



UN BULLETIN

United Nations Office in the Republic of Armenia

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PRESIDENT KOCHARIAN'S VISIT TO THE UN HOUSE

From 29 November to 1 December 1999 United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and UNDP Regional Director for Eastern Europe and CIS Mr. Anton Kruidrink visited Armenia on a mission. This was the last official visit of Mr. Kruidrink to Armenia prior to his retirement from UNDP.

The purpose of the mission was to discuss with the Government of Armenia the development cooperation provided by UNDP to Armenia in support of democratization and economic reforms, as well as issues of perspective cooperation with the country.

During his mission, Mr. Kruidrink had meetings with the President of Armenia Robert Kocharian, Speaker of the National Assembly Armen Khachatryan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vartan Oskanian.

Mr. Anton Kruidrink is leaving UNDP after a long and distinguished career in the organization where he worked in senior positions at Headquarters in New York and UNDP Country Offices in Latin America Region. For the last five years, Mr. Kruidrink headed UNDP Regional Bureau for Eastern Europe and CIS.

On the 30th of November, the President of Armenia Mr. Robert Kocharian, in showing his country's appreciation for the services Mr. Anton Kruidrink has provided to the country in local area development, as well as governance including strengthening of the legislature and capacity building of the electoral system, took the unusual initiative to visit the UN House and presented Mr. Anton Kruidrink with the Presidential Award.

Letter of the President Mr. Robert Kocharian to Ms Katiča Cekalovic UN RC in Armenia, UNDP RR

My visit to the UN Office in Armenia on 30 November this year was important and pleasant for me. After the immediate acquaintance with the activities of UN Agencies in Armenia, I once more got sure that our cooperation with UN structures has a strong basis. We give great importance to your assistance to the process of reforms in Armenia. Such effectiveness of cooperation is of course due to your personal dedicated work and that of all the staff of the UN Office, which we highly appreciate and gratefully accept. I am certain that our cooperation will continue, enlarging and embracing new areas.

Once more I wish success to you and your colleagues in your rewarding work.

Robert Kocharyan
President of the Republic of Armenia



Message of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to the UN Staff in Armenia

During my visit to Armenia I have been able to meet with many colleagues not only from UNHCR, but also from other United Nations agencies. I have also visited projects in the field and have been able to appreciate the dedication of the staff of the Government of Armenia, of the UN, of NGOs, working to relieve the suffering of refugees, to try and find solutions to their plight, and to assist the people of this country in their efforts towards economic and social development. I was particularly impressed by the work of Armenian NGOs. Their commitment to the cause of the most vulnerable, and their effectiveness in providing assistance, augurs well for the future of civil society in this country. I hope that peace will soon prevail in the South Caucasus, because only with peace will the efforts of Armenians, and of all those helping them, eventually succeed.



Sadako Ogata
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



UNHCR

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES VISITS THE REGION

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata was visiting Armenia on September 1-4 as part of her tour of the three South Caucasus Republics. During the visit Ms Ogata was accompanied by Director of the UNHCR Bureau of Europe Mr. Anne-Willem Bijleveld, Special Assistant to the High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi and Senior Research Officer of the CIS Unit at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva Mr. Bohdan Nahajlo.

During the visit the UN High Commissioner had an opportunity to meet with high-ranking Armenian officials, including the President of the Republic of Armenia, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Minister of Social Welfare and the Locum Tenens. The discussions mainly focused on the refugee situation in Armenia and programs being implemented by the UNHCR Armenia Office and its partners, including the Department of

Migration and Refugees.

Ms Sadako Ogata also visited Armenian regions to get acquainted with the refugee situation, implementation of the Refugee Law and naturalisation activities on the spot.

During the filed trip to Sis village in the Ararat region, Sadako Ogata had an opportunity to participate in a ceremony of issuing passports to 100 refugees, residing in the village.

Addressing the new citizens of Armenia, Ms Ogata said: "I congratulate you on the beginning of new life, it is most important that you are becoming part of the society."

Answering journalists' questions after the ceremony, the High Commissioner said that refugees' life in Armenia was becoming stable and to overcome the existing problems much could be done through implementation of various projects.

The UN High Commissioner also paid a visit to the "Shirak" communal center, where she could learn about

the living conditions of refugees. During that visit Sadako Ogata urged to pay more attention to problems of the elderly refugees.

In a meeting with the president of Armenia Robert Kocharian the High Commissioner stressed the importance of settling the issues related to the citizenship of refugees, their registration and migration. Saying that the problem of refugees is rather a serious one in Armenia, Kocharian expressed confidence that a solution to it would become possible to find through combined efforts. He highly appreciated the support rendered to refugees by the United Nations and by Ms Ogata personally.

According to Sadako Ogata, the concepts and approaches of the Armenian government and the UN regarding the ultimate solution to the refugee problems are the same, and the UN is ready for closer cooperation.

The UN High Commissioner also visited the Genocide Museum, where she signed the Guestbook, and laid a wreath to the Genocide Memorial.

On September 4 the UN High Commissioner proceeded to Georgia.

NATURALISATION - NATURAL STEP

About 419,000 ethnic Armenian refugees have fled to Armenia from Azerbaijan between 1988-1992 because of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. The government of Armenia estimates that in 1997 311,000 refugees were registered in Armenia out of which 65,000 have temporarily left the country. Living for a long time in Armenia many refugees have established their own life in the country and were given equal rights and opportunities with regard to access to the social, educational, health structures and facilities in Armenia, as well as share similar socio-economic problems with the local population. Given this fact, the promotion and support of naturalisation of the ethnic Armenian refugees is viewed by UNHCR as an essential element in the process of local integration. The government of Armenia jointly with UNHCR has facilitated the Armenian citizenship acquisition procedure for the ethnic Armenian refugees.

The Department of Migration and Refugees (DMR) is the main actor and UNHCR's partner in the naturalisation process. Jointly with DMR, UNHCR organised a series of workshops, seminars, open discussions, meetings with concerned agencies during which the key tenet was the creation of naturalisation mechanism.

In 1999 UNHCR continued the following activities in co-operation with the Department of Migration and Refugees in Armenia:

- 1) building the governmental capacity at the national and regional levels;
- 2) creation of advanced mechanism of the citizenship acquisition;
- 3) organisation of awareness and information campaign on naturalisation;
- 4) provision of counselling and advocacy to the concerned agencies.



