



His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein

'My main concern has always been to improve the quality of life for every citizen in this country. Therefore, it is necessary to combat poverty and unemployment and implement reform and corrective measures that provide radical and lasting solutions to this problem.'



**Her Royal Highness
Princess Basma Bint Talal**

‘Strengthening our firm belief in the importance and essence of the relationship between population and development is our way to move towards the accrual of more accomplishments to achieve a decent life for our citizens within the frameworks of respect for human rights, and the preservation of natural resources for present and future generations.’

Table of Contents

Subject	Page
Introduction	1
Achievements of the Higher Population Council for the year 2023 according to:	8
• Empowering environment level: Proposing population policies based on scientific evidence to support the decision-making process	9
• Institutional level: building national capacities in the field of population and development	30
• Individual and societal level: gaining support and raising awareness	40
• Improving HPC institutional efficiency	53

Introduction

The Higher Population Council is pleased to present its annual achievements report for the year 2023, which is based on its strategic objectives of achieving sustainable and equitable growth built on planning from the perspective of the National Population Strategy for the years (2021-2030), and the Jordanian National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health for the years (2020-2030). This report is founded on the Program of Action of the Conference on Population and Development as part of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the commitments of the Nairobi Summit 2019.

Since its establishment, the Higher Population Council has presented a clear vision of how to integrate demographic variables into development planning, as demographic dynamics (births, deaths, and migration) and the associated outcomes (population size, structure, and distribution) affect all aspects of human life, including the environment. The population in Jordan by the end of 2023 was approximately 11.55 million people (a third of whom, at the least, do not hold the Jordanian citizenship) and six million of the current population volume occurred in the past 20 years.

During 2023, the Higher Population Council focused primarily on:

- priority demographic issues and population dynamics.
- preparing the national plan to monitor and follow up on progress in implementing the National Population Strategy (2021-2030).
- monitoring progress in adopting the executive plan for the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2022-2024) which was developed with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and other concerned institutions.
- HPC also prepared the sixth review report on the progress achieved in implementing the Program of Action of the Global Congress on Population and Development for 2013, ten years following the Cairo Declaration.
- A study and summary of policies on 'Women's withdrawal from the labour market' and 'Sexual and reproductive health in light of the repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis' were prepared and launched.
- drafting a set of fact sheets, most notably: Divorce in Jordan for the period (2015-2022), Nuptiality and its trends in Jordan for the period (2009-2022), Sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS in Jordan, and the use of aphrodisiacs.
- preparing a summary of policies to limit elective 'caesarean section' deliveries in Jordan with no medical validation.
- preparing the training guide for sexual and reproductive health. Within the framework of HPC interest in raising awareness and gaining support for demographic and development issues, work was completed on the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health for youth DARBY. Meetings were held for students of a number of national universities to introduce the platform. Other meetings were also carried out with young men and women about the platform in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth within Al-Hussein Labour and Construction Camps for the year 2023 in the three regions of the Kingdom. The platform aims to raise awareness in society, especially among young men and women, and improve their reproductive health by providing a comprehensive package of information about reproductive health issues to enable them to make informed decisions regarding their reproductive health. In addition to finalising a capacity-building program for personnel of associations working with young people in the field of introducing national standards

for youth-friendly reproductive and sexual health services with the support of Oxfam, and in cooperation with the Health Institutions Accreditation Council in reviewing the document on national standards for youth-friendly reproductive and sexual health services and the mechanism for implementing them. This was done in preparation to come out with an integrated system applicable by institutions that offer and provide health services to young people.

The Higher Population Council also launched a number of media initiatives, such as a media competition targeting media professionals from various media outlets, producing multiple media and promotional materials, and strengthening HPC media team by inviting other media professionals from various media outlets to its team. In addition to HPC embracing the role of the media in order to support population and development issues by holding training workshops to build the capabilities of media professionals, produce and broadcast audio and visual materials on Jordanian radio stations and TV channels, as well as participating in various local events organized by national partners.

HPC achievements and accomplishments came as an outcome of adopting an integrated approach based on investing in individual capabilities and a gender perspective as a basis for achieving sustainable development, facilitating access to and ensuring the quality of health services. Yet, and despite these achievements, there are still many challenges facing population and development dimensions, including the lack and poor consideration of the population dimension in the process of national and local planning. Another challenge is the difficulty of providing comprehensive and complete data and indicators at a level beneath the national level. Also, the high proportions of the population in 'childhood age groups' at percentages that exceed the economic growth rates. Finally, a poor condition of services related to sexual and reproductive health provided to youth and people with disabilities.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude for Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Population Fund for her active role in supporting HPC. Thanks, are also due to everyone who contributed to supporting HPC, and in particular, His Excellency the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation/ HPC Chairman of the Board of Trustees; their excellences, honourable members, partners and international, regional and local donors. I would also like to thank HPC team for their sincere and distinguished efforts. Looking forward to achieving more successes.

May God grant us all success to serve our beloved country under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein - may God grant him safeguard and protection.

HPC Secretary General
Professor Dr. Issa Almasarweh

Vision and Mission

Vision

The demographic dimension is crucial in development to contribute to achieving harmony and compatability between the population and the well-being of the Jordanian citizen

Mission

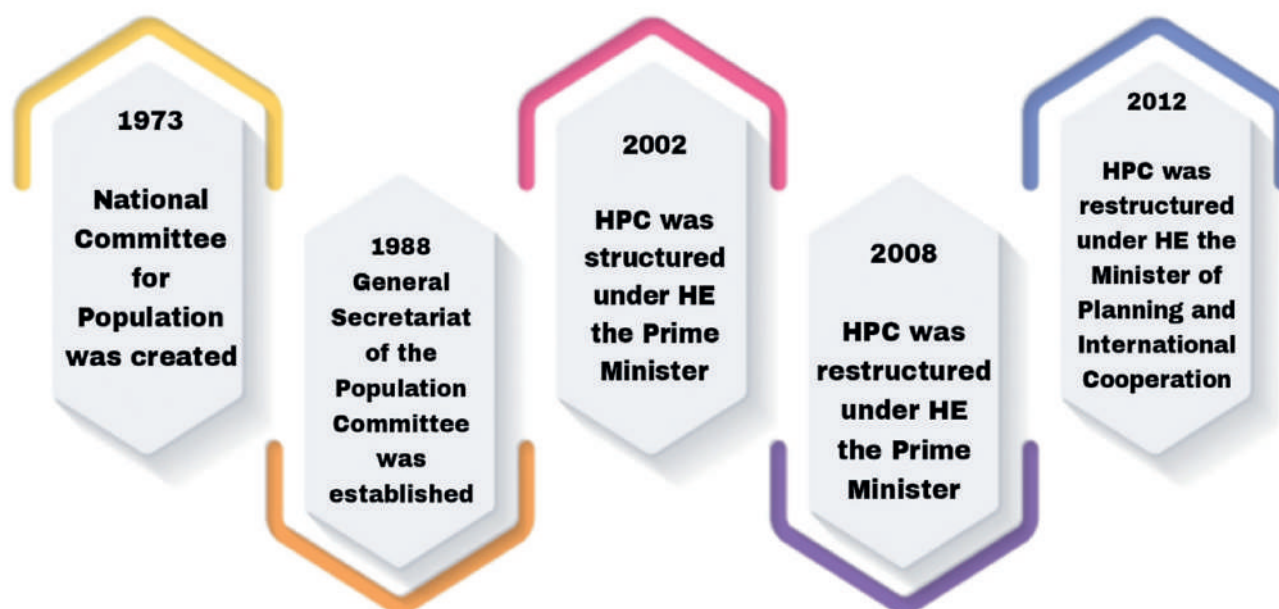
We act as a reference for all issues and demographic information associated with development. We are engaged in setting policies, strategies and action plans related to population and development according to best practices, following up, assessing implementation, gaining support and spreading awareness while enhancing national capacities in this field in coordination with partners and relevant bodies to achieve sustainable development, justice and equal opportunities

Strategic Goals

Strategic Goals

- Strategic Goal 1** Ensure that the National Population Strategy achieves its set goals
- Strategic Goal 2** Expand the scope of and strengthen cooperation and integration with partners concerned with population and development
- Strategic Goal 3** Work on achieving financial sustainable development of HPC
- Strategic Goal 4** Elevate awareness level in issues concerned with population and development
- Strategic Goal 5** Upgrade institutional capacity and quality of outputs

HPC Structure, Presidency and Membership



Higher Population Council Presidency and Membership

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 — Minister of Planning and International Cooperation/Chairman | 07 — Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research |
| 02 — Minister of Labour | 08 — Ministry of Youth |
| 03 — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs | 09 — Director General of Vocational Training Institute |
| 04 — Minister of Health | 10 — Jordanian National Commission for Women/Secretary General |
| 05 — Minister of Social Development | 11 — Director General of the Radio and Television Corporation |
| 06 — Minister of Education | 12 — Director of National Centre for Human Resources Development |
| | 13 — HPC Secretary General |
| | 14 — Members from the private sector /2 |



Highlights of HPC Action Plan 2023

The Higher Population Council is the national reference body for all population issues and information related to development, through its proposal of policies, strategies and action plans related to population and development, following up and evaluating their implementation, gaining support and spreading awareness while, at the same time, strengthening national capabilities in this field in coordination with partners and stakeholders to achieve sustainable development. HPC directs its effort and focuses on the following areas:

- Demography and its relationship to development: HPC focuses on achieving sustainable and equitable growth based on planning from the perspective of the National Population Strategy for the years (2021-2030) and mobilizing efforts to make the most of the demographic opportunity.
- Reproductive health and reproductive rights: Focuses on supporting reproductive health and reproductive rights within the human rights structure, through implementing the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health for the years (2020-2030) to increase access to high-quality reproductive health services, based on the program of action of the Conference on Population and Development as part of achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and Nairobi Summit 2019.
- The Higher Population Council also hosts the Share-Net Jordan project, which operates to strengthen the links between research results and scientific knowledge on the one hand, and policies and practices on the other hand by generating and disseminating knowledge, and enhancing its use in the processes of developing better policies and practices in the field of sexual and reproductive health. As it happens, HPC represents the national contact point with Share-Net International which was established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands as a knowledge base that brings together the expertise of Dutch institutions, partners from countries of the southern hemisphere, and international institutions operating in the field of reproductive health for the purposes of strengthening the role of knowledge in building evidence-based policies and practices and ensuring the strategic use of resources to create a platform that supports reproductive health research.
- Forced migrations and asylum seekers, issues of the youth, women's empowerment and senior citizens.

HPC Pillars of Success



HPC Added Value

Chain model of HPC added value

Resources	Inputs	Operations	Outputs	Beneficiaries
Public sector		Policy proposals	Summaries, policies and fact sheets	Cabinet/primeministry
Department of statistics	Data & information	Drafting strategies	Strategy Document	Parliamentarians
Civil organizations		Developing work plans	National plan document	Mass media professionals
Private sector	Staff & consultants	Coordinate, follow up and evaluate	Follow up and evaluation reports	Civil organizations
Donors		Conduct researches and studies	Studies and researches	Private sector
Local communities	Monetary sources	Train and capacity building	Training and capacity building programmes	Donors
		Disseminate information & demographic indicators	Demographic indicators cards	
		Gain and amass support	Awareness and support programmes	
		Awareness and communication		

Challenges

- The unbalanced geographical distribution of the population entails financial and environmental costs. Only 8% of the population lives in the southern half of the Kingdom in its four governorates while the population is crowded in the northern half, which is inhabited by 92% of the population (central governorates 63.5%, northern governorates 28.5%).
- Three quarters of the population lives in 3 governorates: (Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa); Mafrq Governorate comes in fourth place and is the governorate with the highest percentage (not number) of Syrian refugees among its population.
- A rise in the proportion of children under the age of 18 (40% of the population) results in a continued and rapid increase in the number of families, new housing, needs for water, energy, and other basic needs; a continued and rapid increase in the number of births; a continued rapid increase in the number of drivers, vehicles and the traffic crisis; the continued rapid increase in the number of those coming into the 'working' age, and in the number of unemployed young men and women.
- The presence of a large number of girls and women of marriageable and child bearing age; the number now stands at 2.79 million between the ages of 15-49; for every 100 women who are no longer at a child bearing age by reaching the age of 50-54 years, there will be 275 girls who enter reproductive age by reaching the age of 15-19 years.
- The completed childbearing rate per woman in the age group of 40-49 years (2023) is high, reaching 3.7 children for Jordanian women, 4.5 children for Syrian women, and 4.7 children for Syrian women in the camps.
- About 32.5% of Jordanian couples (in 2023) need to use modern methods to regulate their childbirth in order to achieve their reproductive desires: (10.8% have unmet needs + 21.7% use ineffective traditional methods).
- The number of elderly people aged 60+ years reached 615.000 thousand; while the number of elderly people aged 65+ years reached 417 thousand; the percentage of elderly people aged 60+ years was 5.5%; the percentage of elderly aged 65+ years was 3.7%.
- Marriage of girls under the age of 18 in 2010 was 10% approximately among Jordanian girls, and 38% among Syrian girls out of the total number of marriages.

