

# BULLETIN

WORLD POPULATION DAY 2015



January-July 2015

In 1987, the international community had celebrated July 11 as the World Population Day for the first time! It was in that very year when the birth of the 5-billionth inhabitant of the planet took place. This event serves the purpose of attracting public attention to the current population issues.

This year the theme of World Population Day is Vulnerable Population in Emergency. According to the UN report, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide has risen to 60 million. Of these, more than a third - are women and children. They need special protection.

How to help the vulnerable part of population? What kind of actions should be taken? What measures of inter-sectoral collaboration of the civil protection will help to protect the population?

Answers to these and other questions were discussed on July 14 at the round table «**Vulnerable population in emergency and crisis situations**».



# Dignity, security and reproductive health for all women and girls at all times

July 14, 2015



1325 of the UN Security Council on the role of women in peace and security approved by the Governmental Decree # 78 of 02/18/2013. To provide technical support to actions undertaken, an interdepartmental working group was established and the documents necessary for coordinating the response between agencies and addressing the special needs of women and girls during emergencies and crises in the departmental regulations were developed.

**UNFPA, in partnership with** the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Public Foundation «Center of research of democratic processes» held a round table on **«Vulnerable population in emergency and crisis situations»**. The round table was organized on the account of the notable date of the United Nations – the World Population Day, July 11.

The main goal of the round table was to attract attention of a wide range of representatives of state agencies and local governments to the importance and necessity of inter-sectoral collaboration of the whole system of civil protection of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure the safety of special groups of the population during emergencies and crises. To inform them of the need to include questions about special needs and safety of women and girls during emergency and crisis situations into the national and departmental regulatory legal enactments.

This roundtable is one of the activities undertaken by UNFPA in the framework of support to the implementation of the National Action Plan on Resolution

*«In emergency situations, vulnerability of women and girls is very high - in addition to all the other threats they are exposed to different forms of gender violence. Ensuring the protection and security of special populations in emergency and crisis situations requires a multisector approach and interagency cooperation. When special needs and safety of women and girls during emergencies and crises are included in the national and departmental regulatory legal acts of the whole system of civil protection then their health and dignity will be protected. This, in turn, will lead to the well-being not only of a single family, but also of a society as a whole,» said*

**L. Skobeev, a representative of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.**





## Who owns the information he owns the world!

*July 9, 2015*

National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic has completed the work on developing and updating its official website - [www.stat.kg](http://www.stat.kg) that was carried out with the support of the United Nations Population Fund in the Kyrgyz Republic (UNFPA).

They completely changed the structure of the site and ensured its textual and digital support. Three versions of presenting information are stipulated: one version in state language, another one in official language and the third one in English. The site is as convenient as possible, and all information on it is available for use both on computer, tablet and on mobile phone.

The site has interactive graphs and charts that will be transformed with changes in the dynamics of indicators. In addition, the search system was improved using the morphology of the Russian language.

The official website of the NSC gives the option for electronic subscription for statistical information.



# What does fatherhood begin with ...



June 23, 2015

40% of students surveyed do not consider their home fathers a role model and a prime example, and 43% of girls do not want their future husband to be like their father. These data were obtained within the study «Gender norms and practice in matters of maternal and reproductive health, family planning, paternity and domestic violence» held in Talas and Chui oblasts.

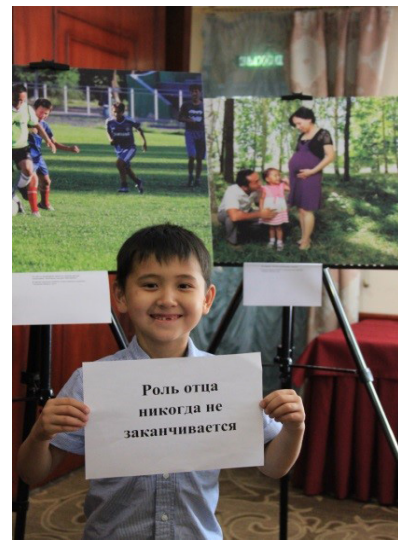
Today, when institution of the family is undergoing a profound crisis, it is not accidental that the issue of responsible fatherhood

became a main topic of the round table meeting. Currently, the role of man in many families is minimized. On the one hand, fathers lost their former authority, on the other hand, having lost the patriarchal attitude and inaccessibility, they have not, however, become closer to their children, do not deal more with them. In the Kyrgyz Republic, according to NSC, the time fathers spend to bring up and care for their children makes no more than 36 hours a day in average what confirms the findings made.