The process of naturalisation of refugees in Armenia is impeded not only by poor socio-economic situation, but also by some expectations of refugees to get compensation for the property left in Azerbaijan and receive travel documents which, they believe, will allow them to freely travel all around the world. In this context, the information campaign launched by UNHCR jointly with DMR acquires particular importance as it enables to eliminate psychological barriers and disperse wishful thinking. The effectiveness of information campaign is proved by the increasing number of refugees who are willing to acquire the Armenian citizenship. According to data provided by the Department of Migration and Refugees, if in August 1999 the number of refugees who denounced their status and acquired the Armenian citizenship totalled 442, in September that figure increased up to 1,645, while in October it totalled 1,982. Thus, during August-October period a total of 4,069 refugees have become citizens of Armenia.

UNHCR has always considered naturalisation to be a natural step towards local integration of the ethnic Armenian refugees. UNHCR will continue to intensify the information campaign and render technical and administrative support to the main agencies involved in the citizenship acquisition process.

POOLING RESOURCES TO HELP REFUGEE AND LOCAL POPULATION

This year the Armenian Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Armenian Fund for Social Investment (ASIF) have agreed to pool their resources to assist vulnerable communities of both refugee and local inhabitants.

The assistance will mainly focus on construction and/or rehabilitation of irrigation and potable water pipelines in rural areas of the country, where refugees constitute the majority of the population.

The implementation of projects from which both refugee and local communities may benefit would not only resolve community needs, but also will ensure integrated social development, firm integration of

refugees and sustainable harmony between refugee and local population.

The UNHCR-ASIF joint sub-project is, in fact, a four-partite co-operation between the UNHCR, the Armenian Government, the World Bank and the Beneficiary Community. The main activities of the given sub-project include a) rehabilitation of basic infrastructures in the refugee-populated areas (with a percentage of locals), namely irrigation and potable water systems; b) mobilisation of community to manage and sustain their own projects.

Particular attention in the implementation of the project is paid to the participation of the Beneficiary Community, which is ensured

through an input of 10% of the overall project cost, which may be both in form of direct cash and in-kind contribution, as well as through participation in selection of sub-contractor through established implementation groups. The UNHCR and ASIF contribute each 45% of the overall project cost.

Of the proposed by ASIF 71 villages in 7 marzes, UNHCR selected 12 villages in 6 marzes. The overall project cost is \$250,000 which is only 45% of the total project budget. UNHCR and ASIF expect that 37,000 people in 12 villages will benefit from the project. At present the project is approaching to its completion in three villages of the selected villages.



UNHCR Representative Mr. Thomas Birath at the opening ceremony.

In 1998 UNHCR jointly with the Norwegian Refugee Council and the government of Armenia initiated the construction of houses for refugees, residing in container-type lodgings in Stepanavan. The government was responsible for constructing necessary infrastructure in

52 REFUGEE FAMILIES RECEIVE HOUSES IN STEPANAVAN

the settlement. Refugee community was also encouraged to make its contribution to the project, by doing some construction works on the site. The construction works were implemented through UNHCR's implementing partner YMCA.

On 12 November 52 refugee families have moved into houses constructed in Stepanavan. The solemn inauguration of the houses was attended by UNHCR Representative Mr. Thomas Birath, UNHCR staff, representative of the Norwegian Refugee Council Jan Willumsen, representatives of other UN and international organisations, government officials. After the ceremony all refugees, who were moving to new houses, received Armenian passports.

REACHING THE ELDERLY

UNHCR through its implementing partner "Mission Armenia" organisation implemented a project which is aimed at addressing the basic needs of the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups among the refugees (such as groups at-risk, mainly disabled, single bedridden and incapacitated elderly) who are currently living in Yerevan. The assistance to these groups of people included provision of home-based services for basic health care, physical support and psychological adaptation and counselling for targeted beneficiaries.

According to a joint survey carried out in November 1997 by UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Security of 33,000 refugees living in communal centers in Yerevan, more than 30% are the elderly.

Under the project UNHCR jointly with "Mission Armenia" aimed at rendering specially tailored assistance to 8,000 beneficiaries living in 158 communal centers and individual houses in Yerevan.

The living conditions of the elderly refugees aroused particular concern of the UN High Commissioner Sadako Ogata during her three-day visit to Armenia.

She, in particular, urged to pay more attention to the elderly refugees and facilitate problems they are facing.

Besides, on occasion of the Day of the Elderly and the Year of the Elderly UNHCR through "Mission Armenia" has launched an extensive awareness campaign to gain support for the elderly in the country. These activities included discussions, seminars, photo exhibition as well as evenings for the elderly in the communities.



UNDP

NEWLY REHABILITATED SCHOOLS

During September – October 1999, the Integrated Support to Sustainable Human Development Project completed rehabilitation of two new schools in Byurakn (Gyulibulagh) village, Shirak Marz, and in Hartashen Community, Syunik Marz.

Byurakn and Hartashen villages are located in borderline areas, and their social fabric was severely deteriorated due to the military conflict. In both communities, the education of the children was severely hampered by lack of even minimally adequate facilities and conditions. In Byurakn village, the school classes were accommodated in facilities provided by the local authorities.

The newly rehabilitated schools have autonomous modern heating system and all nec-



essary utilities and facilities, including a newly built gym. The two schools accommodate the total of 368 children from 1st to 10th grade (218 students in Byurakn and 150 in Hartashen).

The inauguration of the new schools became a holiday for the communities and was accompanied by folk concerts and performances by the children.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1999 (TDR 99)

The annual Report on Trade and Development is produced by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Every year, the TDR is launched by UNCTAD Secretary General in Geneva and by others in many other capitals of the world. Immediately after the embargo date the leading world journals and magazines (Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Independent, Economist, Business Week, Le Monde, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, etc.) and a press of many countries give an extensive coverage of UNCTAD annual Trade and Development Report.

The key messages of the Trade and Development Report 1999 are as follows:

1. The access to markets of developed countries remains key to overcoming the payments constraints facing developing and transition economies.

2. There is a need for reforms in the international financial architecture with a view to achieve a more stable international financial system free from hot money and recurrent crises in emerging economies.

This year, Armenia joined the world community by publishing the Report materials at the same date. The official launching took place on 23 September in the UN House, and received a broad media coverage.

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – POSSIBILITIES AND OPTIONS

On 6-7 October 1999, at the National Academy of Sciences of RA, a National Workshop for Armenian National Plan of Action for Human Rights was convened in the framework of a project by the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and UNDP on "Strengthening Capacities for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights".

The National Workshop was preceded by series of round tables and discussions in the regions of Armenia on the current status of protection of human rights and possibilities and modalities for elaboration and implementation of a comprehensive Plan of Action.

