Mid-Year Review of the 2005 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal (CAP) for Chechnya and Neighboring Republics

On 29 June 2005, the United Nations presented in Moscow the Mid-Year Review of the 2005 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Chechnya and Neighboring Republics. The Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Rochanakorn stated that the 2005 North Caucasus CAP is progressing well, with the overall goals and the sector objectives being achieved and donor financial support for humanitarian operation covering more than 50% of over $67 million requested by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations for 2005. Government representatives praised the contributions made by humanitarian organizations through the CAP. The UN, non-governmental organizations and donors expressed their continued commitment to humanitarian assistance complementing government plans for long-term economic and infrastructure development of the region.

WHO missions
June–July 2005

In June–July 2005, WHO had four assessment & monitoring missions to Chechnya, covering Grozny, Sunzha, Grozny-Selsky and Shali districts. Agency representatives visited amongst others the children psycho neurological dispensary, two city hospitals, a library for the blind, a policlinic, two youth friendly clinics, two district hospitals and six ambulatories.

The children neurological dispensary N2 (Grozny) provides round-the-clock services to 80 children up to 14 years of age. Thirty of them, diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, polio complications and mental disorders are orphans or semi-orphans, living permanently in the dispensary. Four hundred children with cerebral palsy are on the waiting list for this facility.

Handicap International, Hammer Forum and WHO supported the dispensary at different times with drugs and consumables, toys and games. WFP ensures, along with state and army, three hot meals per day for the children. Current needs of the dispensary are roofing and fencing material.

The library for the blind (Grozny) works under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of Chechnya and has about 17,000 books in Braille available for its 500 readers. The library also hosts the Care Canada psychosocial rehabilitation centre for children. The Centre provides group and creative work and organizes special computer classes for eyesight-impaired people. WHO, Care Canada and the state provided the centre with various in-kind assistance.

Both, the city polyclinic N2 and the city hospital N3 in Grozny have not yet received MOH funding for 2005. The hospital receives only salaries, hot meals and essential drugs in insufficient quantities.

UNICEF, ICRC and WHO assisted the hospital previously with medical equipment but this did not cover the basic needs. Hammer Forum supports the paediatric ward regularly with drugs, instruments and equipment. MoH assistance is minimal. The polyclinic reports a shortage of district physicians and paediatricians. Administration requests assistance for reconstruction of roofing, two upper floors and setting-up of a heating station.

The central district hospital in Sernovodsk (Sunzha district): Shortage of medical special-
ists is one of the main hospital problems, coupled with low training attendance rate for health staff, characteristic for Sunzha district as a whole. The Federal Fund for Obligatory Medical insurance regularly funds drugs and hot meals for inpatients. Since January 2005 the MoH has delayed funding of the hospital as well as the rest of Chechen hospitals, paying only salaries. Other budget items such as drugs, consumables, equipment, trainings have not received funds allocation in 2005.

In Shali district, only the district hospital in Chiri-Yurt appeared to be in good status with sufficient amount of equipment and instruments - in many respects due to the regular support (drugs, medical and non-medical consumables and equipment) provided by MSF-France. All the ambulatories, visited in Shali district (in Novyi Atagi, Serzhen-Yurt, Avturi, Germenchuk and Mesker-Yurt villages) revealed poor services, lack of drugs, medical and non-medical consumables, instruments and equipment.

Patients are advised to buy drugs and IV solutions. The overall health situation was described as deteriorating. Chronic diseases remain untreated due to lack of diagnostic and treatment equipment.

In June, WHO also visited the local ambulatory in Maiskoe village, Prigorodnyi district, Republic of North Ossetia. Maiskoe village hosts a camp of Ingush IDPs who fled other North Ossetian villages during the Ingush-Ossetian conflict of 1992. The village ambulatory serves the health needs of about 6,000 people, including 3,000 women and 1,700 children. It belongs to the central district hospital in Oktyabrskoe village, Prigorodnyi district and receives monthly drugs and consumables in sufficient amounts. Salaries are paid on time. The ambulatory staff requests laboratory and physiotherapy equipment as well as some furniture and chairs. Many Maiskoe village residents were never granted an official status, thus they have no health insurance. Also, after the Beslan events, they prefer to receive medical aid in Ingushetia, rather than in North Ossetia, however, not having proper insurance makes it extremely difficult.

