

Share-Net Jordan

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health
and Reproductive Rights



NEWSLETTER

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Sponsored By :

**Share-Net
International**

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



<https://share-netinternational.org>

info@share-netinternational.org

T: +31 20 5688512

Hosted By :



Amman - Madena Monawara Street
Faeg Haddaden Street, Building No. 13

Tel: 00962 6 5560748

Fax: 00962 6 5519210

P.O.Box 5118 Amman 11183 Jordan

www.hpc.org.jo

 [Facebook.com/hpcjo](https://www.facebook.com/hpcjo)

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■ Foreword:

We are pleased to present to you the 18th issue of the Share-Net Jordan quarterly Newsletter covering the fourth quarter of 2020. This publication aims to keep researchers, decision-makers, policy makers, program developers, and research agencies updated on local and regional developments in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

One of the key activities that took place in this quarter and this newsletter covers were the formulation of the Share-Net Jordan plan for 2021 and its endorsement by the SNI Steering committee.

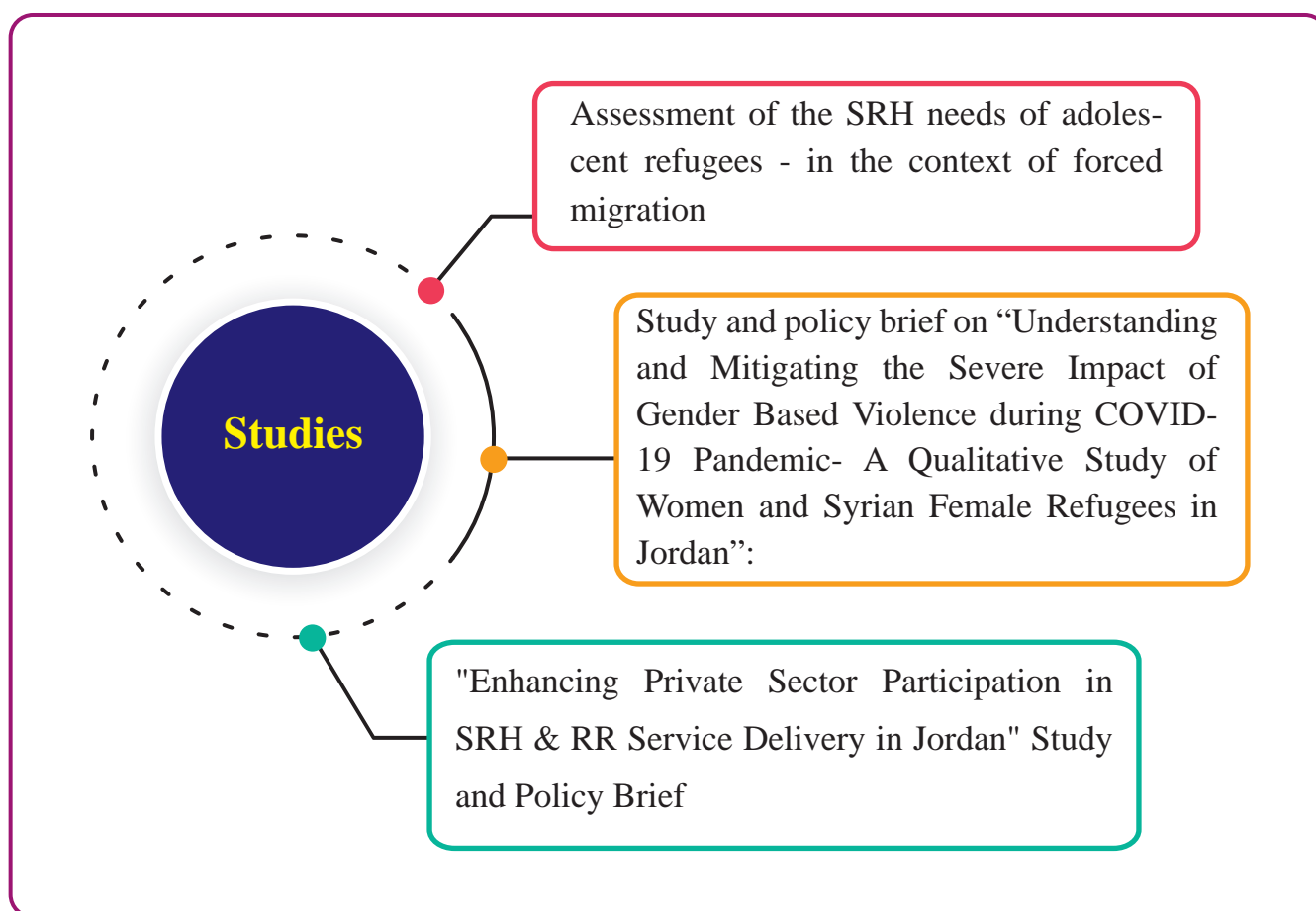
This newsletter reports on the main research, studies, and policy briefs that have been prepared, including mainly, a policy brief on “Empowering Women, Girls and Achieving Gender Equality by Ensuring Access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights”, a qualitative field analysis on “Assessing Sexual and Reproductive health Needs of Adolescents and Youth- in the Context of Forced Migration”, and a study on the “Consequences of Child Marriage and Adolescent Preg-

