

Share-Net Jordan

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health
and Reproductive Rights



27th edition

Share-Net Jordan Newsletter

1st Quarter

2023

Quarterly Newsletter



■ Introduction :

Share-Net Jordan is pleased to present issue No. 27 of its periodic newsletter for the first quarter of 2023. This issue comes with in the framework of Share-Net Jordan's keenness to keep researchers, decision-makers, policy setters, program developers, and research entities informed about the most recent updates with regard to local and global developments in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

One of the key achievements during the first quarter was completing the preparation of the annual plan for Share-Net Jordan for the year 2023, and the preparation of the annual report (technical and financial) on the achievements of Share-Net Jordan for the year 2022. Also among the achievements was the launch of a media competition on the components and issues of reproductive and sexual health. In addition, accomplishments also included a visit to Egypt paid by Secretary General of the Higher Population Council / Chairman of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan and Director of the Studies and Policies Unit / Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan for the purpose of expanding the scope of work of Share-Net Jordan at the regional level through discussions with the operating and concerned parties in issues related to sexual and reproductive health.

Moreover, achievements included carrying out activities of the fourth phase of the 'training of trainers course' in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRHR); the implementation of a pilot training program on the Comprehensive SRHR specialized manual and lastly, establishing a small committee constituting of partners in the national strategy special for the targeted indicators of the national strategy for SRH (2020-2030).

Furthermore, Share-Net Jordan hosted the second meeting, held online, of the International Committee of Youth and Adolescent Practitioners in Sexual and Reproductive Health. Using the participatory approach, Share-Net Jordan team participated in the fourth educational session within the Share-Net International Rapid Improvement Model (SHIRIM), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan participated in several meetings with Share-Net International via 'Zoom', including the first meeting on January 11th, 2023 to give an update on the progress of the work on the financial and technical report of the year 2022, and the second meeting with Share-Net International coordinators on January 23rd, 2023. It is worth mentioning here that Share-Net Jordan



coordinator delivers Share-Net Jordan's monthly achievements through his participation in the monthly meeting of the National Team for SRH at the United Nations Population Fund.

This is in addition to maintaining the research base on the Knowledge Platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health website during the first quarter by downloading recent studies in Arabic and English, and registering new members on the platform, bringing the total number of Share-Net Jordan members to (262) members, including (235) individual memberships and (27) institutional memberships.

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■ First: Sexual and Reproductive Health:

• Studies, policy briefs , papers and reports:

01

Preparing the annual plan for Share-Net Jordan for the year 2023

02

Preparing the annual (technical and financial) report on Share-Net Jordan achievements of the year 2022

- Preparing the annual plan for Share-Net Jordan for the year 2023 :

Preparation of the annual plan for Share-Net Jordan for the year 2023 was completed through adopting a participatory approach with the partners, members of Share-Net Jordan, and the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan. The plan involved several activities in SRH, including the implementation of studies and the preparation of policy briefs, fact sheets, and media competitions.

- Preparing the annual (technical and financial) report on Share-Net Jordan achievements of the year 2022 :

The preparation of the financial and technical report for the year 2022 was completed, as Share-Net Jordan executed all its activities of the annual plan for the year 2022 with an expenditure rate of approximately (100%). A meeting via Zoom was held on March 16th, 2023 with Share-Net International to discuss the report.



• **Events and activities that have been implemented and participated in :**

01

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan jointly launched the media competition on the components and issues of reproductive and sexual health

02

Visit to Egypt by HPC Secretary-General / Chairman of the Steering Committee, and Director of the Studies and Policies Unit/ Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan on February 22nd and 23rd, 2023 to discuss SRH issues with the operating and concerned authorities

03

The Higher Population Council held sessions of the fourth phase of the 'training of trainers course' in SRHR

04

The Higher Population Council conducted a five day pilot training program on the Specialized Guide to Sexual and Reproductive Health (Comprehensive SRHR)

05

The Higher Population Council formed a committee of the targeted indicators for National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030) consisting of national bodies partners in the strategy

06

A meeting was held between the Higher Population Council and the Health Care Accreditation Council

07

Share-Net Jordan hosted the second meeting of the International Committee of Youth and Adolescent Practitioners in SRH, held online on Jan. 24th, 2023

08

Outputs of the project improvement program model using the participatory approach (SHIRIM)

09

Participation of the Share-Net Jordan team in the fourth educational session within the projects improvement program model using the participatory approach (SHIRIM) held in Addis Ababa / Ethiopia

- The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan jointly launched the media competition on the components and issues of reproductive and sexual health, on topics such as eligibility and preparation for marriage, family planning, safe motherhood, HIV / AIDS, menopause, adolescence (teenage), gender based violence and domestic violence.

