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**РАЗОМ ДО ЗДОРОВ'Я**  **TOGETHER FOR HEALTH**

ПРОЄКТ ПІКРАЩЕННЯ ПЛАНУВАННЯ СІМ'Ї ТА РЕПРОДУКТИВНОГО ЗДОРОВ'Я В УКРАЇНІ  
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## *New Family Planning & Reproductive Health Project Launched*

On January 20, 2006, the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Health and Social Transition, Ms. Nancy Godfrey, joined Deputy Minister of Health Yuriy Gaydaev and representatives of the Secretariat of the President's Administration, the Parliament, and the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers to launch a new five-year, \$9.75 million project entitled Improving Family Planning & Reproductive Health. The project is expected to contribute to improved family health by reducing abortion, unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. It will start on a small scale—in two or three regions—but will expand to reach about half the regions by 2010.



*Launch of New Project on Family Planning and Reproductive Health.  
(Photo: T.Osadcha)*

After the launch ceremony, project staff and MOH officials conducted a day-long strategic planning workshop with representatives from several ministries, donors, the academic community, NGOs and others to identify joint strategies to achieve the project's objectives.

"USAID has supported the Government of Ukraine for the past decade in its desire to improve maternal and infant health and give the next generation a healthy start in life," noted Ms. Godfrey at the launch ceremony. She added that, while Ukraine had made significant progress on many measures of family health, abortion rates are nearly three

times the European Union average, and use of modern contraceptive methods is much lower.

Previously, USAID worked with the Ministry of Health, through the Policy Project, to develop a strong policy infrastructure to promote improved family planning and reproductive health services. Now, USAID will place a strong focus on implementing these policies to further improve the health of mothers and youth.

The new project will work to make family planning and reproductive health services more accessible to the population and improve the quality of these services to bring them in line with international standards. Simultaneously, it will educate the population—both men and women—about the importance of family planning for family health and the benefits of family planning over abortion. The new project will also work to reduce sexually transmitted infections, which are a serious health problem and contribute to infertility and the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS.

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РАЗОМ ДО ЗДОРОВ'Я ФІНАНСУЄТЬСЯ АГЕНСТВОМ США З МІЖНАРОДНОГО РОЗВИТКУ ТА ВПРОВАДЖУЄТЬСЯ ІНСТИТУТОМ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ ТА ТРЕНІНГІВ КОРПОРАЦІЇ ДЖОНА СНОУ У СПІВРОБІТНИЦТВІ З АКАДЕМЕЮ СПІРЯЯННЯ ОСВІТИ ТА ШКОЛОЮ ГРОМАДСЬКОГО ЗДОРОВ'Я ГАРВАРДСЬКОГО УНІВЕРСИТЕТУ

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The project will be implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, a leading public health organization in the United States, in close cooperation with the MOH, regional officials, the private sector and others.

USAID's assistance to the Government of Ukraine in family planning and reproductive health is designed to respond to World Health Organization recommendations for maternal and child health and to the Ukrainian Government's priorities in promoting the "Reproductive Health of the Nation" .

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