The National Workshop on National Plan of Action for Human Rights was attended by about 50 representatives of the Government of Armenia, human rights NGOs, the international community, experts from the OHCHR and national experts.



On 9 October 1999, the NetAid global musical event shook the world. Artists performing overlapping concerts at Giants Stadium-New York, Wembley Stadium-London, and Palais des Nations-Geneva came together via satellite to simultaneously perform the song New Day, recorded by Wyclef Jean with Bono.

NetAid is a UNDP-CISCO Systems partnership that uses the scope and power of the Internet to raise global consciousness about extreme poverty and mobilize support to eradicate it. For UNDP, the concerts represent a unique opportunity to transmit its messages about poverty eradication to a global audience. It is also an opportunity for UNDP to capture the imagination of the public through the excitement provided by top artists in the entertainment business today. Over 100,000 people attended the shows, while

UNDP AND CISCO: JOIN EFFORTS TO COMBAT POVERTY

millions joined the party through the worldwide web.

NetAid already has achieved a number of historic milestones.

World leaders including US President *Bill Clinton*, British Prime Minister *Tony Blair*, former South African President *Nelson Mandela*, Philippine President *Joseph Estrada*, and South Korean President *Kim Dae Jung* were among the first to hit the web site from their regions of the world.

The NetAid web site, www.netaid.org, is the world's largest in scale. It has the capacity to handle 125,000 simultaneous live streams and one million hits per minute - a tenfold increase over existing sites. Built by KPMG in just 90 days, the content of the site is delivered by Akamai using a distributed network architecture that employs 1,500 servers in over 90 locations worldwide. The site can handle 1,000 secure e-payment transactions per second -- one of the largest and most efficient e-com-

merce capacities ever developed. The NetAid concerts were the most widely broadcast event in history.

The collaboration of world class artists, producers and actors involved in the program was stunning in its breath and diversity. It included The Black Crowes, Mary J. Blige, Busta Rhymes, Cheb Mami, Sheryl Crow, Counting Crows, Wyclef Jean with Bono, Jewel, Jimmy Page, Puff Daddy, Sting, Zucchero, Bryan Adams, David Bowie, Bush, Catatonia, The Corrs, The Eurythmics, George Michael, Stereophonics, Robbie Williams, Des'ree, Bryan Ferry, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Michael Kamen & Orchestra, Texas. Producers included David Goldberg, Harvey Goldsmith, Quincy Jones, Ken Kragen, Don Mischer, and Jeff Pollack who together have created many of the world's most significant social change events. Actors and actresses who appeared on stage or in films included Meryl Streep, Michael Douglas,

Catherine Zeta-Jones, Alfred Woodard, and David Boreanaz.

The collaboration for the development of the web site content included many of the world's foremost experts on poverty, representing 70 of the most effective United Nations and non-governmental anti-poverty organizations in the world. These entries are the seeds of what is to become the world's most comprehensive Yellow Pages for poverty eradication work including a global

repository of best practices from every corner of the globe.

All of the funds raised through the NetAid web site will be disbursed to anti-poverty projects around the world through the NetAid Foundation, a non-profit organization that will be led by an international board of diverse individuals with longstanding Commitments to poverty and humanitarian causes. Net proceeds from the concerts will be used to help specific populations

in extreme poverty in Kosovo and African countries.

Cisco Systems has underwritten the costs for the NetAid concerts and paid approximately \$12 million for the project's development and marketing. The Cisco Foundation also has announced that it will contribute \$10 million to the NetAid Foundation. UNDP has provided most of the content for the www.netaid.org and will be responsible for the web site following the concerts.

THE FIFTH ISSUE OF NHDR

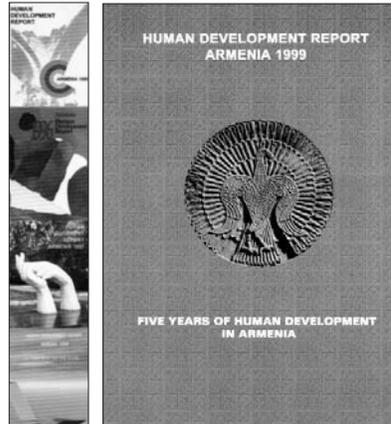
On November 30, the 1999 National Human Development Report was publicly launched by H.E. Vartan Oskanian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Anton Kruidrink, Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator, Regional Director of Bureau for Europe and CIS, and Mr. Fadey Sargsian, President of National Academy of Sciences.

This year's report on "Five Years of Human Development in Armenia" is the fifth and a jubilee one in the series of NHDRs prepared in Armenia. The Report, prepared by a group of independent national experts under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program, and the Presidency of the Republic of Armenia as executing agency, revisits the main themes of all the previous NHDRs prepared in Armenia and evaluates developments from the sustainable human development standpoint.

The Report attempts to evaluate the duration and the nature of the transition period in Armenia, the social cost of reforms, poverty, the extent of social cohesion and cooperation in society, the dynamics of the State role and cooperation. The Report also concentrates on

the possible scenarios of Armenia's development in light of a comprehensive investment and economic development options. While the findings and conclusions remain those of the authors, UNDP is confident that the 1999 Report will foster a high quality of the policy making dialogue concerned with the promotion of the sustainable human development in Armenia.

The Armenian National Academy of Sciences awarded Mr. Kruidrink the Honorary Doctor's Degree, the 19th in its history, emphasizing his contribution in advocating the concept of Human Development.



MASTERING THE SCIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT

On 25 – 29 October 1999, UNDP Yerevan hosted an international workshop on practical international procurement organised by UNDP and Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO). The selection of Armenia as the venue for the workshop, as acknowledged by the organizers, was preconditioned by the positive image of UNDP Country Office and the relative newness and hence attraction of Armenia for other countries of UNDP.

