



NEWSLETTER

World Population Day



World Population Day is celebrated every year on July 11 in many countries throughout the world – including the Kyrgyz Republic. On this day, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) sets a specific theme, depending on the needs of society. This year the theme of the day is “Investing in Youth”. In connection with this subject, UNFPA has decided to hold a concert involving young artists.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, young people aged 14 to 28 years old make up 30.2% of the total population. In the age bracket of 15 to 29, the unemployment rate in 2013 was 45.4%. As of June 2014 the total number of people infected with HIV in Kyrgyzstan rose to 5,392, of which 32% – are young people aged 15 to 29 years.

In 2013 the number of births among girls aged 12–19 years was 5.7% of all births. 7.9% of abortions in 2013 accounted for girls aged 12–19 years. Of all registered marriages 9.6% involve girls aged 15–19 years.

Significant investments in the health and education of young people are required in order for adolescents and youth to develop the knowledge, skills and flexibility they need to lead healthy, productive lives, giving them the opportunity for self-realization.

According to the United Nations, on WP day of 1987 the world population was about 5 billion. That day was provisionally called High Five Billion (Five Billion Day). Two years later, in 1989 the United Nations launched World Population Day as an international holiday, and it has been celebrated annually on July 11 ever since.





A Healthy Life Style for Students of Vocational Schools

A “Healthy Life Style” (HLS) is not just a classroom subject, it is establishing a culture of behavior, life skills and hands on training that can lead young people to healthier and happier lives. This is critically important, especially in the transition period from adolescence to adulthood, when the body rebuilds itself and passes through deep physiological and psychological changes. Accurate information, provided in a timely manner can prevent young people from thoughtless risky behavior and it can protect their health. In this light, on March 10-15 of this year, forty-five HLS teachers, masters and dormitory mentors of vocational schools in Osh, Jalalabad and Batken had an opportunity to increase their knowledge on adolescent health, prevention of risky behavior, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, unwanted pregnancies, gender equality and human rights. The event was organized by the National Research and Methodology Center of the State Agency on Vocational Education with technical support from UNFPA.

“It was another good opportunity to build our capacity and enhance our knowledge about HLS. I would like to highlight that the approach used by our vocational education system to integrate HLS curricula is complex and all-inclusive. It’s important to teach HLS instructors, masters and dormitory mentors together, because the integration of HLS curricula is not only a task for teachers, but should include the active involvement of school administration, medical doctors, cooks, and other teachers in the lyceums.”

HLS teachers, Vocational School #12, Osh city

Peer to peer!

“Young men and women are not well informed about the process of sexual and reproductive health development, particularly about the anatomy of the reproductive system, and about what puts them at risk during the development of their body and reproductive organs. Trainers had to explain that sex education for adolescents include the right to inform teens about the features of the anatomy of boys and girls, about the negative consequences of early sexual activity, as well as what should be done to prevent the negative effects of the first sexual experience, such as early pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases”

Baktygul Bozgorpoeva, SRH trainer, Gynecologist

When other sources of information are not available, where do young people get information about their health, especially on reproductive issues? Yes, mainly from their peers. Young people should be providing proper and adequate information, by informing one another and sharing their knowledge, especially when it might affect decisions regarding their health. In March, the UNFPA together with the “Mutakalim” association and the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER) prepared 60 peer trainers among students of madrasahs. The peer trainers had a unique opportunity to gain valuable knowledge about family planning issues, family values, infections of

the reproductive system, HIV, and gender equality. These topics were discussed with their Ustads (Islamic teachers), medical specialists and experts. The participants were actively involved in the training process and developed action plans that demonstrated their interest and readiness for further promotion of health issues among their peers and local communities. These trainings were organized with a great deal of help from the Muftiyat leaders, who actively support health issues among students of madrasahs.

Youth-Friendly Health Services

The UNFPA, in collaboration with Primary healthcare centers of Karabuura District and the Naryn Region, educated 45 health providers on adolescent health issues, and provided confidential and friendly health services during the training, which was held from June 16–26 of 2014. Participants refreshed their knowledge and skills on consultation stages, which is key in providing youth-friendly health services. Participants noted that the principles utilized in youth-friendly health services could be beneficial to every client or recipient of health services. Health information services should be available to every adolescent regardless of their location. Unfortunately, due to various issues, this is a difficult task at this time!



“Working with adolescents was not a priority for Primary Healthcare Centers. Our priorities were driven by health care legislation: asthma, anemia, peptic ulcers, hypertension, heart disease, and social diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. But with an increasing number of adolescent pregnancies, unregistered suicide cases and lack of knowledge and skills among adolescents about their health, the integration of youth-friendly health services is a must; and we, in the Primary Healthcare system, will give it all of our efforts.”

