

QUARTERLY PERIODIC BULLETIN ISSUE NO.19

First Quarter - 2021



Forward

The Share Net Jordan is pleased to release the 19th issue of the periodic newsletter for the first quarter of 2021, which comes within the framework of its keenness to keep researchers, decision and policy makers, program setters and research agencies informed about local and global developments in the field of sexual and reproductive health. During this quarter, the world celebrated International Women's Day, which comes on March 8th of each year; this year's slogan was "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in the world of COVID-19", under the hashtag "#Choose to challeng"; this also marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Jordanian state.

One of the highlights of this quarter was the completion of the Share-Net Jordan plan for 2021, discuss it with Share-Net International and approve it; the preparation of the financial and technical report of the Share-Net Jordan for 2020 was also finalized, as well as the participation of the coordinator of the Share-Net Jordan in the discussions with Share-Net International on the new information platform in Ethiopia. Ms. Rowan Da'as, of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Amman was also provided with the achievements of the 2020 Share-Net and the 2021 Plan. Another achievement during this guarter was the creation of the HPC in preparing a guide to strengthrn the capacity of Population councils and comittees in Arab region - the managemet governed by results of the Arab Population and Development Council of the Arab League. The newsletter discusses the most prominent national studies, plans and papers that were prepared, launched and set during the first quarter, including the launch of the results of the analytical study of population and development issues in the scripted, audio and video media for 2019, the preparation of a paper on Jordan's position on "Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development", and the preparation of a national plan to implement Jordan's commitments towards the Nairobi Summit 2019 "International Conference on Population and Development +25 / Accelerating the Promise" for 2021-2030. The newslette vents, seminars and workshops carried out and executed by the Higher Population Council and the Share-Net Jordan, most otably of which are the first meeting of the Steering Committee of Jordan's National trategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030), participation in the "Middle East and North Africa Remote Health Care-Establishment of Strategy and Partnerships", as well as participating in several meetings with The hare-Net International and partners to discuss a range of topics related to reproductive and sexual health. The research base on the knowledge platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health website was also sustained by adding a policy brief in both english and arabic during the first quarter. Four new members and a new organization were registered on the site to bring the total number of registered members to 212 male and female members, and registered organizations to 8.

Contents of the Newsletter

Sexual and reproductive health



Population and development



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



First: Sexual and reproductive health:

National studies, plans and reports:

Prepare the pre-evaluation report on the quality of the application of national standards for youth-friendly services in the field of sexual and reproductive health of the East Amman Center





Prepare the technical conditions for the study of a preliminary and a post-evaluation of four health centers, to be vouth-friendly under the Institute of Family Health

Refer the studies completed during 2020 to the printing press for the purpose of design in both Arabic and English





A study on "The Intersection of Early Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy on Reproductive and Mental Health in the Perinatal Period among Syrian Refugees in Jordan

- Preparing the pre-evaluation report on the quality of the application of national standards for youth-friendly services in the field of sexual and reproductive health of the East Amman Center to be a friendly center for young people through the application of friendly standards in reproductive and sexual health issues in coordination with the Institute of Family Health and funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- Freparing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the study of a pre and a post-evaluation of four health centers, to be youth-friendly under the Institute of Family Health through the application of youth-friendly standards in reproductive and sexual health issues in cooperation with the King Hussein Foundation and the Institute of Family Health, and with funding from the Embassy of the Netherlands, where the tender has been referred and is currently in the phase of referral and implementation procedures.
- ❖ Referring the studies that were carried out and completed during 2020 to the printing press for the purpose of design in both Arabic and English; the studies are namely:

A study and a Policy brief on "Promoting private sector participation in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services in Jordan", and a Policy brief on "The impact of dropping out of school on women's economic participation and on sexual and reproductive health in Jordan," and a Policy brief on "Links between climate change and sexual and reproductive health in Jordan".

