



The knowledge platform on Sexual and Reproductive Health

**Quarterly Newsletter
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■ Introduction:

As part of its endeavors to keep all researchers, decision-makers, policy-makers, program developers, and research entities informed of any local and global developments in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Share-Net is pleased to release the 28th issue of the Quarterly Newsletter for the year (2023).

Some of the most significant milestones achieved during the 2nd quarter of this year are represented in preparing a fact sheet entitled “Divorce of Married Women in Jordan (2015-2022)” and implementing a media competition on SRH components and issues. Another achievement was represented in a visit to the Republic of Lebanon to discuss the possibility of expanding the scope of work of Share-Net Jordan at the regional level with the concerned SRH bodies. An annual meeting was held for the members of Share-Net Jordan’s members from relevant national institutions, and a regional meeting was also arranged to further address the priorities, programs, and challenges related to SRH. The meeting aimed to review the evolving issues, priorities, challenges, and the current situation of the SRH field in Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon, conducting the Steering Committee of Share-Net Jordan’s meeting and participating in the periodic meetings of Share-Net International’s Executive Committee and CoP’s 3rd meeting: SRHR of Youth.

Furthermore, the Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of HPC participated in the United Nations Commission on Population and Development’s 56th session entitled «Population, Education and Sustainable Development» which was held in New York, and a fact sheet that reflects

the views of Jordan on the topic being addressed was also presented. A two-day workshop entitled: «Employment of Statistical Indicators in Media Work” for media professionals working at JRTV was also conducted, as well as participating in the coordination meeting to further exchange experiences and knowledge with the member states of the Arab Council for Population and Development. It is also worth mentioning that a meeting with the members of the Committee of Health, Environment, and Population of the Jordanian Senate was held to discuss the most significant population and development issues in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Another objective was to maintain the research database on Share-Net during the second quarter by uploading the most recent studies in both languages. Twenty-six members were also registered during the 2nd quarter, 25 of which are individuals and one institution. The total number of Share-Net Jordan’s members was (288) members: (259) are individuals, (29) institutions.

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■ First: Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH):

● Studies, Policy Briefs, Working Papers & Reports:

- A fact sheet entitled: «Divorce of Married Women in Jordan (2015-2022)» was prepared by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC/ The Chairman of Share-Net Jordan's Steering Committee and Rania Al-Abadi, the Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Strategic Planning Unit. Some of the most prominent findings of such are as follows:

- The increase in divorce rates is expected in light of the upsurge in the number of married couples year after another.
- The increase in divorce rates cannot be attributed to the increasing number of families and the population in general.
- Not all divorce cases were initiated after the consummation of marriage/wedding (28% of them were initiated before the wedding), and thus children in no cases shall be affected by the consequences of divorce.
- The data clearly suggest that divorced women are entitled to remarriage, given that percentage of divorced women who got remarried was (approximately 18%). Furthermore, more than five divorce cases initiated by married women are revocable.

● Events and Activities which have been carried out:

01

The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan have implemented a Media Competition on the Components and Issues Related to SRH.

02

Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the Higher Population Council, and Ali Almetleq, the Director of the Studies and Policies Unit at HPC, visited the Republic of Lebanon.

03

As part of its endeavors to keep relevant partners informed of any updates on the platform, Share-Net Jordan held an annual meeting with its members from national institutions.

04

Two workshops were conducted in the southern region of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

05

In cooperation with the UNFPA's Sexual and Reproductive Health Team, the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan held a meeting to present a fact sheet entitled: "Sexual and Reproductive Health of the Elderly in Jordan" to the concerned team representing the relevant national entities.

06

Within its endeavors to expand the regional Scope of Work of Share-Net Jordan, a regional meeting was held by Share-Net Jordan, in which priorities, programs, and challenges related to SRH were addressed.

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Share-Net held a meeting for the Steering Committee.

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The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan extended a warm welcome to two students from Vrije University Amsterdam.

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Share-Net Jordan participated in a training course entitled "Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights: Organizing Effective Responses" at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands.

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Share-Net Jordan participated in CoP's 3rd Meeting: "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Youth".

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A set of videos was prepared to introduce the knowledge products of Share-Net International's Improvement Model program (SHIRIM).

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In cooperation with Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA), The Higher Population Council and Share-net Jordan conducted a training workshop for the Pharmacy Sector on "Family Planning Counseling" .

