



UNFPA in the Kyrgyz Republic



UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person's potential is fulfilled.



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United Nations Population Fund in Kyrgyzstan



Dear Readers,

I am delighted to introduce the first e-newsletter from the United Nations Population Fund in Kyrgyzstan (UNFPA). The objective of this initiative is to bring to the readers' attention the latest progress, recent achievements and important forthcoming activities related to UNFPA's mission and goals (Population and Development, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment), as well as other developments that UNFPA is undertaking both globally and locally. The United Nations themes and global campaigns will also find their reflection in this publication.

We begin this New Year with a sense of encouragement and a clearer picture of the work needed moving forward. As the UNFPA newsletter enters its first year in circulation, we promise to bring you all the latest developments and analysis from our work and the work of our partners. We remain committed to realizing the potential of UNFPA in improving universal access to sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning), promoting reproductive rights, reducing maternal mortality.

More information is provided on our newly designed and updated website www.unfpa.kg. Via the website you will be able to access further in-depth information about program results, publications, as well as partner information. Announcements about job opportunities and training workshops can also be accessed.

Future e-newsletters will be sent to you on a bimonthly basis. I hope you find it to be a helpful resource and we would welcome your feedback.

*Kindest regards,
Nikolai Botev,
Director of Sub-Regional Office in Almaty/ Country Director for Kyrgyzstan
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Children by choice, not by chance: The State of World Population 2012 report



BISHKEK, 14 November 2012 – according to the newly released State of World Population 2012 report, launched today by UNFPA, planning the number and timing of one's children is largely taken for granted by millions of people who have the means and power to do so.

Recent UNFPA estimates show that every 2 minutes a woman dies of pregnancy-related complications. The four most common causes of maternal mortality are severe bleeding after childbirth, infections, high blood pressure during pregnancy, and unsafe abortion. Ninety nine percent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries; most could have been prevented with proven interventions. This year's State of World Population theme "Children by choice, not by chance" draws attention to the high rates of unintended and unwanted pregnancies, which show the lack of access to voluntary family planning as a major contributing factor.

According to a 2011 strategic assessment regarding the prevention of unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortion, quality of care and public's access to educational information continue to be a challenge in Kyrgyzstan. The assessment - carried out jointly by the Ministry of Health, UNFPA Kyrgyzstan, WHO/Europe - also indicates a need to improve the knowledge and skills of primary health care providers on contraception options and family planning.

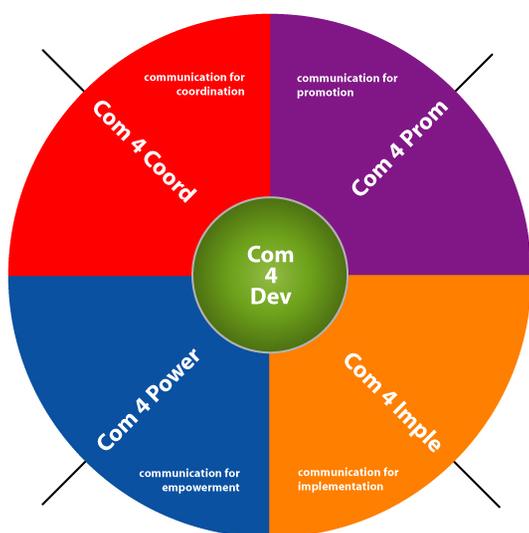
"More than 200 million women, largely in the least developed countries, want to use modern family planning methods but can't access them. They may face cultural barriers or family resistance. Contraceptives may not be available in their communities or they may not have the money to buy them, or there is a lack of information or trained workers to give advice. The result is human misery on a huge scale – and a major brake on our development hopes" says UNFPA Executive, Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin.



On this year's International Day of the Girl Child, the UNFPA called for action against child marriages in Kyrgyzstan by renewing local attention to the critical issue and promoting accountability from the decision makers. The campaign also included the opening of "TOO YOUNG TO MARRY - The sold childhood", a photo exhibition highlighting the personal narratives of Kyrgyz girls married against their will at early ages.

“UNFPA’s advocacy communication involves organized actions aimed at influencing policy and programme decisions, public perceptions of social issues, funding decisions and community support and empowerment regarding specific issues. It is a means of seeking change in attitudes and even institutional functioning” said Meder Omurzakov, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Kyrgyzstan.