The competition targets media professionals in printed, electronic and visual media. The competition was also open and made available to students of media faculties in Jordanian universities. The competition aims to raise the level of public awareness of the components and issues of SRH, by focusing on addressing these issues in printed, electronic and visual media, and addressing SRH in the media with more depth and impact. This competition also came in response to the need of the media community to a specialization in development media, in particular 'Demographic Media'.

- Visit to Egypt by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh / HPC Secretary-General / Chairman of the Steering Committee, and Ali Almetleq / Director of the Studies and Policies Unit / Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan on February 22nd and 23rd, 2023 to discuss SRH issues with the operating and concerned authorities. The visit aims to expand the scope of



Share-Net Jordan's work at the regional level in order to strengthen and expand the Share-Net Jordan and Share-Net International networks by increasing the membership base of operatives in SRH, and strengthening communication between activists in the region working on health, sexual and reproductive issues. The visit also aims to build strategic partnerships to exchange best practices and compile data outcomes that clarify the process of reforming policies and programmes of action.



Another visit will be paid to Lebanon April 4th-7th, 2023 to organize a meeting with partners concerned with SRH in cooperation with the American University of Beirut. Also, a meeting will be held with those concerned in ESCWA to discuss aspects of cooperation between Share-Net Jordan and HPC with these parties, in addition to a meeting with the regional coordinator of the University Network for the Advocacy of Persons with Disabilities, Fadi Al Halabi.

- The Higher Population Council held sessions of the fourth phase of the 'training of trainers course' in SRHR, which lasted for three days March 5th-7th, 2023.

This course comes within the activities of a project towards more sustainable services and solutions for the needs of SRHR for youth and refugees in Jordan, which is realised in partnership with VRIJE University/ Amsterdam, Belink Academy/ the Netherlands, the Royal Dutch Tropical Institute KIT, Yarmouk University and Ahl Al Jabal Association / Jordan.

The main objectives of the project are to design a unified approach based on international standards to implement and coordinate efforts in a more structured manner to address SRH issues effectively and efficiently with a special focus on the most vulnerable communities in Jordan, and to improve collaboration among key stakeholders.

The fourth part of training focused on updating participants of the mechanisms and tools of communication, dissemination of research results, methods of developing knowledge tools and translating them to the target group, and building alliances (face to face or through social media) to achieve a more enabling environment for comprehensive SRH and gender equality.



- The Higher Population Council conducted a five day pilot training program on the Specialized Guide to Sexual and Reproductive Health (Comprehensive SRHR), on March 1st and 2nd, 2023 and on March 12, 13,14 / 2023, with the participation of representatives of relevant national bodies.

This motion comes within the activities of the project ‘Towards Achieving More Sustainable Services and Solutions for the SRH Needs of Youth and Refugees in Jordan’, in cooperation with partners from the Netherlands (Belink Academy, KIT Royal Tropical Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and local partners from Yarmouk University and Ahl Al Jabal Association for Human Development / Jordan.

It is the Higher Population Council intent to prepare a training manual for the trainers who have been trained through the project to be conducted in cooperation with international and local partners of HPC.

-The Higher Population Council formed a committee of the targeted indicators for National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030) consisting of national bodies partners in the strategy.

The tasks of the formed committee are to contribute in defining core values for the indicators of all levels (inputs, outputs, results, impact), to enable the process of comparison and measurement at a later time and to measure and follow up on the level of achievement accomplished. The committee is also to identify the sources of information and the national bodies concerned with core and target values, and the responsibility of the partner national bodies. The committee held its first meeting with the aim of reviewing the strategy indicators on February 27th, 2023.