HPC Achievements for the Year 2023

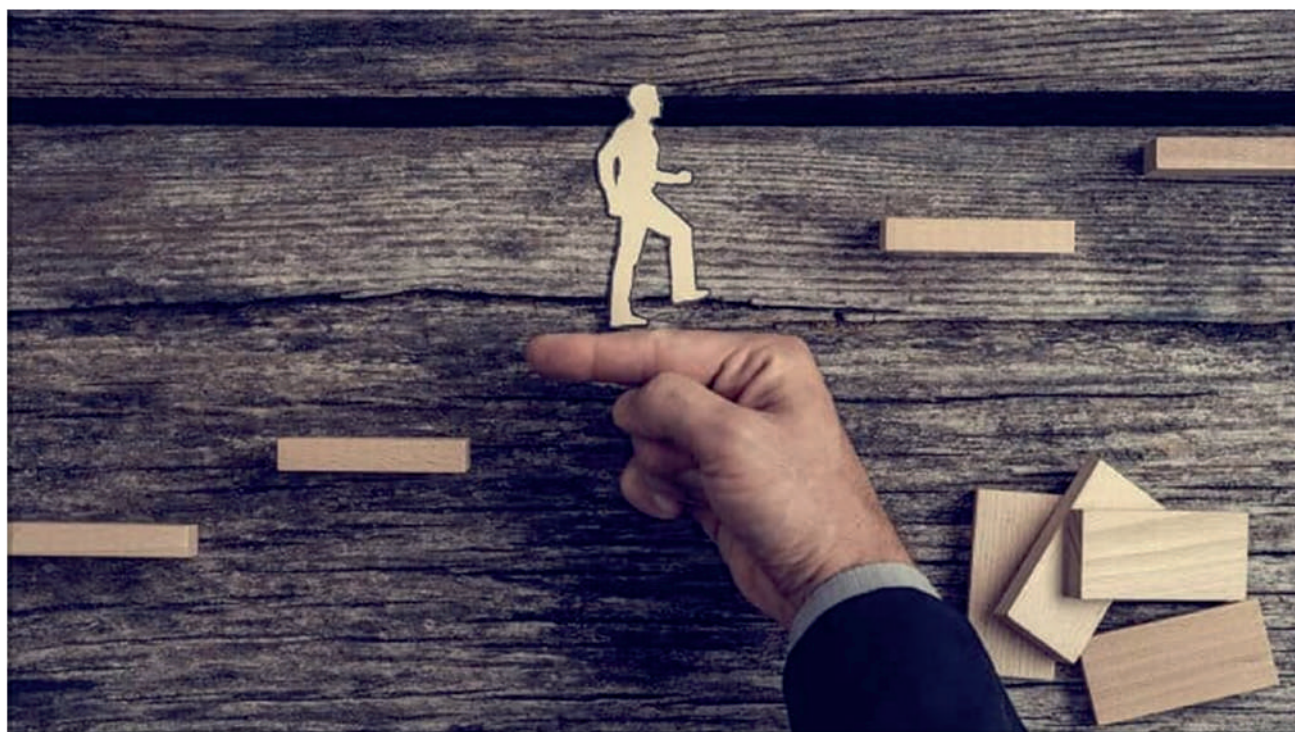
Within the scope of its work, HPC focuses on formulating policies and strategies and implementing national plans, in addition to strengthening the capacity of government institutions, civil society organizations, relevant institutions and the private sector. Moreover, HPC maintains supporting the goals of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, especially with regard to reproductive health issues, their components and gender issues, with a focus on improving the health and well-being of women, adolescents, youth, people with disabilities and the elderly. Additionally, HPC continues to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, which is in line with Jordan's Vision 2025, the Economic Modernization Vision (2023-2033) and the Nairobi Summit 2019.

The Higher Population Council identified its points of intervention through the theory of change at three levels:



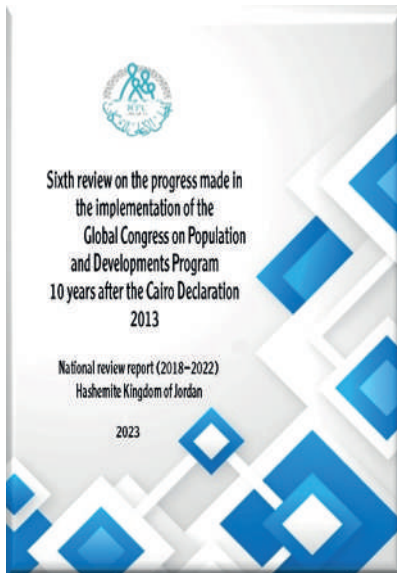
- **The level of the enabling environment** is defined by the convenient legal and political frameworks based on the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as part of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Jordan's Vision 2025, the Economic Modernization Vision (2023-2033) and the commitments of the 2019 Nairobi Summit, within the human rights system to achieve sustainable and equitable growth based on planning from the perspective of population opportunity policies, addressing the dimensions of enforced and voluntary migrations and displacement, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Part of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda would be by integrating population dynamics into the overall national, sectoral and local planning process, establishing accountability monitoring mechanisms based on the analysis of gender-sensitive data and indicators and generating knowledge regarding challenges and opportunities available.
- **The institutional level** focuses on developing the capabilities of national governmental institutions and others to set plans from the perspective of the population opportunity policies to give a more practical content to the legal frameworks and policies.
- **The individual and societal level** focuses on harnessing all forms of media and advocacy channels to support cultural practices that promote population and development issues, gender equality, and the principle of justice and equal opportunities. This process is a long-term process and employs a participatory approach, changes in behavioural communications, and capacity-building programs.

The level of the enabling environment: proposing population policies based on scientific evidence to support the decision-making process



Studies, Reports and Policy Summaries

- Preparing the sixth review report on the progress made in implementing the ICPD Program of Action –10 years following the 2013 Cairo Declaration/ National Review Report (2018-2022) .



The report aimed to monitor the progress of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in implementing the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development - 10 Years after the Cairo Declaration 2013 during the period (2018-2022). The report covered the following:

1. Monitor the progress achieved over the past five years in developing and implementing population policies and programs at the national level.
 2. Highlight trends, developments, points of weakness and strength in developing and implementing population policies and programs at the national level.
 3. The challenges that Jordan faces in fulfilling its obligations and the opportunities and positive factors that contributed to the success of the efforts in this field as well as the identification of priority issues.
 4. Highlight some promising practices, which can be circulated and disseminated at the regional level.
 5. Present recommendations to improve the implementation of the action plan in the future.
- The importance of the sixth regional review had significant impacts on different segments of the population and stems from being the second review of the Cairo Declaration which is carried out by the Higher Population Council in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Population Fund and the League of Arab States for the years (2018-2022). The review also comes under circumstances exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which doubled the economic, social and political challenges and political instability in the region. In this regard, and with the participation of relevant national authorities, the Higher Population Council called for a workshop on February 26, 2023 to deliberate over the most important results of the initial version of the report. The report was drafted in its final version and presented to ESCWA, which in its turn, prepared a regional report that included the achievements of Arab countries.

In a related context, Professor Dr. Issa Almasarweh, HPC Secretary-General, and Ms. Rania Al-Abbadi, Assistant Secretary-General, attended the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development entitled Challenges and Prospects Ten Years After the Cairo Declaration 2013. The conference was organized by ESCWA, the United Nations Population Fund-Regional Office for Arab countries, the League of Arab States, in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation IPPF/ Arab World Region and was held at the United Nations head office in Beirut, September 13-14, 2023. The conference took place in the context of the sixth regional review of the International Conference on Population and Development in the Arab States/Cairo Declaration 2013. One of its most prominent objectives is to provide a common platform for collective thinking and discussions between Arab states and all relevant stakeholders, exchange lessons learned, and enable the governments of Arab countries to conduct an assessment of the progress achieved and the challenges they face in fulfilling the obligations enclosed in the Cairo Declaration. HPC presented its sixth national review for 2018-2022 on the first day of the conference.

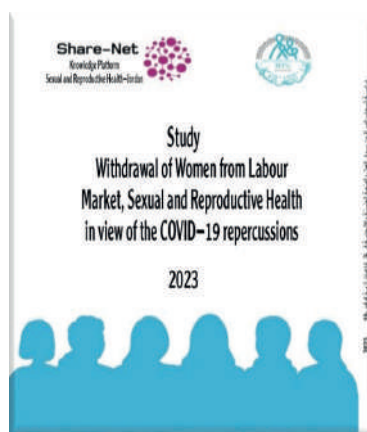
Link to audit report: <https://2u.pw/GCRKGni>

- **A study and summary of policies: 'Women's withdrawal from the labour market' and 'sexual and reproductive health in light of the ramifications COVID-19.'**

Key objectives of the study are as follows:

- determine the actual extent of women's participation in the Jordanian labour market prior to and after the COVID-19 crisis.
- analyse the reasons for this withdrawal.
- shed light on the activities and jobs that women undertake.
- study the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of women withdrawing from the labour market.
- identify the reasons and characteristics of women receiving a one-time compensation package derived from data of the Social Security Corporation and the reasons for this option.
- learn about the experience of women withdrawing from employments that give them flexible work hours and review them in the public and private sectors.
- provide policies that might reduce this occurrence.

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan launched the results of the study and summary of policies during the meeting held on November 20th, 2023, with the participation of representatives of national authorities in various relevant sectors.



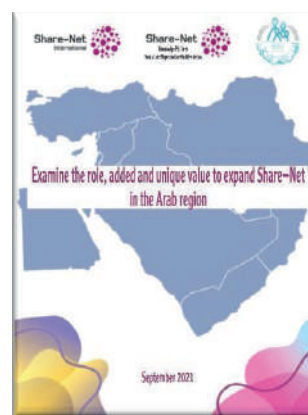
Study link :<https://2u.pw/HPy6nOM>

- **Design and publish a study: Examine the role and added value of Share-Net expansion in the Arab region.**

Share-Net Jordan prepared this study, which aimed to facilitate the process of learning and the exchange of knowledge at the regional level with the aim of developing policies and practices in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Both Egypt and Lebanon were taken as an experimental model to achieve the regional approach and expand the scope of Share-Net Jordan's work to encourage regional and global partnerships.

Based on the results of this study which highlighted the importance of expanding Share-Net operations in the field of sexual and reproductive health at the regional level and identified potential partners for the regional expansion process, this study also recommended potential partners from Egypt (Cairo University, Public Health Department, Middle East and North Africa MENA Health Policy Forum, Population Council, American University-Cairo) for coordination and cooperation.

Study link: <https://2u.pw/u4gNAwR>



- Preparation of the following fact sheets:

- **Fact sheet on Nuptiality and its Trends in Jordan 2009-2022.**

The paper was prepared with the participation of a committee of practicing experts from the Chief Justice Department, the Civil Status and Passports Department, and the General Statistics Department, in addition to technicians from HPC and Share-Net Jordan.

Primarily, the paper aimed to cover the following:

- deduce the demographic and social changes related to marriage in the Jordanian society.
- monitor and observe changes in the marital status (first marriage, polygamy, separation, divorce, widowhood, singlehood).
- monitor and shed light on the changes occurring in marriage according to first time marriage, divorce, widowhood, polygamy and separation.
- marriage of minors (those under 18).
- monitor changes in marriage rates, the average and median age at first marriage, and their trends during the past decade.
- monitor the changes occurring in the cases and rates of consanguineous marriage and the marriage of Jordanians to non-Jordanians.

The fact sheet was launched during the meeting held specifically for this purpose by HPC on December 21st, 2023, with the participation of the relevant national authorities.

- **Two fact sheets on Sexually Transmitted Diseases STDs and AIDS in Jordan".**

The papers were prepared with the participation of a committee of expert practitioners from the Ministry of Health, The Royal Jordanian Medical Services, World Health Organization, Sawa'ed for Change Association, International Organization for Migration, a consultant from the private sector, in addition to technicians from the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan.

The fact sheet on sexually transmitted diseases in Jordan aimed to disclose the following:

- identify STDs and AIDS and the extent of their spread in Jordan.
- diagnose the current situation of STDs and AIDS based on statistics derived from national records, including the number of infection cases by gender, age, and nationality.
- detect the source of infection whether from inside Jordan or from abroad and their geographical distribution.
- find means of infection and methods of discovering cases.

- explore the services provided to those infected with STDs and AIDS.
- The reality of data completeness.
- take note of testing and diagnostic services in Jordan.
- Identify the institutions that carry testing and diagnostic services whether governmental, civil society institutions or international organizations.
- look into the type of support provided and the cost of services given to infected individuals.

The fact sheet on the human immunodeficiency virus HIV and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome AIDS in Jordan aimed to:

- identify and diagnose the virus, explore ways of treatment, ways to live with the infection, and ways to prevent infection.
- detect means of transmission of infection, diagnosis and treatment.
- analyse the current situation regarding the spread of AIDS in Jordan based on national registry statistics and records which include numbers of infected cases, mortalities and cases of cohabitants.
- show cases of those receiving treatment according to sex, age, nationality, source of infection (in or out of Jordan,) and geographical distribution.
- explore the reality of data completeness.
- identify the monitoring system adopted in Jordan and methods of detecting cases (when donating blood, or by coincidence when a person seeks medical care or surgery, he/ she feels strange and chronic symptoms appear; reporting by another country).
- detect the mechanism for maintaining the national information system.
- look into the reality of medical services provided to people infected with AIDS in Jordan.
- find institutions that provide testing services.
- find institutions that provide services to infected people (governmental, civil society institutions, international organizations).
- explore the type of service and support provided.
- find out about the cost of services, treatment, etc.
- observe the reality of awareness services about HIV and AIDS, and the institutions that provide awareness programmes (governmental, civil society institutions, international organizations) and target groups.
- examine aspects of success and shortcomings in these programs.

• **Fact sheet on 'The use of aphrodisiacs in Jordan'.**

The paper was prepared with the participation of a committee of expert practitioners from national institutions. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Health, Jordan Food and Drug Administration, the Jordanian Customs Department, the Pharmacists Syndicate, Public Security Directorate, Government Procurement Department, in addition to technicians from the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan.

