



Knowledge Platform
For sexual and reproductive health

QUARTERLY PERIODIC BULLETIN

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Preface:

Share-Net Jordan is pleased to release the 22nd issue of the fourth quarter for the year 2021 periodic bulletin, which comes within the framework of Share-Net Jordan's commitment to keep researchers, decision makers, policy makers, programme makers and research agencies informed about local and global developments in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

The bulletin addresses the most prominent studies, reports and national plans set during the second quarter, among which are the preparation of the Communication Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health issues (2022-2024)/ Share-Net Jordan platform; completion of the preparation of two fact sheets, the first on 'Population and Gender Dynamics', and the second on 'Migration and Gender'; the completion of a study and policy summary on 'The impact of the Corona pandemic (COVID-19) on family planning information and services in Jordan'.

As for events and activities carried out and participated in, the bulletin addresses the most outstanding ones including holding a workshop to discuss the general framework of the communication strategy for sexual and reproductive health issues (2022-2024); holding a meeting to discuss the results of the study 'Effects of Social and Economic Factors and Gender Dynamics on the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls in the Jerash Governorate'; launching of the National Population Strategy (2021-2030); and launching of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030).

In addition, Jordan took part in the preparations for the Share-Net International Conference, to be held in Colombia in 2022, in terms of making the conference themes known for Share-Net Jordan members to vote on. Share-Net Jordan is also a member of the Conference Preparatory Committee and a member of the Expert Selection Committee for the conference. Share-Net Jordan also takes part in disseminating the theme of the conference being:

"Access to quality information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (technologies, accessibility, cultural translation, new challenges as battling disinformation)".

In addition to participating in meetings via Zoom.

Share-Net Jordan also participated in preparing for the 'collaborative approach' at work, expected to commence in 2022. Share-Net has worked on circulating themes of the collaborative approach to its members and their voting in the selection of the theme, the title of the collaborative approach at work for SHIRIM for the year 2022 is to be, 'Parent-Adolescent SRHR Education'. Share-Net Jordan has also participated with Share-Net International in meetings related to the aforesaid theme via Zoom.

Moreover, Share-Net participated in the annual meeting for members of Share-Net Jordan and gave a video presentation on the achievements of Share-Net Jordan for the year 2021; Jordan also attended the third meeting of members of the Steering Committee of Share-Net International and presented an update of Share-Net Jordan achievements for the fourth quarter of 2021.

Share-Net Jordan remains in contact with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Jordan through Ms. Rawan Daas, Policy and Development Cooperation Adviser for Human Rights and Gender.

Throughout all times, Share-Net Jordan continuously extends its invitation to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to attend Share-Net Jordan's activities, in addition to keeping the Embassy updated with its latest news and activities.

