EDITORIAL

In Tunisia, the agenda for this summer has been marked by the adoption by the Council of Ministers, of the bill to fight violence against women, and that, on July 13, 2016. This process led by the Ministry of Women, Family and Children, and supported by UNFPA, was initiated back in 2013 and it is the result of a participatory process. This issue is dedicated to this important step.

In this issue, we shed the light on the celebration of World Population Day and International Youth Day acknowledging the importance of investing in youth and adolescents. Finally, and in the zoom we will address sexual and reproductive rights in Tunisia.

UNFPA team in Tunisia wishes you a pleasant reading!
World Population Day 2016: invest in teenage girls

Tunisia, like the rest of the world, celebrated on July 11, World Population Day under the theme “Investing in teenage girls”. To that end, UNFPA Tunisia in cooperation with Arab Institute for Human Rights organized a creative artistic workshop on the implementation of the SDGs, as seen by the adolescents of citizenship clubs launched by AIHR and UN System in middle and high schools in different regions of Tunisia back in 2013.

This workshop was an opportunity to discuss with these teenagers the link between the acquisitions of their rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It gave them, also, a space to look into the future, in the horizon of 2030 to determine what role they can play in their community to help achieve the SDGs.

Throughout the creative workshop, an artist to express their dreams for 2030 through painting has guided them. The experience was highly appreciated by the teenagers who resumed their drawings to sensitize their peers once they get back to their regions.


INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

The International Youth Day, celebrated August 12, 2016 under the theme «The Road to 2030: Eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns», was an opportunity for the United Nations country team in Tunisia to launch the «SDG camps», an initiative to promote the commitment of young Tunisians to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

UNFPA, leading the UN group of results on Youth and adolescents coordinated with all UN agencies present in Tunisia and the members of the Advisory Panel of the Youth of the UN system, the organization at the regional level of 5 camps around 5 key areas of agenda 2030, namely: people, prosperity, peace, planet and partnership.

For more information:  [https://www.facebook.com/UNFPATunisie/videos/1105654052836793/](https://www.facebook.com/UNFPATunisie/videos/1105654052836793/)

VISIT OF THE YOUTH UN ENVOY

During his visit to Tunisia, and upon the initiative of UNFPA Tunisia, the UN Youth Envoy Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi met on August 4 2016, with United Nations Country Team in Tunisia. The meeting aimed to see the role of the United Nations system in Tunisia in the promotion of youth rights and commitments for development issues.

Thereafter, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi met with Youth Advisory Panel members where they discussed the role of youth in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and the actions to take to engage youth for these goals.

In the evening, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi had the opportunity to interact with young Tunisian entrepreneurs about their experiences and aspirations.

For more information:  [https://www.facebook.com/UNFPATunisie/videos/1105654052836793/](https://www.facebook.com/UNFPATunisie/videos/1105654052836793/)
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The Public Health University of Maghreb, 5th EDITION!

The 5th edition of The Public Health University of Maghreb was held from May 30 to June 3, 2016. This initiative, launched in Tunis in 2011, is dedicated to the Maghreb, while remaining within the network of public health sister universities of Besançon, Dakar and Brussels. The university was conceived by a group, in 2010, at a time when Tunisia was beginning its transition to democracy while still engaged in its demographic and epidemiological transition.

Hammamet, Sousse to Rabat in 2016, The USPM continues its journey through the Maghreb to rally Public Health stakeholders in the Maghreb. Sponsored for the first three editions by the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis and Sousse, and recently by the National School of Public Health in Rabat, the USPM has kept its independence in the choice of its teaching approach based on active participation.

The choice of topics and their relativity to population issues, development and human rights have prompted UNFPA in Tunisia to support USPM during the 5 years. The health of women and youth through the organization of the health system, the management quality of health services, addressing health and social protection, and health and development; These themes were debated over the issues, developing critical thinking of participants and sometimes allowing them to rethink their public health approach in their country.

Other issues such as essential drugs, public-private sector partnership, the export of health services, women’s cancers, decentralization or care package were discussed and seemed to be a controversial area.

The USPM wants, without any pretention, to connect everyone: generations, academia, policy and field actors and help converge aspirations, because each and every counts!

GENDER EQUALITY

CARE SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

As part of the promotion program for Equality between Women and Men in Tunisia, the Ministry of Women, Family and Children (MFFE), the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) and the European Union (EU) launched on July 1st, 2016 a call for proposals to support care services for women and girls victims of violence.

o MAIN GOALS OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This call aims to strengthen support systems for women and girls victims of all forms of violence and/or in a situation of vulnerability in Tunisia to ensure their safety, health, access to justice and well-being, by supporting the creation of new centers or the rehabilitation and / or strengthening of existing centers, for listening and ensuring multisectoral and integrated care services for women and girls victims of violence and/or in a situation of vulnerability.

The call for proposals was developed in accordance with the requirements of international Standard Operating Procedures regarding care services for women victims of violence. It emphasizes the importance of adopting an approach based on the respect for human rights and gender equality, focusing on the status of victim / survivor of violence, on the safety of victims and finally the importance of a sensitive approach to the victim characteristics (age, culture...).

In this regard, particular attention was given to projects that target women in situation of vulnerability and often double victims of violence such as migrant women, older women, women in single parenthood situation, women with disabilities, etc.

o TARGET REGIONS AND DURATION OF THE PROJECTS

Requested projects cover a wide range of care services for Women Victims of Violence (VVV), from the reception, the listening, the information, the referral to health and competent judicial services, the physical and psychological care services, the legal aid, the social and economic empowerment, and the accommodation.

The call for proposal was widely disseminated in the six target regions: Grand Tunis, Jendouba, Kairouan, Gafsa, Sfax and Medenin. These six regions that cover different areas of the Tunisian territory were selected following an assessment of the availability of care services to women and girls victims of violence, the specific needs of each region and the potential of local organizations to carry out a project of this scale.

