

# INTRODUCTION

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*Sabahat Tezcan*

## 1.1 Geography

Turkey occupies a surface area of 774,815 square kilometers. About three percent of the total area lies in Southeastern Europe (Thrace) and the remainder in Southwestern Asia (Anatolia or Asia Minor). Turkey has borders with Greece, Bulgaria in the Thrace and Syria, Iraq, Iran, Georgia, Armenia, and Nahcivan (Azerbaijan) in the south and east Anatolia that is also called Asia Minor. The shape of the country resembles a rectangle, stretching in the east-west direction for approximately 1,565 kilometers and in the north-south direction for nearly 650 kilometers. The three sides of Turkey are surrounded by seas: in the north, the Black Sea; in the northwest, the Sea of Marmara; in the west, the Aegean Sea; and in the south, the Mediterranean Sea. The total coastline of Turkey is around 8,333 kilometers.

The Anatolian peninsula lies on an elevated steppe-like and semi-arid central plateau surrounded by mountains on all sides, except the west. The Taurus Mountains in the south and the Northern Anatolia Mountains in the north stretch parallel to the coastline, meeting in the eastern part of the country. The average altitude of the country is around 1,130 meters above sea level. However, there are vast differences in altitude among the regions, ranging from an average of 500 meters in the west to 2,000 meters in the east Anatolia.

The climate is characterized by variations of temperature and rainfall, depending on topography of the country. The average rainfall is 500 millimeters; however, it ranges from 2,000 millimeters in Rize, a province on the Eastern Black Sea coast, to less than 300 millimeters in some parts of Central Anatolia. The typical climatic conditions of Turkey include dry, hot summers and cold, rainy, snowy winters especially in the central and eastern regions. In summer, temperatures do not display large variations across the country, whereas in winter, the temperature ranges from an average of  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the east to  $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the south.

## 1.2 History

Anatolia was dominated by the Seljuqs for almost two centuries (1055-1243) and afterwards she became the core of the Ottoman Empire, which ruled also in the Europe, Middle East and Africa for almost 6 centuries. At the end of The First World War, the Ottoman Empire demolished and immediately an effort to create a new state from the ruins of an Empire began throughout the country. The Turkish resistance movements were transformed into a complete war of independence when Mustafa Kemal landed at Samsun on 19 May 1919. The Turkish forces achieved success under very difficult conditions. The Lausanne Treaty, signed on 24 July 1923, recognized the creation of a new Turkish State with

virtually the same borders as those of the National Pact of 1920 and guaranteed her complete independence. The Republic was proclaimed on 29 October 1923 in order to give the state a democratic form in the contemporary sense. Subsequently, the country's present borders were established following the annexing of Hatay, a province on the southern border, in 1939.

The founding of the Republic signified radical shifts from the previous social order as a succession of social and economic reforms. The wearing of the turban and fez that were symbols of the former order were banned and the "hat" became the official headgear (25 November 1925); the international hour and calendar systems were adopted (26 November 1925); the dervish lodges and tombs and the titles of tariqahs (sects) were abolished (25 November 1925); a modern Turkish Civil Code was introduced (17 February 1926) to replace the old civil code and the Shariah Laws which were the foundation stones of Ottoman law; the Latin alphabet was adopted instead of Arabic script (1 November 1928). The schools where mostly religion-related instruction was given were closed, and a program of compulsory education was set up which aimed at applying contemporary teaching methods. An amendment made to the Constitution in 1928 removed the clause which had stated that "the religion of the state is Islam". A new clause was put in the Constitution in 1937 stating that Turkey is a secular state. The Surname Law was adopted on 21 June 1934. Mustafa Kemal, the founder of the new Turkish State and Republic, was given the surname of "Atatürk" (Father of the Turks). In short, the direction of change, led by Atatürk, was one away from a religious, oriental Empire to a modern, contemporary and secular Republic.

Turkey did not become involved to the Second World War at the beginning but when the war was about to end, Turkey sided with the USA, Britain and the Soviet Union and declared war against Germany and Japan. However, Turkey did not take part actively in the war. Turkey signed the United Nations communiqué dated 24 January 1945. Turkey, which was officially invited to the San Francisco Conference on 5 March 1945, was among the founding members of the United Nations.

From the foundation of the Turkish Republic to 1950, the country was governed by one party system. In the mid and late 1940s, new political parties formed. The first multiparty election held in 1950, the Democrat Party won, putting the Republican People's Party into the opposition. With the introduction of multi-party period, Turkey achieved a more liberal and democratic environment. Although Turkish political history included three military interventions (1960, 1971, and 1980), Turkey has succeeded in preserving a parliamentary, multi-party democratic system until today, and this makes it unique among other countries where Islam has prominence.

