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Country Report

*Kyrgyzstan**

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The Kyrgyz Republic is situated in the north- east of Central Asia; the territory of the republic is about 200 thousand square kilometers, almost 90% of which is 1,500 meters above the sea level (mountainous area).

The capital of the state is Bishkek. The President of the Kyrgyz Republic is Kurmanbek Bakiev. Kyrgyzstan is a multinational republic; more than 90 nationalities live on its territory. The state consists of seven administrative regions (oblasts); the most part of its population lives in the rural area. The Kyrgyz people gained independence and national sovereignty peacefully after the disintegration of the USSR in 1991. The policy aimed at formation of the economic system of the Kyrgyz Republic is based on market principles and democratic system of governing thanks to the chosen strategy.

A). Demographic, social, economic and political development.

Population of Kyrgyzstan is about 5,125,000.

526,000 pensioners live in the republic, their distribution by:

Territory:

- > 199,300 pensioners live in the urban areas (37%);
- > 326,700 people (63%) live in the rural areas.

Gender:

- > 39 % - men;
- > 61% -women.

According to evaluation of the United Nations the population of Kyrgyzstan will reach 6,235,000 people by 2020, even growth rate of the population is slowed-down.

By age:

- > population older 60 years old made 9% of the entire population in 2000, that index was reduced to 8.1% in 2006;
- > people aged 65 and over made 6.5% (6% in 2000), people aged 80 and over made 0.9% (0.8% in 2000).

Life expectancy of citizens is equal to 67.5 years old during 1990 – 1995 with further insignificant decrease to 66.9 years old during the period of 1995 till 2005; currently the life expectancy is equal to 68.6 years old.

It is expected that the life expectancy will reach 72.4 years old by 2015 that is an evidence of increase in the life expectancy of the population of the republic. Nowadays more than 250 people aged 90 and over live in Kyrgyzstan.

In 2006 the demographic situation in the country was characterized by increase in birthrate, mortality and international migratory activity of the population.

Along with the decreasing coefficient of birthrate Kyrgyzstan is undoubtedly ageing though by small pace. The life expectancy is increased; therefore the problem of ageing becomes serious for our country.

Speaking about issues of ageing it is necessary in its first turn to refer to economic indicators of social and political situation in the state.

Development of Kyrgyzstan's economy for the previous 5 years was relatively stable. Macroeconomic stability in relation to the majority of key indices was achieved, gross domestic product (GDP) was increased by 2.7% in 2006, and it increased from US \$279 in 2000 to US \$433 in 2006 per capita.

Share of expenses of the state budget to GDP was 20.2%, at that 60.4% of the state budget were allocated to the social-cultural sphere; it demonstrates its social orientation. At the same time the specified plan was fulfilled only for 93.5%, profit of the state budget made 1.1% of GDP.

In December 2006 index of consuming prices characterizing level of inflation in comparison with the analogical period of 2005 made 5.1%, prices for food products were increased by 2.3%,

communal services and the main types of energy carriers – by 4.7% that significantly influenced on the living standards of pensioners.

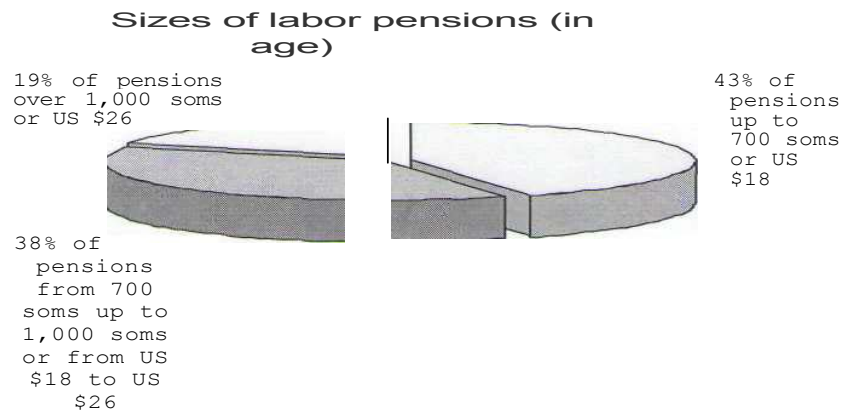
At this the minimal consumer budget per capita made \$65, and minimal consumer budget for people of pension age- \$56.

