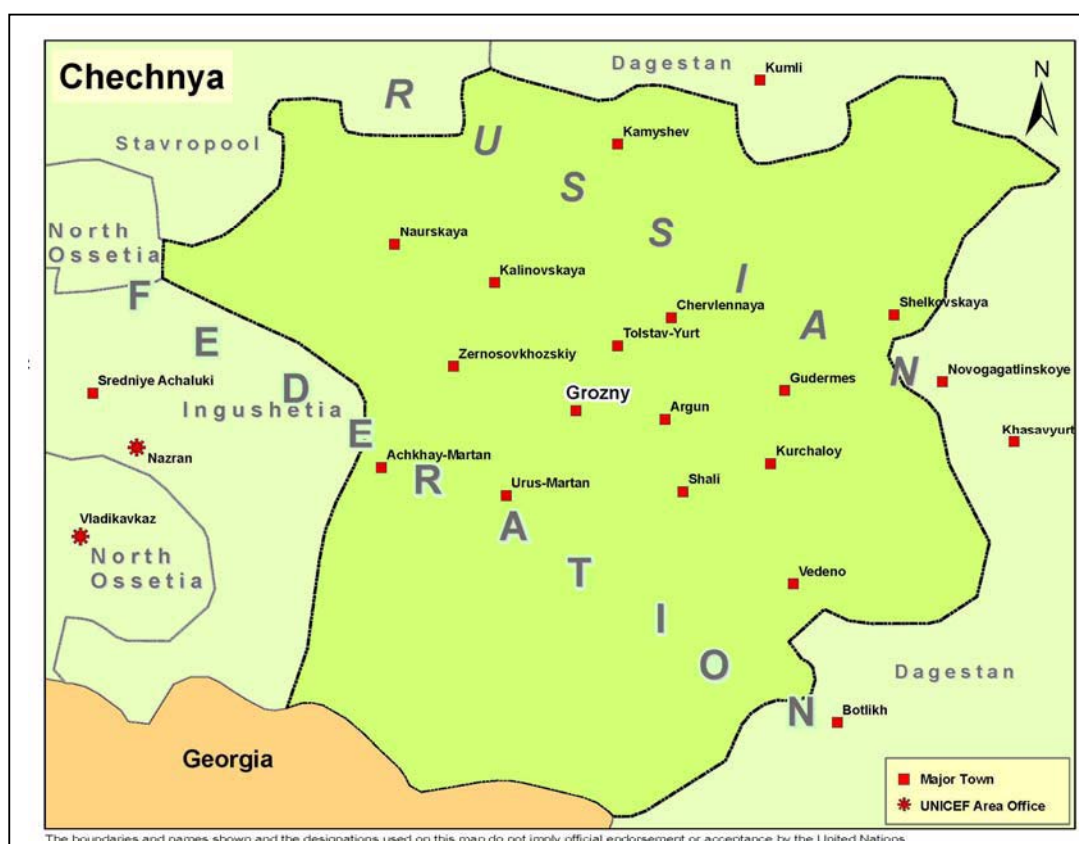


UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION NORTH CAUCASUS IN 2007



Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2007

Sector	US\$
Health (including psychosocial rehabilitation)	2,360,000
Water and environmental sanitation	410,000
Education	1,310,000
Peace and tolerance	820,000
Child protection	270,000
Mine action	750,000
Total	5,920,000

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

In Chechnya, the security environment and living conditions have showed signs of improvement. The downgrading of the security phase in the republic (from V to IV) paved the way for an increase in aid agencies' access to the most vulnerable segments of the population, while reconstruction and economic recovery have become visible in Grozny, the republic's capital. On the other hand, social tensions, human rights violations and armed violence continue to affect the region, where bombings, ambushes, sweep operations, extrajudicial killings and disappearances of civilians are still reported. Humanitarian needs, stemming from two military campaigns conducted over the past decade and severe economic underdevelopment, remain sizeable, as large segments of Chechnya's population, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable household throughout the region continue to depend on humanitarian aid. Access to social services – particularly in the water and sanitation and health sectors – remains insufficient in Chechnya, especially for women and children. IDPs, estimated at over 100,000 in Chechnya, 20,000 in Ingushetia and up to 10,000 in Dagestan, still account for a large portion of the vulnerable population.

In the education sector, the situation in Chechnya remains precarious. The preliminary findings of an inter-agency vulnerability assessment mapping, conducted in summer 2006, seemed to indicate that a sizeable share of children, while officially registered in schools, do not attend classes on a regular basis. Many schools located in remote areas are still damaged or dilapidated, while classes are often organized according to two or three shifts per day. The steady return of IDPs is further compounding the reception capacity of the education system. Basic health indicators in Chechnya and Ingushetia – such as infant, child and maternal mortality – remain two to four times higher than in the country at large, with iron-deficiency anaemia still highly prevalent in children and pregnant/lactating women. The insufficient availability of medical infrastructure, equipment and drugs, together with the lack of knowledge among health staff, is the main cause of mortality and morbidity. The persistently critical situation in the water and sanitation sector, particularly in Grozny, also contributes to child morbidity. Vaccination coverage, especially of displaced children, remains low. The HIV prevalence rate in the region, while lower than the federal average, is steadily increasing. The need for psychosocial rehabilitation of an entire generation of children has been recognized by the Chechen government as a key priority for the future. A comprehensive approach to protect children from harm and neglect – as well as to promote the social inclusion of those who are vulnerable – is also a priority. Policy support to the authorities, so as to improve the quality of existing social services, is required. Meanwhile, the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) continues to affect Chechnya. According to UNICEF's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database, 3,059 civilians (753 children) have been killed or injured since 1995.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