With the foundation of the Republic, Turkey turned her face to the 'Western world', as establishing close relations with European countries and the United States of America. Turkey is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and an associate member of the European Community. Since 2000, Turkey has achieved a noteworthy achievement in introducing new social, economic and political reforms within the context of the harmonization process with EU that was initiated with the Helsinki Summit of 1999 (State Planning Organization 2003). Turkey also maintains

close relations with the countries of the Middle East, stemming from deep-rooted cultural and historical links.

### **1.3 Administrative Divisions and Political Organization**

Since the foundation of the Republic, the Turkish administrative structure has been shaped by three Constitutions (1924, 1961, and 1982). These three constitutions proclaimed Turkey to be a Republic with a parliamentary system and specified that the will of the people is vested in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA). All three constitutions adopted basic individual, social and political rights, and accepted the principle of separation of powers, namely legislative, administrative and judicial.

The legislative body of the Republic is the TGNA. The TGNA is composed of 550 deputies, who are elected for five-year terms. The President of the Republic is elected by the TGNA for a seven-year term. The Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers compose the Council of Ministers, the executive branch of the Republic. The judiciary consists of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Jurisdictional Disputes, the Military Court of Appeals, the Constitutional Court, and the civil and military Courts.

Turkey is administratively divided into 81 provinces. These are further subdivided into districts (*ilçe*), subdivisions (*bucak*), and villages (*köy*). The head of the province is the governor, who is appointed by the council of ministers and approved by the president of the republic and responsible to the central government. The governor, as the chief administrative officer in the province, carries out the policies of the central government, supervises the overall administration of the province, coordinates the activities of the various ministry representatives appointed by the central authority in the capital Ankara, and maintains law and order within his/her jurisdiction.

A mayor and a municipal council, elected by the municipal electoral body for a term of five years, administer local government at the municipality level. Every locality with a population of more than 2,000 is entitled to form a municipal administration. Municipalities are expected to provide basic services such as; electricity, water, gas, the building and maintenance of roads, and sewage and garbage disposal facilities within the boundaries of the municipality. Educational and health services are mainly provided by the central government, but municipalities also provide health services for those who are at lower economic and social strata.

### **1.4 Social and Cultural Features**

Turkey varies in social and cultural structure, with ‘modern’ and ‘traditional’ life styles co-existing simultaneously within the society. For the inhabitants of metropolitan areas daily life is similar to the Western countries. On the other hand, people living in outskirts of urban areas and rural settlements are relatively conservative and traditional. Family ties are still strong and influential in the formation of values, attitudes, aspirations, and goals. Although laws are considered to be quite liberal on gender equality, patriarchal ideology characterizes the social life in many ways.

The citizens of Turkey are predominantly Muslim. About 98 percent of the population belongs to Muslim religion, with the Sunnis forming the overwhelming majority. The rich and complex culture of the Turkish society pertains to its ethnic structure. Since the time of Ottoman Empire; Turks predominate ethnically but, in addition, there are Kurdish, Arabic, Circassian, Georgian, Greek, Armenian, and Jewish communities.

One of the most striking achievements since the founding of the Republic has been the increase in both literacy and education. In 1935, only 10 percent of females and 29 percent of males were literate in Turkey. According to the 2000 census figures, the female and male literacy rates for the population age 6 and over were 81 and 94 percent, respectively (State Institute of Statistics 2003). Educational attainment has also increased dramatically. The gross primary education enrolment ratio is 96 percent; 100 percent for males and 93 for females (State Institute of Statistics 2004). Moderate advances have also been made in increasing the proportions of males and females with higher than primary-level education. In 1998, an eight-year education became compulsory in Turkey, with primary school encompassing the first 5 years and junior high school, 3 years. Despite these achievements, considerable regional and urban-rural differences in literacy and educational attainment continue to exist in the country in addition to the gender differences.

