



# PROMISE



**PROMISE**

**Online Demographic Research Database**

[www.hpcpromise.org.jo](http://www.hpcpromise.org.jo)

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## Foreword

The Higher Population Council (HPC) is pleased to present to you the third biannual newsletter of its Online Demographic Research Database, “PROMISE” as part of its efforts to make demographic and reproductive health information available for stakeholders.

Created by HPC in 2010, PROMISE aims at providing a comprehensive database on studies and research in Arabic and English in the fields of population, development and reproductive health/family planning which experts, researchers, decision-makers, policy-makers, and service providers can benefit from and rely on for scientific evidence, facts and latest updates at the local, Arab, and international levels.

Studies and research posted on the online database may be emailed from the database to readers upon request. Moreover, HPC regularly updates the database. The number of studies uploaded in the first half of 2016 reached 20 national studies and research reports in various fields covered by the database. As part of efforts to upgrade the online demographic database, HPC signed an agreement with Share-net International Knowledge Platform for SRHR to implement the “Share-net” Project and create a platform to support research on reproductive health and more qualitative studies on reproductive health in Jordan in partnership with stakeholders from various sectors. Share-Net is an organization established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands to serve as an knowledge platform that combines the expertise of Dutch

organizations, Southern partners and key international actors working in the area of reproductive health in order to strengthen the role knowledge can play in developing evidence-based policies and practices and ensuring that resources are used strategically and to maximum effect on the local and international levels. It is worth mentioning that Share-Net has offered two grants to fund activities, studies and research in 2016 on topics related to reproductive health in Jordan. The topics to be covered in research and capacity building activities applying for the grant, as well as application requirements were specified.

The signed agreement with Share-Net International aims at facilitating the creation and dissemination of knowledge in the field of reproductive health and rights by way of online participation and non-electronic communications. It also seeks to build the capacity of key partners in identifying knowledge gaps in the area of reproductive health and rights.

The HPC Secretary General participated in the first Share-Net meeting which was held in the Netherlands on February 23-27, 2016 to introduce countries participating in the knowledge platform. The meeting called for the need to link sexual and reproductive health and rights to the sustainable development agenda and goals with special emphasis on the third, fourth and fifth goals in particular.

A steering committee headed by the Higher Population Council was formed for the

Share-Net Project. The committee consists of representatives of governmental and international agencies concerned with health services, universities, research centers, the Parliament and the Jordanian National Commission for Women. The first meeting of the committee was held on May 24, 2016 to discuss the functions of the members, and review the objectives and work plan of the project during the next period. The HPC also serves as rapporteur of the committee.

The following tasks have been assigned to the committee:

- Offer advice to HPC on the implementation of Share-Net project activities in Jordan.
- Offer advice on priority research and policies in the field of reproductive health.
- Offer advice on proposed capacity building programs within the scope of the project.
- Offer advice on how to implement recommendations of the project's studies and research analyses.
- Provide technical support by reviewing the research, reports, and studies conducted within the scope of the project.
- Review the performance of the project and offer advice at various levels.

### **Studies and research produced by HPC in the first half of 2016:**

**Reproductive Health Services for Syrians Living Outside the Camps in Jordan:** With financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the HPC conducted a qualitative and quantitative study on reproductive health services offered to Syrians residing outside the camps in Jordan. The study provides a diagnostic analysis of the current situation, and identifies obstacles

facing access of Syrians outside camps in Jordan to reproductive health services in order to come up with recommendations for improving these services.

The study identifies governmental, non-governmental, local and international agencies that provide reproductive health services to Syrians outside camps across all governorates by type, objectives, nature of offered reproductive health services, as well as challenges and gaps faced by these agencies, if any. In addition, the study measures satisfaction rates among Syrians outside camps with reproductive health services offered to them in terms of service delivery locations, providers, and quality of service, and identifies the difficulties and challenges that limit access of Syrians outside camps to reproductive health centers from the point of view of those who do not use the services of these centers.



