

NEWSLETTER

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RELATED ISSUES



August-December 2014

November 21, 2014

Purpose of this interactive Round Table was approaching of public attention to reproductive health (RH) related issues. Many RH problems are beyond the health sector concerns and need intersectoral approach in addressing these problems. Key indicators of RH are used to fertility rate, neonatal and maternal mortality rates, abortions and frequency of use of various contraceptives by reproductive age population.

Within the framework of “Den Sooluk” National Health Sector Reforming Programme to 2012-the analysis of the National Strategy for Reproductive Health Protection in the Kyrgyz Republic till 2015 was presented at this meeting. Also participants discussed next steps to further improvement of Kyrgyz population Reproductive Health to 2020. It needs to build up wide and effective partner links between state authorities, NGOs, private sector, and international community for further development, implementation, and assessment of efficiency of RH protection programmes.

The Round Table presented findings and recommendations of the first national report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Death (CEMD). The purpose of CEMD is reduction of maternal mortality rate in the Kyrgyz Republic through revealing of ac-

tual reasons both medical and non-medical nature that lead to maternal death including social and family reasons too. The recommendations elaborated to improve quality of services delivered to pregnant women and women in childbirth in the Kyrgyz Republic (KR) which require intersectoral approach were presented. Out of 149 maternal death cases officially registered in the KR from 2011 to 2012, 95 cases (64%) of birth records have been analyzed by the maternal death cases confidential audit methodology. Core reasons of women death during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum were hemorrhage (43.2%), high blood pressure (19%), infection driven complications (13.7%). The analysis has allowed segregating medical assistance delivery problems where

along with health sector related reasons there were socio-economic vulnerability of a mother; internal and external population migration; unawareness of a woman and her family members on dangerous signs of pregnancy and postpartum period; and late appeal to medical assistance.

Also there is a tendency observed within recent years on decline in maternal mortality rate (75.3 every 100,000 live births in 2009, 50.3 every 100,000 live births in 2012, 39.2 every 100,000 live births in 2013). However great efforts are still needed to achieve goal defined.

In order to estimate access of low income and socially vulnerable population groups to quality contraceptives related services, current family planning related situation in the Kyrgyz Republic



lic has been analyzed. Lack of a mechanism to secure the medical-social risk group with family planning services is one of factors affecting women health indicators.

Recognizing a vital need in satisfaction of existing family planning related needs some additional resources and political commitments to be taken by the Government on implementation of the family planning programmes are required.



Happy Fatherhood Campaign



On **October 28, 2014** in the city of Talas Contest of Young Fathers was organized in the framework of the UNFPA regional campaign of Responsible Fatherhood.

The event was the culmination of a pilot program that was implemented in the Talas oblast within a year.

To the contest local administrations selected fathers from several regions of Talas oblast and Talas city. To be chosen candidates have passed a rigorous selection where the following criteria were applied:

- *age 25 to 50 years;*
- *a young father having one to four children;*
- *an established reputation of a person attentive and caring for his children and wife.*

The goal of the competition was to promote the value of responsible fatherhood and advance the trend toward strengthening the family and sharing responsibilities on childcare through men's involvement in it.

During the event, the fathers were offered various competitive tasks doing which they had to demonstrate their ability to communicate and interact with the child, infant care skills, and skills of caring for a pregnant wife. They also had to show their skills of providing quality entertainment for children, and even musical – historical – skills of per-

forming lullaby, their knowledge on parenting standards reflected in proverbs, epics from the past century.

This kind of tasks were chosen with consideration of the typical situation in the nowadays community when the high speed dynamic of the social life does not leave much time to communicate with the child, and most often fathers are not aware that this communication can be useful, interesting and joyful for all family members – children, fathers and mothers.

The competition clearly demonstrated the advantages that communication with children has for fathers via different game situations, exercises and contests. The public could see on the stage true responsible fathers whose higher self-esteem, father's skills positively assessment by their families was evident, and whose suc-

cess in their career was obviously influenced with these factors. They saw how the fathers taking part in the competition were able to uphold their interests, know how to defend their children and to protect their families with a great love – during the period of their wife’s pregnancy, the child’s birth up to his/her adolescence. In their speeches, the fathers talked in a touching manner when they experience paternal feeling for the first time: some got these feelings during the pregnancy of their wives, some – at the time of their child’s birth, some – when the child began to speak, and some – even before they met the mother of their future children, just in their plans.

