

National Review of the Kyrgyz Republic in the framework of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

CONTENTS

SECTION 1. A review of progress and problems in the Kyrgyz Republic for the period starting from 1995

SECTION 2. Current situation and policies in critical areas of the Platform for Action in the period starting from 2009

2.1 Women's economic empowerment

2.2 Education and training of women

2.3 Women's access to health services

2.4 Human rights and women's and girls' access to justice

2.5 Women's participation in decision-making and decision-solutions

2.6 Development of institutional mechanisms for gender equality

SECTION 3. Development of gender statistics

SECTION 4. New priorities for strengthening the gender agenda within the formation of sustainable development for the period after 2015.

ANNEXES

- Indicators of gender statistics
- Working Papers on the themes: "Women and the Media"; "Women and the Environment"

Foreword

Gender equality is a priority commitment of the Kyrgyz Republic. Gender equality is enshrined in the universal human rights conventions of the United Nations, confirmed in international declarations and commitments, and emphasized on issues of peace and security in the UN Security Council resolutions.

As part of the implementation of its international and national commitments, Kyrgyzstan presented four periodic reports on the implementation of CEDAW to the Committee on the UN Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

To demonstrate its commitment to further progress, in 2012 the Kyrgyz Republic for the first time adopted a long-term document - the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2020, which identified priorities such as the development of women in the economic sector, education for girls and women, and access to justice and political equality. In order to enhance the role of women in peace and security, in 2013 the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council.

Preparation of a national survey in the context of two decades of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2015 is a unique opportunity for Kyrgyzstan to assess the achievements and challenges of promoting a policy of gender equality.

The current review of the status of women in the Kyrgyz Republic is the third in the series of extended five-year reviews, which were prepared at the country level as a result of the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance note of the Economic and Social Council.

In preparation for the Review of the Kyrgyz Republic for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, on February 27, 2014 Order #12 of the Minister of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic has established an interdepartmental working group consisting of experts of ministries, the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and independent gender experts, acting with the support of international partners. In the process of preparation, extensive consultations took place across the country with the participation of over two hundred representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The results of the regional consultations were summarized by an interagency working group. The structure of the National Review was defined on the basis of these results, in line with the country's development trends and the twelve areas of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Thus, the first section of this review provides an overview of achievements and challenges in the Kyrgyz Republic for the period since 1995. The second section outlines the current situation and policies in critical areas of the Platform for Action in the period from 2009 in the following areas: economic empowerment of women; education and training of women; women's health; human rights and women's and girls' access to justice; participation of women in the directive bodies and in the decision-making process; development of an institutional mechanism for achieving gender equality. The third section describes the process of development of gender statistics in the Kyrgyz Republic. The fourth section of this review shows new priorities for strengthening the gender agenda within the formation of sustainable development for the period after 2015. The annex contains gender statistics indicators and draft materials on the following subjects: "Women and the Media"; "Women and the Environment."

A national consultation on a draft of this review, involving all partners, was held on April 22, 2014, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Suggestions and additions of the participants of National consultations are contained in this current review.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the interdepartmental working group, representatives of civil society, and gender experts, who made a contribution to the preparation of this National review.

I am also grateful to all international partners for constructive cooperation on the implementation of gender policy in the country and would like to express a special gratitude for the cooperation of the United Nations Framework - Women of Kyrgyzstan, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

I am deeply convinced that only joint efforts can effectively implement a policy of empowerment of women, which is fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace.

**Sincerely,
Kudaibergen Bazarbayev,
Minister of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic**

SECTION 1. An overview analysis of progress and problems in the Kyrgyz Republic for the period starting from 1995

Immediately after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, at the initiative of the delegates – parliamentarians and women leaders who have held the leading political and administrative positions in the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, with the ratification of the core international conventions, the Kyrgyz Republic adopted gender legislation for the country, institutional mechanisms were established to protect human rights and promotion of women in the form of the State Commission on Family, Women and Youth and the National Council on Gender Policy under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, were established. Strategic development goals for gender equality were also identified: the National Programme for the Advancement of Women for the years of 1996-2000 “Ayalzat” was adopted.¹ In April 1999, at a special meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Kyrgyzstan was named among the top ten countries successfully fulfilling the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference in Beijing.²

The attempt in Kyrgyzstan to systematize developments in the field of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in general, since the Beijing Conference and the twenty third special session of the General Assembly, reveals the following achievements of the country:

¹ Report on the situation of women in the Kyrgyz Republic. 1995-2000. From Beijing to New York. Bishkek, 1999.

² Report on the situation of women in the Kyrgyz Republic. 2000-2005. Bishkek, 2004.

1) Development of gender legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, which includes not only the implementation of international conventions into the domestic legislation, but also specialized Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic “On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women” (2008), “On the socio-legal Protection against domestic Violence” (2003), which have significantly strengthened the State policy to protect the rights and freedoms of women.

2) Sector-based regulatory and legal acts that promote gender mainstreaming in government activities in various fields as part of gender legislation. In this respect, of special importance is the Law of the KR “On normative legal acts”, which prescribes mandatory gender analysis of legislation with other types of mandatory examinations of all implemented legal acts. While the current legislation of the Republic requires improvement in terms of expanding legal institutions and judicial and executive regulation made to the Criminal Code (Art. 154, 155 “Kidnapping”) through gender-sensitive aspects, there is a real opportunity to deal effectively with such crimes against individual women as kidnapping women for forced marriage (bride kidnapping), the rights and freedoms of women in reproductive and sexual behavior, and to promote the advancement of women in the decision-making process.

3) A policy of special measures to support women's leadership, which got its consolidation in the electoral legislation in the form of gender quotas in candidate lists of political parties. The important factor here is the model of the electoral system (proportional), which allows providing a critical mass of underrepresented groups and promotes the formation of a diverse composition of parliament members. Representation of women at the highest political level not only has a symbolic value but also allows including forgotten or new issues in the agenda of the parliament and local councils. For example, it is women MPs together with women's non-governmental organizations who have initiated and promoted changes to the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic to toughen punishment for bride kidnapping and actively fight for effective enforcement in this matter.

4) Obvious progress in gender issues over the past years are changes that occurred at the political level regarding the issues of violence, especially domestic violence. So even gender experts (in the survey on the situation of women in 1999) recognized bride kidnapping and polygamy as “negative” and “violent traditions of the people”. And today, political recognition of the criminal nature of bride kidnapping and polygamy, and a more practical implementation of specific measures to prevent these crimes, is seen as an achievement. Upon the mission to Kyrgyzstan (November 2009) of Ms. Rashida Manjoo - the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the State was urged to toughen criminal penalties for bride kidnapping and forced marriage, to eliminate the possibility of **appointing only penalty**, and to provide penalties for conspiracy and aiding in the commission of the offense. The implementation of this recommendation was made possible primarily due to the interaction of the consolidated State and civil society organizations.

The fact that the country has carried out special studies on domestic violence is of high importance. The costs of domestic violence for society and the state were calculated for the first time in the CIS region. Also, despite difficulties with financing, the State is constantly striving to

maintain the institutional mechanisms for the protection of the rights and freedoms of women and men from domestic violence. Notable in this regard is the inclusion of violence against men in the focus of care of the State, and the establishment of the first crisis centers and shelters for men who are victims of violence or are in severe crisis.

5) Progress in the fight against domestic violence would have been impossible without the active development of gender-disaggregated statistics, which today include more than two dozen indicators on aspects of gender and violence. According to experts, collections of gender-disaggregated statistics, in “Men and Women of the Kyrgyz Republic”, are of the highest quality in the CIS. The data in this publication of statistics allow analysis and better understanding of the issues of violence, including the development of policy-generating documents on these bases.

6) Starting in 2012, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Kyrgyz Republic formed a section to oversee the enforcement of laws in the field of gender policy in the State statistical reporting.

7) Issues of gender-based program budgeting (GBPB) became routine in the overview of gender policy achievements. Despite the fact that the GBPB technology did not become the operating model for the national budgeting process, significant progress in this direction is already made. First of all, the promotion of “civil budget” can be noted, and within this approach, the annual organization of public parliamentary and government hearings where a gender analysis of the draft budget for the next year and PRS forecast are provided by experts from the civil society.

8) For the first time in decades a long-term strategy was developed for achieving gender equality by 2020, with the calculation of priority activities. Thus, the State has made one more step towards clear and sound financial planning for gender equality and the organization of effective monitoring of compliance with the legislation.

The report on the situation of women in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2000-2005 demonstrated trends which would soon become the key characteristic of the development of the national gender policy, namely:

- ***Instability of national institutional mechanism to protect and promote the rights of women.*** At the time of preparation of the second periodic report on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the State had to certify that the institutional mechanism for gender was transformed from a separate structure of the system of power into a structural unit of the President's Administration - Secretariat of the National Council on Women, Family and Gender Development, which objectively faced the problem of organization at the local level, as respective functional units and officials responsible for gender issues in local governments had not been appointed.

- ***Absence or extremely limited funding for gender equality.*** The review for 2000-2005 indicates that for the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the promotion of gender equality, the State budget allocated 300 thousand soms in 2002, 400 thousand soms in 2003, and 1,011.2 thousand soms were scheduled for 2004. It is important to note that in subsequent time periods the shares and amounts of financing for gender equality were not recorded separately, the

allocated funds have been directed solely at “protected items” - payroll and taxes of employees of public bodies working in institutional mechanisms for gender equality.

• ***Implementation of a monitoring system for the NAP on gender equality in the activities of State and municipal authorities.*** Despite the fact that the report of 2004 indicated that “in order to monitor the implementation of the NAP, and in 2003 the Secretariat developed a system of monitoring and evaluation of its implementation, with the introduction of the necessary reporting forms twice a year”, those forms were not consolidated normatively and to this day gender indicators are not included in the reporting forms at all levels of power and authority. Since then, several attempts have been made to develop indicators to promote gender equality and the implementation of certain standards, such as the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women” or the NAP for Gender Equality. However, none of the mechanisms are formalized as universal mandatory reporting forms.

The current situation demonstrates the urgency of strengthening the institutional mechanism for achieving gender equality. In general, the development of the mechanism for achieving gender equality in the Kyrgyz Republic can be divided into six time steps, during each one of which national programs are received, plans are made, gender legislation is developed, institutional changes occur in gender mechanism, and the change of the conceptual approach takes place:

• **In the first phase, during the period of 1995-1998** - the first national program for the advancement of women “Ayalzat” was developed and adopted (in 1996), which was based on structural strategic direction of the Beijing Platform for Action. Key international conventions were also ratified: “On the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, “On the Political Rights of Women”, “On the Nationality of Married Women”, etc., and gender laws of the country significantly developed. The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, declaring 1996 as the “Year of Women”, established the State Commission on Family, Women and Youth under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with the structural units in the regions - Center for Women's Initiatives “Ayalzat” (CWI) at regional administrations. The “Women in Development” approach was the foundation of relevant policies in this period. Allocation of funds from the State budget was scheduled for the implementation of policies for the advancement of women. However, the actual amount of funding did not exceed 30 per cent of the approved budget and only covered the maintenance costs of the State Commission, while the State Commission and CWI program activities “Ayalzat” were carried out by the international donor resources. Active growth of women's NGOs is a core characteristic of this stage.

• **The second step of forming a national mechanism in 1998-2000** was associated with further development of institutional mechanisms and the establishment of the National Council (NC) on Gender Policy under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, consisting of the heads of ministries and departments, parliamentarians, and representatives of civil society. Thus, the national mechanism had an interdepartmental and cross-sectoral character. Moreover, the very name of the National Council partly reflected attempts of donor agencies and non-governmental organizations to switch from the concept of substantive agenda “Women in Development” (WID) first to the concept of “Gender and Development” (GAD) and then to “Gender

Mainstreaming” (GM). Persons responsible for gender issues had been appointed in all state bodies, local state administrations, and local authorities for the implementation of gender policies, which contributed to the compilation of gender disaggregated statistics.

- **The third stage of organizational development of the State mechanism covers the period from 2000 to 2004.** Among the key challenges in promoting gender equality, the national program “Ayalzat” had a weak institutional mechanism caused by lack of budgetary support for its activities. In late 2000, the State Commission was abolished under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Council on Gender Policy under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic transformed into the National Council on Women, Family and Gender Development under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic with a working body - the Secretariat - in the structure of the Presidential Administration. In 2004 a special section on family and women was created in the Department of Social and Cultural Development of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In 2002, a National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2002-2006 was adopted. Gender legislation developed further through the adoption of two strategic laws – “On social and legal protection from domestic violence” and the Law “On the bases of State guarantees to safeguard gender equality.” During this period, an increase in women's political representation was observed. This was due to the adoption of a special Presidential Decree – a positive measure against discrimination against women, introducing the system of government quotas, providing for binding positions of deputy heads of government agencies.

- **The fourth stage in the development of the national mechanism (from 2005 to 2009)** – was characterized by unprecedented examples of the complete elimination of women from the highest legislative authority - the Kyrgyz Parliament, as well as a minimum representation in the executive branch. At the same time there was a high degree of consolidation of the women's movement organizations in the promotion of specific measures to achieve gender equality (establishment of the post of Special Representative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Parliament on gender development), as well as further institutionalization of a gender mainstreaming policy through the introduction of mandatory gender analysis of legislation, integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies.

- **The fifth stage of development of the national mechanism (from 2010 to 2011)** was associated with the promotion of women's political leadership after the 2010 revolution. Key positions in the management system in this period were held by women - the interim President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Minister of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, the President of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Chairman of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, a number of ministers – Minister of Health, Minister of Labor, Employment and Migration. During this period, through constitutional reform, civil society activists managed to defend a number of constitutional rights and freedoms, including the principle of equal rights and opportunities for men and women. However, in this period of time the institutional mechanism remained unstable and weak, and the National Council was essentially dysfunctional.

The sixth stage of development of the national mechanism (starting from 2012) - has been the development of the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2020 and corresponding to the

NAP 2014, the Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, as well as the calculation of the budget implementation of the NAP policy measures for gender equality by 2014. The National Strategy is the first long-term document in Kyrgyzstan in achieving gender equality. During this period, mandatory gender analysis of national budgets was established.

Politics of Kyrgyzstan within the framework of the National Strategy for achieving gender equality by 2020 reflects the key areas of implementation of measures of the Beijing Platform for Action. The current situation and policies in the field of gender development are presented in the second section of this review.

Further gender mainstreaming in development programs and policies of the country in management practices are stimulated by politicians and commitments of donor organizations, which, in accordance with the Paris Declaration, the Accra agenda for Action and the Busan agreement, shall be responsible for the implementation of gender equality policies in the provision of assistance.

SECTION 2. The current situation and policies in critical areas of the Platform for Action in the period starting from 2009

2.1 Women's economic empowerment

Development of measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the economic sphere is the most important obligation of Kyrgyzstan. Among the problematic areas that lead to economic inequality of women, especially in rural areas, it is important to highlight the following: 1) the restriction of women to engage in income-generating activities; 2) chronic poverty increases the risk of degradation of women's human capital; 3) unequal access for women to the labor market and unequal access to resources.

Reducing the access of women to income-generating activities due to the high load on women and children in the household.

According to the NSC, women spend three times more time on housework than men (17.4 and 5.7 hours, respectively). In rural areas women have to perform an additional 2 hours of housework.³ At the same time, according to the assessment of demographic and health survey conducted in Kyrgyzstan in 2012 (DHSK), women are heads of only 27 percent of households. Financial resources are often limited in these households.⁴

Also notable are indicators on the number of women managers of economic entities operating in agriculture. Women make up only 18 percent of leaders in this category.⁵ The unevenly high loads of responsibility on women compared with men in keeping the household, and caring for children and the elderly, is caused by the significant influence of traditional

³ NSC Data Collection “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”, 2013, p. 124

⁴ Demographic and Health Survey of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2012. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic and Calverton, Maryland, USA, National Statistical Committee, Ministry of Health and ICF International, p. 26.