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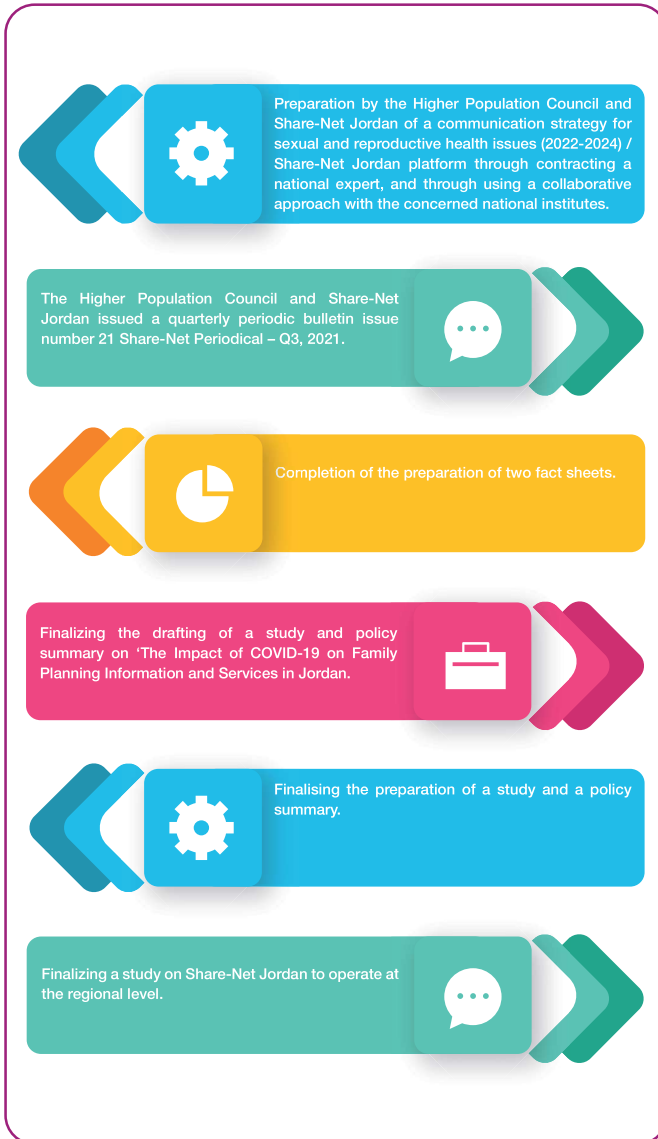
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The most recent local, regional and international reports and publications related to population and development issues

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First: Sexual and reproductive health:

• National studies, reports and plans:



- Preparation by the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan of a communication strategy for sexual and reproductive health issues (2022-2024) / Share-Net Jordan platform through contracting a national expert, and through using a collaborative approach with the concerned national institutes.

The overall objective of drawing up the strategy is to facilitate the provision, dissemination and sharing of sexual and reproductive health knowledge for researchers, research agencies, decision and policy makers, the media, program developers and service providers in a way that supports and guides the decision-making process related to sexual and reproductive health.

The sub-objectives of the strategy focus on the following:

1. Improving internal communication in a manner that achieves the vision and mission of Share-Net Jordan.
2. Making the knowledge on sexual and reproductive health available to researchers, research bodies, decision and policy-makers, the media, program developers and service providers.
3. Dissemination and sharing of knowledge on sexual and reproductive health.
4. Supporting the decision-making process related to sexual and reproductive health.

- The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan issued a quarterly periodic bulletin issue number 21 Share-Net Periodical – Q3, 2021; this issue dealt with the most prominent achievements Share-Net Jordan has accomplished during the third quarter of 2021.

- Completion of the preparation of two fact sheets, the first one on 'Population and Gender Dynamics' to understand the interaction between gender and population dynamics considered to be necessary for the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes; and the second fact sheet on 'Migration and Gender', to understand the reason leading to migration and whether it is caused by gender inequality or if migration itself helps perpetuate gender disparities. This is also deemed important as it steers policy formulation and program development to address the specific needs of female migrants.

- Finalizing the drafting of a study and policy summary on 'The Impact of COVID-19 on Family Planning Information and Services in Jordan;'

the main objectives of which were to shed light on the impact of COVID-19 on Family Planning Information and Services, to draw up the necessary recommendations to address issues facing family planning programs during crisis and ensure their sustainability by identifying the attitudes and trends of families towards childbearing during lockdown in particular and during the outbreak of COVID-19; identifying the reality of family planning services in Jordan during the pandemic period, and identifying the obstacles that the family encountered in obtaining and accessing family planning services.

- Finalizing the preparation of a study and a policy summary on 'The Impact of Social and Economic Factors and Gender Dynamics on the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls in the Jerash Governorate;': the main objectives of the study were to contribute in clarifying

and developing the outcomes of communication and service programs directed at the many elements of reproductive health in a manner that contributes to support opportunities to improve the level of sexual and reproductive health of women and girls in the Jerash Governorate.