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In cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Higher Population Council conducted a workshop for all partners from Governmental Organizations and NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, and International Organizations concerned with the National Strategic Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2020-2030).

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Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the Higher Population Council and Chairman of Share-Net Jordan's Steering Committee, had participated in the regular meetings of Share-Net International's Executive Committee.

- The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan have implemented a Media Competition on the Components and Issues Related to SRH.

The competition targeted media professionals through print, electronic, and visual media means, and media students across Jordanian universities have also participated in the competition. The aim of this media competition was to raise public awareness of the components and issues related to SRH by addressing these specific issues in depth through print, electronic and visual media. It is also worth mentioning that this competition was implemented to help media community members specialize in developmental media, especially «demographic media».

During the second quarter, the contestants prepared and published relevant media materials on social media platforms. The Higher Population Council (HPC) and Share-Net Jordan was then provided with all of

these materials. For such materials, the HPC has also formed Arbitration Committees comprised of experts in the fields of visual, print, and electronic media. The materials were accordingly decided on, and a list of winners was issued in preparation for announcing the results during the 3rd quarter of this year.

- Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC and Ali Almetleq, the Director of the Studies and Policies Unit at HPC, visited the Republic of Lebanon during the period (4-7/4/2023) to discuss the possibility of expanding the regional scope of work of Share-Net with the concerned SRH bodies by engaging institutions and experts from Lebanon into working with Share-Net Jordan and Share-Net International. This can be achieved by increasing the number of members from relevant entities concerned with SRH and connecting the members of that region with one another to further address high-priority sexual and reproductive health issues across the region itself and build strategic partnerships to exchange experiences, findings, knowledge, and best practices.

At the beginning of the visit, the Secretary General and the Director of the Studies and Policies Unit initially participated in Share-Net International's Executive Committee meeting, which was held via Zoom. In this meeting, the Secretary General presented the major milestones of Share-Net Jordan achieved during the 1st quarter of 2023 and the progress made to expand the scope of Share-Net at the regional level. Let alone the findings of the results of the visit to Egypt and future aspirations. On the 2nd day of the visit, two meetings were



conducted, the first of which was held at ESCWA's headquarters in the presence of Dr. Sarah Salman/ Population Affairs Officer, where the major areas in which HPC can cooperate with ESCWA were highlighted. On the other hand, the second meeting was held with Fadi Al-Halabi, the Regional Coordinator of the Advocacy Network on Disabilities, where a lengthy debate took place on programs related to the health and reproductive and sexual rights of people with disabilities in Lebanon.

On the 3rd day of the visit, the Center for Research on Population and Health Center at the Faculty of Health Sciences / the American University of Beirut organized an expanded meeting attended by sixty two academic experts and representatives of active NGOs and international organizations concerned with SRH within the Republic of Lebanon. During this meeting, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh gave a presentation on the current demographic situation in Jordan and the related SRH concerns of citizens and refugees, followed by a detailed presentation from the Director of the Studies and Policies Unit at HPC on the Working Aspects of Share-Net Jordan since its establishment in 2016.



- As part of its endeavors to keep relevant partners informed of any updates on the platform, Share-Net Jordan held an annual meeting with its members

from national institutions on May 5, 2023.

This meeting was opened by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC who emphasized how essential the role of Share-Net Jordan is in bridging the knowledge gap in the field of sexual and reproductive health. On the other hand, Mr. Ali Almetleq, the Director of the Studies and Policies Unit at the Higher Population Council (HPC)/ the Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan, highlighted the milestones of Share-Net for the year (2022), while addressing the Action Plan of (2023) and the priorities and future directions of Share-Net Jordan for the upcoming year. Mr. Ghaleb Al-Azza, a Technical Director and Principal Researcher at the HPC has also presented the outputs of the Project Improvement Program using the participatory approach.

The meeting also included a presentation made by Dr. Zaid Hamdan from JUST on the methodology and plan adopted in a study entitled «Jordanian Universities Student Perception of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in Jordan», which is funded by Share-Net International.



- Two workshops were conducted in the southern region of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the first of which was held on May 17, 2023, at Princess Basma Center for Human Development

in Aqaba, whereas the 2nd workshop was held at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University (AHU) in Ma'an on May 18, 2023.

The first workshop aimed to inform the participants about the demographic landscape in Jordan and introduce the Knowledge Platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health of Share-Net Jordan. During the workshop, the 'Guide to Parents in Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents' and also a short video on 'Raising the Awareness of Adolescents' about Sexual and Reproductive Health' were launched.

