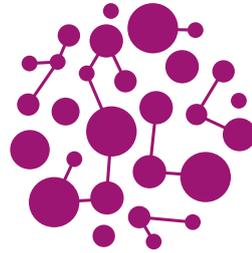


Share-Net Jordan

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health
and Reproductive Rights



30th edition

Share-Net Jordan Newsletter

4th Quarter

2023

Quarterly Newsletter



The knowledge platform For Sexual and Reproductive Health

Quarterly Newsletter
Issue No. 30 "Share-Net"

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● Introduction:

Share-Net Jordan (SN-JO) is pleased to publish the thirtieth issue of its periodic newsletter for the fourth quarter of 2023. This issue comes within the framework of Share-Net Jordan's keenness to keep researchers, decision-makers, policy setters, program developers, and research entities informed about the most recent updates with regard to local and global developments in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRH&RR).

Among the most notable achievements during the fourth quarter were the preparation of fact sheets on Nuptiality and its trends in Jordan 2009-2022 and on Sexually Transmitted Diseases STD and AIDS in Jordan. Also among the achievements were fact sheets on the use of sexual aphrodisiacs in Jordan as well as drafting a policy brief on 'Reducing elective caesarean section operations that have no medical validations in Jordan.'

Moreover, other achievements also included the following :

- Holding the second meeting of the SN-JO Steering Committee.
- Participating in the meeting to launch the results of the 2023 Population and Family Health Survey
- Conducting a specialized training program to introduce the concept and components of Reproductive Health and the national standards document for reproductive health services.
- Completing work on reviewing the national standards document for youth-friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health(SRH) services and the mechanism for applying it in cooperation with the Health Care Accreditation Council HCAC.
- Meetings with university students to introduce the Electronic Knowledge Platform for Reproductive Health for Youth, DARBY.

- Holding an assessment session to evaluate Share-Net Jordan's experience in applying the participatory approach to the Relationship of parents with their adolescent children, with regard SRH&RR.
- This is in addition to maintaining the research base on the Knowledge Platform for SRH&RR website during the fourth quarter through uploading 2 studies and research papers in Arabic and English. Correspondingly, six new members were registered during the fourth quarter, including (4) individual memberships and (2) institutional memberships, thus bringing the total number of Share-Net Jordan members to (287) members, out of which (255) memberships belong to individuals and (32) are institutional memberships.
- Work is also currently underway to develop the platform's website and link it to the Share-Net International website through contracting a company specializing in this field.

Contents of the Newsletter:

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Sexual and Reproductive Health.

02

Population and Development.

03

The most recent local, regional and international reports and bulletins related to sexual and reproductive health issues.



■ First: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights :

● Studies, Policy Briefs, Work Papers and Reports :

01

Prepared a fact sheet on Nuptiality and its trends in Jordan 2009-2022.

02

Prepared the outlines of two fact sheets on Sexually transmitted diseases STD and AIDS in Jordan.

03

Prepared a fact sheet on the use of sexual aphrodisiacs in Jordan.

04

Prepared a policy brief on Reducing elective caesarean section procedures with no medical validations in Jordan.

05

Prepared the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a draft law on Legal Analysis of the Jordanian Cybercrime Law 2023 and the Penal Code 2022 on SRH&RR information and its impact on SRH&RR.

06

Finalizing Share-Net Jordan's technical and financial plan 2024 and presenting it for discussion with Share-Net International.

- Prepared a fact sheet on Nuptiality and its trends in Jordan 2009-2022, 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. The fact sheet aimed to examine the demographic and social changes that have occurred in phenomena related to marriage in Jordanian society. It also sought to monitor and assess the emergent changes in marital status (first marriage, polygamy, separation, divorce, widowhood, singleness), and to observe and clarify the emergent changes in marriage expectations by type (first marriage, divorce, widowhood, polygamy, separation), and marriage of those under 18 years old. Additionally, it aimed to track changes in marriage rates, as well as the average and median age at first marriage, and their trends over the past decade. Furthermore, the fact sheet aimed to observe the emergent changes in cases and percentages of relative's marriages, as well as marriages between Jordanians and non-Jordanians in Jordanian society.
- Prepared the outlines of two fact sheets on Sexually transmitted diseases STD and AIDS in Jordan, with the contribution of a committee of expert practitioners from the Ministry of Health, the Royal Jordanian Medical Services, the World Health Organization, the Sawa'ed for Change Association, the International Organization for Migration IOM, a consultant from the private



sector, in addition to technicians from HPC and Share-Net Jordan.