- Finalizing a study on Share-Net Jordan to operate at the regional level which aims to facilitate regional learning and exchange of knowledge to influence and improve sexual and reproductive health policy and practices in line with Share-Net International vision and unique selling point, and to increase visibility and recognition of Share-Net International and Share-Net Jordan pivotal status in the region; strengthening and expanding Share-Net International network by widening the membership base with operating bodies in the field of sexual and reproductive health; building strategic partnerships to share best practices and compiling data on knowledge outcomes; linking and connecting members in different countries in the region to work on relevant sexual and reproductive health issues and their implementation.

• Events and activities that have been carried out and participated in:



- The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan held a workshop to confer about the general framework of the communication strategy on sexual and reproductive health issues (2022-2024) / Share-Net Jordan platform, on October 17th, 2021, with the participation of representatives from relevant national entities.

The workshop aimed at discussing the general framework of the strategy, which the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan are jointly working on preparing, given both their interest in sexual and reproductive health issues and the importance of supporting them.



- The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan held a meeting to discuss the results of the study 'Effects of Social and Economic Factors and Gender Dynamics on the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls in the Jerash Governorate' on October 24th, 2021. Attending the meeting was the committee of expert practitioners (Jerash Governorate) which was originally set up to offer support and guidance to the study.



- The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan held a workshop to discuss the final draft of the communication strategy for sexual and reproductive health issues (2022-2024) / Share-Net Jordan platform, with the participation of the relevant national entities, on November 18th, 2021.

The workshop aimed to discuss the final draft of the strategy and give final comments in preparation for its adoption.



- Functions for a project empowering Syrian women refugees in Jordan kicked off on November 29th, 2021. The project is to be realized by the Higher Population Council, Arab Women Center for Training and Research 'Kawthar', and to be funded by the Saudi Development Fund.

A first preliminary meeting was organized with a number of refugee women (focus group) to discuss

potential areas of training in order to build a needs assessment and define the training period, and to inform attendees on the objectives of the project. The overall objective of the project is to empower a number of Syrian refugee women and girls in Jordan to gain a decent living in terms of knowledge and economics



- In cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund, the Higher Population Council launched the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030), which was adopted by the Council of Ministers, during a ceremony held on December 12th, 2021 under the auspices of the representative of the Minister of Health, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Dr. Ilham Khreisat, and the participation of relevant national entities.

This strategy is viewed as a reference framework for various partners in Jordan, through which institutional plans can be developed, harmonized to include the necessary interventions to achieve comprehensive access to integrated reproductive and sexual health services and information to contribute in achieving the well-being of families in Jordan.

The strategy included four strategic objectives within four scopes: the empowering environment through the development of supportive and enabling legislation and policies for integrated sexual

and reproductive health issues; the services and information scope, which is achieved by providing integrated and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information of quality to the whole population (individuals) in all regions of the Kingdom; and the community scope, which addresses achieving positive societal trends, beliefs and behaviors towards reproductive and sexual health issues, in addition to the sustainability and governance scope, which focuses on developing integrated, institutionalized and sustainable sexual and reproductive health services and information within operating sectorial partnerships.

Alongside the launch ceremony, a number of debate sessions were held over two days addressing a number of relevant topics with the participation of concerned bodies. Day 1 session addressed 'an all inclusive package of sexual and reproductive health services.'

Three discussion sessions were held on Day 2 covering the following topics:

1. quality of care: sexual reproductive health services
2. strengthening a healthy address to gender-based violence
3. national standards for youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.



- With the support of the United Nations Population Fund, The Higher Population Council held a consultative workshop, November 15th , 2021 for national experts in reproductive and sexual health issues to discuss the data and information the e- knowledge platform should provide to young people on issues of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