A call for a further incorporation of new, redefined communication approaches into programme-planning instruments was also identified. For this purpose, the staff acknowledged as necessary the allocation of specific resources that would enable a more “people centric” environment, in full accordance with the organization’s beneficiaries.



“The external communication is, in many respects, the window that our beneficiaries have on our programs,” said Nurgul Kinderbaeva, Communication Focal Point within UNFPA Kyrgyzstan.

“Pulling the curtains shut over that window of communication would risk insulating the organization from our target audience or alienating our beneficiaries’ feedback on UNFPA programs.”

In accordance with the current priorities and community needs UNFPA country staff will focus their communication for development on four crucial elements:

- (i) behavior change communication;
- (ii) communication for social change;
- (iii) advocacy communication; and
- (iv) strengthening the current communication environment.



UNFPA Kyrgyzstan invests in communication for development

ISSIK KUL, July 17, 2012 – during an effective communication exercise UNFPA - the United Nations Population Fund country staff highlighted the need for an increase visibility of the Country Program Action Plan in Kyrgyzstan.

In this sense, the development of a realistic communication action plan put in practice by professionals was welcomed in order to ensure the achievement of the Fund’s objectives and beneficiaries’ real needs for development.



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BISHKEK, July 11, 2012 – Each year, World Population Day focuses attention on the urgency and importance of population and reproductive health, particularly in the context of overall development, and the need to address these issues. In the wake of the interest generated by the Day of 5 Billion, celebrated on 11 July 1987 (25 years ago), the General Assembly recommended that 11 July be observed annually as World Population Day. With world population surpassing 7 billion, we have an opportunity to accelerate progress towards one fundamental goal: Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services, which is the theme of World Population Day 2012.

The right of the individual to freely and responsibly decide how many children to have and when to have them has been the guiding principle in sexual and reproductive health, including family planning for decades, but especially since 1994, when 179 governments came together and adopted the groundbreaking Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the ICPD.



INVESTING IN CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES

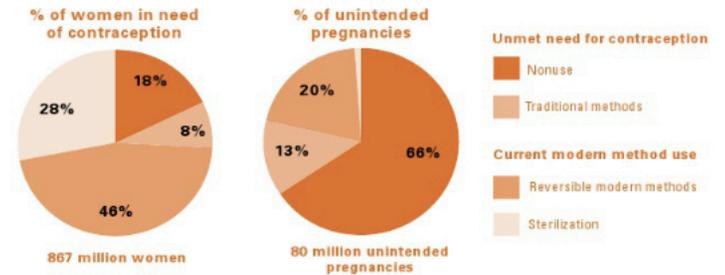


UNFPA state of world population 2012

The problem: 215 million women with unmet need for effective contraception

Unmet Need and Unintended Pregnancy

Women with unmet need make up 26% of those who want to avoid a pregnancy in 2012, but will account for 79% of unintended pregnancies.



The impact: an estimated 80 million unintended pregnancies because of contraceptive failure and non use among women who do not want a pregnancy soon

These unintended pregnancies will result in:

30 million unplanned births

40 million abortions

10 million miscarriages

The solutions:

integrate family planning services into other health services

ensure continuous supplies of a broad range of methods

build service provision capacity

improve provider competency in counseling, education, method provision

Governments must prioritize the provision of high quality contraceptive services in budget allocations and health policies

Donors need to increase their investment in the provision of contraceptive services

Health Education Behavioural Changes interventions are needed to address social factors that inhibit the use of modern contraceptives. Such barriers include women's low level of decision making power within families, the stigma attached to unmarried women's sexual activities and use of contraceptive services.

Early marriages: disadvantages without advantages



The sold childhood – a UNFPA Rapid Assessment on early marriages in Kyrgyzstan

As an active supporter of women, men and children's rights to health and equal opportunities United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been drawing special attention to the issue of marriages of minors, particularly girls.

In order to protect the rights of girls and stop the continuation of the harmful practices of child marriages in the Kyrgyz Republic, it is necessary to start broad discussions about the negative impact of this social phenomenon on the life and health of adolescents.

The purpose of the publication "Early marriage: disadvantages without advantages. The sold childhood" is to inform the society, young people, teenagers and political decision makers, that marriages of underage girls are a violation of the fundamental human rights.

