsibility in Russia and the UN Global Compact. Coverage in Mass Media' was held. To ensure wider coverage of this issue in Russian media, the organizers spoke in detail about the Global Compact and participation of Russian and foreign companies in this initiative. The seminar contributed to mutual understanding between private sector, media and civil society, particularly at the regional level.

The Ten Principles

The Global Compact's ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption enjoy universal consensus and are derived from:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- The United Nations Convention Against Corruption

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption:

Human Rights

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour Standards

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.



THE GLOBAL
COMPACT

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Children's Fund Helps Children, but Not Only Them



Vera Vorobyova, the author of the article

Since 1996, the Children's Fund of North Ossetia has been working with UNHCR as an implementing partner in the project of assistance to the vulnerable groups of refugees and forced migrants from Georgia, Tajikistan and Chechnya. During this period, tens of thousands of destitute refugee families came to the Children's Fund and were offered support, encouragement and genuine attention to their problems.

With the UNHCR support, the Counseling Center for Refugees

was established and has been efficiently operating at the Children's Fund of North Ossetia for 10 years. Every day, visitors can get consultations on issues of concern. The Counseling Center uses various forms of communication with refugees and forced migrants: from personal confidential conversations to collective round table discussions.

Under this project, over 14 thousand people received social, medical and legal assistance in the form of material support, consultations and recommendations, 4,319 of them in the Counseling Center office and 9,800 during field visits. They are refugees and forced migrants from Georgia (75%), Chechnya (5%), Tajikistan (5%) and local population (15%), including large and poor families, orphans, disabled, single elderly people.

The Children's Fund of North Ossetia adheres to the principle of supporting vulnerable groups among refugees, as well as destitute locals in a crisis situation, including:

- families with many children
- single parent families with small children
- disabled

- single elderly
- widowed parents with minors
- families with consumptive children
- temporarily needy
- victims of terrorist acts

Such principle of providing assistance contributes to the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations in the process of integration of refugees and forced migrants and helps normalize the social and psychological climate in local communities, preventing antagonism and conflicts between local population and refugees.

The activity of the Children's Fund of North Ossetia under the joint project focuses on solving problems in accordance with the UNHCR policy priorities, including work with the following groups:

- refugee women
- refugee children
- single elderly.

While dealing with various aspects of refugee women's problems, the Children's Fund of North Ossetia focuses on gender-related issues. It carries out sexual and gender based violence prevention work among refugee women,



Single refugee mothers with newborns visiting the Counseling Center



A bakery, one of quick impact projects

treating victims of violence with strict confidentiality and tact. Individual work is carried out with refugee women to support their increasing role in the community.

The Children's Fund of North Ossetia protects the interests of children guided by the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. On the basis of its 18-year experience, the Fund developed a concept of concrete assistance to children, based on understanding that the child's problems should be solved together with the problems of the child's parents. For example, if a father and a mother without Russian citizenship are unable to get employment, housing and social guarantees, their child's rights are automatically violated. That is why the Children's Fund of North Ossetia sees family support as a priority. It means not a one-time provision of humanitarian aid, but helping the parents to solve legal issues so that the family could get social guarantees that would have a positive impact on the child's fate.

What does the analysis of social and economic aspects of the refugee and forced migrant situation in North Ossetia demonstrate? It shows that being a refugee for a long period of 14-15 years, when a person cannot get

employment and bear responsibility for his/her family leads to both the reduction of the working potential, and, in many cases, to social apathy or personal degradation. This results in indifference or violent aggression combined with dependant's mentality and expectation of the next portion of humanitarian aid. Such behaviour has a negative impact on the most vulnerable group of refugees and forced migrants – children, elderly and women.

