

NEWSLETTER



July-December 2015

We are six million!

On 26 November a round table devoted to the birth of the six millionth resident of the Republic was held in Bishkek.

The event was organized by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic together with the National Statistics Committee with support from UNFPA and UNICEF.

During the round table, they discussed the demographic situation in Kyrgyzstan, changes in number of population, child health indicators, and the introduction of the single registry of the population.

The Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, Talant Sultanov, presented projections on the growth of population of the Republic until 2050, which according to him, is estimated at 11.6 millions.

As the chairman of the National Statistical Committee, Akylbek Osmonoliev, informed, the population of Kyrgyzstan has been increasing: "If in 1959 it was 2 million and 65 thousand people, then in 2015 it reached 6 million jubilee. The six millionth resident will be born on 26 November of this year, or in 16 years after the birth of the 5 millionth resident of the country".

Deputy Chairman of the State Registration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kamchybek Akishev, spoke about the stages of the Single State Registry of Population (SSRP) and its benefits for the state and for the population.



Audit of Maternal Mortality

With the aim to reduce maternal mortality (MM) in the Kyrgyz Republic, there has been implemented the confidential audit of the situation based on the identification of the real causes. The traditional analysis of the MM causes with the recommendations to eliminate them does not give tangible results in reducing maternal deaths.

66 maternal deaths were audited with the support of the country office in 2014 for the preparation of the second report “The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths for 2014-2015”. The results of the systematic and thorough analysis will lead to the introduction of changes in the practice of maternity protection and also to significant improvements in outcomes for women receiving medical care. The results of the enquiry can also serve as a powerful tool to improve the quality of medical care and it can be used by the Ministry of Health as well as by the government and authorities.

New technologies for Effective Perinatal Care (EPC) in Kyrgyzstan

Workshops on the updated packages of the WHO for effective perinatal care were held in 2015. One workshop was aimed at the technical advice from national experts and to review the new version of the updated EPC package in order to facilitate the finalization of the Russian version of the package. Another workshop was designed for seven maternity institutions of Osh and Bishkek to stop the use of unnecessary and harmful practices and to initiate the use of several low-cost and evidence-based practices. During the workshop, the participants learned about the latest interventions in the provision of effective perinatal care and they were trained in the application of evidence-based principles of medicine related to prenatal care, the process of birth, obstetrics, the puerperal period, and newborn care.

Implementation of the research on critical cases at the level of medical institutions

WHO and UNFPA supported the workshop entitled “On further institutionalization of the Study of Critical Cases (SCC), threatening the life of a woman, at the level of healthcare organizations”. It was held for seven regional committees of SCC and the tertiary institutions in Osh and Bishkek. At this time, the manual “The Evaluation of the Quality of Medical Care for Severe Obstetric Complications” was developed and replicated together with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for SCC in two languages (Kyrgyz and Russian). The methodological approaches based on the principle of “Beyond the Numbers” were presented to heads of obstetric regional institutions with the purpose of commitment to this instrument. The introduction of SCC to the secondary and the tertiary level of healthcare will advance the improvement of emergency medical care, more efficiently use of the updated reports on the basis of institutions, improve teamwork during and after birth, increase the role of the birth attendants, and take into account the views of women. During the workshop, all participants were highly active. They had a sincere desire to improve the quality of analysis of the critical cases. All teams of the regional and the tertiary level institutions made plans for 2016, where they reflected all the activities that they need in the first place in order to successfully implement this tool in maternity facilities.

Implementation of clinical records for Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC)

September: practical workshop on the EOC for Talas region (25 participants).

October: a clinical record for puerperal sepsis was developed and approved.

November 2015: Workshop on the clinical records on the EOC for Bishkek, Talas and Chui regions (60 participants).

The Country Office supports the capacity building on emergency obstetric care (EOC) of the birth attendants, obstetrician gynecologists, anesthetists, and intensive care doctors.

