

Republic of North Macedonia

The characteristics of population in the Republic of North Macedonia follow population trends in the region and include: population ageing, low fertility and migration.

In 2008, percentage of older persons in total population was 10.7% and in 2013, it was 12.4%. According to the UN projections, the percentage of older persons is expected to increase to 18.8% by 2030.

Total fertility rate was 1.5 in 2007 decreasing 1.4 in 2017. 58% of population lived in urban areas in 2018.

Our country has made remarkable progress in the past 20 years. We are now upper middle income country, with GDP per capita \$14,900 in 2017. Infant mortality rate in 2017 was 7.4 deaths per 1000 live births and maternal mortality ratio in 2015 was 8 deaths per 100,000 live births. However, our progress has not been equal. We had 16.57 adolescent fertility rate in 2016, with modern contraceptive prevalence rate as low as 13% and unmet need for family planning 17.2% (2018).

In the spirit of 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, addresses the needs of those furthest left behind. With this goal, we will be joining global round of Censuses and implement national Population and Housing Census in 2020, which will further provide us with necessary population data.

SRH

- We invest in improved quality of maternal and newborn care by introducing evidence based practices in maternity wards nationwide and for the first time ever, we are developing ObGyn standards in line with European practices. The Safe Motherhood Committee has been the main driver of these changes.
- We are increasing access to modern contraceptives by introducing free of charge contraception on positive list of medicines and improving the capacity of medical service providers on family planning
- Our Government is gradually introducing comprehensive sexuality education.

Gender

- We are harmonizing national legislation according to the recently ratified Istanbul Convention, introducing multi-sectoral response to gender based violence (including medical, social, police and judiciary service providers) and we have opened three sexual assault referral centers in three hospitals in the country
- Investing in care economy and activation on the labor market through the social reform
- Investing in child care facilities and human capital development

Ageing

- Our Government recognizes the importance of active and healthy ageing, so we are using South to South Cooperation and partner in the region to learn from each other and implement best practices. So far, we have introduced the Program for Active Ageing which has a goal to improve the health and social welfare of older persons.

Our partners are UN Agencies, NGOs, including IPPF national affiliate, World bank