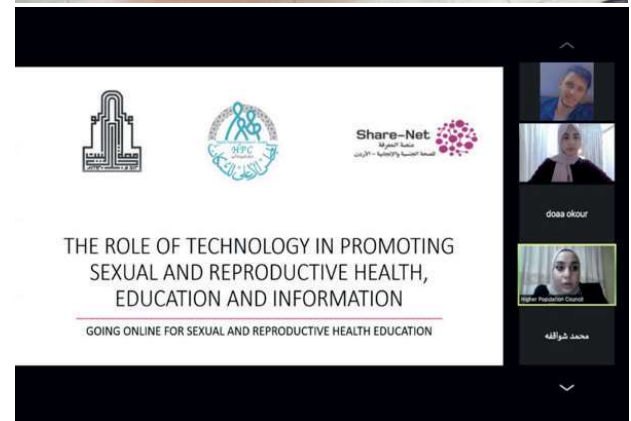
During the workshop, the importance of reproductive and sexual health information and services for young people and national trends to provide this information, were reviewed. The importance of providing an e-knowledge platform offering reproductive and sexual health information and services for young people in an appealing and creative manner to be a major source for providing data and information for young people was also reviewed. The most outstanding goals of establishing the platform are to contribute in raising awareness amongst young men and women and boosting and improving their reproductive and sexual health by providing a comprehensive package of relevant information and data, as well as contributing to reducing violations related to reproductive and sexual health issues.



❖ Practice committees for university students:

- A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Committee of Practitioners from Al Al-Bayt University / Nursing School students was held on November 3rd, 2021, with the aim of conducting desktop review on 'The role of technology in promoting education and information related to sexual and reproductive health,' where a presentation was given on the concept of an office review, and an explanatory presentation on the subject of the required office review. Students (males and females) prepared the office review. It is noteworthy to mention that a meeting with the committee comprising of 11 students was held on September 14th, 2021;

students were introduced to the Share-Net platform, and the concept of practitioner committees was explained to them.



- A meeting of the Committee of Practitioners from Jordan University / Nursing School for 12 students was held on October 21st, 2021, with the aim of conducting an office review on 'Identifying information related to sexual and reproductive health and education needs for people (males and females) with disabilities.' An introductory presentation was given on the concept of office review, and an introductory explanatory presentation was given on the subject of the required office review; students then submitted their reviews.



- A meeting with the Committee of Practitioners of 11 students from the University of Jordan / Center for Women Studies was held on October 30th, 2021 with the aim of conducting an office review on 'Strengthening information and education between parents and adolescents on sexual and reproductive health.' The committee was introduced to the Share-Net platform; an introductory presentation was given on the concept of office review, and an introductory explanatory presentation was given on the subject of the required office review.



- Participation in an online symposium entitled 'Reducing Childbirth Violence through Participation of the Youth.' Here, Share-Net Jordan worked and coordinated at the regional level with 'Your Egyptian Doula Foundation' and Share-Net International, to allow Share-Net Jordan and the relevant bodies to participate in this symposium held on December 13th, 2021.

- Share-Net Jordan held the third last meeting of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, where the activities of Share-Net Jordan for the year 2021 were discussed; the outcomes of the study of Share-Net Jordan's work at the regional level, and the start of work regionally based on the study, as well as the discussion of Share-Net future plan for 2022 were also discussed.

❖ Radio and TV interviews for members of the Share-Net Jordan team:



Secretary General of the Higher Population Council/ Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan Dr. Abla Amawi was host on Jordan TV on the TV talk show '60 Minutes' to talk about a number of population and national development issues, the National Population Strategy (2021-2030), and the future prospects for the centenary.



Secretary General of the Higher Population Council/ Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan Dr. Abla Amawi was host on Al Mamlaka TV and on BBC Arabic to talk about International Day of Non-violence.



Secretary General of the Higher Population Council/ Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan Dr. Abla Amawi was host on the TV talk show 'Sawt Al Mamlaka' on Al Mamlaka TV, and on the University of Jordan Radio and the Academy of the Arabic Language, to talk about the National Population Strategy (2021-2030).