A study on "The Intersection of Early Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy on Reproductive and Mental Health in the Perinatal Period among Syrian Refugees in Jordan": As part of the study, the first virtual round able discussion was held with relevant entities of sexual and reproductive health providers on March 17th, 2021. The aim of the discussion was to share information and experiences about the study with relevant practitioners and specialized partners from psychiatric support providers, obstetricians and gynecologists working on issues resulting from early marriage or youth-related issues in order to share information and experiences on the subject of the study.

Training was conducted for field workers, including interlocutors and the field coordinator, during the period (22-23/3/2021), with the aim of identifying the methodology of the study, the sample selection mechanism, explaining the instructions, guidelines and administrative procedures to conduct personal interviews and strategies of applying scientific research ethics.

Events and activities that have been implemented and participated in :



First meeting of the Steering Committee of Jordan's National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health for years (2020-2030)



Share Net Jordan participated in the meeting of cooirdinators of Share-Net Information Platforms



Share-Net J ordan participation with WHO and the Ministry of Health in a workshop entitled Health Research Priorities in Jordan.



Share-Net J ordan participated in a brainstorming session at Save th e Childiren's Fund



Participation of members of the Share-Net Jordan in a coordination meeting with members of Share- Net International



Participation of a team of Practitioners Committee from Jordan and embers and team of Share-Net Jordan in the open sessions of the second Share-Net International Co-Creation conference



Participation of the coordinator of Share-Net Jordan in a meeting with Share-Net Inteinational



Participation in a orkshop to discuss the proposed policies. in the brief of policies concerned with comprehensive health education related to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, and discussing the steps to follow



Participation of the coordinator of Share-Net Jordan, in a meeting of the steering committee of the SNI



Circular of the Share-Net Jordan for a number of events to its members during the first quarter of this year

❖ The Higher Population Council held the first meeting of the Steering Committee of Jordan's National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030), on February 22nd, 2021, with the participation of representatives of the concerned national partners.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the final document of the strategy and its approval by members of the Committee, which was prepared by the Higher Population Council in partnership with all concerned governmental and non-governmental institutions and local and international civil society organizations concerned with reproductive health and gender issues. The strategy will contribute a referral framework for all partners through which it can develop or harmonize or include

institutional plans and necessary interventions to achieve a comprehensive and full access of services and information on sexual and reproductive health to attain the well being of families in Jordan. The strategy will contribute in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030, in particular the third goal concerned with health and well being, and to promote advocacy for increasing institutional, national and international resources devoted to financing operational plans for reproductive and sexual health issues.

The strategy comprises of four pillars as follows: the empowering environment; services and information; community; sustainability and governance).



- Share-Net Jordan participated in the meeting of coordinators of Share-Net Information Platforms, held online (Zoom meeting) on February 8th, 2021 and organized by the Share-Net International, where the Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan gave a presentation on the progress of the Share-Net Jordan and the international Share-Net presentation on the latest developments regarding the newly developed information platforms, SHRIM, ANDSHIR, ARTchive and iCo website.
- ❖ Share-Net Jordan's participation with WHO and the Ministry of Health in a workshop entitled "Health Research Priorities in Jordan", held on-line (Zoom meeting) on February 15th, 2021. The workshop covered three main themes: health systems and comprehensive health coverage including resource management, health services including digital health and health migration; and COVID-19 response, including public health monitoring.
- ❖ Share-Net Jordan participated in a brainstorming session held at Save the Children Fund on February 25th, 2021 with the aim of creating a clearer picture of the study of underage marriage and instructions before preparing the vision of an integrated and submitting it to the donor.