⁵ NSC Data Collection. p. 99.

gender stereotypes. The results of various studies and evaluations show that perceptions of women's roles associated with the exercise of reproductive functions (happiness for a woman is marriage, women are homemakers; while men play the role of financial providers, managers, etc.) are dominant.

Care for children with disabilities is also the responsibility of women. Because of this, women who have children with disabilities drop out of the workplace, especially mothers who are single parents of children with disabilities.

In these circumstances, the task of creating home load redistribution mechanisms between family members, providing conditions for the household, in particular, access to clean drinking water is of particular gender significance.

The State considers issues of access to clean drinking water as a priority of national policies and develops special measures to address them.⁶ Thus, under long-term agreements with donor agencies, programs have been implemented to improve the water supply in rural areas, as well as training programs and involvement of the rural population, including women, in the management of water resources.⁷

At the same time, there remain many unresolved issues in this area related to the provision of the necessary equipment, technological violations in newly reconstructed water systems, the effective involvement of local communities in decision-making on water issues, etc., which adversely affect the overall situation of the population with access to drinking water.

2012 DHSK research showed no changes in the access of households to improved sources of drinking water for the past six years since 2006. The probability of finding a source of drinking water in the vicinity of households is nearly twice higher in urban households than in rural areas (91 percent versus 54 percent).⁸

A consequence of the limited access to safe drinking water is a deterioration of the epidemiological situation in almost all regions of the country. In the context of the lack of sanitation infrastructure, the health and social care burden associated with caring for sick family members is traditionally performed by women and girls, which increases their risk of chronic inequality and poverty.

Due to the chronic nature of poverty, the risk of degradation of women's human capital increases, as women use their own strategy to reduce consumption and increase the number of deprivations (consumption of time for sleep, rest, food).

⁶ The methodology for determining poverty line (Approved by the Government Resolution of the KR, dated March 25, 2011 #115). Ratification of the agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and IDA co-financing of the "Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project", "Strategy for Development of drinking water" GR of the KR #111 from March 05, 2013.

⁷ For example, projects of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, European Bank for reconstruction and development for the rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation, provision of infrastructure services at the community level.

⁸ Demographic and Health Survey of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2012, p. 14-15.

Chronic poverty forms a type of culture that does not allow poor families to get out of difficult situations from generation to generation. This is evidenced by the depth of poverty dynamics of the index, which increased in 2012 compared to 2011 by 0.2 percentage points to 7.7 percent. The severity of poverty increased as well, amounting to 2.4 per cent in 2012. However, poverty is experienced in relation to gender in different ways. Thus, in two-parent families where the head of the family is a woman, the poverty level is higher (46.8 percent versus 34.1 percent for men heads of household) and extreme poverty level is at 2.6 percent versus 2.7 percent for men. In single-parent families there is an opposite trend - the poverty rate is higher in households with male heads (27.8 percent vs. 17.3 percent for women) and the extreme poverty level is 2.7 percent vs. 1.8 percent for women.⁹

To support low-income families the State provides a monthly allowance to low-income families with children (MALF). Currently 115.8 thousand families receive MALF for children, of which 98.2 per cent (113.7 thousand families) are families where applicants for MALF are women. The total number of recipients of MALF is 336.2 thousand people, of which 176.1 thousand persons (52.4 per cent) are women.

The average size of MALF is 487.4 soms. In order to increase the level of State support for poor families the guaranteed minimum income (GMI), which is calculated from the size of MALFS, is constantly being revised. Since November 2013 the size of the GMI has increased from 580 to 640 soms (10.3 percent).

Poverty is a major cause of disability. The State provides monthly social benefits (MSB), social services and social residential care through the State social order for persons with disabilities (PWD). But the MSB is the core support mechanism for PWD.

The number of PWD receiving MSB is 58.1 thousand people, of which 29.1 thousand people are women with disabilities.

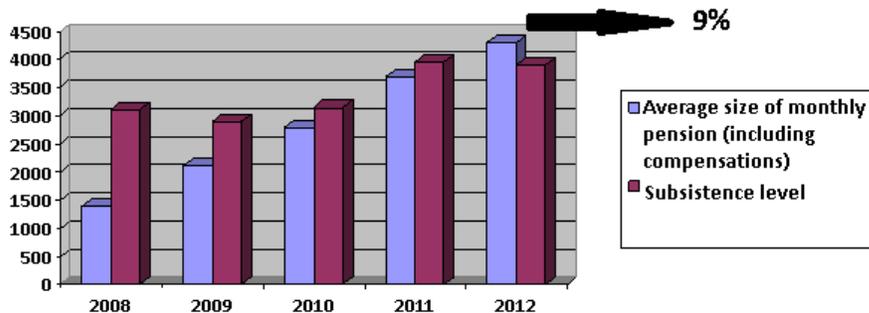
MSB is also given to senior citizens who do not have any work experience and to children in cases when they have lost their caregivers. The core numbers of the elderly who have no work experience are women who make up 84.2 percent (1.6 thousand women). 14.5 thousand children receive MSB due to loss of caregivers (of them 7.6 thousand are girls). The average size of MSB is 2,405.7 soms.

Over the past four years, an increase in poverty among older women is observed. The reason for this tendency is the widening gap between the cost of living and the average pension. As is shown in Figure 1, at the end of 2012 the average monthly pension (including compensation) amounted to 4,208 soms or 109 percent of the subsistence level (the number of women among pensioners is twice the number of men). To equalize incomes of various categories of the population the State is taking measures to help poor families in cash and kind;

⁹ NSC Data Collection. p. 12.

annual indexation of pensions provided by the progressive ratio is performed (the less the amount of pension, the higher is the mark-up factor for retirement).¹⁰

Figure 1. The correlation of a living wage and the average pension



Source: NSC

Decline in economic activity and decline of employment of women is mainly comprised of rural women indicators.

Kyrgyzstan retained a higher level of economic activity of men than women. In 2012 the figure was at 51.8 percent for women, and 77.3 percent for men. The recession had a significant impact on reduction of labor activity of women, lack of jobs in rural areas and reduction of vacancies in the public sector. In general, due to stricter migration legislation in countries receiving migrant workers, the flow of remittances to the country has decreased. The main share of these money transfers is the creation of new jobs. A decrease in the number of jobs and the number of new jobs was a consequence of the decline in the flow of remittances.

The employment rate varies greatly depending on age and gender. In 2012, the level of economic activity of young men (15-28 years of age) was 26 percentage points higher than that of young women (64 percent vs. 38 percent). At a very age young women tend to become mothers and do not work due to pregnancy and child care.

Due to a reduction in the number of preschool institutions (kindergartens and nurseries especially) women cannot go to work. According to official statistics from 1991 to 2007, the number of preschool institutions (kindergartens and nurseries) decreased by 3.4 times. Rural areas traditionally had fewer preschools, just over 25 percent (in 1991) of the total number. From 2007 to 2012 there was a shift towards an increase in the number of childcare institutions by 1.7 times. This tendency was mainly in the cities, thus, urban women have more opportunities to send their children to kindergartens and childcare centers than women in rural areas.

¹⁰ The Law of the KR #57, dated July 21, 1997 “On State Social Pension Insurance”; The core directions of the National Program “Ardager”(approved by Presidential Decree #200 of June 30, 1997); Law "On Pensions" from July 21, 1997 № 57.

In 2012 the employment rate of the population over 15 years of age amounted to almost 59 percent. The employment rate of men was 24 percentage points higher than among women (71 percent vs. 47 percent).¹¹ This trend continues in all age groups. The most significant gap is observed in the age groups 25-34 years and 55-64 years (child care and old-age pension, respectively). In general, the situation of women in the labor market is deteriorating. Women's economic opportunities are limited by horizontal and vertical gender segregation in the labor market. The proportion of women among the employed population is the highest in the service sector. In health care and social services, the share of women is 86 percent, 77 percent in education, and 70 percent in hotels and restaurants. Women's employment in the textile and clothing industry remains dominant (over 89 percent). The proportion of women among managers operating economic entities does not exceed 25 percent.

There is a trend of stable reduction of the share of women in total employment rates. One of the key points is that more than 60 percent of light industry, which is the prevalent employment sector among women, is currently in an informal condition with no defined legal framework of labor and no mechanism to protect the rights of workers. As part of the process of taking the informal economy out of the shadow, the State initiated a number of measures aimed at the smooth transition of the informal sector enterprises into formal ones (the Plan of the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic).

In 2012, the overall unemployment rate was 8.4 percent, while the unemployment rate for women was at 9.5 percent, which is significantly higher than that of men (7.7 percent, respectively). Women also have a higher level of long-term unemployment (12 months or more) - 13.6 percent against 12.3 percent for men. In 2012, the number of unemployed women has decreased in comparison with 2011 and constituted 97.9 thousand vs. 102.2 in the previous year. It should also be noted that female contribution to agriculture is ignored: women tend to be regarded as unemployed, although they play key roles in farming.

Unemployment among women is observed in all age groups. Since 2003, the highest growth of unemployed women was recorded in several age subgroups: 15-17 years of age, 20-34 years of age and 50-54 years of age. Thus, the most difficult labor market position among young women is relevant to young women who do not have any work experience; among older women, difficult labor market realities are faced by women of childbearing age and women approaching retirement age. Unemployment is one of the main problems among women with disabilities. Despite the availability of appropriate articles in the Labor Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on quotas for enterprises jobs for PWD, integration of these citizens into the labor market is problematic. High unemployment in the countryside, villages and small towns leads to an increase of female migration. Women now make up 59 percent of the migratory flow abroad.¹²

The main causes of labor migration is lack of permanent jobs with decent wages. Differences in pay between women and men have always existed by virtue of occupational segregation. Women work in traditionally "female" sectors - education, health, culture and art, where the pay is low. Over the past five years, the wage gap between women and men has decreased. Thus, if in 2008 women's wages comprised 67.3 percent of men's wages; in 2012 this

¹¹ Social trends in the Kyrgyz Republic / statistical compilation NSC, Bishkek, 2012.

¹² NSC Data Collection. p. 61.

number was at 74.3 percent. However, despite the reduction in the gap between “female” and “male” wages, women employed in the public sector can be attributed to a particular category of the poor. For example, in the mining industry, where women do not exceed 18 percent, the average wage is 13,648 soms. At the same time in the field of education, where women make up 76.6 percent of all employees, the average salary reaches only 7,318 soms. An everyday reality of public employees, especially women, is life in debt – from paycheck to paycheck. Wage reform has led to a widening gap between the incomes of the top-level administration and ordinary staff, predominantly comprised of women.

It should be noted that, despite the equality of labor rights established by the Constitution, at the normative level there is no direct prohibition for women to engage in certain activities that tend to bring higher income.¹³

In order to overcome gender gaps in the labor market, the Labor Code of the Kyrgyz Republic was amended and appropriate additions were made to the Law "On public service providing monthly employment information on the availability of employment opportunities (vacancies) with description of salary and working conditions."¹⁴ In particular, provisions were enacted providing additional leave without pay to care for a child until the child reaches the age of three years at the request of the employee, regardless of gender.

In the future, the government intends to improve the conditions for investment and develop investment projects based on the number and quality of jobs, based on the creation of decent employment conditions. In order to ensure the integration of women in the economy and improvement of the social infrastructure, including the establishment of pre-schools, especially in rural areas, implementation of the initiatives launched in the sphere of women's access to resources will continue.

The status of women in the labor market and the unequal access to capital require urgent solutions.

Women continue to be one of the decisive factors of social production in the market economy, and they are more intensively involved in business relations, forming a typical “gender niche” of modern economic activity of the population. According to research of female entrepreneurship problems in the Kyrgyz Republic, 90 percent of the population believes that a female entrepreneur makes a significant contribution to the welfare of the family. It is also noted that women help improve the welfare of other unemployed women, facilitating their employment. At the same time women tend to be more responsible in doing business than men.¹⁵

According to the NSC (Table 1) 12,503 small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter SME) operate in the Republic - an increase by 571 units since 2012. Individual entrepreneurial activity is carried out by 329.7 thousand people (an increase of 31.8 thousand people). Thus, the total number of employees in business (excluding farms and agriculture) for the reporting period

¹³ Government Resolution #158 of March 24, 2000.

¹⁴ The Law of the KR #185 of November 20, 2012.

¹⁵ Analyst Report: The study of problems of development of women's entrepreneurship in the Kyrgyz Republic. SIAR Research & Consulting Agency, 2012. <http://siar-consult.com/news/women-in-business/>

amounted to 417.3 thousand people (growth by 31,9 thousand people). The share of small and medium-sized businesses in the total GDP was 38.8 percent or 135, 615.0 million soms (in 2012 - 39.9 percent or 124,072.1 million soms).

Table 1
Small and Medium Enterprise Activities
in the years 2012-2013

Indicators	Unit of measure	2012 (factual)	2013 (factual)	Variation (+/-)
Number of SME	Thousand people	11 932	12 503	+571
Occupied in small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)	Thousand people	385,4	417,3	+31,9
Including private entrepreneurs	Thousand people	297,9	329,7	+31,8
Contribution of SME in GDP	%	39,9	38,8	-1,1

According to a study conducted to determine the number of women entrepreneurs in different sectors of the economy: 56 percent of women entrepreneurs are involved in trade, 22 percent in the manufacturing sector, 19 percent established their own businesses in the service sector and 3 percent in other sectors. This means that women traditionally work in the field of trade, consumer goods, services and education.

For further development of entrepreneurship the State takes various measures to develop the legal and regulatory framework.¹⁶ However, as a rule, the measures taken do not have any gender dimension and normative legal acts lack the concept of female entrepreneurship.

It is important to note a number of State initiatives implemented in collaboration with international and non-governmental organizations to support women's economic activity. In particular, the project “On the development of women's entrepreneurship”, implemented on the basis of an agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Asian Development Bank.¹⁷

However, the development of women's entrepreneurship is faced with economic, political, legal, and socio-cultural barriers. For example, women have limited access to strategic resources for business development: nearly 70 percent of microcredit recipients are women, but there are almost no women among the recipients of large business loans. To overcome this risk,

¹⁶ Law “On State Support of Small Business” from May 25, 2007; the Law “On the development of agriculture” from May 26, 2009; the State project “Financing agriculture” approved by GKR on lending to businesses (Decree number 10 of January 12, 2013).

¹⁷ Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic #190 of May 21, 2013.

the Kyrgyz Government initiated the launch of a single product of “Ail bank” aimed at the development of small and medium-sized businesses through microcredit to low-income families, and funds are issued without collateral - on terms of social responsibility.

2.2 Education and professional training of women

Equal access to education and gender equity is provided by systematic implementation of educational policy and gender-sensitive education. Ensuring equal access to education and empowerment of women in receiving vocational training is a strategic policy to achieve gender equality in Kyrgyzstan.

The chief governing body for determining policies and coordinating activities in the field of education is the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic (MES KR). Currently, the Ministry implements policies with a gender component in the following areas:¹⁸

- Developing partnerships between all sectors of society to strengthen institutional mechanisms for gender development;
- Inclusion of gender developments in the plan for public research;
- Introduction of gender components in all educational levels.

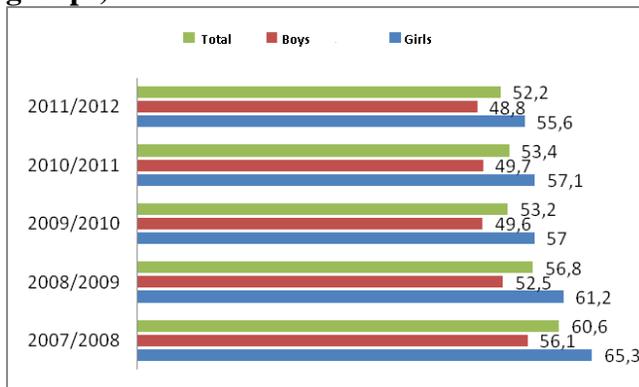
During the regional meetings in preparation for this review on achieving equal access for women and men to quality education, the following aspects were identified: the declining enrollment of girls in secondary school education, and gender segregation in the fields of higher and vocational education.