nancies on sexual and reproductive health and Mental Health of Syrian Refugees in Jordan”.

The newsletter offers an overview of the local and international meetings, events, seminars and workshops which HPC and Share-Net Jordan conducted or participated in, including the annual Share-Net Jordan meeting, workshops related to the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for (2020-2030), the preparatory committee meeting for the virtual second Share-Net Co-creation and innovation conference scheduled to be held on January 25, 2021, in addition to meetings, and discussion sessions organized by different partner agencies and attended by HPC Secretary-General and chair of Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, Dr. Abba Amawi.

The research database on the Share-Net Knowledge Platform Sexual and Reproductive Health has been updated and 10 new studies and research papers have been uploaded to it. In addition, five new individuals have registered in the platform, bringing the total number of registered members to 210 individual and institutions.

■ One: Sexual and Reproductive Health



■ Sexual and Reproductive Health Studies:

• **Assessment of the SRH needs of adolescent refugees - in the context of forced migration:**

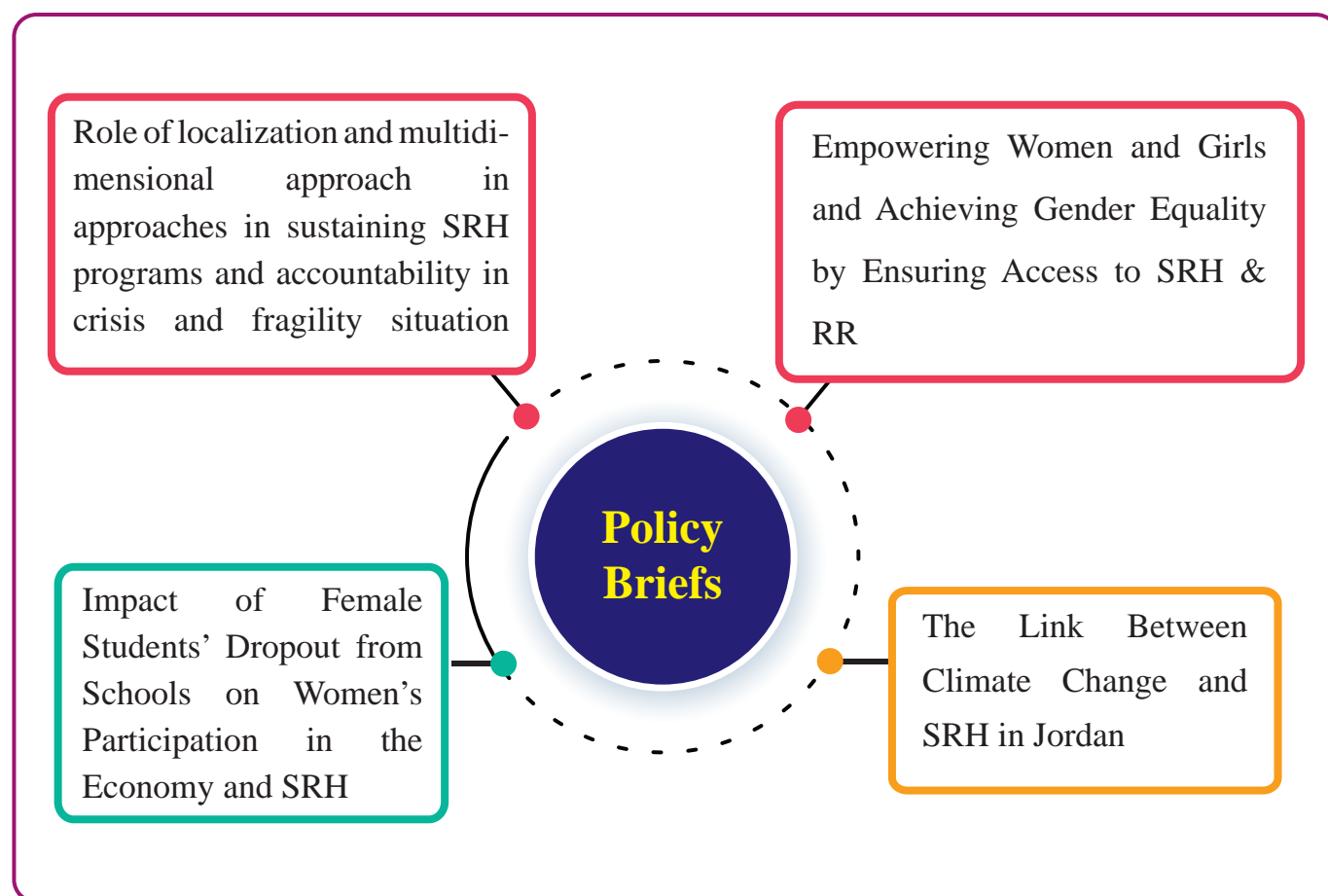
A qualitative field study carried out by HPC and Share-Net Jordan, with support from the University of Edinburgh– Scotland, to develop an understanding of the sexual and reproductive health needs of refugee adolescents in the context of forced migration, SRH service delivery risks and challenges as well as efficient access to these services.