«However, there is no doubt that in the modern world the experience fathers gain through the care of children, as well as taking part in upbringing them can help not only find new ways of expression of the masculinity but get full emotional satisfaction. In addition, the involvement of men in taking care and upbringing children is necessary for the general welfare of the family, health of a mother and a child. In developed countries, a major factor in family planning and decision-making on the number of children is high level of the involvement of future father in the upbringing of children. Involving fathers into the prenatal period and early childhood can lead to positive results both for mothers and children, and for the fathers themselves, including a high likelihood that the father will be involved in caring for a child throughout life», - said Meder Omurzakov, Assistant Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Kyrgyzstan.

The practice of involving men in educating children with a view to promoting significance of responsible fatherhood and to further strengthening the family and sharing responsibilities for the child care was pre-studied during the Campaign «Happy fatherhood» in Talas Oblast in 2014. In 2015, UNFPA is launching the Campaign «Happy fatherhood» in Chui oblast.





## Increase the capacity of processing demographic data

*June 1-6 2015*

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Kyrgyzstan has inherited good statistical systems. However, due to the fact that in Soviet times the national statistical data were analyzed in Moscow centrally, there is no national capacity in data analysis in Kyrgyzstan. Population projections are very important in the socio-economic development planning of the country. These forecasts were made for Kyrgyzstan in Moscow. When Kyrgyzstan obtained independence, it did not have its own technical capacity and experience to continue this tradition. The first post-independence national population projections for the period up to 2050 were made in 2010 with the support of the Higher School of Economics of the Russian Federation and technical support of UNFPA.

The first long-term demographic forecast showed that in 2050 Kyrgyzstan will face significant changes in the age structure and ethnic composition. All such changes should be taken into account in the planning and implementation of national policies and development strategies.

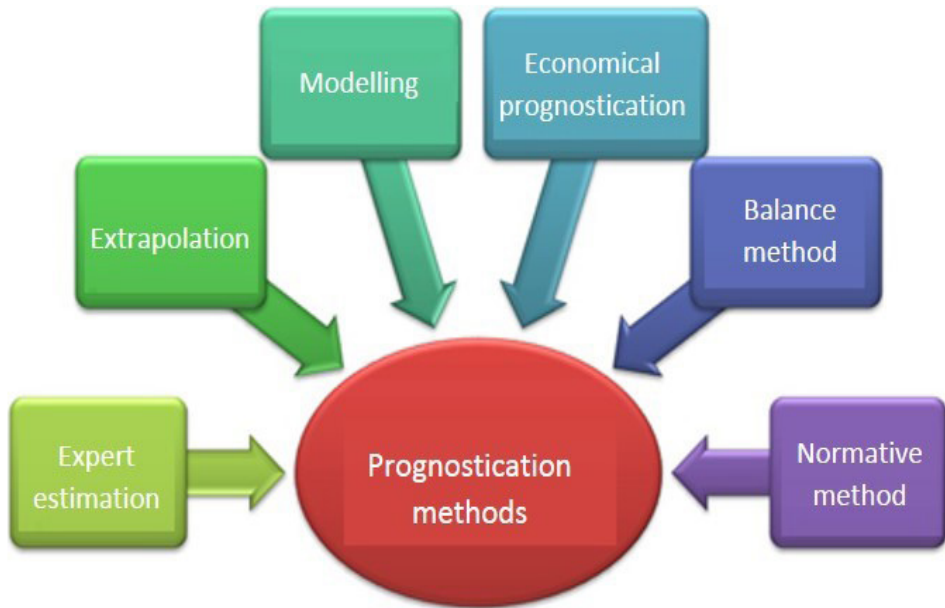
Despite the importance of short-term and long-term demographic projections in the