We would like to stress that in Kyrgyzstan in January 1, 2006 the average size of

- > labor pension made 729 soms or US \$19;
- > social payment in age (without seniority), disablement and loss of breadwinner – 414 soms or US \$11.

At this 76% of pensioners receive the first type of pensions (in age), the second type o is received by 24%.

Size of pensions can be conditionally divided between three groups:



It is seen that the pension of more than 81% does not exceed 1,000 soms (US \$26), in other words income is less than 1 dollar a day on average.

In connection with that taking into consideration the minimal consumer budget the older people are short of minimal lively important demands' satisfaction (full-pledged nutrition, treatment and preservation of health, provision with communal services).

As an example I demonstrate dynamics of ratio coefficient of an average pension and minimal living wage of pensioners for the period of 2000- 2005 (According to the data of the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic).

Indices	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Size of living wage, soms	1,205.30	1,316,50	1,404.80	1,540.40	1,725.90	1,836.60
Ratio of average size of pension to minimum living wage, %	38,33	42,39	43,21	42,98	41,37	42,20
Size of living wage for pensioners, soms	1,014.50	1,098.2	1,144.50	1,250.70	1,395.70	1,492.60

Ratio of average size of pension in age to living wage of pensioner, %	45,54	50,81	53,04	52,93	51,16	51,92
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It is seen from the table that in 2002-2003 the rate of pension growth passed ahead of growth rate of the living wage, then there was a decrease up to 110% in 2005 that is an evidence of growth rate of the living wage passing ahead in relation to the growth rate of pension.

In order to define the size of pension at the level of living wage it is necessary to increase expenditure part of budget of the pension fund (social insurance) more than two times that will lead to decrease of volumes of expenditures for education and health care. For the moment it is not real as nowadays the budget of the pension fund corresponds with small economic possibilities of the country the main indices of which are unemployment, migration and instability of the political situation.

B). Means (tools) of evaluation.

At the Second World Assembly devoted to the problems of ageing held in Madrid in 2002 representatives of 159 countries adopted Madrid International Plan (referred to hereinafter as MIPAA) of Actions on ageing.

Members States including Kyrgyzstan adopted final documents undertaking obligations to carry policy aimed at assistance in participation of older people in society with equal rights with all citizens of the state, to provide older people with process of ageing in conditions of security and dignity.

For the first time the governments agreed with necessity to link the process of ageing with other regulations of social and economic development providing older generation with protection of human rights and freedoms.

Three main priority trends and a line of goals and measures were defined for adoption by the government and in particular by the civil society concerning:

- participation of older people in development of the country;
- provision with health care and welfare in the middle age;
- creation of favorable and positive conditions of life for older citizens.

Interregional consultative meeting related to the national implementation of MIPAA was organized in Vienna, Austria in December 2003.

Kyrgyzstan was one of the first countries that undertook actions after the given meeting when the Ministry of Labor and Social protection turned to the United Nations requesting a mission.

The mission visited the country from September 17 till October 1. Its representatives assessed needs of older people in Kyrgyzstan and provided recommendations related to implementation of MIPAA. The regional program was not developed.

The evaluation of the existing situation in relation to older citizens is based on policy, laws and regulating provisions adopted after the Berlin Conference in 2002.

The International Conference **“Improvement of mechanisms of interaction of the state bodies, civil society and international organizations to advance the Madrid International Plan of Actions on issues of ageing in the Kyrgyz Republic”** was held in accordance with the item of implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Actions on issues of ageing; as a result of it the Bishkek Declaration was signed and the Policy of Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Kyrgyz Republic was adopted.