The Director of Health in Aqaba Governorate, the Director of Education and Director of Youth in the Governorate, a representative of the Directorate of Social Development, practitioners in the fields of reproductive health in these directorates, and representatives of several civil society institutions and non-governmental organizations working in the field of family health in the governorate such as Princess Basma Centre for Human Development, Aqaba Women's Association, the Coastal Women Association, the Goodwill Association, the Ideal Food Centre, and the Local Community Health Committee participated in this workshop.

The second workshop aimed to maintain the knowledge of Share-Net Jordan members in the south about developments on the Knowledge Platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health of Share-Net Jordan. 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, and the University of Jordan/ Aqaba branch participated in the workshop.

Also present were practitioners in the field of sexual and reproductive health from the Ma'an and Tafila Health Directorates, the Family Health Care Institute in Karak. Dr. Muhammad Al-Rasai', Vice President of Al-Hussein Bin Talal University for Administrative Affairs gave a welcome speech at the opening of the workshop.

Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, Secretary General of the HPC stressed the importance of communicating with partners in the southern region, informing them of the demographic landscape in Jordan and its effects on development and national needs, disseminating knowledge in the field of population and promoting its use in decision-making, and receiving feedback from the participants on emanating population issues.

During the two workshops, Ali Almetleq, Director of the Studies and Policies Unit at the HPC / Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan, gave an overview of the platform's achievements for 2022 and the plan for 2023, priorities, and future directions for Share-Net Jordan for the coming year. Ghaleb Al-Azza, Technical Director and Principal Researcher of HPC presented the outputs of the project improvement program using the participatory approach, as in





preparing a Guide to Parents in SRH of Adolescents and a short video «Educating Children about SRH».

- In cooperation with the UNFPA's SRH Team, the HPC and Share-Net Jordan held a meeting on May 24th, 2023 to present a fact sheet entitled: «Sexual and Reproductive Health of the Elderly in Jordan» to the concerned team representing the relevant national entities.



- Within its endeavors to expand the regional Scope of Work of Share-Net Jordan, a regional meeting was held by Share-Net Jordan on June 11, 2023, in which priorities, programs, and challenges related to SRH were addressed.

The purpose of the meeting was to review existing issues, priorities, challenges, and the sexual and reproductive health situation in Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon. During this meeting, three working papers were presented, the first of which was entitled «SRH in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Issues and Needs»

and was presented by Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC. The 2nd working paper was presented by Dr. Hassan Zaki from the American University in Cairo, in which the current situation and aspects of sexual and reproductive health in Egypt were discussed. Let alone the key strategies that address sexual and reproductive health issues and stakeholders concerned with SRH and current initiatives and activities related to sexual and reproductive health in Egypt.

The 3rd working paper was presented by Prof. Dr. Jocelyn DeJong from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut, entitled: A Comprehensive Overview of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Situation in Lebanon.

The workshop concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Sawsan Almajali, with relevant experts and representatives from partner organizations concerned with SRH in Jordan. The discussion aimed to address the priorities of sexual and reproductive health at the regional level.



- Share-Net Jordan held a meeting for the Steering Committee on May 23, 2023. During the meeting, the milestones of Share-Net achieved during 2022 and the plan for 2023 were addressed. The meeting also highlighted the progress made in

expanding the scope of work of Share-Net Jordan at the regional level, including Egypt and Lebanon. SHIRIM Jordan outputs were also presented using the participatory approach.

It is also worth mentioning that the key outcomes of meetings were also presented to Share-Net Jordan members across the three regions (Northern, Southern, and Central Regions) regarding their activity proposals for 2024. The meeting also entailed discussions on the future directions of the Share-Net Jordan Project and the proposed activities for the 2024 plan.



- **The HPC and Share-Net Jordan extended a warm welcome to two students from Vrije University Amsterdam** to further conduct their field research for their master's studies in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Jordan under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC. The interviews, in which the two students' study samples were discussed, have taken place at the Institute for Family Health (IFH) and The Jordan Association for Family Planning and Protection (JAFPP).

- **Share-Net Jordan participated in a training course entitled «Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights: Organizing Effective Responses» at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)**

in the Netherlands, which lasted from April 11th to May 3rd, 2023.

The highlight of the course was to enhance access to high quality and equitable sexual and reproductive health services while enhancing the integration of such. Let alone promote active participation and strengthen the voices of all individuals.