In our opinion, the most efficient way to combat such negative trends is to create new jobs that would regenerate working potential of refugees and forced migrants. That is why the Children's Fund of North Ossetia actively assists UNHCR in arranging small-scale quick impact projects, which make it possible for migrants to increase their families' budget and to regain the lost moral values. Under the joint UNHCR project, the Children's Fund of North Ossetia has assisted migrants in 34 quick impact projects, such as a hothouse, a blacksmith shop, a sewing workshop, a shoe making and repair shop, a hairdresser's parlour, a block-making shop, a paint shop, a bakery. Assistance in establishing family stock-farms has become an effective form of support of poor refugees and forced migrants.

Employees of the Children's Fund regularly visit migrant families and single elderly refugees and migrants. The general situation of single elderly refugees, forced migrants and persons in a similar situation was studied during a sociological survey conducted together with UNHCR in February and March 2006. Over 200 people were interviewed: 70% of them needed improvement of living conditions and 30% did not have housing of their own and had to live with relatives or friends. One of them is a refugee from Georgia Nina Gabareva, 78, living with an underage orphaned grandson and a mentally ill son. The Children's Fund of North Ossetia and UNHCR found a way to help people like her: new houses were built with the support of the Government of North Ossetia and international organizations.

Environmental issues were also addressed. Previously, the inhabitants of compact settlements had to cut down trees in nearby forests to heat their houses in winter. The problem of forests protection was resolved thanks to the support from UNHCR, which provided families with gas heating stoves.

The specificity of the Children's Fund of North Ossetia work is the principle of bringing comprehensive solution to beneficiaries' problems, when a family in need receives legal, medical and social assistance simultaneously. Cooperation with state agencies and NGOs makes assistance to refugees and forced migrants even more effective.

Thanks to collaboration with UNHCR, the Children's Fund of North Ossetia pays a lot of attention to tolerance issues. Regular peacebuilding activities help strengthen good-neighbourly relations between local population and refugees and promote the integration process in the republic.

Vera Vorobyova,
*Director of the Children's Fund
of North Ossetia since 1988*

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Echo of Beslan: Marik Kantemirov



Marik, right after he escaped the carnage in the gymnasium. His uncle is carrying the boy away from the school on the 3rd of September 2004



Photo: (C) UNICEF/Prozzi

On 1 September, the world commemorated the terrible tragedy which happened in Beslan two years ago. In Beslan and around North Ossetia, events were organized to pay tribute to the victims of hostage-taking at school No. 1. The UNICEF-supported Family Centre in Beslan continues working to rehabilitate children and family-members, who were among the hostages. Here is a story of a mother and a son, who survived the tragedy.

The family of the eight year old Mairbek Kantemirov (or Marik, as his parents call him) moved to Beslan in sum-

mer just in time for him to go school. On 1 September, he went to school No. 1 for the first time accompanied by his mother, Marina. When the attack began Marik and his mother, like hundreds of other children and parents who had been taken hostage, felt completely helpless and did not know where to run and to seek help. During the three long days the boy supported his mom, calming her down. "I realized that it was not an eight year old child beside me, but a man who takes care of me," Marina recalls.

After the first explosion, they started crawling towards a window. The second explosion happened when they were already near the window, and Marina could throw her son through the hole and started helping other children. When she noticed that children were under fire, she looked out of the window and saw her son standing by the wall. She recalls shouting at him: "Flee!" But he could not hear her – he was deafened by the explosion. When Marik read her lips, he shouted: "I will not run away without you!" Then she jumped out of the window herself, and flew away shielding her son. "But for my son, I would have stayed there. I already could neither think, nor move. But when I saw him standing there and waiting for me I realized that he needed me," Marina says.

Now Marik has problems with hearing and traces of burns. But his more serious problems are psychological. After



Photo: (C) UNICEF/Prozzi

the tragedy he matured very quickly. While in the gym he supported his mother, now he has become estranged from her.

In March 2006, Marik and his mother started attending the Family Rehabilitation Centre BINONTE (Ossetian for 'family') opened jointly by the Ministry of Education and Science of North Ossetia-Alania and UNICEF. The boy attends emotional rehabilitation classes and physical therapy procedures. Marina visits a psychologist.

