

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

2012



CONTENTS:

How UNDP Works in Belarus	4
UNDP Donors	4
Development Goals	5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Poverty Reduction	6
Assisting Belarus in Accession to WTO	6
Support to Businesses	6
Microfinance	7
Development of Ecotourism	7
Social Responsibility of Business	7
Human Development Reports	7

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Improving Energy Efficiency	8
Water Resources Management	9
Rehabilitation of Disturbed Bogs	10
Mainstreaming Environmental Protection into Decision-Making	10

HALTING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AND PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS

HIV/AIDS Programmes	11
Supporting TB Control Activities	12

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN SECURITY

Safe Storage of Light and Small Arms Stockpiles	13
Safe Livelihoods in the Chernobyl-affected Areas	14
Human Rights	15
Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women	15

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the global development network of the United Nations. UNDP is on the ground in 177 countries, working to help them find their own solutions to global and national problems and challenges, and providing member-states with knowledge, experience and resources.

Established in 1965, UNDP launched its activities in Belarus twenty years ago in autumn 1992. The UNDP Resident Representative acts as the UN Resident Coordinator, representing the whole UN system and leading the UN Country Team.



Together with other UN agencies working in Belarus, UNDP signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2011-2015. UNDAF is the first joint strategy of UN agencies to have been prepared in cooperation with the Government of Belarus and national counterparts. UNDAF is intended to support Belarus' priorities and to facilitate implementation of the country's international commitments for development.



The UNDP Mandate in Belarus, as determined by its Agreement with the Government of Belarus, requires UNDP "to support and supplement national efforts at solving the most important problems of Belarus' economic development and to promote social progress and better standards of life".

UNDP is currently implementing its fourth Country Programme.

UNDP activities in Belarus are currently guided by UNDAF and the UNDP Country Programme Document for 2011-2015, which was prepared through extensive consultations with key partners in the government, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system, and the international community. Programme activities fall into four main thematic areas:

- 1) Economic Development and Social Security;
- 2) Energy and Environment;
- 3) HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis;
- 4) Effective and Accountable Governance and Human Security.

Throughout its work in any thematic area, UNDP puts a particular emphasis on respect for human rights and promotion of gender equality.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

HOW UNDP WORKS IN BELARUS

UNDP is striving to mobilise considerable international assistance to support Belarus in addressing its challenges in the field of development. UNDP's assistance is administered through thematic projects.

Projects are implemented on the basis of a "project document", a legally binding agreement between UNDP and its partners which delineates a plan for achieving the objectives, the required resources and arrangements for implementation. In Belarus, the project document is to be signed by the UNDP Resident Representative and the head of an executing agency which can be either a government entity or a non-governmental organisation. Projects are subject to registration either with the Ministry of the Economy or the Department for Humanitarian Activity of the President's Affairs Management Office.

As soon as the project document is approved and funding is available, UNDP selects a Project Manager on a competitive basis to lead project implementation. The project manager is expected to coordinate with the National Coordinator, a designated senior representative of an executing agency. Upon completion of the project, UNDP provides the donor with a report summarising the outcomes and use of funds. The executing agency reports to the national authorities.

All UNDP projects in Belarus are founded on the country's national priorities and commitments and the global priorities of the UN and UNDP. After projects are completed, UNDP also strives to facilitate

the sustained efficient performance of individuals, organisations and agencies who have been assisted by UNDP and its partners.

In 2011 the aggregate budget of UNDP projects in Belarus totalled over US\$ 19.4 million, the largest amount since the opening of the Office in Minsk.

Total UNDP Project Budget in 2005-2011

Year	Budget (US\$ mln)
2011	19,4
2010	18,8
2009	11,5
2008	10,6
2007	17
2006	10
2005	7,3

UNDP DONORS

UNDP is able to provide sound assistance to Belarus thanks to support from its donors. During the third Country Programme (2006-2010), UNDP raised US\$ 73.4 million from donors and thematic trust funds in addition to its own resources.

UNDP projects are co-financed by multiple donors including UN agencies (the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and others), international organisations and funds (the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM),

the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)).

In recent years the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has been the largest donor for UNDP in Belarus. It has supported a number of healthcare projects. The Global Fund's grants have contributed to the continuation of efforts to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS in Belarus and to make improvements to the system for effective diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.