- Share-Net Jordan participated in a meeting with members of Share-Net International, on February 10th, 2021, with the aim of exchanging information and discussing the latest work in relation to the.
- Committee and members and team of the Share-Net Jordan participated in the open sessions of the second Share-Net International Co-Creation conference, held during the period (25-28/1/2021 and 3/2/2021) on a virtual dynamic and interactive platform, organized by The nternational Share-Net Foundation and Information Platform in Bangladesh, the conference aimed to create an important and innovative khnowledge tools that can be used to influence policies and practices related to sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and youth at the national, regional and global levels.
- ❖ The Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan participated in an on-line (Zoom) meeting with Share-Net International on March 16th, 2021 with the aim of discussing the Share-Net team for the new Information platform in Ethiopia, their jobs and funds allocated for each job.
- SN-Jo and the HPC participated in an on-line (Zoom) workshop on March 17th, 2021, with the aim of discussing the proposed policies in the Policy brief concerned with comprehensive health education related to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, and discussing the next steps, where the Higher Population Council, the Royal Society for Health Awareness, the United Nations Population Fund and the expert Dr. Sawsan Majali, who prepared the policy brief, participated in the meeting.
- ❖ The coordinator of the Share-Net Jordan participated in an on-line (Zoom) meeting of the steering committee of the Share-Net International, on March 22nd, 2021. During the meeting, the Share-Net Jordan presented its achievements for the first quarter of 2021.

Circular of the Share-Net Jordan for the following events to its members during the first quarter of this year:



Circulated to members of Share-Net Jordan on January 24th, 2021 to attend the opening session of the second Share-Net World Conference "Open sessions - Share-Net International Co-creation conference"

Attended an online seminar on 12 January 12th, 2021 entitled "Join the plenary meeting of the Share-Net International iCoP on COVID-19, SRHR and Gender Equality".





Circulated to all members of the Share-Net Jordan to attend an online (zoom) training workshop which aims to publish the results of small grants to the praairioner community of "COVID-19,sexual and reproductive health and gender equality," through two training sessions, the first held on March 9th and the second on March 25th, 2021.

Circular to the Share-Net Jordan Team on January 18th, 2021, for those interested in training for "SHIRIM for Capacity Strengthening & Exchange".





Attended an online seminar on January 12th, 2021, organized by the Dutch Middle East Platform, with the aim of presenting the results and outcomes of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, one of the studies funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research of Jordan, 'Early Marriages among Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Lives in Perspective'.

Circulated to all members of Share-Net Jordan on January 16th, 2021, regarding an announcement from Share-Net International to appoint new members to the Steering Committee of Share-Net International of non-governmental organizations / civil society organizations and one representative of universities and educational institutes.



Blogs for grants from the Share-Net International:

❖ The Share-Net Jordan team prepared a blog on the grant awarded to the Share Net Jordan from the Share-Net International to develop a policy brief on "The role of accountability in the sustainability of sexual and reproductive health programs during crises and in fragile situations in Jordan". This blog came in the context of attention and care in introducing the outputs of grants for

care in introducing the outputs of grants for projects related to sexual and reproductive health, and to contribute to the proposal of policies, initiatives and programs aimed at promoting sexual and reproductive health services.

The aim of the policy brief is to improve the access of people affected by crises and fragile environments to information, sexual and reproductive health services, reproductive rights,

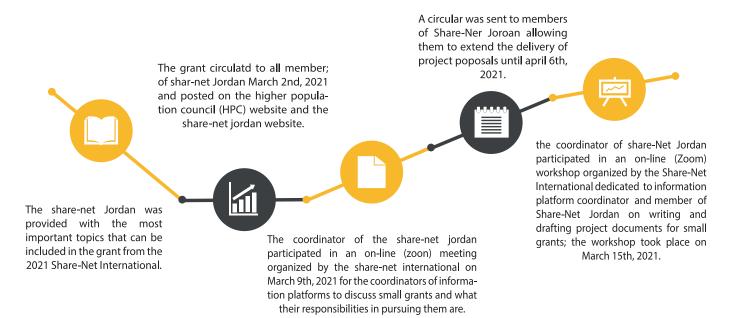
better sexual and reproductive health care, as well as to accelerate progress in achieving national and sustainable development goals, particularly goal 3 which states, 'ensure that everyone enjoys healthy lifestyles; and goal 5 which states, 'achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;' and goal 16, which provides for 'promoting peaceful societies where no one is marginalized;' and goal 17 stating 'strengthening the means of implementation' that can be achieved by adopting and developing mechanisms and a framework for accountability that will be a roadmap for donors and policy makers to promote a multi-sectorial engagement approach to the sustainability of sexual and reproductive health programmes.