• **Study and policy brief on “Enhancing Private Sector Participation in SRH & RR Service Delivery in Jordan”:**

This policy brief was prepared by The Higher population Council and Share-Net Jordan with funding support from Share-Net International with the aim of identifying the level of for-profit private sector participation (private hospitals, pharmacies, private clinics, diagnosis and treatment centers, supportive medical professions, and pharmaceutical warehouses) in the provision of SRH services, identify the various factors affecting the participation of this sector.

• **Study and policy brief on “Understanding and Mitigating the Severe Impact of Gender Based Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic- A Qualitative Study of Women and Syrian Female Refugees in Jordan”:** The policy brief was prepared by HPC and Share-Net Jordan with support from the University of the West of Scotland and seeks to reach an empirical understanding of the growing impact of gender-based violence on Syrian refugee women and girls in Jordan to present policy recommendations to reduce the impact.

■ Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Briefs:



- **Policy brief on “Empowering Women and Girls and Achieving Gender Equality by Ensuring Access to SRH&RR”:** A study prepared by The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan, with funding support from Share-Net International, to identify the connection between sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and women’s empowerment and gender equality in the Jordanian society.

- **Policy brief on “The role of Localization and Multidimensionalthe approach in approaches in sustaining SRH programs and accountability in crisis and fragility situation”:** this policy brief was prepared by The higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan, with funding support from Share-Net International to enhance access of persons affected by crises and fragile contexts to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights and provide better sexual and reproductive health care and accelerate progress towards national goals and the sustainable development goals (SDGs 3, 5).

- **Policy brief entitled “the Links between Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Jordan”.** HPC developed this policy brief with funding support from Share-Net International to determine the links between climate change and sexual and reproductive health in Jordan and the related challenges.

- **Policy brief on the “Impact of Female Students’ Dropout from Schools on Women’s Participation in the Economy and SRH”.** HPC and Share-Net Jordan prepared this study with funding support from Share-Net International primarily to identify the direct impact of female students’ dropout from schools on sexual and reproductive health to propose and select options and actionable policies to reduce female students dropout of primary education, propose the necessary policies to address its impact on women’s economic empowerment and sexual and reproductive health, and reinforce women’s rights to education and sexual and reproductive health.



■ Sexual and Reproductive Health Events and Activities:

Workshops

- Collaborative workshop to review the framework for the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for (2020-2030)
- Introductory workshop on the indicators of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy (2020-2030).
- Workshop to discuss and develop the communication strategy for Share-Net International.
- Share-Net Jordan participated in a workshop with Butterfly, on behalf of Share-Net International on the Digital Hub.

