

Women Peacemakers Network, Kyrgyzstan



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Setting the stage

- Conflicts: 2005, April 2010, June 2010
- Country-wide instability
- Armed conflict in Southern Kyrgyzstan, 2010
- Ethnic clashes in KR
- Women's engagement at all stages of the conflict
- Women's role is invisible



3 key dimensions of the UNSCR 1325

1. Recognizing that women and girls are really the most vulnerable
2. Putting in place appropriate mechanisms to protect their rights
3. Ensuring stronger women's voices in peace-building and conflict prevention processes

Women Peacemakers Network: History

24 September during the Women's Regional Forum on *Women in Peace-building* supported by Peace and Development Programme, 100 participants from Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken Oblasts representing various communities (women's NGOs, government structures, political parties, media) from three regions in Kyrgyzstan decided to set up jointly the Women Peace-makers Network to expand women's opportunities in peace-building



Background:

- Introduction of CRRTs (civil rapid response teams)
- Situation analysis
- Negotiations with key stakeholders
- Focus-groups: women's councils, elderly councils, leaders of Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities, OBON (Women Units for Special Purpose or rent-a-mob structures), young persons, new local governments
- Statements and recommendations of local governments
- Addressing gossips: roll-out of 'antigossips' hot line

During the Conflict

- Relief (bread)
- Humanitarian aid by authorities
- Mobile groups
- Identification of sexual violence survivors
- Identifying the needs of affected persons
- Damage assessment
- Visits to 'refugee camps'
- Negotiations with conflict parties
- Assistance to conflict survivors (sexual violence)
- Re-routing, donor search
- Documenting the cases

Construction Process



Relief Delivery



Psychosocial rehabilitation



Women Peacemakers Network (the Network) – till June 2011, a voluntary informal association of women-activists, women-leaders, respected and influential women. The network is a community-based, non-commercial, non-political organization. Network members can set up Women's Peace Committees. In June it was registered as a legal entity.

- **Women's Peace Committee** refers to a group of active and distinguished women and men at the local level, with expertise in stability reinstatement during and post conflict, eager and experienced in peace-building activities.

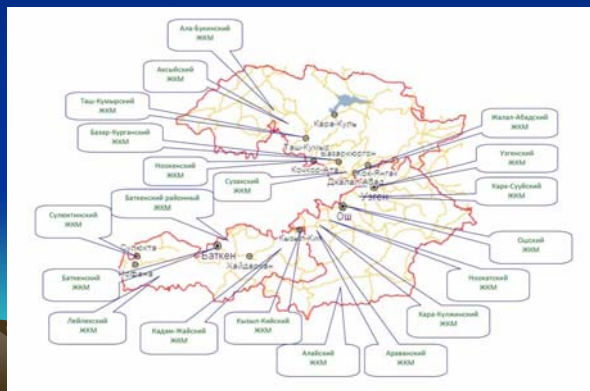
TODAY Women Peacemakers Network

is the umbrella for 20 Women's Peace Committees in three regions:

Jalal-Abad: 7-30, Osh: 7-22, Batkhen: 6-20
with totally 823 members

and has 3 regional resource centers

in Osh, Jalal Abad and Batken Oblasts.



WPN's Goals

1. **Recognizing the need of women's engagement in decision-making and the local community through:**
 - Enhancing the capacity of women-activists in mediation and building their analysis skills for conflict resolution, peace-building and peace strengthening
 - Supporting social, economic and political activism of women
 - Image enhancement of women peacemakers,
 - Advocacy of local women's contribution to peace-building.
 - Consolidating partnerships with CS and LGs, ZhK, etc.
2. **Reducing ethnic tensions in Kyrgyzstan through prevention and efficient responses to threats of conflicts and conflict situations**

Areas of activities

- Monitoring the situation in conflict-prone regions (prevalence, responses)
- Thematic studies
- Capacity-building of network members
- PR campaigns (women peacemakers, peace)
- Network activism (campaigns)
- Legal assistance (WESA)
- Hot lines (3 oblasts)

Monitoring and analysis

- Monitoring the situation: 9 monitors in crisis spots+20 WPC
- Trained to carry out monitoring.
- Produced 15 monitoring reports and over 18 policy briefs.
- Dissemination across different structures
- Response tracking (by recipient organizations and the network)
- Close cooperation with local governments in three oblasts and the President's Office



Thematic studies

Identifying the most recurrent issues

In-depth review of the issue

Impact on problem solving in order to:

- produce a report
- make the structure aware
- make the public aware
- design concrete steps to address

Thematic studies

- Media
- Impact of home-based religious education on women status in Kyrgyz Republic
- Status of ethnic Kyrgyzs (social and economic challenges related to acquiring the citizenship)
- Analysis of social and economic status of women deported from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan and vice versa
- Situation analysis of mandatory military service of KR nationals under call-up liability

CHALLENGES

- OBON
- Deportation of women (KR-RU)
- Cement plant
- Vaccination denial
- Religious home-based schools
- Suicide among young persons
- Allocation of apartments in Osh
- Ethnic Kyrgyz
- Army-related challenges

RESPONSES

- Jalal-Abad
- MFA
- Roza Otunbaeva
- Ministry of Health
- President's Office
- NGOs
- Network

Peace rally in Jalal-Abad



Mother's White Scarf



- Bread of Peace



Young peace envoys



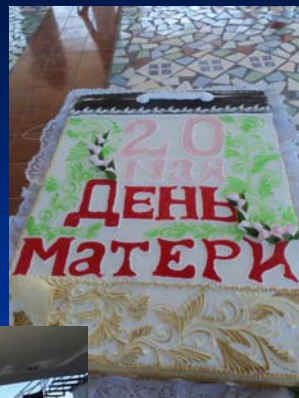
White Ribbon of Hope



20-meter Peace Cake for the International Peace Day



Mother's Day



Call-up and Military Service in KR Armed Forces: Challenges and Perspectives



Army: *To serve Motherland – to love Motherland!*



Network's current activities

- Hot lines: NGO Omur Bulagy, Batken, Women Leaders of Jalal Abad, IOM)
- Study on gender-based violence: Ensan-Diamond, OSCE
- Legal assistance to GBV survivor: Omur Bulagy, Batken, U.S. Embassy, Adilet Hospital
- Implementation of joint partner projects: AKTs, RGF, Advocacy Center on violence, bride abduction, early marriages, migration
- Cooperation with GS and OMSU: KR President's Office, ANK, OSK, Caravan of Friendship (a national project with UNDP)
- Future plans: to develop hot lines, a crisis center for men

Awareness-Raising and Capacity-Building (Ensan-Diamond, OSCE)

- Designing the training curriculum and producing the resource book for police staff on implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security
- *Gender in Security* trainings for police staff (320 persons in 2012 and 108 persons in 2013) in three southern oblasts of Kyrgyzstan

The goal of trainings:

- To improve gender responsiveness, knowledge and capacity of internal affairs staff in security and response to gender-based violence