The paper aimed to:

- clarify the positive and negative aspects of the use of aphrodisiacs.
- show the volume of local and imported production of aphrodisiacs, and the volume of Jordan's consumption.
- control the circulation and promotion of aphrodisiacs (the volume of smuggling cases, the volume of promotion cases).
- show the extent of the spread of the problem of sexual dysfunction in the Jordanian society and its relationship to mental and physical diseases, age and gender.
- explain the use of natural aphrodisiacs and the risks associated with them.
- identify the risks associated with using forged medications.
- explain the legal framework for the use of aphrodisiacs in Jordan.

- Summary of policies 'Reducing elective caesarean section procedures with no medical validation in Jordan.'

A committee of expert practitioners from the Ministry of Health took part in the preparation of this summary. Other participants included Royal Medical Services, University of Jordan Hospital, and the USAID-funded Health Services Quality Enhancement Project, in addition to technicians from the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan. The summary aimed to analyse the problem of the growing phenomenon of unnecessary caesarean section deliveries in Jordan and to study the dimensions of this problem based on scientific evidence produced by a group of national studies and research that dealt with this matter and its impact on the health care system and the health of mothers and new-borns. In addition, the summary aimed to provide recommendations based on proof and scientific evidence to reduce the percentage of unnecessary caesarean section procedures.

- **Report on the work of Share-Net Jordan at the regional level.**

Share-Net Jordan work report was prepared at the regional level and posted on Share-Net International digital platform. The report includes an identification to the regional approach, its goals, and Share-Net Jordan's achievements using this approach for the years 2021-2023.

Report link: <https://2u.pw/aLWHWUz>



- **Share-Net Jordan Annual Plan 2024.**

Share-Net Jordan annual plan 2024 was prepared, discussed and approved by Share-Net International. The plan was developed based on discussions with members of Share-Net Jordan and members of the steering committee at the annual meeting.

- **The national plan to monitor and follow up on the progress in executing the National Population Strategy 2021-2030.**

The national plan was prepared to monitor and follow up on the progress in implementing the National Population Strategy 2021-2030; the plan reflects the aspirations that all partners aspire to through indicators related to the strategy. In preparing the plan, HPC adopted the principle of 'participatory approach' with the various parties concerned with implementing the strategy through conducting the analytical reviews of the National Population Strategy document, building on all documents and strategies related to it, and reviewing the logical framework of the desired strategic goals and the expected policies of interventions within each goal in order to achieve its vision. Vision of the strategy states that 'all residents enjoy a healthy and dignified social life and equal opportunities for economic participation.' Moreover, the plan also works on reviewing and updating performance indicator matrix in cooperation with members of the technical and steering committees of the National Population Strategy.

The Higher Population Council held a meeting February 18, 2023 for the Steering and Technical Committee/ the National Population Strategy. During the meeting, the national plan to monitor and follow up on progress in executing the strategy was approved. The most important and outstanding general recommendations of the plan were to emphasize the importance of implementing policies linked with integrating population issues into all national strategies which will contribute to promoting, supporting and successfully achieving the objectives, outputs and results of the strategy. This is interpreted and achieved through the availability of financial and human resources, in addition to the importance of providing data and evidence upon which decision support, follow-up and evaluation are based through compilation of data and conducting of research.

- **Preparing the training manual for sexual and reproductive health.**

The training manual for sexual and reproductive health was prepared within the project 'Towards achieving more sustainable services and solutions for the sexual and reproductive health needs of youth and refugees in Jordan'; the guide was distributed to participants as part of the project objectives of promoting sexual and reproductive health.

The guide aims to build knowledge, skills and positive attitudes for personnel at various national governmental and non-governmental institutions who work in the field of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in Jordan. Another objective of the guide is to serve as a tool for 'training of trainers' on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in Jordan in support of preparing a group of qualified trainers in this field.

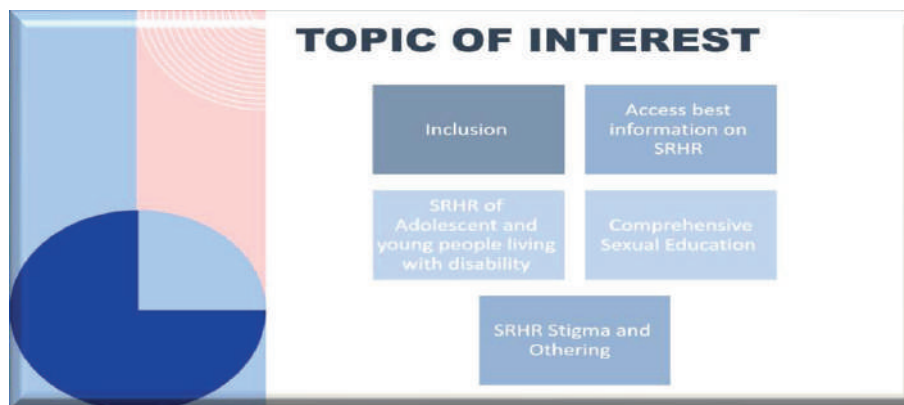
Events and Participations

- HPC participates in the periodic meetings of the National Team for Family Protection Against Violence 2023.



Professor Dr. Issa Almasarweh, HPC Secretary-General, participated in the 2023 periodic meetings of the National Team for Family Protection against Violence; the team comprises of 35 members representing a number of ministries and official institutions related to family affairs and a number of civil society organizations and the private sector, and headed by the National Council for Family Affairs.

- HPC hosts the second meeting of the Global Practitioner Committee on Youth and Adolescents in Sexual and Reproductive Health.



The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan hosted the second 'on-line' meeting of the Global Practitioner Committee on Youth and Adolescents in Sexual and Reproductive Health on January 24, 2023. Share-Net Jordan presented a comprehensive overview of the youth platform DARBY, which provides essential data and resources related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. The platform allows young people to ask questions about the topic, thus creating a safe and accessible space to interact and learn about relevant information. The meeting concluded with a discussion on subsequent steps to be taken.

- HPC proposes expanding the scope of work of the knowledge platform for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (Share-Net Jordan) at the regional level.



Professor Dr. Issa Almasarweh, HPC Secretary-General/ Chairman of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, and Mr. Ali Al-Mutlaq, Director of the Studies and Policy Unit/ Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan, visited Egypt on February 26, 2023, and Lebanon on April 7, 2023. The visits were scheduled to meet with bodies concerned with sexual and reproductive health issues in the two countries and discuss relevant matters. Also, on their agenda was to explain about and expand the scope of Share-Net Jordan's work at the regional level in order to strengthen and expand the network of Share-Net Jordan and Share-Net International by enriching the membership base with more active operators in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Additionally, the visits aimed to strengthen communication between activists working on sexual and reproductive health topics in the region and establish strategic partnerships to share best practices. To conclude their visits, HPC Secretary-General and Share-Net Jordan Coordinator aimed to compile knowledge and data outcomes that enlighten the process of reform policies and action plan programmes.



- The Higher Population Council meets with senior officials at the Ministry of Local Administration.

Professor Dr. Issa Almasarweh, HPS Secretary-General, met with Engineer Hussein Mhaidat, Secretary-General/ Ministry of Local Administration on March 8, 2023, in a dialogue meeting in the presence of the relevant directors in the Ministry. Dr. Masarweh gave a briefing supported by statistics and evidence about the current demographic and family status in Jordan and their current and expected impacts on all sectors and national needs. During his speech, Dr. Masarweh focused on the impact of the population explosion, the structure of the population comprising mainly of the young, and the poor management of population distribution amongst governorates, which affects the optimum use of land. Dr. Masarweh pointed out to the shortage of cultivated and agricultural lands and natural vegetation due to the concentration of population and refugees in the north-western parts of the Kingdom resulting in urban flooding in these areas and lands. Dr. Masarweh concluded by saying that this would entail a huge financial and administrative cost and serious damage to the environment, the rural economy, food security, traffic, and management of the urban environment, on the whole.



- **HPC participates in the activities of the Fifth International Conference 'Refugees in Jordan: A Vision towards the Future'.**

The Higher Population Council was present and took part in the activities of this conference organized by Yarmouk University, March 15-16, 2023. During the conference, Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, gave a presentation entitled 'Refugees and Non-Jordanians/Volume, Marriage and Birth in Two Decades.' Engineer Eid Al-Manasir from HPC also gave a presentation on the objectives, significance, and mechanism of using the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health, (DARBY).



- **HPC participates in the meeting of the 56th session of the UN Population and Development Commission-New York.**

The Higher Population Council, represented by the Secretary-General Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, participated in the 56th session of the UN Population and Development Commission held in New York, April 10-14, 2023, under the title Population, Education and Sustainable Development. During the session, HPC Secretary-General presented Jordan's position paper in the preparation of which all relevant national partners contributed.



- **Annual meeting of members of Share-Net Jordan .**

On May 4, 2023, Share-Net Jordan, hosted by the Higher Population Council, held the annual meeting for its members from all relevant national institutions in the context of maintaining and updating partners' knowledge on the developments on the Knowledge platform on sexual and reproductive health. Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, highlighted the importance of the Share-Net Jordan project in bridging the knowledge gap in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Mr. Ali Al-Mutlaq, Director of the Studies and Policy Unit/Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan, gave a presentation on the achievements of the platform for 2022 and the plan for 2023. Al-Mutlaq also addressed the priorities and future directions of Share-Net Jordan for the coming year. Ghaleb Al-Azzeh, HPC technical director and principal researcher, also presented the outputs of the project improvement program using the 'participatory approach'.



- HPC participates in the coordination meeting to exchange experiences and knowledge between member states of the Arab Council for Population and Development in Iraq.



Miss. Rania Al-Abbadi, HPC Assistant Secretary-General, participated in the coordination meeting to exchange experiences and knowledge between the member states of the Arab Council for Population and Development held in Iraq, May 17-18, 2023. The event was organized by Ministry of Planning/ Iraq, the League of Arab States, Technical Secretariat of the Arab Council for Population and Development and the UN Population Fund. Presentations were given on the 16 complex indicators of the Economic Modernization Vision (2023-2033), as well as defining the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

- **HPC holds a workshop for partners of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030) to discuss the results of the strategy implementation follow-up report for 2022.**

The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the UN Population Fund, held a workshop for partners of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (2020-2030) from governmental and non-governmental institutions, civil society organizations and international organizations, May 21-22, 2023.

The workshop aimed to discuss the most important achievements at the level of institutional interventions that are linked to strategic interventions which will achieve the desired outputs and results.

A meeting was also held for members of the steering and technical committees with the aim of informing them of the results of the 2022 performance report, highlighting the gaps and challenges, and coming up with recommendations that would improve the performance of the strategy.



- **The Higher Population Council formed a sub-committee specifically intended for the targeted indicators of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health 2020-2030.** The committee comprised of national bodies who are partners in the strategy. One of the tasks and responsibilities of the committee was to contribute in determining the base values of the indicators at all levels of inputs, outputs, results and impacts in order to reinforce the process of comparison and measurement later, measure and follow up on the level of accomplishments achieved, and identify sources of private information and national bodies concerned with the base and target values as well as identify the responsibility of national partners. To this end, a meeting was held on February 27, 2023, with the aim of determining indicators to reach the strategic goals and target values and define accomplishments of the National Population Strategy 2021-2030.
- **HPC meets with members of the Health, Environment and Population Committee/ Jordanian Senate to discuss the most prominent population and development issues in the Kingdom.**

The Higher Population Council held a meeting with members of the Health, Environment and Population Committee/ the Jordanian Senate May 22, 2023. The meeting was headed by Senate member Dr.Yassin Al-Hassan to discuss key issues in population and development in the Kingdom. During the meeting, Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, reviewed the current demographic situation of the population in Jordan. Dr. Masarweh indicated that the impact of demographic changes is long-term and affects all sectors and national needs, adding that the rapid population growth and the 'young age' structure of the population in Jordan require the allocation of large resources to meet the basic human needs of security, housing, food, energy, education, health and work.



- **HPC meets with members of the Parliamentary committees: Education and Youth and the Women and Family Affairs .**



Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General met with members of the parliamentary committees: Education and Youth Committee and the Women and Family Affairs Committee July 3, 2023. During the meeting, aspects of the current and projected demographic status and relevant family and general difficulties and challenges were reviewed. This meeting came in fulfilment of the tasks of the Higher Population Council, which is to inform the Legislative Authority of the current demographic situation of the population of Jordan, in realizing that demographic characteristics and changes are global and not sectoral issues, affecting all economic, social and environmental fields and all population needs, and that their impact is long-term and may extend for decades to come.

- **HPC meets with the National Team for Sexual and Reproductive Health.**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan, in cooperation with the UN Population Fund team on sexual and reproductive health held a meeting on May 24, 2023. The meeting aimed to present a fact sheet to the team representing the relevant national authorities on 'Sexual and Reproductive Health for the Elderly in Jordan'.



- **Regional meeting on priorities, programs and challenges related to reproductive and sexual health.**

Share-Net Jordan organized a regional meeting on June 11, 2023 to discuss priorities, programs, and challenges related to reproductive and sexual health, within the framework of expanding the scope of operations of Share-Net Jordan at the regional level. The meeting aimed to review the issues, priorities, challenges, and current status of sexual and reproductive health in Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon.