Shambetova Lilia Uzbekovna, deputy director for Karabuura PHC

UN Peace-building Program in Kyrgyzstan

In 2014, the UNFPA office in Kyrgyzstan began implementing two peace-building projects, within the framework of UN Peace Building program for Kyrgyzstan: “Youth for Peaceful Change”, jointly with UNDP and UNICEF, and “Multisectorial Cooperation for Inter-ethnic Peace Building in Kyrgyzstan”.

Within the framework of the “**Youth for Peaceful Change**” project, in partnership with the “Y-PEER” NGO, a group of young volunteers from Bishkek, Osh and Batken has been formed to serve as future agents for peaceful changes, 11 girls and 11 boys. They were given 6-days of training on Forum Theatre techniques by an international consultant. On May 15–17, the group of young volunteers in Osh conducted two forum theatre performances on inter-ethnic intolerance. To better prepare for future performances, group discussions were conducted with the audiences on issues of their interest and concern. One performance in Batken was held in the venue of Batken State University, with the participation of 50 people who shared their views on the most urgent issues that are affecting them in that area. Among the issues of people’s interest and concern there was: unemployment, poverty, migration (contributing to instability), gender-based violence, inter-ethnic tension and conflicts, violence between peers, bullying and suicide, discrimination based on the North-South division, language intolerance, and inequality based on gender and/or socio-economic status.

The next step in the project will be the preparation of a forum theatre play for on-line/TV broadcast, which will provide an opportunity for people from all parts of the country to participate in the program on-line, to give their opinions on the issues raised, and to suggest solutions. The on-line/televised forum theatre plays will be an innovation, not only at the country level, but also globally.



Within the **Multisectoral Cooperation for Inter-ethnic Peace Building in Kyrgyzstan** a strategic partnership has been established with key project partners and stakeholders: The Spiritual Administration of Moslems of Kyrgyzstan, The State Commission on Religious Affairs, The State Agency on Self-Governance and Interethnic Relationships; and "Mutakalim", the religious women's public association. For better coordination and effective project implementation, a Project Steering Committee has been formed, engaging representatives of the Spiritual Administration of Moslems of Kyrgyzstan, The State Commission on Religious Affairs, and representatives of experts in the community on religion and gender (5 members).

Standard Operating Procedures addressing Gender Based Violence

Regarding the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325, the UNFPA formed a Working Group for the development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) on Gender-based Violence (GBV). It was based on the SOP which had been successfully piloted in Osh and Jalalabad cities within the UNFPA's gender program, and which provided effective technical support to the sectors engaged in the response to GBV after the violent conflict of 2010 in southern Kyrgyzstan.

The first draft will be soon presented to the key state stakeholders such as The Ministry of Emergencies, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of

Social Development, State Agency on Self-Governance and Inter-ethnic Relationships and to the Ministry of Justice in June.

The project is also currently working on the development and publication of a Community Action Toolkit for religious and community leaders and leaders of local self-governance structures. The Toolkit will equip them with practical instruments for peace building and with ways to response to local conflicts that might occur. A Working Group has been formed for this purpose, comprised of madrasah teachers and experts in peace education, human rights, gender, health and theology.

Kyrgyzstan has submitted a Concept Note for funding to address HIV infection in the country for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)

Kyrgyzstan is currently in a heightened stage of an HIV epidemic. Although the traditional driving factor in the epidemic has been injected drug use, there has been a notable increase of sexual transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Thus, in 2013, only 37.1% of the total number of registered HIV cases involved drug users, whereas cases of sexual transmission reached 57.7%. This is up from 2011, when the cases of sexual transmission represented only 30.3% of the total¹. With the increase of sexual transmission of HIV, there are more women infected and affected in some way by the infections. Back in 2011, women accounted for 30.3% of newly registered people living with HIV (PLHIV), in 2013, the percentage reached 41.9%.²

This dynamic shows that more efforts need to be taken to address the sexual transmission of HIV infection in the country.

On June 15 of 2014, a Concept Note to the Secretariat of GFATM was submitted on behalf of Kyrgyzstan for consideration of funding to address the issue of HIV infections in the country during 2015 to 2017. The Concept Note included ensuring ARVT (antiretroviral therapy) for PLHIV, reducing HIV from injections and the sexual transmission of HIV infection, prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), as well strengthening of the Health Care System in the country. These measures are expected to be implemented by AIDS-service NGOs, State Institutions and International Organizations.

The Concept Note includes proposed interventions by the UNFPA in Kyrgyzstan to address sexual transmission of HIV infection. The interventions are meant to provide assistance to the country in intensifying efforts to halt the spread of the current HIV epidemic and will contribute to achieving reduced cases of HIV infection through sexual transmission, and reduced stigma and discrimination towards key populations at higher risk to HIV, as well as PMTCT.

If successfully funded, the country will start utilizing GFATM funds from 2015.