## **1.5 Economy**

After the foundation of the Turkish Republic, various economic development strategies were adopted. In the early years of the Republic, the Turkish economy was very weak since a bankrupt country was inherited from the Ottoman Empire. The economy was almost exclusively based on the agriculture, and it was totally undeveloped and poor. The creation and development of industry was clearly the first step that had to be taken to achieve a healthy and balanced economy. Throughout the 1920s liberal policies were implemented; the government promoted the development of industry through private enterprise, encouraged and assisted by favorable legislation and the introduction of credit facilities. These liberal policies continued until 1929, and moderate improvements were realized in the mechanization of agriculture. In the following decade, the state, under the so-called *étatiste* system, assumed the role of entrepreneur, owning and developing large sectors of agriculture, industry, mining, commerce and public works. The origins of modern industrialization in Turkey can be traced to the era of the 1930s. Although the beginnings of the industrialization drive were evident in the immediate aftermath of the formation of the republic in 1923, the real breakthrough occurred in the context of the 1930s.

Although Turkey did not actually participate in the Second World War, the country was faced with heavy restraints on the economy, which slowed down the industrialization process. A "mixed economy" regime followed the war, with the transition to democracy in 1950 signifying a shift towards a more liberal economic order; private enterprise gained recognition side by side with the state economic enterprises. Also, more emphasis was placed on trade liberalization, agricultural and infrastructural development, and the encouragement of foreign capital.

A series of Five-Year Development Plans were prepared beginning in the 1960s. The first of these plans became operative in 1963. A basic objective was to replace the era of unplanned and uncontrolled expansion during the 1950s. Before 1980, Turkey followed an economic policy based on the substitution of imports, and instead of importing it was aimed to manufacture those goods in the country to meet domestic demand. Newly established industrial branches were protected for long periods of time by customs tariffs and other taxes.

In the 1980s, governments followed a strategy of renewing economic growth based on an export-oriented strategy. In this way, substantial economic reforms were prepared and applied beginning in January 1980. Privatization implementations were started in the country in 1984. Following the stagnation of the late 1970s, growth recovered in response to a combination of an increased flow of exports and inputs of foreign capital. The liberal economic strategy followed in the 1980s was not unique to that period. The differences between the liberal and *étatiste* phases are not only the nature of the trade regime and the attitude toward foreign direct investment, but also the mode of state intervention in the economy. Respectable rates of economic growth were achieved during the 1980s; however, in recent years, macro instability has manifested itself once again.

Industrialization during the 1990s has been shaped by three dynamics. First, the state's direct influence on the distribution of the resources was lessened. Second, competition gained importance, with increased emphasis on industrial performance and reconstruction of the industry. Third, general globalization and integration into the European Union gained speed. During the 1990s, privatization also gained importance as a solution to economic problems. An autonomous committee was founded in order to regulate privatization. Some of the state enterprises have been privatized within the frame of this program, and further privatization is expected.

Turkey is nearly self-sufficient country in terms of its agricultural production. Wheat, barley, sugar beets, potatoes, leguminous plants and rice are grown, principally for domestic consumption, and cotton, tobacco, citrus, grapes, fig, hazelnuts, and pistachios are also grown for export. Turkey is not rich in mineral resources. One of the country's main problems is the inadequacy of primary energy resources. Copper, chromium, borax, coal, and bauxite are among the mineral resources in the country. The main industries are textiles, steel, cement, fertilizers, automotive and electrical household goods. Machinery, chemicals and some metals are imported mainly from the OECD countries.

Turkey is a middle-income country at the beginning of 2000s. From 1998 onwards, Turkish authorities have made repeated efforts to stabilize the economy. However, inherited economic instabilities; persistently high inflation, the systemic weakness of the financial sector and external shocks such as Russian crisis in 1998 and the earthquakes in 1999, hampered attempts to stabilize the economy. As a result, economic growth during 1997–2001 was very unstable, with periods of overheating and two sharp recessions. The financial crises in 2000 and 2001 contributed to a further deterioration in the public finance situation. Since 2001, key structural reforms have been adopted, that are intended to produce future macroeconomic stabilization within the context of the harmonization process with EU. Despite some recent progress, reducing inflation pressure, increasing export revenues,

reducing unemployment problem and addressing insufficient capital for new investments remain key issues (State Planning Organization 2003; Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2004).

## **1.6 Regional Divisions**

The diverse geographical, climatic, cultural, social, and economic characteristics of different parts of the country are the basis for the conventional regional breakdown within Turkey. Five regions (West, South, Central, North, and East) are distinguished, reflecting, to some extent, differences in socioeconomic development levels and demographic conditions within the country. This regional breakdown is frequently used for sampling and analysis purposes in social surveys.

