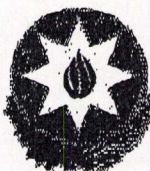


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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AT GENEVA



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ BMT-nin
CENEVRƏ ŞƏHƏRİNDƏKİ BÖLMƏSİ VƏ
DİGƏR BEYNƏLXALQ TƏŞKİLATLAR YANINDA
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ

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No 267/12/12

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the latter's Note (*Reference Number: OHCHR/RRDD/HRESI Section/Children Rights/ dated 18 June 2012*), has the honor to transmit herewith the response of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the questionnaire prepared by the OHCHR on the subject of "The right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 5 pages.

THE OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH
COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
GENEVA



OHCHR REGISTRY

14 SEP 2012

Recipients: I. Guerraes - D.

C. Courtis

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Answers to the questionnaire on the OHCHR Study on children's right to health

1. Main health challenges related to children

The indicators of perinatal mortality in 2010 decreased to 10 from 13,1 per 1000 born alive in 1990 in Azerbaijan. Indicators of child mortality under age of 1 decreased from 26,3 in 1990 to 8,1 in 2010; and under age of 5 from 37,2 in 1990 to 13,7 in 2010. The main reasons of child mortality in the country are the deceases of respiratory organs and the deceases appearing in perinatal period, as well as the cases of congenital anomaly. The number of children born by women under age of 18 has significant impact on it. Currently, the reforms are conducted for applying the WHO standards on child mortality.

The maternal mortality rates per 100 thousand live births from 9.3 in 1990 increased to 15.7 in 2010 in Azerbaijan. However, comparing to 1995 this figure is now approximately half decreased. In 1995 the number of children born by the women at the age of 15-17 was 2198; in 2010 this figure was 4103, indicating approximately double increase. Taking into consideration the indicators in relation to the total number of children born alive this figure increased from 1.5% to 2.5%.

Poor access to women consultation services in rural areas and home based births are the main problems in rural areas. Special attention should be paid to promotion of reproductive health and measures must be taken to ensure women's access to the consultations in this direction. According to the Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2006, the indicator of birth in medical institution on urban areas was 91,2%, on rural areas was 64.2%. The least (57.4%) level of birth in medical institutions was observed in the Southern regions.

The statistics of early marriages in Azerbaijan are determined by the number of children born by non-officially married women and the women under the age of 15-17. In 1990, number of children born by the officially married women was 4 800 persons, but in 2010 this figure was 25 385. As well as the number of children born by women under the age of 15-17 as noted above, in comparison with the year 1995 has increased 2 times. However, the statistics of the main causes of death among children under 18 shows the least number of women who died during pregnancy and childbirth (1 person in 2009).

In Azerbaijan in recent years the number of children born with low weight (weight less than 2500 gr) has increased. Thus, the number of the children increased to 9554 in 2008 (7.1%) from 6478 (7.0%) in 2003. Failure to provide the necessary vitamins for mothers during pregnancy is being considered as the main problem. According to the Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2006, the ratio of the infants with low

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weight is higher in Daglig Shirvan region (19%), being 3% in Guba-Khachmaz region, and 5% in Baku. According to the education and well-being quintile the ratio of children born with low weight reduces.

Progress has been achieved in feeding infants with breast milk. In 2000, the number of children fed with breast milk until 6 months was 28.5%, and in 2010 it became 44.3%. However, this figure is not satisfactory enough.

2. The right to health of children in existing law

The right to health is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the following manner:

Article 41. The right to protection of health

I. Everyone has the right to health protection and medical assistance.

II. State on the basis of various forms of property shall take all necessary measures for development of all forms of health services, guarantees sanitary-epidemiological safety, creates possibilities for various types of medical insurance.

III. Officials concealing facts and cases that are dangerous for life and health of people shall be subjected to legal responsibility on the basis of law.

According to the Article 18 of the Law on "Protection of public health" of the Republic of Azerbaijan, medical services for children and adolescent are provided free of charge. According to the law in our country the paid services have been canceled in all of the medical institutions for children.

