

UNFPA facilitates the launch of Causes of Death 2008&2009 and Death Registration in Kosovo

Despite some progress, the system of collection and processing of vital demographic information in Kosovo lags behind standards of other European countries.

On **Friday 22nd of July 2011** two demographic studies were officially launched – the **“Causes of death in Kosovo 2008&2009”** and the **“Death Registration in Kosovo”**.

These two researches were carried out by the Prism Research Office and, respectively, by the Statistical Office of Kosovo - Department for Population Statistics in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo. Both studies were funded by UNFPA.

The research of **“Death Registration in Kosovo”** is the first one of its kind ever done in Kosovo. It focuses on understanding the awareness, attitudes, and practices of population towards death registration, and functioning of death registration system in urban and rural parts of Kosovo. According to the research, only 60.6 % death cases are properly registered by the Death Registry of the Civil State Registry Office. The main three reasons stated by respondents in the survey for non-registration are not knowing the procedure (19%), not having an idea whether it is needed (17%), and a high cost involved (14.5%).

The research on the **“Causes of death in Kosovo 2008&2009”** follows a similar study for 2006&2007. The findings of this study reveal that: out of the total number of reported deaths in 2009, 19.35 % of death cases were non-codified (cause of death not specified); the ranking of the main causes of total diagnosed deaths in Kosovo is : 1) Diseases of the circulatory system 49.31%, 2) *Unknown causes of death* 25.82% (symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified) 3) Neoplasms/cancer 10.14%.

Based on these relevant findings, UNFPA wants to facilitate a dialogue with governmental and non-governmental partners, international organizations, and civil society in order to undertake concrete actions leading towards the improvement of current situation. Availability of findings of such studies is a crucial starting point for designing evidence-based health policies and for undertaking holistic measures in order to improve health care and civil registry system in Kosovo.