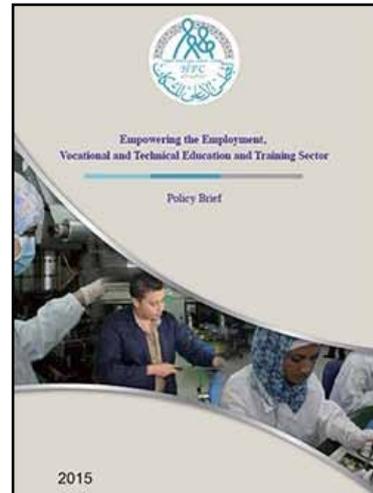
**Policy Brief on Reproductive Health Services for Syrians Living Outside the Camps in Jordan:** Based on the findings of the study on Reproductive Health Services for Syrians Living Outside the Camps in Jordan and relevant studies in the field, HPC, with the support of the UNFPA, and in collaboration with the



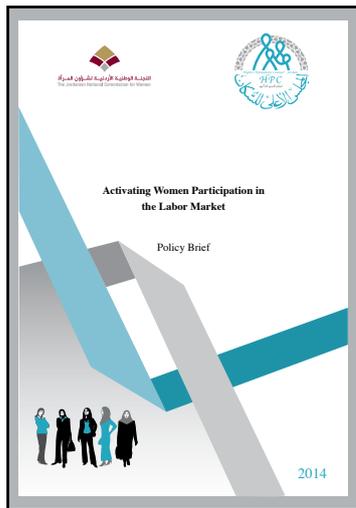
Ministry of Health, Jordan Health Aid Society and the Institute of Family Health, developed a policy brief that provides a diagnostic analysis of the current situation, highlights obstacles and challenges, and proposes a number of policies. The policies call for: developing a comprehensive plan for raising the awareness of Syrians about reproductive health, family planning and early marriage issues; developing a national plan to ensure the sustainability of reproductive health services after the end of funded projects; improving reproductive health services offered to Syrians outside camps in Jordan; develop a coordination and networking plan for all agencies involved in providing reproductive health services to Syrians outside camps in Jordan to be supervised by HPC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in order to enhance access to and improve the quality of services offered.

**Policy Brief on Empowering the Employment, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector (English edition) 2015:** During the first half of 2016, the Policy Brief on Empowering the Employment, Vocational and Technical Education and Training Sector was translated into English with financial support from UNFPA. Prepared by the HPC in 2015,

the Policy Brief provides a diagnostic analysis of the current situation and challenges facing the E-TVET sector, and suggests policies to help policy-makers and decision-makers in the sector to address these challenges.



**Policy Brief on Activating Women's Participation in the Labor Market (English Edition) 2014:** During the first half of 2016, the Policy Brief on Activating Women's Participation in the Labor Market was translated into English. Prepared by HPC in collaboration with concerned government institutions and CSOs in 2014, the study looks into the factors related to the low participation levels of Jordanian women in the labor market based on data from the Social Security Corporation. The Brief offers three policy options for overcoming the challenges facing women's participation in the labor market. One of these policy options called for further promoting flexible work arrangements (e.g., part-time work, work from home, flexible working hours) as a means to tackle most of the obstacles standing in the way of women's participation in the labor market. This policy option was adopted and the prime minister has formed a national committee consisting of representatives of all concerned entities from



the public, private and civil society sectors and headed by the Minister of Labor to develop mechanisms and procedures for flexible work arrangements to be adopted in the Kingdom, and to develop an implementation strategy.

**Report on The Impact of Population Growth on Some Development Sectors in the Capital Governorate 2015 (Arabic and English):** As part of the collaboration between the HPC and USAID-funded J-CAP (Tawasol Project) to develop reports on the impact of population growth on some development sectors at the governorate level. The results of the abovementioned study were announced in the governorate of Amman in the presence of representatives of all concerned sectors in March 2016. The report sheds light on the widening gap between population and resources in the coming years (2012-2050), and calls for strengthening cooperation among government, private and social entities to reduce population growth rates, and thereby narrowing the gap between the resources and infrastructure of the education, health, water, environment, energy, transport and labor sectors. The study also recommends strengthening the role of the governorate's consultative and executive

councils in population and development-related programs and projects, enhancing the role of universities at the governorate in raising students' awareness about the impact of population growth on the governorate's development, the need to maintain and promote healthy lifestyle choices among youth, and enhance the participation of the private sector and NGOs in addressing population-related issues at governorate level.

**Fact sheet on Maternity Leave under the Labor Law and Civil Service By-law:** HPC prepared a fact sheet on unifying the duration of maternity leave under the Labor Law and the Civil Service By-law.

