



United Nations Population Fund

“Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted,
every child birth is safe,
and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.”



UNFPA

UNFPA, is the United Nations development agency that promotes universal access to sexual and reproductive health (including family planning), promotes reproductive rights, reduces maternal mortality and supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

UNFPA delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young potential is fulfilled.

... because everyone counts

Kosovo Overview

Kosovo, with a population of almost 1.8 million, has one of the youngest demographic profiles in Europe with approximately 50 % of the population aged under 25 yearsⁱ. Kosovo is also characterized by the poorest maternal and child health indicators in Europeⁱⁱ.

Statistics indicate that 15% of married women of reproductive age use modern contraception methods, while 41% of married women use no contraception whatsoeverⁱⁱⁱ. Data on HIV and STI prevalence is not available, however it is estimated that the incidence of HIV is less than 1% of the population, and less than 5% among high-risk groups across Kosovo^{iv}.

Gender disparities remain high and women have a disadvantaged position in society as well as higher levels of poverty, lower education, and lower participation in economic and political life.

i Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011

ii End-of-Project Evaluation of the Joint Programme “IMPROVING HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF KOSOVO 2007-2010 2011

iii Demographic, Social and Health Survey 2009

iv Demographic, Social and Health Survey 2009

UNFPA in Kosovo

The UNFPA continues to strengthen the capacity of the health care system to provide integrated quality sexual and reproductive health services at a primary, secondary and tertiary health care level, including family planning and maternal health, with a particular focus on youth and key populations at higher risk.

The UNFPA Kosovo office works to build health care system capabilities and affected communities themselves, to address the issue of gender-based violence (including survivors of war related sexual violence). The UNFPA also supports improving the national capacity to incorporate population dynamics and their inter-linkages with the reproductive health needs of women. Another top priority is to ensure youth and gender issues are adequately addressed within poverty reduction plans and programmes.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

UNFPA helps to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality reproductive health services based on national Mother, Child, Adolescent and Reproductive Health Strategy, through interventions ranging from capacity building of medical personnel, development and adoption of reproductive health curricula and guidelines to strengthening institutional partnerships for improved governance of the healthcare system in Kosovo.

We target education of women, men and youth providing them with life skills and knowledge on reproductive health including family planning through organization of the community and school training sessions as well as by sponsoring awareness raising initiatives on population issues through campaigns, media and roundtables.

UNFPA contributes to ensuring access to affordable quality modern methods of contraception at public health facilities for all sexually active age groups. Access to these supplies allows women and men to make decisions on number and spacing of their children.

UNFPA Kosovo seeks to support youth and adolescents so they can make informed decisions regarding sexual and reproductive life, because such interventions have positive impact on health, prevent spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections and it eliminates the number of unintended teenage pregnancies and unsafe abortions. Informed and educated youth have better chances to fulfill their potential.

Promoting Gender Equality

In Kosovo as well as worldwide, gender-based discrimination and violence undermine women's opportunities and deny them the ability to fully exercise their fundamental human rights and to play a powerful role in sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Besides UNFPA advocacy for reproductive rights to be granted fully and equally disregarding gender and age, UNFPA seeks to enhance the rights of women and young girls by working to eliminate gender based violence (GBV).

Based on the National Action Plan and Strategy against Domestic Violence in Kosovo, UNFPA Kosovo implements activities that help to minimize GBV:

- Building institutional capacity of the health sector to address GVB through development and adoption of curricula and protocols for health care providers;
- Community based outreach activities to increase population awareness on the negative and harmful consequences of GBV through peer-to-peer sessions with youth, theatre-based education, community sessions, media and through engaging religious leaders;
- Cooperate with civil society organizations working on GBV related issues and build their capacities on better coordination, prevention, counseling and care for survivors;
- Advocacy efforts to policymakers on GBV issues at the central and local level;
- Active participation in advocacy activities of the Security and Gender Group (SGG).





Population and Development Strategies

Throughout the years, UNFPA Kosovo has supported a number of population and development-related policy documents, researches, analysis, and surveys such as Law on Reproductive Health; Mother, Child, Adolescent and Reproductive Health Strategy; HIV/AIDS Strategy; Demographic, Social and Reproductive Health Survey in Kosovo; reports on Causes of Death and Death Registration in Kosovo; Exploratory Research on the Extent of Gender-Based Violence in Kosovo and its Impact on Women's Reproductive Health, Pregnancy and Family Planning in Kosovo, and many others.