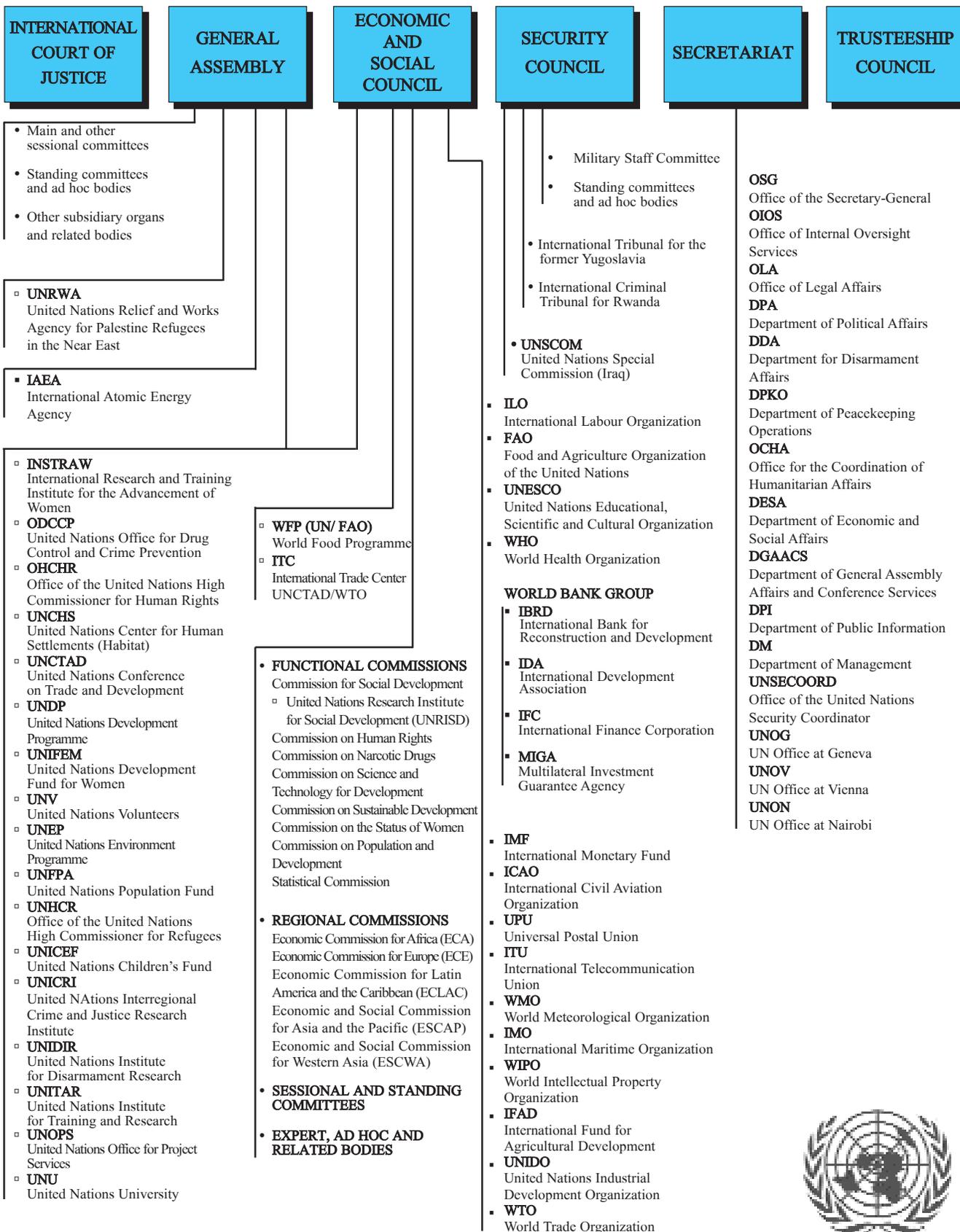
The workshop was attended by representatives of the Government and UNDP from Korea, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine, as well as representatives of UN Agencies in Armenia and covered the entire international procurement cycle with all its intricacies, options and details. The sessions were held in a very lively and an interactive manner through presentations, case studies and simulation exercises. Although some of the top-

ics covered at the workshop were of more hypothetical nature to the participants, the comprehensive knowledge gained and practical lessons learnt would be of utmost use in ensuring efficient, timely, and cost-effective procurement practices by the Country Offices.



THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

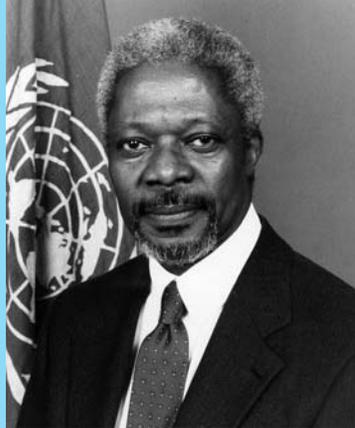


- United Nations programmes and organs
- Specialized agencies and other autonomous organizations within the system
- Other commissions, committees and ad hoc and related bodies



International Day of Older Persons

1 October 1999



MESSAGE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN ISSUED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY/YEAR OF OLDER PERSONS

The International Year of Older Persons is coming to a close, together with the twentieth century. Both have been eventful. The century has seen a dramatic increase in people's life expectancy and profound changes in the age structure of societies. The year has done a lot to bring awareness of these evolutions, to foster reflection on how to adapt to them, and to help us see them as opportunities to be seized, rather

than a burden to be borne.

Increased longevity is providing humanity with a new frontier, a broadening of our mental and physical landscape. The older people of today are, in many ways, pioneers. True to this spirit, they have been innovators, catalysts and leaders of the many initiatives taken during the Year. In doing so, they have helped pave the way to a safer, healthier and richer life for the many generations of older people who will come after them.

The Year has also helped build some of the bridges that will enable us to move towards a "society for all ages". One in which the different age groups don't merely coexist, but take

part together in the shared enterprise of citizenship. As we enter a new century and a new millennium, old and young — and all in between — are called upon to join in the common task of shaping a rapidly changing world. It is up to all of us, whatever our age, to ensure that no contribution to this endeavour is wasted because of age discrimination.

As we leave the International Year of Older Persons behind, let's take with us into the next era — one in which the speed of population ageing will increase — all we have come to understand about the benefits of a society that cares for all and counts on all, whatever their age.

CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF OLDER PERSONS

UNHCR sponsored a dinner/concert at Chamber Music Hall for lonesome elderly organized by a local NGO "Mission Armenia" whose mandate was to help the lonesome older persons throughout the whole year. Information support to organize the event was supplied by Department of Public Information. Message of the UN Secretary General issued especially for this day was presented to the audience by DPI Information Assistant. Some information materials translated into Armenian were also disseminated.

UN Agencies took part at the official concert in the Great Philharmonic Hall of Yerevan with participation of elderly artists, organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare.

In the framework of the "UN week" activities on 19 October a

photo-exhibition dedicated to IYOP sponsored by UNHCR and titled "Do not Abandon the Elderly!" was opened in the UN House. The author was an independent photo-journalist German Avakian. UN posters and the logo of the year were also displayed.