“Responsible Fatherhood” is an initiative for those who desire to grow themselves, while raising their children. For those who want to be told by their children: «My father has not only given me life but also filled it with profound positive sense.»

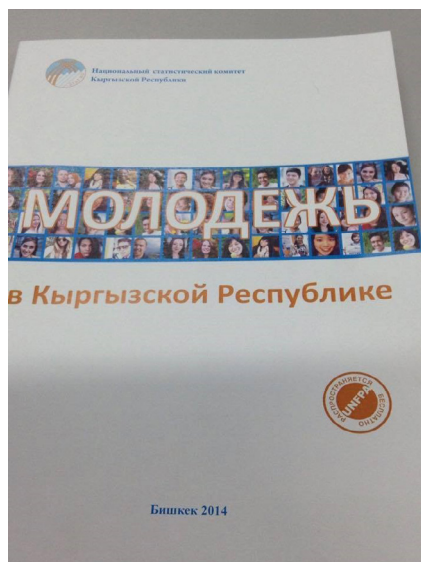


Cooperation with the State Registry Service

The main source of demographic data is the data of civil status and population census. The system of civil registry keeps records of births, deaths, marriages, divorces and population migrations. The system of civil registration is still based on the use of paper data carriers. Since the data on paper passes various stages of collection and processing, errors and omissions occur. To resolve this issue on a regular basis it is necessary to introduce a comprehensive register of the population. In 2014 the State Registration Service has begun preparations for the introduction of the population register.

One of the most important stages in introducing the population register is an automation of the civil registration system. For this purpose, the software of civil registration system automation – AIS Registry Office – was developed. During the period from December 7 to 22, 2014, under financial support from UNFPA, 71 employees of the registry offices in Osh, Jalal-Abad, Batken, Chui and Naryn regions have been trained in the use of AIS Registry Office. Use of this program will allow on-line registration of civil status acts into the central database what will by-turn improve the quality of population data and the quality of public services in the area of civil registration.

Statistical compilation “Youth in Kyrgyz Republic”



On **December 16, 2014**, National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, with the support of UNFPA, released statistical compilation “Youth in Kyrgyz Republic”. The importance and necessity of this collection is con-

ditioned with the fact that young people aged 14-28 years constitute more than a third of the entire population of Kyrgyzstan. The presence of such a large number of young population causes not only demographic, but also numerous economic, political and social consequences. Therefore, to make evidence-based decisions in matters relating to various aspects of the lives of young people, it is important to have a quality and timely data.

To the data in the statistical collection of youth meet the needs of users, the National Statistical Committee has organized a consultation meeting with users of the data from various ministries, academic circles and civil society. Their proposals and suggestions were taken into account, as much as possible, in preparation of the final version of the publication. Unfortunately, during the preparation of the collection there were some difficulties such as complexity of unification of age groups and impossibility of some disaggregation of data on annual intervals. This work has shown the need to amend the administrative reporting forms. The National Statistical Committee is planning to keep working on making appropriate changes to obtain the necessary disaggregated data on young people and then, in close collaboration with UNFPA, to publish the statistical collection on youth.

Promoting dialogue as a tool to maintain peaceful relations

December 2014

Inter-ethnic dialogue and cooperation are crucial for maintaining healthy relationships in society, social trust and tolerance.

The project Multi-sectoral Cooperation For Inter-ethnic Peacebuilding In Kyrgyzstan has started its active work. Trainings on inter-ethnic peacebuilding for local government bodies, religious leaders and community leaders were conducted in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Nookat cities. The main goals and objectives of the training were to raise awareness of participants on human rights, establishing peace and conflict resolution with taking into account public policy and religious values.

Senior officials of village governments (Ail Okmotu), local councils, local committees, women’s councils, imams, imam-khatibs, female religious leaders and community leaders, social workers were invited to take part in the training. In addition, the trainings were attended by employees of the Ministry of Inner Affairs of Kyrgyz Republic, deputy director of SCRA in Osh city, director of the Southern representation of SCRA, members of local councils of Muslim religious leaders (khazi), heads of Ail Okmotu, executive secretary of the public reception of the FAMCY and Defense Ministry of KR.

