Tanirbergen, 16:
“I can’t make an appointment with a urologist on my own, and I’m ashamed to speak about it with my mum. Although according to the law I can get married and have children”

Aminah, 20:
“I think that girls should be able to visit a gynecologist starting from 15 years of age because female health issues might occur way before a girl reaches 18”

Ramil, 14:
“I can’t go and see an andrologist without my father. Although, according to the law, I can have a job and make money”

For more information, please visit:
www.unfpa.org
https://kazakhstan.unfpa.org

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Empowering adolescents and youth in Kazakhstan
We work to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled

Through contributing at the global level towards achieving three transformative results together we realize the 2030 vision for Sustainable Development, to ensure that no one is left behind

End unmet need for family planning
End preventable maternal deaths
End harmful practices against women and girls including child marriage
WHAT WE DO

UNFPA began its support to Kazakhstan in 1992. Anchored in the collective UN Partnership Framework for Development, the Government of Kazakhstan and UNFPA are currently implementing their fourth Country Programme (2016-2020)

UNFPA supports Kazakhstan’s efforts to ensure reproductive rights of adolescents and young people, in particular, access of adolescents and young people to sexual and reproductive health care and relevant information and education.

WE WORK ON

☑ Enabling young people to make informed and healthy reproductive choices, to practice responsible and safe sexual behaviour.

☑ Preventing unintended adolescent pregnancies and abortions, sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission.

☑ Preventing harmful practices, including child marriages.

☑ Promoting equality of women and men, boys and girls.

KEY RESULTS

Youth Peer Education (Y-PEER) Network is active in 8 regions of Kazakhstan

Within Youth Peer Education (Y-PEER) Network more than 200 young peer trainers have been empowered to help their peers realize their potential through leadership and voluntarism, and to provide accurate information about healthy life skills including responsible and safe sexual behaviour.

College students aged 15-17 in many schools around the country improved their knowledge on safe sexual behaviour, reproductive health, family values and gender equality through an updated "Valeology" course.

Staff from 95 youth-friendly service centres are being trained to provide comprehensive high-quality and confidential medical, psychological and psycho-social services.

UNFPA’s budget impact analysis shows that over 1,565 million tenge can be saved over 5 years if free oral contraceptives are provided to sexually-active 15-19 year-old girls in Kazakhstan.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

Today’s generation of young people is massive. Some 1.8 billion people are aged between 10 and 24. In Kazakhstan people aged 15-24 comprise 15% of the overall population.

25 out of every 1,000 girls aged 15-19 give birth.

This is several times higher than in OECD countries.

A 2018 sexual behaviour survey in Kazakhstan among adolescents aged 15-19 shows that among girls who said that they were pregnant

- 16% delivered
- 22% had induced abortions
- 62% spontaneous miscarriages

91% of young people aged 15-19 don’t have accurate and full knowledge on HIV and AIDS.

Among those who reported having ever had symptoms of sexually transmitted infections only 37.4% turned for medical help. About 30% were sexually active and of those, 44.1% had had more than one sexual partner and 20% of them hadn’t used a condom during their last sexual intercourse.

Meanwhile, adolescents younger than 18 need parental consent to receive medical services in Kazakhstan.

To help improve this situation we should:

- Decrease the age of voluntary consent to receive medical services from 18 to 15.
- Advocating for guaranteed funding for youth health centres at the primary healthcare level.
- Ensure confidential comprehensive health services for adolescents and young people.
- Support and develop Y-PEER movement, online consultations and hotlines.
- Support inclusion of age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education in school’s formal curricula and train teachers to deliver the course.