planning and implementation of policies, in Kyrgyzstan there is no authority that would be responsible for developing population projections. UNFPA supports the establishment of such a body. In 2014, the Ministry of Economy has taken the responsibility for preparation of population projections. It was agreed that the actual calculation will be made by experts of the Ministry of Economy. The scenario for population projections will be developed by an interdepartmental technical group composed of key experts from relevant ministries.

In response to the request of Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Economy about an assistance in the area of demographic projection, UNFPA jointly with the Higher School of Economics of the Russian Federation conducted a series of training workshops to develop a model of demographic projections, methodologies and guidelines in order to provide the Ministry of Economy and the technical team with necessary tools and to instill skills for conducting demographic projections on a regular basis.

**The main purposes of these workshops were:**

- **developing a model of demographic forecasts for Kyrgyzstan and**
- **strengthening the capacity of the technical team and the Ministry of Economy in preparing national population projections.**



## «Healthy vocational schools»

*June 2015*

The Republican scientific-methodical center of the Agency of vocational and technical education within the scope of professional development of teachers on the subject of «Healthy Life Style» (HLS) and under technical support from UNFPA trained teachers, heads of curriculum department, teachers and masters of vocational schools in Issyk-Kul, Chui and Batken oblasts. More than 70 representatives of vocational education have increased their knowledge on healthy life style and skills for interactive methods. In the course of the training manuals on HLS for teachers, on SRHR for peer educators and on prevention of use of psychoactive substances for teachers were presented. Classes were held on the basis of approved 36-hour program on HLS, and participants were provided with information-educational and video materials.



## «Health issues and Islam»

April-June 2015

Ensuring awareness of adolescents and young people and providing them with services in the area of sexual and reproductive health are among the main trends of the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) activities. In this area, UNFPA is working with various youth groups, including religious youth studying in madrassas. UNFPA Country Office in collaboration with the NGO «Mutakalim» and «Youth Peer Education Network Y-PEER» continued its work in raising awareness of madrassa students on reproductive health issues. Work on implementing this initiative has begun last year and has been supported by the Spiritual Leadership of Muslims (Muftiyat). As a result, about 60 students of madrassas were trained on the basis of peer-to-peer principle. To ensure sustainability and create ongoing training system of reproductive health education in madrassas it was necessary to train representatives of these religious educational institutions. In This year, UNFPA had organized training sessions for principals, teachers and educators of madrassas, for representatives of southern regions in Osh in April, and for northern regions in Bishkek in June. These trainings allowed to increase the capacity of representatives of 60 madrassas and to discuss further implementation of lessons on health, in particular - reproductive health issues. During the trainings, it was revealed that some madrassas already organize special lessons on health, mostly - for girls, and invite different health professionals to them. Unfortunately, these lectures are not held for the boys because of the lack of appropriate medical specialists in the field. As participants of the trainings noted, there is a necessity to improve the existing work and to provide, together with religious education, capacity building of madrasah students on healthy life style. At the end of the trainings they developed some action plans. Participants noted the importance of the event and expressed their desire to participate in such training activities in the future, as well.



## Together everything is possible!

*January-July 2015*

Since the beginning of 2015, the partners of the project «Multi-sectoral cooperation for inter-ethnic peace-building in Kyrgyzstan» –The Foundation for Tolerance International and Public Association of Progressive Women Mutakalim conducted a series of 4-day training on inter-ethnic peacebuilding. Training covered 23 communities in Batken, Osh, Jalal-Abad, Talas and Issyk-Kul oblasts.

