

# Social Medicine Activities Program, 2007

■ **The international social medicine program of Green Cross, in aid of health and educational training, helps children, youths and mothers in the radioactive and chemically contaminated areas of Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and Vietnam with active medical, psychological and pedagogic steps.**

spot support for social initiatives and strengthens the population's autonomy.

## Training for Trainers

Passing on knowledge about radioactivity, ecology and social sciences, etc. is important for the successful and sustainable implementation of the social medicine projects. The Training for Trainers concept is aimed at all individuals

**Mothers pass on their newly gained knowledge from the Green Cross courses to other women.**



Photo: Green Cross

## ▲ Sustainable success of the Green Cross projects.

The four-year-old Witia from Belarus eagerly awaits a simple lunch. In the courses of the Green Cross, his mother learnt how the harmful radioactivity in foods can be reduced.

In order to implement its social medicine projects, Green Cross Switzerland again continued the cooperation arrangements which have been successfully established with Green Cross Belarus, Green Cross Russia, Green Cross Ukraine and the ULSA (University of Labor and Social Affairs), as well as Vietnam in 2007.

## Therapy Camps

The therapy camps are organized for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The camps take place in a healthy environment in the home countries of the children and young people, so they are able to relax and recuperate in their own cultural settings. The children receive medical and psychological care, undergo various therapies, learn how to deal with radioactivity and engage in plenty of sport. The follow-up examinations reveal positive deve-

lopments in the progression against diseases and a reduction of the radionuclide in their bodies of between 20% and 80%.

## Mother-and-Child Projects

The objective is to improve the health of mothers and infants through medical care and to show them how they can protect themselves and their families against radioactivity. Courses teach them how to prepare food so that the content of radioactivity is reduced as far as possible. Course participants are motivated to deepen their newly-acquired knowledge and to pass it on to the local population through the Family Clubs.

As well as its positive effects on the community, this project also plays a major part in the sustainability of the therapy camps. The new Family Program with the Social Cooperatives module offers on-the-

and institutions who are working on a voluntary or professional basis to improve the social situation in the contaminated regions; i.e. parents, doctors, educationalists, activists and local institutions as well as external specialists, students, universities and colleges or authorities. The project promotes the exchange of information and experiences, and includes seminars and workshops to impart the know-how required for educational and social work. Platforms are created where students can be trained in social work and can acquire practical experience (e.g. therapy camps).

## Preventive Healthcare

Green Cross has become involved in setting up an information network for the general public and for specialists in regions subject to radiation, and has taken part in publishing and distributing health recommendations.

Since 2001, a mobile team of Ukrainian doctors has examined children who have contracted diabetes. This pilot project was completed successfully in 2007 and replaced by the 'Dracula' project (pre-

## Social Medicine Program: Achievements 2007/2006

<b>Belarus</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Therapy camps</b>		
Participants from Chernobyl region, including blind children	495	412
Participants in year-round activities	7 579	6 968
<b>Mother-and-child projects</b>		
Participants in training and sanatorium stays	161	96
Members of mothers' clubs	332	490
Members of social cooperatives	15	-
<b>Preventive healthcare projects</b>		
Participants in family medicine projects	16 350	16 912
<b>Training for trainers, seminars</b>	11	14
Participants	258	-
<b>Information and publications on health issues</b>		
Publications	29	48
Events	21	-
Information materials distributed	17 630	17 130
<b>Russia</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Therapy camps</b>		
Participants from chemical weapons zones	178	232
Participants from Chernobyl region	30	46
International camp	19	-
<b>Mother-and-child projects</b>		
Members of mothers' clubs	275	228
Members of social cooperatives	122	-
<b>Training for trainers, seminars</b>	25	12
<b>Information and publications on health issues</b>		
Information materials distributed	2 500	1 500
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Therapy camps</b>		
Participants from Chernobyl region	85	80
International camp	5	-
<b>Mother-and-child projects</b>		
Participants in training and sanatorium stays	-	16
Members of mothers' clubs	157	156
Members of social cooperatives	20	-
<b>Preventive healthcare projects</b>		
Participants in 'Health for the Future'	1 579	224
Participants in the Dracula project, 'Healthy Teeth'	2 648	2 850
<b>Training for trainers, seminars</b>	1	3
Participants	25	-
<b>Information and publications on health issues</b>		
Information materials distributed	12 600	5 700
<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Supply of orthopedic equipment</b>		
Items supplied to children, young people and young adults	184	172
<b>Training for trainers, seminars</b>	8	4
Participants	260	-
<b>Integration project, participants</b>	17	12
<b>Rehabilitation project</b>		
Development and therapies for children and young people with multiple disabilities	40	-
<b>Information and publications on health issues</b>		
Information materials distributed	650	320

ventive dental care for children) and the 'Health for the Future' project.

In Belarus, doctors are continuing examinations of families in the contaminated areas.

### Orthopedic Assistance

Vast quantities of the 'Agent Orange' defoliation agent were sprayed during the Vietnam War. As a result of this, many children are still being born with disabilities. Green Cross provides supportive care for such children with orthopedic aids. More than 1,500 individuals have already been supplied.



Photo: Green Cross

### ▲ Orthopedic support for late victims of the Vietnam War.

The little Nam (picture) was born with a deformed leg. He is one of the 15,000 children cared for by the Green Cross.

To ensure the sustainable success of this support, the program includes rehabilitation, follow-up treatment and regular adjustments of the orthopedic aids while the children are growing. For infants in particular, the follow-up treatments may extend over a period of 10 to 15 years.

Their families, who are often stigmatized, receive micro-credits for domestic cattle. Sales of milk and calves ensure a source of modest income over the long term, and the credit is also repaid at a later stage. 53 families have taken part in the project so far.

Two advanced training seminars were held with Swiss and German specialists in these types of care.