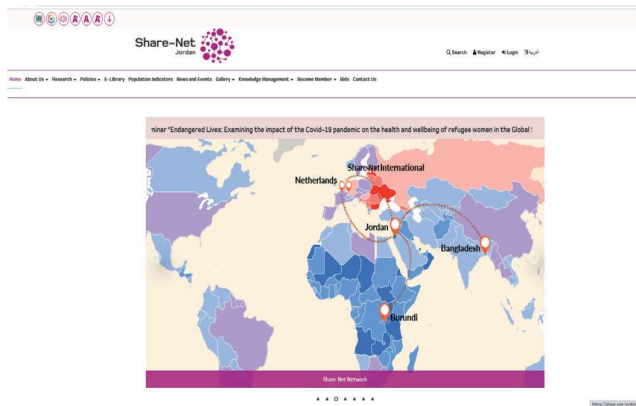


Secretary General of the Higher Population Council/ Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan Dr. Abla Amawi was host on Al Mamlaka TV, to talk about the National Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health (2020-2030).



Technical Director of the Higher Population Council/ member of Share-Net Jordan Ghaleb Al-Azza was host on the University of Jordan Radio to talk about The International Day of Older Persons.

- **Maintaining the electronic knowledge platform for sexual and reproductive health** by adding 13 studies in both Arabic and English during the fourth quarter, and registering 29 new members, thus bringing the total number of those registered on the platform to 190, and the number of visitors during the fourth quarter to 131 among which were 68 females and 63 males.



❖ Grants and projects

- **Providing members of Share-Net Jordan with all relevant information to enable them to apply for small grants offered by Share-Net International for the year 2022**, and the steps and guidelines in submitting applications for these grants, both for individuals and institutions. These grants provide an opportunity to enhance the work of Share-Net members and facilitate the development of knowledge outputs that are not easy to obtain funding for; also, the activities proposed by members must contribute to achieving the knowledge results of Share-Net International.

- **Follow-up and review the outputs of the Share-Net Jordan small grant, which the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development was granted by Share-Net International to develop 'specifically designed training modules' to redefine harmful social norms that affect sexual health and well-being of adolescents**, with the aim of enabling those adolescents to have a say in sexual and reproductive health decisions concerning them to attain their well-being.

- **Follow up and review the outputs of the small grant obtained by the Information and Research Center / King Hussein Foundation from Share-Net International to set right certain common misconceptions regarding sexual and reproductive health in Jordan by Share-Net Jordan.** These corrections were taken into consideration by the Information and Research Center and aim to research, compile and disseminate common misconceptions about sexual and reproductive health among youth in Jordan to enable them to be more well-informed on sexual and reproductive health.

Second: Population and development:

- **National studies, strategies, reports and plans:**

- **Preparation of a national plan to fulfill Jordan's commitments to the Nairobi Summit 2019 International Conference on Population and Development +25 / Accelerating the promise for (2021-2030).** The document includes an introduction on the conceptual framework which was adopted to develop the document. The framework includes Jordan's international commitments, including the outcomes of the Beijing Conference, the outcomes of the World Population Conference, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development, the current status of the population, the dialogues that took place with stakeholders, as well as the multiple strategies issued in this regard. The document included the Jordanian commitments, the affirmation of Jordan's commitment to the program of work of the International Conference on Population and Development and the priorities of the sustainable development goals, and Jordan's continued commitment to providing information, advice and quality family planning services based on the human rights approach, especially for remote areas and vulnerable groups.

The document also stressed Jordan's commitment to strive to achieve zero maternal mortality and morbidity and preventable post natal diseases, such as obstetric fistula. It went on to affirm Jordan's commitment to ensure that adolescents and the youth have access to comprehensive and age-appropriate information, and to end sexual and gender-based violence.

• **Events and activities that have been carried out and participated in:**

The Higher Population Council organized a meeting on October 4th, 2021 to finalize the participatory work with national partners to prepare the national plan for implementing the commitments of the Nairobi Summit for the years (2021-2030).

The Higher Population Council gave a lecture at the Royal Jordanian National Defense College on October 6th 2021 on 'Population Policy in Jordan in Relation to National Security' to students taking Defense Course 19. Attending the lecture were the college commander and head and members of the steering committee at the college; the lecture was delivered by technical director/ member of the Share-Net Jordan team, Ghaleb Al-Azzah.

