

## **HUMAN SETTLEMENT COUNTRY PROFILE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

At the present time there are approximately 5 million people in the Russian Federation living in dilapidated housing. The volume of housing in the Russian Federation consists of 2,800 million square metres of overall living space.

Over 290 million square metres (11 per cent of the total volume of housing) is in need of urgent major repair and refitting into apartments; and 250 million square metres (9 per cent) is in need of reconstruction. Approximately 20 per cent of urban housing is not yet well-equipped.

On account of the economic situation which has developed in the country, the amount of dilapidated housing requiring demolition, over 70 per cent, is increasing significantly every year. While in 1995 it consisted of 37.7 million square metres, it is now 88.9 million square metres, or 3.1 per cent of the total housing. In 2003 alone, it increased by more than 20 million square metres, or almost 1 per cent. On the whole, this is post-war low-storey housing constructed with prefabricated panels in the 1950s to provide temporary living space. The costs of maintaining such housing is two to three times higher than that of technically well-built housing.

Today, the local authorities are not in a position to solve problems relating to the transfer to municipal ownership of housing previously belonging to various organizations which have now ceased to exist. The existence of a large volume of dilapidated housing in Russia is resulting not only in unsatisfactory living conditions for its citizens. The dilapidated housing is causing a deterioration in the outward appearance of towns, delaying the development of the urban infrastructure and reducing the attractiveness of the towns to investment.

The resettlement of citizens of the Russian Federation from dilapidated housing is taking place under a special federal programme entitled "Housing" from 2002 to 2010 and its subprogramme "The resettlement of citizens of the Russian Federation from dilapidated housing". Programmes are also being drawn up and implemented for the towns aimed at resolving the problem of dilapidated housing.

Thus, with regard to the sustainable development of settlements in the Russian Federation, positive results should be noted in the implementation of the federal Programme for the resettlement of the inhabitants of dilapidated housing and the provision of adequate living conditions. This is in conformity with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development with regard to the support of the authorities for the development of programmes for the elimination of slums in town planning.

The support for the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which organizes international projects in that area, should also be noted.

In view of the fact that questions relating to the elimination of dilapidated housing and the improvement in the living conditions of the people are in keeping with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at

least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, it is important to achieve goal No. 11 in the special federal Programme “Housing”, taking into account international experience in the elimination of slums.

It would seem that the solution of housing problems is a matter of urgency in view of the growing need to resolve the acute problem of the dilapidated state of housing in the Russian Federation and to provide its citizens with adequate living conditions, including the timely determination of the dilapidated state of housing, the organization of measures to resettle citizens out of dilapidated buildings, the provision of well-built housing, the subsequent provision of public utilities, the appropriate technical use of buildings, the maintenance of premises, the provision of building structures, engineering equipment and territory for housing, and the timely organization of minor and major repairs of urban buildings and installations.

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