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EDITORIAL

At the end of 2016, UNFPA celebrated days of activism to combat gender-based violence with a special focus on the need to invest in adolescent girls. The issue of this newsletter is thus devoted to these days of activism gathering the 10 days of activism organized by the Y-PEER network (peer educators) and activities related to the 16 days of activism to end gender based violence.

This edition will also include the launch of the report on the state of the world population, the Universal Periodic Review process, advocacy on sexual rights and reproductive rights (DSDR).

The entire team of UNFPA in Tunisia wishes you a good reading and excellent holidays for the end of the year !



POPULATION DYNAMICS

State of the World Population : Investing in young girls determinate our future

"A 10-year-old girl's life trajectory will be the true test of whether the 2030 Agenda is a success or Failure." Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin (UNFPA Executive Director)

Following the launch of the state of the world population report 2016, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized a press conference on November 11 under the theme of « Investing in young girls determinate our future ».

Main results of the report

In this conference, Dr. Leila Saiji Joudane, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Tunisia presented the main results of this report, which reiterates the importance of investment in 10-year-old girls to achieve the Sustainable Goals for Development.

Today, the world counts 60 million 10-year-old girls, 35 million of whom live in countries with high levels of gender inequality. 9 out of 10 girls enter adolescence with substantive drawback compared to boys; they have a limited access to offered services and an estimated 40% of 10-year-old girls are denied access to community health, education and recreation services.

At the dawn of their adolescence, these girls have the right to quality education, access to appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and protection from all forms of violence. These investments will enable girls to reach their full potential at adulthood and contribute to the economic development of their countries.



Situation in Tunisia

The second part of the press conference was devoted to the national context; Mrs. Maha Ben Mahmoud, Head of Primary Education Department at the Ministry of Education, presented an overview of girls' education in Tunisia and how the legislative and institutional framework ensures equal access for all girls and boys. In fact, the enrollment rate is 99% for both sexes. These efforts must be joined with investments in girls' health, community participation and Gender Based Violence prevention. In this regard, Dr. Moez Cherif, President of the Tunisian Association for the Defense of Children's Rights, gave a presentation on girls' rights, emphasizing the importance of strengthening Child rights mechanisms and the initiation of Human Rights education at family level.

Link to the Report : <http://www.unfpa.org/fr/swop>

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SEXUAL RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Networking for an effective advocacy

The UNFPA, the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) and the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD) organized on November 10 a workshop with CSO and youth networks to identify the key areas and the main orientations for the advocacy plan on Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights (SRRR). This workshop is part of the process of networking and capacity building for SRRR started in 2016.

During this meeting, the present organizations reiterated the importance of creating a synergy between the various stakeholders to centralize efforts and harmonize actions. In this regard, the participants underlined the importance in mapping the different actions related to SRRR in Tunisia to ensure effective and oriented advocacy.

This meeting also allowed to prioritize the areas of intervention of the CSO network in order to organize its future advocacy activities. On the basis of this prioritization effort, an advocacy plan for the recognition and the promotion of SRRR in Tunisia will be developed.



Participants to the workshop

10 DAYS OF ACTIVISM: WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE ACT FOR THEIR RIGHTS!

Y-PEER Tunisia, with the support of UNFPA, launched from November 19 to December 3, the 10 Days of Activism campaign under the theme «empower teenagers and invest in adolescent girls». This campaign is an international initiative launched by the Y-PEER international network to focus on issues related to adolescents, youth and their sexual and reproductive rights.

The campaign started on November 19, 2016 with a roundtable on the health and well-being of adolescents with the participation of learned societies namely: the Tunisian Society of Clinical Sexology, the Direction of School and University of Medicine and experts from the Ministry of Education. This roundtable aimed to demystify issues related to sexual, mental, and physical health of adolescents.

Subsequently, the campaign continued in the regions with film projections on gender-based violence followed by a debate with young people from the neighborhood of Essaida in Tunis, from Bazina in Bizerte and Monastir. These film projections were conducted in collaboration with Local organizations (JCI Monastir, Mobile Youth House of Bizerte, AIHR).

On November 27, Y-PEER network hosted a peer education session on available SRH services for young people in the region of Kelibia; this session aimed to train peer educator capable of referring their peers to SRH services available in the surroundings.