The developed Policy of Actions is a document of interaction of all interested parties. Its implementation allowed effectively solving problems of older people, attract additional sources of funding, include older people in the process of solution of socio- economic issues, to decrease

social tension anticipating more than 80 events related to interaction of the state bodies, NGOs and international organizations with consideration of the three priority trends:

- participation of older citizens in the development of the country;
- providing people in middle age with healthcare and welfare;
- creation of favorable and positive conditions for older people.

The given Policy passed a procedure of public hearings in all regions of the Kyrgyz Republic with participation of representatives of local structures of the state authority, communities of older people and non-governmental organizations, analytics and experts. Development of tasks related to its implementation at sites was the result of the given discussion.

On November 1, 2005 there was also a **meeting of a vice-premier of the KR A. K. Madymarov with the Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the KR and a coordinator of network “AgeNet Central Asia without borders”, a leader of the Public Association “Resource Center for Elderly”**.

Issues of further interaction of the state bodies and civil society related to solution of issues of the middle-aged people were discussed during the meeting. The subject of the discussion was further events on promotion of the developed Policy of Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the country and development of regulation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in relation to implementation of the given document.

In connection with that in 2005 the **International network “AgeNet without borders” was established by 28 organizations of three countries (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan)**, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection entered in it as a member of the Coordination Council.

For implementation of the policy of actions the net actively attracts the socio-economic department of the United Nations and international networks such as HelpAge International and International Federation on ageing that are interested in providing financial and technical assistance in implementation of the MIPAA in Kyrgyzstan.

In November 2006 the members of the net participated in the Consultative Meeting devoted to implementation of MIPAA at the national level organized by the socio-economic department of the United Nations in Bangkok. A project for the Central Asian region anticipating further steps in implementation of MIPAA in Kyrgyzstan was developed in the process of the meeting. The project was aimed at strengthening capacity of stakeholders (responsible parties) in the regions of the Western Africa, Central Asia and Caribbean Sea with the goal to include issues of ageing in the national programs of development through lobbying and training.

Nowadays the network “AgeNet” actively deals with promotion of the MIPAA in Central Asia through its members from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In 2007 gerontology organizations of Turkmenistan planned to enter into the network.

It is necessary to effectively represent interests of the net at the international level for achieving goals of the net.

With the given goal the members of the net participated in the 8th Global Conference of the International Federation on ageing where the representatives provided results of the joint efforts in the sphere of improvement of position of older people and gained a great experience of work with older people in various oblasts.

The following was suggested to apply as an experience in Kyrgyzstan:

- idea of opening shops of the secondary use;
- method of rehabilitation of older people with the help of robot, following the example of Japan;
- usage of attributes in promotion and protection of older people;
- establishment and support to gerontology daily permanent establishments.

The project of assistance by Danish pensioners to Kyrgyzstan pensioners “Ogappu AY” became the result of collaboration with the Danish organizations, 100 self-help groups of partners and members of net in Talas, Osh, Issyk-kul and Chui oblasts receive financial and consultative assistance in the frame of the project nowadays.

The net entered in the coalition “Constitution is our choice” that implements the project informing population on the implemented constitutional reform. In the project process older people and youth participate in the Round tables, Talk Shows devoted to discussion of the reform and development of recommendations.

The coordinator of network - the Public Association “Resource Center for Elderly” implements project “Social integration and security of older people in the Kyrgyz Republic” that supposes formation and development of 20 self-help groups in Issyk-kul and Naryn oblasts.

91 self-help groups in total were formed and supported in Chui and Issyk-kul oblasts during 2005-2006. The total number of their members varies from 1,000 to 1,200 older people that deal with income generating activity.

Besides promotion of the MIPAA in Kyrgyzstan the net deals with organization of charitable actions.

Annually the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection in conjunction with the “Resource Center for Elderly” holds events devoted to the International Day of Older Persons celebrated on the 1st of October.

In October 2006 the net in conjunction with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and Bishkek city administration implemented the action “From heart to heart” that took place in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

The goal of the given action was collection of funds to provide medical social support to older people of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result of the action more than 80 thousand soms were collected. The collected funds were distributed between regions of the republic in accordance with the submitted projects of the net members to provide older people with assistance.