Grants and project proposals:

Preparing a draft propsal submitted to the Share-Net International to obtain additional support for the implementation of a regional study that is the basis for the selection of the

Share-Net Jordan at the regional level; the reference conditions for the first phase were reviewed and Share Net International was provided with observations on it.

Global Sharenet Small Grants for 2021:



• The Higher Population Council and Share Net Jordan, in conjunction with Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and the University of Jordan, applied for an invitation to conduct research for health in humanitarian crises (R2HC) on "Addressing the Underlying Motivations of Child Marriage among Refugees in Jordan and Bangladesh: A Gender Perspective." The study aims to understand the role of the socio-environmental context in increasing girls' vulnerability to child early and forced marriage (CEFM), by generating evidence that fosters a deeper understanding of how the environment interacts at the macro level with the social normative context, through social networks among refugees in two diverse environments.

The Higher Population Council and Share Net Jordan, in collaboration with Harvard university TH Chan School of Public Health, applied for a WOTRO grant for Impact and Innovation on the "The Driving Force to End Child Marriage in Jordan: A Guide to Social Impact". The project aims to present quantitative evidence of the damaging effects of child marriage, and to produce high-quality data on specific reproductive health priorities affecting young people in Jordan. It will also go on and expand the comparison of maternal health, reproductive health and mental health outcomes among married girls in their childhood years versus married women. Thus, the project aims to create comparative evidence which is easy to explain so as to respond

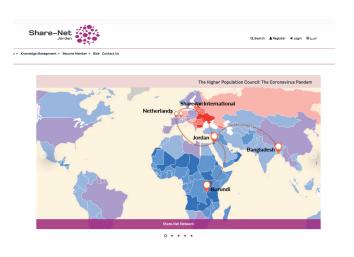
directly to the gaps of specific evidence needed for the support of the change at the society level. The project also aims to establish the responsive strategy of the targeted research where the goal is focused on creating a two-pronged innovative research responsive strategy targeting community members and high-level government officials with research-based evidence.

The Higher Population Council and Share Net Jordan, in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, KIT Royal Tropical Institute, Belink Academy, The Mountain People's Society for Human Development and Yarmouk University, submitted request for an invitation to implement a project on "More Sustainable Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and Solutions" for the needs of young people and refugees in Jordan.

The project aims to design a unified approach based on international standards, to implement and coordinate efforts in a more structured way to address sexual and reproductive health issues effectively and efficiently, with a particular focus on vulnerable communities in Jordan, and to improve cooperation among key entities (government organizations, academic institutions and community organizations) through harmonization

and the establishment of joint sexual health interventions and regional and community levels. Also, the project aims at improving the knowledge and skills of trainers in concepts of gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights and establishing a joint academy for training on sexual and reproductive rights and health (a group of key trainers) to provide accredited and specially tailored training to health practitioners/community workers.

The sustainability of the website through the addition of a policy brief in both arabic and english (policy brief empowering women and girls and gender quality by ensuring the provision of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights) during the first quarter, as well as the registration of 4 new members and one organization on the website, bringing the total number of registered members to 212 members, and total number of registered organizations to 8.



Second: Population and development:

National studies, plans and reports:

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Launch the results of the analytical study of population and development issues in the media (scripted, audio and video) 2019.

Prepare a national plan to execute Jordan's commitments to the Nairobi Summit 2019 'International Conference on Population and Development +25: Accelerating the Promise' 2021-2030.