Belarus benefits from considerable international technical assistance provided by the European Union. UNDP and the EU have recently implemented a number of joint projects focusing on further strengthening of border management, combating human and illegal drug trafficking, supporting the environment and sustainable development at the local level, and also area-based development of the Chernobyl-affected regions. Another EU-funded large-scale project will facilitate the development of a comprehensive international cooperation framework in the area of environmental protection in Belarus.

Funds from the Global Environment Facility are used by UNDP for several large-scale projects on improving energy efficiency in public sector enterprises and creating a conducive environment for the sustainable performance of the wetland protection system in Belarus. The Small Grants Programme initiated by UNDP in Belarus has provided funding to non-governmental and community-based environmental organisations to aid in the implementation of their projects.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2000 at the Millennium Development Summit at UN Headquarters in New York, representatives of 189 countries, including 147 heads of state and government, adopted the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration formulated a concise set of goals, numerical targets, and quantifiable indicators known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are to be achieved over a 15-year period from 2000 to 2015, taking 1990 as a baseline for measuring progress.

The Millennium Development Goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;

5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability;
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Acting as the UN global development network, UNDP consolidates and coordinates global and national efforts toward the achievement of the MDGs. UNDP utilises the capacities of other UN agencies to help countries integrate the MDGs into their national development programmes. For example, with support from UNDP, Belarus adopted the National Sustainable Socio-Economic Development Strategy for the period until 2020, which contains references to the MDGs. Belarus published National Reports on the Achievement of the MDGs in 2005 and 2010.

The latest report concluded that Belarus has achieved almost all of the MDGs: the country has ensured universal primary edu-

cation and has considerably reduced poverty, maternal and child mortality. A strong emphasis has been placed on strengthening efforts against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, ensuring environmental sustainability and establishing a global partnership for development.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

POVERTY REDUCTION

In the first decade of the new millennium, UNDP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus implemented the first poverty reduction project which involved assessing and analysing the profiles of low-income households and key drivers of poverty in Belarus, as well as identifying population categories in need of support. The project gave a definition of poverty as a complex phenomenon driven by both low incomes and human capital deficiencies including such pillars as health and education.

The project helped identify the key priorities of the National Poverty Prevention and Reduction Strategy and its provisions were then reflected in the National Socio-Economic Development Programme for 2006-2010. Another project in this field was directed at improving social policy in the regions, especially in small towns and rural areas.

ASSISTING BELARUS IN ACCESSION TO WTO

UNDP assists the Republic of Belarus in accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) through strengthening national institutional capacity and expertise, as well as through raising public awareness on the process and impact of WTO accession. The second stage of the project, supported by the Government of the Russian Federation, has been implemented from 2010 to 2012. It has involved a comprehensive analysis of Belarusian legislation for consistency

with the provisions of the WTO basic agreements, translation of laws into English to support the negotiations, and training of national experts on issues related to Belarus' economic integration into the global trade system.

The third stage of the project on assisting Belarus in WTO accession is expected to start in the nearest future and with confirmed support from the Russian Federation.

SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES

UNDP has been providing support to business development in Belarus since the late 1990s. UNDP helped to establish the first business incubators and credit unions in the country and the adoption of micro-finance as an effective instrument of small business support.

UNDP has made considerable contributions to the development of a dialogue and partnership between the public and private sectors, with the purpose of creating an enabling business environment. Joint work with the Council for Enterprise Development under the President of the Republic of Belarus and leading business associations has allowed the country and UNDP to identify gaps in private sector development, strengthened the expertise capacity of the country's business community, and expanded the business community's abilities to influence the formation of an administrative, legal and economic environment conducive for business. These efforts have improved the regulatory environment for opening and running a business.

UNDP supported the improvement of the national innovation system in Belarus, which contributed to the establishment of a broad network of technology transfer centres which can support innovative business. In addition, UNDP provides support to private businesses in small towns and rural areas.