The selected projects will last 24 months and will benefit from technical support and continuous capacity building provided by UNFPA and its partners, including accompanying selected organizations towards compliance with international standards and sustainability of their projects.

Let us first recall that this project is part of the national strategy to combat violence against women (GBV) through the life cycle adopted in 2008 and the Constitution (Article 46) creating an obligation for the state to take actions to eliminate violence against women.

The development of a comprehensive law on violence against women by the Ministry of Women, Family and Children and its partners has undergone several steps in the past three years. A study on Tunisian legal frame related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) was first conducted in 2013 and a series of meetings were held upon the result of this study and addressed the legal frameworks and instruments at national and international level. These elements have established an inventory of legislations and resulted in recommendations highlighting the need to propose a comprehensive law on GBV.

Following this first diagnostic phase involving several governmental and non-governmental actors, multidisciplinary expert committee was formed to offer a comprehensive law on gender-based violence. Parallel to the drafting and development of this law, many meetings were organized to involve various stakeholders involved in this issue, such as parliamentarians and representatives of civil society.

In October 2014, the steering committee of the comprehensive law against GBV (representative(s) of the Government, civil society and international organizations) met to validate the draft bill. Then the project was submitted for approval by the various departments and reservations were expressed. In 2015, the bill was reviewed by experts on logistics and at the MFFE. This revision of the project and the advocacy campaigning conducted simultaneously ultimately led to adoption of the bill by the Ministerial Council in July 2016. Today, the bill is at the assembly and the advocacy work continues.

**INNOVATIONS OF THE LAW:**

- **A global and not discriminatory scope:** the law covers all the forms of Gender Based Violence (physical, moral, sexual and economic) exercised against the woman, whatever are the authors and whatever is the domain, without discrimination based on the origin, the color, the race, the religion, the opinion, the age, the nationality, the economic and social conditions, the civil status, the health, the language, or the disability.

- **The creation, within the context of prevention, of obligations borne by the State:** by the implementation of strategies and programs for all the public intervenors, in several domains like the education, the training, the youth, the health, the social affairs, the interior and justice in order to fight its origins and deep reasons.

- **The institution of the decisions of protection:** the judge of the family can take some measures to forbid the defendant to get in touch with the victim or her children in the family home, the workplace, the place of studies or the reception center, and to take him away from the family home in case of danger for the victim or children living with her, to prevent him from damaging the private properties of the victim or the people covered by the decision of protection or the common funds and allow the victim, or her representative, to take up her personal effects and all the accessories of her children.

- **The crimes of violence:** a specific treatment was granted to these crimes by:
  - the consideration of the precarious situation (health, social situation, age) as an element of aggravation in all the crimes of violence and the aggravation of the punishments, when the aggressor has an authority on the victim.
  - the incrimination of actions which were not incriminated before such as the incest, the harassment in the public space, the child labor and the unequal remuneration.
  - the abolition of measures allowing the aggressor to escape the punishment, like the fact of marrying the victim in the sex crimes.

- **The creation of specific procedures for the cases of violence towards women,** mainly in the police or judicial treatment and the institution of measures of (care) of the women victim of violence.

- **The creation of an authority (an observatory) in charge of the coordination and the follow-up of the cases of violence and their treatment as well as the elaboration of national policies in the field of the fight against the violence towards women victim of violence.**

For more information:

http://www.femme.gouv.tn/index.php?id=7&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1848&cHash=6e26d5a76c9443001506c228c5c28
June 16, 2016, at the initiative of UNFPA and Arab Institute for Human Rights, 20 organizations from the Tunisian civil society working in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights met to work on one consensual definition of Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR).

In fact, a review on networks working on reproductive rights and gender equality in Tunisia conducted in 2015, noted a lack of harmony regarding SRR between civil society organizations with a variable definition across organizations.

The workshop was an opportunity to rethink those rights, and how they have been approached internationally.

The participants emphasized that there is no convention on SRR and therefore there is no compulsory legal text.

“The SRR is a very recent evolution of human rights and were often confused or linked to patriarchal attributions, and they were seen as in conflict with the traditions.” Thus commented Ms. Hafidha Chekir, from the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women.

A debate on SRR situation in Tunisia concluded that sexual rights are not recognized by law as a distinctive entity and that these rights are often seen as privileges and attached to virtue.

The last session was a brainstorming exercise on the definition of SRR: What denomination? What rights are included? What approach to adopt to recognize these rights? This reflection has generated a lot of discussions about definitions and content and stressed out the divergence of concepts even within expert organizations.

A second workshop is scheduled in September to continue this process of concept standardization in order to adopt a consensual definition that will be the first milestone toward an advocacy network for sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND IN TUNISIA**

The Demographic Dividend is the advantage that savings would be likely to pull a particular phase of the demographic transition during which the proportion of working adult which is the source of wealth is far more important than the inactive (children and elderly) source of expenditure.

What happens in Tunisia?
The evolution of the pyramids is talking!
Agenda

Key dates

- **July 11**: World Population Day.
- **July 13**: Adoption of the bill on GBV by the Council of Ministers.
- **August 04**: Visit of the UN YOUTH Envoy.
- **August 12**: International Youth.
- **August 13**: National Women Day.

Dates to remember

- **September 7**: UNFPA-AIHR; Round table on Sexual and Reproductive Rights.
- **September 21**: Presentation of the study on violence against women in the streets.
- **October 20**: Report on the State of World Population.
- **October - November**: UNFPA – CREDIF; Workshop on Gender Based Violence indicators
- **December 3**: UNFPA – ATFD; Workshop on Violence against Women Study