The main objective of the practical workshop is to strengthen the capacity of midwives in provision of emergency obstetric care and to enhance the role and the importance of birth attendants in teamwork. Practical training on the EOC was carried out on the basis of the methodological tool developed by the USAID project "Quality Healthcare". In one week, medical staffs of the Talas region, the reception, maternity units, and the pregnancy pathology unit were all trained. During the training, each participant had the opportunity to observe and demonstrate practical skills in the EOC on mannequins. There was a discussion and they revised and demonstrated on models the algorithms of emergency aid. They also analyzed practical problems. The assessment of mastering practical skills of the participants was held in the form of a final test where each participant demonstrated skills on practice using mannequins, medical equipment, medicaments, and other medical products. The greatest attention was paid to the preliminary examination and differential diagnostics, to the peculiarities of transportation, and referral to a higher level of healthcare in the hospital.

A number of measures were accepted to develop the capacity building. It was supported by the reproductive program, and was aimed

at improving the work of emergency services for women with complicated childbirth, in particular, a clinical record for puerperal sepsis had been developed and approved and a series of seminars were held to introduce the clinical records on the EOC (prolonged labor and puerperal sepsis) to improve clinical practice in 18 maternity facilities in Bishkek City, Chui, and Talas regions.

The involvement of civil sector as the right to vote to access family planning services

November 2015: workshop on the general market approach to family planning for 11 NGOs.

In order to ensure more equitable access to contraceptives for vulnerable groups of the population in terms of effective use of limited resources, a workshop on advocacy strategy for the product market on the reproductive health protection was conducted. This workshop was aimed at promoting the allocation of subsidy or free provision of family planning products to those who cannot pay and the support of the non-governmental sector on the revision of government policy to ensure secure access of vulnerable groups to family planning products.

Introduction of social mobilization and partnership mechanisms to the process of improvement of Reproductive Health (RH) services

October 2015: round table on RH issues among the community.

The purpose of the round table is to increase the level of awareness, legal knowledge of the representatives of the local community in the area of reproductive health, as well as the mobilization of local communities to address reproductive health issues (particularly Maternal Deaths), and to increase awareness through theatrical performances, quizzes, and interactive methods. An inter-sectoral approach to solve the problems of reproductive health and to strengthen partnerships between health organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious institutions, and youth and local authorities was the essential key to success. The local authorities considered the possibilities to create mechanisms to ensure the consistency of efforts and inter-sectoral decision on reproductive health issues. Deputy akims of four districts have put into agenda for 2016 a number of activities on reproductive health in the plans of the district local self-governments. In addition, the KVN humor show (the Club Cheerful and Resourceful) was held, where were four teams from four districts of Talas region with the representatives of the regional offices and village committees of health promotion, local self-governments, local non-governmental and religious organizations.

Improvement of Knowledge of Major Groups of the Population on SRH Issues

On 3-22 August, 2015 four trainings on sexual and reproductive health for 117 major population groups throughout the country were conducted. The trainees received information on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI), their transmission methods and prevention, as well as contraceptives and the procedure for their receipt. The aim of the training was to improve knowledge on SRH, particularly for birth control, and protection from HIV, STI, and unwanted pregnancy.

The implementing comprehensive HIV/STI programmes with sex workers

On 2-3 September, 2015 the workshop-training to representatives of country's PHC, RC AIDS, RCPF AIDS, RCDV, MDRCD, MIA, NGOs, and ME was held. Focus was on new guidance document «The implementing comprehensive HIV / STI programmes with sex workers: practical approaches from collaborative interventions» of the WHO / UNFPA / UNAIDS / NSWP / WB. The goal was to introduce the main components and recommendations for the implementation of effective programs on the prevention of HIV / STI among sex workers. As a result, the participants developed recommendations tailored to the country's context.