WHO continues distribution of WFP food commodities to the republican TB service in Ingushetia. In June-July, 16400 kg of flour, 1874 litres of oil, 282 kg of sugar and salt were provided for 350 in-and outpatients monthly.

In June, IMC conducted education sessions on TB prevention in Nadterechny, Naur and Achkhoi-Martan districts of Chechnya and in Ingushetia.

On July 14, WHO distributed laboratory equipment to four hospitals in Chechnya: the Republican clinical hospital, the city hospitals N3 and 4 and the central district hospital in Vedeno district. The hospitals received centrifuges, calorimeters, microscopes, autoclaves, mixers, rotators, refrigerators, laboratory consumables and glassware. In addition, each hospital also received various information materials, posters and leaflets.
On 4-8 July WHO organized in Nazran a one-week-training on health promotion and counselling for 25 Chechen and Ingush medical staff.

The IRC’s health programme completed its anaemia project, implemented during the last 11 months in the schools of Chechnya and Ingushetia. In January-February 2005 IRC analysed blood samples of children in 13 settlements in Ingushetia and five schools in Grozny, revealing a high level of anaemia. After two-months iron-supplementation the prevalence of anaemia decreased from about 70% to 30%. Since helminths infection can be one of the reasons of anaemia, IRC also tested stool samples of school-children in Ingushetia, finding a 90% infection rate. In order to maximize the efficiency of iron supplementation, IRC administered anti-helminthes treatment to all school-children, covered by the project. A series of educational preventive activities was also organized.

ICRC continued to supply medicines and medical consumables to ten hospitals in Chechnya, one in Ingushetia and one in Dagestan. In addition ICRC supplied in June six hospitals in Chechnya with Insulin.

On 4-18 July IMC carried out a training course on HIV/TB dual infections for 24 leading specialists of MoH of Chechnya and Ingushetia in Nazran.

HIV/AIDS

According to the MoH of Chechnya, 44% out of 525 registered HIV cases in Chechnya are in the age category of 18-29 years, followed by 34.9% of 30-39 years old. The leading HIV transmission ways are IV drug use (54.9%), sexual (20.6%) and mother to child. The Republican AIDS centre stresses the necessity of testing blood for transfusions. In 2004, out of 4,160 registered blood donors in the republic 1,663 were not tested for HIV. The Republican blood centre in Grozny does not have the capacity to meet the blood demands from all districts of Chechnya.

Mother and child health

In the framework of the UNICEF Mother Empowerment Programme (MEP), training sessions were conducted in Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) located in Mayakovskogo Street in Grozny, thus covering 576 beneficiaries in total. In Ingushetia, 270 women were targeted in Galashki, Berd-Yurt, and Muzhichi villages through similar activities. Two MEP training teams of professionals targeted pregnant women, lactating mothers and mothers with under-5 aged children on issues related to breastfeeding, immunization and the early recognition of common childhood illnesses.

IRC continued to work towards improving the health outcomes of war-affected mothers and children in Grozny (Chechnya) by providing pregnant women with psychosocial counselling, health education and safe motherhood kits. IRC provided educational sessions about key maternal and child health to 80 pregnant women during the reporting period.

Water and sanitation

UNICEF/PHO water purification and distribution in Grozny continued, providing 105,000 residents of Grozny with safe drinking water through 20 trucks and 262 water distribution points in health care and educational facilities, TACs and residential areas. Some 90 water qual-
Sanitary tests are made by the local SES monthly to ensure the quality of water delivered. In June-July SES professionals conducted a total of 84 training sessions for families and communities in TACs in Grozny, within the framework of UNICEF hygiene and sanitation education campaign, carried out in cooperation with the City Education Department of Grozny and the Republican SES and promoting safer hygiene practices and healthier life styles.

**Beslan update**

As of end of July the Ministry of Education of North Ossetia reported that 21 % (150) out of 700 crisis-affected children, diagnosed for neuro-psychological problems and symptoms of post-traumatic disorders, showed some stress symptomatology, including high level of alarm, anxiety, unbalanced behaviour and sleep disorders. According to the Ministry of Health of North Ossetia, 50 children continue physical rehabilitation in various hospitals in Russia and abroad.