During the meeting, three working papers were presented. The first paper 'Reproductive and Sexual Health in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Issues and Needs,' was presented by Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General. The second paper, presented by Professor Dr. Hassan Zaki/ American University in Cairo, addressed the current situation, trends and dimensions of reproductive and sexual health in Egypt. The paper also addressed the main strategies that deal with sexual and reproductive health issues, in addition to the main stakeholders operating in this field, and the main initiatives and activities related to sexual and reproductive health that are currently underway in Egypt. The third paper was presented by Dr. Jocelyn DeJong/ Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, and Associate Provost/ American University of Beirut. The paper addressed a comprehensive overview of the state of sexual and reproductive health in Lebanon.



- **The second consultative meeting between producers of data on 'The expected role of administrative records as a main source of information in Jordan'.**

The Higher Population Council, endorsed by the UN Population Fund, held a second technical meeting, June 21-22, 2023, for the main producers of administrative data in the national statistical system June 21-22, 2023. The meeting aimed to follow up on the outcomes and recommendations of the first workshop, held in December 2022, that have been implemented. Additionally, the meeting aimed to provide a second opportunity for deliberation between producers of and users of administrative data and continue national efforts to improve and upgrade administrative records data while filling the gaps to meet the needs of more users, and pave the way to have the administrative records ready if a decision is taken to adopt a registered or hybrid population and housing census in 2025 in the place of the electronic census.



- **HPC participates in a workshop: 'Establishing the National Team to Accelerate the Progress of the Third Sustainable Development Goal in Jordan'.**

The Higher Population Council took part in this workshop which was organized in cooperation with the Jordanian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, July 7-8, 2023. The workshop aimed to create the national team in order to accelerate the progress of the third goal of the sustainable development goals in Jordan. By doing so, the workshop aimed to upgrade and improve progress in fulfilling this goal through improving governance and providing data.

- **HPC participates in a meeting of liaison officers of the national plan to reduce/ eliminate the marriage of girls under 18.**

The meeting, held on August 7, 2023, aimed to discuss the training plan and updates in the work of the technical committee (national plan) to reduce/ eliminate the occurrences of marriage of girls under 18. Likewise, the meeting also aimed to discuss the awareness guide for the marriage of minors and the biannual plan for 2023.

- **HPC participates in the first meeting on social inclusion and eradication of poverty as part of the follow up on enacting the new urban agenda.**

The Higher Population Council participated in this meeting held under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development on August 10, 2023. The meeting mainly aimed to review the monitoring indicators of social inclusion and poverty eradication within the second national report to monitor the application of the new urban agenda.

- **HPC participates in the introductory meeting for Change Day on its tenth anniversary of 2023.**

The meeting, held on August 23, 2023, was organized by the Health Institutions Accreditation Council. Change Day falls on September 18 of each year. This year's theme was 'patient participation.' The theme entailed offering pledges by institutions to ensure the patient's involvement in his own treatment journey and keeping him well informed of his rights.



- **HPC participates in the fourth meeting of SRHRYA iCoP.**

Share-Net Jordan, hosted by the Higher Population Council, participated in this meeting on August 24, 2023. The meeting targeted global practitioner committees for sexual and reproductive health for youth and adolescents. Discussions addressed improving access to reproductive and sexual health information through platforms such as 'Hello Ado' and 'DARBY.' However, the meeting was lacking in certain areas as there were challenges regarding content and a lack of focus on mental health and wellness.

- **HPC participates in the First Global Congress on Population, Health and Development.**



Under the patronage of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and organized by the Ministry of Health and Population/ Egypt, a Jordanian delegation participated in this conference, 'Healthy Population for Sustainable Development' held on September 5-8, 2023.

The Jordanian delegation participating in this conference included Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General; Ali Al-Mutlaq, Director of the Studies and Policy Unit/ Share-Net Jordan Coordinator, along with representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services, University of Jordan, United States Agency for International Development/ Jordan, and a number of civil society organizations and experts.

Key objectives of the conference were as follows:

- emphasize the interrelationship between population, health and sustainable development.
- provide a platform for exchanging experiences and knowledge to enhance the health and well-being of the population while supporting economic and social development.
- Reach to recommendations and a road map for channels to adapt to and confront global challenges and improve health outcomes.
- mitigate the impact of population changes and migration on health and development.

- **HPC participates in a workshop on a comprehensive health coverage for non-communicable diseases.**

The Higher Population Council participated in this workshop held on September 7, 2023 in cooperation with the Royal Society for Health Awareness and representatives of a number of national and international organizations. The workshop aimed to discuss comprehensive health coverage for non-communicable diseases.

- **HPC participates in the meetings held with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) and a delegation from the Institute of Graduate Studies/ Geneva.**

The Higher Population Council, represented by Mr. Ali Al-Mutlaq, Director of Studies and Policies, participated in these meetings held on September 12-14, 2023 where interventions were delivered about the Higher Population Council, its goals, the nature and scope of its work, and key achievements in the field of development and sexual and reproductive health in terms of the various activities, studies, strategies, and population projections carried out by HPC. Meetings also tackled such issues as the impact of population growth on various sectors such as health, education, water and others. Moreover, there was talk about the intended regional conference to be held on the extent of incorporating the concepts of sexual and reproductive health into school curricula. Lastly, the conference addressed the importance of complementarity at work between JOHUD and HPC.

- **HPC participates in the periodic meetings of the Share-Net International Executive Committee.**

Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary General/ Chairman of the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan, and Mr. Ali Al-Mutlaq, Director of Studies and Policies/ Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan, participated in these meetings, September 25, 2023. Ways and channels for obtaining funding were explored in the course of the meetings. Also, the notion of imposing membership fees on Share-Net members was put for discussion. HPC Secretary-General proposed drafting a form and circulating it to Share-Net members in each country to elicit opinions about paying subscription fees. The proposal was approved; Share-Net International will prepare this questionnaire and send it to all knowledge platforms in each country to conduct a survey on the willingness and readiness of member states to pay a certain amount of fees. Evaluation of the findings and results of the survey are to follow. Among the discussions also was the celebration in 2024 of the tenth anniversary of the founding of Share-Net International and the completion of the years of the strategic plan 2020-2024.

- **HPC Partakes in the meeting of the Global practitioner committee on integrating males in sexual and reproductive health issues.**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan participated in the meeting of the Global Practitioners Committee for Male Inclusion in Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues, May 10, 2023. A spokesperson representing the Centre for the Study of Men and Masculinity submitted the results of their preliminary study on marital rape.

- **HPC participates in the meeting of the Global Practitioner Committee on Sexual and Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Youth.**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan participated in the meeting of the Global Practitioners Committee for Sexual and Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Youth, October 24, 2023. The meeting aimed to discuss project proposals to strengthen the role of youth and adolescents in supporting sexual and reproductive health issues. Share-Net Jordan took part in a project proposal on strengthening reproductive health platforms and enhancing youth participation in the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health, (DARBY).

- **HPC participates in a meeting on the Theory of Change at Share-Net International.**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan held a meeting, with social scientist Kusters Lincie/ University of Amsterdam October 29, 2023, on the Theory of Change.

During the meeting, the theory of change was discussed, as well as suggestions for developing it presented by Share-Net Jordan through the experience it gained from the Share-Net International Strategic Plan 2020-2024.



- **Meetings of Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee.**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan held two meetings for the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee. The first meeting was held on October 31, 2023, where Share-Net Jordan achievements for 2023 were presented, along with its plan for 2024 followed by an open discussion on the future directions of the Share-Net Jordan project. The second meeting was held on May 23, 2023 where Share-Net Jordan achievements for 2022 and its plan for 2023 were presented. Share-Net Jordan also presented its accomplishments regarding expanding Share-Net Jordan's work at the regional level to include Egypt and Lebanon. Share-Net Jordan presented the outcomes of the project improvement program using the participatory approach, The Share-Net International Rapid Improvement Model (SHIRIM). The most important results of the meetings with members of Share-Net Jordan for the three regions (central, north, and south) were presented regarding their proposals for activities in 2024 along with the future directions of the Share-Net Jordan project and proposed activities for the 2024 plan.

- **HPC participates in a session to evaluate Share-Net Jordan experience in applying the participatory approach on the relationship of parents with their adolescent children with regard to sexual and reproductive health.**



Share-Net Jordan and Share-Net International held a session, November 9, 2023, to evaluate Share-Net Jordan's experience in applying the participatory approach to parents' relationships with their adolescent children with regard to sexual and reproductive health 2022-2023.

- **Review of the national standards document for youth-friendly reproductive and sexual health services and the mechanism for applying them in cooperation with the Health Institutions Accreditation Council.**

Within the context of the Higher Population Council's interest in maintaining the application of national standards for reproductive health services, and HPC's endeavour to evaluate previous experiences and build on the lessons learned from it with the aim of creating an integrated accreditation system to be adopted by health care institutions in the future, it has been agreed upon to initiate cooperation with the Health Institutions Accreditation Council, being the expert and knowledgeable reference in this field.



To this end, a set of national standards for reproductive and sexual health services for youth at the level of health centres and all the data and reports related to them were reviewed and analysed. Also, the mechanism by which the previous application process took place and the evaluation tools that were employed were evaluated as well. A workshop to showcase the results and outcomes of the analysis and ways to improve them was held. Participants in the workshop listened to and took the point of view of staff at health centres and other concerned parties where these standards were applied. In conclusion, participants came up with an analytical report that includes analysis of gaps and recommendations to improve and upgrade these standards and evaluation tools and methodology. This, participants concluded, would prepare the appropriate basis to later present the set of standards as an integrated accreditation program to be adopted by healthcare institutions in future.

The review process came to the deduction of the importance of working in the subsequent stage to issue an updated document, taking into account the results produced by the review process, and developing a phased plan of action to produce the standards as an integrated accreditation program to be applied to institutions later.

- **HPC participates in a meeting to launch the results of the 2023 Population and Family Health Survey.**

The Higher Population Council, represented by Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General participated in the meeting to launch the results of the Population and Family Health Survey 2023, which was organized by the Department of General Statistics, November 16, 2023. According to results of the survey, the completed childbirth rate for Jordanian women in the age group 40-49 years was 3.7 children per woman, compared to 4.5 children for Syrian women and 4.7 children for Syrian women living in camps.



- **HPC participates in the preparation of the fourth periodic review report on the situation of human rights in Jordan.**

As member of the government coordination team for human rights, The Higher Population Council participated in the preparation of the report of the fourth periodic review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the situation of human rights in Jordan. The report, which is submitted to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, included most prominent achievements of Jordan in the field of reproductive and sexual health and reproductive rights.

- **HPC takes part in the fifth meeting of the Expert Advisory Committee/ Arab Council for Population and Development.**

The Higher Population Council participated in the fifth meeting of the Expert Advisory Committee of the Arab Council for Population and Development, organized by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (Social Affairs Sector-Population Policy Administration-Technical Secretariat of the Arab Council for Population and Development) November 23, 2023. The meeting aimed to discuss and reach an agreement on the memoranda explaining the topics on the agenda of the fifth session of the Arab Council for Population and Development.

- **HPC takes part in the fifth ordinary session of the Arab Council for Population and Development ACPD.**

A Jordanian delegation headed by Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General/Chairman of the Board of Trustees and standing-in for the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation participated in the fifth ordinary session of the Arab Council for Population and Development ACPD, Monday, November 27th, 2023, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo. The session was organized by the General Secretariat of the Arab Council for



Population and Development and headed by Sudan, with the participation of ministers, parliamentarians and ambassadors of Arab countries, members of the national councils and committees for population and development in the Arab world, in addition to representatives of international organizations holding the status of observers.

During the course of the session, HPC approved a number of resolutions, including those related to demographic transformation and development, opening of the demographic window, cooperation and reinforcing partnership between the government and private sectors to support population programmes, initiatives and projects in the Arab world, as well as experiences of countries in population platforms and observatories and their contribution in implementing the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Cairo Declaration 2013. Moreover, a workshop was conducted on supporting skills development and improving employment among the youth, implications of reverse migration on human capital, mental wellness of children in countries emerging from conflict, youth and risky behaviours, and mechanism on integrating gender into plans and development programs to achieve sustainable development goals. Finally, the Arab Population and Development Day 2024 was set on October 28, 2024.

- **Jordan participates in the meetings of the coordinators committee for Digital Knowledge Platforms in the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Burundi and Bangladesh.**

Share-Net Jordan participated in the meetings of the committee formed by Share-Net International for knowledge platform coordinators in Jordan, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Burundi and Bangladesh on November 27, 2023. These meetings are held periodically where the achievements of each country are presented in addition to discussions on any developments to advance the work.

- **HPC participates in the meetings of the Share-Net International committee created for fund raising.**

HPC Director of the Studies and Policy Unit/ Share-Net Jordan coordinator Ali Al-Mutlaq participated in the meetings of Share-Net International committee formed to attract funding, October 3, November 26 & 28, 2023. The committee works on preparing an action plan to bring in funding beyond 2024.

- **HPC participates in a workshop ' Using administrative records in building a national statistical register and the General Population and Housing Census 2025.'**

The Higher Population Council participated in a workshop entitled ' Using administrative records in building a national statistical register and the General Population and Housing Census 2025.'The workshop was organized by the Department of General Statistics in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund, December 5-6, 2023.

The workshop aimed to discuss efforts to improve administrative records and their role in implementing the General Population and Housing Census 2023, which contributes to building a comprehensive national statistical register of population and housing to be the core for extracting indicators and conducting censuses and surveys.

Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, gave a speech in which he emphasized the importance of this meeting and its outcomes, noting that the general population and housing census is a major and costly statistical process that calls for the involvement of additional national cadres, as it aims to offer accurate and up to date information.

HPC Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Rania Al-Abbadi, gave a computerized presentation about HPC experience in working with partner agencies in reinforcing the role of administrative records in the Jordanian statistical system.