Prepare a paper on Jordan's position on 'Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development' to be presented at the 54th meeting of the UN Population and Development Committee, scheduled April 19th -23rd 2021.



r.ii وسائل الإعلام المقروبة والمسوعة والمرئية للعام المرابة تحليلية "دراسة تحليلية"

Population and Development Issues
in the Printed Mass and Broadcast Media for 2019

"Analytical Study"

The Higher Population Council launched the results of the analytical study of population and development issues in the scripted, audio and video media for the year 2019, during the meeting held on March 23rd, 2021, with the participation of representatives of the relevant national entities.

The results of the study showed the extent of interest of the study sample in population and development issues, where the total of cases offered in the sample was 780 case; newspapers ranked first in presenting population and development issues at (51.5%), followed by

Jordanian satellite stations at (27.7%), and radio stations at (20.8%). The results also showed the main issues covered by the study sample, with the issue of "reproductive health" in first place in the radio stations at (20.4%); the issue of "sexual health" ranked first on the sample of Jordanian satellite stations at (20.4%), while it was the first on the sample of newspapers for the issue of "population policy" at (21.9%). The results for the target groups in the sample of the study showed that the media coverage of the sample leaned in favor of "females" when dealing with population and development issues, where it came in the sample of newspapers at (43.5%) and (43.8%) in the radio sample, and (56.6%) in the sample of Jordanian satellite stations.



→ Preparing a national plan to execute Jordan's commitments towards the Nairobi Summit 2019 "International Conference on Population and Development +25 / Accelerating the Promise" for 2021-2030, with the aim of providing an environment conducive and supportive to policies and population issues in Jordan, which will achieve Jordan's commitments towards the Nairobi Summit 2019 and the recommendations of the Cairo Conference on Population and

Development 1994, and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals related to population issues.

❖ Preparation of a paper on Jordan's position "Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development", which will be presented at the 54th meeting of the United Nations Population and Development Committee, scheduled for 19th -23rd April 2021.

Events and activities that have been implemented and participated in :



secretary General of HPC / Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi, met with male and female members of the Women and Famal members of the women and family affairs Committee and members of other parliamentary committees in the House of Representatives

The Women's Committee at the Upper House of Parliament hosted in its third meeting the Secretary General of HPC/ chairman of the Steering Committee of Share- Net Jordan, Dr.Abla Amawi





HPC/ Share-Net Jordan Participated in the conference "Middle East and North Africa Remote Healthcare - Creating Strategy and Partnerships

Secretary General of HPC/ Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi held a conference with the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research





secretary General of HPC/ Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi, was a host on the program "Half the Society" on the Iraqi Television channel 'anb' to discuss "Women in the Patriarchal system in the arab region".

Participation of Secretary General of HPC/ Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr.Abla Amawi, in a ceremony marking the "Centenary of the Jordanian State"/The achievements of women in light of the centenary: Reality and Ambition



In its third meeting, held on January 20st, 2021, the Women's Committee at the Upper House of Parliament hosted the Secretary General of the Higher Population Council and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi, to discuss certain issues related to women, and the programs and plans of the Higher Population Council in this area.

During the meeting, Dr. Amawi spoke about the cultural, social, economic and legislative challenges and gaps facing promoting women's participation as required, and reviewed the HPC plan to monitor and follow up on the implementation of population opportunity policies related to promoting women's participation in all fields, Dr. Amawi also addressed the situation of women in Jordan, their position in the programs and plans of the Higher Population Council, and the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Jordanian women.



Population Council and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi, met on January 25th, 2021 with male and female members of the Women and Family Affairs Committee and members of other parliamentary committees in the House of Representatives, with the aim of discussing women's issues in society, and updating members of parliament on the role of the Higher Population Council in supporting population and development issues, including women's issues.

