



Unicef in the Russian Federation 2007 - 2010

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

unicef 



Children are the most valuable resource any country has. Ensuring they realise their full potential is the best investment a country can make in its future.



In 2007 Unicef is working in 10 regions across the Russian Federation and also operates a dedicated programme in the five North Caucasian Republics highlighted in the map. Unicef's offices are located in Moscow and Nazran.



The Russian Federation is experiencing rapid economic growth and change. The pace is so fast that some groups are being left behind. Children are particularly vulnerable and special efforts must be made to protect them. Unicef - the United Nations Children's Fund - works with Russian counterparts to develop an environment where every child can realise his or her potential.



Unicef in the Russian Federation

Contents



Unicef supports national efforts to help children and families, recognising that the family is by far the best environment for a child to develop. We focus on activities that will protect those who are most vulnerable.

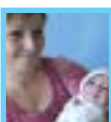
We work to ensure that the voices of children are heard and seek to influence policies and investments that affect children.



Unicef's programme in the North Caucasus addresses vital needs for children's health, safety and education and fosters an environment where peace and tolerance can flourish.



This document presents a brief overview of the main projects Unicef implements in the Russian Federation and indicates some areas of activity where increased financial support will make a difference.



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Early Childhood Development

1.4 million children are born every year

34 per cent of children are breastfed for the first 6 months

66 per cent of the population are at risk of having their physical and mental capacity compromised by iodine deficiency



A child's early years are crucial for future development, and a little effort made early on in life can prevent big problems later.

Projects

Projects target pivotal health issues that effect a child's physical and psychological development.

Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD)

Iodine deficiency is widespread in Russia and hits children the hardest. It leads to serious cognitive and developmental ailments in children. A simple and cheap solution is the iodisation of salt. Normal salt intake by pregnant women, if iodised, will ensure the proper development of the foetus. UNICEF advocates for legislation to promote iodised salt availability and consumption, and spearheads campaigns informing the public about the necessity of iodine in the diet.

Breast-feeding

Low breast-feeding levels in Russia are the result of aggressive promotion of breast-milk substitutes in maternity and children's clinics over the past fifteen years. UNICEF promotes exclusive breast-feeding for the first six months through the 'Baby Friendly Hospital' initiative, which has gradually gained a momentum of its own. Over 240 maternity hospitals have been awarded "Baby Friendly" status and account for 21% of all births in Russia.

Breast-feeding promotion also reaches mother and child outpatient facilities, and is incorporated into training curricula for doctors and health personnel. The Ministry of Health and Social Development has declared breast-feeding an integral part of the Mother and Child Health national policy.

Anatoly Karpov (former chess grand master and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador) supports the iodised salt campaign.



For \$1,000 we can



Provide information on benefits of iodised salt to 50,000 shoppers in retail stores.

Or, provide information on how to prevent IDD for 1,000 pregnant women.

Or, train 5 specialists on how to prevent IDD and monitor effectiveness of IDD elimination programmes.

Annual budget requirements	USD
Breast Feeding Promotion	40,000
Countering Iodine Deficiency	50,000
Total	90,000



Child Protection

20,000 to 100,000 children live on the street (estimates vary widely)

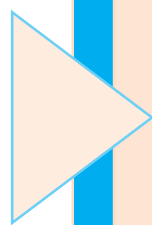
600,000 children are registered as disabled (2004)

An estimated 730,000 children live without parental care

Approximately 180,000 children are in institutions



A significant number of children are deprived of parental care and many live in institutions.



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Projects

Family is the best environment

Early intervention for vulnerable families and de-institutionalisation programmes are based on the belief that the family is the best environment for children. Outreach and rehabilitation work targets youth from troubled homes who spend a lot of time on the streets and are more vulnerable to abuse, violence or exploitation. Training programmes prepare new and existing personnel to help improve outreach and rehabilitation services at social centres for children and their parents.

Inclusion for Disabled Children

Inclusive education pilot projects are underway in five Moscow schools. This is a step towards ending the isolation of disabled children in society by demonstrating that they may live easily with their families and participate in society with their peers. The Russian education system does not easily include disabled children into its mainstream school system at present.

