



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 in 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 Note Verbale dated 11 November, 2019 (No ref: WRGS/MG/Res39/10) regarding the contributions for the report to be prepared by the High Commissioner on "good practices and challenges to respecting, protecting and fulfilling all human rights in the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, including through the utilization of the technical guidance," has the honour to enclose herewith information compiled by the 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, 23 December 2019



Encl: As stated

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

OHCHR REGISTRY

24 DEC. 2019

Recipients : ...RRDD...

Enclosure : ...L. E. H.
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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Answers

1. The Turkish Government carries out the following human rights-based programmes to end preventable maternal mortality.

In order to have the right to best health care during pregnancy and childbirth within the scope of the right to life, Turkey provides prenatal and postnatal health care programmes and proper monitoring of pregnant and puerperal women and infants; mother-friendly hospital programmes and Caesarean delivery management and monitoring programme; guest mother programme and a safe environment for giving birth. Within the emergency obstetric care programme, it is aimed that pregnant women and mothers receive fast and efficient treatment in case of obstetric complications.

In terms of the right to access to equal treatment without any discrimination on the grounds of ethnic and religious origin or medical condition and gender as part of the right to equality, it is ensured that:

All pregnant women and mothers who do not have social security are provided with free access to health care through the right to motherhood programme.

The immigrants are provided with free reproductive and maternal health care services through the immigration health programme.

The environment for giving birth has been optimised in keeping with privacy through the mother-friendly hospital programme within the scope of the respect to the right of privacy.

Utmost attention is devoted to the privacy regarding reproductive and sexual rights within the reproductive health care programme and premarital counselling programme. For instance, health care professionals are not allowed to share the results of HIV test with other persons unless the tested person gives permission.

With regards to the right to information and the right to education; in-service trainings and community educations are provided about the reproductive rights, sexual rights, venereal diseases, family planning, contraceptive methods, maternal health within the reproductive health programme.

2. Ministry of Health prepares the handbooks and guides from a human rights-based point of view.

3. We have not encountered any challenges while implementing human rights-based approach in policies and programmes to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.

4. With regards to the maternal mortality in Turkey, adolescents, rural mothers, mothers working as seasonal agricultural labourers, grand multiparas above the age of 35, epileptic pregnant women, mothers having three or more Caesarean deliveries are the special groups that constitute high-risk.

5. Safe abortion has been provided by the Law No. 2827 on Population Planning with a view to ending the maternal mortality. Maternal mortality have begun to be monitored by the Circular No. 2007/27. Reproductive Health Regional Education Centres (ÜSBEM) provides education and consultancy services on reproductive and sexual rights by the Circular No. 2010/83; pregnant women are provided with free iron and vitamin D supplementation within the nutritional supplement programme by the Circular No. 2011/34; pregnant and puerperal women are monitored within the prenatal and postnatal care programme by the Circular No. 2014/9; it is ensured that women give birth in safe environment within the mother-friendly hospital programme by the Circular No. 2018/27, the Caesarean delivery management and monitoring programme by the Circular No. 2010/1462 and the guest mother programme by the Circular No. 2008/29. It is aimed that pregnant women and mothers receive fast and efficient treatment in case of obstetric complications within the emergency obstetric care programme by the Circular No. 2014/16. Advanced Surgical Trainings in the Intervention in the Emergency Obstetric Haemorrhage are provided for the Obstetricians and Gynaecologists chosen, on a voluntary basis, from the provinces where maternal mortality due to the haemorrhage occur frequently.

6. The efforts aimed at improving women health are underway to protect the women and girls affected by the maternal mortality within the premarital counselling programme and monitoring programme of those who are 15-49 years of age by the Circular No. 2014/24 and within the prenatal counselling programme. Safe abortion is carried out by the Law No. 2827 on the Population Planning. The guest mother programme provides access to the health services for the groups having difficulty in transportation for the safe childbirth. By the Circular No. 2018/23, Pregnancy School, Information Class for the Pregnant Women, Counselling Centres for Birth Preparation provide training and counselling services for pregnant women.

7. With regards to the maternal mortality, all maternal mortality cases have been monitored and reviewed since 2017, upon the Circular No. 2007/27.