Despite living through the horror of the tragedy, the family decided to have another child. Now Marina is carrying her third boy and sincerely believes that her children's future will be bright.



Photo: (C) UNICEF/Prozzi

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UN Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs

Regions

UN Security Phase Reduction in Chechnya: New Opportunities and Challenges



On 28 July 2006, the UN Secretary-General reduced the UN security phase in the Chechen Republic and neighbouring Kurskoi district of the Stavropol Krai from V to IV. This decision was based on two assessments by UN inter-agency missions of security officers who registered the improvement of the security situation in Chechnya.

According to UN regulations, phase V is the highest security phase characterized as 'evacuation', meaning that no UN staff should be in the designated area. In the case of Chechnya, the UN continued conducting humanitarian missions getting a special clearance for each of them from New York. The dephasing to phase IV, labelled 'emergency operations', will allow for increased international presence in the republic, including the opening of a UN office in Grozny, and will facilitate certain internal UN procedures. For example, the clearance for missions will be given by a designated UN official in the Russian Federation instead of the New York headquarters.

A UN office in Chechnya will not be established overnight. It will be

a step-by-step process, which will begin with negotiations, and preparation and training of personnel. Already, the dephasing has resulted in an increase in the monthly number of UN missions to Chechnya. At the same time, the UN national staff started going on multi-day assignments to the republic. Several local staff members of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) pioneered this practice in late August. This helped ensure more sustained coordination and planning, as well as better contact with Government bodies and humanitarian partners. As is expected, this preparatory work will pave the way for the increased presence of international staff and for the establishment of a UN office in Chechnya in the near future.

Why is the deployment into Chechnya so important for UN agencies? We can take the World Food Programme (WFP) as an example. Currently, about 90% of the WFP programmes are implemented in Chechnya with the remaining 10% – in Ingushetia. The programmes in Chechnya had to be managed through partners. This arrangement limited possi-

bilities for effective monitoring of programme implementation, hindered data collection and direct liaison with stakeholders. For OCHA, given its role of facilitating coordination of activities of humanitarian organizations, the deployment into Chechnya will open up new opportunities for strengthening relations with the Chechen Government on behalf of the humanitarian community, for working closely and on a daily basis with the ministries and for monitoring the humanitarian situation in the republic.

It is noteworthy, that the decision on the dephasing was taken in time for 2007 inter-agency planning, allowing UN to fully reflect in the process the opportunities opened up by the lower security phase, as well as to expect the increased efficiency of the implementation of the 2007 Inter-Agency Transitional Workplan for the North Caucasus.

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World Health Organization

With an Open Heart

On 10-13 October 2006, following the request of the Ministry of Health of the Chechen Republic, a group of leading specialists from the State Research Centre for Preventive Medicine, headed by Academician Rafael Oganov, its Director, and Chief Cardiologist of the RF Ministry of Health and Social Development, held the first educational forum on critical cardiology issues in Grozny. The event was supported by the World Health Organization.

A three-day programme covered major trends in cardiology. Academician Rafael Oganov delivered lectures on the main causes of the outburst of cardiovascular diseases, as well as the prevention and treatment of arterial hypertension and ischemic heart disease. Dr. Mamedov spoke about diagnostics and treatment of metabolic syndrome and



Prof. David Nebieridze explains the modern aspects of diagnostics and treatment of arterial hypertension



Mr. Shakhid Abmadov, Minister of Health of the Chechen Republic opens the forum

held practical classes on treatment of patients suffering from ischemic heart disease. Dr. R. Yeganian stressed the importance of organizing health schools for cardiology patients and diet correction of atherosclerosis. Modern approaches to diagnostics and treatment of lipid metabolism disorder and non-coronarogenic myocardium diseases were covered by Dr. Akhmedzhanov. Reports on cardiac rhythm disorders and cardiac insufficiency by Dr. Sherashov were also of great interest to the participants.