The Child Right's Ombudsperson

The Child Right's Ombudsperson Initiative has proved to be an effective independent mechanism to defend children's rights in the courts and by influencing policy. In early 2007, Ombudspersons were working in 19 regions and 49 municipalities. The Ombudsperson service is set to expand further into more regions of Russia.

Situation Analysis

To assist policy makers, UNICEF supports research into the situation of children in Russia, including reports on human trafficking and child poverty.

The logo for the Child Rights Ombudsperson Association. The Ombudsperson network is expanding in Russia 'for the protection of children.'



Provide a Hotline operator for 'Violence against children' for 3 months.

Or, train 5 teachers on how to include disabled children in the classroom.

Or, train 5 specialists or peer educators on effective work with families and children in crisis.

Or, provide 3 months of family counselling for 10 families.

Or, assist Ombudsperson to provide 3000 children with information on risks.

Annual budget requirements	USD
Early Intervention/ Family Placement	1,200,000
Inclusive Education	500,000
Child Ombudsperson	200,000
Total	1,900,000



Young People's Health and Development

- 40% of adolescent males consume alcohol excessively
- 30% of adolescent females consume alcohol excessively
- Around 10% of adolescents have used drugs
- 32.8 per 100,000 adolescent males commit suicide



In the last two decades young people have enjoyed more freedom of choice. They also face more risks to their health and social well being and need to be well informed to protect themselves.

Projects

Russia's health care system is not fully geared towards addressing the risks young people are facing today. A range of studies show that adolescents are increasingly using tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs, contributing to health problems and earlier death.

Youth Friendly Health Services

Youth friendly health services (YFHS) provide a range of health services, psychological counselling and social support to young people in a manner and setting appropriate to their age. YFHS are welcoming, confidential and affordable for young people. Today, there are more than 60 YFHS centres in 20 territories that provide counselling and practical help to young people on issues of reproductive health, including testing and treatment of STIs, family planning counselling and HIV/AIDS prevention messages. A small investment by UNICEF can help a government-run hospital provide these services for hundreds of people.

Life Skills

Young people need information and skills to lead a healthy lifestyle. UNICEF has worked with primary and secondary schools to inform children and help them reach their full potential as adults.

By early 2007, UNICEF had helped create 20 Youth information centres in 13 regions. Healthy lifestyles and life skills are promoted through the youth media and peer educators.

HIV/AIDS

Russia stands on the brink of a nationwide HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the majority of those infected are under the age of 30. The virus is now spreading among the general population. Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are widespread, even among medical professionals.

For \$1,000
we can



Provide support to establish youth-friendly health and social services for 2,500 young people.

Or, provide information on how to prevent HIV for 1,500 young people.

Or, train 6 specialists and peer educators to promote Healthy Life Styles and HIV prevention among young people.

Annual budget requirements	USD
Youth Friendly Health Services	655,000
Life Skills/HIV/AIDS	235,000
Total	890,000



HIV/AIDS

Almost 100 new cases of HIV are registered every day

It is estimated 1,2% of adults are HIV-positive

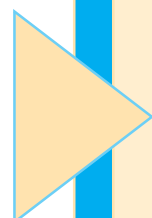
80% of those infected are 15-30 years old

43% of all newly registered HIV cases are women of childbearing age

← statistics



The HIV/AIDS epidemic is increasingly threatening young people and combating the virus is now a high priority.



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Projects

Fighting the Stigma

Fighting the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV is the best way to help affected children integrate into the social mainstream. All of us, including teachers and care givers, need basic education to overcome fears and dispel misconceptions about HIV to help create an environment less tainted by discrimination against HIV-affected children and further their inclusion in mainstream education. In 2007, UNICEF plans to expand public awareness building on the success of media campaigns in 2004 and 2006.

Prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child (PMTCT)

PMTCT interventions can allow an HIV-positive mother to have a healthy child in almost 99 of 100 cases. UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Health and the Federal Children's Centre for HIV Prevention and Treatment to eliminate HIV in infants and improve quality of care, treatment and support to those in need. Training programmes have prepared over 500 health care workers in PMTCT and anti-retroviral treatment of HIV-infected children. Though this is but a fraction of the needs.