In 2006 UNICEF further strengthened all components of its programme and further expanded its coordination leadership role. The organization, *inter alia*, continued to support 'parallel' schools for over 1,000 internally displaced children from Chechnya and subsequently promoted their integration into the education system in Ingushetia. It supported the vocational training of 240 drop-out young people and provided pre-school education to more than 1,600 young children. More than 40,000 children and adolescents from five republics participated in the activities foreseen under the peace and tolerance promotion programme. UNICEF continued to provide potable water to 117,000 beneficiaries in Grozny and implemented the handover of the project itself to the local public water provider. It provided cold-chain equipment as well as technical training to health facilities in Ingushetia. It continued to support three youth-friendly clinics and three youth-friendly centres in Chechnya and Ingushetia. It trained professionals on youth-friendly approaches and conducted information campaigns and counselling on HIV/AIDS prevention. In the area of mine action, UNICEF covered more than 80,000 people with mine-risk education (MRE)

presentations, distributed MRE items, strengthened its incident surveillance system in Chechnya and provided prosthetic support, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial assistance and vocational training to mine/UXO survivors and other children with disabilities.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2007

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF will continue to act as focal point for the following four sectors: education, mine action, water and sanitation, and peace and tolerance promotion. In this capacity, UNICEF will further consolidate partnerships with governmental counterparts, other UN agencies, ICRC, international and local NGOs, in the framework of the 2007 Inter-Agency Transitional Work Plan for the North Caucasus. UNICEF will remain an active member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) field team, the Humanitarian and Development Forum for the North Caucasus as well as the North Caucasus Senior Management Team.

Regular programme

The UNICEF programme in the North Caucasus is formally integrated, as one of its five key components, into the 2006-2010 Country Programme for the Russian Federation. Internal synergies will be further pursued, particularly in areas such as child protection, young people's health and development, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Health (US\$ 2,360,000)

More than 270,000 children, young people, mothers and health staff will benefit from the following activities:

- Support the ongoing rehabilitation of the Chechnya and Ingushetia cold-chain infrastructure, with special focus on primary health care facilities, through the provision of basic supplies, consumables and equipment, so as to benefit approximately 170,000 under-five children;
- Provide training opportunities to at least 120 health care workers involved in child immunization services and target families as well as communities through awareness-raising campaigns promoting the benefits and importance of child immunization;
- Organize training sessions on basic child health care issues, such as breastfeeding, immunization, early recognition of diseases, for 20,000 mothers with under-five children in IDP settlements in Ingushetia and temporary accommodation centres in Chechnya and Dagestan;
- Promote safe motherhood practices, including the prevention of iron-deficiency anaemia and vitamin A deficiency (through supplementation activities), as well as de-worming campaigns, thus targeting some 200,000 pregnant women, lactating mothers, and under-five children in Chechnya and Ingushetia;
- Provide age-appropriate and culturally sensitive information and counselling on reproductive health care, family planning, HIV/sexually transmitted infections and substance abuse prevention to some 75,000 young people in Chechnya and Ingushetia;
- Support three youth-friendly clinics and three youth information centres previously established in Chechnya and Ingushetia and establish three new youth-friendly clinics and two youth information centres in rural districts in Chechnya and Ingushetia, providing equipment, information material and training opportunities;
- Support two centres of social support to people living with HIV/AIDS established previously in Chechnya and Ingushetia, targeting some 480 beneficiaries.

Psychosocial rehabilitation

- Ensure proper coordination of psychosocial activities through enhancing the work of the UNICEF-established Steering Committee, comprising Chechen authorities (various ministries), UN agencies and NGOs;
- Contribute to the development of a republican psychosocial programme for Chechnya;
- Contribute to the expansion of the two UNICEF-established psychosocial networks in

Chechnya, through eight new centres (in addition to the 14 existing centres), thus ensuring a continued specialized provision of counselling to some 10,000 conflict-affected children aged 6-18 years and their caregivers;

- Continue upgrading knowledge and skills of some 100 qualified professionals from Chechnya (psychologists, teachers, social workers);
- Establish a 'hotline' system in Chechnya, enabling 10,000 people to receive professional psychological support;
- Provide psychosocial rehabilitation to some 5,000 crisis-affected children and adults in Beslan;
- Develop and distribute at least 20,000 copies of awareness-raising materials among the population of Chechnya and North Ossetia, and develop at least three TV reels, aiming at increasing the knowledge on the availability and relevance of psychosocial services.