The Republican Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Centre in Vladikavkaz, supported by UNICEF, continued to implement a psycho-social rehabilitation project, aimed to provide counselling support to children and adults affected by the tragic events in Beslan. In June, a group of 12-15 children has been visiting the centre on a daily basis. In July, the centre was providing psycho-social treatment to an average of 30 children per day. Some 18 centre specialists (psychologists, psycho-neurologists and doctors) and 19 volunteers facilitate different types of interventions: game and art therapy, psycho-gymnastics, relaxation, physiotherapy and massage together with counselling sessions by a psychiatrist, a psycho-neurologist and a psycho-therapist.

The total number of affected children and adults covered by various psychosocial assistance activities within the framework of this project is reaching 4,000. 200 crisis-affected children have attended the centre since October 2004. 107 of them have undergone the full rehabilitation course.

**Mental health**

Six UNICEF-supported Youth Information Centres and Youth Friendly clinics (Grozny and Achkhoi-Martan districts of Chechnya and Magokeb district of Ingushetia), provided with basic furniture, IT and medical equipment and essential instruments, provide psychological assistance to young people and their relatives and develop activities aimed at raising the awareness on HIV/AIDS, STIs and healthy life styles among young people in the two republics with the involvement of doctors, psychologists and young volunteers.

IRC continues running psychosocial programmes in Grozny (Chechnya) and in Ingushetia. Psychosocial support is provided to pre-school and school-aged children in both open and closed groups. Individual counselling is offered as needed to the most vulnerable children, and to parents and teachers. Activities with children are targeted at facilitating more active involvement of parents in their children’ lives, understanding that family environment plays a key role in the well-being of children affected by the long-term violence in the region.

**Other news**

WHO distributed June & July 2005 editions of the “Bulletin for health care managers in Russia”, prepared by WHO Zdravinform health data base project and WHO Documentation centre in Moscow. The topics of the issues were Primary Health Care and Health Promotion & Disease Prevention respectively. The bulletin can be obtained at [http://zdravinform.ru](http://zdravinform.ru)

WHO has the following updated information for 2005 in Russian language:

- Data of new TB detected cases in Ingushetia for I and II quarter of 2005;
- Report of paediatric care services in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005 (population figures by districts (1990-2005), paediatric beds structure, staffing, infant mortality break up, birth rates);
• Report of obstetric-gynaecological care services in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005 (facility types, beds, staffing, abortions, normal and pathology deliveries, mortality rates, newborn morbidity, maternal mortality);
• Report of TB service in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005;
• Report of HIV situation in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005;
• Report of the Endocrine care service in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005;
• Report of the Narcology care service in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005;
• Report of functional diagnostic service in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005;
• Report of psychiatric care in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005;
• List of state institutions providing psychosocial rehabilitation to children, orphans, disabled in Chechnya (indicated needs), under the Ministry of Social Affairs;
• Information of staffing by state health workers in Chechnya;
• Information of Chechen district population (1995-2004);
• Data on inpatient care facilities performance (hospitals: rural and urban; by districts; beds, admitted, discharged; by specialties) in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005;
• Data on outpatient care facilities performance (polyclinics, dispensaries: rural and urban; by districts; by specialties) in Chechnya for 6 months of 2005.

All information can be received in hard copy upon request at WHO office in Nazran.

List of abbreviations:

DRC: Danish Refugee Council
EPI: Expanded Programme on Immunization
FAP: Feldsher/obstetric post
GP: General practitioner
HI: Handicap International
ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs: Internally displaced persons
IMC: International Medical Corps
IMSSA: International Management System for Mine Action
IR: Islamic Relief
IRC: International Rescue Committee
LSG: Lets Save the Generation
MDM: Médecins du Monde
MoH I: Ministry of Health of the Republic of Ingushetia
MoH RF: Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation
MoH Ch: Ministry of Health of Chechnya
MSF-B: Médecins sans Frontières-Belgium
MSF-F: Médecins sans Frontières-France
MSF-H: Médecins sans Frontières-Holland
PHO: Polish Humanitarian Organization
PTSD: Post-traumatic stress disorder
OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SARC: Saudi Red Crescent Society
SES: Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance
STI: Sexually Transmitted Infections
TAC: Temporary accommodation centre
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
UXO: Unexploded ordnance
VOM: Voice of the Mountains
WHO: World Health Organization

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