After that, the network conducted a series of educational sessions on interactive theater techniques at Dar Essaida for a group of young adolescents; at the end of these sessions, 2 plays were produced and presented at the closing ceremony to young people from the surrounding neighborhoods accompanied by their families and representatives from the civil society.

More information : <https://www.facebook.com/ypeer.tunisia/>



INFORM ABOUT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Advocacy in favour of the organic law in relation with the elimination of violence against women and information about the essential services package for women and girls subject to violence.

In November, a series of workshops were launched by the ministry of women and family and children were launched, in partnership with UNFPA and the EU, in different regions of Tunisia, Sfax (November 18), Jendouba (November 30), Gafsa (December 5), Kairouan (December 9) and Zarzis (December 16).

The main objective of these workshops is to inform civil society in the different regions about the content of the organic law in relation with the elimination of violence against women. It will provide them the legal arguments necessary to help them prepare their advocacy campaigns in favour of the adoption of the law.

The second objective of these workshops is to inform civil society and governmental institutions operating in this field about the essential services package for women and girls subject to violence. The intersectoral approach of the services is fundamental. During these workshops, international standards were presented by sector (health / police / justice / social affairs) and the coordination between these sectors appears as a major issue. It's important to foster communication between the various community workers and their government counterparts in order to offer a complementary, effective and quality response to the victims.



Workshop in Jendouba

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

During the 16 days of activism against gender based violence (GBV), the ministry of women, family and children launched, in partnership with UNFPA and the EU, a national communication campaign about violence against women that target the general public, with the main message “**Yezzi. Ma toskotch. Tkallem** » (meaning “**Enough. Talk about it**”)

Many supports claiming the break of the silence and denouncing the phenomenon of violence against women through the message « Yezzi. Ma toskotch. Tkallem » have been produced for the purpose of this campaign. A video and a radio spot presenting the newest statistics about GBV were made and broadcasted in the different radio and television channels. A Facebook page and Youtube page were created for the broadcast of the different supports.



The video spot has been viewed more than 55 000 times on Facebook and more than 6 600 times on Youtube. The spots were also declined in posters intending to the urban display on busy areas of the capital as well as dressing of two lines of buses which cross the capital. A large number of posters and stickers covering various forms of violence were printed and distributed in different parts of the country, in GBV victims services (dispensaries, hospitals, police stations, etc.).

This campaign targeting at the general public is the first phase of a series of communication campaigns on gender-based violence.

More information :

<https://www.facebook.com/Moussawat.tn/>

ADVOCATING FOR THE ORGANIC LAW AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE GOES ON

The Center for Research, Studies, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF) organized, on December 3 in Sousse and on December 7 in Tunis, two meetings with representatives of Tunisian political parties.

These meetings are part of the advocacy campaign to promote the Organic Law to eliminate Violence against Women and were organized under the supervision of the Ministry of Women, Family and Children (MFFE) and with the support of the European Union and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

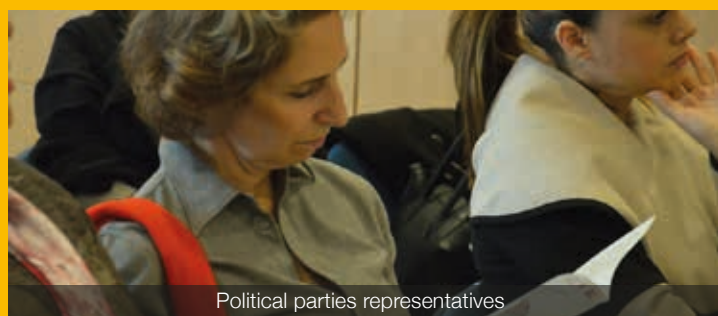
In Tunis, five political parties represented by members of their Women's Commissions, took part in the meeting and were able to benefit from a thorough reading of the law, in particular its foundations, its comprehensive aspect including the prevention of violence, victims protection, abusers prosecution and services for women survivors.

The session also focused on the transdisciplinary aspect of the law, its content and its legal and social implications, as well as the debate it can generate and the appropriate arguments for its promotion.

Further advocacy activities are planned in 2017 to promote the Organic Law on Violence Against Women among Members of the Parliament.



