Vital Statistics in Georgia: experience and way forward

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THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF POPULATION CENSUS AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

- Plan, organize and implement the Population Census;
- The department is responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic statistical data;
- Plan, organize and implement the Demographic surveys.
## The main products and dissemination date

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Births and Deaths:

**SOURCES:**
- Public Service Development Agency (PSDA), Ministry of Justice;
- National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)

**Current registration system:**
- Starting from 2011, medical certificates are filled electronically and automatically sent to the PSDA.

**Methodology:**
- Concepts, definitions and classifications used in producing demographic statistics are adopted by the statistical board of the NSO;
- The methodology follows the international (UN and WHO) recommendations.
Causes of death statistics in Georgia:

- Medical institution is responsible for filling online medical certificate on death, including causes of death and send it to NCDC and PSDA.
- For death registration tasks PSDA receives information without cause of death.
- If death occurs **outside of Medical Institution**, the representative of local administration makes statement on death (which is not a medical certificate) based on the information provided by the family members (and/or other witnesses).

Geostat is using dual coding (**IRIS** and **manually**) system for coding of causes of death.

**ANACOD** program used to check the quality of data.
MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES:

**SOURCES**: Public Service Development Agency (PSDA), Ministry of Justice

**Current registration system**:

- Marriages; Divorces
- Territorial Offices of PSDA; Consulate.
- PSA
- Geostat

**Methodology**:

- Concepts, definitions and classifications used in producing demographic statistics are adopted by the statistical board of the NSO;
- The methodology follows the international (UN) recommendations.
COVID-19 in Georgia
General Information

- On February 26, 2020, the first case of coronavirus was registered in Georgia.

As of 15.06.2020

- 879 confirmed cases of coronavirus infection in Georgia, of which 704 people have already recovered;
- 3 Georgian citizens have been transferred to Georgia for treatment from abroad;
- 14 people died.
Within the framework of fight against pandemic, a number of measures have been taken, including:

I Stage - (before the confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 in Georgia):

➢ Mandatory isolation rules have been imposed on returnees from China and other high-risk countries;
➢ Thermo-screening has started at the airports and all border crossings areas;
➢ Flights from/to China have been suspended;
➢ Gradual return of Georgian citizens from different countries (the first special operation was carried out from China);
➢ Traffic with Iran is suspended following an analysis of an epidemiological situation.

II Stage

➢ The educational process has been suspended in educational institutions;
➢ All activities in cultural institutions were suspended and all planned events were canceled;
➢ Some of the employees of the state agencies have switched to remote work mode and it was recommended for the private sector as well;
➢ Step by step border was closed for the neighboring countries and almost all flights have been suspended.

III Stage

➢ A state of emergency was declared in the country on March 21 till May 22
There were no delays in the public service delivery!

- Geostat is publishing all data on time without any delay.
- The COVID-19 did not have much impact on the registration of vital events as far as the majority of registrations (including birth and death) were available online over years;
- as for those that were not available electronically, they also became available online in the shortest period of time;
- PSDA made almost all services (especially the most demanded ones) available electronically for any customer with minor exceptions;
- Customers can receive an electronic copy of the requested document (a birth and death certificate) through the website with protection of privacy and confidentiality. The electronic copy has the same legal force as the original (hard copy) document;
- During the emergency situation, all ready (hard copy) documents (including birth and death certificates) are delivered to a customer via post offices with protection of privacy and confidentiality;
- PSDA also ensures outreach of the population on its services and their availability on daily basis.
Future Steps

Strategy for Development of Statistics (2020-2023)

- Improve the quality of the causes of death indicators;
- Conduct next population census;
- Creation of the base for population projection introduction;
- Creation of the base for population register introduction.
Thank you for your attention!

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