The fact sheet on Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Jordan aimed to provide information about these diseases and their prevalence in Jordan. It sought to diagnose the current situation based on national registry statistics, including the number of cases according to gender, age, nationality, the source of infection (inside or outside Jordan), and geographic distribution. The fact sheet also covered methods of infection, ways to detect cases, services provided to those affected, the completeness of data, testing and diagnostic services in Jordan, and the institutions involved (governmental, civil society organizations, international organizations), including the type of support provided and the associated costs.

Whereas the fact sheet on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Jordan aimed to provide information on the virus, its transmission, diagnosis, treatment, living with the infection, and prevention. It also aimed to define AIDS, methods of transmission, diagnosis, and treatment, and to assess the current situation regarding the spread of AIDS in Jordan based on national registry statistics, including the number of cases, deaths, those living with the virus, and those receiving treatment. This assessment is categorized by gender, age, nationality, the source of infection (inside or outside Jordan), and geographic distribution.

The fact sheet also covered the completeness of data, the monitoring system adopted in Jordan, methods of case detection (such as through blood donation, incidental discovery during seeking medical care or surgery, the individual experiencing unusual and chronic symptoms and seeking care, notification by another country), the sustainability of the national information system, the reality of medical services provided to AIDS patients in Jordan, institutions providing testing services, institutions offering services to AIDS patients (governmental, civil society

organizations, international organizations), the type of service provided, the type of support offered, and the associated costs.

Furthermore, the fact sheet addressed the state of awareness services about HIV and AIDS, the institutions providing awareness (governmental, civil society organizations, international organizations), the target groups, and the aspects of success and shortcomings in these programs.

- **Prepared a fact sheet on the use of sexual aphrodisiacs in Jordan** with the participation of a committee of expert practitioners from national institutions, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Jordan Customs Department, the Pharmacists Syndicate, the Public Security Directorate, the Government Procurement Department, in addition to technicians from HPC and SN-JO.

The paper aimed to outline the positive and negative aspects of using aphrodisiacs, including the local and imported production of aphrodisiacs, the volume of consumption in Jordan, and the regulation of trade and promotion of these aphrodisiacs (including the extent of smuggling and promotional activities). It also sought to examine the prevalence of sexual dysfunction in Jordanian society and its relationship with psychological, physical, age, and gender-related factors.

The paper further delved into the use of natural aphrodisiacs and the associated risks, as well as the use of counterfeit drugs and the related risks. Additionally, it explored the legal framework surrounding the use of aphrodisiacs in Jordan.

- **Prepared a policy brief on Reducing elective caesarean section procedures with no medical validations in Jordan**, with the participation of a committee of expert practitioners from the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services, the University of Jordan Hospital, and the Quality Health Care project to improve health



services funded by the United States Agency for International Development USAID, in addition to technicians from HPC and Share-Net Jordan. The aim of the Policy Brief is to analyze the issue of the increasing rate of unnecessary cesarean sections in Jordan and to study the dimensions of this problem based on the scientific evidence produced by a set of national studies and research that addressed the topic. It also aims to examine the impact of this issue on the healthcare system and the health of both mothers and newborns. Additionally, the Policy Brief provides recommendations grounded in scientific evidence to reduce the rate of unnecessary cesarean sections.

- **Prepared the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a draft law on Legal Analysis of the Jordanian Cybercrime Law 2023 and the Penal Code 2022 on SRH&RR information and its impact on SRH&RR.** activities, which is to be in effect beginning of 2024; ToR were dispatched to Share-Net International on October 10th, 2023 for review.
- **Finalizing Share-Net Jordan's technical and financial plan 2024 and presenting it for discussion with Share-Net International;** the plan was developed based on deliberations with members of SN-JO and members of the Steering Committee at the annual meeting, and validated by Share-Net International.
- **Events and activities that were implemented and participated in :**

01

Represented by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, HPC Secretary-General, the HPC took part in a meeting to launch the outcomes of the Population and Family Health Survey 2023, organized by the Department of Statistics.

