



Implementing SDG1: Poverty eradication through family support policies & social protection measures in transition countries

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Structure of presentation

- Multidimensional nature of poverty
- Transition countries in focus:
 - Eastern Europe: Russia, Belarus
 - Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan
- Key family support policies (parental leave policies, childcare services, family benefits) & social protection programmes
- Discussion of findings
- Policy recommendations

Economic and social trends

- 1990s: sharp increases in poverty & unemployment, declining fertility & high mortality

Table 1 Population in selected transition economies (millions)

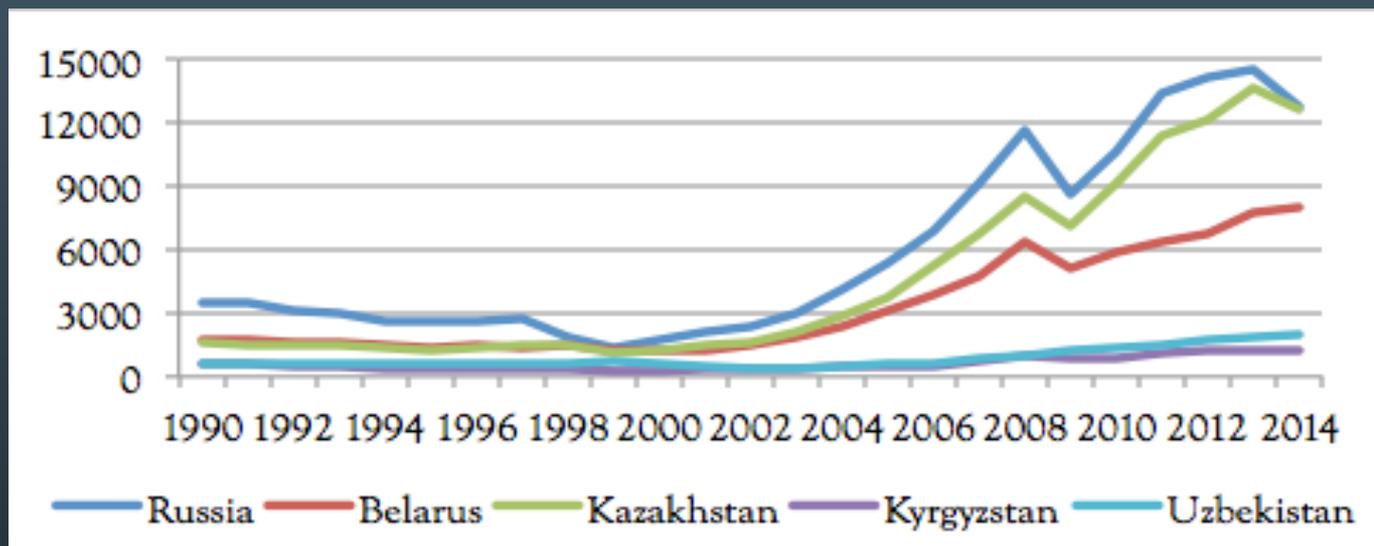
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Russia	147.6	148.3	146.4	143.6	143.2	143.5
Belarus	10.2	10.2	10.0	9.6	9.5	9.5
Kazakhstan	16.5	15.9	15.0	15.5	16.3	17.6
Kyrgyzstan	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.5	5.9
Uzbekistan	20.5	22.7	24.5	25.9	27.7	29.9

Source: UNDESA (2015)

Economic and social trends (cont.)

- 2000s – 2008: steady economic growth (Russia, Kazakhstan & Belarus – due to booming commodities; Uzbekistan – employment generation & investments in social sphere; Kyrgyzstan – private sector development & growing commercial services)

Figure 1 GDP per capita (current US\$)



Source: World Bank Indicators

Economic and social trends (cont.)

- Steady poverty reduction since 2000s
- But in recent years a reversal or slowdown in poverty reduction in some countries e.g. Russia.

Table 2 Poverty rate in selected transition economies, in %

	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015
Russia	33.5	22.4	22.1	23.4	29.0	24.6	17.6	15.2	13.4	12.5	10.7	10.8	11.2	13.4
Belarus	...	38.4	...	33.0	41.9	30.5	17.8	11.1	6.1	5.2	6.3	5.5	4.8	5.1
Kazakhstan	34.6	39.0	31.8	44.5	33.9	18.2	12.1	6.5	3.8	2.9	2.8	2.7
Kyrgyzstan	43.5	54.9	62.6	54.8	45.9	39.9	31.7	33.7	38.0	37.0	30.6	...
Uzbekistan	...	44.5	...	19.1	21.6	26.5	26.1	24.9	21.8	17.7	15.0	14.1	...	13.7

Source: national statistical offices

Health

Table 3 Life expectancy at birth

	Russia		Belarus		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Uzbekistan	
	men	women	men	women	men	women	men	women	men	women
1990-1995	60.6	72.8	64.0	74.8	60.5	70.3	62.1	70.3	63.0	69.4
1995-2000	59.6	72.3	62.0	73.1	57.5	69.0	62.0	70.0	63.6	70.0
2000-2005	58.6	72.0	62.3	73.7	59.1	70.4	62.7	70.6	63.9	70.5
2005-2010	61.0	73.7	63.6	75.2	60.2	71.5	62.7	71.1	64.4	70.9
2010-2015	64.2	75.5	65.3	77.0	64.3	73.9	66.3	74.3	64.9	71.6

Source: UNDESA (2015)

Cf. OECD countries: average life expectancy is 82 years for men & 77 years for women (OECD 2015).