Furthermore, the course aimed to help participants fully understand the issues related to SRH by equipping them with knowledge and essential skills to develop effective responses in this field and having them connected with relevant experts.



- **Share-Net Jordan participated in CoP's 3rd Meeting: «Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Youth», held on May 17, 2023.**

CoP SRHR aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, collaboration, and access to evidence and best practices in the field of sexual and reproductive health of Youth. It also strives to connect national hubs with one another, disseminating knowledge, fostering collaboration, and developing knowledge products for policy-makers and practitioners. In pursuit of its objectives, CoP seeks to improve policies and practices concerning the sexual and reproductive health of youth worldwide.



- A set of videos was prepared to introduce the knowledge products of Share-Net International Improvement Model Rapid (SHIRIM). These videos will be displayed at the knowledge grant conference for the year (2023) to provide an overview of the necessary information to be shared with individuals. Through these videos, the objective of utilizing knowledge products shall be presented while showcasing the Guide to Parents in Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents with a short film entitled «Fostering Dialogue Between Parents and Adolescents on SRH Related Issues».

- In cooperation with Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA), The HPC and Share-net Jordan conducted a training workshop for the Pharmacy Sector on «Family Planning Counseling» from the 12th to 14th of June 2023.

This workshop aimed to familiarize pharmacists with family planning methods and provide the appropriate counseling and information to individuals who visit pharmacies in local communities to access such.

During the workshop, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC, provided a session on the national framework of RH and family planning and addressed the demographic situation in Jordan. On the other hand, Rania Al-Abbadi, the

Assistant Secretary General of the HPC, highlighted the directions and method of birth planning and the percentage of demand met by the pharmacy sector for modern family planning methods.

A significant number of pharmacists attended the workshop from various governorates across the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The workshop has addressed topics related to birth planning, such as the importance and benefits of birth planning, the rights of beneficiaries, beliefs, and directions of service providers, behavioral change and interpersonal skills, interactions between beneficiaries and service providers, and provision of counseling within the REDI framework. Let alone mapping the different and traditional methods of Birth Planning and determining the fertile period and identifying methods of counseling and factors that affect decision-making, the utilization of aids and guidance materials, the differences between the side effects and complications arising from using family planning methods, and addressing related misconceptions and responding to such.



- In cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the HPC conducted a workshop for all partners from governmental organizations and NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, and International Organizations

concerned with the National Strategic Plan for SRH strategy (2020-2030). The workshop took place from the 21st to the 22nd of May, 2023, to discuss the significant strategic interventions carried out at the institutional level that can contribute to achieving the desired outcomes and results.

Furthermore, meetings were held to share the results of the Performance Report 2022 with the concerned members of the Steering and Technical Committees and address the gaps and challenges while making the necessary recommendations to improve the delivery of the strategy.

- Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC and Chairman of Share-Net Jordan's Steering Committee, had participated in the regular meetings of Share-Net International's Executive Committee. He attended the Executive Committee's meeting held on the 4th of April 2023, where the outcomes of the 4th Meeting held in Ethiopia were presented, noting that such meeting was exceptionally informative for all participants that have adopted the participatory approach. All final knowledge products were also disseminated as part of the collaborative framework. Apart from this, a presentation on the Granting Mechanism and Procedures for 2023 was delivered, where the Coordinator of Share-Net Jordan shared his experience in this respect. Terms of Reference (ToRs), delegations, and mechanisms for the work of Share-Net International's Executive Committee were also discussed and approved. The likelihood of seeking funds and charging fees from the members of Share-Net was also addressed.

Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh also participated in Share-Net International's Executive Committee's meeting held on June 27, 2023. During the meeting, he agreed to be appointed as the Chairman of Share-Net International's Executive Committee by September 2024. He also talked about the regional roundtable meeting, during which three working papers were presented under the topic «Priorities, Programs, and Challenges in SRH» in Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon; this meeting took place in June in Amman; as part of expanding the regional scope of work of Share-Net Jordan.

Moreover, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh talked about the participation of Share-Net Jordan in the Kigali, Rwanda Conference, which will be held virtually from the 17th to the 20th of July, 2023, via Zoom. In this respect, Share-Net Jordan has sent the required knowledge products to be displayed at Share-Net International's pavilion at the conference (such as a short educational film on Raising Children's Awareness of Sexual and Reproductive Health and a short video on the National Strategy for SRH (2020-2030) in Jordan).

