A year has passed since the launch of the Tunisia – UNFPA cooperation program for 2015-2019.

Our goals are certainly ambitious! But we are confident that the advocacy and awareness that we conduct with our partners have paid off.

During this first year, all efforts were made to support our partners in vast reform rafts, so that, by 2019, the legal instruments to combat gender based violence are adopted, sexual and reproductive rights are recognized as an integral part of human rights, the package for sexual and reproductive health, including maternal and neonatal health, are secured and available without discrimination and that the mechanisms which allow Tunisia to meet its international commitments including those of the 2030 agenda are in place.

Our agenda for 2016 will be rich in events and, hopefully in fulfillment. The support we provide to our national partners will remain the basis of our efforts to best serve our mandate in Tunisia. And we hope that, within democratic and transparent institutions, where everyone’s rights are guaranteed and protected, Tunisia will move towards a just and fair society where each and everyone matters.

The UNFPA team in Tunisia wishes you a great read and a more fruitful and happy 2016!
Within the frame of the “Stepping Stones programme” supported by UNFPA, Aids Fund, the Ministry of Health in Tunisia organized on October 13th 2015 a workshop to present the results of the qualitative study on “the vulnerability factors of sex workers in Tunisia”.

The study covering man and female sex workers including minors in sex work aimed at collecting information regarding the behavior and the social environment of sex workers as well as the factors affecting their socio-economic vulnerability and marginalization which leads to a limited access to social and health care services and lack of prevention from HIV/AIDS and STIs. The data collection was made available through a wide review of documents including national and foreign studies, focus groups with key populations. Semi-direct interviews were also conducted with relevant and key person mainly governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Justice, active NGO’s working on these issues such as ATLMST/SIDA Tunis, ATLMST/SIDA Sfax and ATIOST, gynecologists from the private sector along with multilateral partners, mainly UNFPA and UNAIDS. Nine focus groups in four different regions in Tunisia were organized with sex workers (legal and non-legal ones, adults and minors girls and boys) where information about their conditions, motivations, understanding of their rights, social and health conditions and access to sexual and reproductive health services were discussed.

The workshop was an opportunity to bring together various national government and NGO partners involved in the area of Sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, youth, women issues to discuss results of the study, enrich debates on sex work issues including minors in sex work and reflect on the way these results can be used and integrated in future programs and strategies. The results of the study should be disseminated at the largest scale and target decision-makers and service providers in all relevant sectors (health, social services, justice,…).

The outcomes of the debate and exchanges between the participants brought a set of recommendations. They stressed on the need for further in-depth analysis and studies targeting sex workers knowledge, attitude and behavior and on the necessity to set up networks gathering multi sectorial stakeholders to better address social, economic, health factors. A review of the legal environment is also needed in order to eradicate stigma and discrimination. In order to focus specifically on key population issues, a multi sectorial committee under the umbrella of the National Committee to fight AIDS should be established.

Finally, the participants reiterated the importance of full and active participation of the civil society in the programmes and strategies.

Y-PEER Tunisia: A New Start!

In 2006, the Y-PEER network Tunisia started gathering youth associations for sexual and reproductive health to become the largest network of young members of associations for sexual and reproductive health.

Ten years later and five years after the revolution, with a constantly changing reality and new challenges facing the youth, the Y-PEER network needed to gather and discuss the means of meeting with this new reality.

It is in that sense that, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA, the «Let’s Peer It Up For All» workshop was held from December 11th to 13th, 2015 in Gammarth.

The first day, associations working with different groups of young people: young migrants and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTI, unemployed and marginalize youth, attended the workshop with the aim to identify common priorities for all youth groups in Tunisia and subsequently define prospects work between the network and the various youth organizations.

Four priorities were identified by the participants:

Education and employability, youth health, participation of young people in public life, the promotion of the culture of peace and the fight against violence.

During the two following days, the participants traced the history of the network in Tunisia. The discussion helped identifying challenges that faces the network mainly its fuzzy mission and rigid structure.

Finally, the Y-Peer network reaffirmed its mission as a network of young members of associations for the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights of all young people.

“Tunisia launches the discussion on the follow up of SDG’s related to population dynamics and sexual and reproductive health”

The Ministry of Investment, Development and International Cooperation in partnership with UNFPA-Tunisia held on December 1st, a first meeting in Tunis to discuss on how to integrate the new Sustainable Development Goals related to the ICPD beyond 2014 and their follow-up indicators in the 2016-2020 five-year plan.

Over 80 participants representing various ministries and civil society organizations participated in this workshop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt and implement an advocacy program for the integration of the SDG’s in development policies.
- Call upon the Ministry of Investment, Development and International Cooperation to ensure that the SDG’s indicators are integrated in the five-year development plan, in project carried out both, at sectorial and at regional level.
- Create a monitoring and coordination structure at the Ministry of Investment, Development and International Cooperation between the various stakeholders in charge of the SDG implementation. Being a horizontal ministry, the MIDCI is the most adequate to carry out such a task.
- Call upon the UNFPA to provide technical and material support for the formulation of indicators and improve the capacities of statistics producing institutions.

GENDER EQUALITY

A National Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming: workshop of discussion and planning

As part of the program to promote gender equality in Tunisia, co-funded by the European Union and the UNFPA, the Ministry of Women, Family and Children (MFFE) committed to revise the National Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming (PANIG). A first draft of the action plan had been prepared in 2009, yet a review is needed in regard of the new Tunisian context and new priorities of the Ministry for 2016-2020.

