



Fast Facts

Area: The Chechen Republic

Duration: May 2006 to March 2009

Implementing UN Agencies: UNESCO; WHO

Other Implementing Partners: Ministries of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic; Federal Agency of Education; Ministry of Health of the Chechen Republic; Academic Institutions; local NGOs

Budget: \$977,874

Key Words: Access to education; children; conflict-affected communities

BACKGROUND

In the aftermath of the 1999 conflict in Chechnya, the public service infrastructure was severely damaged and many health clinics and educational facilities lacked electricity, heat and water. The conflict hit the educational sector particularly hard as a large number of teachers migrated to safer areas. School attendance plummeted, with only one child out of ten enrolled in schools. Furthermore, due to the conflict, a growing

number of Chechens were in need of professional care to deal with the signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health problems. Despite efforts by the public health-care system to meet the increasing demand for psycho-social assistance, limited access to specialized mental health care for children and youth continued to be a critical challenge in Chechnya.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project's objective was to improve the psychological well-being of school children, their parents and teachers in Chechnya. Consequently, the project envisaged a number of measures aiming to (i) enhance the capacities of a newly

established psycho-social rehabilitation centre to operate a comprehensive rehabilitation programme; (ii) provide socio-pedagogical training to teachers of school-age victims; and (iii) train specialists in the treatment of PTSD.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted about 13,000 school children and teachers who were in need of psycho-social care as a result of the Chechen conflict. Teachers and psychologists received training on PTSD,

while experts attended training on how to support victims of landmines and children with disabilities.