Early marriages occur in all groups of society but, especially in the poorest segments of the population. Such marriages cripple the fate of young people, do not allow the development of their human and social capacity, it contributes to the rise of poverty and the criminalization of a society, as well as the child abandonment.

The real-life stories of the six girls whom UNFPA covers in the publication are a living proof of the dramatic and sometimes tragic consequences of early marriage in its various forms.

Their stories indicate that they did not have the right to choose, the right to education, freedom of movement, life without violence! They could not make decisions concerning their sexual lives, their marriage, divorce, not to mention their reproductive health. However the stories of these young women are an example of struggle for their own lives and lives of their children.

Some of them managed to resist the terrible consequences of their early and undesired marriages, and speak out against the violence they endured while others are still victims of it.

Their life experience should raise public's awareness about early marriage problem in the society and urge to take the necessary measures and protect the girls from the terrible fate full of violence and oppression of their human rights.



KYRGYZSTAN: SUPPORTING THE 'ICPD BEYOND 2014' REVIEW PROCESS

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Review is an opportunity to influence the future of population and development policy at national, regional and global levels.

It provides a once in a generation chance to define what needs to be done to deliver a more equal, more sustainable world for the 7 billion people.

The Review will identify progress and achievements towards the goals set out in the landmark International Conference on Population and Development, when 179 governments committed to a 20 year Programme of Action to deliver human rights based development.

Every government in the world is expected to complete the survey as a way of measuring progress towards the goals set out in the ICPD Programme of Action.

The experience of Kyrgyzstan, selected as 'good practice' by UNFPA, are highlighted below:

In Kyrgyzstan the ICPD review process, which included focus groups and a national validation workshop, served as an entry point for advocacy among government officials, says Meder Omurzakov, UNFPA Assistant Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic.

UNFPA's objectives were twofold: 1) to support the government in ensuring wide participation of national stakeholders in the ICPD review and timely submission of a consolidated national response to the regional commission; and 2) to help assess national progress on implementation of ICPD Programme of Action.

The review process overall received the backing of the Vice Prime Minister's Office, which had had a long and supportive relationship with UNFPA.

"The goal of the Global Survey was to assess progress made towards achieving ICPD goals and identify gaps that Kyrgyzstan still needs to work on" said Tolgonai Berdikeyeva, National Programme Analyst on Population and Development, United Nations Population Fund.



High maternal mortality rates remain major health care problem in the Kyrgyz Republic. Antenatal care (ANC) and Perinatal Care (PC) are essential elements of the maternal and child continuum of care. For ANC, despite the progress in increasing its coverage in Kyrgyzstan, quality remains low.

To date, the structure of maternal mortality is represented by postpartum hemorrhage (33,3% in Batken and 63,6% in Osh), hypertensive disorders (16,7% in Batken and 1% in Osh), septic complications (33,3% in Batken and 18,2% in Osh), i.e. those conditions that are dependent on women's access to proper care and monitoring of women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum period.

A majority of maternal deaths could have been prevented.



“Delivering as One” Press Tour: Osh, Batken

UNFPA is ensuring access to affordable health services for women of reproductive age and newborns via a joint UNICEF project in selected areas of the country: Batken, Osh and the National Center on Maternal and Child Health.

OUTCOMES (2011 - 2013):

Improve access to and the utilization of quality of antenatal and perinatal, and child health services;

Improve the case management skills of health staff in pilot areas;

Provide essential maternal and child lifesaving supplies and establish birth preparedness schools in pilot areas.



Get Involved

Y-PEER Kyrgyzstan together with Red Crescent conducted Flash Mob for 10 days of Activism in Centre of Bishkek. Find out more on: <http://y-peer.kg>



Connect with UNFPA in Kyrgyzstan

UNFPA has been addressing population and development issues, with an emphasis on reproductive health and gender equality for over 44 years but is still firmly focused on the future – and that means keeping pace with the latest 'social media' trends.

Did you know that UNFPA Kyrgyzstan is on YouTube, Facebook, Flickr, Scribd?

These easy-to-use platforms allow people and organizations to connect online. In UNFPA's case, this interaction serves an important cause: ensuring health, education, equality and protection for the world's population.

For general enquiries regarding UNFPA's newsletter, you can contact the editor, Ramona Lupu (lupu@unfpa.org)