For continuation of the given action a “Social Shop” was opened in Bishkek. The funds received from activity of the given shop are regularly sent directly to older people as assistance.

C). National priorities (supposed) of the Regional Strategy.

Nowadays in our country there is no coordinated national strategy of interaction of all interested parties in providing rights, freedoms and interests of older people. In accordance with the conducted research the Government is confronted with interconnected problems of ageing, unemployment and unstable pension system and faces necessity to solve problems of development and demographical ageing simultaneously.

In connection with it the International Conference “Improvement of mechanisms of interaction of the state bodies, civil society and international organizations to promote the Madrid International Plan of Actions on issues of ageing in the Kyrgyz Republic” was held in September 2005. At the given conference its participants adopted the Policy of Actions and the Bishkek Declaration was signed. For today some components of the Policy of Actions are implemented and supplemented with modification of social economic changes in the country.

The following strategic steps were developed:

1. Awareness of everybody, whom it concerns, on international regulations on problems of ageing ratified by Kyrgyzstan:

- Raising awareness of population on rights for social protection
- Creation and development of communicative space to agree with solution of issues of older people by all parts of society
- Establishment of informational legal centers in villages

2. Discussion and raising the issue concerning necessity to solve jointly and purposefully problems of older people for development of policy and planning of programs as the most effective method of solution of such problems:

- Development and adoption of the National Strategies and State Programs;
- Strategy of solidarity of generations;
- Strategy of development of health care with consideration of demands of older people;
- Strategy of satisfaction of specific demands of older people;
- Revival of the national ideology of respectful attitude to older generation;
- Public control over keeping legislation in relation to older people.

3. Necessity of rationalization of resources.

Mechanisms were defined at various levels for solution of social problems including problems of ageing.

One of such mechanisms is a system of social passport introduced in Kyrgyzstan in 2002 that examines poverty of households from multilateral point of view including income, employment, security and health. Introduction of the social passport allowed collecting qualitative and quantitative data concerning population of the republic including older citizens.

4. Establishment of strict institutional links providing right approach in solution of problems of delegating authorities, functions and responsibilities of parties in development of policy and its implementation such as

- Obligatory participation of public organizations in development and discussion of socially significant projects;
- Development and adoption of the Law “On social order”.

5. Necessity in rational system of benefits and payments based on direct approach with definition of needs.

- Decrease or release of working pensioners and their community organizations from taxes;
- Preferential crediting of older farmers;
- Cancellation of age requirement during hiring;
- Providing pensioners with benefits during payment for communal services and main types of energy carriers with consideration of their income;
- Preferential services for older people in the sphere of services including purchase of goods at reduced prices.

6. Strengthening capacity of older people and involvement of civil society in all aspects of social mobilization (both economical and social spheres) that requires

- Conduction of research related to employment of older population and possible spheres of application of their labor capacity;

Providing participation of older people in making decisions:

- In the activity of electoral bodies;
- In formation of the republican and local budgets (public hearings).

7. Improvement of pension system. Nowadays the Conception of the pension system was developed, in the future it anticipates:

- establishment of the minimal pension with consideration of basket of goods;
- increase of level of minimal salary;
- differentiation of pension age with consideration of harmful factors for the previous work.

8. Improvement of quality of healthcare and medical nursing in connection with limited access (physical) or usage (expenditures) by older people.

In connection with it is necessary:

- To examine physiological and psychological factors promoting rapid ageing of the nation;
- To make analysis of conditions promoting healthy longevity;
- To conduct monitoring of activity of medical establishments in connection with providing elderly with assistance;
- To prepare gerontology specialists;
- To revive gerontology centers in the republic;
- To establish crisis- rehabilitation centers for older people, daily hospitals serving older people;
- To strengthen establishments of social services at home for older citizens and disabled people;
- To develop detailed methodological manuals for older people on issues of gerontology;

9. Increase of capacity in the entire definition of goals (optimization of functions, for example functions of social workers, development of charity, etc).

10. Establishment of interrelation in solution of problems of older people between the state structure, international and civil sector including non-governmental organizations.