The likelihood of seeking funds and charging fees from the members of Share-Net was also extensively discussed. In this regard, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh presented two suggestions to the Coordinator of Share-Net International: the proposals require the Coordinator to develop fees charging scenarios and provide the members of the board of directors with such as well as conduct a survey to assess the member states' willingness to pay a specific amount of fees and accordingly evaluate the survey results.



- **The maintenance of Share-Net's Platform during the 2nd Quarter of 2023.** This will be achieved by uploading the most recent studies and research in both languages (English and Arabic) (1). Twenty-six new members were registered during the 2nd quarter, 25 of which are individuals and one institution. The total number of Share-Net Jordan's members was (288) members, (259) are individuals and (29) institutions. It is worth mentioning that Share-Net's platform was visited by approximately (150) individuals during the 2nd quarter of 2023, (82) of which are females and (68) are males.



◆ Grants and Projects:

Share-Net Jordan is following up on the activation grant awarded to Jordan in 2023, the grant awarded to Prof. Dr. Zaid Al-Hamdan from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), amounting to 25,000 euros, for the study entitled «Jordanian Universities Student Perception of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in Jordan.» Several meetings have been held to follow up on the implementation of the study.

■ Second: Population and Development:

- **Events and activities which have been carried out:**

01

Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the Higher Population Council, has participated in the United Nations Commission on Population and Development's 56th session.

02

In collaboration with Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTV) and with the support of the The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Higher Population Council held a two-day workshop, for media professionals working in the JRTV. The workshop was entitled "Use of Statistical Indicators in Media".

03

The Higher Population Council has participated in the Coordination Meeting on Exchanging Experiences and Knowledge between Member States of the Arab Council for Population and Development.

04

The Higher Population Council held a meeting, with the Members of the Committee of Health, Environment, and Population of the Jordanian Senate, to discuss key population and development issues within the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

- Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC, has participated in the United Nations Commission on Population and Development's 56th session held in New York from April 10th to 14th, 2023. The session was entitled «Population, Education, and Sustainable Development.

During the session meetings, the Secretary General of HPC presented a working paper reflecting Jordan's views of the topic being addressed. This paper was prepared in collaboration and coordination with all relevant national partners.

He also participated in the breakout session held on April 12, 2023, under the United Nations

Commission on Population and Development's 25th session: «Population, Education, and Employment: Enablers for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Arab Countries».

Furthermore, the Secretary General held a lengthy meeting with Ambassador Mahmoud Al-Hamoud, Jordan's Resident Representative for the UN. During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh provided Mr. Mahmoud Al-Hamoud with a brief on the agenda of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development's 25th session and the working paper reflecting Jordan's views on the topic being addressed at the session. He also pointed out HPC's responsibilities and provided an overview of the demographic situation in Jordan and the impact of such on all national sectors. Let alone the strategies being implemented to address such impact.



- In collaboration with Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTV) and with the support of the The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the HPC held a two-day workshop from the 14th to 15th of May, 2023, for media professionals working in the JRTV. The workshop was entitled «Use of Statistical Indicators in Media».

This two-day workshop was organized as part of the Council's ongoing efforts to enhance the knowledge of media professionals about national and global statistical indicators and how to utilize such in radio and television work.

During the workshop, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC, delivered a few presentations on Local Data Sources for Statistical Indicators, the Purposes and Types of Statistical Indicators, and the increasing number of composite statistical indicators produced by international organizations in recent years. On the other hand, Ms. Rania Al-Abbadi, the Assistant Secretary General of the HPC, made a presentation on Composite Statistical Indicators within the Economic Development Vision (2023-2033), the total number of which amounted to 16 and further addressed the indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (2030).



- The HPC has participated in the coordination meeting on exchanging experiences and knowledge between member states of the Arab Council for Population and Development. The meeting was held in the Republic of Iraq from May 17th to 18th, 2023, under the Ministry of Planning, LAS/ the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Council for Population and Development, and UNFPA.



The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experiences and knowledge on population issues at the Arab level and familiarize participating Arab countries with the role of Iraq in updating the National Population Policy Document for (2023) and the actions taken to implement international commitments and achieve the development of the population.

During this meeting, Ms. Rania Al-Abbadi, the Assistant Secretary General of the HPC, also pointed out HPC's relevant experiences and practices by sharing a brief on the Jordanian Plan for Implementing Nairobi Summit Commitments (2021-2030) with the participants. She further addressed the demographic opportunity in Jordan and the policies that shall be applied to further reach such.