The West region is the most densely settled, the most industrialized, and the most socio-economically advanced region of the country. The region includes both İstanbul, (until 1923 the capital of the Ottoman Empire), which is Turkey's largest city, and the country's manufacturing, commercial and cultural centre, and İzmir, the country's third largest city. The coastal provinces within the West region form a relatively urbanized, fast-growing area. The Aegean coast is also a major agricultural area, where cotton, and fruits mostly grapes and fig are cultivated on the fertile plains. With dry summers and mild, rainy winters, agricultural yields from the fertile soils are good. Most of the industrial establishments are situated in the West region and the region contributes most of the gross domestic product of the country.

The South includes highly fertile plains and some rapidly growing industrial centers. Adana, Mersin, and Antalya are the new metropolises located in this region. Steep mountains cut off the semitropical coastal plains from the Anatolian highlands to the north. Hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters describe the climatic conditions of the region. Cultivation of cotton, sugar beets and citrus provide high incomes and export earnings; tourism centers in Antalya provide almost one-third of tourism revenue. The South region has witnessed an industrial boom and an inflow of migrants, especially from the East and Southeastern provinces in the recent decades.

The Central region is a dry grazing area and includes Ankara, the capital and second largest city. Industrial production in the region is rising modestly, as minor city centers develop. Industrial production in the region specializes in cereal and related processed foods, furniture and marble. Given the dry, temperate climate, fruit tree cultivation and sheep and cattle raising are also common.

The North region has a fertile coastal strip, but in most places it is only a few kilometers wide; the coastal region is relatively isolated from the inner parts of the region and the rest of the country by mountainous terrain. The region specializes in growing small-scale, labor-intensive crops like hazelnuts, tobacco and tea. The region receives large quantities of rainfall throughout the year. Zonguldak, a western province, has extensive coal mine reserves and is a centre for coal mining and the steel industry. The region has a great deal of tourism potential that has been improving recently.

The East region is considered as the least developed part of the country. Rugged mountainous terrain, short summers, and the severe climate are suited to animal husbandry rather than settled farming. However, with the “Southeast Anatolia Project”, the economy in the Southeast has improved in the recent years. Atatürk Dam was built (1983–1992) and Urfa irrigation channels were constructed and water was provided to arid and semi-arid lands, leading to agricultural development in the Southeast Anatolia. In addition to economic benefits, the project is also expected to reverse the migration flow from the region to the rest of the country. Although the capacity of agriculture has increased, the region is still poor in terms of industrial production.

A substantial number of villages and adjacent arable lands have been abandoned because of terrorist movements in last 20 years especially in East and Southeast Anatolia. In addition to this, large-scale development projects in the frame of Southeast Anatolia Project, natural disasters, or improved settlement policies have also led to significant migration both within and outside of the region in the last two decades. In response to these trends, the government initiated “Return to Villages and Rehabilitation Project” (RVRP) directed at this population. The main purposes of the RVRP, which covers the 14 provinces in the East and Southeast Anatolia, are to settle those who want to return to their villages on or around the lands of their former villages or on other suitable places, establish the necessary social and economic infrastructure, provide sustainable living conditions in these settlements, re-establish and vitalize the interrupted rural life, form a more balanced settlement design in the rural areas, and achieve a more rational distribution of public investments and services (State Planning Organization 2003).

## **1.7 Population**

In 1927, Turkey's population was 13.6 million according to the first national census, which was conducted four years after the establishment of the Republic. Beginning with the 1935 census, subsequent population censuses were undertaken regularly at 5-year intervals until 1990. After 1990, it was decided that population censuses would be carried out in years ending with 0 by a law. The latest, fourteenth, Population Census which was carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2000, put the population of Turkey at 67.4 million (State Institute of Statistics 2003). Turkey is among the 20 most populous countries of the world, and it is the most populous country of the Middle East and the second populous country of the Europe after Germany. According to projections, her population currently is around 71 million (Population Reference Bureau 2004).

The population of Turkey continuously increased in 1927–2000 period. The annual population growth rate reached its highest value (29 per thousand) in the 1955–1960 period. The latest intercensal estimate of the population growth rate was 18 per thousand for the 1990–2000 period. According to the projections of the State Institute of Statistics (SIS), the population of Turkey is expected to reach 76 million in the year 2010 and 88 million in 2025. The total population is expected to be stabilized around mid 21<sup>st</sup> century between 95 and 98 million (State Institute of Statistics 1995).