11. To include issue of ageing in the common strategy of integration of older people in the programs of development of all levels:

- Yearly month devoted to the International Day of Older Persons;
- Reference-book on social legal issues for older people

2. National **capacity for tracking MIPAA, the Regional Strategy**

1	Institutes responsible for implementation of MIPAA	Representative bodies of authority:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jogorky Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic (Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Kenesh
		Executive bodies of authority:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Healthcare of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry on Affairs of local self-government and regional development of the Kyrgyz Republic

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education and Culture of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Water Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry on Ecology and Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Statistics Committee
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Youth Affairs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodies of local self-government
		Civil society:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net “AgeNet Central Asia without borders”
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-governmental organizations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities including communities of older people
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative groups of older people
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts of Aksakals
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people
2	Organizations of Older People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 NGOs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225 self-help groups of older people
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodies of local self-government
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities of Older People
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative groups
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial public councils
3	Educational, training and research activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labor and Social Development, introduction of social passports
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable NGOs working with elderly people: Resource Center for Elderly, Net of gerontology organizations: AgeNet, Babushka Adoption, Fund for Tolerance International and others.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International organizations “HelpAge”
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific research institutes- INTRAC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytics
4	Collection of data and analysis of position of older people in Kyrgyzstan	Reports of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development, UN, Resource Center for Elderly, Net of AgeNet, international NGO “HelpAge” and Soros Foundation are available
5	Mobilization of financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp necessity in attraction of monetary funds for implementation of the strategic goals of the MIPAA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the moment researches on situation of older people were conducted by the UN, Soros Foundation, Resource Center for Elderly People, Public Association of Social Protection of Population after Fomova
6	Monitoring of the progress of implementation	Mechanisms of monitoring:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of monitoring indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and development of informational centers to solve issues of older people
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of data
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring visits at sites
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical reports
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of results of implementation of the MIPAA at the Round tables and conferences
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications in mass media
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV and Radio broadcasting

3. Regional strategy of implementation of the MIPAA, 2002

Obligation 4.

Regulation of the system of social protection in response to demographical changes and their social and economic consequences

As you know in Kyrgyzstan as in many countries the state assignments for social services become an object for budget limitations related to real opportunities of the budgets and necessity of carrying balanced state policy.

For solution of the appeared problems related to social protection of older people the **Ministry of Social Labor put forward the following tasks:**

- Development of the State Program “Older generation” and legislation “On Older Citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic”;
- Adoption of the Law “On the state minimal social standards in the Kyrgyz Republic”;
- Revision of the personnel and structure of the minimal consumer budget;
- Reformation of the pension system;
- Improvement of quality of social services for older people;
- Effective research of available resources to provide access of older people to social services.

The Government with the goal of social protection of citizens, primarily older people, adopted the law “On state minimal social standards” that promotes carrying out a common state social policy, evaluation of living standards of population and conditions of its growth in each region, and it is the most important that it will be applied as a standard during substantiation of budgets of various levels for social needs.

In these conditions solution of problems of social protectability of older people requires active participation of civil society.

Taking into consideration the growing living standards the **Ministry of Labor in conjunction with NGO dealing with problems of older people** developed the regulation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On approval of minimal norms of consumption of food products and structure of minimal consumer budget on social demographic groups of population of the Kyrgyz Republic”.

In compliance with the Law “On minimal consumer budget” the minimal norms of consumption of food products and structure of the minimal consumer budget should be revised not less than once each five years. The minimal norm of consumption of food products and structure of the minimal consumer budget were not revised from 1993. It was revised in 2006.

In connection with it **new minimal norms and structure of the minimal consumer budget were developed** with consideration of actual expenses, consumption of lively important nonfoods, goods of sanitary and hygiene, medicine, payments for communal domestic services, transport expenses, taxes and collections.

By data of the National Statistics Committee the size of cost of the minimal consumer budget increased by 5.5 times for month on average in 2005 in comparison with the norms of 1995 (for 10 years), and it made **1,836.36 soms per capita.**

The main share in the minimal consumer budget suits the food basket, the cost of which **was increased by more than 6 times** for the analyzed period.