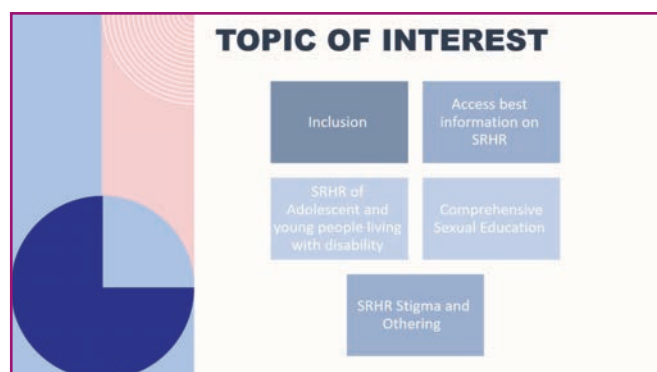
- A meeting was held between the Higher Population Council and the Health Care Accreditation Council on February 23rd, 2023, to discuss the principles and criteria for approving the national standards document to provide youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services within the accreditation programs of the Health Care Accreditation Council to be circulated to national institutions.

- Share-Net Jordan hosted the second meeting of the International Committee of Youth



and Adolescent Practitioners in SRH, held online on Jan. 24th, 2023.

Share-Net Jordan presented a comprehensive overview of the youth platform DARBY, which is concerned with providing basic data and resources related to SRHR. The platform allows young people to ask questions and interact, thus creating a safe and accessible space to learn about relevant information. The meeting concluded with a discussion on the next steps to be followed later on.



- Outputs of the project improvement program model using the participatory approach (SHIRIM) :

Within the program of applying the Share-Net International Rapid Improvement Model (SHIRIM), Share-Net Jordan formed a national team of 23 members of the target group (parents and adolescents) and local experts from various related fields to develop the package of change in addressing the issue of improving parents and their adolescent children's information about SRH. The program was also concerned with translating members'

knowledge in this field to be utilised in changing practices related to raising parents' awareness on SRH information that their young children need and enhancing communication between parents and their adolescent siblings.

Some of the outputs achieved in this field are:

1. A booklet titled "Question and Answer: A Guide for Parents on the Sexual and Reproductive Health of their Adolescent Children (in both languages (A/E)) :

The guide aimed to help parents give scientifically documented answers to a wide range of questions asked by their adolescent siblings about the physical and psychological changes they feel during this period. Data for the questions was compiled from the youth themselves from a sample of different governorates in the Kingdom, including the refugee camps.





2. A short video on " Increasing parents " resort to dialogue with their Adolescents, about their Sexual and Reproductive Health in both languages (A / E) and sign languages :

This video was prepared to address the problem of parents' inhibition, reluctance, or reserve to provide information or to answer the questions of their teenage children, and at the same time to address male and female adolescents' shyness, refusal, or hesitation to ask for information about topics related to their sexual and reproductive health. This problem, to be addressed by the video, has emerged through the evidence presented by many studies and policy briefs prepared by HPC and Share-Net Jordan



video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7UtkuKwM-s>

-Participation of the Share-Net Jordan team in the fourth educational session within the projects improvement program model using the participatory approach (SHIRIM) held

in Addis Ababa/ Ethiopia, March 6-10, 2023.

The session aimed to exchange experiences and best practices of the country hubs in the third implementation phase of the model, including presentation of local hubs their knowledge 'products' at this stage.

Activities of the session included an exhibition of knowledge products for the country hubs within SHIRIM, where Share-Net Jordan prepared a booklet and a short video for parents to support parents in educating their adolescent siblings on SRH. During the session, Share-Net Jordan shared its experience in employing non-traditional means in transforming the mutual learning SRH activities.



• Maintaining the website of the Electronic Knowledge Platform for SRH during the first quarter of 2023 by downloading (11) studies and researches in Arabic and English. Share-Net Jordan members reached (262) members, of which (235) are individual memberships



and (27)) institutional memberships, bringing the total number of visitors to the platform during the first quarter of 2023 to approximately (204) visitors, of whom (85) were females and (119) were males.



