

Foreword

This is the eleventh National Human Development Report prepared by a group of independent Russian experts with the help and support of the UNDP Representative Office in Moscow. These reports are published at the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in many different countries. Annual world reports, which contain surveys of world countries as a whole, are also published. They are commissioned by the UNDP and prepared by groups of independent experts.

The purpose of the research which formed the basis of the present Report is to analyze the impact of diverse socio-economic situations and diverse policies in Russia's many regions on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the Russian Federation. In other words, the 2006 Human Development Report is a logical continuation of the 2005 Report, which was devoted to the Millennium Development Goals adapted for Russia. These Goals were proposed by the UN as a means of assessing the effectiveness of human development policy in different countries. The Goals can be attained only by reducing poverty and increasing per capita income, improving the education system, promoting gender equality, combating disease, assuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development.

The MDG system has a three-level configuration (see Box 1). It identifies eight key development goals and specifies more concrete targets for each of them, including quantitative targets. A set of statistical indicators is then worked out for each target. MDG priorities are based on a certain concept of human development, while their selection, as well as the formulation of concrete targets, reflects understanding of the importance and urgency of specific social problems in Russia.

The present report is written in the context of the country's regional development, which calls for considerable specification and adaptation of MDG targets and indicators. The regional situation in Russia is extremely diverse: there are great differences between natural and socio-cultural conditions in various subjects of the Russian Federation, while their levels of economic development are in a range from African countries to countries in Central Europe. The report emphasizes the diversity of regional development priorities and opportunities for changing people's quality of life, and describes the most successful regional experiences of state, regional, and municipal programmes that con-

tribute to regional and national attainment of MDGs adapted for Russia.

This approach determines the structure and content of the report, which analyzes material on socio-economic development and human resource problems and presents it in the form of analytical surveys for the seven federal districts of the Russian Federation. These surveys aim to show the great spatial diversity existing in Russia today as well as its influence on MDG attainment. The analysis of each federal district examines the key human development indicators that can be calculated with the help of existing regional statistics and shows the state of infrastructure, the social sphere, civil society, the environment, and other aspects of human development.

The survey of each federal district is supplemented by more in-depth analysis for specific regions, focusing on selected MDGs. These materials show the particularities and opportunities for MDG attainment both in economically diverse leading regions and in average regions, as well as in regions characterized by certain developmental particularities. A comparative analysis is made of human development indicators and problems in different regions. It should be noted that authors of regional analyses do not cover the whole range of MDGs adapted for Russia. Instead they focus on goals that have most relevance, either due to the critical state in their region of the problems, which those goals address, or, on the contrary, due to successful solutions of those problems, which could be duplicated in other regions. Regional material also describes the most successful experiences in designing and implementing federal and regional programmes that contribute to human development and aim to resolve Russia's most urgent current problems, which were identified in the 2005 Report. A substantial amount of regional materials was furnished by the administrations, ministries, and government departments of Russian Federation subjects.

The following criteria were used to select the regions presented in the report:

- representation of regions with different levels of economic development;
- representation of all federal districts;
- representation of ethno-cultural and socio-cultural differences;
- presence in region of successful social programmes (best practices) implemented by the regional government, local self-governments, NGOs, and UN international organizations;
- concentration in region of human development problems calling for particular attention from the government;

Box 1. Millennium Development Goals Adapted for Russia

Goal 1. Reduce Poverty and Eradicate Hunger

1. Halve by 2015 the general poverty level and eradicate extreme poverty among non-marginal groups of the population
2. Provide access to food for the poor

Goal 2. Increase Access to Education

3. Involve vulnerable groups of the population in education and socialization
4. Ensure participation in pre-school education of children from low-income families and children residing in rural areas
5. Reduce the gap in funding and access to general secondary and primary vocational education between and within regions
6. Update the content of general secondary education towards developing practical skills and application of knowledge
7. Improve compliance of vocational education with the modern economic environment and labour market requirements

Goal 3. Ensure Gender Equality and Improve the Situation of Women

8. Eliminate gender inequality in primary and secondary education and at all levels of education by 2015
9. Ensure equal access to political institutions for women and men
10. Eliminate discriminatory practices in labour and employment
11. Create effective mechanisms for preventing violence against women
12. Reduce the impact of unfavourable socio-economic factors on health and life expectancy, especially male

Goals 4 and 5. Reduce Maternal Mortality and Mortality Among Children under Five

13. Increase life expectancy and reduce mortality from major causes

14. Promote changeover in society to a healthier life style
15. Reduce the mortality rate of children under five by at least 50% by 2015 as compared with 1990 (from 21.5 to 11 per 1000)
16. Reduce maternal mortality by at least 50% during the period 1990–2015

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Diseases

17. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
18. Halt the spread and significantly reduce incidence of tuberculosis (TB) and other social infectious diseases

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

19. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and prevent losses of natural resources
20. Provide the population with sustainable access to safe drinking water
21. Improve people's living conditions

Goal 8. Participation in Global Development Partnership Adequate to Russian National Interests

22. Creation of favourable international conditions for elimination of internal obstacles to human capital development and MDG attainment in Russia
23. Priority assistance in resolution of global problems whose effects in Russia are particularly acute and damaging
24. Gradual build-up of Russia's contribution to international development programmes as a donor country

Source: 2005 Human Development Report for the Russian Federation «Russia in 2015: Development Goals and Policy Priorities». UNDP, 2005

- possibility of working together with regional authorities on preparing the report; presence of research institutions and qualified regional experts in the subject areas of the report.

These criteria were used to select 19 regions that, taken together, represent the regional diversity of Russia.

The authors mostly made use of official Russian statistics: information provided by the Federal State Statistical Service and its regional subdivisions and official data of ministries and governmental departments. References to sources are made only when information is taken from elsewhere. When several sources of information were available, the authors of the report used officially published materials.