HPC participates in the regional conference to build networking to educate people with disabilities on reproductive and sexual health issues .

Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, participated in this conference organized by the Coptic Evangelical Organization and Diakonia, a faith-based Swedish development organization operating in 25 countries, December 6-9, 2023. The conference took place on the side-lines of the Climate Partners Conference COP28. Dr. Masarweh presented a paper on Jordan's experience in providing data on disability cases by age, gender, contents of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health 2020-2030, and the Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan 2016-2025, the third focus of which is concerned with the rights of the groups most vulnerable to violation i.e. people with disabilities, women, children and the elderly.

Participating in the conference and giving presentations were also representatives of governmental and private institutions and parliamentarians from Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Jordan, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a member of parliament/ Jordanian Senate, and Executive Director of Al-Hussein Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of People with Motor Challenges.

- **HPC participates in the monthly seminar of the policy dialogue program 'The Jordanian response plan to the Syrian crisis Phase Two 2024-2026'.**

Ali Al-Mutlaq, HPC Director of the Studies and Policies Unit, participated in this seminar December 12, 2023. The seminar was organized by the Jordanian Women Solidarity Institute Association 'Tadamon' and aimed to discuss the core of the plan, the mechanism of working on it in the subsequent stage, and the national efforts made in support of Syrian refugees.

Key points Al-Mutlaq addressed in the course of his speech at the seminar were about HPC activities with regard to refugees, including studies and programs already executed, certain statistics on the number of refugees and the number of refugee nationalities. Al-Mutlaq pointed to the relevance and importance of including the projects contained within the response plan for the upcoming phase 2024-2026 to be presented in a scientific context, be applicable and financeable. Al-Mutlaq stressed the importance that financing agencies be committed and adhere to financing as pledged.

- **HPC meets with Jordan Institute of Diplomacy.**

The Higher Population Council, represented by Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, held a meeting with Ambassador Haifa Al-Khraisha/ Director of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, and Deputy Director, Acting Minister Rashid Erekat, December 12, 2023.

Secretary-General Al-Masarweh gave a briefing on the Council, its work programmes, and the demographic indicators page. Aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two sides were discussed; both parties came to the agreement that coordination would be carried out by the Institute of Diplomacy to develop a vision for the mechanism of cooperation with HPC within the Institute's plan for the year 2024 and present it to HPC to define its role in contributing to this plan.

- **HPC participates in the first national scientific conference 'The National Response to HIV: Challenges and Aspirations'.**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan participated in the first national scientific conference 'The National Response to HIV between Challenges and Aspirations,' held on December 17, 2023. Additionally, 15 participants from the Share-Net Jordan network who work in the medical sector were invited, as well as those still studying at universities.

- **Higher Population Council participates in a workshop to monitor and follow-up the report of the executive plan for the national priority matrix .**

HPC took part in a workshop to discuss the monitoring and following-up report of the executive plan for the national priority matrix to reinforce the protection system against gender-based violence, domestic violence and child protection for the years 2021-2023 as well as work priorities to strengthen the system of protection against violence for the year 2024. The workshop was organized by the National Council for Family Affairs in partnership with the UN Population Fund December 14-16, 2023.

Institutional level: Building national capacities in the field of population and development



- A training course: “Statistical Indicators for Media Professionals”.



The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the Jordan News Agency-Petra and with the support of the UN Population Fund, organized a two-day training course in which twenty-four participants representing various media outlets participated. The workshop was held on February 27-28, 2023 under the title Statistical Indicators for Media Professionals. HPC Secretary-General, and Assistant Secretary-General, presented four lectures on the forms and types of statistical indicators and the distinction between them in terms of name and significance; global composite statistical indicators; composite statistical indicators in measuring performance of the vision of economic modernization (2023-2033), and lastly, the indicators of **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The course program also included a pre-and post-electronic information competition, and two lectures by the Department of General Statistics on local and international data sources, the components of the Department of General Statistics website, and methods of using the website to access statistics in a wide range of fields. Another lecture was presented on health system indicators according to their levels, in addition to a lecture on common errors and media models when dealing with statistics in media materials.

- A pilot training program on the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health guide (Comprehensive SRHR).

The Higher Population Council, with the participation of representatives of the relevant national authorities, held a pilot training program on the Specialized Guide to Sexual and Reproductive Health (Comprehensive SRHR), March 1-2, 2023 and March 12-14, 2023. The event comes alongside the activities of the project Towards achieving more sustainable services and solutions to the sexual and reproductive health needs of youth and refugees in Jordan, which is conducted 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.

- **Phase four activities of the Training of Trainers course in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights SRHR.**

The Higher Population Council held the session March 5-7, 2023, within the activities of the project Towards More Sustainable Services and Solutions to Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs and Reproductive Rights of Youth and Refugees in Jordan, in partnership with Belink Academy, KIT Royal Tropical Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Yarmouk University and Ahl al-Jabal Association for Human Development.

The course focused on keeping participants well informed about communication mechanisms and tools, disseminate and post research results, methods to develop cognitive tools and translate them to the target group, and build alliances, either in person or via social media to attain a more enabling environment for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and gender equality.



- **HPC participates in the fourth educational session within the project improvement program model using the participatory approach (SHIRIM).**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan participated in the fourth educational session within the project 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 national centres in phase 3 of the implementation of the model, where, at this stage, local centres presented their knowledge products.

Among the activities of the session was holding an exhibition of knowledge products of the national centres within the SHIRIM project, where Share-Net Jordan prepared a guide for parents and a short video to support parents educate their adolescent siblings on sexual and reproductive health. During the session, Share-Net Jordan also shared its experience in using non-traditional methodology to transform mutual learning in the sexual and reproductive health activities.



- **HPC takes part in a course: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Organizing Effective Responses.**

Share-Net Jordan, hosted by the Higher Population Council, participated in a course entitled Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Organizing Effective Responses at the Royal Tropical Institute KIT in the Netherlands, April 11, 2023 to May 3, 2023.

The course focused on means to improve and facilitate individuals' access to equitable, high quality sexual and reproductive health services, and enhance integration between these services, in addition to promoting effective participation and making individuals' voices heard. The course aimed to enable participants to have a comprehensive understanding of issues related to sexual and reproductive health, and to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop effective responses in this field, and through interaction with experts in this field.



- **A workshop on the use of statistical indicators in the media for personnel at The Radio and Television Corporation .**

The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the Radio and Television Corporation and with the support of the UN Population Fund, organized a two-day training workshop for a number of media professionals working at the Radio and Television Corporation: Using statistical indicators in the media, May 14-15, 2023. On the first day, 17 media professionals from Radio Jordan participated, and on the second day, 10 media professionals from the Jordan TV participated.

This workshop came as part of HPC ongoing endeavour to enhance media professionals' knowledge of national and international statistical indicators and means to employ them in their work at the Radio and Television Corporation.



- **Share-Net Jordan conducts two workshops in the southern region of the Kingdom.**



Share-Net Jordan, hosted by the Higher Population Council, conducted a workshop at the Princess Basma Center for Human Development in Aqaba, and another one at Al Hussein Bin Talal University in Ma'an.

The first workshop, held in Aqaba on May 17, 2023, aimed to inform participants about the demographic scene in Jordan and introduce Share-Net Jordan knowledge platform for sexual and reproductive health, in addition to launching Guide to Parents on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Their Adolescent Children, as well as viewing a short video: Educating Children about Sexual and Reproductive Health. Taking part in the workshop were the following dignitaries: Director of Health/ Aqaba Governorate, Director of Education, Director of Youth, a representative of the Social Development Directorate, practitioners in the fields of reproductive health, and representatives of a number of civil society institutions and organizations. Also taking part in the workshop were a number of non-governmental organizations working in the field of family health in the Aqaba governorate, Princess Basma Centre for Human Development, Aqaba Women Association, Women of the Coast Association, the Goodwill Association, the Ideal Food Centre, and the Health Committee of the Local Community.

The second workshop, held in Ma'an Governorate on May 18, 2023, aimed to keep members of Share-Net Jordan in the south well informed about developments on Share-Net Jordan's knowledge platform for sexual and reproductive health.

Taking part in this workshop were the following: members of Share-Net Jordan in the southern region, academics from the faculties of medicine and nursing from Al-Hussein bin Talal University, Mu'tah University, University of Jordan/ Aqaba Branch, in addition to practitioners in the field of sexual and reproductive health from the Ma'an and Tafila Health Directorates and the Family Health Care Institute in Karak. Keynote speaker/ participant in this workshop was Professor Dr. Muhammad Al-Rasai, Vice President for Administrative Affairs/ Al-Hussein Bin Talal University.

- **A training workshop for the pharmacists' sector on Specialized Counselling on Family Planning.**



The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the Pharmacists Syndicate and the Ministry of Health, and with the support of Share-Net Jordan, held a training workshop specialized in counselling on methods of regulating reproduction/ family planning. The three-day workshop, June 12-14, 2023 aimed to increase pharmacists' knowledge on methods and means of regulating birth and giving advice and information for people who frequent pharmacies to obtain these means in all local communities.

- **Second training workshop: Mainstreaming Social Determinants of Health Equity into Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs in Jordan (Maternal Mortality).**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan participated in the second training workshop organized by the UN Population Fund and executed by the Information and Research Centre at the American University in Cairo and the Health Research Centre at the American University in Beirut on Mainstreaming Social Determinants of Health Equity into Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs in Jordan-Second Workshop 'Maternal Mortality' July 23-24, 2023.

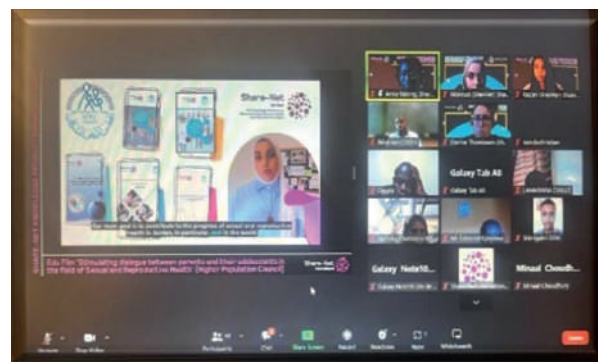
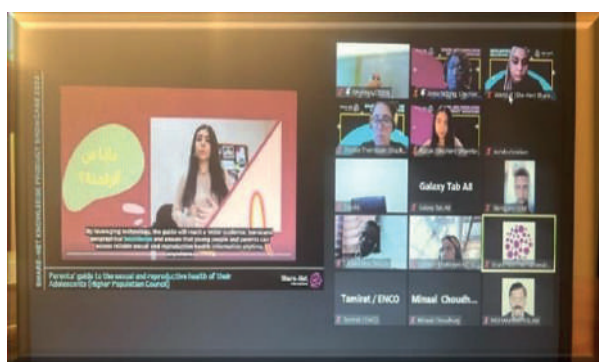
- **A training workshop for personnel of Arab population councils and committees on ways to prepare policy summaries and fact sheets.**



The Higher Population Council held an on-line training workshop on Building Capacities and Skills in Preparing Policy Summaries and Fact Sheets for the purpose of formulating Population Policies and Reproductive Health Programs and Gaining Support for them, August 2, 2023. 67 participants from 20 Arab countries employed at Arab population councils and committees or at similar entities took part in this workshop.

The workshop aimed to provide participants with the requirements, specifications and basics of policy papers associated with population and development. Additionally, the workshop aimed to familiarize participants with the knowledge on developing policy options or appropriate alternatives proposed to deal with a widespread social phenomenon that inflicts harm to families and individuals. Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh HPC Secretary-General, Ms. Rania Al-Abbadi, Assistant Secretary-General and Mr. Ghaleb Al-Azza, HPC technical director and principal researcher led the training.

- **Share-Net first exhibition of knowledge products.**



Share-Net Jordan, hosted by The Higher Population Council, participated in the first Share-Net International Exhibition, July 4-5, 2023. On display were Share-Net Jordan's knowledge products within the participatory approach program on the relationship of parents with their adolescent children with regard to sexual and reproductive health. An explanatory video for 'Guide to parents on sexual and reproductive health of their children' was one of the exhibits. Another short educational video on how to stimulate dialogue between parents and their young children about their sexual and reproductive health and address questions from all participating countries was also put on display to be viewed.

- **Consultative meeting on providing legal protection for women against violence: Official bodies and law enforcement agencies (political, social, economic, administrative).**

The Higher Population Council took part in this meeting which was organized by the Ministry of Social Development on July 11, 2023. The meeting aimed to discuss and define the necessary steps to provide legal protection for women against violence. This meeting was organized as part of a series of sessions bringing together official agencies, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and women subjected to gender-based violence and active in this field.

- **Participation in the conference: Women Deliver 2023 .**

Share-Net Jordan, hosted by the Higher Population Council, participated in this virtual conference, July 17-20, 2023. The conference aimed to discuss women's empowerment, shed light on gender-based violence and women's participation and involvement in politics. During the course of the conference, health challenges facing women during the COVID-19 pandemic were put for discussion alongside the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health efforts exerted by HPC, and finally, the role of youth in addressing climate change.

- **Meeting with members of Youth International Practitioner Committee iCoP.**

Hosted by the Higher Population Council, Share-Net Jordan held this meeting July 27, 2023, with the participation of 28 male and female students. The meeting aimed to address multiple aspects of reproductive and sexual health and reproductive rights as well as prepare members' action plans for knowledge products. Participants also attended lectures on aspects of the demographic status in Jordan, on sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS and harassment in universities. Moreover, participants were introduced to Share-Net Jordan and some of its achievements in the project (guide to parents and a short educational video) to encourage and stimulate dialogue between parents and their adolescent children.