❖ Grants and projects :

Share-Net Jordan formed a committee of three local experts to evaluate projects submitted by Share-Net International for small grants. Prof. Dr. Zaid Al-Hamdan/ Jordan University of Science and Technology received a small grant of 25.000 euros entitled 'Jordanian Universities student perception of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in Jordan'. Meetings online were held with Share-Net International to discuss various topics related to the grant on January 12, 17, 18 / 2023, and on February 2nd, 2023. Share-Net Jordan coordinator reviewed and approved the project plan, and a meeting was held between Share-Net Jordan and Dr. Zaid Hamdan with Share-Net International on February 14th, 2023 to discuss the project and the action plan for executing the grant. A second meeting was

held on February 20th, 2023 to discuss the implementation procedures.

■ Second: Population and Development:

• Events and activities that have been implemented and participated in :

01

HPC, in cooperation with the Jordan News Agency - Petra, and the support of the UNFPA, organized a training course for a number of media professionals representing various media outlets entitled 'Statistical Indicators for Media Professionals'

02

Participation of the HPC, represented by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh / Secretary-General in the first periodic meeting of 2023 for the national team for Family Protection from violence, held at the Solidarity is Global Institute-JO

03

A meeting was held to discuss the first draft of The Position Paper of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development

04

Holding a workshop to discuss the most significant results of the first draft of the sixth national report of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the progress in implementing the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development / 10 years after the Cairo Declaration, 2013

05

A meeting of the members of the a committee for the National Population Strategy (2021-2030) was held to determine the indicators of achieving the strategic goals and target values to allow making the comparison and later on measurement and to determine the level of achievement accomplished for the National Population Strategy (2021-2030)

06

Participation of HPC in the Fifth International Conference, 'Refugees in Jordan : A Vision towards the Future,' which was organized by Yarmouk University

07

A meeting was held between HPC and senior officials at the Ministry of Local Administration



- The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the Jordan News Agency - Petra, and the support of the United Nations Population Fund, organized a two-day training course March 27-28, 2023 for a number of media professionals representing various media outlets entitled ‘ Statistical Indicators for Media Professionals’.

The course aimed to increase the awareness of media professionals and raise their competence and capabilities in dealing with statistical indicators and processing them through the media with more depth and effectiveness.

The course came in response to the need of the media community for a specialization in developmental media because, as it happens, to have a field that enjoys competence, professionalism and specialization is a requirement of great value.

During the course, digital presentations were demonstrated on the forms and types of statistical indicators and in showing the differences between them in terms of label and significance, composite global statistical indicators, composite statistical indicators in measuring the performance of the vision of economic modernization, and indicators of the global agenda for sustainable development

2030. Lectures were also given during the course on local and international data sources, the components of the Department of Statistics website and how to use the website to access statistics in various fields, health system indicators according to their levels, common errors, and lastly, informational models when dealing with statistics in media materials.



- Participation of the Higher Population Council, represented by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh / Secretary-General in the first periodic meeting of 2023 for the national team for Family Protection from violence, held at the Solidarity is Global Institute-JO, on January 25, 2023.

During the meeting, Almasarweh gave a presentation on the main elements of the current and expected demographic scene in Jordan, highlighting the fact that this scene is the result of a number of decisions and processes that occur within the family unit itself resulting in a number of challenges at the national, local and family levels.



- A meeting was held to discuss the first draft of The Position Paper of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development on March 15th, 2023, with the participation of the relevant national authorities.

- Holding a workshop to discuss the most significant results of the first draft of the sixth national report of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the progress in implementing the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development / 10 years after the Cairo Declaration, 2013, with the participation of the relevant national authorities on February 26th, 2023. The final draft of the report was finalized and

submitted to ESCWA, who, in its turn, will prepare a regional report covering accomplishments of the Arab countries.

- A meeting of the members of the committee for the National Population Strategy (2021-2030) was held to determine the indicators of achieving the strategic goals and target values to allow making the comparison and later on measurement and to determine the level of achievement accomplished for the National Population Strategy (2021-2030), on February 27th, 2023.

- Participation of HPC in the Fifth International Conference, 'Refugees in Jordan : A Vision towards the Future,' which was organized by Yarmouk University on March the 15th and 16th, 2023.

During the conference, HPC Secretary-General / Chairman of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, gave a presentation entitled 'Refugees and Non-Jordanians / Volume, Marriage and Childbearing in Two Decades'.

Eid Manasir, also of HPC, gave a presentation on the goals and importance of the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health, (DARBY).