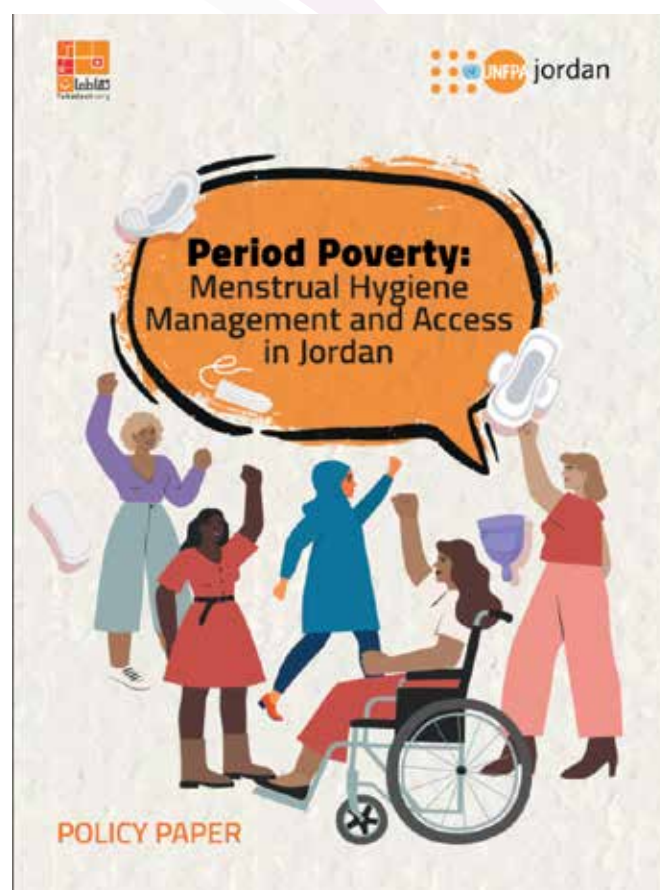
- The HPC held a meeting on May 22, 2023, with the Members of the Committee of Health, Environment, and Population of the Jordanian Senate, chaired by Dr. Yasin Al-Husban, to discuss key population and development issues within the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh, the Secretary General of the HPC, pointed out the demographic landscape in Jordan while emphasizing that the long-term impact of demographic changes

will affect all sectors and national needs. He highlighted that the rapid population growth and the younger population segments in Jordan require significant resources to meet the basic human needs for security, housing, food, energy, education, health, and employment.

■ **Third: The Latest Reports/ Local, International, and Regional Publications on Population and Development Issues:**

- **The Policy Paper Entitled «Period Poverty: Menstrual Hygiene Management and Access in Jordan».**



In partnership with UNFPA, Takaful Charity Foundation released a policy paper entitled «Period Poverty: Menstrual Hygiene Management and Access in Jordan» in 2022.

The paper aimed to address topics such as stigma and access to menstrual health products in Jordan by drawing upon hearing sessions held with several women and girls across the Kingdom. The paper further delved into how women and girls handle such challenging issues during their period and suggests effective solutions to help them access the necessary products without being subjected to any harassment or financial constraints. Health, psychological, and social consequences to which women and girls are exposed in case of lack of support have also been addressed.

Period Poverty is a relatively new evolving concept in Jordan and has not been addressed by public health institutions. Furthermore, neither studies nor statistics reflecting the conditions of women and girls, where children and women are generally targeted, have covered aspects of period poverty. Let alone mortality rates and indicators where the period, health, or the needs of women and girls during the menstrual phase were never addressed.

Women and girls face significant discrimination when it comes to their rights, creating barriers to their access to high-quality reproductive and sexual care. Due to certain misconceptions, social norms, and misuse of and challenging access to menstrual health products, more women and girls have significantly been struggling since healthcare centers do not provide such products along with exposure to financial constraints, the stigma surrounding menstruation, which overall adds to their suffering, plus the lack of safe and clean areas. The economic situation shall be no exception to this if this issue prevails in impoverished areas, refugee

camps, and host communities in Jordan.

■ **Link to report:**

https://jordan.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/period_poverty_policy_paper_en_4.pdf



Share-Net

منصة المعرفة

للصحة الجنسية والانجابية - الأردن