02

The HPC, with the support of Oxfam, and within the stages of the Partners of Our Path 2023 Project, carried a specialized training program to introduce the concept of reproductive health, its components, and the national standards document for reproductive health services.

03

Completing work on reviewing the national standards document for youth-friendly SRH services and the mechanism for its implementation in cooperation with the Health Accreditation Council.

04

Finalizing work on updating data of the Electronic Knowledge Platform for Reproductive Health for Youth, DARBY in cooperation with the platform expert committee and the support of UN Population Fund.

05

The HPC, with the support of UN Population Fund, held a series of introductory meetings for university students about the Electronic Knowledge Platform for Reproductive Health for Youth, DARBY.

06

On November 9, 2023, SN-JO held a session to evaluate its experience in applying the participatory approach to parents' relationship with their adolescent children regarding SRH 2022-2023.



07

SN-JO, along with the participation of representatives of national authorities from various relevant sectors, launched the results of a study and Policy Brief on Women's Withdrawal from the Labour Market, SRH, and the Repercussions of the COVID-19.

08

Participation of the HPC as a member of the governmental coordination team for human rights in drafting the report of the fourth periodic review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

09

SN-JO participated in the meeting of the Global Practitioners Committee concerned with the inclusion of males in SRH issues.

10

SN-JO participated in the meeting of the Global Practitioners Committee for Sexual and Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Youth.

11

Participation in the meetings of the fund-raising committee of Share-Net International.

12

Participation in the meetings of the committee formed by Share-Net International for the coordinators of knowledge platform in Jordan, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Burundi and Bangladesh.

13

Participation in the first national scientific conference: National Response to HIV: Challenges and Aspirations.

14

Finalizing the preparation of the training manual/guide for sexual and reproductive health within the project Towards achieving more sustainable services and solutions for the sexual and reproductive health needs of youth and refugees in Jordan.

15

SN-JO held a meeting with Lincie Kusters of the Netherlands on The Theory of Change.

16

SN-JO held the second meeting of its steering committee.

17

Arrangements to hold the Regional Conference on joint knowledge production in the field of comprehensive sexual education and the extent of integrating sexual and reproductive health concepts into school curricula.

18

Reviewing the draft coordination tool prepared and set by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development JOHD to define the coordination relationship between the Fund, HPC, and the Jordanian National Commission for Women.



- Represented by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, HPC Secretary-General, the HPC took part in a meeting to launch the outcomes of the **Population and Family Health Survey 2023**, organized by the Department of Statistics on November 16, 2023. According to survey results, it was established that fertility rate for women in Jordan for the current year was 2.6 child per woman of childbearing age. Rural areas, however, recorded a higher birth rate at 2.8 child per woman as compared to urban areas. At the governorate level, the birth rate ranged from 1.9 child per woman in Aqaba to 3.1 child per woman in Ajloun and Mafraq. Birth rate among women living in Syrian refugee camps was higher compared to that of women living outside the camps at 4.9 and 3.9 child per woman, respectively. The survey results showed a drop in the total fertility rate in Jordan by 1% from the time of the previous survey 2017-2018, which recorded 2.7 child per woman.

As for maternal care, results showed that 97% of women received prenatal care from a health professional (Doctors, Nurses, or Midwives); only 18% of women received the tetanus shot required to provide full protection for the last birth during the two years preceding the survey; and more than 99% of live births during the two years prior to the survey took place in a health facility.



- The HPC, with the support of Oxfam, and within the stages of the **Partners of Our Path 2023 Project**, carried 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, for staff members of associations who are partners in the project being: the Jordanian Women's Union Association, Tamy Foundation for Human Development, Naya Community Network, Sawa'id Organization for Community Empowerment, Darabzeen Organization for Human Development, and Hekaya Centre for Civil Society Development 2023.