The Participation of Secretary-General of the Higher Population Council, Head of the Executive Office of the Arab Council for Population and Development and Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abia Amawi, in a panel discussion on the economic and financial rights of Jordanian women, which was organized by women members of the Islamic Action Front Party.

The participation of the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan, in cooperation with the Arab Council for Social Sciences, on October 20th, 2021, in a round table discussion on 'Open data in the social sciences: what actions does the Arab Council for Social Sciences take?.'

The participation of the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan in 'The Jordanian Society in a 100 Years Conference,' organized by the University of Jordan on October 21st, 2021.

The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the Arab Council for Population and Development, carried out activities of the second part of the training course on capacity building of the National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab World / Tight Management with Results. Participating in the training course which took place from the 25th -27th of October, 2021.

The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the National Council for Family Affairs and with technical and financial support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), held a capacity-building workshop on the inclusion of issues of the elderly in the process of policy-making in Jordan on October 27th, 2021.

The Higher Population Council, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, held on November 2nd, 2021 a training workshop on integrating the population dimension and gender in municipal plans; the workshop targeted directors of development units in a group of selected Jordanian municipalities.

The participation of Secretary-General of the Higher Population Council, Head of the Executive Office of the Arab Council for Population and Development and Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abia Amawi, in the third meeting of the Advisory Committee of Experts for the Arab Council for Population and Development, which was organized by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, via video conference technology, on November 3rd, 2021.

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal and with the support of the United Nations Fund and endorsement of the Cabinet, The Higher Population Council launched the National Population Strategy (2021-2030) during a ceremony held on December 1st, 2021.

HPC chaired the meeting of the Executive Office/ Arab Council for Population and Development, which was held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo, with the participation of members of the office from the Arab countries, on December 6th, 2021.

- Participation the third session meeting of the Arab Council for Population and Development held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo December 7th-8th, 2021.

- The Higher Population Council organized a meeting on October 4th, 2021 to finalize the participatory work with national partners to prepare the national plan for implementing the commitments of the Nairobi Summit for the years (2021-2030).

During the meeting, a statement was released to the effect that the plan aims to achieve national commitments, which focuses on demography, reproductive and sexual health issues as well as gender-based violence.



- The Higher Population Council gave a lecture at the Royal Jordanian National Defense College on October 6th 2021 on 'Population Policy in Jordan in Relation to National Security' to students taking Defense Course 19. Attending the lecture were the college commander and head and members of the steering committee at the college; the lecture was delivered by technical director/ member of the Share-Net Jordan team, Ghaleb Al-Azzah.

During the lecture, a number of topics were addressed, including the fact that population policy is defined as a set of laws, decisions, instructions, strategies, plans, programs and procedures adopted by the state and aimed at influencing the dynamics of the population and its outcomes, achieving harmonization between population growth and available resources, and bringing about a positive change in the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the population.



- The Participation of Secretary-General of the Higher Population Council, Head of the Executive Office of the Arab Council for Population and Development and Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Ammawi, in a panel discussion on the economic and financial rights of Jordanian women, which was organized by women members of the Islamic Action Front Party.

During the session, Dr. Amawi gave a presentation on 'women in reality and statistics,' indicating that the direct path to achieve gender equality, eliminate poverty, and reach full economic growth is to be attained through economic empowerment of women. Panel took place on November 13th, 2021.



