

Summary

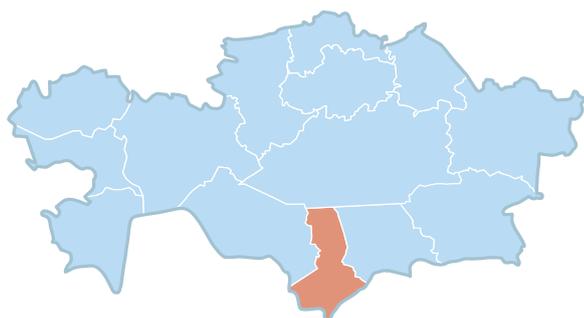
Population Situation Analysis in the Turkestan region of Kazakhstan, 2018

Introduction

UNFPA in Kazakhstan views support to national efforts in exploring interlinkages between population and development as one of the important priorities of its activities in Kazakhstan. Added emphasis is placed on supporting the integration of demographic data into socio-economic planning and monitoring of development programmes.

Analytical work “Population Situation Analysis” is an important element of this programme. Implementing this work jointly with international consultants will enable us to do a deep analysis of existing socio-demographic information and use the results obtained for comprehensive assessment of population structure and dynamics, tendencies and prospects of replacement of the population, as well as the links between demographic processes with regional development in economic and social areas. This work had never been done on the regional level. The South Kazakhstan region was selected as an object for the analysis as the largest in the Republic of Kazakhstan in terms of its population size.

Administrative and territorial changes and the resultant removal of the city of Shymkent from the South Kazakhstan region and the creation of the new Turkestan region with a regional centre in the city of Turkestan (June 2018) has put forward



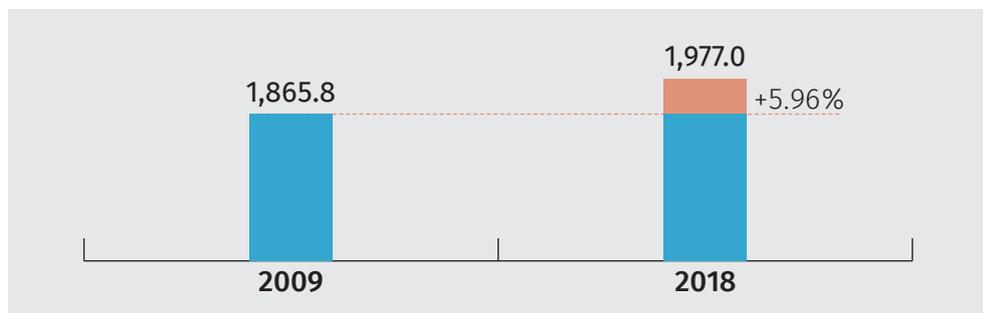
new and complex challenges in providing information support to the “Population Situation Analysis”. Due to these changes a decision was made to focus the population situation analysis on the new Turkestan region, excluding the city of Shymkent.

Methodology

The report is based on official statistical data available on the website of the Statistics Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Statistics Department of the Turkestan region. When full data was lacking for information analysis, existing data was used to assess the size of certain indices. In all of these cases the report contains indication of the fact that the data was obtained through an estimative method and gives a description of how it was done.

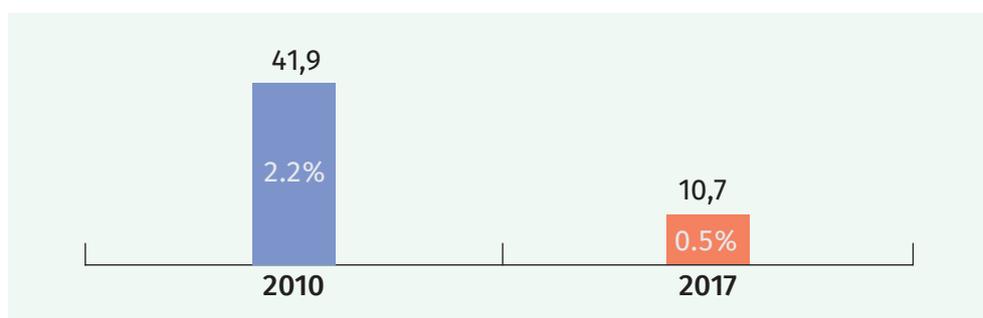
Key findings

By the beginning of 2018 population of the Turkestan region stood at 1,977.0 thousand people, having grown by 111,2 thousand people (5.96%) since the 2009 census.



In 2014 the Turkestan region's population considerably declined (by 120,6 thousand people) as a result of administrative and territorial transformations which had led to the decrease of the population in three rayons: Ordabasy, Tolebi and, especially, Sayram.