The main purpose of the training was to raise awareness of the participants on human rights, establishment of peace and conflict resolution taking into account public policy and religious values. Also, in conjunction with the participants of the training action plans for the establishment of peace and conflict resolution at the community level were developed.

Representatives of local government bodies, courts of elders and women's councils, religious leaders were invited to participate in the training, so that they could develop their skills and enhance their capacity, and be able to effectively serve as peace builders. In the future, they will contribute to peaceful coexistence within communities and between communities, promotion of respect for the differences, and cooperation on common problems along religious and ethnic boundaries. Local leaders, LSG workers, activists enjoying a certain respect and authority among fellow citizens are real agents of peace and can work directly with the population, participating in establishing respect for other cultures, encouraging the community to take positive decisions and avoiding violence. In this direction, this project of UNFPA creates conditions to increase the capacity of peace agents through training and joint implementation of peace-building initiatives.

During the training, participants had the opportunity to share their experiences in conflict resolution, to express their opinions and share ideas on how to reduce or prevent conflicts of various kinds, as well as to discuss issues related to the conflict situation in the community. In addition, participants of the training developed work plans and initiatives.

After the training, local self-government and religious leaders, with the support of the project,

organized and conducted a number of activities aimed at improving inter-ethnic situation in the community. Ongoing initiatives are called «Communication for development» and contribute to the improvement of inter-ethnic situation and are part of the concept of inter-ethnic unity and consolidation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

LSG working groups and groups of religious leaders were established that took responsibility for identification of the main ideas and initiatives with consideration of the situation in the community. The working groups, with consulting and support of FTI and Mutakalim Association, in the period from January to June 2015 prepared and carried out 46 initiatives in 23 communities. Each initiative was supported by the project in the amount of \$ 300 for the purchase of essential goods and services for events.

Initiatives of LSG and religious leaders were varied. Among them there were the joint social and environmental actions, public discussions, voluntary work, sports, exhibitions, camps, competitions and other activities aimed at overcoming existing ethnic barriers. Each community was able to organize its work, to engage people and the state structures and gave an impetus to improve the situation.

Implementation of the project has shown that in the process of participation in joint activities people cease to be divided into nations. For them, it becomes important to achieve a common goal. Without exception, all participants noted that there is a need to meet more often and to spend time together in some activities. It brings people together, blurs conventional barriers, helps to better understand each other and accept the uniqueness of each.



«Between the representatives of local government bodies, religious leaders and community activists there was no link in the work of peace-building in communities. Each had his own job individually, and we do not know who is doing what. I think that the idea that leaders should work together to achieve positive results in peaceful coexistence among communities was the right decision».

**Rafikzhon Ergashev, Head of Chekabad AO (Osh oblast)**

“When we were told that this would be a 4-day training, we said that this is a long time, but now we realize that even 4 days are not enough to cope with such a voluminous and important information.”

**The deputy of the local council of Kulundu AO.**





## Outcomes of the work on achieving the MDGs 5. Improvement of maternal health within the framework of sustainable development of Kyrgyzstan

May 18, 2015

Women and general population are not aware of the problems and complications associated with pregnancy and do not understand the need for timely appeal for medical help. The less and less time leaves until 2016 and the deadlines set for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and the maternal mortality rate is still high what is one of the most acute problems we face today. Despite some progress achieved over the last decade in Kyrgyzstan and although Kyrgyz Government is using the methodology of accelerating progress of the MDGs to improve the situation in the field of

maternal health, this task remains unfinished agenda of MDG 5. For this very reason Ministry of Health of KR, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and GIZ jointly organized a special forum. Forum is a platform for the exchange of information and experience between the major players in matters of motherhood and childhood, and, in this regard, it is extremely important that representatives of local government expressed their interest in the event. They noted that these issues are also directly related to them, especially – to the population living in remote parts of Kyrgyzstan.