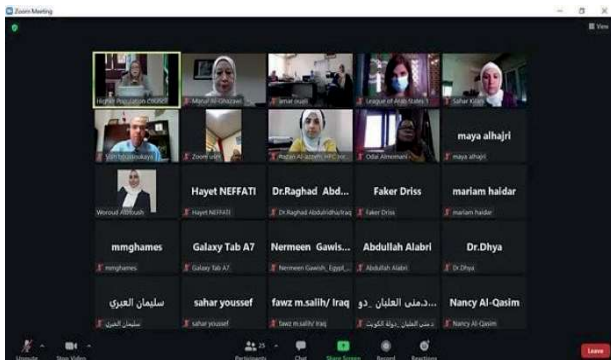
-The participation of the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan, in cooperation with the Arab Council for Social Sciences, on October 20th, 2021, in a round table discussion on 'Open data in the social sciences: what actions does the Arab Council for Social Sciences take?' This came as part of the functions of the Second Arab Forum for Free Access, organized by the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science, and the Arab Group for Free Access. During the event, a presentation was given on "Providing scientifically studied data for decision makers".



-The participation of the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan in 'The Jordanian Society in a 100 Years Conference,' organized by the University of Jordan on October 21st, 2021. As part of the conference, a paper, 'Demographic trends and future prospects in Jordan' was presented. The paper stated that there are three direct reasons for the population change in Jordan namely, 'birth, mortality (natural change), and net international migration (unnatural change),' and that the demographic history of Jordan indicates that these three reasons led to a rapid increase in the population during the last period.



-The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the Arab Council for Population and Development, carried out activities of the second part of the training course on capacity building of the National Population Councils and Committees in the Arab World / Tight Management with Results. Participating in the training course which took place from the 25th -27th of October, 2021 were also members of the Arab Council for Population and Development. During the opening session, a statement was made noting that this session comes within the framework of the Higher Population Council's work to transfer expertise and knowledge amongst countries that share similar technical needs to unify Arab efforts in supporting population and development issues, and is based on the principle of 'strengthening the capacity of national population councils and committees – Tight Management with Results' prepared by the Population Policies Department/ Arab Council for Population and Development in cooperation with the Higher Population Council.



- The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the National Council for Family Affairs and with technical and financial support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), held a capacity-building workshop on the inclusion of issues of the elderly in the process of policy-making in Jordan on October 27th, 2021.

The two-day workshop aimed at building the capacities of policy makers and various stakeholders in various government sectors to integrate the issues and priorities of older persons into the policy-making process, in addition to raising awareness about the rights of older persons in global frameworks. The workshop focused on interactive exercises to raise the participants' ability in the analysis and development of policies from the perspective of the elderly.



- The Higher Population Council, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, held on November 2nd , 2021 a training workshop on integrating the population dimension and gender in municipal plans; the workshop targeted directors of development units in a group of selected Jordanian municipalities.

The main objectives of the three-day training workshop were to provide participants with practical skills to integrate the demographic and gender dimension into the plans of their municipalities, and link them to the sustainable development goals and commitments to the Population and Development Conference.



- The participation of Secretary-General of the Higher Population Council, Head of the Executive Office of the Arab Council for Population and Development and Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abia Amawi, in the third meeting of the Advisory Committee of Experts for the Arab Council for Population and Development, which was organized by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, via video conference technology, on November 3rd, 2021.

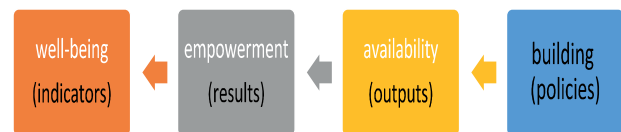
The purpose of the meeting was to discuss several items related to the work of the Arab Council for Population and Development, including follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the second regular session of the Arab Council, activate the first goal of the objectives of the Arab Council “promoting the integration of population issues and dynamics as an active factor in national policies, strategies and action plans, and regional development programs and projects”.



- Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal and with the support of the United Nations Fund and endorsement of the Cabinet, The Higher Population Council launched the National Population Strategy (2021-2030) during a ceremony held on December 1st, 2021.

The strategy comes in line of and as a continuation of the HPC efforts to identify and prioritize population issues, with the aim of providing an appropriate and supportive environment for population policies and issues in Jordan to reach the peak of the population opportunity and contribute to the well-being of the populace.

The conceptual framework of the strategy was based on the theory of change, which explains how a set of short-and medium-term results are interconnected in preparation to reach a long-term goal. The strategy framework comprised of dimensions at four phases: construction, availability, empowerment, and the stage of well-being.