UNFPA/CREDIF/EU representatives during the opening ceremony



Political parties representatives

For more information :

www.credif.org.tn

PUBLICATION **A mapping of services for GBV victims / survivors**

The Ministry of Women, Family and Children published a mapping of services for GBV victims/survivors with the support of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights). A workshop was organized during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence to present this mapping to governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in services for GBV victims/survivors.

The document is available on UNFPA Tunisia website : http://www.unfpa-tunisie.org/images/stories/2016/publication/CarthographieServices_Finale_FR.pdf



TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE UPR¹ PROCESS

The Tunisian Association of Reproductive Health organized 2 workshops in November on Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR) recommendations as part of the UPR process with the support of UNFPA and IPPF.

Shadow reports from Civil Society on SRR

On September 22, Civil Society Organizations in Tunisia submitted their shadow reports related to the Universal Periodic Review of Tunisian Republic. The UPR process shows, once again, the important role of civil society in the monitoring and the reporting of Human Rights situation in Tunisia.

Six coalitions studied in their reports the state of sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) in Tunisia. Among those coalitions is the one coordinated by the Tunisian Association of Reproductive Health.

In order to build on the work done by these coalitions regarding this matter, the Tunisian Association of Reproductive Health organized on November 8, in partnership with UNFPA and IPPF, a workshop aiming to consolidate all the recommendations related Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Tunisia.



The meeting on SRR recommendations

A round table on the SRR recommendations

47 recommendations from the various reports were collected and divided into four areas: legislative reform, international commitments, political reform and institutional reform.

These recommendations were subsequently presented to the representatives of the government at a round table organized on November 16 in collaboration with the Ministry in Charge of Relations with Constitutional Institutions, Civil Society and Human Rights.

This round table provided a space for debate and discussion between civil society organizations and representatives of the various ministries on the issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Rights and highlighted the importance of civil society-government dialogue for the mainstreaming of these rights.

¹ See « Did you know »

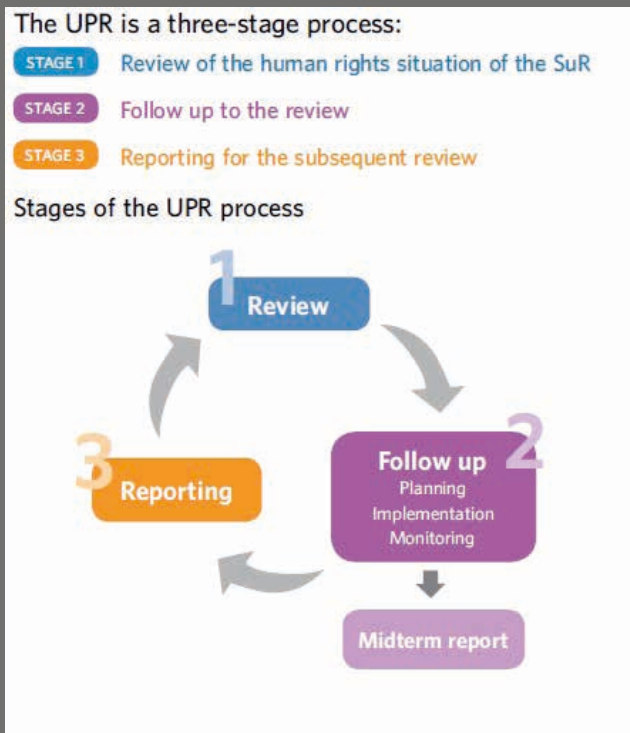
DID YOU KNOW?

THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism established by the United Nations General Assembly through its resolution 60/251 dated March 15, 2006. It mandated the Human Rights Council (HRC) to undertake a universal periodic review of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments. It aims to improve human rights situation in each of the 193 member states of the United Nations.

Through this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN member countries is reviewed every five years. 42 States are reviewed annually at three UPR sessions of 14 countries each. These sessions are usually held in January / February, April / May and October / November.

Tunisia will present its reports during the 27th session (May 2017).



Agenda

- **January 2017** : *Planning Workshop on the Joint Program on Maternal and Newborn Health*
- **22 January 2017** : *National consultation on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*
- **3 February 2017** : *Submission of Tunisia's national report (UPR)*
- **8 March 2017** : *Celebration of international women's rights day*
- **March 2017** : *Participation of the Tunisian delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*



UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, *Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.*

More Information :

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