With as many as 1.2 million Russians estimated to be infected, the United Nations has named Russia home to the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world four years in a row. As HIV infection is spreading most rapidly among the young, it is not surprising that the disease has spread to highly marginalised street children and youth. In St. Petersburg Russia, HIV prevalence rates amongst street youth are as high as 38%. This rate of infection is poised to cause catastrophic mortality among this population unless treatment preparedness and access to HIV prevention and care services is strengthened. The seminar will present a brief overview of the current HIV situation amongst street youth in St Petersburg and measures undertaken by Doctors of the World (USA) to engage youth in health and psychosocial care.

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