The event was organized jointly with Cooperation for Democracy (NGO), Mission Armenia (NGO) and Yerevan Press Club. At the opening speech DPI Representative emphasized the importance of the initiatives undertaken by the UN in this field. Representatives from corresponding departments of the National Assembly and the Ministry of Social Welfare also took the floor. DPI disseminated as well the SG Message and other relevant materials. Special displays of UN materials were arranged in the UN Library and in the two Depository Libraries.





24 October 1999



UN RC Ms Katca Cekalovic addressing the audience.

SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN'S MESSAGE ON THE UN DAY

This year's United Nations Day is a special one. The world's population has just passed 6 billion, and we are about to enter a new millennium.

In one sense, both these things are simply numbers. Yet both give us something to celebrate, and something to think about. Together, they mark the opening of a new chapter in human history -- a chapter in which, more than ever before, we shall all share the same destiny. It is a moment to take stock: to look back on what we have achieved, and where we have failed -- and then to look forward, and think how we can make the new era better than the old.

It is shocking to think that half of us -- 3 billion out of the 6 billion -- are entering the new era in abject poverty, with \$3 a day, or less, to live on. That is one thing we really must change. It is also shocking that people in so many places today are exposed to violence and brutality. The twentieth century has been the most murderous in human history. We must make sure the twenty-first is more peaceful, and more humane. And it is worrying that the world's climate seems to be changing, in a way which could destroy the homes and livelihoods of millions. Controlling and managing this process may yet prove to be the biggest challenge of all.

People all over the world look to the United Nations to protect them -- from hunger, disease, violence, and natural disasters -- whenever the task seems too big for nations, or regions, to handle alone. But we, at the United Nations, can do nothing alone, either. Our strength is the strength of our Member States, when they agree to act together for the common good.

Next year, leaders from all over the world will come to New York for the Millennium Summit. They will consider the challenges ahead, and what the United Nations can do to face them. Those leaders will be representing you, the peoples of the United Nations. It is up to you to make sure they come here firmly resolved to take decisions which can lead to a better life for all of us, and for our children. I am counting on you all -- and I thank you all.

CONCERT DEDICATED TO THE UN 54th BIRTHDAY



The main event for the so-called "UN Week" was naturally the UN Day which culminated in a concert at the very popular Chamber Music Concert Hall. A Children's Trio and Violin Orchestra from Sayat Nova Music School and a Youth choir "Tatev" were the main performers of the concert.

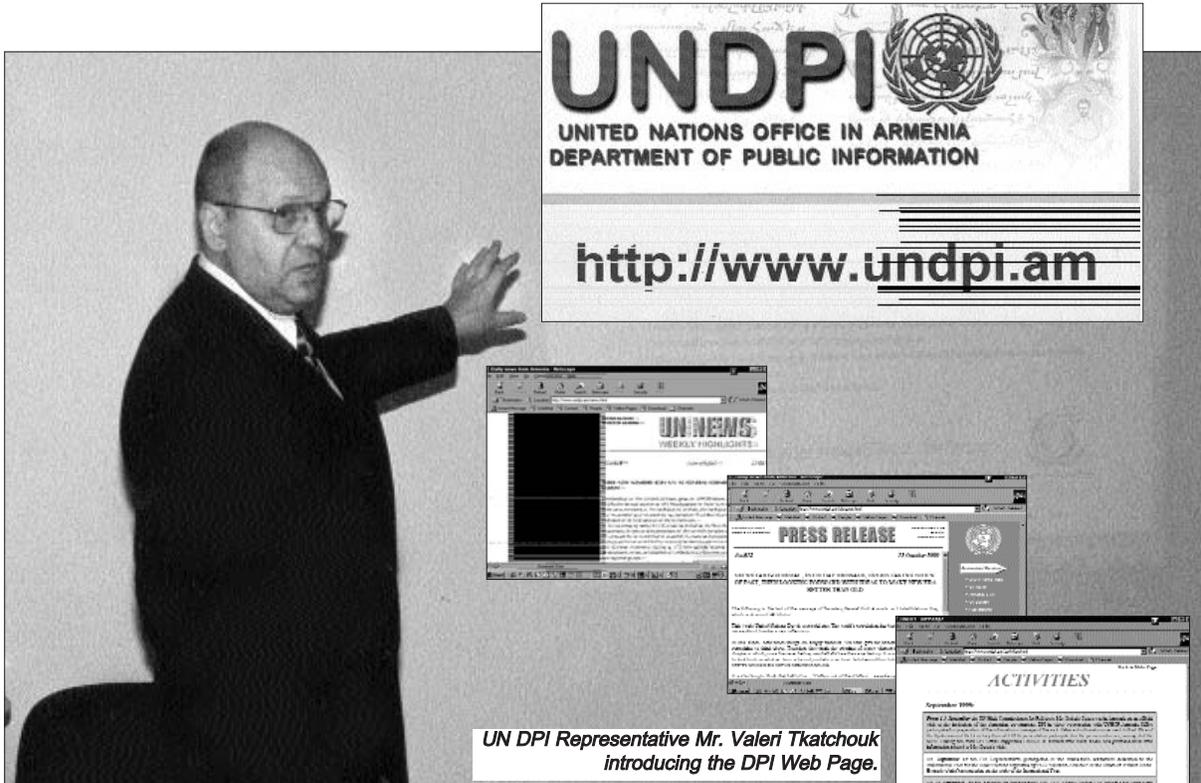
In the lobby of the Concert Hall an exhibition of UN Posters, UN logos and the flags of UN Member-states were displayed. UN agencies' booklets, handouts, leaflets and bulletins were available for about 400 people.

UN RC Ms Katica Cekalovic made a brief speech that was followed by an address from the head of the International Organizations Department at MFA. During the concert UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's message, translated into Armenian and issued as press releases both in English and Armenian, was disseminated as well. As was informed from the Headquarters the Secretary General's New Millennium message will be based on this UN Day message.

The event proved to be a productive link between the agencies.



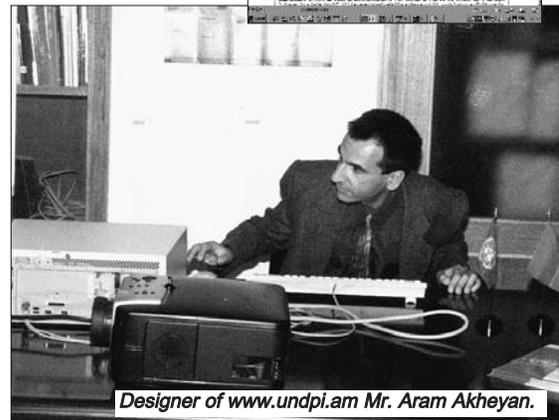
LAUNCHING OF THE UN DPI WEB PAGE



UN DPI Representative Mr. Valeri Tkatchouk introducing the DPI Web Page.

