



Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled



### Statistics

#### Population

TOTAL POPULATION:	2,062,294 (2012)
TOTAL POPULATION 15-24	300,688 (2012)
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (WOMEN):	77.05 YEARS (2012)
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (MEN):	72.97 YEARS (2012)
RATE OF NATURAL INCREASE:	1.7 PER 1,000 INHABITANTS (2012)
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE:	1.51 LIVE BIRTHS PER WOMAN (2012)
BIRTH RATE:	11.4 LIVE BIRTHS PER 1,000 INHABITANTS (2012)

#### Age at time of marriage (2012)

TOTAL NUMBER OF MARRIAGES IN 2012	AGE OF BRIDEGROOM UNDER 15	AGE OF BRIDEGROOM 15-19	AGE OF BRIDE UNDER 15	AGE OF BRIDE 15-19
13,991	0 (0%)	268	0 (0%)	1,727

#### Age of mother at time of live births (2012)

TOTAL NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS IN 2012	UNDER 15	15	16	17	18
23,568	26	64	134	227	345

#### Age and marital status of mothers at time of live births (2012)

MARITAL STATUS	AGE OF MOTHER		TOTAL UNDER 19	TOTAL IN 2012
	UNDER 15	15-19		
MARRIED	N/A	N/A	N/A	20,826 (1.9%)
SINGLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,742
TOTAL	26	1,333	1,333	23,568

Data source: State Statistical Office  
Available at: [http://www.stat.gov.mk/OblastOpsto\\_en.aspx?id=2](http://www.stat.gov.mk/OblastOpsto_en.aspx?id=2)

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Delivering for Women and Young People



# UNFPA seeks to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled -because everyone counts

UNFPA is the United Nations development agency that promotes universal access to reproductive health services (including family planning), works to reduce 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.



## A world where every pregnancy is wanted

### Reproductive health

UNFPA's Country Office is a key partner of the Ministry of Health in the implementation of integrated reproductive health services. UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health in developing the National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health 2010-2020.

Our latest efforts are directed towards implementing the Government's Action Plan to reduce maternal, neonatal and infant mortality. This comprehensive Action Plan tackles the various aspects of reproductive and maternal health, including preconception, antenatal and postnatal care.

UNFPA partners with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the NGO Health Education and Research Association (HERA) to identify the most vulnerable groups in the population and provide comprehensive reproductive health services. UNFPA gathers evidence to help key policy-makers gain a better understanding of the cost-effectiveness of comprehensive family planning programmes and reproductive health commodity security, especially for those vulnerable groups most in need.

Together with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA has conducted a needs assessment of maternities. The findings of this assessment will enable improvement of Emergency Obstetrics and Neonatal Care. Together with key stakeholders, UNFPA is working to introduce a minimum initial service package for reproductive health services in emergency situations.

## every childbirth is safe

### Population and development

The country's population dynamics are similar to trends in neighbouring countries, with a falling birth rate, an ageing population and a decreasing proportion of young people. UNFPA supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in undertaking activities for a mid-term revision of the National Strategy for Demographic Development of the Republic of Macedonia 2008-2015.

Following a comprehensive review process, conducted in a transparent manner with the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in the country (including representatives of NGOs, the National Parliament, academia, and relevant ministries), the update of this strategic document was completed in 2013 and the updated version is entitled the Strategy for Demographic Policies 2014-2024.

UNFPA provides continuous technical assistance in the areas of population ageing, migration, youth issues and family-friendly policies. In the course of the next two years, support will be provided to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in developing action plans and implementing this strategic document.

## and every young person's potential is fulfilled

### Partnerships

UNFPA is one of several UN agencies present in the country and is part of the UN Country Team. From 2009 until 2011, working together with UN Women, the World Health Organization, UNDP and UNICEF, the UN Population Fund helped to implement the Programme for Strengthening National Capacities to Prevent Domestic Violence. This Programme involves comprehensive multi-level intervention to support the efforts of the government and civil society to improve the national response system to domestic violence.

UNFPA has established strong and lasting partnerships with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, the Institute for Public Health, the Health Insurance Fund, the Committee on Safe Motherhood, and various professional associations, as well as with relevant representatives from academia.

Developing partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations is a key aspect of UNFPA's work in the country. The Health Education and Research Association (HERA) is one of UNFPA's Implementing Partners in the field of reproductive health, including family planning and research. Within the framework of regional efforts, UNFPA also supports the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER), through a number of youth capacity-building activities, such as peer education training in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, advocacy, project-writing and project-management skills. UNFPA collaborates closely with the Y-Peer network of youth civil society organizations in the country advocating for greater youth participation in all relevant processes.

As an active member of the UN Country Team, UNFPA works to address the challenges of development and social inclusion in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the goals set in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the goals of the post-2015 development agenda.

## Country Overview

### Population

According to the most recent national census, conducted in 2002, the country has a population of over two million. Population growth shows significant regional disparities, especially between urban and rural areas.

All demographic trends have been affected by the country's high level of unemployment.

Emigration has greatly decreased the country's population growth. And because the majority of emigrants are young people, emigration also affects the age and gender structure of the population, further reducing the fertility rate.

To respond to these demographic challenges, the Government has increased its efforts and introduced changes in legislation, developing relevant response measures and adequate strategic documents and policies.

### Health

The country has made important progress in recent years in its key indicators of reproductive health. As a signatory of the UN Millennium Development Declaration, the country has also agreed to achieve 8 Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Despite this positive trend in key reproductive health indicators, the quality and level of access to reproductive health services in the country needs to be further improved, especially for vulnerable groups. Family planning, the prevention of unintended pregnancies, and mother and child healthcare have still not been sufficiently addressed by the reforms undertaken in the health system.