Decline in the enrollment of girls in 10-11grades

Despite the difficulties of the transition period, Kyrgyzstan has managed to maintain the achievements in the field of compulsory education. In the 2011/2012 academic year, more than 97 percent of children aged 7 to 15 years went through basic secondary school (1-9 grades). However, enrollment in secondary education (10-11 grades) tends to decrease. Moreover, the enrollment of girls in higher secondary education decreases more rapidly than that of boys. Thus, in the period from 2008 to 2012 the enrollment rate of boys studying in 10-11 grades decreased by 7.3 percentage points (from 56.1 percent to 48.8 percent) and the rate of girls by 9.7 percentage points (from 65.3 percent to 55.6 percent) (Figure 2).

¹⁸ Education Act, the Plan of MES of the KR, order # 771/1 of December 31, 2012.

Figure 2. Coefficient of enrollment in 10-11 grades (in percentages of the relevant age groups)



Among the factors responsible for this negative trend are early marriage and early motherhood.¹⁹ According to the results of monitoring of the situation of children and women,²⁰ over 12 percent of women in Kyrgyzstan get married before the age of 18. Moreover, the proportion of such marriages is higher in rural areas (14.2 percent) than in urban areas (9.7 per cent). The level of household prosperity also affects the marriage age. Early marriages are more common in poor households (16.5 percent) than in rich (9.1 percent).²¹ Girls from religious families often marry at an earlier age than other girls.

It should be noted that to this date research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of early marriage is not possible due to the hidden nature of this phenomenon²² and the imperfections of available statistics.²³ Indirectly, the fertility rate among people younger than 18 years may be indicative of the scale of early marriages. According to the official figures, there has been a steady rise in births among women aged 15-17 years, from 4.4 children per 1,000 women in this age group in 2006 to 7.7 children in 2012,²⁴ which adversely affects the ability of girls to continue their education.

Gender segregation in the field of higher and vocational education.

The Kyrgyz legislation requires equal conditions for the orientation, profession and occupation for men and women to access education in educational institutions of all categories.

¹⁹ Analysis of the problem of early marriage and early motherhood. The human rights movement “Bir Duino”. Bishkek. 2013.

²⁰ Monitoring the situation of children and women. Cluster Survey on various indicators, the NSC and UNICEF, 2006. “Early marriage and polygamy” section.

²¹ Ibid.

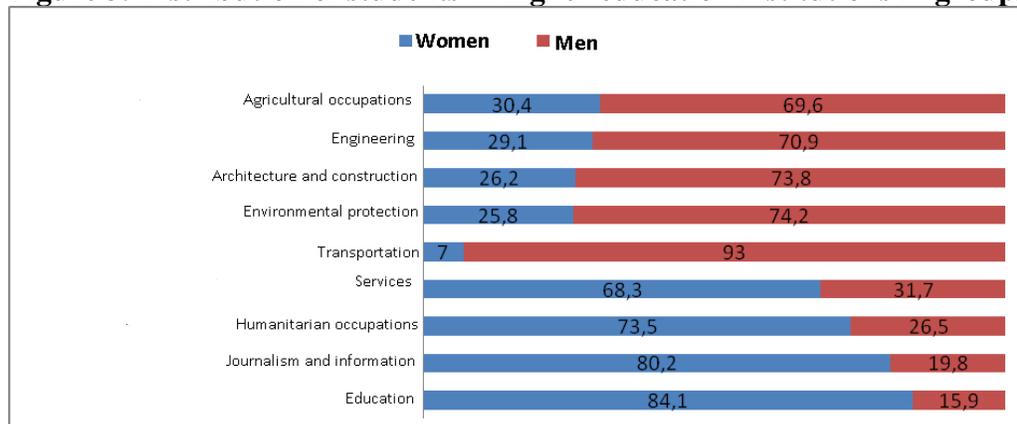
²² Marriages under 16 are not legally registered.

²³ L. Ilibezova for UNFPA. Publication of the results of the study express “Early marriages In the Kyrgyz Republic”. – Bishkek, 2012. Brochure “Early marriage: minuses without pluses, sold childhood.” UNFPA, 2012.

²⁴ NSC Data Collection, 2013.

According to the latest report on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in the Kyrgyz Republic, women continued to maintain leading positions at the level of higher and vocational education.²⁵ Thus, at the beginning of 2012/2013 academic year, women accounted for 54.5 percent of students of higher education institutions. However, the high level of representation of women among the students is primarily due to their concentration in traditionally “female” occupations: education, journalism and communication, humanities, services (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Distribution of students in higher education institutions in groups of occupations

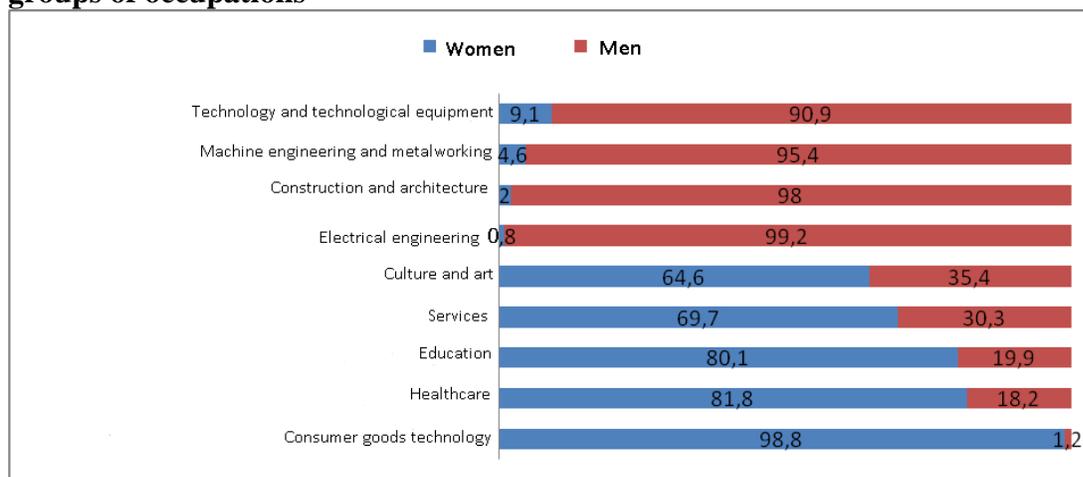


Source: NSC Statistical Collection “Women and Men of the Kyrgyz Republic.” 2013, page 80.

In the total number of students in secondary vocational educational institutions, women make up 58.2 percent (Figure 4). Distribution of female students in occupations is also uneven here. Thus, a traditionally high proportion of women is enrolled in the following departments: technology, consumer goods, health care, education, services, culture and art.

²⁵ MDG Report 2013, p. 47.

Figure 4. Distribution of students in secondary vocational educational institutions in groups of occupations



Source: NSC data collection “Women and Men of the Kyrgyz Republic.” 2013, page 79.

In the National Strategy and National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2012-2014 in the Kyrgyz Republic, a task to encourage boys and girls to get an education in unconventional types of professions and occupations is defined. In particular, the following measures are outlined:

- Media propaganda of nontraditional occupations for women;
- Development and adoption of a set of regulations to provide special measures aimed at attracting young men to enter (quota seats) pedagogical and social fields of labor.

The Vocational Education Agency together with other government agencies and international and non-governmental organizations conducts annual professional orientation activities among young people. In 2012, a special event was held to promote technical trade jobs among girls.²⁶

According to information provided by the MES of the Kyrgyz Republic, the informal education sector has twelve adult training centers in all regions of Kyrgyzstan, which offer great opportunities from communication and personality development, vocational training and additional training, training courses to complete basic education and other courses upon completion of which a certificate is issued, to the full involvement of adult citizens in society, thanks to the integration achieved through education. The following training courses were offered for women: “public speaking skills and confidence are keys to success”, “women's leadership”, “women in social development”, “life and politics”, etc. The centers also conduct trainings for specific target groups: single mothers, pensioners, unemployed, etc.

Despite the measures taken, dynamics analysis shows a decrease in proportion of women among students at all levels of professional education. Of particular concern is a decrease in the

²⁶ MDG Report, 2013, p. 46.

number of female students in primary and secondary vocational education, which limits women's access to high-paying jobs.²⁷

To achieve the desired results, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic is to take the appropriate measures in the following areas:

- Development of a set of measures relating to the scope of pre-school and school education, measures to implement gender mainstreaming in these institutions, including family education. At the same time make provision for the analysis of gender and educational programs, textbooks, teaching aids (study guides) for preschool students and educational organizations.
- Develop policies to increase access of junior and senior high school graduates to primary and secondary vocational education in contemporary and demanded fields from a gender perspective.
- Develop quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure the achievement of gender parity in education and culture.

2.3 Women's access to health services

The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On public health protection”, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On reproductive rights and guarantees of their implementation”, and National Strategy for protection of reproductive health of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2015, approved by the Governmental Decree #185 on April 24, 2008, Health Care Reform Program “Den Sooluk” for 2012-2016 approved by the Governmental Decree #309 of the Kyrgyz Republic on May 24, 2012, guarantee equal access to health care for all citizens, both male and female.

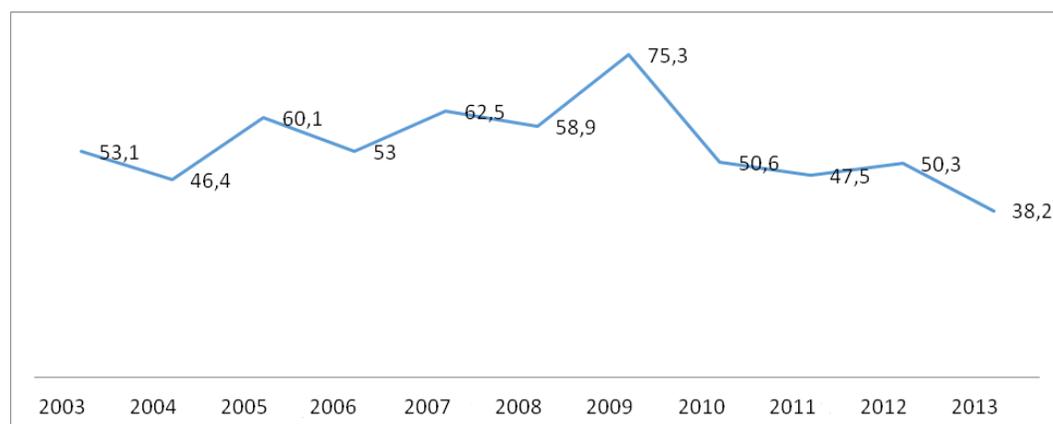
Implementation of the National Health Reform Program of the Kyrgyz Republic “Manas Taalimi” for 2006-2010, then the new health care reform program “Den Sooluk” for 2012-2016, developed on the basis of a broad sectoral approach, makes it possible to carry out targeted actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and improve the health status of the population, such as priority maternal and child health, access to health care, and reducing the financial burden on the most vulnerable groups. According to the experts who participated in regional meetings in preparation for this review, the most pressing problems of this spectrum are high rates of maternal mortality and the growth of cervical cancer and breast cancer in women.

Maternal mortality

The maternal mortality rate in Kyrgyzstan in recent years has a slight tendency to decrease (Figure 5). The highest level of maternal mortality was recorded in 2009, possibly due to the order #292 of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic dated June 11, 2008, which provided for a moratorium on the punishment of health workers for the high level of maternal mortality.

²⁷ MDG Report, 2013, p. 47.

Figure 5. Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 live births)



According to the Ministry of Health, in general 61 pregnant women had died in 2013 in Kyrgyzstan. The highest rate of maternal mortality is observed in the Issyk-Kul region - 55.8 per 100 thousand births, in Batken province this indicator is at 56 cases per 100 thousand and in Naryn province - 43.4.

It should be noted that the level of maternal mortality dropped by 22.0 percent in 2013 compared with 2012. Reduction was observed in all regions of the country, except for the city of Bishkek and Chui province (26.1 and 45.9 per 100 thousand live births, respectively). Severe complications of pregnancy and childbirth concentrate in these regions due to internal and external migration. Thus, in 2013, of 61 dead pregnant woman, 16 (26 percent of all cases) were among the internal and external migrants who are not registered and came to give birth in a severe condition.

The system of statistical accounting for maternal mortality includes classifying deaths based on various causes. According to the National Health Information Center (NHIC), the main causes of death during pregnancy and childbirth are: postpartum hemorrhage - 34.5 percent, hypertensive disorders - 15.5 percent, sepsis - 8.6 percent and extragenital diseases - 22.4 percent. Development of postpartum hemorrhage is facilitated by the presence of anemia in pregnancy and childbirth due to an imbalanced and non-nutritious diet of women.

One of the reasons for the high maternal mortality rate is lack of funding for maternal health, the result of which are:

- Lack of development of material and technical base of maternity organizations;
- Problems associated with a continuous supply of hot and cold water, electricity and heat supply, sewerage system provision;
- Unavailability of modern medical equipment, laboratory tests and medical supplies;
- Shortage and exodus of skilled obstetricians, neonatologists, anaesthetists at the provincial and district levels.²⁸

²⁸ Strategy for Health Systems Development Kyrgyz Republic until 2020.

Another set of causes of maternal mortality is associated with the presence of certain economic, social and cultural factors:

- The growth of external and internal migration. Pregnant women are not medically observed in the foreign countries where they stay as labor migrants, and come to give birth in their home country on the eve of the birth delivery. In the process of internal migration during pregnancy women change residence a few times and drop out of sight of health workers;
- Low awareness level and low education level of pregnant women and mothers on family planning and pregnancy;
- Low level of nutrition of women.²⁹

To solve the problem of maternal mortality, the National Strategy for Reproductive Health in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2006-2015 has been implemented, in which the priorities are: safe motherhood, adolescent reproductive health, cancer of the reproductive system, combating HIV/AIDS, prevention and combating of violence.

A program to improve perinatal care in the country for 2008-2017 was approved in 2008, where a key strategy to reduce the maternal and infant mortality rate is the expansion of effective perinatal care, the principles of regionalization, implementation of protocols and guidelines for obstetrics and neonatology, based on the principles of evidence-based medicine the implementation of which does not require large capital investments and financial costs, but contributes to a significant reduction in infant and child mortality rates. According to the Ministry of Health, coverage of obstetrical organizations by these programs is at 63 percent in the Republic, to date.

The State Guarantees Program (SGP) is annually approved by the government to provide healthcare to the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic, within the framework of which the provision of care during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and to children less than five years of age is free. However, due to the financial gap in SGP, informal payments in the form of the purchase of medicine and payments to medical staff are taking place.³⁰

The “comprehensive program to improve nutritional status of children and their mothers” is being implemented since 2009; one of the components of the program is to enrich homemade food with “Gylazyk” vitamin and mineral supplement throughout the country. The program contains three independent components: nutrition for pregnant women, nutrition for children from 0 to 6 months (exclusive of breastfeeding), meals for children from 6 to 24 months (solid foods and food supplements). The World Bank allocated 1 million U.S. dollars for the implementation of this program.

Within the program, the rules of registration of the population groups with family doctors have been changed in order to guarantee the rights of citizens to access basic primary health care.

²⁹ Report of PM of the KR Niyazalieva D.A. “Maternal Health”. First Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population, October 30, 2012, <http://www.kenesh.kg/Articles/13440->

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³⁰ The results of analytical research conducted by the Public Foundation “Health Policy Analysis Center”, showed that the financial gap PHG in 2010 increased to 34.8 percent compared to 27.5 percent in 2009.

The new rules provide that domestic workers, pregnant women, children under five years, people who are in social shelters, nursing homes, orphanages, hostels of educational institutions, private educational schools with accommodation, injecting drug users, commercial sex workers, homeless persons, tuberculosis patients, people living with HIV/AIDS, and persons released from prison are all registered with the medical facility, regardless of residence.³¹

Appropriate measures have been taken on the implementation of resolution #570 of the Government of the KR dated August 16, 2012 “On measures to further encourage physicians working in health care organizations in remote areas, small towns and rural areas of the Kyrgyz Republic”. Currently, the program includes 101 physician, of whom 48 people graduated from university in 2013. Furthermore, in order to meet the medical staff needs of health care organizations in remote areas and small towns, tripartite agreements in the framework of the “Doctor’s Deposit” are being signed. A total of 130 physicians are covered by this program.