It should be noted that **minimal size of salary, pensions, payments, scholarship and other social allowances** should be drawn to the main social standard - **minimal consumer budget** taking into consideration economic possibilities of the state.

In connection with that the support provided by the state to older citizens is not enough nowadays.

Nowadays it is necessary to change radically the old system, to make maximum efforts so that our state will become stable economically, so that the able-bodied citizens could have opportunities to work, children – to study, and older and disabled people – to get an adequate support.

The task of the state is to take care of older generation, to do everything for improvement of its living standards and **simplification of perception of the state policy by it.**

In the work with older citizens the Ministry of Labor pays special attention to **issues of pension policy.**

The pension policy is a part of the social policy. The Ministry of Labor and Social Development as a central body of the state governing by its mission forms a common state social policy also in relation to older people, and also activity of the state in such important sphere as pension insurance.

Conception of the further pension reform is a leading idea fixed in the basis of the pension reform. **The goal** of the conception developed by the Ministry of Labor is a **definition of ways of solution of these tasks in the process of further reformation of the pension system with consideration of the gained experience, economic and financial opportunities.**

We examined normative legal documents related to the pension reform in Kazakhstan, Russia, Poland and other countries and developed the Conception of further reformation of the pension system.

The strategic tasks of the pension reform:

- Increase of level of provision of pensions in the whole;
- Evaluation of the current and long-term financial stability of the pension system.

It should be said at once that reformation of the pension system is a long-term affair; the results of the reform cannot appear at once.

The reform anticipates introduction of storage elements for the future generation of pensioners. The analysis of the socio-demographic situation demonstrated that it was required to save reserves for payment to the pensioners that cannot be provided by working people in a certain time, otherwise to introduce **storage elements** in the existing pension system.

A **solidary- distributional system** will be kept in relation to the registered pensioners, certain steps will be undertaken to increase sizes of their pensions – a mechanism of indexation was developed and introduced, the size of basic part of the pension was revised, etc. As you know the older people who do not have pension longevity are paid social payments.

The guaranteed minimal level of consumption was not changed till 2004 (140 soms), but **from January 1, 2006 its size was increased to 175 soms**, it allowed **increasing a size** of social payments by **25%**, whereupon it made **640 soms** or US \$17.

Annually Kyrgyzstan requires more than 1.5 milliard soms or 39.5 million dollars for paying such allowances.

As it was mentioned before for implementation of the MIPAA on problems of ageing adopted at the First World Assembly in Vienna our state developed measures in three priority trends such as:

- > Participation of older people in development of society;
- > Improvement of their health and welfare;
- > Creation of favorable conditions for their social development.

Change of public values happening for the last decades, weakening of moral norms led to the current “social orphanage”, people of older ages are subject to it.

A rash change of social and economic conditions requires of a human being to adapt and to be reorganized quickly, unfortunately it is not accessible to all older people. In connection with it relevance of social services and social establishments is being increased in the whole.

It is understandable that after this increase a pensioner can live by merely getting additional support from various sources.

One of the first steps in it became adoption of the State Plan of Actions under the slogan “People’s care to each pensioner”.

The given document was developed for implementation of the MIPAA on problems of ageing with the goal of improving living standards of pensioners, providing them with qualitative direct social assistance, providing multilateral support in solution of problems related to provision with all necessary services, goods and medicine at reduced prices, creation of conditions for mutual aid and extension of opportunities of older person.

Holding such events provided our older generation with opportunity to feel necessary and being in demand.

For today the older people in various regions of the republic were provided with material, humanitarian grocery and sponsor assistance for more than **8 million soms or 210,500 dollars of US.**

Moral ethic part of interaction of generation was also revived thanks to the developed mechanism. Nowadays students of the secondary schools and professional lyceums provide pensioners with assistance in cleaning premises and adjoining plots, collecting harvest, etc.

