

## NEWSLETTER

### UNFPA Armenia Activities in May-June 2018

May 21-June 21, 2018

#### Raising Awareness of the Police on the New Domestic Violence Law



In the period of May 21- June 21, UNFPA Armenia organized 11 awareness-raising meetings on the new “Law on Prevention of Violence within the Family, Protection of Victims of Violence within the Family and Restoration of Peace in the Family” for Armenian Police. The audience included representatives from all departments of Third Department of the General Criminal Investigation Department of the RA Police, as well as heads of regional police offices and other relevant staff on the newly adopted Law and secondary legislation for the Police. The meetings were held in all regions of Armenia and in Yerevan.

The sessions were moderated by Ms. Nelli Duryan, the Head of the Third Department of the General Criminal Investigation Department of the RA Police, and Mr. Arshak Gasparyan, the president of “Social Justice” NGO. Participants were highly interested to learn more on their responsibilities envisaged by the newly adopted Law and were putting forward their concerns on potential bottlenecks of the implementation of the Law.

The awareness raising meetings were organized within the scope of “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Armenia” Project, funded by the European Union, and implemented by UNFPA in partnership with UNDP and UNICEF. The Project supports the Government of Armenia in advancing its human rights agenda and meeting the commitments vis-à-vis International Human Rights Instruments.

The Project is aligned with the targets of the Human Rights Budget Support Programme of the EU and aims to enhance promotion and protection of human rights in the country, through formulation and implementation of inclusive policies, monitoring mechanisms and strengthened implementation capacity of the key national actors. The Project focuses on such priority areas as prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, anti-discrimination, gender based violence and child rights.



In frames of the project, UNFPA carries the responsibility to promote establishment of effective gender equality mechanisms and protection of victims of domestic/gender-based violence and abuse through increased awareness, capacity building of relevant stakeholders and strengthened coordination for multi-sectoral response to address GBV.

The Republic of Armenia “Law on Prevention of Violence within the Family, Protection of Victims of Violence within the Family and Restoration of Peace in the Family” was adopted in 2017. Currently, the respective stakeholders are in the process of developing all necessary by-laws and

procedural regulations to ensure the smooth implementation of the Law based on the Action Plan by the decision of the Prime Minister. The secondary legislation for the implementation of the Law on behalf of the Police are already developed and approved. As per the regulation of the Law, the implementation of Law by the Police enters into force on July 1, 2018.

*June 20, 2018*

### **UNFPA Y-Peers at Youth Opportunities Fair**



UNFPA Armenia, with its Y-Peer network, participated in Youth Opportunities Fair, carried out within the framework of “EU4Youth: Better Skills for Better Future” Program of Save the Children funded by the European Union.

The aim of the event is to gather stakeholders from all sectors offering exchange programs, internships, volunteering and various other opportunities for young people under one roof for information exchange, networking and motivation boost.

UNFPA Armenia Y-Peer Network ran a booth and informed the participants about UNFPA activities

related to young people and youth, as well as distributed information materials.

The event brought together around 30 organizations and 300-500 young people including with disabilities, and from rural communities of Armenia.



June 18, 2018

### **UNFPA team met with the newly appointed Minister of Health**



On June 18, 2018, Mr. Arsen Torosyan, newly appointed Minister of Health, and Tsovinar Harutyunyan, UNFPA Armenia OIC, discussed the course of the programs implemented by UNFPA in Armenia, as well as the upcoming activities.

The parties touched upon issues related to partnership and various projects implemented by UNFPA, in particular further steps for development and introduction of clinical guidelines for obstetrics and gynecology, the draft law on the healthcare Ombudsman's institution, and the evaluation of the midwifery educational program.

The Minister was particularly interested in the introduction of a system for analysis of maternal near miss cases that would allow for systematic analysis and identification of the real causes.

Mr. Torosyan and Ms. Harutyunyan also discussed the draft 2018-2022 program for prevention of prenatal sex selection, as well as joint steps to promote healthy lifestyles among adolescents and young people.

The issue of ensuring the implementation of the Republic of Armenia “Law on Prevention of Violence within the Family, Protection of Victims of Violence within the Family and Restoration of Peace in the Family” was also on the agenda.

Minister Torosyan emphasized the importance of joint programs with UNFPA and stressed their intention to continue joint work with increased impetus.

On behalf of UNFPA Armenia, Ms. Tsovinar Harutyunyan expressed readiness to continue supporting the Ministry of Health in improving maternal and reproductive health in the country.

Source: <http://moh.am/#1/1344>



June 16, 2018

## Supporting Pediatric Gynecologists with Evidence-based Guidelines



UNFPA Armenia continues its work aimed at development and introduction of national evidence-based guidelines in pediatric gynecology to improve the quality of care provided to adolescents.

