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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

2203/012/2013

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia 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 in response to the Note dated 22 November 2013 Ref: OHCHR/RRDD/HRES1 Section/Children Rights, has the honour to convey the information provided by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia 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.

Attached: 3 pages.

Geneva, 21 January 2014



OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
Geneva

**INFORMATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ON PREVENTABLE  
MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE AS A  
HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN**

1. *Has your government developed a national policy/strategy/action plan aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age? Please provide information on provisions that ensure that explicit attention is being paid to specific health and development needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and to interventions and service delivery approaches for these children.*

**Answer**

Main national strategies and action plans aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age are the following:

- a. "The National Strategy for Child and Adolescent Health and Development for 2009-2015 and its Action Plan" approved by the Government Protocol Decree N37 from 10 September 2009. This document includes provisions and actions concerning specific health and development needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
  - b. "The 2013-2015 National Strategy on Improvement of Hospital Medical Aid for Children" approved by the Government Protocol Decree N27 from 4 July 2012.
  - c. "The 2013-2016 National Strategy on the Protection of Children's Rights and its Action Plan" approved by the Government Decree N1694-N from 27 December 2012. This document also includes provisions and actions concerning specific health and development needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
2. *Does your government collect data on the health status of children under five, including information on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups? How is this data used in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and services relating to mortality and morbidity of children under five?*

**Answer**

Data on mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age is collected by the

Center of Statistical Analysis of the National Health institute of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia. Data on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups is collected by other relevant state agencies of the Republic of Armenia.

This data is used in assessment of current situation and in development of further strategic plans and actions concerning children's health protection.

3. *What coordination, monitoring and redress mechanisms are in place to ensure effective implementation of the national policy/strategy/action plan at all levels? Please provide information on how such mechanisms ensure transparency, as well as participation of all relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, civil society and community representation.*

**Answer**

All national strategies and action plans concerning children's health are available on the web page of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia ([www.moh.am](http://www.moh.am)). In order to ensure transparency of implementation of abovementioned documents, The Ministry of Healthcare provides a 24-hour hotline service. The ministry of Healthcare submits to the Government monthly and half-year reports on implementation process of national programs and action plans.

4. *How is your government ensuring that underlying determinants such as safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, safe food and adequate nutrition, adequate housing, healthy environmental conditions and gender equality are taken into consideration in the prevention of child mortality and morbidity?*

- With the aim of prevention of intestinal infectious diseases, The State Health Inspectorate (the Ministry of Healthcare - affiliated institute) exercises supervision over the sanitary situation of water supply systems of Armenia, as well as over the disinfection and the quality of drinking water.
- Twice a year reports of monitoring of water supply systems were submitted to the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia. In 2013 reports on water supply system of each marz (region) was submitted to the respective local

authority. The defects found by monitoring were discussed and corresponding actions were taken.

- The State Health Inspectorate also exercises supervision over the sanitary of the water recourses (rivers, lakes, reservoirs etc.) of the Republic of Armenia, as well as monitoring of air pollution.
- "The Concept on Improvement of Children nutrition and the Action Plan of its implementation" was drafted by inter-agency working group and was included in the Plan of Actions of the Government 2014 program. This concept includes provisions on nutrition of children under 5 years of age.
- In the Republic of Armenia medical care is equally accessible for both men and women. Moreover, according to the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, the number of male deaths among children under 5 years of age, as well as children above 5 years of age, is higher than the number of female children deaths. Hence there is no gender discrimination among children concerning the question of medical care accessibility.

5. *How has your government incorporated human rights in planning and implementing universal coverage of primary health services for children? In particular, how have the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of health services been considered?*

**Answer**

Primary medical aid is free of charge and is available for all underage citizens of the Republic of Armenia. Hospital medical care is free of charge for all children under 7 years of age, as well as for 7-18 years of age children who are included in special vulnerable groups.