The program involved a comprehensive analysis of each of the eight criteria included in the National Standards Document for Reproductive Health Services. The program also included specialized sessions that addressed a range of topics, most notably the concept of reproductive health and its components, and an introduction to the eight national standards for youth-friendly SRH services as well as the sub-standards emanating from them:

1. Health empowerment of the youth.
2. Mechanism on promoting sexual and reproductive health services.
3. Enhancing youth support through the support of the community.
4. Providing a package on appropriate SRH services and information.
5. Efficiency of service providers; specifications and features of the service delivery venue.
6. Fairness, justice and non-discrimination.
7. Quality and improvement of data and information.
8. Youth participation.



- **Completing work on reviewing the national standards document for youth-friendly SRH services and the mechanism for its implementation in cooperation with the Health Accreditation Council.** To that end, a workshop was held on October 29, 2023 to assess the results of the initial review of the national standards document for youth-friendly SRH services and the mechanism for applying it. This was completed with a group of nationals expertise in this field, and with staff of centres affiliated with the Family Health Care Institute trained on these standards and already applying them in their centres. One of the most prominent objectives of the meeting was to discuss the most outstanding results of the review, points of strength and ways to improve them. Another one of the objectives was to get feedback on standards or evaluation tools from partners experienced in this field.
- **Finalizing work on updating data of the Electronic Knowledge Platform for Reproductive Health for Youth, DARBY in cooperation with the platform expert committee and the support of UN Population Fund.** Content of a scientific nature incorporated in the platform was updated by adding new scientific material related to health and nutrition, physical activities and exercise, and all types of addiction (smoking, drugs intake and abuse of social networking sites,) sexually transmitted diseases, cancers of the reproductive system, emotional changes and mood swings accompanying puberty, electronic violence/ bullying, readiness for marriage and impact on health resulting from early marriage, in addition to health problems associated with early and late puberty. Moreover, scientific material was supported by including a set of infographics and introductory/ explanatory videos, in addition to adding training guides prepared by institutes expert in this field. The most frequently asked questions FAQ section was also updated by downloading the questions and answers included in the Guide to Parents to educate their adolescent children on issues of reproductive and sexual health, which was prepared and drafted through Share-Net Jordan.
- **The HPC, with the support of UN Population Fund, held a series of introductory meetings for university students about the Electronic Knowledge Platform for Reproductive Health for Youth, DARBY.** Meetings aimed to raise health awareness among members of society, especially young men and women, and improve their reproductive health by providing an integrated package of information and data to enable them to make informed decisions concerning their Reproductive Health. The first meeting was held for students of the Faculty of Mass Communication at Petra University November 5, 2023. A second meeting was held on November 7, 2023 for students of the Faculty of Arts and Educational Sciences at Philadelphia University. The meetings included a presentation on the objectives of the platform, its use mechanism, components of Reproductive Health, and visual notes on youth unemployment where the majority of male job seekers do not hold a high school diploma, adolescent marriage in Jordan, and its Social, Economic, and Psychological impacts.



- On November 9, 2023, SN-JO held a session to evaluate its experience in applying the participatory approach to parents' relationship with their adolescent children regarding SRH 2022-2023.



- SN-JO, along with the participation of representatives of national authorities from various relevant sectors, launched the results of a study and Policy Brief on Women's Withdrawal from the Labour Market, SRH, and the Repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis during a meeting held on November 20, 2023. The study aimed to determine the actual degree of women's participation in the Jordanian labour market prior to and following the COVID-19 pandemic, analyse the reasons for their

withdrawal from the labour market, and shed light on the work and jobs women are employed in. In addition, the study aimed to examine the demographic, social, and economic features of those who leave the labour market, identify the reasons and features of women who opt to get the one time (lump sum) compensation package from the Social Security Department, identify the experience of women withdrawing from the labour market with flexible working hours, and review and assess them in the public and private sectors in order to provide policies that would lessen women's pulling out of the labour market.



- Participation of the HPC as a member of the governmental coordination team for human rights in drafting the report of the fourth periodic review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the status of human rights in Jordan. The report, which is presented to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, incorporated the most prominent achievements in Jordan in the field of reproductive and SRHR.
- SN-JO participated in the meeting of the Global Practitioners Committee concerned with the inclusion of males in SRH issues held on October 5, 2023. The committee, acting on behalf of The Centre for Man and Masculinity Studies presented the results of their preliminary study on marital rape.

