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Items for information: Gender statistics

**Improvement of social statistics: birthrate, mortality,
gender statistics¹**

**1. Statistics of births and deaths in the Republic of
Kazakhstan**

The system of population statistics indicators currently used by statistical agencies of the Republic of Kazakhstan corresponds to the list of priority indicators identified by international organizations (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, the UN Statistical Division).

Main sources of information on birthrate and mortality are the current statistical accounting of demographic events and issuance of birth and death certificates by the civil status registration offices of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Marriage and Family" № 321 of 17 December 1998, birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption, identification of paternity (maternity), change of name are subject to registration in the state bodies of civil status registration. Registration of civil status events is conducted by the civil status registration offices. In areas where there are none, registration of civil status is organized by the heads of administration (akim) of districts of cities, towns of regional level, townships, villages (aul), rural counties.

Registration of child births is conducted by the civil status registration offices at the place of birth or place of residence of the parents or one of them. Basis for the registration of birth is a medical birth certificate issued by a maternity home or hospital, which identifies the fact and time of birth. Birth declaration must be submitted to the civil status registration office not later than 2 months after the birth and in the case of a stillborn child, not later than 5 days after the birth.

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Collecting information about births and deaths is based on statistical processing of the data contained in the records of births and deaths, made by the civil status registration offices of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Only live-births are included into the number of born.

In view of social protection of motherhood and childhood the Law "On state aid for families with children" was adopted on 28 June 2005. According to the Law the following state aid shall be paid: for the birth of the first, second and third child – 30 monthly calculating indexes (MCI); fourth and subsequent children – 50 MCI; for the care of the first child – 5,5 MCI, second child – 6,5 MCI; third child – 7,5 MCI, fourth and subsequent children – 8,5 MCI. Payment of lump sum aids for the birth and child care is the stimulus for timely registration of births.

As a result of the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 3 (MICS-3) conducted in 2006 with a support of UNICEF, the registration of children under 5 years old in the Republic of Kazakhstan was 99,2 %.

Death cases, as well as court decisions declaring the citizen died and identifying the fact of death are recorded in the civil status registration offices. The fact of death is verified by a medical certificate. Registration of death is conducted on a basis of a medical certificate (or paramedic certificate) of death in a place where the deceased lived or in a place of death. These documents, together with the records of deaths are sent for generalization to the bodies of state statistics.

Sources of information on causes of death are the records about diseases, accidents, homicides, suicides and other external influences that have caused the death in medical certificates of death drawn up by physicians (or paramedic certificates drawn up by paramedics). Such records are the basis for specifying the cause of death in the records of death. Until 2002, the processing of records of death according to the causes of death was carried out in accordance with the Brief Nomenclature of Causes of Death 1981, based on the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, Revision IX, 1975. Since 2002, the processing is conducted in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems, Revision X, 1995, ICD-10.

Control over the correctness of filling and timely submission of medical certificates, which verifies births, deaths and perinatal deaths, should be carried out by heads of medical organizations and the individuals engaged in private medical practice.

Control over the correctness of encoding the causes of death is carried out by the authorized persons defined by decrees of the territorial health authorities. Medical certificate of death is issued by a physician (medical staff) of a medical organization or individual engaged in private medical practice on a basis of inspection of a corpse, entries in medical documentation concerning previous monitoring of patient or the results of the autopsy.

Since 2008, the Republic of Kazakhstan has moved to new criteria of "live birth" and "stillbirth" recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Demographic statistics are used on a regular basis to monitor differences in birthrate and mortality indicators in regions of the country. Registration of the demographic events in Kazakhstan is almost absolute, but there are some problems associated with improvement of quality and reliability of data on causes of death, introduction of mobile registration systems, computerization of various procedures of processing and verification of data on death causes.

Currently, in the framework of informational interaction between the “Civil Status Registration” Information System of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan created in the framework of the “Individuals” Database and the “Statistical Population Register” Information System of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the works on obtaining the statistical information from the records of civil status of birth, death, marriage and divorce in electronic format are carried out.

2. Gender statistics in the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as the entire international community is actively working on gender issues. During the years of independence, extensive work on the integration of Kazakhstan into the global community has been carried out. In 1998, Kazakhstan joined the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Facultative Protocol to this Convention was also ratified, and in 2001 the Republic of Kazakhstan has submitted to the UN a report on the implementation of the Convention, which received a positive evaluation. The UN Conventions “On Political Rights of Women”, “On the Nationality of Married Women”, six International Labour Organization conventions, including the Convention “On Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value” were also ratified.

Gender statistics is a reflection of the position of women and men in all spheres of social and political life and illumination of gender problems in society. It is one of the most important tools which allows taking into account peculiarities of women and men, as specific socio-demographic groups, in the development of optimal socio-demographic policy, and in the implementing the principle of equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men.

Gender statistics are based on the data of state statistical general surveys and administrative reporting. This includes indicators on population, education, science, health, social protection, occupational injuries, employment and unemployment statistics, data on the Millennium Development Goals, etc. In addition, data are received from departmental and administrative reports of various state bodies and agencies, such as morbidity, crime, pensions and social protection. Currently, the database is formed of the data of spheres such as demographic statistics, education, health, social security and social protection statistics, etc.