With donor grant funds under the “Manas taalimi” National Health Reform Program of the Kyrgyz Republic, measures are taken to improve the material and technical base of maternity institutions in the Republic. With this in mind, generators and water heaters in the financial equivalent of 150 thousand U.S. dollars and equipment worth 2 million U.S. dollars have been purchased and delivered to all regional maternity hospitals in 2009. A tender was held and a supply of equipment to maternity homes in Bishkek and reanimation mobiles to provide skilled care for pregnant women, new mothers, and newborns in Osh, Jalal-Abad, and Batken provinces, is expected.

A tender was held and development of design and estimate documentation has been initiated for construction of perinatal centers under the *National Centre for Motherhood* in the amount of 10.5 million euros. The German Development and Reconstruction Bank provided financial support for the construction.

The World Bank proposed a project called “Result-based financing of health care organizations”, with an operation-results-based payment scheme to the medical staff of maternity hospitals and primary health care facilities in the pilot regions. The size of the grant is 12 million U.S. dollars. The pre-pilot phase of this project started in early 2014.

A “safe motherhood” campaign, which deals with the danger signs during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, has been carried out since 1998 to raise awareness of pregnant women, mothers and children under five years of age.

A moratorium on administrative punishment of health workers in the case of high levels of maternal and infant mortality rates (e.g., annual number of non-registration of maternal deaths reached up to 10 cases) came into action in June 2008. A confidential investigation of maternal deaths was carried out in the country. The Ministry of Health is preparing a public report about the causes of maternal mortality and ways to reduce maternal mortality rates.

³¹ Joint Order: #358 of the Ministry of Health on 26 June 2013, and Mandatory Health Insurance Fund (HIF) under the Government order #126 on June 26, 2013 “On Approval of the Rules of Registry of the population of the Kyrgyz Republic to groups of family doctors”.

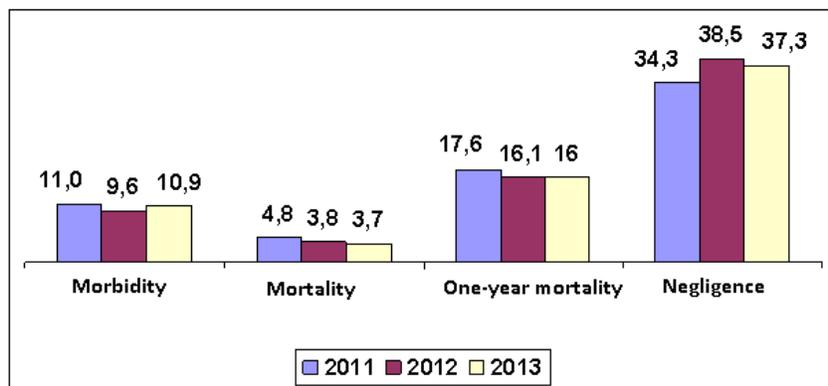
Spread of cancer in women

In general, the situation with cancer in the Republic remains unsatisfactory. In 2012 the incidence of malignant neoplasms per 100 thousand population increased by 9.6 percent compared to 2008. Women made-up 65.7 percent in the number of cases in the age group 15-19. In the age group 20-39, this ratio changes dramatically, women make-up 72.95 percent of the number of cases in this age group.³²

The most common forms of cancer among women are breast cancer (Figure 6) and cervical cancer (Figure 7). It should also be noted that in the absence of early diagnosis programs, the illness is registered mainly in cases when patients turn to specialists for medical help.

Breast cancer has the second most widespread incidence among cancers in the Kyrgyz Republic. Five-year survival indicators remain low (41.3 percent). In the total mortality rate in the country, breast cancer was third highest.

Figure 6. Morbidity, mortality, negligence, and one-year mortality rate in breast cancer, 2010-2013.

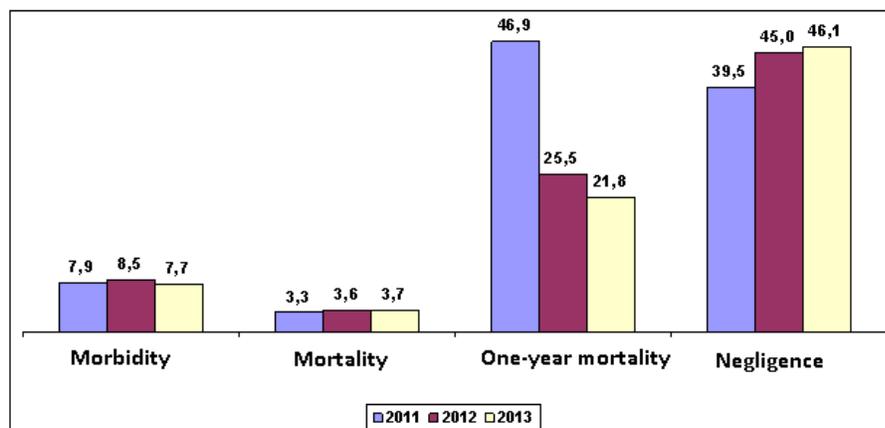


Source: State Medical Information Center, 2013, the department of epidemiology and prevention of malignant tumors of the National Oncology Center.

Cervical cancer has the fourth most widespread incidence of cancer in the Kyrgyz Republic. Low levels of the five-year survival rate are also observed (39.7 percent) and a decline of this indicator is observed in the dynamics. The peak incidence of breast cancer accounts for the most socially active age groups 40-49 and 50-59 years of age.

³² NSC Data Collection, 2013, p. 63.

Figure 7. Morbidity, mortality, neglect and one-year mortality rates in cervical cancer, 2011-2013.



Source: State Medical Information Center, 2013, the department of epidemiology and prevention of malignant tumors of the National Oncology Center.

Given the high rates of morbidity, mortality and negligence of breast cancer, the absence of mass prevention and diagnosis of precancerous and inflammatory breast disease, low awareness among population and lack of alertness among oncology physicians at all levels, the Breast Cancer Center (BCC) under the National Oncology Center was established in 2006.³³

To ensure the availability of medical services, open door days have been held at the medical centers for women every three months since 2012. Within the framework of this event, self-examination trainings, and physical and ultrasound breast examinations are conducted. All clinical and instrumental methods of research are carried out free of charge.

As part of the “National Strategy for Reproductive Health in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2015”, as well as to improve the treatment and preventive care for patients with breast cancer, the National Conference “Modern aspects of diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer” was held in 2009, and in 2013 there occurred a National Forum “Consolidation of efforts to solve the problem of breast cancer”.

2.4 Human rights and women's and girls' access to justice

The Kyrgyz Republic proclaimed human rights and freedoms as absolute and inalienable regardless of sex, race, language, disability, ethnicity, religion, age, political or other beliefs, education, origin, property, birth or other status, and other factors that determine the appropriate actions of all public authorities in the legislative and executive branches of government, as well as local authorities. Having one of the most progressive bodies of legislation in the field of human rights and gender equality in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Kyrgyz Republic has demonstrated its commitment to the fundamental principles of equality between men and women.

³³ MOH Order number 530 of September 26, 2006.

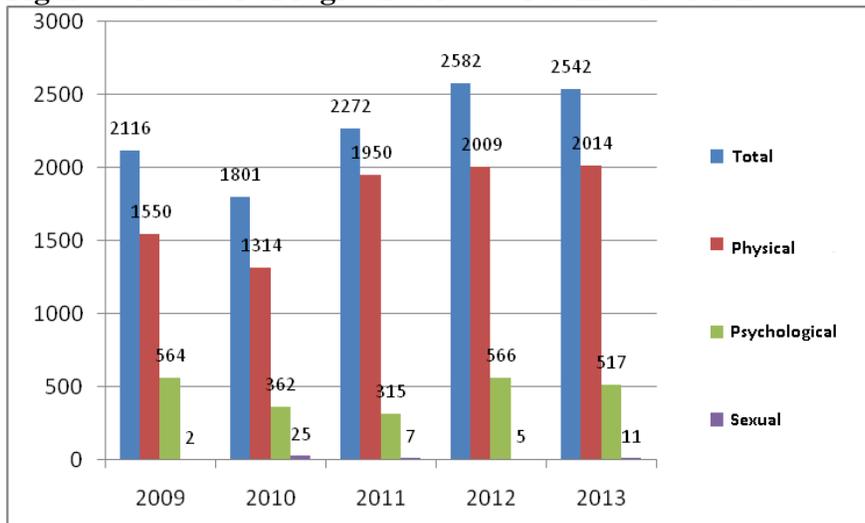
A key task in the implementation of the country’s commitments is practical implementation of the human rights of women. According to the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality, one of the most pressing problems in this area is access to justice for women. Access to justice in cases of domestic violence, sexual violence and abduction of women for forced marriage, particularly among rural women and girls, require special attention from the State.

For more than 10 years Kyrgyzstan has had the Law “On social and legal protection from domestic violence,” which aims to create a social and legal system for the protection of life and health from domestic violence and provide protection to victims of domestic violence, based on compliance with international standards in the field of human rights.

Violence against women

Domestic violence is a common form of violence against women in Kyrgyzstan. As shown in Figure 9, the number of recorded acts of domestic violence is generally growing. The number of reported cases of physical violence has increased by more than 30 percent for 2009 through 2013.

Figure 9. Number of registered facts of domestic violence



Source: NSC, MIA (data for 2013)

Various groups of people: women, men, the elderly and children, are exposed to domestic violence. However, women are victims of domestic violence in most cases. Thus, the proportion of women victims of domestic violence is almost 90 percent. However, as shown by the data presented in the figure below, compared with 2009 the number of men affected by domestic violence has increased by more than 60 percent (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Victims of domestic violence



Source: NSC and MIA of the KR (data for 2013)

According to the experts, the increased vulnerability of young women is a result of early and unregistered marriages. It is not possible to statistically confirm these statements. Although data from the last census carried out in 2009 shows that the age of marriage in Kyrgyzstan remains relatively “young”, the frequency of marriages of women younger than 20 decreased by more than two times compared with data from the previous census of 1999.³⁴

At the same time, as noted above, it is necessary to take into account a steady rise in the number of births by women aged 15-19 years as compared with the general decline in the birth rate in the country. As a result of early motherhood, this category of women faces problems of limited access to basic education and is exposed to a high risk of family violence. Also, during the national consultations on the draft of this review, a high probability of violence against women (representatives of groups such as migrant women, women with disabilities, sex workers and LBT) was noted.

In general, the evaluation of the scale of the problem of domestic violence is complicated due to data limitations. The State recognizes that the availability of reliable statistics on domestic violence is an important component in addressing the problem. However, the existing systems for collecting data on violence against women and domestic violence need to be improved (for more on the development of gender statistics, see section 3).

It should be noted that the problem of domestic violence has been studied in the framework of the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey in Kyrgyzstan (DHSK). The results show that 23 percent of all women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence at least twice since 15 years of age, and 13 percent - during the last 12 months. Among women (who are married or had been married) survivors of physical or sexual abuse inflicted by husbands, more than half (56 percent) stated that they had received physical injuries. Only two out of five women sought help after they have experienced physical or sexual violence.³⁵

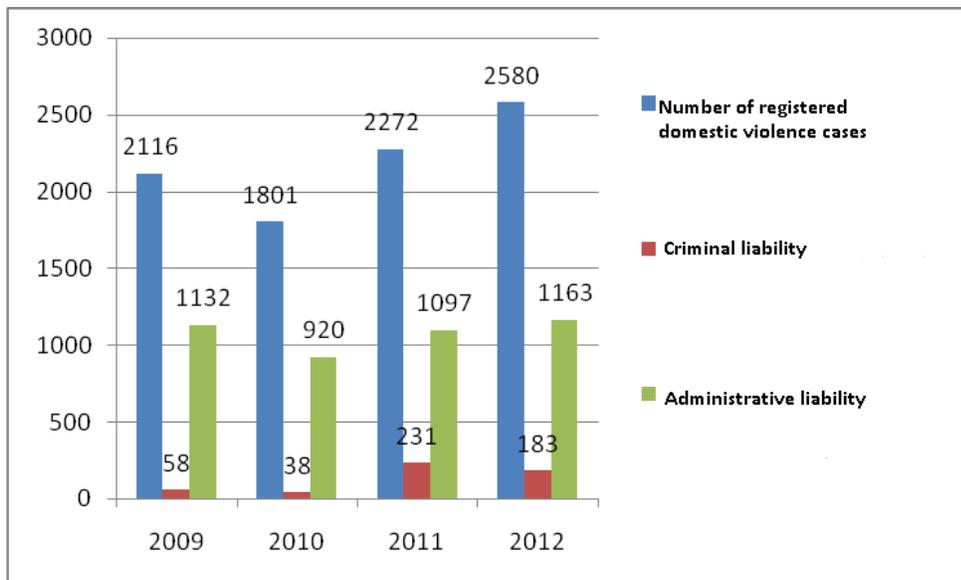
³⁴ Population of Kyrgyzstan at the beginning of the 21st century. Bishkek, 2011.

³⁵ DHSK 2012, p. 271.

The low number of requests of women for help in cases of violence is an indicator of the lack of access to justice. Young women and girls living in rural areas are one of the most vulnerable groups in terms of access to justice. Referring back to the DHSK 2012 data, we can see that women in the age group 15 to 19 years (62 percent) dominate among those who have never asked for help and never told anyone about domestic violence. Also, rural women are less likely to seek help than urban women (30 percent vs. 44.7 percent).³⁶ According to other studies additional factors that determine the vulnerability of women in this category are the lack of identity documents, and low confidence and a sense of fear among women and girls with respect to law enforcement.³⁷

Over 7000 annual domestic violence visits are performed by internal affairs bodies. If we compare this indicator with indicators presented in Figure 11, it can be seen that only 30 percent of cases are recorded as instances of domestic violence. Of them, in only about 50 percent of cases do the perpetrators receive various measures of administrative and criminal liability.

Figure 11. Ratio of registered domestic violence cases to the number of different types of liability



Source: NSC

The Law “On social and legal protection from domestic violence” has been active for over 10 years in the Kyrgyz Republic. The law aims to create a social and legal system for the protection of life and health from family violence and provide protection to victims of domestic violence, based on compliance with international standards in the field of human rights.

³⁶ Ibid, p. 290.

³⁷ Equality before the Law: Access to Justice “Problems of documenting rural women of Kyrgyzstan”, “Adilet” Legal Clinic, 2012.

One of the main mechanisms of protection provided by this law is a temporary restraining order and protective court order. Thus, for the period from 2009 to 2013, 10,418 temporary protection orders were issued, including 9,967 to men, which is 95.7 percent of the total number of warrants issued, and 440 temporary protection orders (4.2 percent) to women. At the same time, the experience of the law showed that the norms and mechanisms embodied in it are inadequate and imperfect. The key problem is lack of a comprehensive assistance system to victims and lack of violent behavior reduction system (services, prevention).

In order to improve the mechanisms for preventing and combating domestic violence cases, a set of special amendments to the legislation on administrative responsibility was developed and adopted, providing detention of persons who have committed domestic violence and the use of administrative detention against them for up to 5 days (Article 66-3 of the Administrative Responsibility Code of the Kyrgyz Republic).

It should also be noted that in order to highlight prevention of violence the Ministry of Internal Affairs opened a section on its website “on police protection from domestic violence”, and “I am your district sheriff”, which provide information on the regulatory framework governing the protection from domestic and gender-based violence, and information on the procedure of turning for help to police.

To strengthen interagency cooperation and coordination of activities to combat violence, close cooperation with non-government agencies and international organizations was established. On this basis, measures are taken for creation of mechanisms of cooperation between the parties involved in the implementation of the law: subordinate territorial structures, in particular the Departments of Internal Affairs, local territorial administrations, health and social services.

In order to improve the rules of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On social and legal protection from domestic violence”, in December 2013 the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic issued decree #527 on establishment of an interdepartmental commission of heads of ministries and departments. Currently, a new law, “On social and legal protection and protection from domestic violence”, is being drafted and the bill is being negotiated with appropriate ministries and departments.

Prevention of violence against minors is an important objective of a policy to combat domestic violence. Inspections are carried out by Internal Affairs Juvenile Departments (hereinafter referred to as IAJD) and this is an important step towards timely detection of disadvantaged families and implementation of appropriate preventive measures. The education system has intensified cooperation with Internal Affairs Bodies. Lessons on domestic violence, public hearings on the problems of family violence and child abuse, with participation of parents and community representatives, are regularly held in secondary schools. Since 2010, all schools of the country have social workers among the staff, who are responsible for identifying cases of family violence. “Social passports”, which contain a plan of individual work with the child, are instituted for each child at risk.

In 2009, a sector for monitoring and analysis of protection against domestic violence and gender discrimination was established within the Office of the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic, which was transformed into a department (service) for protection against domestic violence and gender discrimination in 2013. This department aims to analyze and monitor the incoming applications from citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic, and to research features and trends of domestic violence and gender discrimination.

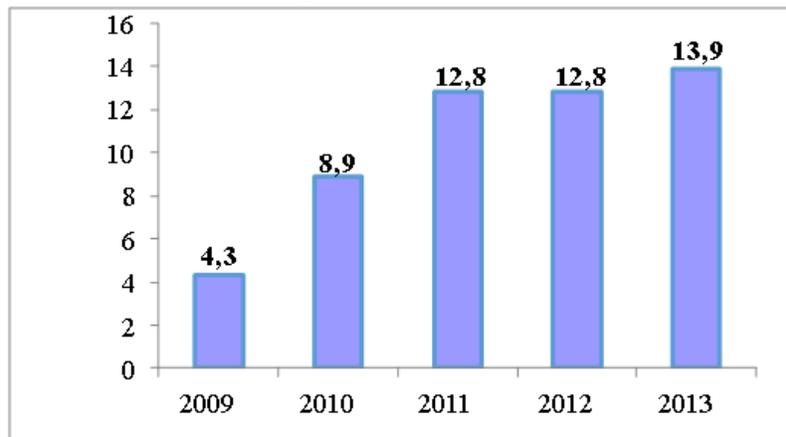
The Office of the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic prepared two special reports on violence against women and domestic violence: “Problems of compliance to protect the rights of women from domestic violence” 2011-2012 and “Assessing economic damages in domestic violence cases” in 2014. The reports were presented in the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic and resulted in discussion, analysis of problems and recommendations for their resolution.

There are 13 public crisis centers to assist the victims of violence in the Republic. At the crisis centers there are various programs that offer a wide range of services for social support. Almost all centers provide psychological rehabilitation, legal assistance (advice, representation in court, assistance in drafting pleadings and document restoration, etc.), as well as medical advice. There are special hotlines; material support and employment assistance are offered wherever possible. On the premises of some centers there are shelters where victims of domestic violence can get temporary safe housing. Every year about 10 thousand women are turning for help to crisis centers, internal affairs bodies and courts of elders regarding the issues of domestic and gender violence.

Through local budgets, the State is co-financing one crisis center - “Sezim” Crisis Center in Bishkek. Through a system of State Social Order from the State budget, the above mentioned center in 2012 received 443.0 thousand soms, and in 2013 - 296.8 thousand soms.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic holds an annual design competition among NGOs and CBOs through the mechanism of the State Social Order. In 2013, PF “House of Peace” allocated 797.3 thousand soms for the prevention of domestic violence and establishment of a crisis center for families, including men in difficult situations. Figure 12 shows the total resources allocated from the national budget for the implementation of State Social Order by the Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic from 2009 to 2013.

Figure 12. Expenditures from the State budget for the implementation of State Social Order (in million soms)



Source: MSD of the KR

Sexual violence against women and minors

Among the types of violence against women, particularly alarming are instances of sexual violence against women and children. Thus, according to data for 2012 the number of reported rapes of minors increased compared to 2011 from 50 to 81 cases, and number of sexual assaults against minors increased from 11 to 25 cases.

Sex labor trafficking is also a problem. Underage girls and women from Kyrgyzstan are attracted and forced into sexual labor under the guise of being hired as nannies, maids, waitresses, kitchen workers and workers in other spheres. This causes an increase in infectious diseases, unplanned pregnancy, the growing number of orphans, as well as an increase in the number of abortions, thereby damaging women's reproductive health.

In order to strengthen work to combat human trafficking, in 2011 the Ministry of Internal Affairs established an interdepartmental working group for the period of 2012-2015. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) created a draft project "Assessment of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic and identification of needs of law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges in training programs in the field of combating human trafficking". In order to bring the national legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic into compliance with international obligations, as well as reinforcing criminal liability for human trafficking, the Criminal Code tightened the minimum sentence for the crime by increasing the term of imprisonment from three to five years (Article 124 of the Criminal Code "Human Trafficking").

A Department to combat trafficking in persons and offenses against public morality, which aims to prevent sexual slavery and trafficking of women, was established within the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2013.

Spread of practice of abduction of women for forced marriages

According to research, 60 percent of marriages in the countryside in mono-ethnic areas are accomplished through bride kidnapping (ala kachuu), of which two thirds are performed without the consent of the girl.

As was mentioned in the previous sections, in order to solve this problem, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Kyrgyz Parliament adopted measures to eliminate discrimination by amending the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic and reinforcing liability for the abduction of women for forced marriage (“bride kidnapping”). These changes are aimed at eliminating discriminatory provisions, bringing criminal law into conformity with the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic and international norms, respect for gender equality, equating criminal liability for the abduction of women for marriage against their will with criminal liability for kidnapping.

In 2012, in order to prevent bride kidnapping, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic developed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Akyikatchy (the Ombudsman) of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Youth, Labor and Employment of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Ministry of Health, to develop and implement the initiatives of the Akyikatchy (the Ombudsman) of the Kyrgyz Republic – “2012 – the year of the fight against the abduction of women for marriage against their will and violence against women.”

In general, according to the National Strategy on achieving Gender Equality by 2020, institutional and procedural changes in the field of women's and girls' access to justice will be demonstrated in the functioning of the development of integrated services for victims of violence against women.

2.5 Women's participation in policy making bodies and in the decision-making processes

In connections with achieving gender parity and expansion of women's political participation in decision-making processes, the development of gender-oriented employment policy in State and municipal services is an international and national obligation of the Kyrgyz Republic. This area is one of the main indicators of progress in the democratic development of society, focused on upholding the equality of rights and human capabilities.

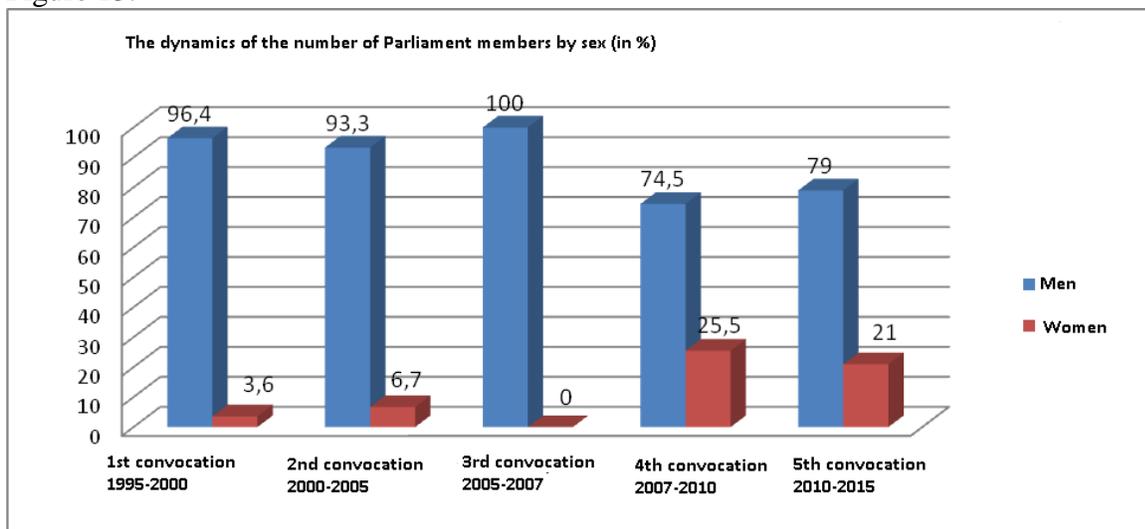
The Kyrgyz Republic was one of the first post-Soviet states to adopt the Law “On State Guarantees of gender equality” in 2003, which established a mandate to form central governmental bodies by fulfilling certain requirements in terms of quotas for women.

A significant step in strengthening women's political participation was introduction of mandatory quotas in the electoral legislation in 2007 for under-represented groups on party lists, forming the country's Parliament. The quota principle establishes that the representation of the same sex should not exceed 70 percent, while the order in the priority list of candidates should not exceed three positions. This had a dramatic effect after the completely male composition of

the Kyrgyz Parliament elected in 2005; women, ethnic groups, and youth were subsequently represented in the Parliament.

As shown in Figure 13, despite a slight decline in the proportion of women in the Parliament of the fifth convocation, critical representation of both sexes is provided by the electoral system.

Figure 13.



An important stage in the expansion of women's political participation in the government, at the decision-making level, was the adoption in 2008 of a new edition of the Law “On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women.” Specific mechanisms to ensure gender equality at the decision-making levels in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government were identified. Specifically, the guarantees of equal rights and opportunities in public service are provided through the mechanism of equal competitive selection, and forbidding a tender announcement for one specific sex. The new Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic (2010) consolidated the rules prohibiting discrimination and equal opportunities for women in elected bodies in State and municipal service.

Due to the implementation of the provisions of the above mentioned law, in 2014 the representation of women among the judges of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic has reached 60 percent, in the Office of the Ombudsman - 50 percent, among the members of the Central Commission on Elections and Referendums of the Kyrgyz Republic and in the Accounts Chamber of the Kyrgyz Republic - 33.3 percent.

Special measures to support women's political participation at the local level have been enshrined in the Law #98 of the Kyrgyz Republic “On elections of local councils” of July 14, 2011. When forming the lists of candidates for district and city councils, political parties and groups of voters are required to take into account the representation of not more than 70 percent of the same sex, and the difference in priority lists of women and men candidates nominated by a political party or a group of voters should not exceed two positions. However, the practice of

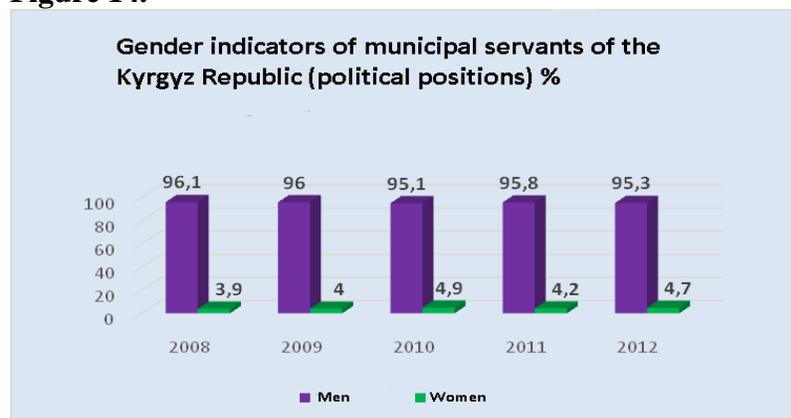
local elections showed that at the stage of entering the local authorities, the parties change lists and do not provide the required representation of women.

It is important to note that there are new negative developments in the issue of political advancement of women at the local level. The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Local Self-Government” and the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Status of Deputies of the Local Council” include provisions that will close the road for almost all active women in the next elections. Active involvement of women from the health and education sectors in the process of their nomination for candidates is now limited by changes in the law that makes combining the mandate of the deputy of the local council with leadership positions in municipal and State authorities impossible.

In general, representation of women among the deputies of local councils in 2012 was only 16 percent, or 1,326 women against 6,753 men (for comparison: in the composition of representative bodies of local self-government in 2006, the proportion of women MPs was 19.1 percent, and of men - 80.9 percent).

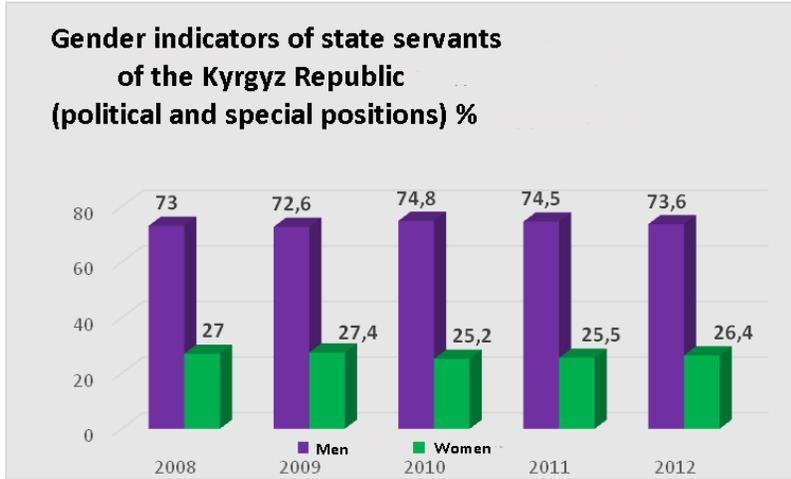
In accordance with the law and the existing management practices, political parties are a springboard for entry and promotion of authority into the political decision-making level. Absence within these institutions (political parties) of fixed regulatory mechanisms to promote gender equality leads to a very low level of women's representation.

Figure 14.



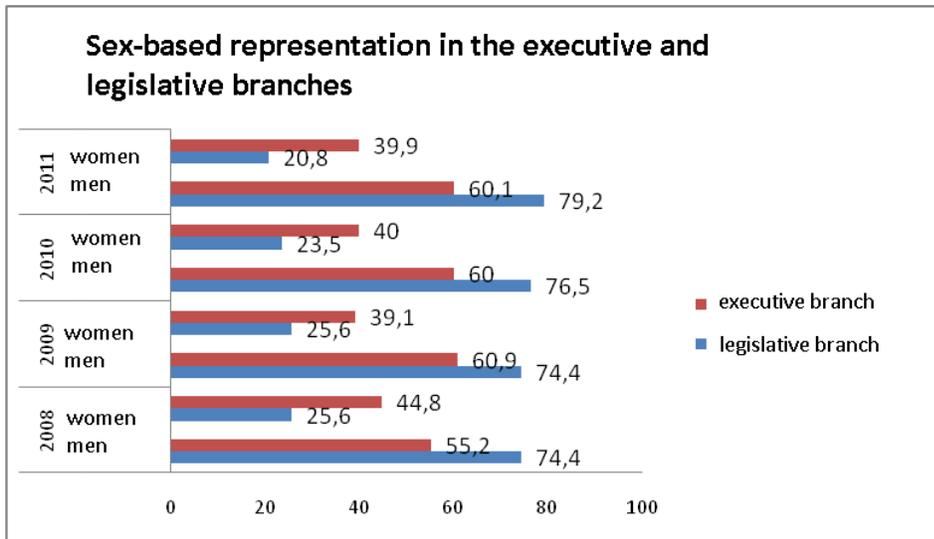
As shown in Figure 14, the proportion of women among the heads of Ail Okmoty does not exceed 5 percent, and only on January 1, 2014 this indicator increased by 0.6 percentage points compared to the year of 2013 – out of 453 heads of Ail Okmoty, 24 were women. The national level of participation of women in government as a whole is also showing a negative trend. (Figure 15)

Figure 15.



It should be recognized that the introduction of special measures did not effectively impact the overall situation and gender representation in the executive and legislative branches of government - there is a “washout” of women, which is clearly seen from figure 16 below.

Figure 16.