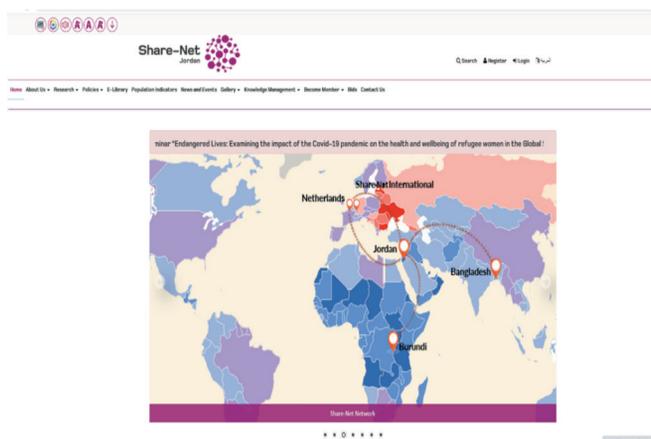


- **SN-JO participated in the meeting of the Global Practitioners Committee for Sexual and Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Youth** on October 24, 2023. The meeting aimed to discuss proposals of projects meant to boost the role of youth and adolescents in supporting SRH issues. Additionally, Share-Net Jordan participated in a project proposal on developing reproductive health platforms and increasing youth participation in the DARBY platform.
- **Participation in the meetings of the fund-raising committee of Share-Net International** held on October 3, and November 26 & 28, 2023. This committee is concerned in preparing an action plan to attract funding for years beyond 2024.
- **Participation in the meetings of the committee formed by Share-Net International for the coordinators of knowledge platform in Jordan, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Burundi and Bangladesh** on November 27, 2023. Meetings are held periodically and each country presents its achievements and any progress it accomplished to improve its operations.
- **Participation in the first national scientific conference: National Response to HIV: Challenges and Aspirations**, held on December 17, 2023. Also invited to take part in the conference were 15 members from the Share-Net Jordan network working in the medical sector and students still enrolled in universities as well.
- **Finalizing the preparation of the training manual/guide for sexual and reproductive health within the project Towards achieving more sustainable services and solutions for the sexual and reproductive health needs of youth and refugees in Jordan**, and distributing it to participants. Finalising the manual comes as part of the project's objectives to promote sexual and reproductive health.
- **SN-JO held a meeting with Lincie Kusters of the Netherlands on The Theory of Change** October 29, 2023. During the meeting, the theory was discussed, along with Share-Net Jordan's views and suggestions for improvement. Share-Net Jordan's input stems from years of experience in working on the strategic plan 2020-2024.
- **SN-JO held the second meeting of its steering committee** on October 31, 2023. During the meeting, achievements of Share-Net Jordan 2023 and plan for 2024 were presented along with an open, general discussion about future aspirations and guidelines of the Share-Net Jordan project.
- **Arrangements to hold the Regional Conference on joint knowledge production in the field of comprehensive sexual education and the extent of integrating sexual and reproductive health concepts into school curricula**, to be held in 2024 in Jordan. The conference comes as part of Share-Net Jordan's commitment to expand its efforts to work at the national and regional levels to exchange information, experiences and expertise in this field.

The Conference acts as a tool for interpreting and transforming knowledge into the application phase, as it offers a wide range of opportunities for participating members to exchange experiences and develop their competences in this field. Being part of this conference will give participants the opportunity to apply for grants within the Regional context. Moreover, projections are that the conference will be an important platform for participants to cooperate, exchange experiences, and be an active part in creating knowledge products based on scientific evidence which will help play a pivotal role in supporting policies and practices in the field of comprehensive sexual education at the national level in the countries of the region. Participating in the conference are professionals from Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon in addition to Jordan.