- **HPC participates in the Fifth Scientific Day of Nursing at Princess Mona College.**

The Higher Population Council participated in this day held at the Royal Medical Services, September 4, 2023. Celebrating this day was intended to exchange knowledge, experiences and scientific discussions in the field of nursing. Accomplishments and aspirations for the future were reviewed with the aim of attaining the vision for which college was first established.

- **Participation in the workshop on preparing an educational resource kit.**

The Higher Population Council participated in this workshop, held on September 4-7, 2023 and organized by the Royal Society for Health Awareness within the project: Our Youth for Health. The workshop aimed to introduce the educational resources kit for sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and youth and receive feedback on ways to improve and develop it so as to become The National Educational Resource Kit for Sexual and Reproductive Health and include all age groups.

- **HPC participates in the vocational guidance meeting for students of Centre for Women's Studies Jordan University.**

The Higher Population Council participated in this meeting held on September 14, 2023, and organized by the Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Jordan in partnership with the German International Cooperation GIZ. The Vocational Guidance program targets graduates and students of the Centre for Women's Studies-University of Jordan. In essence, the program aims to facilitate students' and graduates of the Centre for Women's Studies access opportunities to the labour market.

- **A training workshop on estimation of vital indicators for the main data producers in the Jordanian statistical system.**



The Higher Population Council, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, held a 2-day training workshop on estimation of vital indicators for the main data producers in the Jordanian statistical system, September 25-26, 2023. The training workshop aimed to equip participants with internationally recognized direct demographic concepts and methods for the calculation of vital indicators.

Another target, the workshop aimed to achieve was to enrich participants applied technical skills to estimate indicators that measure demographic/vital processes (marriage, childbirth, and death), in addition to identifying demographic data and their sources (inventory sources and flow/ motion sources). Furthermore, the workshop was intended to give more consideration to the need for coordination between the national institutions that calculate these indicators in order to avoid variances between their estimates.

- **A training workshop on national standards for youth-friendly reproductive and sexual health services RSHS for personnel of associations working with youth in conjunction with the partners of the 'Masarna' project.**

The Higher Population Council, with the support of Oxfam, and alongside the stages of the Masarna 2023 project, conducted a specialized training program to introduce the concept of reproductive health, its components, and the national standards document for reproductive health services, October 22-25, 2023. The training program was targeted for male and female personnel of the associations partnering in the project: Jordanian Women's Union, Tamy Foundation for Human Development, Naya Community Network, Sawa'id Al-Change Organization for Community Empowerment, Darabzeen Organization for Human Development, and Hekaya Centre for Civil Society Development 2023.



The training program included specialized sessions presented by Ms. Rania Al-Abbadi, HPC Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Badia Qabilat, HPC Coordinator of the Advocacy and Capacity Building Program of Partners, and Ms. Joanna Samawi, HPC Coordinator of the Population, Development and Gender Program. The sessions covered a wide range of topics including:

- reproductive health services and components.
- introducing the eight standards for youth-friendly reproductive health services and the sub-standards emanating from them, which are empowering young people in terms of health and means of promoting and publicising sexual and reproductive health services.
- enhancing youth support through the support of the community.
- providing a package of appropriate reproductive and sexual health services and information.
- ensuring efficiency of service providers.
- standard and characteristics of the service provision site.
- fairness, justice and objectivity.
- quality and upscale of data and information.
- youth engagement and participation.

- **HPC participates in a seminar on population and development in developing countries.**

The Higher Population Council participated in a seminar on population and development in developing countries, which was held in the People's Republic of China, November 11-14, 2023. The seminar was organized by the Centre for Reproductive Health and Family Health Care, a branch of the National Health Foundation of China. During the course of the seminar, a presentation was given on the Chinese experience in population and development and the exchange of experiences between developing countries in the field of population and development policies. Rania Al-Abbadi, HPC Assistant Secretary-General, gave a speech on behalf of participants, where she emphasized the importance of exchanging experiences between participating countries in the scope of strengthening population and development policies in a way that contributes to achieving the well-being and prosperity of all. Ms Abbadi went on and gave a computerized presentation on the reality of population and development in Jordan, Jordan's achievements in the field of sustainable development and the challenges related to population and development.

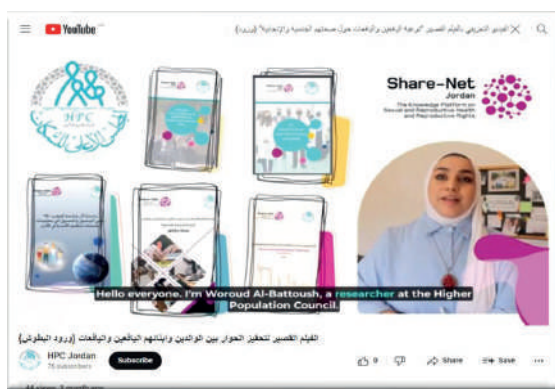


- The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan host two students from Vrije Universities Amsterdam.

Part of the students' work was to apply field research for their master's degree in Jordan on sexual and reproductive health under the supervision of Secretary-General Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh. Field work and interviews for the studies were carried out at the Institute for Family Health Care and the Jordanian Society for Family Planning and Protection.

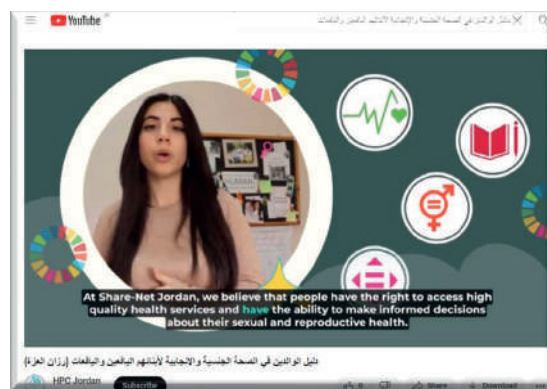
- Production of educational videos to introduce the knowledge products resulting from SHARE-NET International Projects Rapid Improvement Model (SHIRIM) program, which were presented at the Knowledge Grant Day 2023 conference.

The videos aimed to present and share information in a concise manner to reach to a wider audience, and to communicate the purpose, objective and success of the knowledge products. The videos explained the booklet, Guide to parents on sexual and reproductive health for their adolescent children. A short film Stimulating dialogue between parents and their adolescent children on sexual and reproductive health was also promoted as one component of the knowledge products.



Introductory video/ trailer for the short film Educating male and female adolescents about their sexual and reproductive health.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIqtbfkkiHY>



Explanatory video to Guide to parents on sexual and reproductive health for their adolescent children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h-F8ETn92c>

- Signing an agreement with the Family Health Care Institute/King Hussein Foundation to prepare, develop and disseminate awareness material on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

The awareness material is meant to be used in awareness sessions and local community training within the project of responding and access to protection services in Jordan, through enabling and empowering adolescents, youth and community initiatives. Project is fully funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Jordan.

- Signing a memorandum of understanding with the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE).

The memorandum aims to promote and exchange information and scientific evidence related to gender and adolescence to ensure that practitioners and policy makers in Jordan have access to the best results and outcomes in addition to exchanging lessons and experiences between the parties to propose the most effective recommendations in the field of policies and programmes. Based on this agreement, two reports were reviewed:

Tackling 'taboo' culture to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Jordan.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health information and services in Jordan: gaps and priorities

A suggested list of various institutions concerned in this area was also prepared and sent to invite them to attend the launch of the studies. A meeting was held between HPC and a team from the Gender and Adolescence: A Global Guide, on November 8, 2023 to discuss aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two sides.

**Individual and community level:
gaining support and raising awareness**



- Celebrating World Population Day.

The Higher Population Council held a series of events in cooperation with UN Population Fund to celebrate World Population Day, which falls on July 11 of each year. The campaign this year was: Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities. The activities were as follows:

- Meeting commemorating World Population Day.

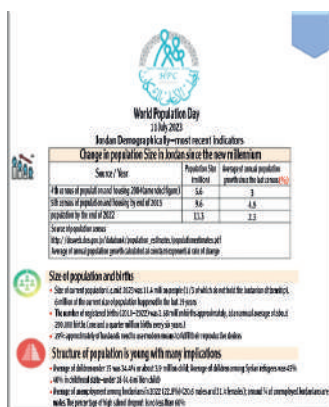


The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with UN Population Fund, held a meeting July 11, 2023, to commemorate World Population Day, which falls on July 11 of each year with the participation of national authorities concerned in this matter. The meeting aimed to launch a fact sheet on Divorce in Jordan 2015-2022 and a review of the latest demographic indicators in Jordan.

During the course of the meeting, Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, reviewed the fact sheet Divorce in Jordan 2015-2022, which aspires to ask and address essential questions regarding the concern of certain parties about divorce of married women in Jordan. It is to be noted that none of these parties came up with any information, data or confirmation about their reservations and concerns.

Divorce fact sheet link: <https://2u.pw/CWJeSF2>

Dr. Masarweh also reviewed the latest demographic indicators in Jordan, where he showed the size of the population until the end of 2023, which amounted to about 11.5 million people (a third of whom do not hold Jordanian citizenship); 6 million of the current population occurred in the past 19 years; the number of registered births (2010-2022) was 2.68 million births approximately, at an annual average of about 200.000 births (one and a quarter million births every six years.



Link to most recent/ updated demographic indicators sheet/end of 2022:
<https://2u.pw/PnYy8cG>

- **Meetings with young men and women regarding the Knowledge platform for reproductive health for youth (DARBY) in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth.**

The meetings, which were held under the umbrella of Al Hussein Labour and Construction Camps 2023, aimed to contribute in disseminating and improving access of a larger number of young men and women to reliable sources of information about correct sexual and reproductive health, raising awareness and components of sexual and reproductive health which include gender, adolescence, sexually transmitted diseases, violence, readiness for marriage, regulating birth, safe motherhood, male and female tumours of the reproductive system, infertility and menopause. Additionally, these addressed areas such as correcting misconceptions associated with reproductive health for youth and adolescents and introducing them to means of using the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health for youth (DARBY).



- **Initial introductory meetings for university students about the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health for youth (DARBY).**

The Higher Population Council, with the support of the UN Population Fund, held introductory meetings for university students about the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health for youth, DARBY. The platform is a novice introduction aiming to raise health awareness in society, especially among young men and women, as well as improving their reproductive health by providing an integrated package of information and data to enable them to make informed decision regarding fundamentals of their reproductive health.

The first meeting was held for students of the Faculty of Mass Media/ Middle East University on August 16, 2023; the second meeting was for students of the Faculty of Mass Media/ Petra University on November 5, 2023; and the third meeting for students at the College of Arts and Educational Sciences/ Philadelphia University, November 7, 2023.

The meetings included a presentation on the objectives of the platform, mechanism for using it, reproductive health components, and visual notices on topics associated with youth.



- **Meeting with students at College of Midwifery/ Royal Medical Services.**

The Higher Population Council held an educational seminar, August 8, 2023, for thirty female students from the College of Midwifery/ Royal Medical Services. The seminar comes in line with the educational and training program at the college to bring together the medical knowledge of midwives to the state of reproductive health, issues and needs for information, counselling, services, and qualified health personnel.

Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, gave a presentation on the levels of pregnancy and childbirth in Jordan and the variation in their levels according to social segments and nationality, in addition

to data on the growing number of births registered in Jordan in the past ten years and the expected number of women of childbearing age, pregnancies and births in the coming years.

Dr. Masarweh also gave a presentation on spacing between pregnancies, the increasing rate of caesarean section operations, regulating childbearing, family planning and the means (of contraceptives) used in Jordan. Dr. Masarweh went on and gave a review on the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health 2020-2030 and its Components along with a presentation on the Knowledge Platform for Reproductive and Sexual Health/Share Net-Jordan.



• **A lecture for students at the University of Jordan.**

Professor Dr. Issa Al-Masarweh, HPC Secretary-General, gave a lecture to students at the University of Jordan on The Current Demographic Situation in Jordan, on November 14, 2023.



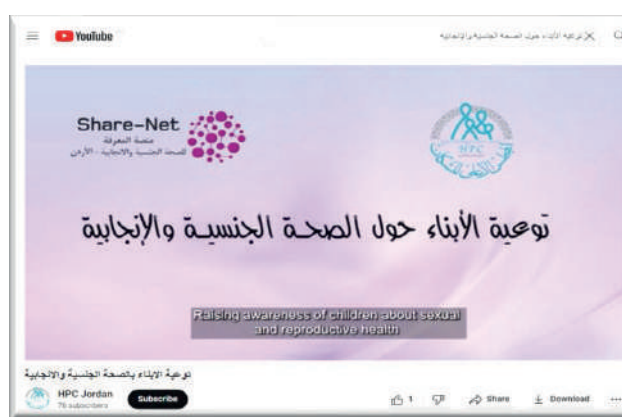
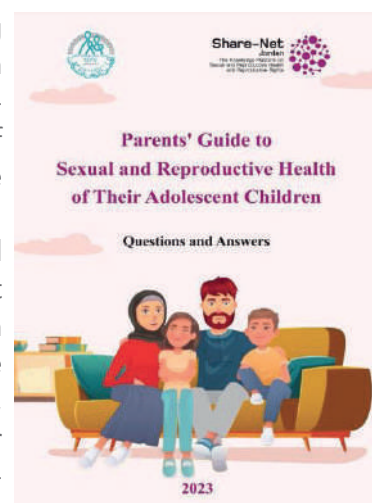
- **Launching of 'Guide to parents; a film on sexual and reproductive health, and announcing results of the media competition .**

Share-Net Jordan, hosted by the Higher Population Council, held a meeting July 24, 2023, to launch 'Guide to parents'; film on children's awareness on sexual and reproductive health and also to announce results of the media competition on the components of sexual and reproductive health. A number of stakeholders and media professionals who participated in the competition were also present.