Protection, care and support

Pilot projects in the Chelyabinsk and Orenburg regions promote a comprehensive approach to PMTCT and care and support to HIV-affected women and children by building better referral systems between prenatal and maternity facilities, AIDS centres and social services. Over 200 social workers and volunteers, including women living with HIV, have been trained to work with HIV-affected families and in peer-support groups.

Equipment

Health, social, and educational facilities in these two regions also receive equipment, toys and developmental games to provide services to children in a friendly environment. Overall, annually about 1,000 children born to HIV-positive mothers are receiving better health care and social support.

Provide support to prevent HIV transmission from 25 HIV-positive mother to children.

Or, train 5 pediatricians and AIDS doctors to provide quality ARV-treatment and follow up to HIV-positive children.

Or, equip child-friendly pediatrician office at AIDS-center.

Or, provide 1000 teachers with information on HIV issues.

Annual budget requirements	USD
PMTCT	400,000
Care, Support and Education	600,000
HIV Awareness Raising	200,000
Total	1,200,000



Mine Action / Child Rights Promotion

Number of mine victims: 3,060
Number of children mine victims: Over 750
Number of child fatalities: Over 185



Even though large scale hostilities have ceased, Chechnya is littered with unexploded remnants of war. Children, being unaware, curious and mobile, are particularly vulnerable to the threat.

Projects

Landmines and explosive remnants of war continue to pose a serious threat to civilians in Chechnya, especially children. Of more than 3,060 registered incidents on civilians since 1995, child casualties have numbered over 750.

Mine-risk education

Mine-risk education is bringing attention to this menace. Since the federal government only clears mines from strategic military areas, large parts of the republic remain danger zones and new casualties will continue to occur.

UNICEF cooperates with schools and the mass media to promote mine risk education and train teachers, counsellors and other specialists on how to deal with such dangers.

Safe youth leisure centers

Safe youth leisure centers established by UNICEF provide a safe and child-friendly environment for about 700 children daily, allowing them to play free of the stress and fear bred by the danger of mines.

Prosthetics

Prosthetics have been provided to about 250 children who have lost limbs. UNICEF plays a crucial role guaranteeing these children their right to proper medical care. The prosthetic workshop in Grozny is being strengthened through training and provision of equipment.

Child Rights Ombudspersons

The Child Ombudsperson's offices in Dagestan and North Ossetia are receiving training to support their work monitoring and protecting children's rights. Since the promotion of children's rights is new to the region, UNICEF is increasing awareness on the Convention on the Rights of the Child through workshops, seminars, and high-level contact with the government. Special attention is given to orphans and increasing their chance of living with families, and the plight of the disabled.

A performance of the State Chechen Drama Theatre helps children understand and avoid the dangers of mines in mine-affected communities.

For \$1,000 we can



Train at least 5 professionals to collect and analyze age and sex disaggregated data on violence against children.

Or, train 15 social workers in support for neglected children.

Or, print 250 booklets for children on mine risk education.

Or, print 50 attractive books about child rights.

Or, support the provision of legal counseling to some 100 vulnerable children and families in need.

Annual budget requirements	USD
Mine Action	750,000
Promotion of Children's Rights	270,000
Total	1,020,000



Some of the children of Beslan returned to the school for the first time during the UNICEF photographic workshop there, part of the psycho-social recovery process.

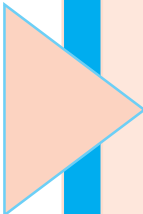


Psycho-social Recovery

- Population of Chechnya: 1 million
- Child population: 400,000
- Population of Beslan: 35,000
- Child population: 7,000
- Direct beneficiaries in North Ossetia: 10,000 people
- Direct beneficiaries in Chechnya: 50,000 people



The impact of the conflicts and loss of life have left deep psychological scars in parts of the North Caucasus.



For \$1,000 we can



Projects

Rehabilitation after Beslan

Within days of the devastating 2004 Beslan School siege, UNICEF was providing vital medical supplies and equipment. Within five weeks UNICEF teamed up with local agencies to launch a psycho-social recovery programme in nearby Vladikavkaz.

The Vladikavkaz rehabilitation centre has since brought healing and comfort to thousands of children and their relatives. Innovative treatments such as art and music therapy have made a difference for even the most severe cases. UNICEF provides materials, staff and specialist training, and scientific guidelines for rehabilitation.