As another step in this direction, on June 16, 2018, UNFPA Armenia organized a workshop for pediatric gynecologists, second in the series of workshops since 2017, to discuss and approve both the topics and the scope of clinical questions for the upcoming guidelines, as well as issues related to their introduction and application.

Ms. Tsovinar Harutyunyan, UNFPA Armenia OIC, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of evidence-based guidelines for improving the quality of health care.

The workshop was led by Ms. Nazeli Sargsyan, Chief Pediatric Gynecologist of the Ministry of Health, Ms. Gayane Sahakyan, Expert of the Division of the Guidelines and Protocol Development and Introduction of the RA

MoH National Institute of Health, and Ms. Gayane Bayburdyan, endocrinologist, lecturer at Yerevan State Medical University, Chair of Endocrinology.

A separate session was devoted to ethics and peculiarities of adolescent counseling, conducted by Ms. Anush Alexanyan, psychologist, expert at the National Institute of Education.



Since 2017, the United Nations Population Fund's Youth Program has partnered with the Ministry of Health to develop and introduce national guidelines based on evidence-based medicine in pediatric gynecology. The goal is to improve the quality of reproductive healthcare services and counseling provided to adolescents. The guidelines are developed by experts using “ADAPTE” methodology, in line with international standards for guideline development and adaptation.

In 2017, three guidelines were developed on the topics of management of bacterial vaginosis in children and adolescents, management of abnormal uterine bleeding in adolescents, and peculiarities of adolescent counseling in reproductive health. Another three guidelines will be developed in 2018, management of polycystic syndrome in adolescents, management of ovarian masses in adolescents, management of precocious puberty.

The guidelines are available on the [Ministry of Health web site](#).

13 June, 2018

### **UNFPA Praised at the UN RC Meeting with the Minister of Defence**



Minister of Defence Davit Tonoyan received on 13 June UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Permanent Representative in Armenia Shombi Sharp.

The parties discussed the progress of the cooperation between the UN Office and the Armenian Defence Ministry Department as well as the ongoing joint projects with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Tonoyan praised the initiatives taken in the Armed Forces by the UNFPA aimed at the involvement of women in the armed forces, and the protection of equal opportunities.

Sharp praised the high level of cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and reaffirmed the UN Office's commitment to continued support of projects implemented in Armenia.

Source: <http://mil.am/en/news/5340>

June 7-9, 2018

### **Three-Day Training on Domestic Violence for Priests**



A three-day training on domestic violence for the priests of the Armenian Apostolic Church (AAC) and the social workers of the social-educational centres from three Dioceses - Aragatsotn, Shirak and Tavush was conducted. The training was led by experts - psychologist Davit Gevorgyan and sociologist Armine Mkhitarian and focused on the psychological aspects of work when providing psychosocial support to the victims of and families affected by domestic violence (DV), the psychology of perpetrators of DV, and the process of identification of the victims and the people likely to engage in violent behaviors.

On the second day of the training, Armine Tanashyan, the Head of Women Division of the Family, Children and Women Issues Department, made a presentation on the RA Law on Domestic Violence that was adopted in the end of 2017 and answered the questions and concerns of the participants regarding the challenges connected to the mechanisms and capacities for appropriate realization of the clauses of the Law.

The training had two guests on the second day: Tsovinar Harutyunyan from UNFPA Armenia welcomed the participants and spoke about the importance they put on collaboration with the AAC both for prevention of DV and for work with victims and perpetrators. She acknowledged that in the Armenian society and particularly in the smaller communities, priests are the people who know the cultural context and the environment very well and have the authority and respect among the people to intervene in the cases when in some cases it is difficult to do so for state workers.

In the evening of the same day, his Grace Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan gave a talk to the participants on the role the Church as a whole and the priests in their daily service have to play in the society for eliminating violence and helping to restore the values of peace, love, and respect towards each other. The discussion lasted for two hours and elaborated on various aspects of the work and theological

concepts and values including equal worth of men and women in the eyes of God, and the practice of Christian values in case of which there is never a place for violence in a family.

The training was organized by the Armenia Round Table Foundation in the scope of the Prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence project supported by the UNFPA. The eight years of collaboration for this project have contributed to continuous and consistent building of the capacities of the priests of AAC and their further involvement in prevention of GBV and DV. During the last six years the project has been realized with the Christian Education Centre of the AAC, and under the leadership of His Grace Bishop Vardan Navasardyan, more than 30,000 people – boys and girls, men and women in the high school, communities, as well as RA Army - have been sensitized on the issues of equality of men and women, and the key values that lead to building healthy relationships and families as Christians.



Starting from 2018, the project aims at providing a more targeted and in-depth psychosocial support to the families affected by domestic violence, working both with the victims and perpetrators, as well as dependent family members that are affected by the environment of violence. The priests will be working in close collaboration with the social workers, educators and psychologists of the social centers adjacent to the selected three Dioceses in order to provide comprehensive support.