### Studies and Research Underway

**Report on Population Projections at the National and Governorate Levels, 2016:** With the support of UNFPA and J-CAP, HPC is joining forces with the Department of Statistics to update the report on Jordanian population projections at the national and governorate levels based on the results of the 2015 Population and Housing Census which were announced in February 2016. The methodology for updating the report will be determined by the technical committee at the Department of Statistics. The updated report aims at identifying the sizes of Jordanian and non-Jordanian populations for planning purposes in the social, economic and health sectors, and projecting the future size and trends of the workforce so as to assist policy-makers, and program directors in planning and setting development priorities at the national and governorate levels.

**The Demographic Opportunity in Jordan, A Policy Document, 2016 (Third Edition):** HPC, with the support of UNFPA, is updating the Demographic Opportunity Policy Document in light of current developments such as the waves of forced migrations into Jordan, the most recent being from Syria, and the results of the General Population and Housing Census carried out in November 2015, based on which existing policies will need to be reviewed and new policies will need to be developed to help achieve and seize the demographic window of opportunity.

**National Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2016-2018) for Policies on achieving the Demographic Opportunity:** HPC, with the support of UNFPA, is currently updating the National Plan for Monitoring and Evaluating Policies on Achieving the Demographic Opportunity (2016-2018) based on the updated Demographic Opportunity Policy Document (2016).

**Report on the Impact of Population Growth on Some Development Sectors at Governorate Level (Mafraq, the Capital, Madaba, Tafilah, Aqaba):** HPC and the J-CAP (Tawasol project), in partnership with stakeholders, are collaborating to produce reports on the impact of population growth on certain development sectors in the governorates of (Mafraq, Amman, Madaba, Tafilah, Aqaba) based on data from the 2015 General Population and Housing Census to shed light on the impact of the widening gap between population and resources in the coming years (2015-2050) on the infrastructure of education, health, water, environment and other sectors.

**Study on Early Marriage in Jordan, 2016:** Funded by the Danish Center for Gender, Equality and Ethnicity (KVINFO), the HPC is conducting a study on early marriage in Jordan. The study relies on a desk review of research and official reports to determine the prevalence of early marriage among those under the age of 18 at the national and governorate levels.

**Study and Policy Brief on Integrating the concepts of Employment, Vocational Work and Innovation in School Textbooks:** HPC, in cooperation with ESCWA, is conducting a study that aims at reinforcing the values of work, vocational work, entrepreneurship, and innovation among students of formal education to help invest in the demographic transition in the Jordanian society to spur economic growth and welfare. In light on the findings of the study, a policy brief will be developed highlighting the following:

- A current situation analysis to determine to which extent the concepts of employment, vocational work, entrepreneurship and innovation are integrated in Civic Education and Vocational Education school textbooks for grades 4 to 10, the Financial Education textbooks for grades 7 and 8, and the educational outcomes of grades 9, 10 and 11.
- The main characteristics of vocational education and innovation in advanced countries.
- Rationale and suggested changes to textbooks covered by the review.
- Implications of change on the objectives of school curricula and the education policy.

**The 2016 Revised National Reproductive Health/ Family Planning Strategy for (2013-2017):** The strategy is a national policy document that builds on national gains, accomplishments, and lessons learned across all the sectors that provide family planning services and information in Jordan. HPC has joined forces with JCAP (Tawasol Project) to carry out a mid-term review of the strategy in the second half of 2015. As part of the review, several workshops were held to do an in-depth analysis of the current state of reproductive health/ family planning in Jordan by looking at the external and internal factors affecting policies, services and programs for reproductive health/family planning in the Kingdom (SWOT analysis), and by conducting a stakeholder analysis. The review also aimed to update the general framework of the strategy based on its outputs and formulate partners' interventions in accordance with the updated framework.

### **Research Capacity Building**

- Training workshop on gender statistics: In line with its mandate and strategic objectives of making demographic information and indicators available to assist decision-makers in planning processes, and building partners' capacity in this field, HPC, in collaboration with J-CAP (Tawasol Project) and the US Census Bureau, held a workshop on gender-related KPIs on March 15-17, 2016. The purpose of the workshop was to enable participants to identify, produce and

disseminate data that reflects the current situation of gender and gender equality, as well as develop and efficiently use gender-related key performance indicators in all sectors, including education, labour, health, political life, etc.

- During the first half of 2016, HPC participated in several training workshops organized by the USAID-funded Jordan Gender Program (Takamol) that aimed at building the capacity of the research consortium members. The workshops covered the following topics:
  - Qualitative research methods (for intermediate level), on May 9-10 2016.
  - Data analysis and reporting, on May 30-31, 2016.

### **The Higher Population Council participates in local and international conferences and presents working papers:**

- On March 12, 2016, HPC participated in a conference on human resources and presented a working paper on "Investing in the Demographic Opportunity through Human Resource Development in Jordan".
- On May 9, 2016, HPC presented a working paper addressing "Current Issues in Women's Health" at the 4th Scientific Day organized by the Princess Salma Faculty of Nursing / Al Albait University on Nursing Case Issues - Present and Future.

## Latest international and local reports on population and development:

### Key Results of the 2015 General Population and Housing Census



The Department of Statistics conducted a General Census of Population and Housing during the period of November 3 to December 3, 2015- the sixth census in the Kingdom since 1952- and issued a report on the key results of the census, which included:

- The total population of the Kingdom reached 9,531,712 as of last November 30. The number of Jordanians reached 6,613,587, making up 69.4 %, i.e., two thirds of the total population.
- The Kingdom's population has witnessed more than a ten-fold increase in the last 55 years. The biggest increase took place during the last decade, and particularly since 2011. The population of Amman stands at 4 million, comprising 42.4% of the total population of the Kingdom. According to

the census, the most populous governorates are the Capital Amman, Irbid and Zarqa.

- Population growth during the period of 2004-2015 reached an average of 5.3% annually as a result of migrations, including forced migration and asylum to Jordan. Average annual population growth among Jordanians reached 3.1% against 18% among non-Jordanians.
- Non-Jordanians constitute 30% of the total population at 2.918 million inhabitants, nearly half of which are Syrians (1.3 million). 34% (436 thousand) of the non-Jordanian population is concentrated in the Capital, followed by the governorates of Irbid (343 thousand), Mafraq (208 thousand), and Zarqa (175 thousand). The total number of Egyptians reached 636 thousand, concentrated mainly in the capital at (390 thousand).
- The average household size reached 4.8 persons. In view of previous censuses, the average household size has decreased gradually in the last four decades.
- The population in the capital has more than doubled since 2004, reaching more than 4 million in 2015. The capital's share of the population increased by 4 percentage points (from 38% in 2004 to 42% in 2015) as it is considered the most attractive to Jordanians as well as non-Jordanians coming from outside. Similarly, the share of population for other governorates hosting non-Jordanians, especially Syrian refugees, increased by 0.4%, for example, in Irbid, and by 1% in Mafraq, compared

to other governorates that do not host or attract large numbers of non-Jordanians.

- The age-sex structures of the population reveal an increase in the number of males compared to females in the population pyramid, especially among those older than 20 years of age due to voluntary migration, as the majority of people who choose to move are working age males. On the other hand, the percentages of males and females under 20 years of age are almost equal since the majority of forced migrants consist of families that include children, women and other age groups. As expected, the population pyramid for Jordanians appears to be affected by a natural growth of the population. The portion of children under 5 years of age has decreased due to lower fertility rates.
- As for functional difficulties, results show that the percentage of those suffering from severe or absolute difficulties (inability to perform a function) reached around 2.7% of total population aged 5 and above. The governorates of Irbid, Mafrq and Ajloun registered the highest rates of severe or absolute difficulties at over 3%. However, the rates were lower in the governorates of Madaba, Ma'an, Aqaba, Amman and Karak. On the other hand, the percentage of those suffering from any degree of functional difficulty (mild to total) stood at 11% of total population aged 5 and above, which is consistent with the results of the Department of Statistics' functional difficulties survey which showed that the percentage stands at 13%. The majority of difficulties are related to vision at 5.6%, followed by difficulties related to movement,

hearing, and memory. Compared to other difficulties, communication difficulties are the least prevalent at less than 2% of total population aged 5 and above.

- Results indicate that 55% of the Kingdom's population is covered by health insurance. The percentage of Jordanians covered by health insurance is 68%, but such percentage varies from one governorate to another, reaching a nearly full coverage in Ajloun (at 95%), followed by Tafilah, Karak, Jarash, Ma'an and Mafrq. The high percentage is attributed to the fact that the majority of the working population in these governorates is employed by the public sector and the Jordanian Armed Forces and is, therefore, covered by the Royal Medical Service or the Ministry of Health. On the other hand, only around half of the Jordanian population in Amman is covered by health insurance, followed by Zarqa at a rate of 57%.
- The economic participation rate for males and females varies, standing at 71% for economically active males, against only 21% for females.