Indicators, as tools of measuring the social progress, are always in the focus of decision makers. Indicators provide a thorough review of the results of initiatives and activities, being a basic tool in the monitoring and evaluation of development activities. The statistical data become indicators when they correlate with the reference point, on the basis of which assessments are made. *Gender indicator* can be defined as an indicator which uses *qualitative and quantitative* indicators for the summation of gender-relevant changes in society during a certain period of time. Gender

indicators contain direct information on the status of women relatively to certain normative standards. *Quantitative* indicators are based on the data of censuses, surveys, calculations and administrative records, and measure economic and other aspects of a level and quality of life. *Qualitative* indicators are related to the level and quality of life, and use information about the level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with personal and socio-economic conditions. Statistical analysis includes consideration of both quantitative and qualitative social processes through the use of a number of analytical techniques and methods.

In 2007, the Agency jointly with other state bodies has developed and published the “Metadata of the system of gender equality indicators in the Republic of Kazakhstan”. In general, the metadata of the system of gender equality indicators in the Republic of Kazakhstan are divided into eight sections:

- Equality of rights and opportunities of men and women – recognized necessity.
- Achieving gender equality in socio-political life.
- Achieving gender equality in the economy.
- Gender Education. Legal and gender education.
- Strengthen reproductive health of men and women.
- Prevention of a gender-based violence in society.
- Achieving gender equality in the family. Strengthening families and enhancing the role of education in the family.
- Development of a gender-sensitive public awareness.

Every year since 1999 gender statistics are published in a special statistical compilation “Women and Men of Kazakhstan”. This collection contains the data from a gender perspective on number of population, life expectancy, migration flows, level of education, number of students of secondary and tertiary institutions, incidence of various diseases, employment, wages, crime, and number of administrative civil servants in regional and central state bodies and political civil servants. In addition, many of the statistical indicators are gender disaggregated, which enables users to see explicitly the socio-economic status of women and men in society.

Since 2007, Kazakhstan is running an international project of a 3-year UNECE/World Bank joint programme on capacity building to enhance the gender sensitivity of national statistical systems. In April 2007, as part of this project, a regional workshop was conducted, which was attended by the staff of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In June 2007, an official meeting of representatives of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, UNDP and UNECE was held. In the meeting the following was determined:

- establishing of a task force on gender statistics;
- the purpose of a national training activity;
- identification of a priority area of gender statistics;
- identification of target audiences;
- identification of date and venue.

In June 2007, in order to implement the above mentioned activities, the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan prepared a draft programme of the First national workshop on enhancing the gender sensitivity of a national statistical system of Kazakhstan. Within the framework of this workshop the problematic issues of improving gender

indicators, as well as organization of subsequent training for concerned ministries and regional offices of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan were discussed. Representatives of the ministries informed about the problematic issues in the field of gender statistics in their spheres of activities. In general, the workshop identified the areas of statistics, which require joint efforts in promoting gender statistics.

As a result of the workshop, domestic violence against women was selected as a priority area of gender statistics development in Kazakhstan. Agency initiated a workshop on "The system of statistical accounting of domestic violence in a gender perspective" whose main purpose was identified as training of producers and users of statistics on the methodology of collection, processing and dissemination of data on domestic violence against women.

In November 2007, with the advisory support of experts from the UNECE (Angela Mae), the World Bank (Gulnara Febres) and ISTAT, the Agency conducted a workshop on the topic "The system of statistical accounting of domestic violence in a gender perspective". As a result of the seminar it was decided to conduct a pilot survey "Domestic violence against women" to implement the Strategy for Gender Equality in Kazakhstan for 2006-2016.

Nowadays, the problem of gender statistics is its shortage. Despite the fact that the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other ministries produce a substantial amount of statistics for users, gender-disaggregated statistics remain insufficient, as evidenced by numerous requests of international organizations, in particular to maintain the UNECE database, as well as for the implementation of activities of the National Commission for Women Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Parliament of Kazakhstan on monitoring the Strategy for Gender Equality in Kazakhstan for 2006-2016, etc.

3. Conclusions and perspectives

For the solution of the problematic issues of getting information on vital statistics (data on births, deaths, marriages and divorces) from the "Civil Status Registration" Information System, the adaptation of the "Vital Statistics" software package of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan is required.

For the improvement of gender statistics, the consistency and continuity among the bodies involved in this field of statistics are required. In addition, it is needed to create a unified database of gender statistics in Kazakhstan, which will improve the quality of analytical and research works.

In future it is planned to introduce a gender disaggregation of most of the statistical indicators that will allow monitoring the implementation of important gender policy documents such as the Strategy for Gender Equality in Kazakhstan for 2006-2016, the Concept of Gender Policy, etc. Changing the composition of a gender statistics indicators in 2011-2014, effective modernization of the tools of data collection, expansion of dissemination of regional statistics, not only country wide, are the current challenges.