On 21 October, with a special celebration, Department of Public Information launched its bilingual Internet Web Site with the address <http://www.undpi.am>. The designer of the Page is Mr. Aram Akhayan. DPI Representative Mr. Valeri Tkatchouk presented the contents of the Web Page to the audience. It includes the following hyperlinks: *UN News, Armenia and UN, UN Bulletin, DPI Publications, Press Releases, Library, Activities, Our Staff.*

Mr. Tkatchouk talked about the first and foremost aim of the Web Site that is to disseminate UN information in Armenian. Soon the Site will be better organized in terms of separate language pages. The information will be constantly updated so that the users will find



Designer of www.undpi.am Mr. Aram Akhayan.



Information Assistant Ms Armine Halajyan during the launching ceremony.

fresh and up to date materials on UN. Among the participants of the launching ceremony were media representatives, school principals, professors from universities, UN staff, staff workers of the government information centers et al. DPI Information Kits, also recently prepared, were disseminated during the ceremony.

The so-called "*Information Kit*" included i) a folder, ii) a leaflet "*UN system*" (in Armenian), iii) a leaflet "*UN system in Armenia*" (in Armenian) with the list of the Heads of agencies, iv) a post card with the header of the Web page and address of the Site and a short narration of the DPI mandate (in English), v) UN in Brief in Armenian (booklet).

World Population in 1999

The last year of the millenium is remarkable, for the population of the planet reached the 6 billion landmark on October 12, 1999. Through the last several decades the world has been experiencing an enormous and unprecedented population growth. It took 10,000 generations until the population reached its first billion, and only life of one generation to add another four billion to it. This growth affects the whole world in many ways, putting considerable pressure on social, economic, environmental systems. The population, reproductive and sexual health, access to employment, education, information issues have never been so pressing for more than a billion people in the world, as they are now, on the eve of the new millennium.

To observe the Day of 6 Billion, and in order to call public attention to the above issues as well as to mobilize public support to addressing those issues, UNFPA has organized and financed series of activities dedicated to that day:

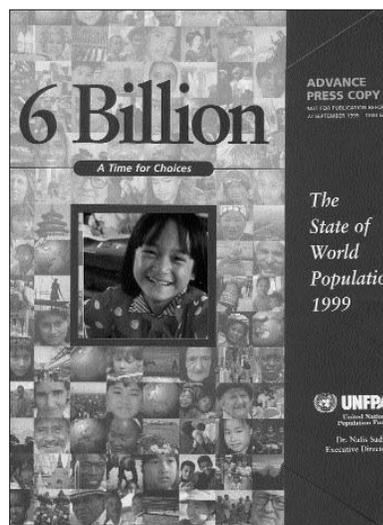
1. "The State of the World Population – 6 Billion" report was launched on 5 October 1999 by H.E. Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan, the Minister of Statistics, and Mr. Valeri Tkachouk, DPI Representative. More than 150 copies of the report were distributed during and after the presentation to government institutions, foreign missions, donor organizations, international, local NGOs, and mass media.

2. Through 8 – 16 October, UN House hosted the exhibition of children's paintings from all the regions of Armenia dedicated to the Day of 6 Billion. The opening ceremony concluded 3 month process of promoting the UNFPA contest in children's art centers and studios across the country, collection of paintings and selection of prizewinners who received beautiful art books and diploma.

3. Three video clips made by UNFPA New York – on Youth, Gender, and 6 Billion – were adapted into Armenian. Besides, an Armenian film crew made a 9-minute film which was shown on the National TV network. The clips and the film were also distributed to 18 regional TV companies, for demonstration via local networks.

4. An open-air 4-hour concert with participation of popular singers and show groups was held on October 15, on the Liberty Square of Yerevan, in the very heart of the city. During the concert, more than 2,000 copies of the booklet "We are 6 billion" were distributed.

5. On 12 October, In Gyumri, UNFPA, jointly with "Meghvik" Children and Youth Educational Center organized series of events dedicated to the Day of 6 Billion. Children of the center attended the Gyumri Maternal



Hospital and handed out gifts to 10 mothers and marched throughout the city to the "Meghvik" Center where they organized a concert and show with participation of Children and Youth.

The NGOs – SAMSA, "Nor Dar", Union of Young Democrats, A-A- Kronos, "Meghvik" – did excellent job in organizing and managing all the activities and events above, in collaboration with the UNFPA Armenia office. The best reward for them was to see happy faces of children, youth and their parents who were given one more opportunity to learn more, to participate and yet to combine all these with fun.

CALENDAR OF UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES

- OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER -

1 October	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
First Monday of October	WORLD HABITAT DAY
9 October	WORLD POST DAY
Second Wednesday of October	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION
16 October	WORLD FOOD DAY
17 October	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY
24 October	UNITED NATIONS DAY
24 October	WORLD DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION DAY
16 November	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE
20 November	UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY
21 November	WORLD TELEVISION DAY
1 December	WORLD AIDS DAY
3 December	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS
5 December	INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
7 December	INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY
10 December	HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



LIFE SKILLS INTRODUCED IN ARMENIAN SCHOOLS

In order to better prepare children in Armenia to live in a democratic and free-market economy, to make healthy choices and to learn to resolve conflicts, UNICEF-Armenia is supporting the Ministry of Education and Science to incorporate Life Skills in the school curricula. By the end of the project, this new course will be taught in Armenia's over 1420 schools using active learning methodology, which is also being newly introduced in Armenia through UNICEF support.

In the academic year 1999/2000, teaching of Life

Skills in 16 pilot schools has started. The project comprises topics of vital importance for the individual growing in the new democratic society, such as An Individual and His/Her Relationships, Community and Society, Nation and State, Human Rights and Responsibilities, Sexual and Racial Equity, Conflict Management, HIV/AIDS Awareness, Disaster Preparedness, etc., and includes development of key abilities such as self-awareness, self-appraisal, cooperation, critical thinking, and decision-making.

COMBATING IODINE DEFICIENCY IN ARMENIA

On 31 August 1999, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF organized an interministerial meeting on universal salt iodization and elimination of iodine deficiency disorders. At the meeting, a national plan of action, as well as suggestions for improvement of the existing rules and regulations in the area of iodization of locally produced salt were developed.