A Family Centre opened in Beslan itself in 2006 to supplement the work of the Vladikavkaz centre, to help whole families still struggling to rebuild their relationships.

The Centres touched the lives of 10,000 children, adults, and their caregivers in the first two years of operation.

Rehabilitation in Chechnya

The psycho-social rehabilitation programme for Chechen children has developed from the experience of the Beslan and Vladikavkaz centres.

A Psycho-social Baseline Study conducted by UNICEF is the starting point for this new programme to treat post-traumatic stress disorders in children and their families.

Phase one of the programme called for the opening of 14 children's psycho-social rehabilitation centres in seven districts of the republic. By the end of 2007 all of Chechnya's 17 districts should have such centres.

With the local authorities and NGOs, UNICEF identifies suitable locations for rehabilitation centres, trains psychologists and other staff, and conducts research on the impact of the conflict on children. Fifty local child specialists have been trained with the help of prominent psycho-therapists from Israel and St. Petersburg.

A Psychosocial Steering Committee was created with the Chechen authorities to coordinate the programme. The Psychosocial Action Plan for 2008 - 2012 will become a key instrument in easing the impact of the conflict on children.

Provide 100 individual counselling sessions.

Or, provide 100 CDs with a set of fairy-tales for children attending a psycho-social centre.

Or, provide ten methodological kits to diagnose the psychological state of 1000 children yearly.

Or, develop and print 100 awareness raising brochures for parents.

Or, provide a psycho-social rehabilitation course for five conflict-affected children.

Or, provide psycho-social rehabilitation for one family in a rehabilitation programme four times a year.

Annual budget requirements	USD
Promotion of strategy and legislation	60,000
Capacity building for psychologists	200,000
Psycho-social support	670,000
Advocacy	120,000
Total	1,050,000



Health, Water and Sanitation

statistics

Health Projects targeting: 350,000 children and mothers in Chechnya and Ingushetia

Safe Water provision: 117,000 people in Chechnya

Youth Health Services: 75,000 people in Chechnya and Ingushetia



Electricity and water supplies can be scarce and sporadic in the Chechen Republic, creating conditions ripe for the spread of disease.



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Projects

Supplying safe drinking water

For some six years, supplying safe drinking water each day to residents of Grozny was UNICEF's most urgent activity in the republic. Every day, UNICEF worked with other organisations to transport about 600,000 litres of potable water to meet the needs of about 117,000 people. From 2007, the programme focus is on training and equipping the public water providers.

Hygiene education

Information is provided to children and mothers on how hygiene can prevent the spread of disease. With assistance from local authorities and NGOs, UNICEF reaches out to the local population through TV programming, colourful pocket calendars, and interactive theatre projects.

Immunisation

With the republic's health infrastructure in a weak condition, the threat of infectious diseases is high. UNICEF is working with local health officials to install cold chain equipment in district hospitals for the storage of vaccines against polio, TB, measles, hepatitis B, pertussis, rubella, and diphtheria.

UNICEF works closely with the local media and advocates on immunisation among the local community. In addition, specific training is provided to vaccination workers.

Empowering mothers

UNICEF helps give women greater access to medical and health information and thereby the opportunity to make more informed decisions and to take control of their lives. At designated centres and hospitals, mothers receive information on medical and social issues, as well as available services.

Youth friendly services

Existing health services do not always cater well to the needs of adolescents. Many young people are steeped in a traditional culture but grappling to make sense of life in the modern world. UNICEF has opened six information and health centres in Chechnya and Ingushetia where youth can learn more about reproductive issues, HIV/AIDS awareness and healthy lifestyles.

Give 100 children vaccinations against one of the major vaccine preventable diseases.

Or, ensure 200 children get treatment against worm infestation.

Or, prevent anemia for 70 pregnant women.

Or, help to fully equip one health room with basic medical equipment and furniture in a school of 1,000 children.

