



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

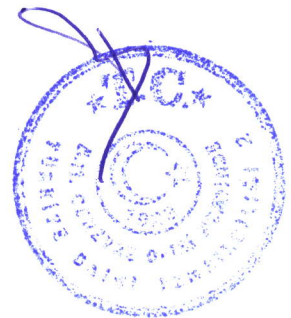
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Latter's Note, dated 22 November 2013, has the honour to transmit herewith an information note prepared by the relevant Turkish authorities, as Turkey's contribution to the concise technical guidance on the application of a human rights based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 10 January 2014

Encl: As stated



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
Geneva

OHCHR REGISTRY

14 JAN. 2014

Recipients : I.G.D......
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The contributions of the Government of the Republic of Turkey to the questionnaire regarding “preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern – Human Rights Council resolution 24/11”

Question 1: Has your government developed a national policy/strategy/action plan aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age?

In the National Strategy Document and Action Plan on Children’s Rights covering 2013-2017 published in 2013 by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies;

It is aimed to promote services for protecting mother and child health. For realizing this aim, it is stated that

- Scientific studies will be made regarding reasons of mother-baby mortality in our country and necessary measures will be taken for preventing mother-baby mortality,
- Scientific studies will be made regarding reasons of child disability and necessary measures will be taken for preventing child disability.

Besides, it is aimed to facilitate access of children to health services. In this context, it is stated that

- Necessary measures will be taken to facilitate accessibility of children with disabilities to health services and to benefit them for health services adequately, and within this context personnel training programs will be implemented to facilitate personnel working with children with disabilities to benefit services more comfortable
- Health services for children will be extended and access to services will be facilitated,
- In order to provide inter-institutional cooperation in the matter of transferring newborn babies and prevent baby mortality during transfer necessary recovery will be made in our country.

Additionally, National Strategy Document and Action Plan on Children’s Rights has also been reflected under the strategic action plan of the Ministry of Health. The action plan covers all children and the actions are being taken according to this action plan. The plan was initially prepared for the years 2010-2014 and later revised to cover 2013-2017.

Question 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 policies, programmes and services relating to mortality and morbidity of children under five?

The Ministry of Health has been collecting data on infant and prenatal death data since 2007. The data on the health status of children under five years of age have been collected since 2013. The information on morbidity can be collected through hospital information system, family medicine centre information systems and by “saglik.net” automation system all around the country.

Question 3: What coordination, monitoring and redress mechanisms are in place to ensure effective implementation of the national policy/strategy/action plan at all levels?

In order to strengthen all inter-institutional cooperation and coordination serving in the area for planning and maintaining services for children effectively, a coordination system at central, provincial and district levels was developed in accordance with the "Directive on Work, Procedures and Principles of Central, Provincial and District Coordinations established for implementing Protective and Supportive Measures according to Juvenile Protection Law" which entered into effect with Approval of the Minister of Family and Social Policies, dated 16.07.2013 and numbered 815.

Several indicators determined in advance are being collected in the field periodically and utilized for various researches. Several performance criteria have also been determined and these can be used in order to evaluate the performance of local health staff coordinators. Non-governmental organizations are also present in the evaluation boards for these performance values and indicator data.

Question 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?

The Ministry of Health has been conducting awareness raising activities through health staff on the field. Awareness raising campaigns for breast feeding and complementary feeding and free-of-charge delivery of vitamin D and iron supplement are among these activities.

The Ministries of Family and Social Policies, Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Environment and Urban Planning and Municipalities are other institutions that conduct such programmes.

Question 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?

Child Rights Training Programme for Medical Staff was commenced in the year 2013, under the cooperation of International Children's Center (ICC), UNICEF and the Ministry of Health.