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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN 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 1 December 2017, concerning the State contributions to the report of the High Commissioner, pursuant to resolution HRC/33/18 entitled "Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights", has the honour to enclose herewith an information note compiled by relevant Turkish authorities.

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 2018



Encl: As stated

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10



## CONDITIONAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE)

Conditional Pregnancy Assistance is an assistance program implemented for Turkish citizens who could not benefit from basic health services due to financial difficulties and who do not have any social security.

Conditional Health Assistance Program aims to minimize the infant mortality and health problems encountered during pregnancy. Within this scope, payments are provided for beneficiaries on the condition that children (between 0-6) and pregnant/puerperant women should fulfill some basic health requirements such as health control and follow-ups determined by the Ministry of Health.

Conditional Pregnancy Assistance Program has three components:

- **Pregnancy Assistance:** In order to enable pregnant women accomplish their pregnancy healthfully, monthly 35,-TRY is provided during pregnancy on the condition that they should regularly go controls and follow-ups determined by the Ministry of Health.
- **Maternal Assistance:** 75,-TRY is provided for once on the condition that delivery should realize in hospital in order to encourage pregnant women to deliver in healthy conditions.
- **Postpartum Assistance:** In order to eliminate health risks during postpartum period, monthly 35,-TRY is provided for the beneficiaries on the condition that they should regularly go health controls and follow-ups determined by the Ministry of Health.

In 2017, **18.053.060,00-TRY** were provided for **118.102 beneficiaries** within the scope of this assistance program.

## Maternal Mortality

It is true that women's empowerment and raising awareness and consciousness of the healthcare personnel about the issue are efficient in prevention of maternal deaths. Within this scope, the activities which are carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies are as follows:

- Health has been one of the seven critical areas included in "The National Action Plan on Gender Equality", which was in effect between 2008 and 2013 and which would be basis of the public policies and a basic document for ensuring gender equality.
- In addition, the chapter of Health in the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Women's Empowerment, which covers the period 2018-2013 and preparations of which have been maintained by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, includes the policy of *"organizing trainings of equality between men and women and women's empowerment for the healthcare personnel"* in line with the objective of *"raising awareness and knowledge of the healthcare personnel about women's empowerment and equality between men and women."*
- Also; within the scope of the Communication Strategy of "the Project on Combating Domestic Violence" carried out within the period 2014-2016 and financed under IPA-2009 program, 6 visibility meetings have been organized for the family physicians in Trabzon, Istanbul and Ankara with the participation of a total of 455 people in order to raise awareness about violence against women and gender equality. Under the project, trainer trainings have been organized for 221 Healthcare Professionals and supervision trainings have been completed for 31 personnel of the Ministry of Health in order to ensure continuity of the trainings as well. Activities have been underway for the training of the target group of 35.000 healthcare personnel.