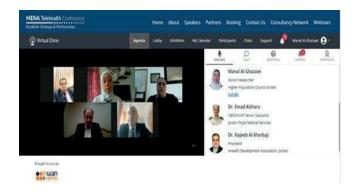
During the meeting, Dr. Amawi spoke about the scope of the work and interests of the Higher Population Council, its role during the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislative, economic, social, political, and cultural challenges facing promoting women's participation. Dr. Amawi went on and addressed the demographic and social characteristics of Jordanian women, the concept of population opportunity, and the impact of population growth on some development sectors.



❖ The Secretary General of The Higher Population Council and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi, held an online Amawi, held an online (Zoom) conference with the Netherlands Organization for Global Research on February 1st, 2021, where the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research which aims to discuss production of a booklet on projects funded by theorganization itself, to facilitate access to (results/lessons/implications) of the program, and which can easily be shared with all relevant stakeholders, researchers, NGOs and other funders. The booklet covers results, lessons learned and links to related outputs, presentation of innovative approaches (using theatre, participatory research) and policy-related aspects.

Share-Net Jordan participated in the conference "Middle East and North Africa Remote Healthcare - Creating a Strategy and Partnerships", held on February 2nd, 2021, with the participation of representatives from several countries in the Middle East and North Africa, through visual communication technology, which lasted for two days.

The main objectives of the conference were to establish a partnership platform between health care regulators and health finance officials on the one hand, and international experts and service providers on the other; share international best practices with regard to remote health service regulations and policies, and explore emerging remote health models.

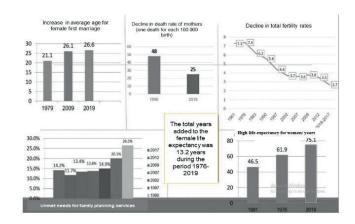


General of The Higher Population Council and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi, in a ceremony on the occasion of the "Centenary of the Jordanian State"/ The achievements of women inlight of the centenary-reality and ambition, on February 25th, 2021, which was organized by the Women's Committee in Jerash Governorate, and under the auspices of the Governor of Jerash Dr. Firas Abu Qaoud.

During the ceremony, Dr. Amawi gave a presentation on "Jordanian Women/ 100 Years of The Founding of the Jordanian State - Achievements and Challenges", in which she addressed the historical development of Jordan's population, the achievements and challenges faced by Jordanian women, and their reality in Jordan in the areas of health, education, economy, and public life. Dr. Amawi proposed suggested recommendations to address the challenges women face.







❖The Secretary General of the Higher Population Council and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Share-Net Jordan, Dr. Abla Amawi, hosted the program "Half the Society" on the Iraqi Television channel 'anb' on February 24th, 2021 to discuss "Women in the Patriarchal System in the Arab Region".

Dr. Amawi addressed the concept of the patriarchal system in the Arab region, the effects of the patriarchal system on Arab women and the causes that lie behind it, the association of domestic violence with the patriarchal system, and the mechanism of achieving community justice for Arab women or the possibility of providing protection for women under a solid parental system.



Grants and proposals

A Meeting Was Held Between The Higher Population Council And The Share Net Jordan With The National Center For Culture And Arts-king Hussein Foundation On January 14th, 2021 To Discuss Ways Of Future Cooperation In Several Activities And The Proposal Of A Partnership Between The Two Parties To Implement Activities And Apply For A Joint Funding For Grants.



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) projects:

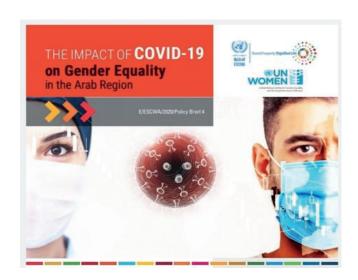
An on-line (Zoom) meeting was held with the ESCWA team on January 13th, 2021 to discuss the project proposals to be funded by ESCWA, which is a study entitled, "An office study and policy brief on the economic and social realities of immigrants in Jordan;" and a second office study and a policy brief on 'the extent to which older peoples' affairs are integrated into the national policies and plans".