Turkey has a young population structure as a result of the high fertility and growth rates of the recent past. One-third of the population is under 15 years of age, whilst the proportion 65+ comprises only 6 percent according to 2000 national census results. However, today's prevailing demographic forces of the population are altering the age structure in new ways. First of all, recent decades have witnessed dramatic declines especially in fertility rates. In the early 1970s, the total fertility rate was around 5 children per woman, whereas the estimates in the late 1990s indicate it has nearly halved to 2.6 children. The crude birth rate was estimated at 22 per thousand in the early 2000s. As a result, the median age of the population, which averaged around 20 years between 1940 and 1960 in Turkey, has increased continuously since 1970, reaching 24 years for male and 25 years for female population in 2000. There have been significant changes in the growth rates by age groups. The growth rates for young age groups have decreased whereas the population of older age groups has increased faster than the average for Turkey. It is expected that increase in the population size of 15–64 and 65+ will continue also in the next years while population size of youth will nearly stabilize (State Institute of Statistics 2003).

There is lack of accurate, complete and continuous information on mortality in Turkey, particularly adult mortality. The information is available mainly for deaths in town and city centers and these data are also incomplete. According to reported causes of deaths, the main causes of death in order of importance are cardio-vascular diseases (46 percent), all malignancies (15 percent) and all accidents (4 percent). In contrast to adult mortality, data on child mortality have been available for a relatively long period from a series of fertility surveys. The infant mortality rate in the late 1950s was around 200 per thousand live births. It declined to about 130 during the mid-1970s and to an estimated 42 during the late 1990s. Likewise, crude death rates have also declined from around 30 per thousand in the 1940s to 7 per thousand in 1990s. The latest estimates put life expectancy in Turkey at 66 years for males and 71 for females (State Institute of Statistics 2004).

Marriage, predominantly civil, is widely practiced in Turkey. Religious marriages also account for a significant proportion of the marriages; however, the main custom is to have a civil as well as a religious ceremony. The universality of marriage in Turkey is observed in the low proportions never married. According to the 2000 Population Census, in the age group 45-49 which marks the end of the reproductive ages, only two percent of females had never married, whereas the corresponding figure for males in the same age group was three percent. Marriages in Turkey are also known to be very stable.

The population of Turkey has undergone an intensive process of urbanization, especially from the 1950s onwards. The share of the population living in cities, which was 25 percent in 1950, climbed to 65 percent in 2000. The rate of urbanization has been approximately 33 per thousand during the 1990-2000 period. The rapid urbanization has inevitably caused problems in the provision of services and the emergence of large areas of squatter housing in unplanned settlements around metropolitan cities. Social problems related to the adaptation to city life and culture also are evident.

Turkey has had a long history of external migration. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the migrant flow was mainly directed to Western European countries, principally Germany.

During the 1980s, however, it became more oriented towards the oil-producing countries of the Middle East. In the past two decades, the political turmoil in that region and changes in policies and practices governing the labor force in the European Union have continued to influence emigration patterns. At the same time, due to political conditions in neighboring countries, Turkey has found herself subjected to waves of asylum seekers from the Balkans, Middle East countries, and also from distant Asian and African countries (International Organization for Migration 1996).

## **1.8 Population and Family Planning Policies and Programs**

In Turkey, policies related to population have been formulated since the establishment of the Republic in 1923. During the early years of the Republic, there was a perceived need to increase fertility, since the country had suffered from heavy human losses during the First World War and the War of Independence. The defense needs of the country and the shortage of manpower, as well as high infant and child mortality rates, led Turkey to continue to follow a pronatalist population policy until the late 1950s. A number of laws directly or indirectly encouraging population growth were passed during the period. These laws included monetary awards to women with more than 5 children, tax reduction incentives, prohibitions on the advertisement, import and sale of contraceptives (except for health reasons), and prohibition of abortions on social grounds.

The high population growth rates prevailing in the 1950s which led to increased numbers of illegal abortions and, as a consequence, to high maternal mortality, brought the population debate into the political agenda. High urban population growth and employment problems were also factors contributing to the new antinatalist environment in government circles. The State Planning Organization and the Ministry of Health pioneered the policy change, and the first Population Planning Law was enacted in 1965. The law mandated the Ministry of Health to have responsibility for implementing the new family planning policy. The policy allowed the importation of modern contraceptives methods, provided services at state health institutions free of charge and supported health education for couples. In addition, the State Planning Organization incorporated the notion of population planning in the First Five-Year Development Plan.