Meetings and events

- Annual meeting to review the achievements of Share-Net Jordan in 2020.
- Dialogue sessions on inclusive health education for youth and youth friendly reproductive health services with Jordanian and regional experts.
- Participation in the preparatory committee of the Share-Net International Co-creation and Innovation Conference “Engaging in Knowledge Translation Together”. The conference will focus on adolescent and youth SRH.
- "SNI strategic meeting about the Regional Approach

Grants and Agreements

- HPC signed an agreement with the Arab Council for Social Sciences to conduct a study on the “Consequences of Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Mental Health of Syrian Refugees in Jordan.
- HPC signed an agreement with the Institute for Family Health- Noor Al Hussein Foundation, to apply the national standards of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services at the IFH clinic in Eastern Amman.
- Share-Net Jordan’s team prepared a blog post on the grant awarded to conduct an assessment of the current situation of SRH programs for persons with disabilities.
- Share-Net Jordan provided four work opportunities and grants to volunteers, who are either fresh graduates or current students, with an aim to promote Jordanian youth volunteer work and provide youth with skills to enter the job market.

• **Share-Net Jordan annual meeting.** The meeting was attended by members of Share-Net Jordan and representatives of different national stakeholder institutions and aimed to overview the achievements in 2020 and introduce the studies and policy briefs that SNJ is working on.



• **Share-Net Jordan participates in the preparatory committee for the second virtual Innovation and Co-creation Share-Net conference,** which is held under the theme “Engaging in Knowledge Translation Together” and focuses on adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health. The event is scheduled to be held on January 25, 2021 and will host dialogues between participants and stakeholder researchers and policymakers to develop concrete

knowledge products to impact adolescent and youth SRH policies and practices at the local and international levels.

• **Collaborative workshop to review the framework for the National SRH Strategy (2020-2030),** which includes a component on SRH services during crisis and emergency”. The workshop was organized by HPC and attended by members of the NSRHS technical committee and partner agencies.





- **Introductory workshop on the indicators of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2020-2030**, The workshop was organized by HPC with support from Share-Net Jordan and was attended by members of the NSRHS technical committee who represent different national stakeholder institutions. The workshop aimed to introduce participants to the general framework and the monitoring and evaluation plan for the strategy as well as the M&E mechanisms and steps.



- **HPC and Share-Net Jordan participate in the virtual dialogues with Jordanian and regional experts on inclusive health education for youth and youth-friendly reproductive health services in collaboration with the Royal**

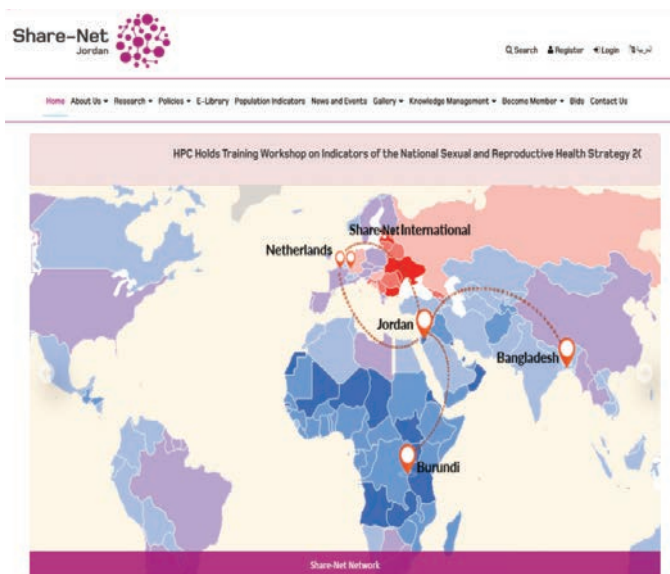
Health Awareness Society and UNFPA to formulate a policy brief that reflects the current situation and the local and regional experiences.

- **Share-Net Jordan participates in a virtual workshop to discuss, review and develop the communication strategy of Share-Net International.**

- **Share-Net Jordan participated in a workshop with Butterfly on behalf of Share-Net International on the digital hub.**

- **Share-Net Jordan participates in a virtual SNI Strategic Meeting about the Regional Approach, which discussed the important role of Share-Net Jordan regionally and the best means to enhance it.**

- **Maintenance of the research database on Share-Net knowledge platform on SRH: 10 new studies and research papers were uploaded in the fourth quarter, five new individual members have registered, bringing the total number of registered members to 210 individuals and organizations.**



- **HPC signed an agreement with the Arab Council for Social Sciences to conduct a study on the “Consequences of Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Mental Health of Syrian Refugees in Jordan”.** The study aims to develop a deep and practical understanding of the health consequences of child marriage and adolescent pregnancies on the sexual and reproductive health of Syrian refugees in Jordan while taking into account how conflicts and displacement exacerbate the fragility and the vulnerability of this group.