Global Program to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security

In March 2014 within the Global Program to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security, the Cascade family planning trainings at the primary healthcare level in the regions of Issyk-Kul and Naryn were conducted based on recommendations of the Strategic Assessment of Contraception and Abortion in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Family Planning training program was designed and integrated into the Thematic Calendar plan of the Kyrgyz Medical Institute of Continuous Training (KMICT) for 2014.

Based on the KMICT request, UNFPA decided to improve the knowledge on medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use and family planning counseling skills of health providers at the primary health care level in Naryn and Issyk-kul. It was decided to conduct two training sessions of four days each – one for doctors and one for nurses and midwives – for each district of the two regions. Therefore, 18 trainings were organized and 450 PHC providers of Naryn and Issyk Kul regions were trained.

¹ National AIDS Center in Kyrgyzstan.

² Ibid.

Quality Assessment of Maternal and Newborn Services

The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with UNFPA and WHO, conducted an assessment of the quality of maternal and newborn health services in May 2014. The basic assessment was done in 2012. This quality assessment is an integral part of improving the quality of care and implementing international standards in clinical practice. The purpose of this assessment is to assist the Ministry of Health, key stakeholders and partners to identify major problems in the quality of services related to pregnancy, childbirth and care for newborns who need to improve and assess the progress made in improving the quality of services occurred after the baseline assessment. A report of the findings and recommendations will be presented by the national team to the Ministry of Health, to respective partners and to managers of the health organizations in August-September 2014.



Stepping Stones Guide

UNFPA jointly with the Kyrgyz Alliance for Family Planning started implementation of the plan of measures to improve social mobilization and strengthening partnerships in the provision of reproductive health services. The participants of the workshop were representatives of local government offices, village health committees, non-governmental organizations and the mosque Imams of some districts of Talas. The Stepping Stones guide was adapted to work with the local clergy and supplemented with excerpts from verses of the Qur'an and the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad to be used in this workshop. Experts from the Republican Health Promotion Center of the Ministry of Health, NGO "Mutakalim" and the Deputy Qadi of Talas oblast were involved in the workshop.

Team coaches created the most favorable conditions for the workshop using interactive methods. The result of this workshop was a joint action plan of the local community, religious, and health representatives.

Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) for Contraceptives

A Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) for contraceptives is critical to the effective operation of a family planning program. This will ensure a continuous supply of contraceptives, minimizing outages. With UNFPA support, a LMIS was designed to register contraceptive supply, and monitor distribution and utilization using an electronic database. CHANNEL is a computer software program for managing health supplies. The CHANNEL system allows Family Medicine Centers to track their supply stock as soon as commodities enter or leave storage, and to generate simple reports and requests. In 2014, the UNFPA procured 32 computers and installed them in FMCs at the district level. These FMCs are sending quarterly data to the Republican Medical Information Centre for review, analysis and forecasting the types and quantities of contraceptives needed in each region. The Ministry of Health uses the data to manage supply of commodities.

In May 2014, a three-day training was conducted to introduce the CHANNEL software program to IT specialists and health care providers involved in contraceptive logistics for the Naryn and Chui regions.



A Woman's Right to Health

Trainings for medical colleges of Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken were organized based on previously developed training manuals for teachers on emergency obstetric care for medical educational organizations. Trainings were held with the technical assistance of UNFPA. The organized by the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic jointly with the Kyrgyz Medical Institute of Continuous Training (KMICT).

The Department of Public Relations shared that according to the recommendations of the report, State of the World's Midwifery 2014: A Universal Pathway. A Woman's Right to Health, "It is necessary to focus on the training of highly qualified personnel in the field of obstetrics, as midwives play an important role in ensuring safe pregnancy, childbirth and immediate postnatal period." Medical college teachers increased their knowledge on managing eclampsia; incomplete abortion; prolonged and obstructed labour; postpartum haemorrhage; puerperal sepsis and midwifery in the community.



Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths

In order to improve the quality of care for pregnant women and newborns, The Ministry of Health, and the National Committee for Confidentiality Enquiries of Maternal Death, with technical support from the UNFPA gave a workshop on conducting confidential enquiries into maternal deaths (CEMD) for health workers in the regions of Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken.

The workshop presents a study of confidential questionnaires and analysis of maternal deaths.

Confidential questionnaires contain information on the factors CEMDs of medical and non-medical nature. Profiles provide data on each case. With comprehensive consideration and without disclosing personal information of patients and physicians, the data identifies general trends and/or factors of maternal mortality.



Information obtained on the CEMD basis, contributes to the development of recommendations to address the causes of mortality.

UNFPA Support for MICS

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) is an international household survey aimed at filling data gaps for monitoring the situation of women and children. The MICS was originally developed in response to the World Summit for Children to measure progress towards an internationally agreed upon set of mid-decade goals. The MICS tools were developed by UNICEF in mid 1990s. The first round of MICS was conducted beginning in 1995 in more than 60 countries. In Kyrgyzstan MICS was conducted for first time in 2005 as part of the third round implementation.