In 1983, a more liberal and comprehensive Population Planning Law was passed. The new law legalized abortions (up to the tenth week of pregnancy) and voluntary surgical contraception on social and economical grounds. It also permitted the trained auxiliary health personnel to insert IUDs and included other measures to improve family planning services and mother and child health. The latest Five Year Development Plan of the State Planning Organization states that population policy seeks to reach a population structure which is in harmony with the balanced and sustainable development targets of the society. Thus, the strengthening of qualitative aspects of population including increased education and improved health levels and a reduction in unbalanced development and inequalities among regions are primary objectives of population policy (State Planning Organization 2001).

## **1.9 Health Priorities and Programs**

Mother and child health and family planning services have been given a priority status in the policies of the government in recent decades. These services gained importance due to the large proportion of women of reproductive ages and children in the Turkish population, high infant, child and maternal mortality rates, the demand for family planning services, and the limited prenatal and postnatal care. A number of programs to improve services have been implemented since 1985, with special emphasis on provinces which have been designated as priority development areas as well as on squatter housing districts in metropolitan cities, rural areas, and special risk groups. The initiatives include programs in immunization, early diagnosis and prompt treatment of childhood diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, promotion of breastfeeding and growth monitoring, healthy and balanced nutrition, reproductive health, and antenatal and delivery care, and safe motherhood. IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) programs to promote the mother and child health and family planning activities are also being widely implemented.

## **1.10 Health Care System in Turkey**

The Ministry of Health is officially responsible for designing and implementing health policies and delivering health-care services nationwide. Besides the Ministry of Health, other public sector institutions and non-governmental and private organizations contribute to providing mostly curative health services.

At the central level, the Ministry of Health is responsible for the implementation of curative and preventive health-care services throughout the country, within the principles of primary health care. The responsibility for delivering the services and implementing specific Primary Health Care programs is shared by various General Directorates (Primary Health Care, Mother and Child Health and Family Planning, Health Education) and by various Departments (Departments of Tuberculosis Control, Malaria Control, Cancer Control).

At the provincial level, the health-care system is the responsibility of Health Directorates, under the supervision of the Governor. The provincial Health Director is responsible for delivering all primary health-care services as well as curative services. The present network of Health Centers and Health Houses was formed on the basis of "Legislation for the Socialization of Health Services" so that services and facilities are extended down to the village level. A substantial proportion of villages have health centers or health houses, and sites were located so as to provide easy access to other villages.

The simplest element of the socialized health services is the Health House, which serves a population of 2,500-3,000 and is staffed by a midwife. The Health Center serves a population of 5,000-10,000 and is staffed by a team consisting of a physician(s), a nurse(s), a health officer, midwives, an environmental health technician, medical secretary and a driver. Health Centers mainly offer integrated, polyvalent primary health-care services. Mother and Child Health and Family Planning Centers and Tuberculosis Dispensaries also offer primary preventive health services.

This network of health facilities is responsible for delivering primary health care services, maternal and child health, family planning, and public health education services. These health facilities are also the main sources of the health information system.

## **1.11 Objectives and Organization of the Survey**

### **1.11.1 Objectives**

The 2003 Turkish Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS–2003) is the latest in a series of national-level population and health surveys that have been conducted by the Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies (HUIPS), in the last four decades. The primary objective of the TDHS-2003 is to provide data on socioeconomic characteristics of households and women, fertility, mortality, marriage patterns, family planning, maternal and child health, nutritional status of women and children, and reproductive health. The survey obtained detailed information on these issues from a sample of ever-married women in the reproductive ages (15-49). The TDHS-2003 was designed to produce information in the field of demography and health that to a large extent can not be obtained from other sources.

Specifically, the objectives of the TDHS-2003 included:

- Collecting data at the national level that allows the calculation of demographic rates, particularly fertility and childhood mortality rates;
- Obtaining information on direct and indirect factors that determine levels and trends in fertility and childhood mortality;
- Measuring the level of contraceptive knowledge and practice by method, region, and urban-rural residence;
- Collecting data relative to mother and child health, including immunizations, prevalence and treatment of acute respiratory tract infections among children under five, antenatal care, assistance at delivery, and breastfeeding;
- Measuring the nutritional status of children under five and of their mothers; and
- Collecting data at the national level on elderly welfare, knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS, and usage of iodide salt.

The TDHS-2003 information is intended to contribute data to assist policy makers and administrators to evaluate existing programs and to design new strategies for improving demographic, social and health policies in Turkey. Another important purpose of the TDHS-2003 is to sustain the flow of information for the interested organizations in Turkey and abroad on the Turkish population structure in the absence of reliable and sufficient vital registration system.