Despite the critical lack of scientific information, the Chechen doctors demonstrated a very high level of preparedness and interest. The reports made at the forum provoked lively discussions. The first educational forum on cardiology issues was highly appreciated by practitioners.

In a meeting with the Vice Prime-Minister of the Chechen Government Kh. Vaikhanov, Academician R. Oganov stressed the necessity to reconstruct the cardiology centre so that it would correspond to modern requirements. He has also come up with an initiative to train and re-train Chechen doctors in leading Russian medical institutions.

Both parties agreed to continue cooperation in the field of education and scientific activities. In particular, future plans include a research on monitoring of risk factors and cardio-vascular diseases and organization of a scientific and practical conference for general practitioners.

We hope that leading Russian medical institutions and centres will support the initiative of the State Research Centre for Preventive Medicine and will promote efficient scientific and educational cooperation with Chechen colleagues.



About 250 physicians and cardiologists from all regions of the Chechen Republic took part in the forum

Preventing Avian Flu in Russia

Millions of birds have died or have been destroyed in dozens of countries, including Russia, since the H5N1 strain emerged in South-East Asia in 2003. The ongoing spread of influenza A/H5N1 virus among birds across several continents continues posing a risk to human health. In early October 2006, the total number of cases among humans exceeded 250, with a mortality rate of almost 60%. Moreover, the increase in the incidence of avian influenza worldwide in both birds and humans creates the potential for development of another type of influenza A pandemic, threatening both human health and the global economy.

From a public health perspective, the pandemic preparedness can be achieved through a coordinated multidisciplinary and intersectoral approach at the local and global levels. WHO is the leading technical agency providing support and consultations to its member countries. Both within the WHO Headquarters and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, expertise and support centres were established. It is important for Russia to take full advantage of this expertise and to share experience with other countries exposed to the avian flu virus. To achieve that, the World Health Organization launched the project 'Strengthening Capacity to Prevent Avian Flu in Humans in the Russian Federation' funded by USAID.

The overall goal of the project is to develop close cooperation between



Russia, WHO, and other UN agencies to ensure that modern preparedness and response mechanisms are in place to effectively control the spread of influenza A/H5N1 and minimize its subsequent potential impact, especially in terms of public health. The project was prepared by the WHO Country Office in Russia to provide appropriate technical information, training and other resources in the area of prevention, surveillance, verification, outbreak communication, reporting and other activities related to the problem of avian influenza pandemic. Major WHO project partner in Russia is the Federal Service for Surveillance of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being, representing the Ministry of

Health in the field of infectious disease surveillance and response.

There are a lot of educational and other activities on the project agenda. Currently, the project team, together with international experts, is preparing a series of trainings on avian influenza pandemic preparedness and response for regional multidisciplinary rapid response teams. The first event in the series was a training of trainers workshop held in the town of Golitsyno in the Moscow region on 9-13 October 2006. More information on the project activities can be found on www.fluproject.info. This is a regularly updated website in Russian.

The new WHO project can become an important step on the way to a successful partnership between Russian public health agencies and international organizations. In particular, the avian flu could be seen as a touchstone to test prospects of full and timely implementation of the new International Health Regulations (2005) in the Russian Federation.



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HIV Prevention: Focus on Young People



Participants of the workshop in Tula

The HIV epidemic in the world is growing fast. Unfortunately, Russia is no exception. Therefore, as President Putin noted at the State Council session on 21 April 2006, "... it is necessary to involve politicians, teachers, culture and media representatives" in fighting HIV.

Most people living with HIV are aged from 15 to 30. That is why the development of education in the area of HIV prevention is one of UNESCO's priorities reflected in the UNESCO strategy on HIV and AIDS prevention education.

Assessment of the situation in a number of Russian regions showed that HIV prevention through educational programmes is organized by both governmental institutions and NGOs within the system of formal and non-formal education. NGOs are very successful in supporting teachers through interactive trainings and information events in schools. However, educational institutions need to be more closely involved in prevention activities.