With UNDP assistance, Centres for Rural Business Development have been established in four district centres in Brest, Homiel, Minsk and Mahiliou Regions. The centres provide legal support in the preparation of documents required for registering small enterprises, monitor market developments and facilitate the creation of new jobs. UNDP aid to the Centres has also included elaboration of practical guidelines on how to set up small businesses, using examples such as agro- and eco-tourism, retail, catering, the printing business, car repairs, etc. Investor's guides to the Mahiliou and Minsk regions were published in order to attract investment in these areas, in collaboration with experts from the Kuniavsky Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

MICROFINANCE

UNDP pays particular attention to promoting the development of microfinance as an effective instrument of business support and an integral part of the country's financial and credit system. The Microfinance Development Council was set up within the framework of this thematic project, headed by the Deputy Chairman of the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus. The Microfinance Development Concept was elaborated under the guidance of the Council, composed of representatives of national and international organisations, and was then approved as the Government Programme for Microfinance Development in the Republic of Belarus for 2010-2015.

The project has organised a training course "Plan Your Future". It was attended by more than 500 low-income Belarusians from 14 residential settlements across the country, including small towns and villages.

DEVELOPMENT OF ECOTOURISM

The development and growth of privately-owned micro-, small and medium enterprises working in the ecotourism sector, alongside the promotion of the Brest and the Hrodna Regions as the most advanced tourist regions, are the objectives of a new USAID funded project implemented by UNDP. Public-private dialogue under the project is expected to result in the elaboration of sustainable ecotourism development strategies for these regions. It is also intended to facilitate legislative and regu-

latory reform, contributing to the development of private businesses in the ecotourism sector. The awareness of households in these regions on sustainable ecotourism practices and methods of cooperation with local administrations and the private sector will be raised. To stimulate initiative, the project will arrange a series of training workshops and study tours and offer grants to support the best ideas on the development of private business in the ecotourism sector.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BUSINESS

UNDP has facilitated the development of the international initiative in corporate social responsibility for private companies, known as the "Global Compact", in Belarus. By now more than 70 Belarusian companies have acceded to this international initiative. Worldwide, over 8000 private enterprises and business associations from 130 countries have signed the Global Compact. Partnership projects involving socially responsible business and facilitating the development of youth business, promotion of telemedicine, enhancement of tourism attractiveness of small towns and improvement of school meals have become well-known in Belarus.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

UNDP assists Belarus in elaborating the National Human Development Reports, presenting an analysis of the country's human development status and policies and identifying the key concerns to be ad-



ressed. The Reports are disseminated to a broad audience including policy-makers, the academic community, civil society and the donor community. The full versions of the previous reports are available at: <http://undp.by/en/undp/nhdr/>.

With support from UNDP, in 2012 it is expected that preparations will begin on the next Human Development Report, which will focus on the competitive advantages of the Belarusian regions with a strong linkage to human development. The Report will help to formulate a single national concept on the competitiveness of the regional economies, make an in-depth comparison of socio-economic regional contexts, identify economic and social "growth drivers" and develop recommendations on how to reduce regional disproportions in living standards and the quality of life. It is expected that the Report will be presented in mid-2013.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

UNDP in Belarus has implemented a number of successful projects aimed at improving energy efficiency, encouraging more extensive use of renewable energy, combating land degradation, improving protection and efficiency of use of natural resources, conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development at the local level.

UNDP has assisted Belarus in undertaking a national capacity assessment to enable the country to meet its obligations under the environmental conventions. UNDP has also assisted Belarus in assessing the financial and technical cooperation benefits of joining the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Based on these recommendations, Belarus officially joined the Kyoto Protocol in 2005.

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Despite the progress that has been achieved in recent years, the energy intensity of the Belarusian economy is still high compared with industrialised countries. In this context, the priority government policies for 2011-2015 include reducing Belarus' dependency on energy imports and diversifying energy supplies by means of alternative sources of energy.

UNDP has implemented a GEF-funded pilot project aimed at using waste wood for heating and supplying hot water to residential buildings, industrial sites and public buildings such as schools, hospitals and sanatoriums. The project established five demonstration sites: a boiler house, three waste wood fire mini-CHPs, and an enterprise for harvesting, processing and deliv-

ering wood chips. In addition, a bio-energy revolving fund with an initial capitalisation of over US\$ 3 million was set up in order to finance energy efficiency projects.