As nations are experiencing changes in population dynamics, there is a need for comprehensive response to such trends through implementation of adequate and evidence-based policies and strategies. Kosovo has one of the youngest populations in Europe, but considered as an asset only if adequate actions and policies are enforced. Therefore, through research, gathering and dissemination of population data, UNFPA advocates for and supports preparation and implementation of evidence-based population strategies into national planning and policy development.

The 7 Billion Actions Global campaign organized in 2011, bringing together key local and international stakeholders, raised awareness on challenges and opportunities of population trends in Kosovo and globally, and mainly, advocated for their implementation within key stakeholders.

Partnership

The UNFPA has well developed partnerships with the Ministry of Health, Center for Development of Family Medicine, Institute of Public Health, municipal health officials and professional associations in policymaking, strengthening capacities of health care providers on reproductive health, reproductive rights and family planning. Faith based organizations, including the Kosovo Islamic Council and Catholic Parish, has been engaged on the issue of gender based violence.

UNFPA works with parliamentarians on advocacy and evidence-based inter-linkages between population dynamics and poverty reduction programmes. There is also continuous collaboration with the Kosovo Statistical Agency to strengthen data collection capacities and their effective use for policy development. Cooperation with media belongs to another essential component of UNFPA advocacy.

Partnership with civil society and non-governmental organizations is a vital part of UNFPA's work in Kosovo. Collaboration is set with various NGOs working in the areas of youth, reproductive health including family planning, gender equality and research.

Additionally, UNFPA as a member of United Nations Kosovo Team works together with other UN agencies on addressing development challenges in Kosovo in achieving goals set up in the Millennium Development Goals and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014. A concrete example of harmonization and cooperation of UNFPA with other UN agencies is Common Development Plan 2012-2015 and numerous joint programmes.

Factsheet

POPULATION	1990	Most recent
Total population in thousands	1 560 [^] 1999	1 740 2011
Total population in thousands, male	-	874 2011
Total population in thousands, female	-	864 2011
Total population, 0-14, %	33.1 2003	28.0 2011
Total population, 15-59, %	60.5 2003	62.2 2011
Total population, 60+, %	6.4 2003	9.8 2011
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.98 2003	2.0 2009
Life expectancy at birth, male, years [#]	65.7 2002	67.9 2010
Life expectancy at birth, female, years [#]	70.3 2002	72 2010
Total dependency ratio (0-14+65+/15-64)	-	53.2 2011
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	1990	Most recent
Maternal deaths per 100 000 live births	-	11.7 2011
Abortion rate per 1000 live births	4.8 ^{^^} 1999	-
Antenatal care at least 4 visits	-	78.1 ^{^^} 2009
Contraceptive prevalence rate, all, %	18.9 [^] 1999	35.2 2009
Contraceptive prevalence rate, modern, %	8.8 [^] 1999	9.2 2009
GENDER	1990	Most recent
Seats held by women in national parliament %	-	32.5 2012
Share of women in wage employment (non-agricultural sector)	28.0 [^] 1999	24.3 2011
Gender parity index in secondary enrolment	-	0.88 2011
HIV and other STIs*	1990	Most recent
Percentage of men who have sex with men in capital city who are HIV infected	-	0 2011
Percentage of sex workers reporting the use of a condom with their most recent client	35.0 2006	42.5 2011
Percentage of men reporting condom use the last time they had anal sex with a male partner	56.0 2006	52.5 2011
Percentage of sex workers with correct knowledge of HIV transmission	-	13.0 2011
Percentage of men who have sex with men with correct knowledge of HIV transmission	-	26.9 2011
Percentage of people who inject drugs with correct knowledge of HIV transmission	-	22.0 2011

Data Source:

Kosovo Agency of Statistics

The World Bank Data

[^]Demographic, Social and Health Survey 1999

^{^^} Antenatal Care in Kosovo 2009

* UNGASS

Demographic Transition in Kosovo: Challenges and Opportunities in the World of 7 Billion





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