The international calendar for the last quarter of 2015 will be filled with important events: on the one hand the opening of the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Summit with the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals; and on the other hand the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations.

The United Nations system in Tunisia, with the involvement of young Tunisian men and women, prepared during the past months for these events. A UN Youth Advisory Panel in Tunisia was officially launched for the celebration of the International Youth Day (August 12th). It aims at strengthening youth participation mainly in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the UNDAF (United Nations Development Action Framework). The current newsletter’s feature is dedicated to this initiative led by the thematic group “Youth and adolescents” within the United Nations system in Tunisia and coordinated by the UNPFA.

Other issues featuring in the newsletter: the workshops held on Tunisian population demographic projections for 2016-2044, the advocacy plan on health and sexual and reproductive rights, the launching of CEDAW ambassadors (the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).

The UNFPA –Tunisia team wishes you a pleasant read
The Tawhida Ben Cheikh Group for Research and Action on women’s health and its partners (Acces, Beity, ATFD, ATDDS) have organized with the support of the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and the IPPF (International planned Parenthood Federation) a meeting for civil society organizations aiming at strengthening advocacy on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Minister of Health H.E M. Said Aïdi, attended the meeting which was held on April 24th 2015 in Tunis.

**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

**Advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights**

The organizers opened the meeting with a presentation of the post-2014 ICPD (International Conference on Population Development) and the post-2015 development agenda which was followed by an introduction to the advocacy plan regarding sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The advocacy plan is built around six main points: safe maternity rights, the right for a freedom of choice, accessibility and confidential abortion, the right for choosing contraception, the right of access to a comprehensive sexuality education and integrated SRH for youth, an integrated plan for fighting STI/HIV, and fight all forms of violence against women and girls and women trafficking.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Saïd Aïdi took the floor recalling Tunisia’s participation to the 48th session of the Commission on Population and development held from 13th -17th April 2015. He stressed on Tunisia’s progressive stance regarding sexual and reproductive health, maintaining that “reproductive rights should not only figure on paper but should become a reality for all Tunisians alike”.

**Background information**

2015 will be marked by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit which will be held in September with the aim of adopting the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). While recalling that the 48th Session of the Commission on Population and Development was held in New York from April 13th to 17th 2015, focused on “Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development including in the post-2015 development agenda”, it becomes crucial for Tunisia to evaluate its policies and programs mainly regarding human rights and sexual and reproductive health issues.

To do so, The Tawhida Ben Cheikh Group for Research and Action on women’s health and its partners addressed the civil society by organizing this meeting with the aim of supporting an advocacy plan for sexual and reproductive health and rights. This meeting is part of a common action led by civil society organizations for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and related rights to be integrated in all national strategies, policies and legal frameworks.

For more information:
POPULATION DYNAMICS

Workshop on Tunisian population projections trends for 2016-2044

Partners at national, governmental and civil society organizations level dealing with population issues gathered in a workshop held in Tunis on July 22nd 2015 to present the Tunisian population projection trends. They discussed the results of these projections trends for 2016-2044 along with the methodology used to produce the report.

The process for the development of demographic projections


The workshop held in Tunis on July 22nd was an opportunity for partners at national, governmental and civil society level to discuss the results presented in the report and the prospects for introducing them in future programs, policies and strategies. The results presented in the report of the Tunisian population projection trends show a clear aging trend by 2044. While the Tunisian population would grow to almost 13 million in 2024 and reach almost 14 million in 2044, the share of those under 14 years old gradually increasing until 2024 reaching almost 25.5% will decrease by 2044 to 17% and the share of those above 60 years old will increase from 11.7% in 2014 to reach almost 23% by 2044.

For more information: http://www.ins.nat.tn/indexfr.php

GENDER EQUALITY

Tunisian Ambassadors for the CEDAW Convention

On the occasion of the Tunisia National Women’s Day, United Nations agencies operating in Tunisia - the UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), organized a press conference to present CEDAW Ambassadors.

Who are the CEDAW Ambassadors?

Tunisian national figures who decided to engage in the promotion of the CEDAW in Tunisia are:
- Ms. Emna Louzyr, journalist, radio host and poet
- Ms. Myriam Belkadhi, journalist, radio and TV host and literary critic
- Ms. Wajiha Jendoubi, actor and humorist
- Mr. Oussama Bouajila, activist and human rights defender

CEDAW good will ambassadors will help UN agencies involved in this project (UN Women, OHCHR and UNFPA) in their mission to raising awareness among the public and promoting the values and objectives of the CEDAW Convention.

What is the CEDAW?

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discriminations against women is an important convention among international human rights treaties as it defends the non-derogable rights of women and the principles of equality between women and men. Tunisia ratified the Convention in 1985 keeping some reservations that have been filed in 2014 after notifying the UN Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention, with this decision.