One of the main reasons for this situation is lack of State control over the implementation of provisions of the law on establishing gender balance in political decision-making, which should be carried out by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic and the General Prosecutor of the Kyrgyz Republic. Also, the present quota mechanism, both at the national and local elections of deputies, is in need of improvement, because it does not guarantee preservation of deputy mandates for women after the election.

Advancement of women is closely linked with the presence of a gender-balanced personnel reserve. The national and departmental personnel reserves do not function in reality and are not actually formal “lifts” for career civil servants. Traditionally, women's political leadership is understood and implemented in the form of training courses on women's leadership, which are held mainly by civil society. However, the correlation between the passage of women's leadership training and their real inclusion and promotion in the political sphere is not observed.

In terms of strengthening representation of women at the parliamentary decision-making level, introduction of peremptory norms of parties on the representation of women in higher party organs is highly important. In addition, changes and additions to the Constitutional Law “On Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic” and the Law “On Elections of Deputies of Local Councils” in terms of priorities in the party lists of men and women, even in the case of retirement, will guarantee the steady representation of women in power and control at 30 percent.

Currently, to improve the electoral system to ensure transparency in parliamentary elections in 2015, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic, a cross-sectoral working group comprised of representatives of government and public organizations is operating. The authorized body is planning to make proposals for discussion by the working group to strengthen the quota mechanism for political advancement of women. Of particular relevance is also the issue of strengthening parliamentary oversight and prosecutorial supervision over the implementation of the Constitution, legislation on gender equality and the election in terms of ensuring the representation of women in elected and appointed bodies and management at the decision-making levels.

2.6 Development of institutional mechanisms for gender equality in the Kyrgyz Republic

Establishment and strengthening of a sustainable institutional mechanism for the advancement of gender equality at the national level is a key strategic objective of the Beijing Platform for Action. Expressing commitment to strengthening the role of public authorities, which secures the achievements in gender policy and gender equality issues in the development agenda of the country, the Kyrgyz Republic has taken a number of significant measures since gaining independence.

Thus, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women” created the legal grounds of the national institutional mechanism. According to Article 26 of the above mentioned law, the authorized State body in the field of gender policy pursues a common national gender policy within its powers, coordinates the activities of the State bodies, local authorities and legal entities, regardless of ownership forms, on the implementation of national policies aimed at achieving gender equality in the Kyrgyz Republic. It also provides information and education activities in the field of gender development, and ensures gender mainstreaming in national policies and State programs.

In 2009, due to the restructuring of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, gender issues were transferred from the Government Apparatus of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Migration. In 2010, the coordination functions of gender equality policies were assigned to the newly formed Ministry of Youth, Labor and Employment, and in 2013 they were transferred to the Ministry of Social Development.

The Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic is currently the central State executive body (authorized body) conducting a unified State gender policy in the country. A Department of Gender Policy is established with the structure of the Ministry, with six full-time employees, and a payroll in the amount of about 900 thousand soms.

Important results of the institutional mechanism represented by the authorized body are: facilitation of discussions and development of the National Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for achieving gender equality by 2020, and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2014 (approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic # 443, on June 27, 2012).

The Strategy is the first long-term instrument for achieving gender equality in Kyrgyzstan and in Central Asia. This document focuses on the introduction of legal and institutional changes designed to eliminate gender discrimination, and is a logical extension of the State gender policy implemented in the 20 years of independence of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The first step in implementing this strategy is the National Action Plan on Gender Equality (NAP-3) for 2012-2014. An important component of the strategic documents is a system of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation. For the first time a financial evaluation of measures laid out in the National Action Plan 3 was carried out.

While fulfilling its international obligations, Kyrgyzstan regularly provides periodic reports on the implementation of provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Thus, in 2013 the country presented the Fourth report to the UN Committee, approved by the Governmental Decree #872 of December 31, 2012. The role of the authorized body to issue a report on the implementation of the CEDAW is significant because for the first time extensive consultation of State bodies and civil society organizations are being carried out.

By assigning great significance to the role of women in peace and security, Kyrgyzstan expressed its intention to implement the UN Security Council resolution 1325. Accordingly, in 2012 the authorized body has organized a National Action Plan approved by the Governmental Decree #78 of the Kyrgyz Republic dated February 18, 2013.

In order to determine the main directions and take special measures to ensure the implementation of gender policies in accordance with international obligations, the Governmental Decree #268 of the Kyrgyz Republic dated May 2, 2012, founded the National Council on Gender Development under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (the National Council). In accordance with the constitutional law “On the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic” (p. 10 Section 27), the Government may create consultative and advisory bodies.

Changes in the development of an institutional mechanism occurred not only at the executive level of the Kyrgyz Republic, but also in the legislative branch. Thus, in 2011, gender equality issues have been fixed in the competence of the Committee on Human Rights and Equal Opportunities and Public Associations of the Kyrgyz Parliament. In 2012 they were transferred to the Committee on Social Policy of the Kyrgyz Parliament.

However, significant issues of financial and human resources currently remain, along with the promotion of the status of an authorized body that can significantly affect the efficiency of coordination of the implementation of gender policies at all levels of government and administration.

Currently, the Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic conducts a functional analysis of the ministry, the results of which are supposed to create an Office under the Department of Gender Policy, with more features that will strengthen the institutional memory for the implementation of gender policies and ensure the implementation of the National Action Plans for achieving gender equality.

Consultations with civil society to improve the activity of the National Council on Gender Development under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic are also being held. It is assumed that the activities of the National Council should be provided by the Secretariat for the effective cross-sectoral collaboration to promote gender equality.

SECTION 3. Development of gender statistics

A core set of national indicators to monitor the progress in achieving gender equality

Statistics describing the situation of women and men are published by the National Statistical Committee (NSC) of the Kyrgyz Republic in a number of statistical compendia that are composed in accordance with international requirements. Specifically, gender-disaggregated statistics are presented in such publications as “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”, “Demographic Yearbook of the Kyrgyz Republic”, “Health of the Population and Health Care Provision in the Kyrgyz Republic”, “Education and Science in the Kyrgyz Republic”, “Employment and Unemployment”.

In addition to publications, the NSC website posted an interactive gender database with priority indicators, developed on the basis of available statistical indicators in the NSC. The database of gender indicators in Excel format includes 51 indicators of six statistical sections: demography indicators, education, living standards, labor market, health care, crime and disability. Updating of the database is performed by specialists from branch departments and divisions of the NSC on a yearly basis.

The core set of data for monitoring of gender-disaggregated indicators of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is presented in the annual statistical compendium “Women and

Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”, published by the NSC since 1996.³⁸ In 2013, the compendium published data that covered the following core areas: population statistics; health statistics; education statistics; statistics of labor and employment; statistics on the representation of women at the decision-making level; statistics of living standards; statistics of time budget; crime statistics. The full list of indicators is presented in Annex 1. The publication is intended for top management personnel, managers and employees of enterprises and organizations, academia, the business and banking community, faculty and students, representatives of public organizations, independent experts and other citizens interested in policy planning and programs, monitoring and evaluation of their implementation.

According to the Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic “On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women” (2008), “On the basis of State guarantees of gender equality” (2003), and “On Social and Legal Protection from Domestic Violence” (2003), the gathering of information on gender statistics in the country is carried out by the NSC. State bodies, local authorities and managers of legal entities, regardless of the form of ownership, are required to provide relevant information on gender issues to the NSC.

The NSC receives significant support, in terms of the methodology for conducting gender statistics, from cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the UNDP. In particular, cooperation with UNECE enabled the NSC to upload the developed gender statistics to the website of the organization, where along with the CIS countries, Eastern Europe and most developed countries of America and Europe, data on Kyrgyzstan is available. In addition, the NSC is a partner of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic on establishment and maintenance of a national database of statistical data with “Health for All” indicators and this data is also uploaded into the WHO database.

In addition to collecting and processing statistical information, the NSC participates in preparation of reports on gender issues. Thus, the NSC participated in preparation of the national report on human development, which contains statistical indicators from a gender perspective; specifically it provides a calculation of the index of human development from a gender perspective (GDI). The NSC also participated in preparation of the Second (2004), the Third (2008) and the Fourth (2013) periodic reports on the implementation of the UN Convention “On the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”.

Collection and processing of data on a minimum set of gender indicators

The NSC of Kyrgyzstan has already started collecting and processing data on the UN recommended minimum set of gender indicators. Of the 51 indicators,³⁹ data on 33 indicators has already been published for several years in a number of statistical compendiums. To date, the full sets of data in terms of gender statistics are available in the following areas: “health and related services”, “education”, and “economic structures, participation in productive activities

³⁸ The first issue of the compendium was published in 1996, entitled “Women of the Kyrgyz Republic”, in 1998 the publication was renamed “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”;

Since 2003, the statistical data compendium is published in three languages: Russian, Kyrgyz and English.

³⁹ UN recommended minimal set of gender indicators includes 52 indicators. One of the indicators - prevalence of mutilation and circumcision of female genital is not relevant for Kyrgyzstan.

and access to resources”. In such areas of statistical indicators as “human rights of women and girls”, two of the four indicators are accounted for and in the area of “public life and participation in decision-making”, the information is also available for only two of the five indicators. Details on the minimum set of gender indicators are presented in Appendix 2.

In the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2020 and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2012-2014 (NAP-III), within the framework of priority areas for regulatory policy, specific tasks were set to harmonize and standardize national gender statistics with international obligations. Specifically, of significance for improving gender statistics is establishment of a system of indicators on the following issues:

- Quality of life and expansion of information on social security and insurance of citizens;
- Women's access to information and communication technologies, technical education and computer proficiency;
- Consideration of victims of trafficking and victims of violence in all its forms: in the family, on the street, at work;
- Crime statistics from a gender perspective for the victims of violence by age, social status, type of violence, as well as location;
- Participation of women in all levels of decision-making in areas such as economic development, resource allocation, State security and diplomacy.

Gathering and processing of data on nine indicators on violence against women

Out of the nine indicators on violence against women, one indicator is not relevant for Kyrgyzstan, records are not kept on five indicators, and incomplete data is provided on the remaining three indicators. Detailed information on the indicators on violence against women is presented in Appendix 3.

Development of gender-based violence statistics is one of the priorities of the NSC. Thus, in 2011, another periodic compendium of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”, was published, and its chapter on “Crimes against women and children, and domestic violence” are significantly expanded. 23 new indicators are included, which reflect the combined data from the MIA, the Ministry of Health, the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Association of Crisis Centers. The data on domestic violence are also presented in monthly reports, “Socio-Economic Situation of the Kyrgyz Republic” in the “Crime” section. Moreover, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic from August to December 2012 conducted a Demographic and Health Survey of the Kyrgyz Republic (DHS), which included a section on “domestic violence” and “rights and opportunities for women and indicators of demography and health”.⁴⁰ Data from the study were published in 2013.

⁴⁰ MDIK 2012 was conducted with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project MEASURE DHS. MEASURE DHS program is funded by USAID, through which ICF International provides financial and technical assistance in the implementation of health and demographic studies in various countries around the world. Additional funding and support for MDIK were received from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The National Action Plan on Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2012-2014 has a task to: “improve the collection and analysis of statistical data on gender-based discrimination and violence”; on the process of implementation of which, the NSC informs the State Apparatus of the Kyrgyz Republic twice a year.

In accordance with Article 28 “On Social and Legal Protection from Domestic Violence” (2003), statistical records of family violence are carried out by: the NSC, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Judicial Department, the Ministry of Education and Science, local governments and territorial bodies of social protection. Statistical reports on domestic violence include gender-disaggregated indicators that reflect the number of reported cases of domestic violence committed by kinds of violence and types of actions taken, socio-demographic information on family members who have committed domestic violence and victims of violence”.

The NSC receives significant support, in terms of methodology for measuring violence, from UNECE and the World Bank. Thus, in June 2008 the NSC experts and representatives of ministries and departments, law enforcement and judicial authorities, social services and NGOs participated in a special training module for measuring violence against women and men, conducted by invited international experts.

Despite the obvious advances in statistical development of gender violence, the NSC does not have the financial resources to conduct comprehensive research and statistics on violence against women. In a report on the current situation in Kyrgyzstan to protect and promote women's rights, the UN Special Rapporteur, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, stressed the need for reliable comparative statistical data on gender-based violence, such as economic indicators and indicators of employment, access to public services and reproductive health, as well as data on the extent and types of abuse faced by girls under the age of 18. However, the implementation of such monitoring of domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan requires financial support from international organizations.

Collecting data on the situation of certain groups of women, such as rural women, older women, women with disabilities, indigenous women, women with HIV /AIDS or other groups.

Data on the situation of specific groups such as women with disabilities or women with HIV/AIDS presents a limited set of statistical indicators. Thus, the statistical compilation “Women and Men of the Kyrgyz Republic” contains two indicators on women with disabilities, such as 1) the number of persons recognized as disabled for the first time, and 2) cause of disability. The compendium “Health and Health Care in the Kyrgyz Republic” does not separate the disability data by gender. The publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic” represents the information on women with HIV/AIDS by five indicators that characterize the number of HIV infected and registered AIDS patients, the survival rate after receiving antiretroviral therapy, as well as statistics for the prevention of opportunistic infections, the combination of infectious diseases with HIV and social and palliative care. Thus, statistical

publications of the NSC have no indicators on the situation and the living conditions of these groups of women.

When it comes to data on older women, despite the fact that a number of indicators in statistical collections are divided by age or age categories, in most cases they describe the positions of both sexes. The list of indicators divided by sex and age is limited. Thus, the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic” only 24 indicators (mainly demographic indicators and indicators on violence statistics) out of 142 are disaggregated by age.

Data on rural women are represented by a wide range of indicators in a number of statistical compilations in which the information is divided by sex and area (urban and rural). Moreover, one of the most important achievements of the State Statistics Service was the first agricultural census, which allowed the obtaining of information not only on the development of agriculture in the country, but also a comprehensive analysis of employment in this sector of the population, by gender, which highlight a separate block of allocated data characterizing the distribution of (peasant) farms and farm entrepreneurs by sex and age of household head. Data are presented by region of the country, and also indicate arable land used by these farms. Based on the results of the agricultural census carried out in the country in 2002, the first data were obtained on women's access to land, credit and productive assets. Based on the materials of the first stage of the first agricultural census, with the support of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the NSC held a training course for statisticians on gender disaggregated data on agriculture in 2003.

For development and improvement of gender statistics at the national level, the NSC plans to gather and process the basic statistics for individual groups of women, such as older women, women with HIV/AIDS, and women with disabilities, for further analysis of the social and economic problems that affect the lives of women representing different strata of the population.

Section 4. New priorities for strengthening gender agenda within the formation of sustainable development for the period after 2015

Key priorities for the implementation of gender policy in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2020 are set out in the National Strategy on Gender Equality and remain relevant in the framework of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action beyond 2015.

Implementation of a long-term strategy will create an institutional framework for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for the citizens of the country, regardless of gender, age, social status, opportunities, health, gender identity and other grounds of discrimination, for the full realization of human potential in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The strategy identifies the following priorities for achieving gender equality.

1. Economic empowerment of women. This is expressed in the fact that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic will be flexible in work on gender initiatives to consolidate a culture of equality. The State will strive to become a model employer and will pay more attention to gender

dimensions of the provision of public and municipal services to the population. Recognition of housework and child care, including children with disabilities, as a socially meaningful and gainful employment by the State, will be one of the conditions for the economic empowerment of women. Along with the change of credit policy and increased access of women entrepreneurs to credit resources, the level of women's economic independence will significantly increase.

2. Establishment of functional education. This system, based on the principle of “lifelong learning”, will have an impact on the essential changes in education, will improve student achievements in schools and will expand access to new labor markets for adults. Sharing of family responsibilities, including parenting, will become more uniform, which will improve the quality of life of the population in all age categories. Moreover, the situation of healthcare will change, resulting in a decrease of maternal and child mortality, and improvement of men's health indicators. The implementation of country's commitments to provide training on sexual and reproductive rights of women of all ages, especially teenage girls, is a guarantee of sexual, physical and reproductive autonomy of women, free from stigma, violence, coercion and discrimination, including the practice of early and forced marriages.

