

FOREWORD

Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies was established in 1967 and is the principal institution carrying out nationwide scientific studies on fertility, mortality, migration and maternal and child health issues in Turkey. Through a series of national household surveys conducted every five years, our Institute has collected highly reliable data nationwide on population characteristics and maternal and child health since 1968. These data have allowed the demographic situation in Turkey to be assessed regularly for about a four-decade period. They have been the basis on which population and health policies have been formed, service plans prepared, and the coverage and impact of these plans monitored.

The 2003 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS-2003) is the eighth national survey carried out by the Institute of Population Studies. It is a honor for our Institute to win the general approval and confidence of all people and institutions at national and international level with such a program of continuous high quality data production and successful application.

The seven Demographic and Health Surveys between 1968-1998 were financially supported by various international sources. However, for the first time, the TDHS-2003 was financed by the national budget of Republic of Turkey, and further support was provided by the European Union through the reproductive health programme. This is an indicator of institutionalization and the importance of this issue in our country.

Preparatory activities of the TDHS-2003 began in 2002. In the same year, a qualitative research study was conducted involving in-depth interviews with women on contraceptive use, its dynamics and induced abortion. The results of this research were presented in a meeting in April 2003, in which representatives of various organizations interested in these data participated. In the months that followed, activities relating to sampling and questionnaire design continued. Following the completion of the preparatory activities, listing and fieldwork took place between November 2003 and May 2004. The TDHS-2003 was conducted in 80 provinces and 700 places of residence which were selected in such fashion as to represent our country nationally and at the urban-rural and regional levels. Interviews were carried out with 8,075 ever-married women in 10,836 households. In June 2004, the preliminary report that included some key indicators calculated from the TDHS-2003 was published and disseminated to organizations concerned with population and maternal and child health issues.

The results presented in this report show that there have been important changes in various demographic and health indicators in a more positive direction than expected. The fertility data indicate that Turkey is achieving “replacement” fertility. The survey findings also document improvements in infant and child mortality and progress in mother and child health services.

The contributions of university directors, the directors and experts of the public institutions and personnel of our Institute were instrumental in the realization of various stages of the TDHS-2003. I would like to express my gratitude to them for their much appreciated efforts.

First of all, I would like to thank to Kemal Madenođlu, the General Director of the State Planning Organization, and his staff who provided the financial source for the TDHS-2003 through the national budget by putting the survey in the investment program of 2002 for the first time and who continued their supports unstintingly through the survey.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey and to Simon Mordue, the director of Financial Cooperation, Coordination and Investment, for additional financial source they provided when the financial resource from the national budget was not sufficient for the extended objectives and coverage of the survey. I would like to thank also Figen Tunçkanat for her efforts in designing and executing the project.

The Ministry of Health provided extensive support the TDHS-2003 in every stage as in the previous Demographic and Health Surveys conducted by our Institute. I deeply appreciate first Prof. Dr. Recep Akdađ, the Minister of Health, and especially Dr. Mehmet Rifat Köse, General Director of the Mother and Child Health and Family Planning and his deputy Dr. M. Ali Biliker for their productive, supportive, analytical and enriching contributions. Moreover, I would like to also acknowledge the efforts of other directors and personnel in the General Directorate as well as the health directors and other health personnel in the provinces where the survey was carried out.

I would like to thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ömer Demir, the President of the State Institute of Statistics, and Hasibe Dedeş, the director of the Survey, Analysis and Statistics Division, and other staff for their efforts and contributions in selecting the sample with scientific sensitivity.

I am grateful to Ministry of Interior that provided the necessary permissions for field survey as well as province governors who supported the implementation of the survey and other province directors for their contributions.

My special thanks go to Prof. Dr. Tunçalp Özgen, the Rector of Hacettepe University and authorities in the Scientific Research Unit of the University as they shared all the difficulties with us and gave valuable support in every stage of the TDHS-2003.

My thanks are also due to the Steering Committee Members for their valuable contributions. I deeply appreciate all respondents who accepted to be involved in the survey and answered the questionnaires and all the team staff worked in the field, without them we were unable to conduct this survey.

I would like to thank Han Raggars who ensured the data file which is a part of a structure that guarantees the TDHS-2003 be in the context of International Demographic and

Health Surveys, and to Dr. Ann A. Way, the deputy director of the MEASURE DHS Program at ORC Macro and her colleagues for their important efforts in finalization of this report. We also appreciate USAID's willingness to support the MEASURE team's involvement in the report preparation.

Finally, I extend my deepest gratitude to the technical director of the TDHS-2003 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Banu Ergöçmen, the field director Assoc. Prof. Dr. İsmet Koç, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Attila Hancıoğlu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Turgay Ünal and Dr. A. Sinan Türkyılmaz who are responsible for sampling, questionnaire design, data entry and data analysis, as well as research assistants and administrative staff for their efforts. Moreover, I present my appreciation and respect to all our family members for their support and indulgence during the laborious times in and out of work days.

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