There are two main areas of cooperation between the UNESCO Moscow Office and the Ministry of Education and

Science of the Russian Federation: development of the National Concept of HIV and AIDS preventive education at schools (recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health and Social Development) as well as professional and advanced teacher training. UNESCO contributes to the latter by organising a series of seminars and by producing educational materials for parents, teachers and students of pedagogic universities on HIV prevention among children and youth. Indeed, HIV prevention among young people is impossible without adequate training of school teachers in this field.



The workshop in Novosibirsk

'Electronic Age of Culture' in Kamchatka

The Fifth International Scientific and Practical Conference 'Electronic Age of Culture' was held on 1-15 September 2006 in Petropavlovsk Kamchatski under the auspices of UNESCO.

Opening the conference, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura said, "UNESCO, while working to develop innovative ways of expanding access to the cultural riches of different societies, is also engaged in the formulation of international standards and policies to safeguard cultural traditions. ...Universal access to knowledge, the respect and protection of cultural diversity ...- these are the key principles underpinning progress towards knowledge societies and sustainable development..."

This year the conference was organized by the Federal Agency for

Culture and Cinematography of the Russian Federation and the Russian State Library, with the support of the Library of Congress (USA), at the premises of the S.P.Krashenninikov Regional Scientific Library. The themes discussed at the conference included 'Electronic Libraries for Education, Science and Culture', 'Regions of Russia - far from Moscow, but Close to the Internet', 'B2DH - Business for Electronic Heritage: Creation, Protection and Use of Electronic Resources'.

Although the conference addressed a wide range of topics, the discussions focused on specific issues. The participants included leading library specialists from Russia, Europe, and the USA who in practice apply modern information technologies in the area of cultural heritage access and conservation.

Among representatives of the international library community who shared their experience with the conference participants were Claudia Lux, IFLA President, Michael Neubert, from the Library of Congress (USA), and heads of major European libraries.

Moreover, representatives of leading IT companies actively participated in the conference and once again confirmed their deep interest in establishing an open dialogue and partnerships with culture organizations.

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UN Information Centre

Opinions

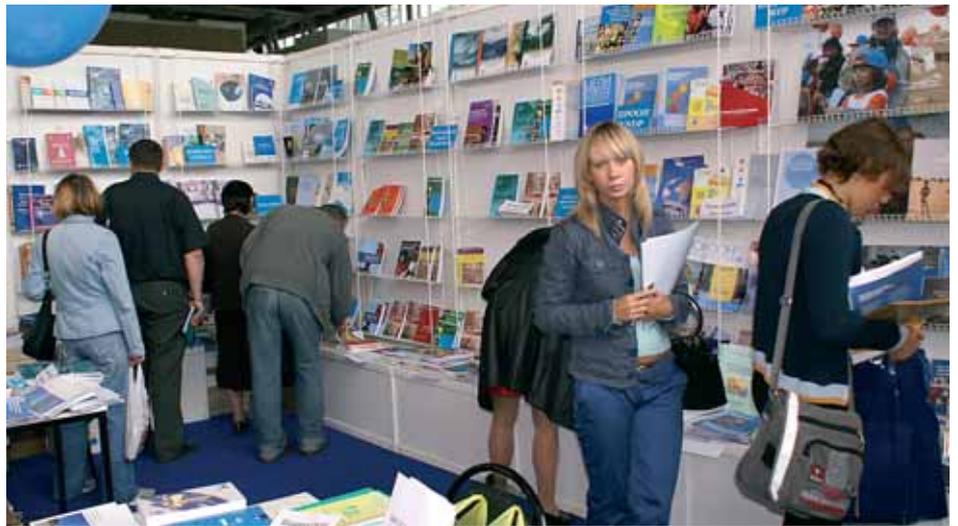
All Books Are Welcome

Early in September, the Russian National Exhibition Centre in Moscow hosted the 19th International Moscow Book Fair. The event held on 6-11 September brought together professionals in publishing industry from 58 countries. The participants displayed their publications at some 900 stands in two large exhibition halls.