As a result of a functional education system, the structure of employment is expected to change and optimize. A significant part of the population will be engaged in employment related to promotion of new information and communication technologies.

3. Eliminating gender discrimination and increasing women's access to justice. Systemic changes in governance and public attitudes towards gender issues in this period are planned. The culture of intolerance towards gender discrimination will become a public interest standard that will have an impact on all spheres of life, including work ethic and the media.

Measures to prevent gender discrimination and violence should not only affect women and girls, as historically vulnerable groups, compared with men and boys, but also those groups that do not fit in the socially prescribed gender roles based on gender identity, age, and disabilities.

4. Promoting gender parity in decision-making and development of women's political participation. The right of women to participate in decision-making should be recognized not only at the level of formal institutions, where it is still supported by specific measures, but also at the level of private life. The new degree of freedom should increase women's access to politics and governance at all levels, making the contribution of women to the development of the country truly visible and tangible. Although the implementation of these rights in practice will require a longer period of work with public consciousness and with the policy system, the very conditions of struggle for these rights should change in 2020.

During the national consultation on this review of the Kyrgyz Republic in the framework of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, held on April 22, 2014 in Bishkek, participants raised a number of issues that need to be addressed urgently in the new sustainable development agenda beyond 2015. Specifically, with respect to issues related to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 – “Women. Peace. Security”, solving the issues of ecological and the environmental impact, access to decent

conditions of water supply and sanitation; creating conditions for capacity development and advancement of the rights of rural women; protection of the rights of migrant workers, as well as strengthening the role of mass media in the promotion of gender equality policies, are of critical importance.

Promoting change in the institutional, social and cultural practices is impossible without improving the status and strengthening the powers of the authorized body responsible for the implementation of gender equality policies, addressing targeted funding for gender policies and ensuring the accountability, and transparency of partners: public authorities, international organizations and NGOs, in a joint effort to implement gender policies.

Appendix 1

List of sex-disaggregated indicators in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic” 2013

1. POPULATION

- Age and sex structure of the population as of January 1, 2013;
- Permanent population size;
- Resident population by age groups;
- Proportion of women and men by age groups;
- Resident population by main age groups and location in 2013;
- Life expectancy at birth;
- Number of births;
- Number of newborns by sex;
- Total fertility rate;
- Average number of women aged 20-29, the number of marriages and the number of births among women in this age group;
- Number of births to women aged 15-19;
- The average age of a mother at birth of children;
- Live births by birth order;
- The number of births by marital status of the mother;
- Marriages and divorces;
- The number of people entered who entered first marriage in 2012, by age group;
- The average age of marriage;
- Maternal mortality by location;
- Infant mortality by main causes of death in 2012;
- Child mortality by main causes of death in 2012;
- Deaths by major causes of death in 2012;
- Mortality from tuberculosis in the territory;
- Standardized mortality rate of the population;
- External migration;
- The number of refugees by sex and age.

1. HEALTHCARE OF THE POPULATION

- The incidence of malignant neoplasms by sex and age;
- The incidence of malignant neoplasms;
- The incidence of malignant neoplasms in 2012;
- The incidence of active tuberculosis by age and sex;
- The incidence of active tuberculosis in 2012;
- The incidence of alcohol dependence;
- The incidence of alcohol abuse in 2012;
- The incidence of drug addiction in 2012;
- The incidence of drug addiction;
- The incidence of syphilis;
- The incidence of gonorrhea;
- The number of HIV - infected and AIDS patients registered in the territory;
- The survival of people living with HIV (PLHIV) after receiving antiretroviral therapy by sex in 2012;
- Prevention of opportunistic infections in 2012;
- The combination of infectious diseases with HIV in 2012;
- Social and palliative care of HIV - infected and AIDS patients in 2012;
- Termination of pregnancy (abortion);
- The number of births and abortions;
- The incidence of anemia;
- The incidence of anemia with the first diagnosis;
- The number of medical personnel specialization in 2012;
- The number of persons recognized as disabled for the first time;
- The number of persons recognized as disabled for the first time, for reasons of disability.

2. EDUCATION

- The number of children in pre-school institutions in the community;
- The number of students enrolled in the first grade;
- The number of students in daytime general education institutions by sex and territory;
- The number of students in daytime general organizations classes;
- The number of pupils and students;
- The number of teachers in daily educational organizations;
- The number of teachers in educational institutions;
- Graduation rates of pupils and students;
- Disaggregation of students in educational institutions of secondary vocational education specialty groups;
- Disaggregation of students in educational institutions of higher education in specialty groups;
- Disaggregation of students in educational institutions of higher professional education in the areas of education;
- Disaggregation of graduate students in science fields in 2012;
- Disaggregation of doctoral disciplines in 2012.

4. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Disaggregation of economically active population, employed and unemployed;
- Percentage of women and men in the total employed population in the territory;
- The proportion of women in the economically active population;
- The level of economic activity, employment and unemployment based on location in 2012;
- Employment rate by age group in 2012;
- Disaggregation of the employed population by actual labor in the number of hours per week in the main job;
- Disaggregation of the employed population by sex and level of education in 2012;
- Disaggregation of the employed population by occupational groups and sex in 2012;
- Share of women in the total employment rate by economic activity;
- Disaggregation of the employed population by status in employment, by economic activity and sex, in 2012;
- Disaggregation of workers of small enterprises by location;
- Disaggregation of workers of small enterprises by economic activity;
- Disaggregation of employees by type of enterprise, sector and sex, in 2012;
- Disaggregation of employees by type of enterprise and location;
- The number of heads of operating economic entities, by economic activity;
- The number of heads of business entities with private ownership;
- The number of heads of operating economic entities by ownership;
- The number of managers of the existing enterprises by location;
- The number of managers of functioning individual entrepreneurs by location;
- The number of active managers of farms (peasant collectives) by location;
- Disaggregation of heads of farms (peasant collectives) and farm entrepreneurs by sex and location;
- The number of officially registered unemployed by location;
- The number of officially registered unemployed;
- Disaggregation of officially registered unemployed in the State employment service based on reasons of unemployment;
- Distribution of officially registered unemployed in the State employment service by level of education;
- Disaggregation of officially registered unemployed in State employment service by age groups in 2012;
- Disaggregation of officially registered unemployed in the State employment service for the duration of unemployment;
- Total number of persons employed via employment agencies.

5. STATE POWER AND POLICY BODIES

- Composition of Parliament Members;
- The number of people employed in public administration, public positions as of January 1, 2013;
- The number of workers in local government as of January 1, 2013;
- Disaggregation of civil servants employed in government and management bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic based on positions held as of January 1, 2013.

6. LIVING STANDARDS

The main indicators of living standards of the population

- Changes in the level of poverty by location;
- Poverty rate by gender;
- Poverty rate by gender of the household head in 2012;
- Minimal subsistence level;
- The energy value of food by poverty level and by gender, 2012;
- Body mass index for the adult population by age, 2012;
- The average salary of men and women by economic activity;
- The average salary of women and men by location.

Social protection of elderly and disabled people

- The number of pension recipients and the average size of the pension;
- The number of pension recipients and the average size of a pension by location, 2012;
- The number of recipients of monthly benefits by location, 2012;
- The ratio of the minimum subsistence level and the average pension of pensioners;
- State budget expenditure for social protection;
- Institutions of social protection of the population.

Microcrediting of the population

- The number of microcredit recipients by location.

7. TIME BUDGET

- The structure of spending of daily time fund of persons aged 12 and older by sex and place of residence in 2010;
- Disaggregation of daily time fund by employed persons in the community in 2010;
- Disaggregation of time fund on housework by employed persons by type of time spending and by place of residence in 2010;
- Disaggregation of free time by household members aged 12 years and older by type of time spending and place of residence in 2010;
- Disaggregation of time spending by persons aged 12 years and older to meet the physiological needs, by type of time spending and place of residence in 2010.

8. CRIME

- The number of persons who have committed crimes;
- The number of persons by crime types in 2012;
- Disaggregation of adolescents (14-17 years), who have committed crimes, by occupation;
- The number of convicts.

Crimes against women and children, domestic violence:

- The number of reported crimes against women and minors;
- The number of people turning for help to the crisis centers, courts of elders and other specialized agencies;
- Composition of the employees of crisis centers and institutions providing social and psychological assistance to the population in 2012;
- The number of people who applied to crisis centers and institutions providing social and psychological assistance to the population, by sex and age;
- The number of people who applied to crisis centers and institutions providing social and psychological assistance to the population, by sex and level of education;
- The number of people who applied to crisis centers and institutions providing social and psychological assistance to the population on the social status and sex;
- The number of people who applied to crisis centers and institutions providing social and psychological assistance to the population by marital status and sex;
- The number of people who applied to crisis centers and institutions providing social and psychological assistance to the population, by the forms the violence;
- Types of provided assistance by crisis centers and institutions providing social and psychological assistance to the population;
- The number of reported cases of domestic violence and measures taken in this regard;
- The number of reported perpetrators of domestic violence (with the issuance of a temporary restraining order), by sex and location;
- Structure of the forms of domestic violence committed in 2012;
- Disaggregation of the perpetrators of domestic violence (with the issuance of a temporary restraining order) based on sex, age, education and occupation;
- Disaggregation of persons affected by domestic violence based on gender, age, education and occupation;
- Information on actions of administrative and criminal law courts in regards to cases related to domestic violence;
- Information on persons found guilty of domestic violence by the courts, based on the type of violence;
- Disaggregation of persons found guilty of domestic violence by the court, based on age, education and occupation;
- Disaggregation of persons found guilty of domestic violence by the court, according to the degree of kinship with the victims and location, in 2012;
- Court information on persons affected by domestic violence by type of violence, age, education and occupation;
- Disaggregation of persons treated for diseases (injuries) as a result of domestic violence, sex, age and type of violence, in 2012;
- Disaggregation of persons who applied to the departments of forensic medical examination for the fact of domestic violence by sex, age and type of violence in 2012;
- The number of people who applied to medical and obstetric stations for the fact of domestic violence, by sex, age and type of violence, in 2012.

Annex 2

The minimal set of gender indicators by region

Indicators	Sources
I. Economic entities, participation in productive activities and access to resources	
1. The average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work, disaggregated by sex. Note: If possible indicate housework and childcare separately.	Data are presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
2. The average number of hours spent on both paid and unpaid domestic labor (total workload) disaggregated by sex.	Data are presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic.”.
3. The ratio of involvement in the labor force among those aged 15-24 and older than 15, disaggregated by sex.	Employment rate by age groups and sex is presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
4. Proportion of self-employed, disaggregated by sex.	The number of heads of active individual enterprises and the distribution of heads of farms, and entrepreneurs are presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
5. Proportion of employed in family business, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
6. Proportion of employers, disaggregated by sex.	The number of managers of existing enterprises is presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
7. Percentage of women-owned firms, disaggregated by size.	The number of managers of existing enterprises is represented by size in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
8. Percentage distribution of employed population by sectors, for each of the sexes.	Distribution of the employed population by economic activity is presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
9. Employment in the informal sector as a percentage of total employed outside of agriculture, disaggregated by sex.	Informal sector employees disaggregated by workplace, place of residence and sex are presented in the publication “Employment and Unemployment. Results of the integrated sample survey of household budgets and manpower”.
10. Youth unemployment, disaggregated by sex.	Unemployed people aged 15 and over are disaggregated by age, location and gender and are presented in the publication “Employment and Unemployment. Results of the integrated sample survey of household budgets and manpower”.
11. Proportion of the population with access to credit, disaggregated by sex.	The number of microcredit recipients is presented in the publication “Women and Men

	in the Kyrgyz Republic”. Incomplete data: no data on other types of credit loans.
12. Proportion of adult land owners, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained
13. Gender gap in wages.	Average salaries of women and men are presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
14. Proportion of part-time employees, disaggregated by sex.	Disaggregation of the employed population based on the actual number of hours worked per week in the main job is presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
15. The employment rate among persons aged 25-49 who have a child living with them under the age of 3, and who do not have children living with them, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
16. Proportion of children under the age of 3, in child institutions.	Disaggregation of children in preschool institutions by age is presented in the publication “Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
17. The proportion of people using the Internet, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
18. Proportion of people who use mobile/cellular phones, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
19. Percentage of households with access to the media (radio, TV, Internet), disaggregated by sex of the household head.	Statistics are not maintained.
II Education	
20. Literacy rate among persons aged 15-24, disaggregated by sex.	The level of education of young people aged 15-24 is presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
21. Adjusted net enrollment ratio in primary education, disaggregated by sex.	Net enrollment rate in primary educational institutions is represented in the publication “Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
22. Gross enrollment ratio in secondary education institutions, disaggregated by sex.	Enrolment rate of day educational organizations disaggregated by sex and territories is represented in the publication “Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
23. Gross enrollment ratios in higher education institutions, disaggregated by sex	The number of students in educational institutions of higher education is presented in the publication “Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
24. Gender Parity Index in terms of enrollment	Statistics not maintained.

in primary, secondary and higher education institutions.	
25. The proportion of women among university graduates who have received degrees in science, engineering and construction.	Disaggregation of students by groups and professions is represented in the publications: “Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic” and “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
26. The proportion of women among teaching staff of higher education institutions.	Statistics are not maintained.
27. Net enrollment in the first grade of primary education, disaggregated by sex.	Disaggregation of pupils by class groups and by sex is presented in the publication “Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic” and “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
28. Proportion of people who completed primary education, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
29. Proportion of people who completed the first level of secondary education, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
30. Percentage of students who are entering the secondary schools, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
31. The level of education of the population aged 25 and over, disaggregated by sex.	The level of education of employed urban and rural population aged 15 and older disaggregated by age groups is represented in the publication “Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
III. Healthcare and mixed services	
32. Contraceptive prevalence among women aged 15-49 who are married or family union	Percentage based disaggregation of currently married women aged 15-49, in accordance with the currently used method of contraception is presented in the book “The Kyrgyz Republic. Demographic and Health Survey”.
33. The mortality rate of children under the age of 5, disaggregated by sex.	Age-specific mortality rates are presented in the publication: “Demographic Yearbook of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
34. The maternal mortality ratio.	Maternal mortality is presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
35. Pre-birth care.	Coverage of antenatal care is presented in the publication “The Kyrgyz Republic. Demographic and Health Survey”.

36. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.	Place of birth and adoption assistance at delivery are presented in the publication “The Kyrgyz Republic. Demographic and Health Survey”.
37. The prevalence of smoking among persons aged 15 and older, disaggregated by sex.	Percentage of women and men aged 15-49, smoking a cigarette or pipe or consuming other tobacco products are presented in the book “The Kyrgyz Republic. Demographic and Health Survey”.
38. Proportion of adults who are obese, disaggregated by sex.	Body mass index for adults disaggregated by age is represented in the book “Health and Health Care in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
39. The proportion of women among those aged 15-49, living with HIV/AIDS.	The number of HIV- infected and registered AIDS patients is presented in the book “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
40. Access to antiretroviral drugs, disaggregated by sex.	Statistics are not maintained.
41. Life expectancy at age 60, disaggregated by sex.	Life expectancy at 60 years of age is presented in the publication “Demographic Yearbook of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
42. Adult mortality, disaggregated by cause of death and age groups.	Mortality disaggregated by causes of death is presented in the publication “Demographic Yearbook of the Kyrgyz Republic”. Incomplete data: there is no breakdown by age.
IV. Public life and participation in decision-making	
43. The proportion of women among persons holding ministerial positions in the Government	Statistics are not maintained.
44. Proportion of seats held by women in the national Parliament.	The composition of parliament deputies is presented in the publication “Women and Men of the Kyrgyz Republic”.
45. The proportion of women among those in leadership positions.	Employment in political and administrative positions and distribution of civil servants employed in the government of the Kyrgyz Republic are presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”.
46. Percentage of women police officers.	Statistics are not maintained.
47. Percent of female Judges.	Statistics are not maintained.
V. Human rights of women and girls	
48. Proportion of women aged 15-49 who have been victims of physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months.	Percentage of women aged 15-49 who had been or are married and were physically or sexually abused by someone - husband/partner - in the last 12 months is presented in the

	publication “The Kyrgyz Republic. Demographic and Health Survey”.
49. Proportion of women aged 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence by a person other than their intimate partner in the last 12 months.	Statistics are not maintained.
50. Prevalence of mutilation and circumcision of female genitals (only in the relevant countries)	The indicator is not relevant for Kyrgyzstan.
51. Proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married or entered into family union before reaching the age of 18.	Statistics are not maintained.
52. The birth rate to teenagers.	Number of births to women younger than 16, 16 and 17 years of age is presented in the book “Demographic Yearbook of the Kyrgyz Republic”.