### 1.11.2 Administration and Funding of the Survey

The TDHS-2003 was implemented by HUIPS, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Mother and Child Health and Family Planning of the Ministry of Health. HUIPS began preparations to carry out the survey as far back as 2001, and the fieldwork of the survey was conducted between December 2003 and May 2004.

Financial support for the TDHS-2003 was mainly provided through the national budget as a three-year advanced project in the investment program of the State Planning Organization. In this respect, the TDHS-2003 is significantly different from the previous demographic and health surveys carried out by the Institute which were all conducted through international sources of funding. Moreover, the TDHS-2003 was supported for the first time as a project in the frame of the European Union “Turkey Reproductive Health Program”, implemented by the General Directorate of Mother and Child Health and Family Planning of the Ministry of Health.

A steering committee consisting of the academic staff of HUIPS and representatives of the General Directorate of Mother and Child Health and Family Planning of the Ministry of Health, the State Planning Organization and the State Institute of Statistics participated in all phases of the project.

The persons involved in the various activities of the TDHS–2003 are listed in Appendix A.

### 1.11.3 Questionnaires

Two main types of questionnaires were used in the TDHS-2003: the Household Questionnaire and the Individual Questionnaire for ever-married women of reproductive ages. The contents of the questionnaires were based on the International MEASURE/DHS+ survey project model questionnaires and on the questionnaires that had been employed in previous Turkish population and health surveys. In developing the questionnaire, close attention was paid to obtaining the data needed for program planning in Turkey as specified during consultations with population and health agencies. Additionally input was obtained from other institutions studying on demographic and health issues. Ensuring the comparability of the TDHS–2003 findings with previous demographic surveys, particularly with TDHS–1993 and TDHS–1998, was an important goal during questionnaire development. A pretest of questionnaire was conducted in July 2003 and based on the pretest results, some minor modifications were made to the questionnaires.

The Household Questionnaire was used to enumerate all members of and visitors<sup>1</sup> to the selected households and to collect information relating to the socio-economic level of the households. In the first part of the household questionnaire, basic information was collected on the age, sex, educational attainment, marital status, working status and relationship to the head of household of each person listed as a household member or visitor. The objective of the first

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<sup>1</sup> Persons who were not usual household members but who were present in that household on the night before the interview were identified as “visitors” and included in the household roster in order to obtain *de facto* survey population.

part of the Household Questionnaire was to obtain basic socio-economic information for Turkish households as well as to identify women who were eligible for the Individual Questionnaire. Some additional information on never-married women in 15–49 ages listed in the household schedule was provided at the end of this part. The second part of the household questionnaire was devoted to collecting data on welfare of the elderly, if any, in the households. In this part, there are questions on the income, health insurance and physical capabilities (i.e. ability to carry on daily activities for all persons age 60 and over living in the household. In the third part, questions were included on the dwelling unit and on the ownership of a variety of consumer goods. Also in this part, İstanbul Metropolitan Household Module was included which covers questions about tenure, and the availability of electricity, piped-water, and natural gas in the households located in the urban places of İstanbul metropolitan area. In the final part of the Household Questionnaire questions were included about the storage of the salt used for cooking at home. Salt-related questions were asked in the half of the sampled clusters, and salt iodization tests were applied in the interviewed households in these clusters.

The Individual Questionnaire covered the following information:

- Background characteristics
- Reproductive history
- Marriage
- Knowledge and use of contraceptive methods
- Other information relating to contraception
- Abortions and causes
- Maternal health care and breastfeeding
- Immunization and acute respiratory infections
- Fertility preferences
- Husband's background characteristics
- Women's work and status
- Knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS
- Maternal and child anthropometry

The calendar module in the Individual Questionnaire was used to record on a monthly basis fertility, contraceptive use and marriage events for six and a half years beginning from January 1998 up to the survey month.

English versions of the two questionnaires can be seen in Appendix E.

#### **1.11.4 Sample**

The sample design and sample size of the TDHS-2003 makes it possible to perform analyses for Turkey as a whole, for urban and rural areas and for the five demographic regions of the country (West, South, Central, North and East). The TDHS-2003 sample is of sufficiently size to allow for analysis on some of the survey topics at the level of the 12 geographical

regions (NUTS 1) which were adopted at the second half of the year 2002 within the context of Turkey's move to join the European Union. Among these 12 regions, İstanbul and the Southeastern Anatolian Project regions (GAP in Turkish initials), due to their special situations were oversampled. Most results in this report are presented for five demographic regions as used in the previous surveys and for İstanbul and GAP region<sup>2</sup>. In addition for a number of indicators results are presented in detail for the 12 geographical regions, whenever the numbers of observations are sufficient (see Appendix B for detailed information).