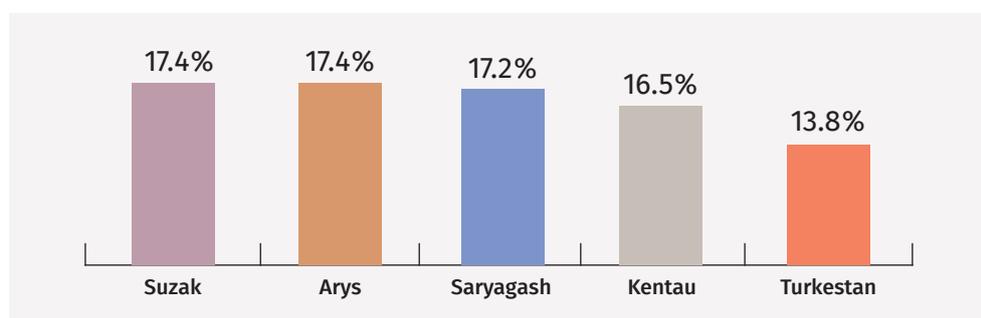
Over the post-census period (since 2009) population growth of the Turkestan region had been falling every year in both absolute and relative expression. In 2010 population growth stood at 41,9 thousand people (2.2%), while in 2017 it stood at 10,7 (0.5%).



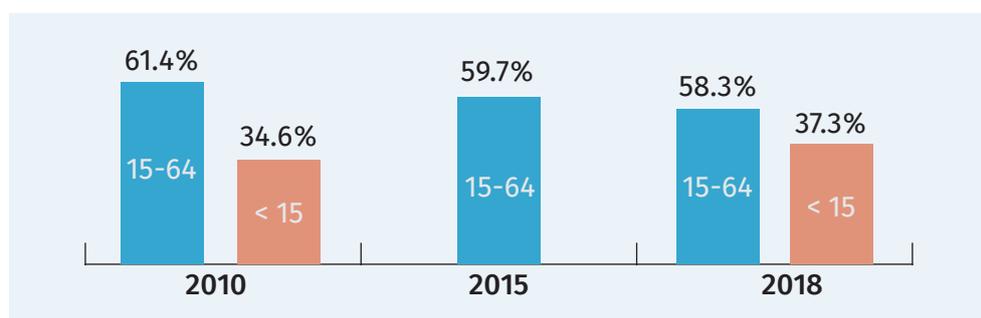
Turkestan region's population is largely rural. At the beginning of 2018 the population of rural residents stood at 80.3% and urban residents – 19.7%. The proportion of rural population in the Turkestan region is the highest among all the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan and, so far, has shown an uptrend.



The highest relative increase of population between 2010 and 2017 took place in the Suzak (17.4%) and Saryagash (17.2%) rayons, in the towns of Arys (17.4%) and Kentau (16.5%). In the city of Turkestan – the region’s centre – relative population growth over this period stood at 13.8%.



The proportion of the population aged 15-64 in the Turkestan region has been constantly declining over the past several years. In early 2010 the proportion comprised 61.4%, falling below 59.7% by early 2015, and down to 58.3% in 2018. Meanwhile, the proportion of the population aged under 15 has grown in all towns and rayons of the Turkestan region, having gone up from 34.6% in 2010 to 37.3% by the beginning of 2018. This is the highest value of this index among the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is one of the lowest in the Turkestan region.



Turkestan region has the largest demographic burden in Kazakhstan (the ratio of working-age population to below and above working-age population) among the regions of Kazakhstan. In early 2018 the demographic burden stood at 717 people aged 0-14 and 65 and over per 1,000 people aged 15-64.

Crude birthrate in the Turkestan region in 2017 (27,01 per 1,000 population) is considerably higher than in the country (21,64 per 1,000 population) and is one of the highest among the regions and cities of Kazakhstan.

While Turkestan region has a high proportion of women having fourth, fifth and subsequent children, the region has the lowest indicators of availability of obstetricians and gynaecologists in the country.

Adolescent birth rate (among girls aged 15-19) in the Turkestan region stands at 30,02 per 1,000 girls of this age group and is one of the highest in the country.

In the Turkestan region 21% of women aged 18-75 years who have ever had a partner, i.e. every fifth woman has experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner, which is higher than the average for Kazakhstan (17%).



Over the past ten years there has been an increasing outflow of population from the region. The balance of migration tripled from 2009 to 2017. This growth was due to an accelerated outflow of the population (170 thousand people since 2009). A large proportion of the migrants are young people.

Way forward/recommendations

- Raise the qualifications of population dynamics managers at regional and rayon levels.
- Work out a 2020-2030 regional demographic development programme (with support from UNFPA in Kazakhstan).
- Support birthrate that can provide natural population growth through economic support for families with children and improving conditions to combine work and parenting responsibilities (paid leave, favourable working conditions, developed pre-school facilities)
- Strengthen the institution of family and advocate for family values and support for young families
- Support strengthening of reproductive health, with a particular focus on adolescents and young people
- Facilitate reducing the rate of mortality from cardiovascular diseases, diseases of the digestive system, respiratory and infection diseases, maternal and infant mortality, reducing the rate of socially significant diseases, creating conditions and incentives for leading a healthy lifestyle;
- Make the Turkestan region more attractive for migration for people that can raise economic growth and further socio-demographic development of the region
- Help reduce the outflow of young people from the region.