Source: [http://roundtable-act.am/en/news/domestic\\_violence\\_training\\_for\\_clergy](http://roundtable-act.am/en/news/domestic_violence_training_for_clergy)

June 4, 2018

#### **UNFPA Armenia team met with the newly appointed Minister of Labor and Social Affairs**



On June 4, UNFPA Armenia team led by Ms. Tsovinar Harutyunyan, UNFPA Armenia OIC, met with the newly appointed RA Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Mane Tandilyan.

Congratulating the Minister on assuming office, Ms. Harutyunyan expressed hope that the existing close cooperation would be continued.

UNFPA Armenia team talked about UNFPA and its work, as well as the programs implemented jointly with the Ministry, particularly in the area of demographic situation, prevention of domestic violence and gender equality, strategies targeting elderly people.





further work.

*May 29, 2018*

### **Partnering with Armenian Relief Society to Prevent Prenatal Sex Selection**



"We know that we have serious problems in the sphere of demography. I want to rely on your expertise and advice to make progress in these areas. Every citizen of our state should feel protected. In fact, our ministry manifests the "business card" of the state. I assure you that our cooperation will move forward with increased energy," the Minister stressed.

Mrs. Tandilyan thanked the UNFPA team for detailed information. Minister Tandilyan and Tsovinar Harutyunyan also made arrangements regarding new opportunities for cooperation and

UNFPA Armenia and the US-based Armenian Relief Society (ARS) agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding on joining efforts to prevent prenatal sex selection in Armenia.

The cooperation is expected to include awareness campaigns, training-of-trainers, and other measures.

The agreement was reached on May 29, 2018, during a meeting between UNFPA Armenia, ARS, and Akhuryan's Mother and Child Health Center. During the meeting Dr. Narine Beglaryan, Armenia Program Coordinator for UNFPA Global Program on Prevention of Son

Preference and the Undervaluing of Girls, funded by the European Union, presented the current situation with prenatal sex selection in Armenia, causes, potential consequences and current trends. The possible cooperation was discussed and agreed with Caroline Chamavonian, ARS Chairperson, ARS board members, and Dr. Sevak Avagyan, Executive Director of Akhuryan's Mother and Child Health Center.

The ARS is one of the leading institutions of the Armenian Diaspora. They, in particular, support Mother and Child Health Center in Akhuryan, Armenia, to provide accessible, quality and up-to-date medical care.

At the center, Mrs. Beglaryan also spoke to healthcare professionals, women of reproductive age including women with newborns, and their family members, describing the situation with prenatal sex selection in Armenia and around the world, providing them educational materials developed for population and medical professionals respectively.



*May 31, 2018*

### **UNFPA Armenia signed 2018 Cooperation Program with the Ministry of Defence**



On May 31, 2018, UNFPA Armenia participated in a discussion at the Ministry of Defence, titled "Ensuring Protection of Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities in the Armenian Armed Forces: New Challenges".



Women serving in the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces and General Staff, as well as female cadets of military educational institutions and female freedom fighters attended the discussion.

The participants discussed the process of the implementation of the project aimed at ensuring the rights and equal opportunities for women working in the Ministry of Defence system.



At the end of the event, Col. Alik Avetisyan, the Head of the MOD Centre for Human Rights and Proper Behaviour, and Tsovinar Harutyunyan, UNFPA Armenia OIC, signed the 2018 cooperation program between the MOD and UNFPA.

Source: <http://mil.am/en/news/5312>



May 31, 2018

### Press Conference on Demographic Challenges and Opportunities



On May 31, Ms. Tsovinar Harutyunyan, UNFPA OIC, Mr. Vanik Babajanyan, Head of Demography Division, Ministry of Labor and social affairs, and Mr. Armen Galstyan, Executive Director of International Center for Human Development NGO, gave a press conference at Armenpress News Agency, on demographic challenges and opportunities in Armenia.

Video: <https://armenpress.am/eng/multimedia/videos/391/>

Photos: <https://armenpress.am/eng/multimedia/slideshows/60856/>

May 26-27, 2018

### Preparing for Rapid Population Ageing: Training Nurses in Geriatrics



On May 26-27, 2018, UNFPA Armenia, in partnership with the “Association of Healthcare and Assistance to Older People” NGO organized a training course on the “Role of Nurse in Geriatrics”. The purpose of the training was development of gerontological and geriatric nursing and improvement of care services for elderly people.

As we already know, the size of the Armenia’s elderly population is growing at a rapid rate. As life expectancy lengthens, the quality of that life becomes an issue of importance to nursing practitioners and nursing educators. Nurses have a significant role to play in the care, disease prevention treatment and rehabilitation of older people.

Before implementation of the training we studied the international experience of education on nursing in eldercare and adapted it to Armenian reality. The training program was written specifically for nurses who work with older adults in nursing homes, hospitals, psychiatric clinics, patients’ homes, et cetera. Around 20 participants took part in the course.