- Reviewing the draft coordination tool prepared and set by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development JOHD to define the coordination relationship between the Fund, HPC, and the Jordanian National Commission for Women, with the aim of bolstering the work ethics approach adopted in regional councils at JOHD centres so as to respond to and establish strategic interventions based on national needs.
- Maintaining the website of the electronic knowledge platform for SRH throughout the fourth quarter of 2023, by uploading (2) studies and research papers in Arabic and English. Correspondingly, six new members were registered during the fourth quarter, including (4) Individual memberships and (2) institutional memberships, thus bringing the total number of Share-Net Jordan members to (287) members, out of which (255) memberships belong to individuals and (32) are institutional memberships.

Work is also currently underway to develop the platform's website and link it to the Digital Platform of Share-Net International through contracting a company specialized in this area.



◆ Grants, Projects and Memoranda of Understanding:

- Funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Jordan, an agreement was signed with the Institute for Family Health/ King Hussein Foundation to prepare, develop, circulate and spread awareness material on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. Provisions of the MoU are to be employed in awareness-raising sessions and local community training within the project to enhance response and access to protection services in Jordan through empowering adolescents, youth and community initiatives.
- Signing a memorandum of understanding with the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) programme, which aims to increase and exchange information and scientific evidence related to gender and adolescence to ensure that practitioners and policy makers in Jordan can attain the best results. Additionally, MoU aims to exchanging lessons, practices and experiences between the parties to provide the most effective recommendations in regard to policies and programmes.

According to this agreement, the two reports: Tackling 'taboo' culture to improve adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Jordan, and the report Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services in Jordan: gaps and priorities were reviewed and assessed. Consequently, a proposed list was prepared by a number of concerned institutions to attend the launch and provide these institutes with the studies. A meeting was held on November 8, 2023 between HPC and a team from the Adolescence and Gender Program: A Global Guide to discuss aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two parties.

- Knowledge Activation Grants 2024 : SN-JO announced and followed up on Share-Net International Knowledge Activation Grants for the year 2024 available for Share-Net members.



Applications were open on October 3, 2023 until the end of the month.



■ Second: Population and Development :

- Events and activities implemented and participated in:

01

The HPC made announcements on the air on four priority demographic issues prepared by HPC. Announcements were made through a number of local radio stations.

02

Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh / The Secretary General of the HPC, acting on behalf of the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation/ HPC Chairman of the Board of Trustees, headed the Jordanian delegation participating in the fifth ordinary session of the Arab Council for Population and Development.

03

Participation of the HPC in the fifth meeting of the Expert Advisory Committee of the Arab Council for Population and Development.

04

Participation in a study seminar on population and development in developing countries held in the People's Republic of China.

05

Preparing the national plan to monitor and follow up on the progress made in implementing the National Population Strategy 2021-2030..

06

The HPC organized a media briefing on the Arab Day of Population and Development.

07

Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh / The Secretary General of the HPC, gave a lecture to students of the University of Jordan on The Current Demographic Situation in Jordan.

- The HPC made announcements on the air on four priority demographic issues prepared by HPC. Announcements were made through a number of local radio stations from October 1,



2023 until November 30, 2023 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 the population in the north western parts of the Kingdom.
2. The multiple benefits that accrue to newly-wed couples who wait before having their first child.
3. The negative consequences that result from marrying girls under the age of 18.
4. Availability of numerous job opportunities to unemployed males who constitute more than 70% of the total number of unemployed people in Jordan. It is noteworthy to mention that 63% of these unemployed males have not completed their secondary education. Announcements of these notices on Jordanian radio stations over a period of two months stems from the role HPC holds as a point of reference to all issues and demographic information related to sustainable development. Also, HPC continuously strives to contribute in gaining support and spreading awareness regarding sustainable development, with the aim of achieving and accomplishing sustainable development while realising justice and equal opportunities.

link to notices

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Im7GofGpy-Qo&list=PLIQj0EGIPhR6jWZlwgrHA0bRFcFL74v-V&pp=iAQB>