The only salt producer in Armenia, the Yerevan Salt Factory, has produced iodized salt beginning from 1997, after UNICEF provided the factory with a salt iodization line. In order to improve the methods of salt control in the market, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to conduct in September 1999 nationwide training workshops for 280 health workers on elimination of iodine deficiency disorders and universal salt iodization.

WOMEN IN TRANSITION: REGIONAL MONITORING REPORT

On 27 September UNICEF Office in Armenia organized a press conference to present the Regional Monitoring Report # 6, "Women in Transition", produced by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Center in cooperation with UNICEF Offices in the CEE/CIS and Baltics. The international launch of the report took place on 22 September in Geneva. The publication provides the first comprehensive assessment of the situation of women in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltics since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. It is issued on the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which has been ratified by all 27 countries in the region including Armenia.



Learning About Child Rights:

A Project Brings Together Armenian and Georgian Youths



UNICEF supported the All Armenian Women's Union's project aiming to raise awareness of young people on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the role of UNICEF and other UN agencies in pro-

moting issues related to children. This nationwide project, implemented in Yerevan, Goris, Vanadzor, Gyumri, Ijevan and Yeghvard, has provided support to youths aged 14-17 to conduct community-based projects on implementation of model UN agencies activities on field. Among other steps, the project involved a summer school for Armenian and Georgian teens, which included a teambuilding exercise, orientation workshop and training on the procedure of CRC preparation and ratification with the assistance of consultants from sister UN agencies, etc.. The project culminated in a children's summit held on November 20 with 100 youths from Armenia and Georgia participating. The summit, which took place at the Small Philharmonic Hall, was attended by representatives of UN agencies, diplomatic corps, etc..

TRAINING FOR HEALTH EDUCATORS

As part of the acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases (ARI/DD) control project, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to conduct workshops for teaching staff of health educational institutions. The workshops aimed to present WHO/UNICEF methodology and modules on treatment of ARI/DD in young children and to plan actions for improvement and comprehensive introduction of ARI/DD project into curricula. The training involved 129 participants from the Yerevan State Medical University, Yerevan State Basic Medical College and the National Institute of Health.



ARMENIA TO BECOME POLIO FREE

From 11-16 October, National Immunization Days (NIDs) against polio were held in Armenia. To encourage mothers to bring their children for immunization, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to produce 2 polio video reels (an update of the last year's reel produced jointly with Rotary International and a new reel on polio prevention and schedule of routine immunization). The reels were run on 1st Channel of Armenian National Television Company with national coverage. This year, UNICEF-Armenia provided polio vaccines through the support from the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta.

HEPATITIS B WILL STEP BACK

In 1999, the Ministry of Health of Armenia introduced immunization of newborns against hepatitis B into the national immunization schedule. For vaccination against this dangerous disease, in August 1999 UNICEF procured 110,000 doses of hepatitis B vaccine. In addition, a training seminar on hepatitis B immunization was supported. The training took place from 6-8 October in Yerevan, involving as participants over 150 health providers-- pediatricians and epidemiologists-- from all regions of Armenia. UNICEF also supported printing of 100,000 copies of leaflets for mothers to raise awareness about the dangers of the disease, which were distributed through primary health care facilities and maternities by the end of September.

WHO

WHO IN THE AREA OF HEALTH POLICY

The WHO country work continued in line with the six priorities of the WHO Country Strategy (see UN Bulletin, Summer '99).

In the area of HEALTH POLICY, WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) cooperated with the Government of Norway to initiate the project "Public Health Adviser (PHA) to the Caucasian Republics - Armenia and Georgia". The PHA's office with two support staff was established in Yerevan in December 1996. During 1996-1998 the PHA endeavored to enhance the ability of the respective national officials to evaluate and adapt experience and promote public health reforms, including long-term policy formulation. Special emphasis is given to Primary Health Care (PHC), and advisory support was provided to Armenia's expert teams in the development of PHC and Health Finance Strategies.

A draft framework National Health Policy Program (NHPP) had been prepared before the project funds ran out, end-1998. In 1999, additional EURO funding was allocated for the support of the Ministry of Health to finalize the formulation of the NHPP: workshops were conducted in February and March; EURO mission headed by Dr. Asvall, WHO Regional Director visited Armenia to participate in the top level Health Policy Conference, 7 May 1999. The Conference launched the National Health Policy Program. Dr. Asvall had meetings with Mr. R. Kocharian, President of Armenia and Mr. A. Darbinian, Prime Minister. The WHO work on health developments was highly appreciated in the country and the draft policy document received strong support from the country top leadership, sectorial ministries and medical profession. The Con-

ference was largely supported by Ms K. Cekalovic - UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UNICEF/Armenia Offices. Alongside with comprehensive support to the collaboration of the NHPP document, the WHO Liaison Office in Armenia was successful in providing May Policy Conference with background documents, such as: Health Care System in Transition - Armenia, National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP), and Women Health Profile.

In June 1999, EURO provided thorough technical expertise for the second draft of the NHPP; currently the Ministry of Health is in the process of finalization of the third draft of the National Health Policy Program.

The WHO technical Assistance to the health policy formulation process will be continued with emphasis on planning, implementation (Master Plan) and development of the health legislative and regulatory framework.



PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION FOR ARMENIA

The Executive Board has approved a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) for Armenia at its Third Regular Session of 1999, held in October.

With a total cost of 9,971,115 US dollars to WFP, the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation will span 1 January to 31 December 2000 benefiting some 170,000 beneficiaries – refugees and vulnerable groups.

The World Food Program (WFP) is foreseeing a complete phase-out of its activities in Armenia by 2002 through a gradual reduction of assistance, assuming that by then the economy of Armenia will have picked up sufficiently to provide a basic social safety net for its vulnerable population. Since progress will be reviewed annually, the PRRO has been initially approved for a one-year period.

WFP's objectives have been established through consultation with the Government and other partners. The overall objectives for assistance are to:

- ❑ Improve the nutritional status of vulnerable persons, including refugees and internally displaced with a focus on the needs of women and children;
- ❑ Improve the health and living conditions of the socially vulnerable through rehabilitation of social infrastructure;
- ❑ Assist in the recovery process amongst the poor and hungry by rehabilitation of rural infrastructure to promote food production and self-reliance; and
- ❑ Contribute to sustaining refugees and encourage long-term solutions.

WFP will continue to work closely with the Government's Humanitarian Assistance Central Commission, the Ministry of Social Welfare and the UN sister agencies. In the PRRO period, WFP will distribute food directly to beneficiaries, based on beneficiary lists produced by the Government-operated vulnerability assessment system PAROS, its own targeted beneficiary groups and increasingly Food for Work participants.

A team of experienced WFP staff has been built over the past 5 years. The extensive geographical coverage with the country office located in Yerevan and staff based in Vanadzor and Goris enables WFP to continue performing regular and effective needs assessment, dispatch food aid make monitoring visits and coordinate operations with partners at the local level.

Food for Work in 1999

UNEMPLOYMENT IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF POVERTY, ESCALATING WITH THE RETURN OF ARMENIANS PREVIOUSLY WORKING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The World Food Program (WFP) uses poor people's labor force - to create employment and income as well as to build infrastructure necessary for sustainable development. In Armenia, WFP introduced small-scale community-based Food for Work (FFW) projects in 1995 to cushion the adverse effects of structural reforms and the transition to a market economy.

From 1995 through November 1999, WFP utilized 11,812 tons of food under its FFW Program, generating some 5.95 million working days for able-bodied but underemployed, or unemployed in a wide range of activities.

In 1999, WFP continued to increase its rehabilitation efforts through FFW interventions as a strategy to allow for a gradual phase-out of relief distributions over the next few years. FFW has been recognized to be a suitable instrument to move from free food distribution to development with a great potential for further programs. Indeed, FFW has contributed to improving

participants' social and economic conditions, at the same time supporting the authorities in taking problem-solving initiatives at the local level.

FFW activities are primarily aimed at enhancing food security at the household level and rehabilitation of rural and urban infrastructure through: construction and repair of irrigation canals, pipelines; rehabilitation and creation of farmland, orchards, agro-forestry and vineyards; construction of food processing facilities; repair and construction of drinking water and sewerage systems; construction and repair of housing for refugees as well as earthquake victims; construction and repair of public buildings – schools, kindergartens, clinics; rehabilitation of public areas in towns.

Since the beginning of 1999, some 360 FFW projects creating over 2.5 million working days were approved. 220 of those were catered and implemented under the WFP Emergency Operation, utilizing 3,900 tons of mixed food commodities. Under the ongoing

interim six-month Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, some 140 projects worth 1,900 tons of food for WFP have been approved. Overall, women participation in the 1999 FFW Project stands at 26 per cent.

FFW is implemented as a self-targeting scheme, attracting the neediest as the level of remuneration is such that it does not attract job seekers in the regular labor market.

The Country Office Programming Unit is planning its regular annual regional Food for Work workshops in December for the representatives of the Government, implementing partners, local authorities, United Nations agencies, and NGOs. The workshops are intended to further promote the FFW Program in Armenia. Participants will discuss



FFW tree-planting in a deforested area in Vanadzor.

FFW management, urban and rural rehabilitation, income generating, and gender participation issues. They will review experiences from FFW projects in the past years, identify means and capacity to implement a coordinated Plan of

Action for 2000. Among other things, these yearly FFW workshops help WFP to make sure that FFW activities are in tandem with the Government's recovery objectives.



IOM

CAPACITY BUILDING IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

A report prepared by IOM titled, "Creation of a Migration Entity : Recommendations" has provided valuable assistance to the newly established Department of Migration and Refugees (DMR) of the Government of Armenia in forming its charter and direction. IOM will now provide assistance to DMR in the development of a national migration policy agenda, harmonization of migration related legislation and operational programs such as border management. The establishment of an entity by the government with the mandate to develop a unified or national policy on migration and coordinate its implementation is a major step forward as has been the appointment of a new energetic Head of Department.

IOM Chiefs of Mission and National Program Officers of the three South Caucasus countries met in Tbilisi to share experiences, harmonize and plan common activities and chart future directions.

MIGRATION SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (MSDP)

The NGO Resource Center in Armenian Sociological Association (ASA) has started to provide Internet access to the migration sector local NGOs. The fifth issue of the quarterly MS NEWS Bulletin was published. As an outcome of the CISCONF process the International Non-Governmental Partnership on Migration" (INPM) was formed by several NGOs from CIS countries. ASA is a founding member.

The Resource Center organized the following seminars and training in which local migration sector NGOs participated:

- The Role of NGOs in the CISCONF Process
- International Organizations and the Migration Sector NGOs
- NGO Legislation and Registration Process
- Project Budgeting and Taxation
- How to Organize NGO Activities

MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (MED)

Within the framework of the MED program, co-funded and jointly implemented by UNDP, IOM, UNHCR, a new project focussing on self-reliance through micro-enterprise development for integration of refugees has been launched by IOM and UNHCR. Through a combination of lending strategies and business advise and training, fifty three persons have been benefited so far in terms of income generation through access to credit or employment.

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE UN REFERENCE LIBRARY

1. Human Development Report: Armenia 1999. Five Years of Human Development in Armenia. — Yerevan, 1999. — 80p. (AN, EN)
2. Social Indicators of Poverty: Education, Health, Households, Pensioners. — Yerevan, 1998. — 97p. (AN, EN)
3. Labour Market in Armenia: Analysis and Policy. — Yerevan, 1999. — 72p. (AN)
4. A Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Armenia 1998. — Yerevan, 1998. — 141p. (AN, EN)
5. The Role of the United Nations in the Face of Globalization. — Geneva, 1999. — 36p. (EN)
6. Socio-Economic Conditions of Rural Farms and Indices of Agricultural Goods in the Republic of Armenia. — Yerevan, 1999. — 105p. (AN, EN)
7. Human Development Report 1999: Globalization with a Human Face. Background Papers. — New York, 1999. — Vol. I - 441p., Vol. II- 263p. (AN)
8. The Age of Wisdom – Age of Creativity. — Moscow, 1999. — 93p. (RU)
9. Preventing Wars and Disasters: Growing Global Challenge. Annual Report of the Work of the Organization for 1999. — New York, 1999. — 139p. (RU)

DO YOU KNOW THAT...?

- The UN formulated the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), as well as over 80 human rights treaties which help protect and promote specific rights.
- UN peacekeeping is a vital instrument for peace. Currently some 12,500 UN military and civilian personnel, provided by 71 countries, are engaged in 14 operations around the world.
- The UN and its agencies, including the World Bank

and the UNDP, are the premier vehicle for furthering development in poorer countries, providing assistance worth over \$25 billion a year.

- A joint UNICEF-WHO program has immunized 80 per cent of the world's children against six killer diseases, saving the lives of more than 2 million children a year.
- The WFP provides each year about one third of the world's food aid.
- UN agencies help to aid and protect more than 25 million refugees and displaced persons throughout the world.

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