In 2014 the UNFPA joined UNICEF efforts in conducting MICS. The UNFPA actively participated in the work of the technical task force, which adapted survey questionnaires to the needs of Kyrgyzstan. MICS is being carried out by the National Statistics Committee (NSC) of the Kyrgyz Republic. Currently the NSC is conducting interviews according to the MICS questionnaire and methodology throughout the country. The UNFPA participated by monitoring the fieldwork in the regions of Issyk-Kul and Naryn, and provided follow up recommendations to the NSC.

Once all data has been collected, the UNFPA will support a team of national experts who will analyze the results and produce final report. It is expected that final report will be produced by end of 2014.

Happy Fatherhood Campaign

UNFPA launched the campaign "Happy Fatherhood" and produced a series of information materials to promote a new model of behavior for fathers, they were distributed in the birth preparedness schools, secondary schools, lyceums, LSG bodies, the City Hall of the Talas region and will be used in the classroom for young parents, as extra curricular activities in the education system by teachers of colleges, schools and also they can be used by youth activists. New materials are focused on strengthening family ties and the importance of interaction between fathers and children.



Подари детям свое время.

Spent your time with your children

The way you spend time with your children shows how much they are important to you. If you look overworked, you do not have time for children, do not be surprised that your words do not mean anything to them. If you treat your children like a big jewelry, then you will be obliged to sacrifice for them other things, you should give them more time. Children grow up quickly, and moments with your child that you delay - do not come back, you just lose them.

What do you think about Gender equality? "In some families, wives are beginning to demand from their husbands the equal sharing of family responsibilities and division of benefits - you have car and want it, too. Whether they understand the nature of gender equality? I think they can, and thus destroy their family. You need to resolve these questions without war".

Future father

In 14-15 July 2014 in the framework of the campaign "Happy fatherhood" UNFPA in Talas organized a series of events to raise attention to these issues in the communities and to encourage men and boys to promote gender equality, right to reproductive health and strengthen the institute of family.

The campaign was launched on 14 July 2014 with an event in the Birth preparedness School for parents, where experts shared the information about the importance of maternity care and concern for the health of the pregnant wife, also about the danger signs of pregnancy and urgent action of spouse in such cases, the future fathers were informed about the newborn care. Future fathers were active in class and ask questions about the nature of gender relations in the family, the division of responsibilities for the care of children.



The next important event was the visit to a military unit №2029 (s.Kok-Oh, Talas region) of the State Border Guard Service of the Kyrgyz Republic. On this day, the military unit was opened to the public. It is tradition that only mothers visit their sons, but that day fathers also came.

They see the accommodation conditions of sons, the guys showed their fathers level of physical preparedness, the collection and analysis of weapons, in turn, fathers demonstrated their level of physical preparedness, they shared their personal experience of military service, gave advice to their sons. For soldiers there were organized lecture on "Reproductive health of men" in order to form skills assessment of his physical condition, "Family planning", to discuss the standards of male and female behavior in the family. The guys talked about their experience of communication with the girls, on existing family models, including harmful practice on bride kidnaping.



"In rural youth continue to steal. I do not think that this phenomenon is good, but if my friend will do it, I won't say anything to him".

Soldier, part of the 2019 Talas

Upon completion of this event there was a request for such activities in a systematic way, especially since the military life is very isolated. Also lectures that were conducted contribute to a self-confidence of soldiers, awareness of personal responsibilities; also it is good opportunity to get answers to questions.

The third event of the campaign in Talas was a football tournament, which was played by two teams - "Fathers" and "sons." The tournament was held at the central stadium in Talas. Excellent physical preparedness and a healthy spirit of sportsmanship shown by both teams triumphed, but youth prevailed and the team "Sons" won with a score of 5: 2. At the conclusion of the match, all participants received prizes and T-shirts with the logo of the campaign "Atam jana Men" (My Dad and me). Such games help to changes social norms about the role of the father in the family in a positive way.



The words of one of the fathers: "I think you should always start with yourself. Parents, moms and dads should try to behave so that everything they do, it would be an example for their child".



The final event of the campaign was a lesson in Bakay Ata School of parents. Specialist of the schools informed about motherhood, importance of the active participation of men in childcare and domestic work and care about the health of the pregnant wife. Participants were provided with important information about the danger signs of pregnancy and urgent action of spouse in such cases, newborn care and care assistance on just delivered wife. Future fathers, participants noted that the classes were very informative and valuable.

"I had not attended classes at the School of parents. I thought that it should be only for my wife and usually men do not go to such places. But today I learned a lot, and now I will recommend to my friends that they also attend classes with their wives. This information is very useful for fathers also", - school participant