

**MISSION PERMANENTE DU JAPON**  
AUPRÈS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES  
GENÈVE-SUISSE

EM/OHCHR/007

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) and, referring to the latter's Note Verbale ref. OHCHR/RRDD/DESIB/HRESI Section/Childrens Rights, dated 22 November 2013, has the honour to transmit herewith the "Information related to mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age".

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 10 January 2014

Enclosure : mentioned





## Information for OHCHR related to mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age

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.

The Government of Japan (the GOJ) has improved medical care for seriously ill children and high-risk infants through the development of Perinatal Care Centers, which are the core of perinatal medical care, and medical institutions which address pediatric emergencies and critical care.

Based on the Maternal and Child Health Law, the GOJ has implemented health guidance, health examinations, medical care and other measures for mothers and their infants and preschool children.

Moreover, regarding children's medical costs, the GOJ has reduced the self-pay ratio of medical insurance through the public medical insurance system (30% in general; 20% for children under school age), and has covered the self-payment part of the medical costs with public subsidies for premature infants and children suffering from chronic diseases.

As a result of these measures, mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age were reduced to half, from 118.8 to 60.8 (ratio per 100,000 population of each age group), in more than 15 years.

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?

The GOJ has surveyed the status of preschool children through the national growth survey on preschool children to set a physical development index for all Japanese preschool children for the improvement of health guidance, and the results of the survey have been used for various policies for children.

Moreover, the GOJ has formulated various maternal and child health policies in



accordance with the circumstances of individual children on the basis of checks of children's health conditions such as medical examinations of 18-month-olds and 3-year old children implemented by municipalities.

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.

“Sukoyaka Family 21”, a national movement of maternal and child health, has been promoted by the GOJ, municipalities, and related parties in an integrated manner.

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 GOJ has provided consistent support for pregnant women from pregnancy to childbirth through health and nutrition guidance provided by public health nurses or other experts on the occasion of medical examinations.

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?

The GOJ has realized the world's highest level of healthcare standards by covering all citizens through public medical insurance.