Health (cont.)

SDG 3 target 3.2: reduce infant mortality to at least 12 per 1,000 live births & under-five mortality to at least 25 per 1,000 live births

Table 4 Infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
1990-1995	22	15	51	60	59
1995-2000	21	15	43	48	55
2000-2005	16	10	32	40	50
2005-2010	11	6	27	36	47
2010-2015	8	4	14	20	44

Source: UNDESA (2015)

Table 5 Under-five mortality rate (deaths under age 5 per 1,000 live births)

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
1990-1995	26	18	61	72	72
1995-2000	25	18	54	58	66
2000-2005	20	12	38	49	60
2005-2010	13	8	33	46	57
2010-2015	10	5	17	23	53

Source: UNDESA (2015)

Health (cont.)

SDG 3 target 3.1: maternal mortality rate less than 70 per 100,000 live births

Table 6 Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
1990	63	33	78	80	54
1995	82	33	92	92	32
2000	57	26	65	74	34
2005	42	13	44	85	42
2010	29	5	20	84	39
2015	25	4	12	76	36

Source: WHO (2015)

Health (cont.)

Table 7 Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
1990	50	35	71	95	65
1995	96	70	81	169	74
2000	128	83	177	244	99
2005	136	74	191	210	120
2008	119	72	162	165	105
2010	105	69	145	145	97
2011	99	67	135	141	93
2012	93	64	126	140	89
2013	89	61	115	141	86
2014	84	58	99	142	82

Source: World Bank Indicators

Despite continued improvement, ending the epidemic of tuberculosis by 2030 remains a challenge in these national settings.

Health (cont.)

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in this region is one of the fastest growing in the world.

Table 8 Registered cases of HIV

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
1990	441	14	2	...	...
1995	193	8	5	...	0
2000	59,281	527	345	16	125
2005	32,704	751	962	171	1,820
2008	44,101	881	2,318	552	2,658
2010	57,214	1,069	1,988	554	3,734
2011	59,592	1,196	2,006	594	3,357
2012	59,713	1,223	2,015	704	3,647
2013	63,560	1,533	1,974	480	4,076

Source: TransMonEE 2015 database

Health (cont.)

To achieve better health outcomes, it's essential to increase health financing, which is quite low in these countries.

Table 9 Government expenditure on health (% of GDP)

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
1995	4.0	4.8	3.0	3.1	3.6
2000	3.2	4.6	2.1	2.1	2.5
2005	3.2	5.0	2.5	2.3	2.3
2008	3.4	3.9	2.3	2.5	2.5
2010	3.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	2.8
2011	3.5	3.5	2.3	3.3	2.9
2012	3.7	3.9	2.4	3.8	3.1
2013	3.5	4.0	2.3	3.5	3.1
2014	3.5	3.8	2.2	3.2	...

Source: World Bank Indicators, national statistical offices

Cf. OECD countries: 6.5% of GDP in 2013

Education

Educational attainments have been quite high, with near-universal coverage in basic education and almost absent illiteracy.

Table 10 Pre-primary enrolment rate (% of population aged 3-6)

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
1990/91	72.5	63.3	53.7	30.3	39.2
1995/96	62.0	62.3	25.5	7.2	27.0
2000/01	64.1	84.9	25.6	8.0	19.1
2005/06	69.6	87.7	37.9	12.2	21.3
2008/09	71.6	92.3	42.5	14.7	19.7
2010/11	72.9	93.2	52.9	17.2	18.5
2011/12	74.6	96.4	50.6	17.9	18.2
2012/13	76.8	95.6	54.7	20.1	18.2
2013/14	79.9	96.7	55.6	21.6	18.4

Source: TransMonEE 2015 database, national statistical offices

Education (cont.)

Table 11 Basic education enrolment rate (% of relevant population)

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
2000/01	100.5	92.0	99.7	95.8	97.0
2005/06	105.2	93.5	104.4	94.6	96.7
2008/09	108.1	100.7	104.3	95.9	110.0
2010/11	109.0	99.6	104.5	96.5	108.3
2011/12	106.5	100.9	104.7	97.1	108.1
2012/13	106.2	100.1	105.3	97.7	107.9
2013/14	106.6	99.4	105.2	98.4	107.7

Source: TransMonEE 2015 database, national statistical offices

- Despite this, the education sector in the region is undermined by unequal access, poor quality, increasing costs of education and persisting gender disparities.
- Technical & higher education are ill suited to meeting labour market needs.

Education (cont.)

Table 12 Government expenditure on education (% of GDP)

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
2000	2.9	6.2	3.3	3.0	6.7
2005	3.8	6.4	3.4	4.9	6.5
2008	4.1	5.3	3.6	5.9	...
2010	...	5.4	3.5	5.8	8.0
2011	...	4.8	3.6	6.8	...
2012	4.2	5.1	4.0	7.4	...
2013	...	5.2	3.8	6.8	8.25
2014	4.3	5.0	...	6.5	...

Source: TransMonEE 2015 database, national statistical offices

Cf. OECD countries: 6% of GDP on all levels of education in 2011

Key family support policies & social protection measures

- National legislation in these countries includes provision for paid maternity leave and childcare leave, but not for paid paternity leave.
- Despite legal provision for equal responsibility of parents for rearing children, in practice fathers rarely take childcare leave due to conservative nature of family support policies and traditional gender role stereotypes.

Table 13 Parental leave provisions

	Russia	Belarus	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
Maternity leave	20 weeks (140 days) paid at 100% of wage	18 weeks (126 days) paid at 100% of wage	18 weeks (126 days) paid at 4.2×wage-10% of pension contribution	18 weeks (126 days) paid at 100% of wage + 10 MCI	18 weeks (126 days) paid at 100% of wage
Paternity leave	No	No	5 days of unpaid leave	No	No
Childcare leave	3 years (mother or father), of which 1.5 years paid at 40% of average wage	3 years (mother or father) paid at 35.45% of average wage	3 years (mother or father), of which 1 year paid at 40% of average wage to mother only	3 years unpaid (mother or father)	3 years (mother or father), of which 2 years paid at 200% of minimum wage

Source: author's elaboration based on relevant legislative documents in selected countries

Childcare services

- Acute shortage of childcare facilities.
- Russia, Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan: specific measures to address this problem (mainly for children 3-7 years old)

Table 14 Number of preschools, 1990–2015

	1990	1993	1995	2000	2003	2005	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015
Russia	87,900	78,300	68,600	51,300	47,800	46,500	45,100	44,326	43,187	50,980	...
Belarus	...	...	...	4,423	4,182	4,150	4,099	4,064	4,027	3,972	3,951
Kazakhstan	8,743	8,053	5,058	1,089	1,106	1,179	4,781	7,221	7,661	8,467	8,834
Kyrgyzstan	1,696	998	456	416	417	448	691	819	927	1,062	...
Uzbekistan	9,834	9,273	8,464	6,704	6,746	6,495	5,375	5,192	5,160	...	...

Source: national statistical offices

Key family benefits

- Birth grants (except Kyrgyzstan)
- Maternity benefits
- Lump sum childbirth allowances
- Childcare allowances (except Kyrgyzstan)
- Child allowances
- Additional benefits to special categories of families (e.g. large families, single-parent families, child(ren) with disabilities)

New approach to social protection

- **Transition from social assistance to social activation:**
 - **Russia:** “Social support of citizens” (2013-2020)’ – cash payments in return for participation in specified activities. 60 per cent of participating families increased their income by 1.5 times, and 40 per cent of low-income families with children improved their living standards.
 - **Belarus:** “State programme on social protection & promotion of employment for 2016-2020”.
 - **Kazakhstan:** conditional cash transfer programme among low-income citizens. Their income increased by more than twice compared to period prior to participation in the programme.
 - **Kyrgyzstan:** “Programme on development of social protection of population in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2017”.
 - **Uzbekistan:** enhancing productive capacity of low-income groups through retraining & employment.

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Government expenditure on social protection

- Social protection programmes & family-related benefits receive limited funding.
- Spending on social protection:
 - Russia: 11.9% of GDP (2014)
 - Belarus: 12.6% (2012)
 - Kazakhstan: 7% (2013)
 - Kyrgyzstan: 5.8% (2014)
 - Uzbekistan: 12.8% (2014)

Source: national statistical offices

Cf. OECD countries: 21.6% of GDP in 2014

Key findings

- a) Families with children are at a higher risk of poverty.
 - Low wages, growing unemployment, informal employment & unequal access to social services continue to contribute to poverty.
- b) Poverty is found even among the working population.
 - Main factor causing poverty in the region is not necessarily unemployment per se but rather low wages.
- c) Social benefits alone are not effective in eradicating poverty.
 - Size of benefits is very low & benefits often don't reach many families.
- d) Profile of poverty is gendered.
 - Women are more vulnerable to poverty than men due to lower participation in labour market (undermined by shortage of childcare), lower wages, higher unemployment rates (in Central Asia) & burden of unpaid care work.
- e) Cooperation increases with non-state actors to provide social services to address poverty.

Policy recommendations

Comprehensive system of family support and social protection policies is needed, which goes beyond providing benefits to most vulnerable groups and includes measures in labour market, education, healthcare and other social services.

Policy recommendations (cont.)

- Raise the amount of wages and improve the quality of jobs;
- Increase the value of social benefits, including family and child allowances;
- Expand the coverage and adequacy of social assistance;
- Scale up social support and care service provision by increasing access and improving the quality of social services such as healthcare, education, care for children and the elderly;
- Develop better gender-sensitive policies such as flexible forms of employment, paid paternity leaves, and promotion of shared responsibility within the family;
- Allocate more fiscal resources to the social sector, including health, education (particularly preschool) and social protection.

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