During the training, participants have expanded their understanding of peace as an essential attribute of country development, attained the understanding of positive and negative peace. In addition, they were presented the manual Building Peace And Inter-Ethnic Harmony In Kyrgyzstan.



The main goal of the project is to assist to dialogue and cooperation for the sake of peace and to promote zero tolerance towards all forms of violence. Our objectives to achieve this goal are as follows: the formation of social values, assistance to imparting responsible behavior, promotion of respect for diversity in society and civic responsibility through involvement of religious and community leaders and provide them with necessary assistance.

Within the scope of the project the Instrument Of Action On Peacebuilding In The Community for religious leaders and community leaders, teachers of madrassas is being developed; trainings on peacebuilding and reconciliation are being conducted; the program Education For Peace for students of madrassas is being developed and introduced. The project is be implemented in close partnership with the State Agency for Local Governance and Inter-ethnic Relations, the State Commission for Religious Affairs, the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kyrgyzstan, Progressive Public Organization of Women Mutakalim and Public Fund FTI.



«...We have broadened our understanding of peacebuilding. Building peace is not only a work done to change behavior, but also a work done on the level of conscious and senses and, of course, a work in context. So far, I did not really have a full understanding of what peacebuilding is about...»

- trainee, Jalal-Abad.

Art for the maintenance of peace and development of young people

Young people occupy a central place in this project and are agents of change and the driving force behind the development and preservation of stability in the country. The project Youth For Peaceful Change was created to ensure young people equal opportunities to involve them in the life of society and, also, to provide them with an opportunity to speak out and express their thoughts on urgent matters.

Within the framework of this project, United Nations Population Fund is planning to create a multilingual innovative television programs for young people. Editions of the program will be broadcast live



giving the public an opportunity to share their opinions on a particular issue. The uniqueness of the programs is a possibility to use the technique of Forum Theatre.



Technique of Theatre of the Oppressed, in particular technique of the Forum Theatre, is very popular and widely recognized throughout the world. This technique is used to solve social problems, protect human rights and promote social justice via dialogue and raising community awareness of the issues. Opportunity to broadcast on TV performances on current issues in our community produced in the scope of the project makes possible to broadly discuss and change community approach both to the youth problems and to the ways of their solution.

Young professional and non-professional actors are involved in the project implementation. The role of actors in the framework of the project Youth For Peaceful Change is extremely important since the actors themselves are those young people who will initiate dialogue on young people related community issues.

During the period from July to December 2014, more than 10 performances were designed and organized. More than 500 young people in Batken, Osh and Chui oblasts took part in the performances that touched on important aspects of the current and future life of both young people themselves and the country as a whole.

The main goal of the Theatre of the Oppressed is a joint search for solutions to problems pressing. Thus, it does not impose any particular view on them, but rather allows you to analyze the situation and try to change it. Another important point, the forum theater technique allows young people to try on the image of the characters, put yourself in the shoes of others and to show their acting skills, overcome fright before audience what helps them to develop leadership skills, broaden their horizons, to break stereotypes.

“...my dissatisfaction cannot change anything, but I notice that thanks to a forum-theater people have learned how to talk to each other, discuss and solve arising problems ... Forum-theater has taught me not to cry, not to take offence but calm down, talk, discuss and begin to act”.

Forum Theatre participant, Bishkek

Role of mass media in awareness raising on family planning

December 3-4, 2014

Twenty (20) journalists, representing TV, radio, and social media, participated at the practical workshop on family planning among youth on December 3-4, 2014 in Bishkek city. As was noted by trainer and media expert, Elena Bayalinova, journalists have not been educated on reproductive health issues since 1998 and this workshop was in need and important. During two days, journalists have increased their knowledge on youth and reproductive health issues through discussions, role plays, individual and group works. It is worth to mention that most of the participants had bold experiences on covering health issues and several still lead their own media headings on health at local levels. It was a good opportunity for journalists, gathered from all regions of the country, besides gained knowledge on reproductive health to share experiences and best practices with each other. UNFPA will continue to build strong partnerships with journalists and representatives of mass media to raise awareness on family planning among population and advocate for reproductive health issues among decision makers.