This is not the first time that UN agencies in Russia have participated in this exhibition. This year eleven UN agencies – ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, the UN Information Centre, WFP, WHO, the World Bank, – presented a total of 320 publication titles.

All of these publications, covering a broad range of issues, from social and economic development, health care and population, to emergency humanitarian assistance, food aid, fighting HIV and AIDS, environmental protection and others, were offered to visitors free of charge. There were also publications on protection of children, refugees, education and culture, humanitarian issues, human rights, international law, the United Nations Organization in general.

During the six days of the exhibition some 6,000 people visited the UN display. Each afternoon, a small crowd would gather in front of the UN stand, sometimes making it difficult for one to



get through and take a closer look at the exhibits.

The UN staff working at the exhibition distributed some 18,000 copies of UN publications: reports, reviews, bulletins, and posters. Roughly half of the visitors of the UN display were university students and professors from Moscow and Russian provinces – the fact that should be viewed as highly encouraging by the UN staff in Russia.

Among the publications the visitors would be most interested in were the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Every day dozens of people would ask for contact details of various UN agencies in Russia, information on programmes run by

UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO and the World Bank, the mission of the UN Information Centre in Moscow. Every day someone would ask whether there was a UN human rights presence in Moscow. Spontaneous discussions would often sparkle on the role of the UN in the modern world – a proof of the high interest in UN’s work on the part of the local public.

Our discussions with the visitors led us to the conclusion that the demand for publications on development, human rights, environment, and education by far exceeded the supply of the available materials – so great is the interest Russians take in the UN and its programmes. While all of the publications on the UN stand were in high demand, the “UN in Russia” bulletin was the most popular.

We invite all those who interested in the UN work to the 20th anniversary exhibition next year. Hope to see you there!

Julia Vlassova,
UN Information Centre



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United Nations Association of Russia

UN International Summer School: Globalization and Millennium Development Goals

On 19 July - 2 August 2006, the first UN International Summer School was organized in Odessa (Ukraine) by the United Nations Association of Russia, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) and Odessa National Law Academy.

The theme of the Summer School was 'Millennium Development Goals in the Context of Globalization' since the achievement of the MDGs adopted at the Millennium Summit in 2000 is a major task of the United Nations Organization and the World Federation of UN Associations. Yuri Matveevsky, MGIMO professor of European Law, and Lev Voronkov, Head of UNA-Russia Commission on MDGs, developed the syllabus. The agenda included the topical global issues such as poverty, international terrorism, growing immigration to developed countries, HIV epidemics and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the programme covered participation of European countries in global partnership, UN role in the 21st century, and solving internal problems of the organization.



Petersburg, Saratov, Tambov, Togliatti, Chita, and Yaroslavl.

Delegates of the Moscow International UN Model, other students interested in the United Nations work, international relations and international law were among participants of the UN Summer School. This year, there were over 50 university and high school students from 15 Russian and two Ukrainian cities, including Moscow, Astrakhan, Belgorod, Kazan, Kiev, Komsomolsk-na-Amure, Krasnodar, Odessa, Orel, Orenburg, Samara, Saint-

The UN School format is based on 11 years of the Moscow International UN Model experience. However, the programme was extended as the event, unlike the Moscow one, lasted for two weeks. The educational process was divided into three blocks: a Model of the European Council, a Model of the Economic and Social Council, and a British parliamentary debates tournament. Prior to each working session, special trainings were held in order to

study issues on the agenda and the procedure. These trainings were prepared by the Moscow UN Model Secretariat under the supervision of Gregory Kovrizhenko, Chairman of the WFUNA Executive Committee. The trainings started with reports of experts followed by discussions among participants and summaries by MGIMO professors. After several days of trainings, the Model EU session started, and as a result a final document was adopted. Six days later, Summer School students had an opportunity to work as UN member states delegates at the Model ECOSOC session. Two final days of the School were devoted to a new format of work, a British parliamentary debates tournament, with participants representing the government and the opposition.