Annex 3. Nine indicators of violence against women.

Indicators	Sources
1. The total number and age categories of women who experienced physical violence in the last 12 months, disaggregated by level of severity of violence, by the relationship between the victim and the abuser, and by frequency of violence incidents.	Separate data on victims of domestic violence is presented in the following publications: “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic” and “Crime and the Rule of Law in the Kyrgyz Republic”. Incomplete data: there is no summary table with variables and not data on frequency of incidents.
2. The total number and age indicators of women who experienced physical violence during their lifetime, disaggregated by level of severity of violence, by the relationship between the victim and the abuser, and by frequency of incidents of violence.	Statistics are not maintained
3. The total number and age categories of women who experienced physical violence in the last 12 months, disaggregated by level of severity of violence, by the relationship between the victim and the abuser, and by frequency of incidents of violence. The total number and age categories of women who experienced physical	

violence in the last 12 months, disaggregated by level of severity of violence, by the relationship between the victim and the abuser, and by frequency of incidents of violence.	
4. The total number and age indicators of women who experienced physical violence during their lifetime, disaggregated by level of severity of violence, by the relationship between the victim and the abuser, and by frequency of incidents of violence.	Statistics are not maintained
5. The total number and age indicators of women who have had a partner and experienced sexual and/or physical violence committed by the current or former partner in the last 12 months, disaggregated by frequency of incidents of violence.	Statistics are not maintained
6. The total number and age indicators of women who have had a partner and experienced sexual and/or physical violence committed by the current or former partner throughout their lifetime, disaggregated by frequency of incidents of violence.	Statistics are not maintained
7. The total number and age indicators of women who experienced psychological violence committed by their intimate partner in the last 12 months.	The number of psychological violence cases is presented in the publication “Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic”. Incomplete data: There is no disaggregation by age and no information on who committed the violence.
8.	
9.	

Annex 4

Women and the media

Analysis of the situation and the measures taken

The legislation on mass media, as well as other actors, is guided by the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Mass Media”, which is characterized as non-gender sensitive.

Non-regimentation of the State information policy in key interests of various social groups and beneficiaries - in line with gender, ethnicity, and youth policy - should be recognized. This situation can also be viewed as a consequence of the lack of measures to strengthen human capital - professionals in the field of mass media, and lack of gender sensitivity trainings in the formal education of journalists.

According to a number of studies, the volume of publications and editions is in the ratio of two to nine in favor of men. With this in mind, the world of women in mass media is associated with either family health and restricted by family roles, or social problems and risks: prostitution, drugs, crime, etc. At the same time there are few subjects on the topics of business creation and access to business management; equality issues in labor relations, including wages and equality in domestic housework, etc.

The share of women appearing in the economic news considerably varies by topics, contributing to a stereotype of women as beneficiaries, dependents, victims, and minor members of society:

Generalized topics of economic news	Women
Credit benefits to the population	57 %
Customs Union and inflation	45 %
Business activities	26 %
Professional Holidays	23 %
Migrant workers (statistics, language issues)	21 %
Customs Union and tariffs	18 %
State investment	15 %
Agriculture, livestock	10 %
The budget	10 %
Non-payment of wages	0 %
Unemployment	0 %
State debt forgiveness	0 %
Development of economic relations with other countries	0 %
Inclusive economy (people with disability)	0 %

Acting as key characters in the economic news on various topics, women and men asymmetrically represent specific social statuses:

Social statuses of men	Number	Social statuses of women	Number
Senior government official	10	Senior government official	0
Mid-level government official	5	Mid-level government official	2
Low-level government official	3	Low-level government official	0
Politicians	12	Politicians	0
Deputy	7	Deputy	3

Top executives	10	Top executives	0
Middle managers	11	Middle managers	1
Supervisors	2	Supervisors	0
Expert political scientists	6	Expert political scientists	0
Expert economists	32	Experts economists	6
Entrepreneurs	24	Entrepreneurs	2
Agricultural workers	6	Agricultural workers	0
Merchants in the bazaar	6	Merchants in the bazaar	5
Victims of natural disasters	7	Victims of natural disasters	1
The poor	2	The poor	5
	143		25

Thus, men have a total quantitative dominance (almost six times more than women⁴¹) with a very important advantage that they, unlike women, are portrayed as senior civil servants, policy-makers, senior and middle managers, experts in different areas, and entrepreneurs. From a total of 145 male speakers on economic issues, 120 persons have a status (i.e., 85.1%), whereas among women the corresponding figure was 58.3%. Despite the fact that categories of politicians are represented exclusively by two or three specific images of leaders of the country,⁴² on a symbolic level these images affect the formation of role-model ideals for boys and men. Images of women role-model ideals are scarce, and one fifth of them are represented as the most vulnerable groups. Mothers with a large number of children make up the vast majority of protagonists in stories about poor families. Women tend to be presented as unable to feed their children and begging for help from the State.

Analysis of stories on different economic topics show stereotyped approaches of journalists in coverage of female roles and trends to portray women as economically dependent, not active, and not successful.

For example, in the story prepared for the Day of Light Industry, the journalists specifically focused on the problems of the sewing business in the country, which is largely represented by women business.

Thus, research and statistics prove the thesis of gender bias in journalistic approaches, an insensitive attitude of journalists to gender discrimination, and asymmetric portrayal of gender roles in the economic development of the State and society. The economic news portray women who did not achieve success in their business or employment initiatives and in daily work, who are irrational, secondary, passive and dependents, which is becoming a key barrier for young women and girls in their economic opportunities, lowers the female role-model ideal, and forms an intolerant culture towards independent, active and successful women in labor and entrepreneurship.

⁴¹ The trend compared to the years 2007-2009 as a whole was negative, as women accounted for just over a third - 33.9% - of all the featured people of news stories, whereas this ratio for the economic news is 17.5% of featured people.

⁴² Prime Minister - in 68% of all interviews or speeches on economic issues in the "policy" category; 21% - the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and 11% - speeches of politicians and presidents of other countries.

Without identifying the problem of gender policy information, without investing into functional gender education of journalists, the State perpetuates traditional gender stereotype regimes in the family, in the society and in the country. Thus, the Strategy of development of the Public TV Radio Corporation (PTRC) of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2015 does not provide for the preparation and broadcasting of gender politics programs.

It is important to note the existing achievements in this sphere. PTRC broadcasts programs on gender issues, and radio station “Radio Birinchi” twice a week broadcasts a ten-minute program, “Genderdik Sayasat”, in the Kyrgyz language. In 2013, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic announced a competition for the best coverage report of rural women. A program for the implementation of the Presidential Decree “On Mother’s Day” is also taking place, according to which, mass media in Kyrgyzstan is recommended to create a series of programs to promote the institution of family and motherhood.

State Intentions

1. The Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, together with non-governmental organizations, developed the concept of information strategy to promote women's political participation and leadership. The main priority of the communication strategy is to ensure the effective interaction of the State and municipal authorities with the media on issues of implementation of gender equality policies in the country.
2. The authorized body plans to develop a mechanism for creation of state-ordered TV and radio programs on gender equality.
3. The authorized body in the field of information policy – the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic - developed a strategic document on information policy, which is part of the transition to digital broadcasting; there are also strategic documents on public service broadcasters. Thus, the authorized body plans to participate in the development of a strategy on inclusion of gender issues for the formation of a positive image of women.

Annex 5

Women and the Environment

Analysis of the situation and measures taken

The quality of economic growth and its impact on the environment, as well as social cohesion and stability, including the increased inequality of various kinds of deprivations affecting the life strategies of the population, are rarely put on the agenda for public debate.

Gender inequality is significantly reflected in the changing environment. Perpetuation of poverty as a factor of environmental abuse, an increased load on the households, the restriction of access to water and energy sources, has a primarily affect on women, as evidenced by statistics and research data.

However, there are no statistics on the impact of environmental change on vulnerable groups such as rural women, women with disabilities, pregnant women, etc. Thus, the program documents of the country consider the environmental change/degradation as a result of the

impact of the poor, but do not consider the adverse environmental conditions as the cause of inequality and poverty.

It is important to note that the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the Aarhus Convention “On Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters” (the Law of the KR #5, dated 12.01.2001), and, having adopted the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Access to Information Held by Public Bodies and Local Self-Government of the Kyrgyz Republic”, is taking action to raise awareness of the environment and fulfill commitments to provide a guaranteed right of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Kyrgyzstan is currently facing many difficulties in maintaining and improving the environmental information system. There is no unified national monitoring system. There is practically no required monitoring in such important areas as hazardous waste, heavy metals, no morphological accounting of waste that is being dumped into the conventional landfills (especially in rural areas) or stored at the factory and enterprise storage units, etc.

Kyrgyzstan does not have an integrated or cross-sectoral electronic environmental database. The results of environmental monitoring in Kyrgyzstan are not widely used in the decision-making process, in policy or public awareness rising.

In order to conduct an effective action for the protection of the environment, it is important to have objective and modern analytical information on the state of the environment. This information should be available for both public authorities and the general public.

The policy of regulation of the environmental issues, consequences of its change, and human impact on the environment are not included in the mandate of any authorized body, and there is no information about its impact on the interests of different groups, such as children, women, the elderly and other actors at various levels from LSG to higher authorities and the government.

The presence and condition of tailings is one of the key environmental problems of the Kyrgyz Republic: there are a total of 92 objects in the country in which there are more than 457 million tons of waste containing radionuclides and other harmful substances. The total area of the country which has been subjected to radioactive contamination is 6,500 hectares.

The greatest number of tailings (both sealed and unpreserved) is located in the settlements: cities of Maili-Suu and Orlovka in villages of Aktyuz, Min-Kush, Shekaftar. These objects are not protected due to lack of funding, which results in cases of unauthorized excavation on sites by scavengers (mainly boys, old men, women, who remained in these depressed areas) in search of ferrous and nonferrous metals, cable and electrical products.⁴³ At the same time the tailings are a property of the State.

⁴³ T. Dzunushaliev “Ensuring the safety of tailings in Kyrgyzstan”, <http://bpc.kg/news/6152-22-04-09>.

Moreover, the tailings are used by local residents⁴⁴ for various purposes: as a racecourse and “goat polo” (goat grabbing) field, landing sites for helicopters and wind gliders; children's playgrounds; gardens and nurseries; herding, etc. Children and women are traditionally engaged in herding, as they are the only working population remaining in these settlements. Women are the main victims of the impact of tailings.⁴⁵ Locals build the foundations of houses from waste rock tunnels and uranium mines, among which come across pieces of ore with high radioactivity.

These areas are transformed into incubators for marginals. This also applies to migration, and access to health care and education as social infrastructure is destroyed. In the past, social infrastructure was maintained by industrial facilities, which are currently not functioning.

The following fact must be highlighted. The intensity of insecurity (including the environmental insecurity) and the resulting types of inequality, including gender, enhances the degree of identity within a particular group (population) to such an extent that it can mobilize this group (population) for conflict and instability in the country. This actually happens with female residents of small depressed towns of Kyrgyzstan (disadvantaged in environmental and economic terms), including Maili-Suu, Zhagak, Kok-Tash, Kumyr, etc. This is the most marginal part of the population, with neither land nor work. They are very easy to be recruited by various political groups and interest groups, including radicals, and this fact can be regarded as a socio-political consequence of the economic marginalization of women.

A complex demographic situation with a limited amount of land is combined with the lack of jobs and lack of economic prospects, especially for women; this is particularly marked in the arid and mountainous areas of the region. Such a situation causes migration of the population to major urban centers and to the relatively less populated rural areas. Due to deterioration of living conditions, loss of livelihoods, exacerbated by scarcity of land and the disappointing economic outlook, large populations of the Ferghana Valley join the ranks of migrants.

Lack of natural resources, in turn, can lead to five types of social consequences: reduced agricultural productivity; reduced economic productivity; migration; disintegration of society, usually at the expense of exacerbating existing tensions between various ethnic groups; disruption of functions of public institutions, especially State (in the Marais et al., 2003, p. 14); infringement of the rights related to natural resources, reflected in unequal access to resources, is an important factor, because it leads to the marginalization of groups (Baechler, 1998, 1999).⁴⁶

No serious research on the impact of economic development, accompanied by various kinds of contaminants that are detrimental to human health, causing degradation of the environment and resources, has been conducted on Kyrgyzstan. Reverse effects, inverse relationship between environmental degradation and economic development, quality of life, health of the population, and workforce conditions, have not been studied and researched either.

⁴⁴ According to the official demographic characteristics of the mentioned settlements, sharp quantitative gaps between women and men are not observed. However, empirical observations and studies show that these areas are predominantly inhabited by women, the elderly and children. Men are in labor migration or seasonal commuting as the former town-building enterprises do not exist anymore, land and technology for agriculture are insufficient, etc.

⁴⁵ A. Solomatina “Uranium Tailings in Central Asia: Local Problems, Regional Consequences, Global Solution”. Results of a regional electronic discussion of CARNet network; www.uranium.carnet.kg

⁴⁶ Quote on “Environment and Security. Transforming risks into cooperation”, UNEP, UNDP, NATO, OSCE, 2005.

The concept of economic development, which does not take into account, and is not focused on quality of life and resource depletion, faced no objection until the most recent time. Such an economic system is called the frontier economics, or according to the known definition of K. E. Boulding, “cowboy” economy”, where there are unlimited territory and resources, etc.

This is understandable, since the unlimited economic growth due to the relatively low level of development of productive forces, large capacity for self-regulation of the biosphere, does not cause global environmental change. Only recently a realization was made that there is a need for fundamental changes in the economic outlook in the direction of incorporating environmental considerations. This awareness was largely due to deep destabilization of the environment as a result of development of the productive forces of a giant, unprecedented population growth, which led to a qualitative change in the relationship of nature and society, and a huge increase in the impact on the ecosystem.

Currently practiced patterns of consumption deplete the resource base of the environment and exacerbate inequality. The chain reaction becomes more dynamic: consumption - poverty - inequality - environment. In this scheme, the environmental factor significantly affects people’s ability to choose. As a rule, poverty and limited options tend to contribute to the environmental degradation. In turn, the growth of welfare is a means of ensuring greater freedom of choice of the preferred environmental conditions and lifestyle.

Adverse environmental impacts have the most significant effect on the lives of the poor. The vast majority of those who lose health or die due to the degradation of the environment are from the categories of persons living in poverty. The main environmental factors here are the air and water pollution, desertification (arid), leading to a sharp decline in food production up to full loss of land fertility. Although the poor account for the severity of the environmental damage, they rarely are its main culprits.

There is a vicious circle of “poverty - environmental degradation”: poverty - the desire for survival, population growth - increase in the impact on the environment - environmental degradation - poverty.

An important reason for this situation is the minimal ability to choose in poverty. In order to survive, the poor are forced to continue to use farming methods that deplete nature, which leads to further impoverishment. It is impossible to overcome environmental degradation in poverty, with the shortage of funds for restoring fertility of agricultural land, combating soil erosion, replenishing nutrients, reforestation to combat desertification, etc.

As noted in the WB report, the most popular strategies to overcome or reduce the economic risks in agriculture are migration and the use of unpaid labor of women and children (The World Bank 2007).

The outflow of young and economically active men is observed; gender gaps are formed when only women, children and the elderly remain in the village, and, in general, there is a change in the structure of family relations.