For this purpose, and with the technical support of the UNFPA that provided an expert in planning and gender mainstreaming, Ms. Faiza Benhadid, the MFFE organized in Tunis from the 19th to the 23rd of October a workshop involving key sectors, to review the PANIG. For five days some thirty representatives of the Presidency of the Government, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Education, Higher Education, Vocational Training and Employment, Interior, Health, Technology, Communications and the Digital Economy along with some national institutions – mainly the CREDIF, INS, ONFP participated in this workshop.

The exchanges were rich and successful and have allowed, at first, to agree on the concept of gender and fix the conceptual and analytical framework of the gender approach. Then the participants gathered in working groups to develop an updated PANIG, in line with the new priorities and policies established for Tunisia.
16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls

As part of the campaign of 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls - 25 November to 5 December – the United Nations Agencies: UN Women, UNFPA, OHCHR and the UNDP, in partnership with civil society and governmental organizations, organized a day of awareness and information on violence against women and on the services and actions for women survivors of violence. The event took place throughout the day on December 5th at the Menzah 6 Cultural Centre in Tunis.

This event was an opportunity for the NGO/GOs to inform the general public about the services provided by various associations and organizations for women victims of violence (legal, health, psychosocial etc …) and a DVD featuring informative spots, prevention and awareness on violence against women and girls were distributed.

During this 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls, a call for citizen mobilization was launched by civil society organizations in Tunisia for adoption by the People’s Representatives Assembly of a comprehensive law to end violence against women and girls.

To know more:
www.unfpa-tunisie.org
https://www.facebook.com/16JoursTunisie

DID YOU KNOW?
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

WORLDWIDE

1 IN 3 WOMEN experience physical violence

More than 64 million of girls and adolescents are married.

Of the 7.3 million girls below age 18 who give birth each year in developing countries, 2 million of them are under age 15.

Almost 140 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation (FGM).

38% of women killed are by partners

Women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria, according to World Bank data.

IN TUNISIA

1 in 2 Tunisian women experience violence in their lifetime

1 in 3 women would have experienced violence during the last year

47% of women aged 18-64 would have experienced physical violence

78.2% of sexual violence against Tunisian women are inflicted by an intimate partner

43% of physical violence against Tunisian women are inflicted by a family member

Data: National Survey on Violence against women in Tunisia, ONFP/AECID 2010
UN WOMEN/ WHO / Unite to end violence against women

Focus on

The United Nations System in Tunisia celebrated its 70th anniversary at the Bardo National Museum

It is at the Bardo National Museum that the United Nations system in Tunisia celebrated its 70th anniversary.

A three-day exhibition presenting the work of the 18 agencies operating in Tunisia was organized on 23-24 and 25 October 2015 in the Bardo National Museum's Hall. All heads of agencies were present at the inaugural evening which was graced by the presence of Head of Government of Tunisia Mr. Habib Essid and several ministers and secretary of state, namely the Minister of Culture Ms. Latifa Lakhdar who opened the Museum for this occasion. The opening speech was delivered by the Resident Coordinator, Mr. Mounir Thabet.

This three days exhibition was a great opportunity for the United Nations agencies in Tunisia to meet and exchange with the Tunisian public, to share and make them known about their work in the country. Young people were especially likely to go to the Bardo Museum and showed great interest about the work and mission of each of the UN agencies.

Tunisia also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the United Nations by illuminating in blue on November 24th the Municipal Theatre for the closing of the Carthage Theater Days Festival.
UNFPA – Regional Office for Arab States joins the Board of the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR).

Like other agencies of the United Nations system, UNFPA - Regional Office for Arab States in November 2015 joined the Board of Directors of AIHR. This step has once again strengthened the existing partnership between UNFPA and AIHR in promoting human rights, and more specifically reproductive rights.

**UNFPA – AIHR Cooperation projects:**

As part of the collaboration agreement signed on September 22nd 2015 between the UNFPA and the AIHR to promote human rights, particularly sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality, an advocacy will be conducted in order to implement international instruments and recommendations related to reproductive rights and gender equality, including gender based violence.

In this regard, a capacity assessment of the Higher Committee of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (CSDHLF) was conducted to monitor the implementation of sexual and reproductive rights. Thus, following this inventory which showed that the CSDHLF does not refer to SRR in none of these reports, the expert who led the study made recommendations to integrate the monitoring of sexual and reproductive rights once the new Human Rights body is established.

A second evaluation was conducted to compile an inventory of the situation of the consecration of sexual and reproductive rights, allowing to identify the main problems and their causes, and to assess the existing disparities between the commitments taken and the realities of the Tunisians on the ground. This study will serve as an advocacy tool for decision makers to better integrate sexual and reproductive rights in policies and programs.

Moreover, this advocacy work will be supported by civil society networks, parliamentarians, media, religious leaders and artists aiming at promoting sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality (including the fight of gender based violence). An evaluation of existing networks was conducted which identified the need to establish a plan to strengthen their capacities so they can raise public awareness on issues related to sexual and reproductive rights.

DOSSIER

UNFPA - Regional Office for Arab States joins the Board of Directors of AIHR.
The United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA, is an international development agency that plays a unique role with the United Nations system in promoting the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person’s potential is fulfilled.

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