Another project implemented by UNDP and funded by GEF has helped to improve the energy efficiency of public sector enterprises in Belarus. The project has developed clear recommendations on eliminating impediments and improving the regulatory framework for encouraging energy efficiency measures. A review of best international practices helped to formulate a generalised business methodology with a detailed description of design and investment cycles for the elaboration and implementation of self-supporting projects on energy efficiency improvements in the public sector. The project has elaborated business plans for more than ten energy saving initiatives



photo.bymedia.net

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

at industrial enterprises and in the housing and utilities sector of the country.

Special attention has been given to training staff in matters of energy efficiency and promoting new approaches and technologies. Valuable input has been provided by the International Energy Centre, which was established in Minsk under the project and is now a self-supporting entity.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Rivers and lakes are among the most essential natural resources in Belarus which are continuously affected by anthropogenic pollution. About 40% of water from the Dnieper River, which flows across the territory of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, does not meet quality requirements, resulting in a situation where many plant and animal

species are endangered. A GEF regional project implemented by UNDP was aimed at assisting the three countries in elaborating a common approach to managing and monitoring the environment in the Dnieper River basin. The project resulted in the elaboration of the Strategic Action Programme, which became a key instrument of trans-boundary natural resources management in the Dnieper River basin.

Assessing and forecasting the formation and quality of water resources of trans-boundary rivers is a particularly relevant task. Therefore, UNDP is currently implementing the first pilot project in Belarus aimed at improving water resources management using the basin approach in the context of climate change in the Niemen River basin. Assessment and forecasting water resources will be developed, taking

into account the different climate change scenarios and trends of economic development for the trans-boundary Niemen River basin. The project is part of the UNECE programme of pilot projects and can be used as a platform for sharing experience between similar initiatives implemented in other countries, and will also promote cross-border cooperation between Belarus, Lithuania and Russia in the field of water resources use.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

REHABILITATION OF DISTURBED PEAT BOGS

Peat bogs are among the most valuable and most threatened types of natural habitat worldwide. Large-scale drainage in the 1960s and 1970s reduced the number of natural peatlands in Belarus by more than half. The degradation of peatlands contributes to a progressive loss of productivity and declining harvests, disruption of the carbon cycle, forest fires and shrinkage of habitats of important animal species.

UNDP has implemented a project for the renaturalisation and sustainable management of disturbed peatlands in Belarus, to combat land degradation, to ensure conservation of globally valuable biodiversity and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Fifteen exhausted peatlands and disturbed bogs with a total area of over 28 thousand hectares have been rehabilitated under the GEF-funded project. The successful rehabilitation of vegetation and wildlife habitats after the restoration of the wetlands has been confirmed by the findings of biodiversity monitoring conducted in project areas.

The large-scale drainage of Polesie, a unique area in the south of Belarus accommodating expansive natural wetlands with unique biological and landscape diversity, has led to a significant lowering of the groundwater table, erosion of soil and decline in biodiversity. However some wetlands areas, namely Sporovskoe, Dikoe and Zvanets reserves, remain virtually intact. UNDP is working towards the conservation and sustainable management of the region's biodiversity. For example, a UNDP/GEF project has contributed to the elaboration

of a National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation of Belarus' Wetlands for 2008-2013.

An important project achievement has been the establishment of the Transboundary Ramsar Area "Prostyr – Pripyat – Stokhod" (Belarus-Ukraine), the first such area in the post-Soviet countries. Several initiatives in developing eco-tourism services in the Polesie region received financial support under the project.

In 2010-2011 the project focused on rehabilitating the populations of the rare and endangered species inscribed in the National Red Book. To increase population and to rehabilitate natural spawning areas of rare and valuable fish species and to improve habitats of swimming birds, the project reestablished fish wintering areas on the former riverbed of the Pripyat. Two releases of sterlet baby fish into the Pripyat River were held on the territory of the "Middle Pripyat" reserve. As the sterlet spawns once in two years, the repeated release of fish has helped induce the natural "conveyor" of reproduction of this valuable sturgeon fish in natural conditions.



MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTO DECISION-MAKING

An important step in conserving protected wildlife and plant species is the development of a set of measures intended to protect their habitats (biotopes). A UNDP/GEF thematic project conducted an analysis of the landscape, and its findings were used to identify the biotopes which are unique for Belarus, to make their initial description and to determine the identification criteria. In 2011 the project developed land management schemes for four pilot districts – Valožin, Kareličy, Ivacevičy and Rasony. These documents reflect biodiversity conservation concerns, which is a new practice for Belarus.

In recent years, UNDP together with the EU has assisted Belarus in building capacity for environmental protection through the Strategic Environmental Assessment, making it possible to analyse the environmental impacts of government policies, plans and programmes. Project experts have developed a National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, as well as a new National Programme to Combat Land Degradation.

A new EU/UNDP project started in early 2012 and will strengthen national capacity for strategic environmental planning and management. The project will help align the national legislation regulating waste management and biodiversity conservation with EU standards.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

ADDRESSING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AND PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS

As of 1 June 2012, 13,503 cases of HIV were registered in Belarus (the HIV prevalence rate is 112.3 cases per 100,000 persons). The vast majority of HIV-infected persons are young people aged 15-29. More than 8,000 HIV cases have been reported among this age group (60% of total HIV cases).

In recent years HIV prevalence rates in Belarus have remained stable, to a great extent due to the large-scale HIV prevention activities managed by UNDP and funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. UNDP actively participates in the UN Team on HIV/AIDS which assists the government in identifying and implementing measures to combat HIV.

HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMES

UNDP and the Ministry of Health of Belarus implemented a project "Prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Belarus", financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). Under this project, the needs of the healthcare sector for antiretroviral drugs for treating HIV/AIDS were fully met. The project provided support to national efforts in fighting HIV/AIDS by procuring laboratory equipment for HIV/AIDS and STI diagnostics, pharmaceuticals for treatment of opportunistic infections, and means of protection against HIV for medical staff. Large scale prevention activities among at-risk groups and awareness raising campaigns made a significant contribution to HIV prevention activities in Belarus.

The successful implementation of the Global Fund grant, amounting to a total

of around US\$ 17 million, has created a solid foundation for funding further HIV/AIDS programmes implemented by UNDP in Belarus up to 2016. Financial resources currently designated by the GFATM for HIV programmes implemented by UNDP in Belarus amount to over US\$ 42 million. These programmes are targeted at HIV prevention among the most at-risk populations, as well as providing treatment, care and support for people living with HIV. The work is structured in such a way that, by the time the Global Fund's grants in Belarus are completed, the government in partnership with civil society will have a capacity and be able to take over the majority of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment activities. An illustration is that procurement of antiretroviral drugs by the Ministry of Health of Belarus will be financed from the government budget for the first time starting from 2012, while previously these drugs were procured entirely with the grant funding provided by the Global Fund.

Today every HIV-positive patient in Belarus who needs antiretroviral therapy receives free medicines thanks to the project financed by the GFATM. In early 2012, a total of 3223 people could access free medicines. Belarus is also adopting methadone substitution therapy as a successful method of treating opioid dependency; 792 patients were reached with substitution therapy between 2007 and 2011 and 539 people are still receiving it. The programme has brought impressive social outcomes: 269 patients have found jobs and many have restored family relations. Currently, there are 13 substitution therapy points in Belarus and another three points will be opened in 2012.

In January 2012, UNDP launched a project for the elaboration of the Action Plan on building up a sustainable national response to HIV/AIDS and assessing the expediency of adopting express testing for HIV in Belarus. The project is funded by



the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); within its framework, representatives of the public sector, non-governmental and international organisations are involved in the development of both immediate and long-term measures to ensure a sustainable national response to HIV/AIDS after the gradual completion of the GFATM grants. Activities include assessment by national experts of the need and feasibility of adopting HIV express testing in Belarus and piloting of express testing in a city with increasing HIV prevalence.

A youth TV series called "Beyond the Sky" was produced in 2011 – early 2012 under the GFATM grant administered by UNDP. The TV series is intended to eliminate HIV/AIDS stigma, to convey the need to care about yourself and your friends and to build up a tolerant attitude to people living with HIV. The heroes of the series are youngsters challenged by difficult life situations. The expected audience of the TV series is at least 2 million people.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

ADDRESSING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AND PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS

SUPPORTING TB CONTROL ACTIVITIES

Tuberculosis is one of the most acute social and public health concerns in Belarus. The disease affects people who do not have access to quality livelihoods and poses a threat to the population at large. With assistance from UNDP, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has provided funding amounting to US\$ 34 million to support the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in Belarus. The implementation of a large-scale project in Belarus will help reduce the mortality rate among TB patients and improve the quality of treatment.

A modern system for diagnosing, registering and recording TB is being created under the auspices of this project. In particular, national laboratories have been equipped with modern equipment for TB diagnostics in accordance with WHO standards. Medical specialists in the TB services, Red Cross nurses, laboratory personnel and medical staff of penitentiary institutions have been trained in modern methods of diagnosis, care and treatment of TB patients, especially those with multi-drug-resistant TB.

Also as part of this project, an electronic TB register was successfully introduced in 40 TB institutions across the country. By the end of 2015 more than 7000 patients (both in the civilian sector and in penitentiary institutions) will receive treatment with first-line TB drugs. In 2011 the project procured medicines for treatment of 3730

people suffering from tuberculosis and 175 patients with the multi-drug resistance form of TB.

Among the new foci of the project in 2011-2012 was the installation of airborne ventilation systems in the Mahiliou Regional TB Facility and the Homiel Regional TB Hospital, which required major investments. The works for the reconstruction of the ventilation system in the Homiel hospital are now completed. The reconstruction of the air cleaning systems will make it possible to ensure a safe working environment for medical staff and to reduce the risk of cross-infections in the hospital.

The creation of counselling teams has become a new priority of the project. The work of the teams is aimed at enhancing adherence to TB treatment among patients



at the stage of staying in the clinic. Each team consists of a phthisiatrician, a nurse and a psychiatrist specialising in treatment of dependencies. The project has developed a pilot training module called the "Patients' School", which is intended to promote adoption of healthy lifestyles.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN SECURITY

UNDP projects have contributed to a better understanding of international human rights standards by the juridical authorities, a simplification of administrative procedures and broader adoption of the “one window” approach, and have strengthened the capacity of the legislative authorities for analysing law enforcement practices. The Government of Belarus has been assisted in improving the legal mechanisms for coordinating and managing international technical assistance.

Through several projects and programmes, UNDP together with international organisations and UN agencies has helped Belarus to strengthen its national capacity in the area of border control and prevention of trafficking in human beings. The EU/UNDP project on combating trafficking in women has established an electronic database of institutions and organisations which provide support to victims of trafficking, has financed a hotline for persons going abroad and has set up a rehabilitation shelter for women victimised

by trafficking. The subsequent joint project has followed a more comprehensive approach to addressing a problem through targeting men, young people and children and focusing efforts on minimising the social impact of human trafficking. The project has helped to improve the knowledge and skills of the staff of education establishments in prevention of trafficking and outreach work with victims.

The project has also established a Multifunctional Centre for the facilitation of youth employment and youth business.

SAFE STORAGE OF LIGHT AND SMALL ARMS STOCKPILES

Since 2007, UNDP in cooperation with OSCE has been providing assistance to Belarus in ensuring safe storage of light and small arms in order to mitigate the risks of their illicit circulation. The implementation of the project will help to align the practices of light and small arms storage with the recommendations contained in

the UN comprehensive regulations on disarmament.

Under the project, the storehouses for light and small arms located at the sites in Brest (two military units), Barysau, Viciebsk, Asipovičy, Polack and the village of Barouka of the Liepel district have been renovated, with the installation of perimeter fences, intrusion protection systems, fire alarm systems, perimeter alarms, indoor and outdoor lighting systems. 13 military units have been supplied with equipment and materials to strengthen security in the stores, as well as the required fire safety equipment. The software for recording light and small arms and other assets developed under the project can serve as a basis for reproducing the system for arms recording in other OSCE member-states. The project is a key pillar of the improvement of security systems of the light and small arms storehouses in Belarus and its experience can be replicated in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN SECURITY

SAFE LIVELIHOODS IN THE CHERNOBYL-AFFECTED AREAS

Over 70% of the radioactive fallout after the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant landed on Belarusian soil. Approximately 1.5 million people (i.e. about 15% of the country's population) continue to live in the affected areas. UNDP helps in addressing the impact of Chernobyl, using the holistic approach articulated in the UN Report "The Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident. The Strategy for Recovery" (2002). The Strategy is intended, above all, to improve the living environment of the population in the affected areas and envisages support of local community initiatives which aim to create better socioeconomic conditions in their towns and villages.

More than 70 local development initiatives in the Čačersk, Brahın, Stolin and Slauharad districts have been implemented over the course of five years under the UNDP project for the Support of the Programme "Cooperation for Rehabilitation" (CORE). All initiatives have been financed in whole or in part by national, foreign and international donors. Another joint project of the EU and UNDP supported 61 initiatives

by local communities focusing on health services, energy efficiency, sport and safe livelihoods in the contaminated areas, over the course of two years.

Within the framework of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN) established with UNDP support to disseminate research findings among the affected communities, the residents of the contaminated regions in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and journalists have been given an access to the objective scientific information on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The ICRIN project in Belarus has established six centres which provide access to information and communication technologies in local cultural establishments. These centres are places where people can spend their spare time, benefit from distance counselling and education opportunities and get access to online services. The centres are also seen as focal points for the development of local initiatives.

Out of 110 proposed initiatives, 12 have been implemented as a result of a contest of project proposals, organised by the ICRIN project. Through these initiatives, local communities addressed concerns



such as ensuring access to safe drinking water and improving access to high quality health services, raising awareness of households about how to live safely in the contaminated territories, developing tourism and revitalising cultural values and traditions.

UNDP together with UNICEF and UNFPA continues to contribute to the enhancement of safe livelihoods in five affected districts: Brahın, Luniniec, Slauharad, Stolin and Čačersk districts. Better income generating opportunities are being created for the owners of farms and individual subsidiary plots in three target districts. Ten centres of practical and radiological culture and three education and counselling centres on radiation safety began to operate in 2011. Activities are undertaken for prevention, early diagnosis and timely treatment of breast cancer. An information campaign "It affects every woman" aimed at breast cancer prevention was launched in 2011.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BELARUS

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN SECURITY

HUMAN RIGHTS

UNDP makes a committed effort to contributing to the public's understanding of the significance of human rights and informing government authorities about their obligation to promote and protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens.

Under a EU-funded joint project of UNDP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice, a team of experts drafted recommendations for improving the national legislation. The project has elaborated and published a four-volume compendium of international human rights standards, which has been distributed among judges, lawyers, prosecutors, officials of legislative and executive authorities, departments of jurisprudence and non-governmental organisations. In the nearest future UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR will support the improvement of the judicial system of Belarus through development of specialisation of courts.

The UN, including UNDP, also supports the country in implementing recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Belarus conducted in 2010. The UPR is a unique mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council which started in 2008 and consists of the periodic review of the fulfillment of human rights obligations and commitments in each country by other countries.

PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Inclusive and sustainable development builds on equal rights enjoyed by men and women and their equal opportunities to participate in social, political, economic, legislative and other areas as well as on practical realisation of these rights.

Over the last ten years, the efforts of UNDP have contributed to the expansion of the public influence of women in Belarus. Large-scale advocacy work and

outreach have been aimed at government officials, representatives of non-governmental organisations, the mass media and students. Assistance has been provided for the elaboration of the National Action Plan on Ensuring Gender Equality in Belarus; the concept of a Law on Gender Equality has been drafted.

Today, UNDP facilitates the promotion of gender equality in Belarus within the framework of the UN information campaign against domestic violence and through the integration of gender dimensions into its current activities. UNDP works to secure real access to the sphere of decision-making for Belarusian women by influencing public opinion to foster a more conducive social environment for active women. Particular attention is paid to collecting and analysing data disaggregated by gender and to gender-sensitive communication.

ABBREVIATIONS:

EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation



UNDP Office in Belarus

6th floor, 17, Kirov st., Minsk, 220050, Belarus

Tel.: (+375 17) 327-48-76, 327-81-49

Fax: (+375 17) 226-03-40

E-mail: fo.blr@undp.org

www.undp.by

www.facebook.com/UNBelarus



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*