In the selection of the TDHS-2003 sample, a weighted, multi-stage, stratified cluster sampling approach was used. The distribution of the target sample of the survey was based on the results of the 2000 General Population Census. Sample selection for the TDHS-2003 was undertaken in three stages. The sampling units at the first stage were settlements. The frame for the selection of primary sampling units was prepared using the results of the 2000 General Population Census. In the sampling frame, settlements were divided into two groups; one including those settlements with populations more than 10,000 as "urban", and the other, including settlements less than 10,000 as "rural". In the survey design, the selection of the settlements in each cluster was done with probability proportional to their population size. For the second stage of sample selection, structure schedule data that was collected in the year 2000 for settlements with a municipality and updated in 2002 by the State Institute of Statistics was used.

Using the updated household lists, a fixed number of households were selected in each cluster by systematic random sampling method (25 in clusters located in settlements over 10,000, 15 in those less than 10,000, and 12 in the İstanbul metropolitan clusters). All ever-married women at ages 15-49 who generally live in the selected households and/or were present in the household on the night before the interview were eligible for the Individual Questionnaire.

A more technical and detailed description of the TDHS-2003 sample design, selection and implementation is presented in Appendix B.

### **1.11.5 Fieldwork and Data Processing**

The TDHS-2003 data collection was carried out by 14 teams<sup>3</sup>. Each team was consisted of 3-5 female interviewers, one male measurer, one field editor and a team supervisor. The Institute's academic staff had visited teams in the field as regional coordinators during the survey.

A three-week training course was given to the field staff in November 2003. The main fieldwork began in the first week of December 2003 and completed in the middle of May 2004. The fieldwork was planned to take into consideration the seasonal conditions in Turkey.

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<sup>2</sup> İstanbul province and Southeast Anatolia (GAP) region constitute the two regions of NUTS 1 geographical regions.

<sup>3</sup> The fieldwork of the TDHS-2003 was started with 14 teams in December 2003. In order to finalize the fieldwork in the remaining provinces, 19 new teams were formed gradually among the teams that completed their work and returned.

Therefore, in the first months the fieldwork was concentrated in the provinces located in the West, the South and the Central Anatolia regions where winter conditions would have a minimum affect on the survey. The North and the Eastern Anatolia provinces were included to the fieldwork later as weather conditions improved. The fieldwork was finalized without any interruptions in the planned period.

The completed questionnaires in the field were returned to the Institute of Population Studies in Ankara for data processing. The office editing staff checked all questionnaires returned from the field. Those questions which had not been pre-coded and questions with open-ended answers were coded by the office team. After this, the data entry and editing were done using microcomputers and CPro (Census and Survey Processing System) software. During data entry process, full verification was reached by entering each questionnaire to the computers twice by different data editors. The office editing and data processing activities began in January 2004 (three weeks after the beginning of the fieldwork) and were completed at the end of May 2004.

The results of the household and individual questionnaires are summarized in Table 1.1. Information is provided on the overall coverage of the sample, including household and individual response rates. In all, 13,049 households were selected for the TDHS-2003. At the time of listing phase of the survey, 11,659 households were considered occupied and, thus, available for interview. Of the 11,659 occupied households, 93 percent (10,836 households) were successfully interviewed. The main reasons the field teams were unable to interview some households were because some dwelling units that had been listed were found to be vacant at the time of the interview or the household was away for an extended period.

Table 1.1 Results of the household and individual interviews			
Number of households, number of interviews, and response rates by urban-rural residence, Turkey 2003			
Result	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>Household interviews</b>			
Dwellings sampled	9,754	3,295	13,049
Households found	8,718	2,941	11,659
Households interviewed	7,956	2,880	10,836
<b>Household response rate</b>	91.3	97.9	92.9
<b>Individual interviews</b>			
Eligible women	6,259	2,188	8,447
Eligible women interviewed	5,976	2,099	8,075
<b>Eligible women response rate</b>	95.5	95.9	95.6

In the interviewed 10,836 households, 8,447 women were identified as eligible for the individual interview, i.e. they were ever-married, in reproductive ages (15-49) and present in the household on the night before the interview. Interviews were successfully completed with 8,075 of these women (95.6 percent). Among the eligible women not interviewed in the survey, the principal reason for non-response was the failure to find the women at home after repeated visits to the household.

A more complete description of the fieldwork, coverage of the sample, and data processing is presented in Appendix B.