The 'Guide to parents and the film "Awareness of Children About Sexual and Reproductive Health" are among the outputs of the project improvement program using the participatory approach. The guide and video aim to enrich and stimulate dialogue between parents and adolescent children. Both the guide and video were prepared and produced by Jordanian experts in health, education and psychology, and were based on recommendations of a number of studies prepared by HPC and Share-Net Jordan. Also involved in the production were Jordanian researchers who submitted academic studies as well as prominent, renowned international universities, all of which called for strengthening the role of parents in educating their children about their sexual and reproductive health.

Guide link:

https://www.hpc.org.jo/sites/default/files/parents_guide_to_sexual_and_reproductive_health_of_their_adolescent_children.pdf



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

- **Media competition on the components of sexual and reproductive health.**

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan conducted a media competition on the components of sexual and reproductive health, which included eligibility and readiness for marriage, family planning, safe motherhood, HIV, AIDS, menopause, adolescence, gender-based violence, and familial violence. The competition targeted media professionals in the printed, electronic and visual media outlets and was also open to and available to students of mass media specializations in Jordanian universities. The competition aimed to raise the level of public awareness of the components and issues pertaining to reproductive and sexual health by focusing on the printed, electronic and visual media outlets addressing these issues in the media with depth, potency and effectiveness. Prizes were distributed during a meeting arranged for this purpose.



- **The Higher Population Council meets with local media executives.**

- Meeting with the Director General of the Jordan News Agency/Petra, to discuss ways to improve joint cooperation in support of demographic issues in the media.
- Meeting with the Director General of the Radio and Television Corporation and parties concerned with television, where the two parties discussed the possibility of cooperation to produce and broadcast TV episodes and promotions on the National Population Strategy (2021-2030).
- Meeting with Director General of Roya TV (a private independent channel) and others concerned with the channel to discuss the possibility of cooperation to produce and broadcast television episodes and promotions on the National Population Strategy 2021-2030.

- **The Higher Population Council meets with delegates of local radio stations.**

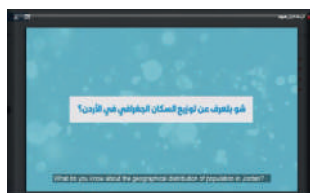
The Higher Population Council met with representatives of local Jordanian radio stations, August 17, 2023, to familiarize them with the contents of the radio broadcasts prepared by HPC and which cover the unbalanced geographical distribution of the population, unemployment among youth, marriage of adolescent girls in Jordan, advantages of delaying the birth of the first child and ways to improve cooperation in broadcasting these topics on air.

- **Producing and broadcasting four television promotional material supporting population and development.**

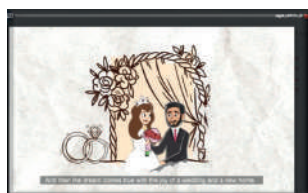
This initiative was introduced to raise the level of awareness among members of society about population and development issues contained in the National Population Strategy 2021-2030. Also, promotional material is to adopt trends and practices supportive of these issues in a way that contributes to achieving the well-being of individuals in all walks of life through information, media and messages to the target audience according to information about the needs of families and individuals.

The four notices were broadcast on air on 7 local radio stations (Radio Rotana, Yaqeen Radio, Fan FM Radio, Hayat Radio, Nashama Radio, Farah Al Nas Radio, and Radio Al Balad) October 1st until November 30th, 2023. Topics addressed were as follows:

1. The unbalanced geographical distribution of the population and the resulting financial and administrative costs and economic and environmental damage resulting from the concentration of 92% of Jordan's population in the north-western part of the Kingdom.
2. The multiple benefits that accrue to newly married couples when delaying the birth of their first child.
3. The negative consequences that result from marrying girls under 18
4. Availability of numerous job opportunities for unemployed males who constitute more than 70% of the total number of unemployed people in Jordan, of whom 63% have not completed their secondary education.



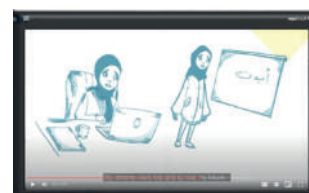
First note: The unbalanced geographical distribution of the population
<https://2u.pw/Qllq6im>



Second note: Advantages of delaying the birth of the first child
<https://2u.pw/vYaxtuY>



Third note: The majority of male job seekers do not have high school diplomas.
<https://2u.pw/ICaLiQN>



Fourth note: Marriage of adolescent girls in Jordan
<https://2u.pw/00xZQl0>

- **Updating the Knowledge platform for reproductive health for youth, DARBY through illustrations and attractive colourful infographics of the components of reproductive health in Arabic and English.**

Scientific material included in the platform were also updated by adding scientific material related to healthy nutrition, physical activity and exercise, addiction of all kinds (smoking, drugs, use of social networking sites,) sexually transmitted diseases, cancers of the reproductive system, emotional changes associated with puberty, electronic violence, readiness for marriage, effects of early marriage on health, in addition to health problems associated with early and late puberty. Scientific material was also maintained by a set of infographics and explanatory videos, in addition to adding training manuals prepared by organizations experts in this area. Furthermore, the section on most frequently asked questions FAQ was also updated by downloading the questions and answers included in the Guide to Parents and which were prepared with the support of Share-Net Jordan.



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- **The Higher Population Council participates in the Breast Cancer Campaign.**

On July 6, 2023, The Higher Population Council participated in this workshop organized by the Jordanian Breast Cancer Program and the King Hussein Cancer Foundation. HPC was part of the brainstorming committee to select the theme, message, and slogan of the new campaign.

- **Higher Population Council participates in the national consultative sessions to develop health media in Jordan.**

The Higher Population Council participated in the sessions organized by the Royal Society for Health Awareness and the Ministry of Government Communications, July 30, 2023. Sessions were intended to provide a dialogue platform that brings together stakeholders in order to reach applicable recommendations for the advancement of health media in Jordan.

- **The Higher Population Council participates in launching the national media campaign for family planning, Family is Capital.**

The Higher Population Council participated in launching the campaign, Family is Capital, organized by the Ministry of Health with the support of United States Agency for International Development USAID, August 28, 2023.

- A workshop to set a plan of action for the partners promote comprehensive health education for youth in the field of reproductive health for 2024.

The Higher Population Council, in cooperation with the Royal Society for Health Awareness, held a workshop on December 17, 2023 with members of the National Committee concerned with following up on adopting policies to promote comprehensive health education for youth and which emanate from the national committee of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health. During the course of the workshop, achievements for 2023 and activities proposed for 2024 were reviewed by the partners. It is expected that proposed undertakings will contribute to improving comprehensive health education for youth.

Representatives of governmental, non-governmental institutions and civil society organizations working in the field of promoting youth health participated in the workshop. Partners focused on and came up with the following resolutions and recommendations:

- standardizing training manuals for educating adolescents and youth about sexual and reproductive health
- integrating the basic concepts of reproductive and sexual health into school and university curricula
- creating spaces that are adolescent and youth-friendly
- building the capabilities of health service providers to provide education about sexual and reproductive health to adolescents, youth, and families
- building the capabilities of teachers and counsellors in this field
- employing technology and the use of innovative methods to provide information on reproductive health
- designing community programs to educate parents, community leaders, and religious leaders on reproductive and sexual health of adolescents and young people.

- Publishing of four issues of Share-Net Jordan quarterly periodic newsletter and quarterly activities and events of Share-Net Jordan in English to be dispatched to Share-Net International and included in their bulletins.



- Link to the first bulletin: <https://2u.pw/sAvCiV9>
- Link to the second bulletin: <https://2u.pw/uLUrqif>
- Link to the third bulletin: <https://2u.pw/n6hi0cT>
- Link to the fourth bulletin: <https://2u.pw/EMzWYzf>

- Issuing the HPC annual report for 2022 in Arabic and English, publishing it on HPC websites and circulating it to partners.



Annual report link <https://2u.pw/UsqwtYR>

- Shedding light on the most prominent World Days related to population and development through preparing media briefings and infographics, following up on religious and national holidays and events, and publishing posts about them on HPC social media networks.

The following are the published media briefings:

<p>World Traffic Day 4/5/2023</p> <p>Publication link for briefing: https://2u.pw/k1LZwMQ</p>	
<p>World No Tobacco Day 31/5/2023</p> <p>Publication link for briefing: https://2u.pw/TBOLj16</p>	
<p>International Youth Day 12/8/2023</p> <p>Publication link for briefing: https://2u.pw/g1z79td</p>	
<p>World Birth Control Day 26/9/2023</p> <p>Publication link for briefing: https://2u.pw/n1LkZew</p>	
<p>Arab Day for Population and Development 28/10/2023</p> <p>Publication link for briefing: https://2u.pw/nMM3K00</p>	
<p>International Migrants Day 18/12/2024</p> <p>Publication link for briefing: https://2u.pw/qpOPh3N</p>	

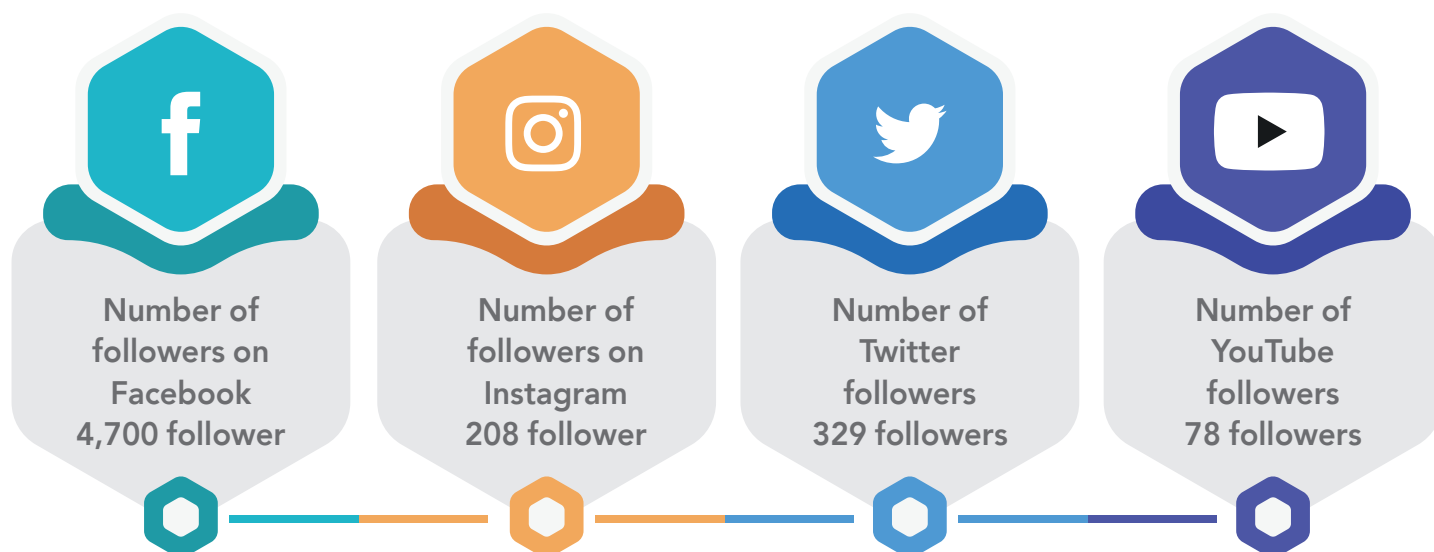
- Periodic updating of HPC partners mailing list to create a database and facilitate communication with partners.
- Update HPC website and accounts on social media for the purpose of publishing demographic and developmental information and figures for concerned authorities, specialists and interested parties to benefit from.

Number of visitors to HPC website and social media sites throughout 2023 by gender, country and age:

HPC website



HPC social networking sites



- Number of visitors to the digital knowledge platform website-Share-Net Jordan by gender-country-age.

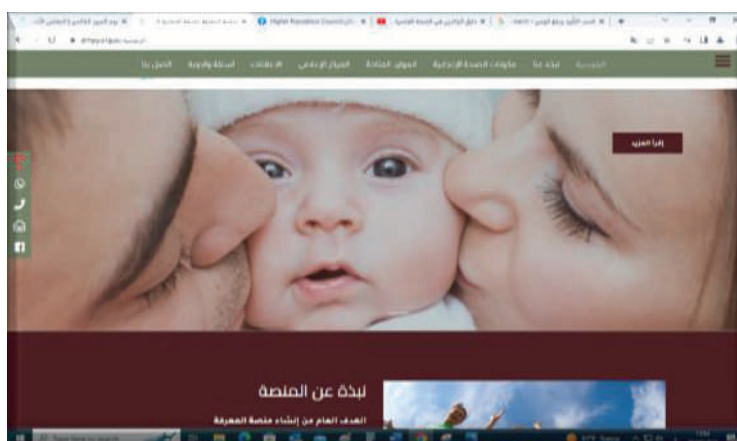
Share-Net Jordan website



Share-Net Jordan Social networking sites

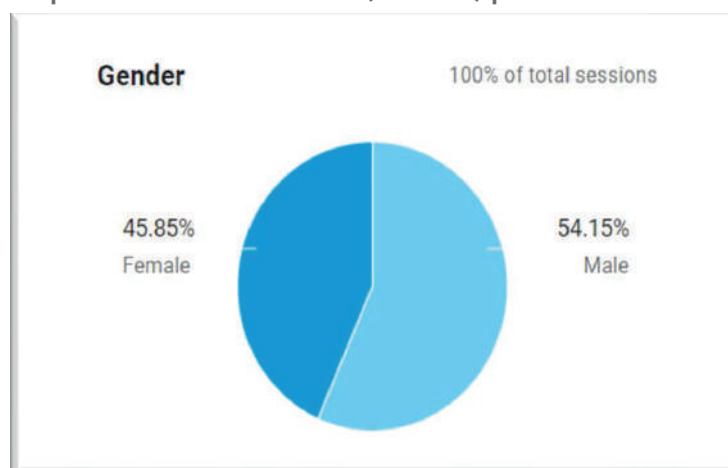


- Follow up and update the electronic knowledge platform for reproductive health for youth, DARBY and the platform accounts on social media networks; number of questions received on the platform was 129 questions.