- **Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh / The Secretary General of the HPC, acting on behalf of the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation/ HPC Chairman of the Board of Trustees, headed the Jordanian delegation participating in the fifth ordinary session of the Arab Council for Population and Development held on November 27, 2023 at**

the headquarters of the General Secretariat/ League of Arab States in Cairo. Headed by Sudan, the session was organized by the General Secretariat of the Arab Council for Population and Development and with the participation of ministers, parliamentarians and ambassadors of some Arab countries, members of the national councils and committees for population and development in the Arab world, in addition to representatives of international organizations who hold the status of observers. During the session, a set of resolutions were approved, including decisions on demographic transformation and development, opening the demographic window, cooperation and strengthening partnership between the government and private sectors to support population programmes/ initiatives and projects in the Arab world. Additionally, the experiences of certain countries in population platforms and observatories and their contribution in adopting the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Cairo Declaration 2013 were also approved. Alongside this session, a workshop was held on supporting skills development and improving employment among young people, the repercussions 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 development plans and programmes to achieve sustainable development goals, and Arab Population Day 2024.





- **Participation of the HPC in the fifth meeting of the Expert Advisory Committee of the Arab Council for Population and Development** November 23, 2023. Meeting was 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.)
- **Participation in a study seminar on population and development in developing countries held in the People’s Republic of China** November 11-14, 2023. Seminar was organized by the Centre for Reproductive Health and Institute for Family Health under the umbrella of the National Health Foundation/ China. Seminar activities included a presentation on the Chinese experience in the field of population and development in addition to an exchange of experiences between developing countries in the field of policies related to population and development. Ms Rania Al-Abbadi/ HPC Assistant Secretary General, gave a speech on behalf of the participants where she stressed the importance of exchanging experiences between participating countries in the field of strengthening population and development policies in a way that contributes to achieving the well-being of all. Ms Abbadi also gave a computerized presentation on the reality of population and development in Jordan, covering Jordan’s achievements in the field of sustainable development and the challenges related to population, development, and the demographic reality in Jordan.
- **Preparing the national plan to monitor and follow up on the progress made in implementing the National Population Strategy 2021-2030.** The plan happens to reflect the ambitions that all partner parties aspire to fulfil through indicators related to the strategy. HPC has adopted the principle of participatory approach with the various parties concerned with implementing the strategy, through conducting an analytical review of the National Population Strategy document, building on all documents and strategies related to it, reviewing the logical framework of the desired strategic goals and the expected policies of interventions within each goal in order to achieve the vision of the strategy ‘all citizens enjoy a healthy and dignified social life and equal opportunities for economic participation’, and review and update the performance indicator matrices in cooperation with members of the technical and steering committees of the National Population Strategy.
- **The HPC organized a media briefing on the Arab Day of Population and Development**, which fell on October 28, 2023. The briefing addressed demographic facts at the level of the Arab region, current challenges, and the road ahead.

Briefing link on HPC website:

<https://2u.pw/7c55RBX>

- **Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh / The Secretary General of the HPC, gave a lecture to students of the University of Jordan on The Current Demographic Situation in Jordan**, November 14, 2023.



■ **Third: The latest local, regional and international reports and bulletins related to Sexual and Reproductive Health issues:**

- **A study with the title of The cost of child marriage and its impact on the life cycle of girls and women: evidence from Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, and Egypt.**

The study was prepared by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UN Population Fund, UNICEF and the UN Gender equality and women’s empowerment (UN Women), in 2023.

The study showed that child marriage is a violation of human rights principles and a major obstacle to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Child marriage remains to be a worldwide (including the Arab region) phenomenon despite the progress made to eliminate it. Social and cultural norms, poverty, lack of education, as well

as external factors such as conflicts and natural disasters, contribute to its exacerbation. Research affirms that child marriage has serious and long-term consequences for women and girls, as it affects all aspects of their lives, their families and society. This new study provides an estimate of the costs of child marriage at different stages of a woman’s life, using a model of skills formation during the life cycle in four Arab countries: Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, and Egypt. The study offers new insights into the multifaceted costs of child marriage and highlights the urgent need for action to eliminate this damaging practice.

Study link:

<https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/23986/file/The%20cost%20of%20child%20marriage%20over%20the%20life%20cycle%20of%20girls%20and%20women.pdf>



The cost of child marriage over the life cycle of girls and women

Evidence from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia





Share-Net Jordan

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health
and Reproductive Rights



<https://share-net-jordan.org.jo/>

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