Annual budget requirements	USD
Immunisation Support	450,000
Parent and Child Healthcare	400,000
Water and Sanitation	410,000
HIV/AIDS Prevention	460,000
Total	1,720,000



Education

Training: 5,000 teachers

IDP schools: 1,600 children

School supplies: 55,000 children

School rebuilding: 1,000 children



Chechnya's educational system was badly damaged in the conflict. Many school buildings bear the physical scars of war. Books, materials, and qualified personnel are in short supply.

Projects

Early childhood education centres

Early childhood education centres (ECE) are meeting the needs of 5-6 year-old children. With the involvement of parents, they learn ABC and counting, and obtain basic hygiene and life skills. In 2006, the network of ECE centres expanded to 25, and will increase to 60 in 2007 and reach over 6,000 children.

Strengthening acces to education

School materials - textbooks, furniture, blackboards, school bags, paper and pens - provided by UNICEF benefit about 55,000 children. With unemployment estimated at 80% in the republic, families have often been forced to choose between putting food on the table and paying for school supplies. Teacher training in Chechnya and Ingushetia is also being provided.

Repairing schools

In 2006, repairing four schools in Chechnya and two in Ingushetia allowed 1,000 children to return to a regular education. Further school rehabilitation is taking place in 2007.

Inclusive/Life skills education

To help include disabled children in the regular education system, UNICEF will offer training, furniture and policy support to the Ministries of Education in the region. Life Skills Education will be strengthened in the schools by updating existing manuals.

Temporary schools and kindergartens

By the end of 2006, almost 1,600 school children and 590 pre-schoolers from Chechnya whose families had been displaced by the conflict had been schooled in temporary facilities. This project has now closed with its goals achieved of reintegrating the children into the regular education system.

For \$1,000
we can



Allow 50 children to attend a pre-school education centre for one month including provision of snacks, furniture, toys, reading materials and stationery.

Or, provide 300 children with one textbook, buy 10 blackboards, 15 sets of school furniture (one desk and two chairs) for 30 children.

Or, replace 3 windows and one door set in a classroom for 30 children.

Or, provide 4 teachers with 72 hours of upgrading courses in quality education.

Annual budget requirements	USD
ECE Centres	550,000
Access to Education	630,000
Inclusive / Life Skills Education	130,000
Total	1,310,000



Peace and Tolerance Promotion

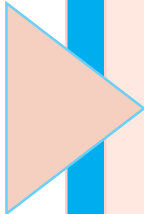
50,000 children from the North Caucasus Republics have participated in peace and tolerance activities.

Nearly 4,000 educators and 100 government staff have been trained in peace and tolerance techniques.

statistics



Fifteen years of civil strife has bred intolerance, suspicion and fear in the minds of many children. Strong government support for the peace and tolerance project is at the root of the success of this initiative.



For \$1,000 we can



Projects

Mobile Trainers Groups

Mobile Trainers Groups work in Ingushetia, Chechnya, Dagestan and North Ossetia, where about 3600 children and young people and 200 teachers in each republic are trained to use interactive teaching methods and increase their knowledge in conflict resolution and the culture of peace. The project provides opportunities for young people to take part in interactive games and activities designed to help them overcome cultural stereotypes and learn to respect those with different backgrounds than themselves.

Summer camps

Following the success of peace and tolerance summer camps in Dagestan in 2005 and 2006, five summer camps will take place in 2007 in four Caucasian republics. Some 600 children will get to know each other through a wide range of activities designed to help them establish friendly relations and better understand the cultural background of their peers.

Peace Club Network

Peace clubs have been established in four republics to support volunteers and youth activists in children's rights and to promote ideas of peace and tolerance. At the clubs the children receive information about the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and spread peace and tolerance messages among other school children.

The Peace Encyclopedia

In April 2007, a Peace Encyclopedia will be published collecting articles written by social scientists, historians and well known writers illustrating examples of the peaceful coexistence of, and settlement of disputes among, the Caucasian peoples.

Peace Theatre

The Peace Theatre tours the North Caucasian republics presenting stories about peace and tolerance to thousands of children and adults. Each year, over 120 children from Chechnya act in the plays, demonstrating their creativity where few other opportunities to do so exist.

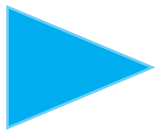
Allow more than 10 children to join in the Peace and Tolerance summer camps.

Or, publish 500 manuals for trainers on peace and conflict resolution.