- A meeting was held between HPC and senior officials at the Ministry of Local Administration, on 6 / 3 / 2023.

Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, HPC Secretary General gave a briefing supported with statistics and evidence on the current demographic and family setting in Jordan and its current and expected impacts on all sectors and national needs. The presentation focused on the impact of the population explosion, structure of the young age population, and the poor management of population distribution amongst governorates.

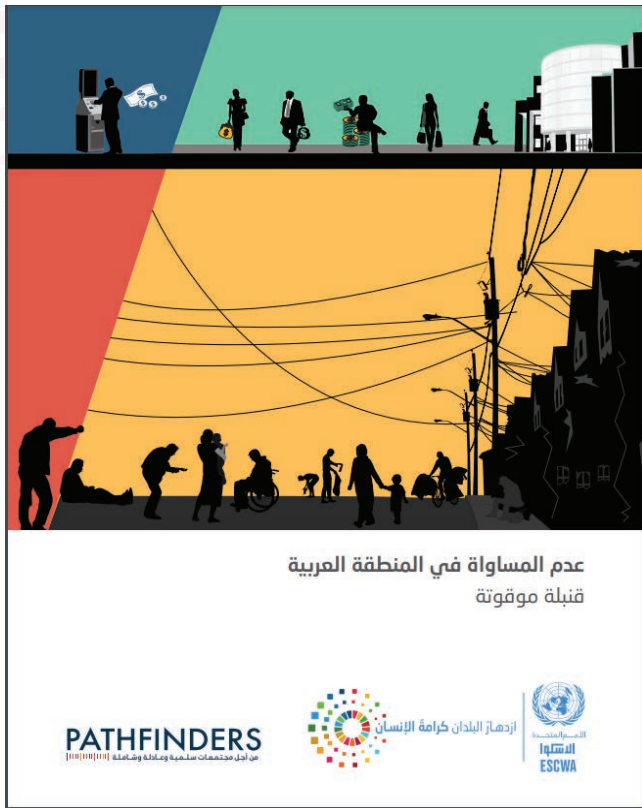
Secretary General of the Ministry of Local Administration along with senior officials in the ministry stated that the ministry is currently working on endorsing a set of directives and action plans aimed at improving the urban setting. He added that one of the measures to be undertaken is to work on updating the map of utilising the land. The Secretary General stated that the plan of the Ministry within the executive program for the vision of

economic modernization also includes reviewing and amending the law of Buildings, Cities and Villages Regulation, and other related regulations in order to enforce the standards of future cities and improve the quality of life. HPC Secretary General reiterated that this can be achieved through protecting agricultural lands from urban sprawl and housing expansion, with the aim of strengthening the rural economy, food security, providing job opportunities for women in rural settings, protecting the environment and natural resources, and finally through distributing the development revenues in a fair and sustainable way.



■ Third : The most recent local, regional and international reports and publications related to population and development :

● Report ‘Inequality in the Arab Region : A Ticking Time Bomb’:



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the Pathfinders Group, 'For Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies,' hosted by the Centre for International Cooperation at New York University, released the report 'Inequality in the Region: A Ticking Time Bomb' in 2022.

The report underlined that the Arab region is witnessing high and yet more cumulative levels of inequality, and that addressing this in equality and its dimensions in Arab countries requires going beyond artificial and temporary efforts to remedy mistakes made in the past. Rather, radical reforms should be undertaken to manage the grounds of

inequality. This, in turn calls for addressing structural and institutional inadequacies, strengthening governance, and for mulating evidence-based policies. The Arab region is facing a range of economic and social challenges, including low levels of growth, increasing poverty, unemployment among the youth, deep-rooted gender inequalities, growing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, in addition to the numerous repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Official rates of unemployment are still quite high by global standards, with rates among young men and women being the highest in the world.

This report builds on the Pathfinders Group's pioneer global report, 'From Words to Deeds: Achieving Equality and Inclusion,' and analyses some of the forms of inequality exacerbated by recent global and regional developments. It also presents practical solutions in public policies that may help Arab countries achieve a tangible reduction in inequality levels, especially in overcoming a long-standing challenge facing the region, which is the unemployment of young men and women.

■ Report link :

https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/pubs/pdf/in_equality-arab-region-ticking-time-bomb-arabic_0.pdf

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