HIV and SRH services for major young groups of population

As a part of a regional initiative of UNFPA among major young population groups, a round table was held on 3 December 2015 where interested parties presented the following results of:

- focus-group-discussions (FGD) conducted on groups aged 18-24 about access and availability of HIV services, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in the country;
- regional meeting of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) on these issues.

This initiative involved experts from eight countries of EECA (Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Serbia, Albania, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina). The purpose of the FGD was to identify the situation of the countries in the area of access and availability of HIV and SRH services for major young population groups. In Kyrgyzstan, there were 17 focus group discussions held with the participation of 177 major young population groups where they discussed the issues of access and availability of HIV and SRH services and legal contexts (including stigma, discrimination, participation, and rights). FGD participants also gave recommendations to improve the existing problems in the area of HIV and SRH for this group. At the round table, they discussed recommendations for further introduction in Kyrgyzstan.



Adolescent: where is his place in the healthcare system?

On 4 December 2015, UNFPA together with the Ministry of Health of the KR, held a meeting to discuss the issues of the provision of services for adolescents and young people on reproductive health. Experts and specialists of healthcare organizations, education, and youth were presented the standards for the provision of health services to adolescents and they discussed the possibility of their implementation, taking into account existing capacities.

At present, the country's youth policy defines young people as aged 14 to 28 years. According to World Health Organization (WHO) identification the young people are considered from age 10 to 24, where ages from 10 to 19 are adolescent. Unfortunately, there is no definition of "adolescence" in Kyrgyzstan. This is one of the main difficulties, as there are certain barriers to collect data, to analyze the needs of adolescents, legal age for the provision of services, especially in reproductive health, without consent of a parent or guardian. Another important aspect is the capacity of the health system and it's about brain drain, the lack of proper medical equipment and related medical supplies, information, educational materials, etc.

The healthcare system management recognizes that there is a need to improve access to reproductive health services, especially for adolescents living in rural areas. UNFPA, together with the Ministry of Health and with the support of national partners, will continue to work in this area in 2016.

We begin KVN (the Club of Cheerful and Resourceful)

Probably everybody is familiar with this game and this tune, which is associated with a laugh, witty jokes, and a good mood.

On 7 December, in the framework of Gender Transformation Program, UNFPA together with lyceum №19 and the local self-government held KVN in Kemin City. It was entitled "About masculinity, friendship, and chivalry". Four teams from Kemin and nearby villages took part.

The idea to organize KVN came about six months ago during the first workshop with children from professional lyceums of Kemin. They had been challenged and four teams from Kemin district decided to enter the field of humor and jokes and demonstrate their understanding of masculinity, friendship, and chivalry. The festival was preceded by a long preparation, which in itself gave all participants a lot of laughter and pleasant moments of cooperation, brainstorming, great teamwork, warm communication, and co-creation. Competing teams took part in five contests. From the beginning, all teams had developed for themselves a close topic of masculinity and building effective communication with the opposite sex and they followed it throughout the competition.

Originally, ironic performances of "The first date" caused laughter in the audience hall. The joke objects were familiar scenes from the lives of young boys and girls, the potential situations associated with the first date, and ironic predictions about meetings and events which were encountered or heard by these guys.



The changes we want to see in the society start with us!

From August to December 2015, within the project of “Youth for Peaceful Changes”, UNFPA created a program called “Forum Theatre”, which was broadcasted on the first public TV-channel.

The project was designed to provide young people with equal opportunities for their involvement in the life of society, as well as to give them the opportunity to express themselves and their thoughts on urgent issues through television. Thanks to “Youth for Peaceful Changes”, young people from Batken, Osh and Bishkek, have acquired practical theatre skills which have helped them to become actors on a national scale, as well as to overcome their personal fears of speaking in front of the audience. Young people showed the problems of their generation not by words, but in action and they offered their solutions to the problems existing in the society.

The young actors had an excellent opportunity to work in front of cameras with professionals from the national channel, so they tried the responsible role of guides. The actors’ task was to invite the viewers to engage in dialogue and to search together for answers and solutions to the existing problems in society. Sometimes the audience could find a way out of the situations which occurred with the main characters.