On the closing day of the UN International Summer School in Odessa, Alexey Borisov, First Deputy Chairman of UNA-Russia, presented certificates to the new graduates.



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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/ The Secretary-General's Message on UN Day 24 October

In his last message dedicated to UN Day UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan speaks about progress and remaining challenges at the global level.

UNFPA/ Fertility Problem in Russia: Looking into the Future

A two-day seminar in Moscow 'Low Birth Rate in the Russian Federation: Challenges and Strategic Approaches' brought together government officials, policy-makers and experts to discuss "the most acute problem of today's Russia", as President Putin put it.

UN/ "A Book Can Save Lives ..."

This year the UN Russian Book Club celebrates its 40th anniversary. Vladimir Sokolov, who headed the Club in 1968-1973, writes about its activities and a more than educational role in the 'cold war' times.

UNDP/ UN and Russia: Solving Development Problems

On 25 October, the UN Office in the Russian Federation in association with the Institute for Complex Strategic Studies organized a round table 'UN and Russia: Development Priorities' dedicated to UN Day and the end of the annual international poverty week. The discussion focused on Russia's role as a donor and the poverty problem inside the country.

UNDP/ Social Investments for Development of Russian Regions

On 26 October in Rostov-on-Don, the international conference 'Social Investments in the Economic Development of the Regions of Russia' was held to promote investments and corporate social responsibility in Russia's regions. The conference was organized by UNDP and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

UNHCR/ Children's Fund Helps Children, but Not Only Them

Since 1996, the Children's Fund of North Ossetia and UNHCR have worked together to implement a relief programme targeted at refugees and forced migrants from South Ossetia, Tajikistan and Chechnya.

UNICEF/ Echo of Beslan: Marik Kantemirov

Like many other survivors of the Beslan tragedy, Marik Kantemirov, who is only eight, and his mother, are in need of psychological support. They attend a Family Rehabilitation Centre supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of North Ossetia-Alania and UNICEF.

OCHA/UN Security Phase Reduction in Chechnya: New Opportunities and Challenges

On 28 July 2006, the UN Secretary-General reduced the UN security phase in the Chechen Republic from V to IV. The dephasing to phase IV, labelled 'emergency operations', will allow increasing presence in the republic and opening of a UN office in Grozny.

WHO/ With an Open Heart

On 10-13 October, the first educational forum on critical cardiology issues was held in Grozny with the support of the World Health Organization. A three-day programme covered major modern trends in cardiology.

WHO/ Preventing Avian Flu in Russia

The World Health Organization launched the project, 'Strengthening Capacity to Prevent Avian Flu in Humans in the Russian Federation,' funded by USAID. The overall goal of the project is to ensure that up-to-date response mechanisms are in place to effectively control the spread of the virus and minimize its potential impact.

UNESCO/ HIV Prevention: Focus on Young People

Development of education in the area of HIV prevention is a major UNESCO priority, as most people living with HIV are aged from 15 to 30. Assessment of the situation in a number of Russian regions shows that education institutions need to be more involved in HIV prevention activities.

UNESCO/ 'Electronic Age of Culture' in Kamchatka

On 1-15 September in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the fifth international conference 'Electronic Age of Culture' was held under the auspices of UNESCO. The topics discussed included electronic libraries, development of Internet in regions of Russia and others.

UNIC/ All Books Are Welcome

On 6-11 September, Moscow hosted the 19th International Book Fair. This year UN agencies working in Russia, which participated in the vent second year in a row, presented 320 publications.

UNA-Russia/ UN International Summer School: Globalization and Millennium Development Goals

On 19 July - 2 August 2006, the first UN International Summer School, organized in Odessa by the United Nations Association of Russia, MGIMO University and Odessa National Law Academy, welcomed students from Russia and Ukraine.

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 |