- **HPC signed an agreement with the Institute**

for Family Health- Noor Al Hussein Foundation, to apply the national standards of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services at the IFH clinic in Eastern Amman.

The application of standards began with conducting a pre-assessment of the clinic and building staff capacity in this field.

- **The Share-Net Jordan team prepared a blog post on the grant awarded to conduct an assessment of the current situation of SRH programs for persons with disabilities”.** This grant is part of the small grant awarded by Share-Net International to the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2016. The blog post reflects keen interest in sharing information about the outcomes of small grant projects on sexual and reproductive health and helps to support the formulation of proposed policies, initiatives and programs to enhance SRH services. To draft the blogpost, the team met with the assistant secretary general for technical affairs at the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Ghadeer Al Hares,



who was also a core member of the team that conducted the study.



-The link to the study: shorturl.at/oPW16

• **Share-Net Jordan provided 4 work opportunities and grants to volunteers, who are fresh graduates or current students, to work with SNJ.** This opportunity aims to promote volunteer work among Jordanian youth and provide them with skills that qualify them to enter the job market. Through this, volunteers enhance their knowledge and skills in sexual and reproductive health, gain insight into how projects work and the challenges they face, and obtain the capacity to engage in a specific field of their choice to learn practical knowledge and skills in.

■ Two: Population and Development

Studies

- * Analytical study of population and development issues in printed and audio-visual media.

Grants and Agreements

To projects proposals for funding support from ESCWA:

- * Study and policy brief on integrating the issues of older persons in national policies, strategies and plans in Jordan.
- * Study and policy brief on migrations to and from Jordan .

Events and Activities

- * Global session on demographic diversity and successful policies for realizing and reaping the demographic dividend.
- * Dialogue session on the Covid-19 outbreak updates and scenarios in Jordan, organized by the International Women's Forum.
- * The second expert advisory committee meeting of the Arab Council for Population and Development, organized by the Arab League Secretariat (Social Affairs Sector- Population Policies Department- ACPD Technical Secretariat.
- * Two training programs to enhance the role of youth in combating marriage under the age of 18 in their local communities.



■ Population and Development Studies:

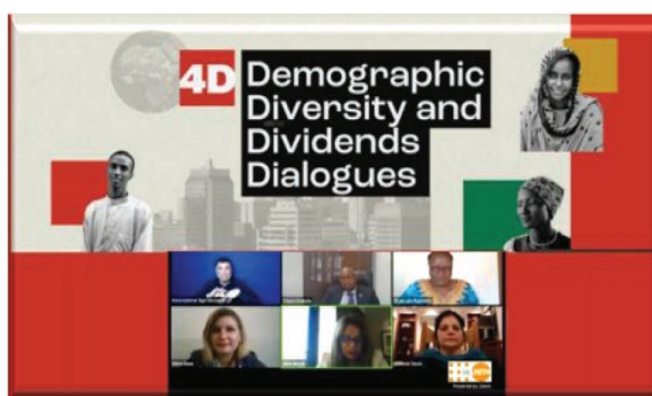
• Analytical study of population and development issues in printed and audiovisual media in 2020,

With support from UNFPA, HPC contracted Al -Rai Center for Studies to conduct the study that aimed to identify the level of interest in printed and audiovisual media in population and development, the demographic opportunity, and sexual and reproductive health issues. The study also aimed to identify the amount of published and disseminated media content in support of these issues and the time allocated for such content as well as the type of issues covered in 2019 from a gender perspective.

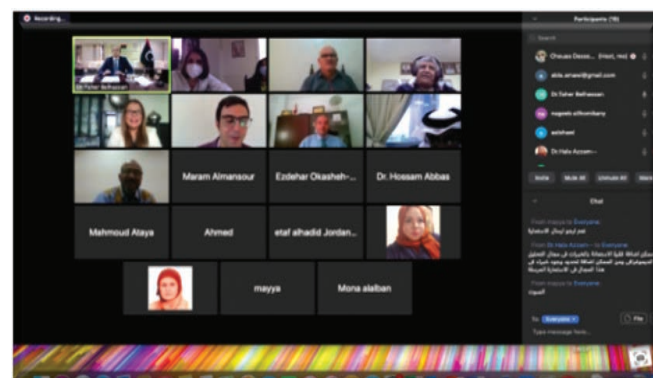
■ Population and Development Events and Activities:

• HPC Secretary-General, Dr. Abla Amawi, who is also the Chair of the Arab Council for Population and Development, and Chair of Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, participated in a global session on demographic diversity and successful policies to reap the demographic dividend, organized by UNFPA,

the African Union, and the Government of Germany.