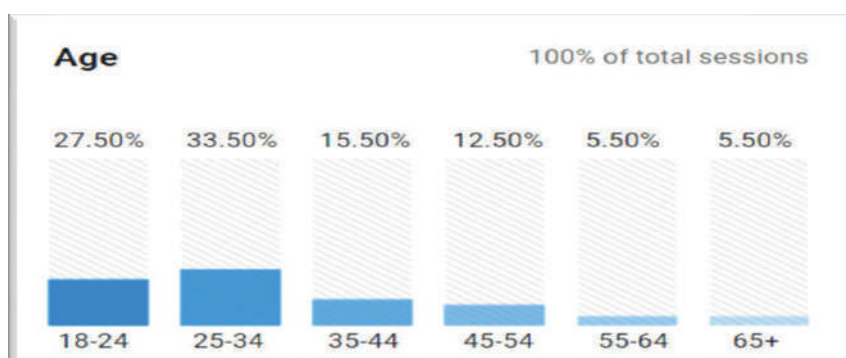


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Proportion distribution of (DARBY) platform visitors by gender



Proportion distribution of (DARBY) platform visitors by age

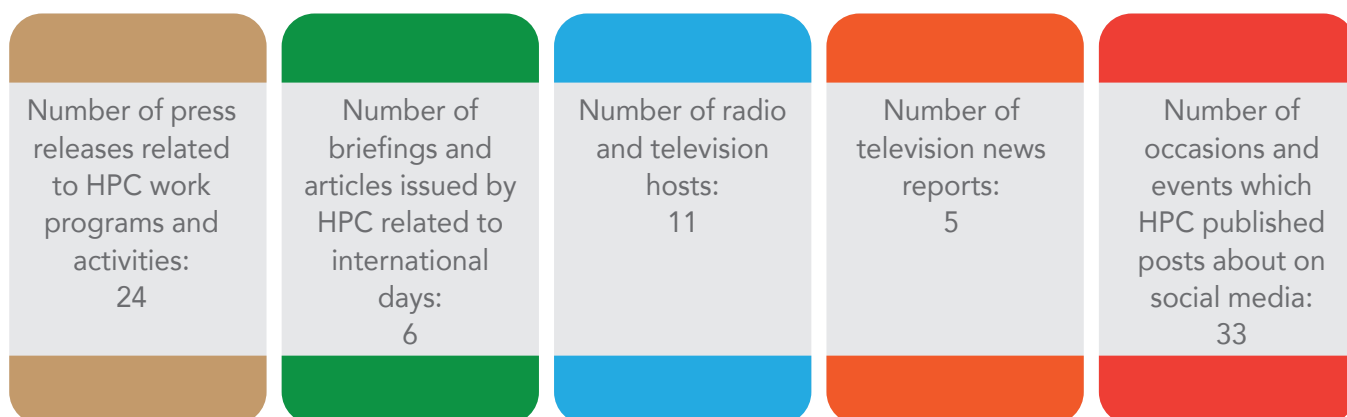


Number of (DARBY) platform visitors by country

	1,535 % of Total: 100.00% (1,535)	1,497 % of Total: 100.07% (1,496)	2,112 % of Total: 100.00% (2,112)
Jordan	641 (41.49%)	603 (40.28%)	1,102 (52.18%)
Egypt	133 (8.61%)	133 (8.88%)	156 (7.39%)
Sudan	109 (7.06%)	109 (7.28%)	117 (5.54%)
Yemen	79 (5.11%)	78 (5.21%)	91 (4.31%)
Syria	61 (3.95%)	61 (4.07%)	66 (3.12%)
Algeria	55 (3.56%)	55 (3.67%)	64 (3.03%)
Saudi Arabia	53 (3.43%)	52 (3.47%)	58 (2.75%)
Morocco	43 (2.78%)	43 (2.87%)	47 (2.23%)
United States	36 (2.33%)	35 (2.34%)	39 (1.85%)
Germany	32 (2.07%)	31 (2.07%)	37 (1.75%)

- Maintaining the website of the electronic knowledge platform for sexual and reproductive health in 2023 by uploading (22) studies and research papers in Arabic and English; registering (48) new members, including (37) individual memberships and (11) institutional memberships. The total number of members of Share-Net Jordan was (295) members, including (251) individual memberships and (44) institutional memberships; the number of visitors to the platform reached about (371) visitors, including (168) females and (203) males.

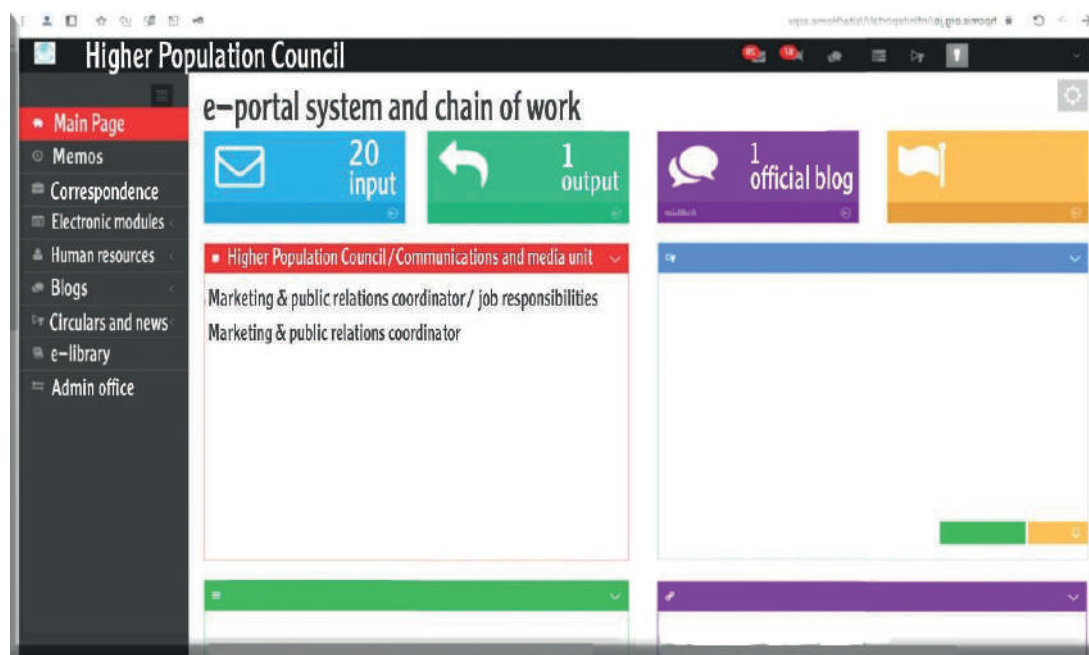
- Preparing, following up and monitoring media coverage of HPC activities:



Strengthening HPC institutional efficiency



- E-file portal system.



- **Applied and activated institutional performance monitoring and evaluation system which aims to:**
 - Follow up on the computerization of the monitoring and evaluation systems regarding institutional performance.
 - Build employees' capabilities in implementing the computerized system.
 - Introduce the activities of 2023 , follow up and evaluate the activities of the units.
 - Prepare quarterly and annual follow-up and evaluation reports.

- **Capacity building of HPC personnel and raising their efficiency.**

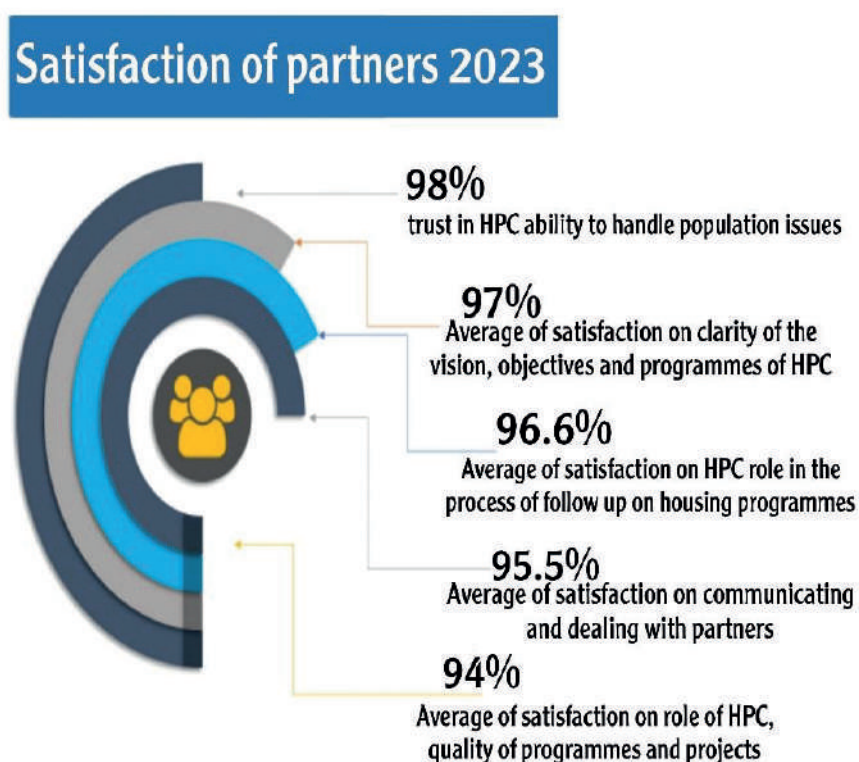
Based on HPC keen interest to raise and enrich the efficiency of its personnel, employees were enrolled in training courses throughout 2023 in various fields related to the nature of their work and responsibilities. There were approximately 20 training courses in total.

- Applying a system to measure partners' satisfaction and impressions to act as a basis upon which to determine the trends of impressions, opinions and satisfaction levels of partners with HPC employees.

Since The Higher Population Council is the national reference body concerned with population and development in Jordan and because of its conviction that effective cooperation with partners is a crucial factor in achieving institutional goals and thus maximizing the contribution to reach the relevant national goals, a survey was created to measure partners' opinions on the nature of the work and role of HPC throughout 2023. HPC also believes that reaching the relevant national goals can only be attained through unifying and synergizing efforts and coordinating them with the efforts and activities of the rest of the partners in an attempt to improve HPC institutional efficiency and improve the quality of outputs, maintain and expand the scope of partnership.

The survey held more than one purpose such as, get to know the partners' viewpoint and the extent of their satisfaction with HPC handling population issues to bolster this role, identify means to improve and develop the relationship with partners, improve the level of satisfaction of partners dealing with HPC in addressing population and development issues in a manner that serves achieving national goals.

Results of the survey showed a growing increase in levels of satisfaction with HPC performance and its role in addressing population issues, as shown in the figure below:



Our Partners Ships During 2023

National Partner Ships



Regional Partner Ships

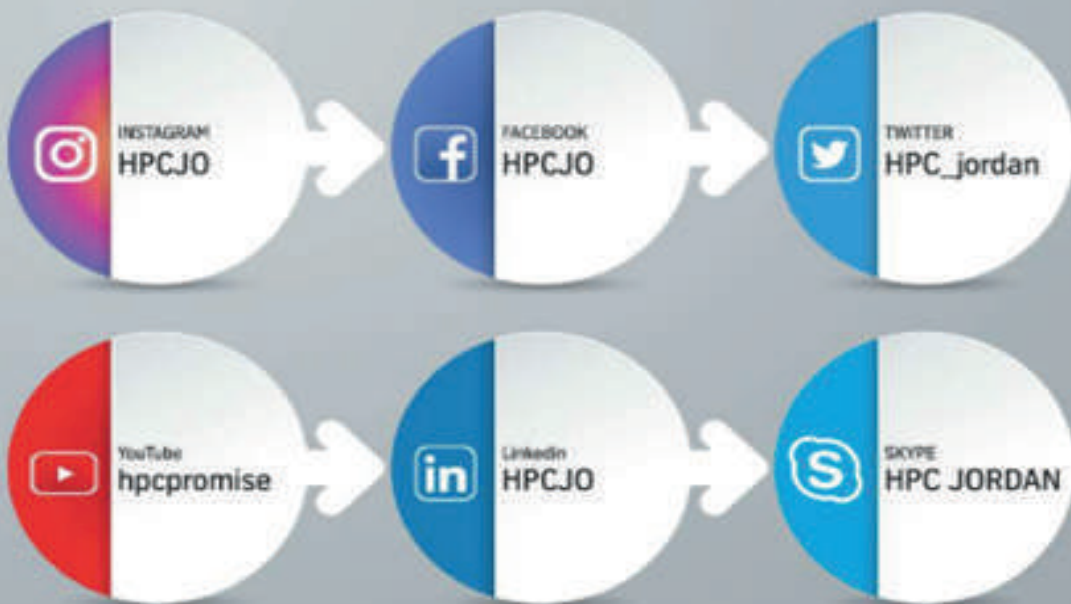


International Partner Ships





HPC Addresses



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