The strategy is viewed as a fundamental reference document that includes results, outputs and indicators, which Jordan aspires to achieve in cooperation with all partners at the sectorial and national levels, thus contributing to achieving harmony between population growth and resources and achieving comprehensive development, through facilitating the realization and investment of the population opportunity.

The ceremony included the screening of an introductory film (Performing Arts Center) on the National Population Strategy (2021-2030), and a seminar on the needs of local community members and future aspirations related to population and development issues.



- HPC chaired the meeting of the Executive Office/ Arab Council for Population and Development, which was held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo, with the participation of members of the office from the Arab countries, on December 6th, 2021.

The meeting addressed a number of topics, including following up on the realization of resolutions of the second regular session of the Arab Council for Population and Development, and promoting the integration of population issues and dynamics as an active factor in national policies, strategies and action plans.



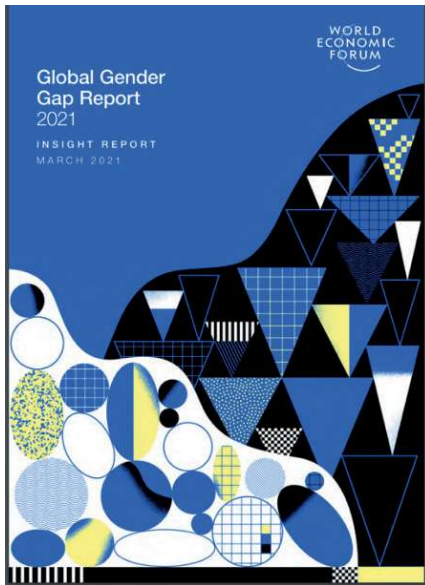
- Participation the third session meeting of the Arab Council for Population and Development held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo December 7th-8th, 2021.

The meeting discussed a number of topics, including promoting the integration of population issues and dynamics as an active factor in national policies, strategies and action plans, and regional development programs and projects; capacity building of those working in population fields on the use of modern software programmes; and enhancing the capacities of national population councils and committees in the field of reproductive health.



Third: Latest international reports related to population and development issues:

❖ Global Gender Gap Report 2021:




The World Economic Forum released the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, the Index of which measures the evolution of gender-based gaps amongst four main dimensions (economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment) and tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time.


This year, the Global Gender Gap Index measures the gap in 156 countries, providing a tool for comparing countries and prioritizing the most effective policies needed to close gender gaps.

The Global Gender Gap Index methodology has remained stable since its original inception in 2006, providing a strong basis for cross-country and time-series analysis. The Global Gender Gap Index measures the scores on a scale from 0 to 100, and scores can be interpreted as the distance to parity (that is, the percentage of the gender gap that has been closed).


- Most prominent and scientific trends and results:




- On the global level, the average distance completed to achieve parity is 68%, which is a step backwards compared to 2020 (-0.6% percentage points); these numbers are mainly driven by the underperformance of big countries in their current trajectory; it will now take 135.6 years to bridge the gap between genders around the world.



- The gender gap in political empowerment remains the largest of the four gaps tracked, with only 22% being closed so far; the gap has widened further since the report was released in 2020 by 2.4% across the 156 countries covered by the index; women represent only 26.1% of about 35500 seats in parliament and only 22.6% of more than 3400 male ministers worldwide.



- The widening of gender gaps in political participation has been driven by negative trends in some big countries that offset progress in 98 other smaller countries. Globally, since the previous issue of the report, there are now more women in parliament, and two countries have elected their first female prime minister (Togo in 2020 and Belgium in 2019).



- The gender gap in economic participation and opportunity remains the second largest of the four main gaps tracked by the index; and according to the results of this year's index, 58% of this gap has been closed so far, and the gap has seen marginal improvement since the 2020 issue of the report. As a result, it is estimated that it will take another 267.6 years to bridge the gap.

https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf



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