• HPC, represented by its Secretary General, Dr. Abla Amawi, who is also the chair of ACPD and the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, participated along with other members of HPC in the second ACPD experts advisory committee meeting, organized by the Secretariat of the League of Arab States (Social Affairs Sector – Population Policies Department – ACPD Technical Secretariat.



- Two training programs were conducted to activate the role of youth in combating marriage under the age of 18 in their local communities by targeting the youth in the local communities of the northern, southern and central governorates. The training was conducted by HPC in cooperation with the Jordanian National Commission for Women with funding support from the European Regional development and protection program.



- HPC Secretary General, and chair of ACDP and the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, Dr. Abla Amawi participated in a virtual discussion session on the Covid-19 outbreak updates and scenarios organized by the International Women's Forum/ Jordan.



• Two project proposals developed to be implemented with funding support from ESCWA:

- The first proposal on conducting a study and a policy brief on “integrating older persons issues in national policies, strategies, and plans in Jordan”
- a second proposal on preparing a study and policy brief on migrations to and from Jordan”

■ Latest local, regional and international reports and publications on population and development

• Social Protection Response to Covid-19 in the Middle East and North Africa/ Arab States

Based Coalition on Social Protection (IBC-SP) for the MENA/Arab States region

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-arabstates/robeirut/documents/publication/wcms_756766.pdf



This policy brief provides a summary of the main social protection measures that were adopted by the countries in the MENA/Arab States region in immediate response to the pandemic. The brief maps the social protection measures, benefits, and services which were provided by the governments and UN agencies for nationals and non-nationals, including refugees, of 21 countries in the MENA/ Arab States region. The policy brief has been produced by the Regional UN Issue

■ Three: Violence Against Women



**International Day for the Elimination
of Violence against Women**

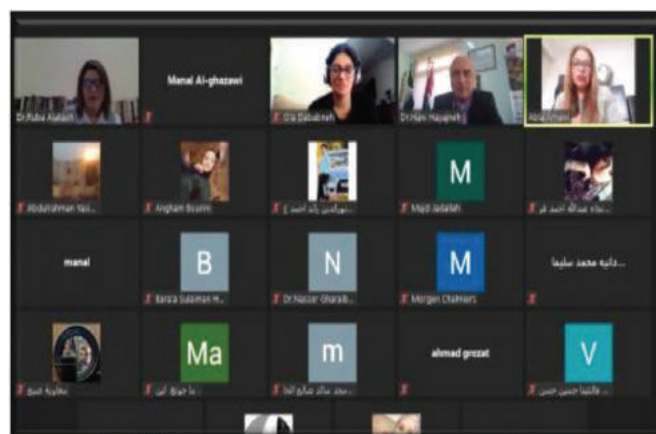
November 25, 2020

■ Events and activities on gender-based violence

16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence: **“Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect”**.

25 November – 10 December 2020

• HPC participated in virtual discussions held as part of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign. Participations included a lecture by HPC Secretary-General and Chair of Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, Dr. Abba Amawi about domestic violence during Covid-19 to Yarmouk University faculty and students.



• HPC participated in an international virtual conference on **“Violence Against Women and Migration: legal, psychological and social expectations and perspectives”**, organized by Degli Studi eCampus university in Italy. At the conference, the HPC Secretary-General and chair of the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee spoke about the current situation of migration and violence against women in Jordan.





■ Latest local, regional and international reports and publications on violence against women

Beyond Boundaries: Utilizing Protection Orders to Cultivate a Holistic Response to Domestic Violence in The Arab Region.

orders as part of a coordinated the legal response to violence against women.

<https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/utilizing-protection-orders-cultivate-holistic-response-domestic-violence-arabic.pdf>



The study carried out by ESCWA, documents and analyses domestic violence protection order legislation in the Arab region through the lens of international frameworks and good practice with the aim of having Arab States streamline their legislation in line with these standards. The study discusses issues, such as, the historic State response to violence against women worldwide, including both the prohibitive and enabling factors of the response. It then reviews the normative frameworks that call for civil protection