Country: Türkiye

Committee: UNFPA

Topic: Global Health Strategies to Reduce Child Mortality

Turkey, with a population of 85,372,377, is located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, celebrated for its rich history and natural beauty. The nation places a strong emphasis on education, offering a system divided into three levels with 12 years of compulsory schooling. As an active member of the global community, Turkey is committed to addressing critical challenges such as child mortality and ensuring the well-being of children worldwide through collaborative efforts and innovative solutions.

The United Nations Child Mortality Estimates 2021 report highlights how far the world is from ending child mortality to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the report, more than 50 countries will fail to meet their under-5 mortality targets by 2030. In addition, urgent measures are needed for more than 60 countries to meet the newborn mortality targets. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to prevent birth-related and infant mortality. By 2030, all countries aim to reduce the newborn mortality rate to 12 per 1000 live births and the under-5 mortality rate to 25 per 1000 live births.5 million children under five die each year, most of them from preventable causes. These include infections, problems during childbirth, cancers and malnutrition. Infections include malaria and measles, birth defects include birth asphyxia (respiratory failure), and cancers include blood cancer and lymphoma. Some of these diseases are: malaria, measles, lymph gland cancer, blood cancer, birth asphyxia, thrush.

Vaccinations: Vaccination is the most effective preventive treatment, and while there is no vaccine for malaria, it is a very effective prevention for diseases such as measles. The measles vaccine provides 93% protection after the first dose, and this rate increases to 97% with the second dose. This is why vaccination is so important. Prevention of Malaria: A universal vaccine for malaria has not yet been developed, but one of the most effective ways to prevent malaria infection is to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Oils such as lavender have a repellent effect on mosquitoes and should be kept in every home. Prevention of Birth Asphyxia: Babies who experience oxygen deficiency during birth can be intervened with methods such as cooling the brain tissues. This treatment method helps to prevent brain damage. Mouth Fungus (Thrush): Paying attention to babies' oral hygiene, changing pacifiers and bottles regularly, avoiding unnecessary antibiotic use can help prevent this disease. Cancer Treatment: Chemotherapy, biological therapies and, when necessary, radiotherapy are used to treat blood cancer (leukaemia) and lymphoma. These treatments are aimed at stopping the spread of the diseases.

Turkey is committed to cooperating with the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other international organizations to defend the right of every child to grow up healthy. Together, we must work to ensure that every child survives and grows up healthy.