Water and environmental sanitation (US\$ 410,000)

Some 117,000 people in Grozny will be reached through the following activities:

- Support Grozvodokanal, Grozny's public water provider, in the production and distribution of purified water (for drinking purposes only) to 117,000 persons, for a total daily capacity of at least 600,000 litres and with a special focus on school/pre-school children, students, hospital patients and returnees living in temporary accommodation centres;
- Strengthen the technical capacity of Grozvodokanal, through training and the provision of IT and other essential equipment;
- Promote hygiene education and the appropriate use of potable water among the beneficiary population in Grozny, including 3,000 pre-school children, 27,000 schoolchildren and teachers, 23,000 students and professors, 11,000 hospital staff and patients, 7,000 IDPs in temporary accommodation centres, and 46,000 vulnerable residents in residential areas, through local TV programmes;
- Distribute 20,000 posters (two types) promoting safe consumption of water and better hygiene practices among the targeted beneficiaries in Grozny.

Education (US\$ 1,310,000)

More than 65,000 children and 2,000 teachers will benefit from the following activities:

- Expand to 35 the existing network of 25 community-based early childhood education centres, so as to provide pre-school education and care to 1,750 children in the region, with the strong involvement of local ministries of education and parents (hygiene/health care education and better parenting skills);
- Equip selected schools and kindergartens in the region with educational items and other supplies, including 50,000 textbooks, 2,000 sets of furniture and 100 blackboards;
- Contribute to the minor refurbishment of 25 school premises hosting early childhood education centres in Chechnya;
- Within the inclusive education programme, promote the integration of disabled children (some 3,300 in Chechnya and 450 in Ingushetia are currently out of school) into the mainstream education system by establishing 10 pilot schools (five in Chechnya and five in Ingushetia), through the provision of physical access and the organization of trainings/seminars for teachers, parents and policy makers;
- Promote life skills education in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan, through the revision of existing school manuals and the development of new ones, with a cross-sectoral approach;
- Address the issue of low school attendance in Chechnya, conducting a thorough assessment of the situation and advocate for the authorities to take relevant measures.

Peace and tolerance (US\$ 820,000)

More than 70,000 children, young people, teachers and government officials will benefit from the following key activities:

- Organize summer camps for some 1,000 children and youth, with the parallel training of some 300 trainers from five republics for recreational peace and tolerance summer camps, so as to cover 15,000 children in total;

- Support mobile trainers groups from five republics of the North Caucasus to cover 20,000 schoolchildren and teachers through five modules on the elimination of stereotypes/prejudices among children and youth;
- Help finalize, publish and distribute a peace and tolerance encyclopedia to school libraries, pedagogical faculties and NGOs working in the area, so as to cover some 15,000 beneficiaries;
- Revise and distribute to 200 specialists the peace and tolerance manual for teachers and NGO trainers working in the North Caucasus region;
- Support the Children's Peace Theatre which will continue to perform thematic presentations in Chechnya, Ingushetia, Dagestan, North-Ossetia-Alania and Kabardino-Balkaria for some 8,000 children;
- Support, in cooperation with the local ministries of education, the organization of a network of peace and tolerance volunteers clubs in five republics, so as to reach some 10,000 schoolchildren and adolescents;
- Organize a conference for some 200 experts and pedagogues with a view to sharing experiences on peace and tolerance in the North Caucasus.

Child protection (US\$ 270,000)

More than 6,000 children will directly benefit from the following initiatives:

- Conduct trainings/workshops on the promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for 900 government officials as well as 6,000 schoolchildren and teachers in Chechnya and Ingushetia;
- Support the Children and Women Protection Unit (created in the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner) in Chechnya as well as the Child Rights Ombudspersons in Dagestan and North Ossetia-Alania;
- Advocate for the creation of a Children and Women Protection Unit in the Office of the Ingush Human Rights Commissioner;
- Provide technical support to the Chechen Ministry of Labour and Social Development for the development of a special programme for vulnerable children, in particular orphans and disabled children.

Mine action (US\$ 750,000)

More than 150,000 children in Chechnya will benefit from the following key activities:

- Support 31 leisure centres providing daily a safe environment to some 700 children in Chechnya;
- Collect, analyse and share mine/UXO-related information to all concerned stakeholders;
- Support and monitor the mine-risk education (MRE) school course, thus targeting some 90,000 students in Chechnya;
- Conduct MRE presentations for some 70,000 children living in mine/UXO-affected communities;
- Provide essential rehabilitation equipment to Grozny's Prosthetic Workshop;
- Improve existing physical rehabilitation services for some 2,000 children with disabilities, providing relevant training opportunities to the technicians of Grozny's Prosthetic Workshop;
- Advocate for the signature, ratification and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, as well as for the launch of a comprehensive civilian mine/UXO clearance programme in Chechnya;
- Advocate for the revision of existing policies in favour of disabled children (including mine/UXO survivors), as well as for the provision, by relevant authorities, of adequate assistance to this particularly vulnerable group.