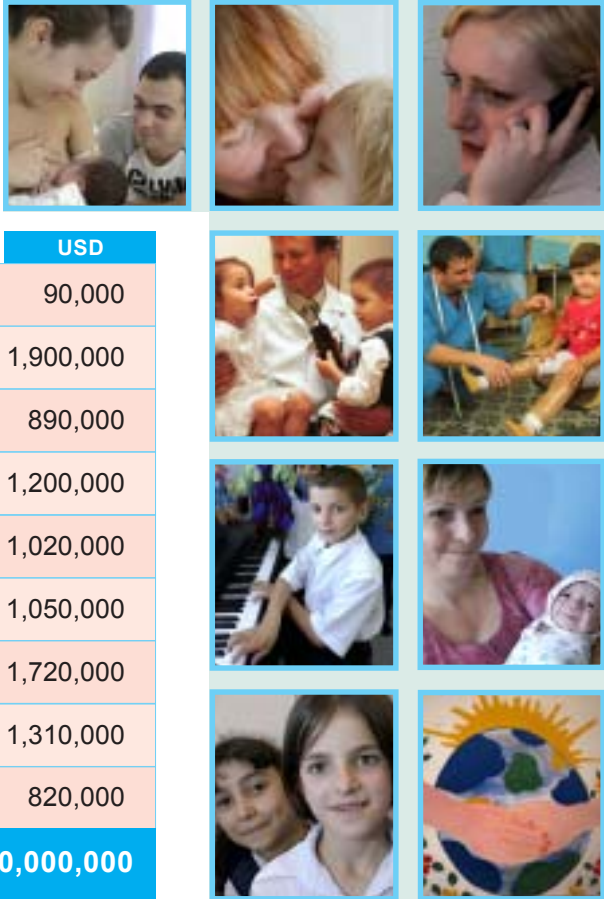
Or, provide costumes and decorations for children involved in the shows in the Children's Peace Theatre.

Or, provide a PC for one of the Peace Clubs.

Annual budget requirements	USD
Mobile Trainers Groups	420,000
Summer Camps	120,000
Peace Club Network	150,000
Peace Encyclopedia	40,000
Peace Theatre	60,000
Media / Advocacy	30,000
Total	820,000



Annual Budget Requirements



Budget Proportion		USD
	Early Childhood Development	90,000
	Child Protection	1,900,000
	Young People's Health and Development	890,000
	HIV/AIDS	1,200,000
	Mine Action / Child Rights Promotion	1,020,000
	Psycho-Social Rehabilitation	1,050,000
	Health, Water and Sanitation	1,720,000
	Education	1,310,000
	Peace and Tolerance Promotion	820,000
TOTAL USD 10,000,000		

Unicef in the Russian Federation works closely with:

In the Moscow Office

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Ministry of Health and Social Development
 Ministry of Education and Science
 Regional Authorities and NGO partners

In the North Caucasus Office

The republican governments of the Chechen Republic, Ingushetia, North Ossetia-Alania, Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria - and the Office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Russian Federation President for the Southern Federal District. NGO partners.

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Over USD 500,000 (by March 2007)

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Other photographs taken by children during UNICEF projects: Misha Dzarasov (Cover photo); Salman Abubakrov (page 14 bottom); Yaser Osterhanov (page 16 top); Animat Saidulaeva and Magomed Bamatkeriev (page 16 bottom); Rusat Sakharchuk, Ludmila Tkhostova and Salman Abubakrov (page 20 top); Amina Khaskhanova (page 21).

Compiled and edited by John Brittain and Elena Kharitonova, Unicef Moscow, with assistance of Unicef programme staff in Moscow and the North Caucasus and contributions from John Varoli.

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Unicef Office, 4/17 Pokrovsky Boulevard,
Building 1, Moscow, 101000

Tel: +7 495 933 8818

Fax: +7 495 933 8819

Web site: www.unicef.ru

Email: moscow@unicef.org

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Unicef is recognised globally for its good work with children. We have the backing of individual members of the public, corporate partners, sports clubs, governments, celebrities and good will ambassadors, who are concerned for the welfare and future of children. Already over USD 500,000 has been donated by members of the Russian public for UNICEF's projects in Russia.

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