Another on-line (Zoom) meetingwas also held on January 26th, 2021 to discuss the study of immigration. A further on-line (Zoom) meeting was held on January 27th, 2021 to discuss the study of senior citizens.

Third: The latest local, regional, and international reports and publications related to population and development issues:

■ Policy brief on "The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality in the Arab Region":

United Nations Commission on Women. ESCWA and UN partner agencies prepared a policy brief of the "Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality in the Arab region", which includes policy-level proposals aimed at developing general policies and coherent programmes in the short and long terms, as part of an urgent regional response that will ensure that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women are mitigated and would allow them to recover with the least possible damages. In the light of the impact of the global epidemic, the repercussions will affect all aspects of life in the Arab region and in the world at large and it is feared that women will bear the greatest impact of the health risks and violence that this epidemic will pose in the Arab region; and in order to be effective, it must take into account the deep-rooted social prejudices and norms that discriminate against women in the public and private spheres in the Arab region.



Report URL: shorturl.at/dinBZ

Highlights of impact assessment of corona pandemic - COVID-19:

In the field of health care:



The exclusion of adolescent girls and unmarried girls already marginalized in the Arab region is expected to in crease sexual and reproductive health services that are diminishing as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.



In the context of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, women are exposed to conditions that make them more susceptilble to contract the infection. Nurses, registered midwives and support staff dominate the health care and social services in many Arab countries, putting them at a higher rislk of infection.

Poverty and lack of economic opportunities



In the Arab region, 61.8% of women are employed in the non -formal sector in general, and with the expectation that this sector will be dirwctly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, women will also be among the first to be negatively affected.



The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to result in the loss of 1.7 million jobs in the Arab region, including nearly 700,000 jobs held by women, especially since women's participation in the labour market is already weak in the Arab region, with a high unemployment rate of 19% in 2019, compared to 8% amongst men.

Gender-based violence:



Gender-based violence may take various forms in the context of this global epidemic, and in addition to the normal physical and emotional risks and harms to which women in some Arab countries are exposed. Those practicing assaults against women may completely isolate and deprive them of any social interaction with family and loved ones, even online, during the outbreak of the virus.



The COVID-19 pademic has a significant impact on various forms of violence against women and gender-based violence. Family and domestic violence is a manifestation of gender inequality, and a tool for practicing power and control; the rates of such violence are high in emergencies, including the outbreaks of epidemics.

In light of the global epidemic, it is difficult for survivors of domestic violence to seek and recerive assistance, and this may be due to restrictions on mobility, limited availability of services or lack of knowledge in the available services.

Highlights of proposals at the policy level

Arab governments and regional entities need to develop effective monitoring and reporting frameworks to understand and respond to gender differences when exposed to, affected and treated of COVID- 19 in preparation for laying national strategic plans to be ready for and respond to COVID -19 and other pandemics.

Service providers to combat gender-based violence and women's stereotype roles should design innovative and non-traditional activities to communicate with survivors. This could include counseling and remote psychologica and social support services, improving the readiness of shelters to address and protect women from COVID-19, and constantly updating anti-violence services against women and girls and referral pathways.

Arab governments should promote the socia protection systems and ensure that women of different age groups ilave equal access to these systems. Social and economic policiles should focus on protecting women from pove1ty and protect female workers in tl1e non-formal sector by facilitating access to emergency cash transfers, small grants or loans.

In the development of government measures to revive the national economy, these measures should support the prioritization of the integration and advancement of women in the labour market.

It is noteworthy to mention that during the first quarter of this year, International Women's Day, which comes on March 8th of every year, was celebrated; the slogan raised this year was, "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in the World of COVID-19" and under the hashtag "#ChooseToChallenge."

The day celebrates the great efforts women and girls around the world exert to shape a more equal future and recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, where women stand on the front lines of the pandemic, as health-care workers, caregivers and innovators, and as the most exemplary and effective national leaders in the fight against the pandemic.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuEvZoZGZ5E



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