This initiative falls within the broad awareness campaign, promoting the principles of CEDAW, which was launched in 8 March 2013, which falls on International Women’s Day. The campaign has included many other awareness and advocacy activities.

For more information:
- Facebook page CEDAW/CEDEF: https://www.facebook.com/Cedaw-Cedef-Tunisie-777866155654137/timeline/
- Pictures of the Press conference available on UNFPA Tunisia Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/UNFPA-Tunisia/146847705384104
As a person with disability I wanted to be part of youth panel since I always believed in youth capacity to work for the improvement and building our country as we youth are the vitality of the societal progress.

This opportunity will help me on the one hand to highlight the priorities of youth with disabilities in the youth schema as being part of humanity nature. And on the other hand it will be a way to encourage them to get involved in the decision making and to take part in the public and political life hence ending the guardianship.

Mona Belhouane

WHY A YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL?

In order to reinforce youth participation in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the 2015 – 2019 period, the United Nations Country Team in Tunisia decided to establish a youth advisory panel. The panel aims at involving young people in the work of the United Nations agencies, to better answer their needs and expectations.

The UN Youth Advisory Panel is composed of 16 young Tunisian men and women, between 15 and 29 years old, involved in the promotion of human rights and in development issues at local and national levels. They are members of youth non-governmental organizations, leaders and independent activists from different regions of Tunisia.

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING AND FIRST meeting

The official launching was made by Mr. Dimiter Chalev, representative of OHCHR and UN resident coordinator a.i. UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi addressed and welcomed the panel’s members through a video message.

During this meeting, the UNYAP members got to know the United Nations System in Tunisia, and the UN Development Assistance Framework. They also had the opportunity to discuss with members of the UN thematic group on youth and adolescents about the panel’s role and to collaboratively define the next steps.

By launching the Youth Advisory Panel, the UN Country Team in Tunisia underlines its commitment to promote youth rights, according to the fundamental principles of human rights, and to work with young people as key development partners.

For more information:
- The video message of Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth to the Tunisian Youth Advisory Panel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rtpf6p2Y6M&feature=youtu.be
The United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York. Convened as a high level meeting of the General Assembly, the Summit will be attended by 193 leaders, including representatives from Tunisia, to adopt the new post-2015 development agenda. With 17 new sustainable goals and some 169 targets, this new agenda adds to those of the MDG’s and seeks to realize the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

Ending poverty and hunger everywhere by 2030, fighting inequalities, protecting human rights, ensuring access and health rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are part of the goals to achieve in order to provide a better life for all.

For more information:
http://www.un.org/fr/ga/

DID YOU KNOW?
The CEDAW and the rights it defends. Tunisian women: facts and figures*

**Article 6** - Sexual exploitation and traffic in women and girls
- In Tunisia: there are more than 40,000 domestic workers

**Article 7** - Equal rights for men and women in political and public life
- Only 36.1% of public service officers are women
- Only 13.1% of decision-making positions in public services are filled with women (head of department)
  -> Source: Government’s General-Secretariat

**Article 10** - Right to education
In Tunisia,
- Only 25% of illiterate children aging 10 and above are girls
- 95.9% of girls aging between 6-14 and 95.7% of boys are sent to school
  -> Source: INS, 2014 general census

**Article 11** - Equal rights in employment
Despite those positive figures in terms of education:
It remains much more difficult for a graduated woman to find an employment: 39% of graduated women are unemployed (compared to 20.8% for men)
- 21% of women seeking an employment don’t find one (compared to 12.5% for men)
- Women represent only 1/3 of the working active population (31, 3%)
  -> Source: INS, 2014 general census

**Article 12** - Right to health
- 62.5% of women use contraception. Unmet needs in terms of contraception affect 7% of women aging between 15 and 49 years old. This rate varies according to the regions and reaches 12% in East and West Central regions. The rate remains high for the younger reaching respectively 16% and 12% for those between 20-24 years old and 25-29 years old.
  -> Source: MICS Survey 4 – Tunisia 2011-2012
- For 100,000 live births, 44.8 women died during childbirth
  -> Source: National Survey on maternal mortality in Tunisia, Preliminary Report, November 2010

*These figures are taken from a document prepared in collaboration between OHCHR, UN Women and UNFPA.
- **October 9th**: Workshop: Presentation of the results of the study conducted on women’s health at work (Health and Security at work Institute).

- **October 11th**: International Day of the Girl Child

- **October 19th - 23rd**: Workshop for the review of the National Action Plan for the Gender Meanstreaming

- **October 24th**: Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations

- **October**: Workshop on civil registrations (National Institute of Statistics)

- **November**: Workshop on indicators on Gender Based Violence (CREDIF)

- **November 25th - December 10th**: 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence.