

NEWS DIGEST MAY 2009 UNICEF KYRGYZSTAN



films made by children

Children from residential care institutions, centres for street children and the parents' association for children with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan participated in One Minute Jr workshop in the capital Bishkek on 27 April - 1 May 2009. They shared their stories and experiences from their lives and produced their own 60-second films. The films were first presented during the Second Regional Child Protection Forum in Bishkek.

developing child protection systems

On May 12-14 2009, Government ministers from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan gathered at the International Child Protection Forum, hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan. The participants addressed reforms to child care systems, including social services for children and their families. At the end of the Forum, a Resolution was signed with a commitment to continue developing child protection systems and promoting further regional cooperation.

preventing anaemia

Following the adoption of the law on flour fortification in Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF supported the mission of Quentin Johnson, an international expert with more than 30 year experience, to assess the capacity of small mills to enrich their flour with B-group vitamins, folic acid, zinc and iron. Flour enrichment will help to protect people, especially in rural areas, from anaemia and other micronutrient deficiency conditions. In his presentation on 18 May 2009, Mr. Johnson made recommendations on further steps and specified which premix formulations (enriching powder) can be used in small mills to comply with new WHO guidelines.

protecting children adopted by foreigners

Upon the request of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, UNICEF provided consultations on ratification procedures of the Hague Inter-country Adoption Convention (1993) to ensure that all adoptions by foreigners comply with international standards and are fully in the best interest of the child. On 24-27 May, Jennifer Degeeling – diplomat, lawyer and Secretary at the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law – reviewed the existing legislation related to inter-country adoption in Kyrgyzstan and met with high-level ministerial officials and parliamentarians.

study on teacher shortage

In view of the acute issue of lack of teachers at schools and upon the request of the Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF will support a study on teacher shortages. From 27 May - 15 June 2009, Prof. Gita Steiner Khamsi (Columbia University) is providing consultations to the local researchers.

improving the social protection system

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development (in cooperation with UNICEF, the European Commission and the World Bank) held a second expert meeting on social protection system reform on 27-28 May 2009. The participants reviewed the interim results of the pilot project on the social assistance scheme for low-income families with children and started policy dialogue on social protection system reform in order to improve its effectiveness in reducing child poverty.