Damira Niyazalieva, Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan: «The most important thing is to unite our efforts to improve the health of the mother.» «Migration. Access to health care for migrants is important at this time. To improve the situation, it is necessary to strengthen the information work.» To reduce the risk of death, as well as to implement targeted funding under the program of state guarantees for the most vulnerable segments of the population it is necessary to work together with the Ministry of Social Development, the State Agency for Local Government, Insurance Fund, the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance to determine the criteria for the identification of vulnerable groups of women at high risk.



## Integration of reproductive and sexual health for people living with HIV

April 22, 2015

In the period from April 20 to April 23 2015 UNFPA organized two trainings for health workers on integration of reproductive and sexual health services for people living with HIV to Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken oblasts.



## «Repetition is mother of learning»

April 2015

Services friendly to young people, it is the principle of availability, kindness and volunteerism. Teenagers and young people should have access to quality, confidential reproductive health services. UNFPA provided technical support to integration of such services. In this area, the experts of Family Medicine Centers of Batken oblast and Leilek district, as well as, General Practice Centers of Suluktu city and Kulunda ail okmotu increased their capacity in the field of adolescent health, the provision of consulting and family planning services at the training that was held in April this year. Medical professionals updated their knowledge and through some practical exercises strengthened their skills in providing counseling for adolescents and young people as one of the basic services in the field of reproductive health. In the course of the training, representatives of medical institutions carried out analysis of existing opportunities and partnerships that will help to improve services for young people. Experts emphasized the importance of this kind of education, especially – taking into account remoteness of the region and lack of timely information provision.



## Standards for acute care in obstetrics and gynecology

March 23, 2015

Standards for acute care in obstetrics and gynecology are among the most important criteria of quality of services in this area. UNFPA, together with the Ministry of Health, held a special master class on the identification of such criteria for all stakeholders. During the master-class standards for further development and application were selected.

Emergency aid provision standards (EAPS) in obstetrics and gynecology are a tool to ensure the quality of services to assist women and newborns, which promotes effective use of resources. Together

with the Ministry of Health (MOH), UNFPA conducted a master class on how to develop standards for the EAPS for health care providers at the Ministry of Health, and Mandatory Health Insurance Fund. Trainers were professor Dr. Murad V. Seif from the University of Manchester and Dr. Tahir Mahmud, President of the European Association of obstetrician gynecologists and neonatologists. During the seminar, a common position was reached with the participants, recognizing the fundamental role in improving standards of clinical care, and their serious

impact on the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality in Kyrgyzstan.



## Raising public awareness on RH issues

March 17, 2015

In Talas oblast the event on mobilization mechanisms and partnerships in the process of improving reproductive health services was held. A constructive conversation about how the representatives of local government, religion, medical community, civil society and other stakeholders may unite their efforts to improve conditions and increase public awareness on RH issues took place. Aychurok Zhumalieva, obstetrics coordinator of Talas oblast shared her opinion on this question and also told about the problems physicians in Talas oblast face in their work. The goal of such discussion was to identify specific measures and concrete action to be necessarily taken.



# Midwives are leaders in the provision of emergency help

January 29, 2015

Today, in Kyrgyz Republic there are 19 medical colleges which train midwives. UNFPA is assisting in the preparation of qualified personnel that meet today's requirements and needs. Midwives play an important role in ensuring safe pregnancy, delivery and postpartum period.

In January trainings for midwives based on the guidelines for teachers on emergency obstetric care for medical educational institutions have been held.

A practical training was held for 60 midwives and teachers of medical colleges of the northern regions and the city of Bishkek on techniques to reanimate newborns and manage postpartum bleeding. The purpose of the course was to improve the quality of medical service to pregnant women, maternity patients, newborns, as well as to ensure a continuous high-quality training of health professionals in maternity institutions. The training program included the review of effective measures for prevention and control of postpartum bleeding and newborn asphyxia, which can significantly reduce the incidences of death. This year's first two days of training covered the topic "Let's help the baby breathe", where the goal was to develop the skills of primary reanimation and first two steps which are carried out by midwives in the delivery room. The next two days of training, called "Helping mothers to survive", were focused on postpartum bleeding.