In 2003 the Law on "Nutrition of infants and children of their early ages" of the Republic of Azerbaijan was adopted. The Law determines the main areas of protection and promotion of nutrition with breast milk of infants and children of their early ages and the organizational and legal basis of control on manufacture, importation, advertisement and sale of artificial food products, regulates relations arising in this area.

According to the law of the Azerbaijan Republic "On Education of individuals with physical restrictions (special education)" individuals with physical restrictions have right to get special education free of charge.

3. National programs and action plans on health challenges

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The resolution № 101 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The State Program on diabetes mellitus" dated June 7 2005;

The resolution № 211 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The Action Program on protection of health of mother and child" dated September 15 2006;

The resolution № 233 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The Action Program on improvement of blood, blood components donors and blood services in 2011 – 2015" dated December 13 2010;

The resolution № 233 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The Action Program on combating tuberculosis in 2011 – 2015"

The resolution № 225 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The Action Program on prevention of infectious diseases in 2011 – 2015" dated November 26 2010;

The resolution № 223 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The Action Program on of treatment and prevention of thalassemia" dated November 26 2010;

The resolution № 224 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The Action Program on hemophilia disease in 2011 -2015" dated November 26 2010;

The decree № 44s of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic on approval of "The Action Program on prevention and treatment of drug abuse" dated February 25 2010.

4. Inclusion of health promotion into the school curriculum

A cooperation agreement on realization of the UNO's Global Fund's project titled "Strengthening of response measures against HIV/AIDS in Azerbaijan" is implemented in Azerbaijan Republic between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

According to the agreement, an additional course on "Education based on life skills" was included into school curriculum in order to form sex education among young people and protect health of the youth.

With this purpose the course program on the "Education based on life skills" for I-IV, V-IX and X-XI forms and study manual "Education based on life skills" for teachers were published in number of 50 thousand copies of each edition. This program is being used in

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846 schools, 3254 teachers participated in special trainings, 351929 students learned about HIV/AIDS.

5. Positive experience on protection and advocacy of right to health of children, especially children in difficult circumstances.

The law of the Azerbaijan Republic "On salt iodination in order to prevent mass iodine deficit diseases" was adopted with the goal of nutrition iodination. After the adoption of the law the number of endocrine diseases among the children in Azerbaijan decreased from 62,8 (from 10 000 persons) in 2005 to 55,3 in 2010.

There is a well-organized HIV/AIDS monitoring system with highly developed infrastructure in Azerbaijan at the moment. This system is regulated by the law of the Azerbaijan Republic "On combatting diseases caused by HIV-virus". A "Program on diagnostics of Hepatitis B and HIV among pregnant women and Hepatitis B virus prevention program among newborn children" is realized by the Rastrapovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation in Azerbaijan at the present.

In the frameworks of "The Plan of Action on protection of children and mother's health" approved by the Decision № 211 of the Cabinet of Ministers on September 15 2006, seven perinatal centers were established in 7 cities and regions of Azerbaijan.

There is a large group of vulnerable children in our country - refugee and IDP children who are victims of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. Today, 1/5 of territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan are under occupation of Armenia and more than 1 million people became refugees and IDPs (40% of them are children). There was grown up a whole generation of children in tent camps and compact settlements who are not familiar with their native homes and who are deprived of all conditions necessary for the implementation of all legislative acts concerning child rights. During the past years a number of state programs and laws were adopted to address the social, including health problems of the refugee and IDP population. According to the relevant legislation the IDPs have the right to use state health services and receive relevant medicaments free of charge.

Several multi-field centers render rehabilitation services to disabled children. Among them we can distinguish puppet show of dauns and autists.

6. Main barriers in Azerbaijan to implement children's right to health

The main obstacle for the full scaled realization of child rights, including right to health is the protracted conflict situation with neighboring Armenia, as a result of which 20 percent of the territories of Azerbaijan was occupied and approximately 1 million people

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became refugees and IDPs. The Government of Azerbaijan has been taken all possible measures to ensure social protection of these people, but only durable solution for the total elimination of refugee and IDP problems is the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories and the return of refugees and IDPs to their homes.