The social passports for **331,700 older citizens** were filled in the republic for today. It was defined that **52,300 lonely pensioners live in the republic, 12,600 thousand** of them are needy in outside support and they **are served by 800** social workers of the regional departments of social protection in the regions of the republic. They are provided with the whole list of guaranteed services: legalization of social payments, payment for communal services, assistance in cleaning dwelling, treatment of adjoining plots, purchase of food products, medicine, medical consultation, etc).

Last year in Kyrgyzstan was a year of stabilization and house building; therefore the integral part of the program was improvement of their living standards. Everywhere in the regions of the republic there was construction, and houses and roofs of older people were repaired.

144 houses were built and 525 flats of older people were repaired only in Chui oblast.

The most relevant trends of work by older people for today are the following: culture-leisure, charity, attraction of sponsor funds, volunteer movement, informational educational, social psychological consulting and trainings.

One of the main goals of the social work with older people is involvement of them in the solution of social problems.

In the regions they started to establish and develop various associations and clubs for older people.

Nowadays more than 35 organizations dealing with the problems of older generation work in collaboration with workers of social protection.

I would like to note that **veterans of war and labor** are in better position in comparison with other older people. They are over 80 years of age; they deserved a special care of the state by their own self-sacrificing labor and military valor.

The average size of their pension with all rises makes 1,940 soms or US \$51, besides that they **are provided benefits monthly on average** for more than 2,100 soms (\$55).

Veterans were also provided with additional support, for instance in the capital all veterans of war received quarterly addition – **750 soms (\$20)** to the pension.

With the goal of social protection in conditions of increase of tariffs for energy carriers there was a differential addition to pension for payment of electric energy for all pensioners having pension equal to \$40.

Direct support to pensioners for paying for communal services, electric energy and natural gas was anticipated by the existing legislation in the form of benefits and housing subsidies.

More than 270.4 million soms (7.2 million dollars of US) are spent annually for provision of legislatively stipulated benefits of veterans and pensioners for medicine, transport expenses and the main types of energy carriers.

In 2006 **4,500 pensioners** living in the capital also received housing subsidies for the total sum of **5.4 million soms (142.100 dollars of US).**

The state pays special attention to older people being in hospital social establishments. Nowadays there are **13 hostels** in the system of Ministry of Labor and Social Development, 3 of them are for older people where **900 pensioners** are provided with the state security. More than **18 million soms (473,700 dollars)** are spent annually for maintaining these hostels. Monthly maintenance of 1 ward costs more than **2,500 soms (about 70 dollars)**. The Ministry of Labor studies an issue of increasing norms of nutrition for wards by twice; the state additionally needs 20 million soms (526,300 dollars).

The issue concerning **lonely older people left without place of residence** remains urgent. A social shelter “**Kolomto**” where **more than 200 people** reside was opened for temporary maintenance.

The 1st of October is an International Day of Older Persons. The given date is regularly celebrated in Kyrgyzstan with participation of the state bodies and civil sector including non-governmental organizations.

Working in close contact during several last years making joint efforts we achieved noticeable improvements in providing assistance to older people of our republic. Thus, during the last year **105,000 pensioners** received various social support (material, humanitarian, charitable, grocery, charitable dinners and gifts) for more **than 450,000 dollars of US**.

A charitable action “From heart to heart” is conducted annually, it demonstrates that there are no heartless people passing by other’s misfortune, and our older generation actively participates in the life of the country.

The state bodies, local self-government, non-governmental and public organizations, business structures, whose funds were used for development of self-help groups of older people and also for medical services, participated in the action.

Activity of older people is increased every year, a Party of Pensioners of Kyrgyzstan was established last year, and at its initiative a Coordination Council consisting of 10 non-governmental organizations was established within the Ministry of Labor for solution of concrete issues related to implementation of MIPAA on issues of ageing.

I hope that the introduced information provided opportunity to realize what is done by our state to provide older people with an adequate assistance.

At that I would like to note that the Ministry of Labor accounts directly for development of favorable normative legal base, correctly developed strategy and strictly defined mechanisms in providing social support.

We hope for our further constructive dialogue in the joint activity concerning commonness of goals and tasks put by the International Madrid Plan of Actions in relation to older people.

Thank you for attention!