

MONGOLIA

at 36th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

The Mongolian Family Welfare Association (MFWA) is a voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit, non-religious and non-political organization working on sexual and reproductive health and rights-related information, education and services, established in 1994. MFWA is full member association of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and became the first non-governmental organization in Mongolia granted with special consultative status by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2015.

Current situation of the family planning in Mongolia

27.2 percent of Mongolia's total population is women of reproductive age (15-49),ⁱ but family planning services are not accessible. According to the Social Indicator Survey and other surveys, unmet need for family planning increased from 4.6 to 16.0 per cent in 2003-2013, and to 22.6% in 2018.ⁱⁱ At the same time, the use of contraceptives is decreasing: 69.0 percent of women of reproductive age had used contraceptive methods in 2003, falling to 55.2 percent in 2008, and further declined to 54.6 percent in 2013.ⁱⁱⁱ

Contributing factors in terms of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights are the lack of confidentiality, lack of human resources, work overload, and contraceptive shortages, all of which affect the poor quality of family planning services, which in turn reduces the interest of clients. Secondary and tertiary care physicians do not have the right to write prescription contraceptives for discounted health insurance funds, limiting access to family planning services.^{iv} If a client wants to get a contraceptive at a discounted price, the obstetrician may need to send her back to the Family Health Center, which makes it difficult for the client.^v

Financing and expenditure of contraceptives

The state budget for contraception is only 0.02% -0.05% of total government health expenditure. The vast majority of health budget expenditures are spent on inpatient care services and the cost of medicine is the highest share of total health expenditure. The Ministry of Health and Sports has a policy of distributing free contraceptives to key populations^{vi} through a public health agency, and although they aimed to fully finance family planning medicines and tools by 2016, this has not happened.^{vii} Since 2013, some of the hormone contraceptive methods have been included in the list of essential drugs and 57-83% of the health insurance payments are provided, but the numbers are also limited. Other important contraceptives are not covered, such as injectables, IUDs and implants.^{viii}

Challenges

Mongolia has established a well-developed health and well-being of mother and child policy, but family planning is left behind. Although the government has expressed a desire to address this issue through its National Maternal and Reproductive Health Program, there is insufficient funding and implementation of this policy. The major source of financing for family planning medicines in the private sector is the cost of paying for family planning services.

Unless she gets free contraceptive from public hospitals, women are required to purchase family planning commodities from social marketing programs, from private pharmacies, and private hospitals. The legal environment and support is needed to ensure the provision of contraceptives within social insurance, including private hospitals and non-governmental organizations through the insurance system. This is critical in order to ensure all people, including the poor and most marginalized, have access to affordable, quality contraceptives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Conduct a nationwide survey on the existing contraceptive methods and demand for each product, as well as the modern contraceptives offered by the health insurances and develop a comprehensive policy that ensures the provision of comprehensive family planning services and commodities beyond 2020 using this data.**
- **Introduce injections, implants and IUDs into social health insurance, increase access to all secondary and tertiary health care facilities, and permit all obstetrics and gynecologists the right to write prescription contraceptives at discounted price from social insurance.**
- **Develop and implement a nationwide education campaign to sensitize the population, including young women, on the use of different methods of family planning**

ⁱ Mongolian National Statistics office, www.1212.mn

ⁱⁱ Social indicator survey 2013,2018, NSO, UNFPA, UNICEF Mongolia

ⁱⁱⁱ “Maternal and child health RH national program ”-2017-2021, page 7

^{iv} Situational analysis on family planning services, MoH, UNFPA, 2016 page 29

^v Situational analysis on family planning services, MoH, UNFPA, 2016 page 16

^{vi} Family planning guidelines, Minister of Health resolution 2012/63

^{vii} Situational analysis on family planning services, MoH, UNFPA, 2016 page 20

^{viii} Situational analysis on family planning services, MoH, UNFPA, 2016 page 21