



UNDP Chernobyl Projects Supported by the Maria Sharapova Foundation



The Maria Sharapova Foundation will support eight community-based initiatives in the three Chernobyl-affected countries, Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. UNDP will take the lead in implementing these initiatives, and work in partnership with local and regional authorities, community organisations and youth groups. Though they have a variety of specific objectives, the projects share a common focus on youth, and an overarching intent to support a return to normalcy and prosperity for the people and communities most affected by Chernobyl. In addition to the US\$100,000

donated by the Foundation, the local communities and authorities will contribute \$84,000 in co-funding, bringing the total value of the projects to **\$184,000**.

In the **Gomel** region of Belarus, children from the city of **Chechersk** will help spruce up public spaces, planting shrubbery and tending flower beds. Communications facilities at the Chechersk Central Rayon Hospital will be renovated and upgraded, and a newly established “Fairytale Room” will provide therapy to children in the form of interactive games, mini-circuses and other healing and inspirational activities. Also in the Chechersk region, a multifunctional learning centre will ensure wide access to computer education for rural youths. In the **Bragin** region, the Foundation will support the opening of a number of music schools in isolated rural areas. A series of concerts, lectures and workshops will focus on developing children’s creative abilities.

In the **Bryansk** region of the Russian Federation, the Foundation will support the construction of a new sports field and wooden structure, equipped with modern appliances, for the Novocamp summer camp. The project will also support an international Children’s Art Festival at Novocamp and a series of workshops for young teachers and information- and communications-technology trainers.

In **Ukraine**, a network of youth centres will be established to bring computer knowledge and skills to rural teenagers. The centre in the **Zhytomyr** region will provide computer literacy training, ensure access to information and communications technology (ICT), and empower young people to implement and contribute to socio-economic recovery efforts in their communities. The ICT centre in the **Chernihiv** region will provide local youth with information on healthy lifestyles and offer training on web-site design and Internet use. The centre in the **Kyiv** region will be equipped with modern sports facilities, and recreational and educational services to boost the physical and mental wellbeing of local children and teenagers.

Through these projects, the Maria Sharapova Foundation and UNDP will help young people overcome “Chernobyl victim syndrome,” take greater control over their lives and lay the foundations for future success.

For more information contact: Stanislav Saling, Communications Officer for Europe and the CIS, UNDP Office of Communications; Tel.: (212) 906 5296; Email: stanislav.saling@undp.org