The peculiarity of the program was the fact that it was given the opportunity to the audience not only to offer a way to resolve the situation and give a solution, but also to show it by playing a role. Once the actors performed the play, the audience in the studio discussed their options and offered the ways to resolve the conflict. Then the participants of the program in the studio replaced the cast and re-played their own version, without changing the nature of the main characters. During the filming the invited audience could discover in the main characters

and in themselves a respect to diversity in society; they promoted gender equality and protested against violence.

Creating TV-program using the technique “Forum Theatre” UNFPA took great responsibility for the information (which was broadcasted throughout the country, covering 98% of the population, including bordering areas). Painstaking work on writing and scenarios productions included the involvement of young people who somehow faced with problems that were covered in the programs. The performances were shown in the communities to improve and to identify the relevance of the scenario and topics. This way a big team consisting of actors, moderators and project staff received feedback from audience.

TV programs were created in state and official languages on the following topics:

In Kyrgyz:

- Early marriages
- Migration
- Adaptation problems in big cities
- Gender equality
- Employment of young people in Kyrgyzstan
- Conflict of generations

In Russian:

- Youth unemployment in Kyrgyzstan
- Gender-based violence
- Conflict of generations
- Migration
- Adolescent pregnancy
- Language barrier

As a result, after watching this TV-show, the teachers of various schools, began to discuss advisory with pupils all problems raised on the programs. Moreover, some students organized school theatres where they presented performances from TV-shows. Thus, the project has achieved the goals, demonstrating

responsible behavior, attracting young people to the changes that anyone can start with himself / herself enabling young people to

be heard both through television and in their communities.



“I was impressed with my role in the performance of “The Domestic Violence” where I was the oppressor. It was hard to realize that somewhere in life; we all are able to do so without realizing that we commit violence”... – shared his impressions Fakhridin Mirzaev, actor of Theater Forum from Osh.

What we should do to build a peace

August-December 2015

Within the project of the United Nations Population Fund, “Multisectoral Cooperation for Inter-ethnic Peace Building in Kyrgyzstan” initiative groups from the Kulundu and Arka villages of Batken region held activities aimed at inter-ethnic peace building in their communities.

“Two-day camping” was organized together with religious leaders, community leaders, and local self-governments in Kulundu on 08-09 August 2015 in the recreation center “Altyn-Beshik”. The purpose of the camp retreat was to facilitate dialogue between religious and community leaders as well as representatives of various ethnic groups to work closely with young people. Within two days, the participants listened to the sermon of the Imam on international peace and were trained on the benefits and disadvantages of tolerance, as well as a healthy lifestyle from a medical specialist. As a result, the participants received information on peace-building and tolerance, written in the sacred sources of Islam, they started to build a trusting and friendly relations between each other.

In the Arka village they organized wrestling with the slogan, “Joint labor is the source of peace and harmony” to establish friendship among young people. Guests of the event were the deputies of local self-governments, representatives of the local old people council, youth organizations, and religious and community leaders. The competition was held in three phases according to weight category (youth, juniors and adults). Young people and pupils took part. At the end of the competition, the winners were awarded with cups, medals, and honorary diplomas.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the State Commission on Religious Affairs under the President and the Spiritual Directorate of the Muslims of Kyrgyzstan, held a round table on the topic



“Education for Peace in the Program of the Madrasah” on 6 August in the “Ashu” guest house. The round table and the workshop were attended by representatives of 42 madrasahs all over the Republic.

The aim of the round table was to discuss the potential of Islamic religious education and its



active participation in peace-building processes through the integration of the education idea for peace in the madrasahs programs.

According to Alexander Avanesov, UN Resident Representative in Kyrgyzstan: *“The religion is an important part of the social, cultural and spiritual development of the Kyrgyz Republic”*.

