

* Population Development

* Youth



United Nations Population Fund
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Kuwait's 3rd International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria

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HH Amir of the State of Kuwait and UN Secretary-General at Kuwait 3 conference

The Global community on 31st of March 2015 pledged financial support of 3.8 billion US dollars to crisis hit Syria at the third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria held in Kuwait city at Bayan Palace. The financial aid will help the United Nations (UN) organizations and partners to meet urgent needs of victims of Syria's civil war and neighbouring countries. The UN-led conference was attended by representatives of 78 nations and 40 humanitarian organizations.

Major donors are: Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad, the European Union, the US, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The amount pledged at the third conference is nearly equal to the 3.9 billion dollars pledged at the first and second conferences held in Kuwait in 2013 and 2014 respectively. In 2013, 71 percent of the 1.5 billion dollars pledged were received. The global community has set 8.4 billion US dollars as the target for 2015.

In 2014, His Highness Amir of Kuwait was named "Humanitarian Leader" by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in appreciation to the tremendous humanitarian work he has done worldwide. Designating Kuwait as a centre for humanitarian action is a further recognition of the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people.

According to UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report released in the last week of March 2015 about 200,000 civilians were killed, 7.6 mil-

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lion people have been internally displaced and another 3.9 million are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq due to the ongoing civil war.

In the Kuwait conference, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon observed that due to civil war, four out of five people in Syria were living in poverty, misery and deprivation and that the country had lost nearly 40 years of human development also he stressed that ‘they are not asking for sympathy they are asking for support’.

The United Nations Population Fund, was represented at the conference by Mr. Mohamed Abdel Ahad, Regional Director for Arab States accompanied by delegation of Ms. Sherin Saadallah, Resources Mobilization and Partnership Advisor - Arab States, Mr. Asr Toson, GCC Representative – Oman, Mr. Mateen Shaheen, Deputy Representative – Syria, Mr. Shible Sahbani, Humanitarian Coordinator – Jordan and Mr. Salah Al-Salah, Programme Analysts – Oman.

The UNFPA delegation advocated for the particular needs of the four million women and girls of reproductive age who are affected by the crisis, including three million inside



Syria and one million in countries where they have sought refuge. “The effects of the conflict are devastating for the people of Syria” commented Regional Director.

“The new UNFPA's Second Generation Humanitarian Strategy (since 2012), which provides a vision and plan for mainstreaming humanitarian programming Fund-wide. It ensures that UNFPA's humanitarian action is well coordinated, timely, and scalable — before, during and after a crisis — and focuses on the mandated areas of reproductive health, population dynamics, gender equality, gender-based violence, and young people/vulnerable populations with focus on women, in crisis situations” said Dr. Shible Sahbani-Humanitarian Coordinator.

Intensive communications and

media outreach activities were conducted through prime time TV interview by Kuwait national network with Regional Director and several media interviews with leading GCC media networks. These activities significantly improved UNFPA visibility in GCC region and reconfirmed its role as a leading Humanitarian actor in the Arab crisis countries.

The delegation from UNFPA, also held high level meetings on 1st and 2nd of April following the conference, with senior officials for outreach, resource mobilization and partnership to better face Arab Humanitarian crisis and to advocate for having a positive position of Kuwait during the negotiations on post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals (especially since Kuwait was member of the open working group for the post 2015 deliberations)

Y-Peer International Center for Youth Development

On behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Iman, of the Royal family of Jordan inaugurated the Y-Peer International Center for Youth Development, considered as a centre for Youth Excellence at the National Center for Culture and Arts (NCCA), in partnership with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund on 13th of May 2015.

This Centre for Youth Excellence provides a new home for vital community programs – greatly enhanced with outstanding facilities. The Centre brings together activities specifically designed to appeal to teens.

This Centre described as more than a drop-in centre. It's more than a world class climbing wall or indoor skate park. It's more than a dance studio, more than a gym, more than a fitness

member Mr. Al Mutasim bin saif al Harrasi in Theater Based Peer Education Training of Trainers held in NCCA.

During the launch, UNFPA Technical Advisor, Dr. Aleksandar Sasha Bodiroza, underlined the importance of such initiatives that invest in young people in the region. "The opening of the Y-Peer International Center for Youth Development is a major milestone for youth activists and leaders from all over the Arab States,"

The Y-Peer International Center for Youth Development at the NCCA will provide technical assistance, quality assurance as well as monitoring and evaluation of Y-Peer capacity building activities. The Center will also maintain a database of professional educators and trainers to facilitate networking with potential partners, and contribute to research and knowledge on youth issues.

The ceremony was attended by UNFPA officials and Y-Peer Regional Representatives, International Coordinators, and Celebrity Ambassadors from several countries.



During the inauguration of Y-Peer International Center for Youth Development

NCCA exciting programs inspires teens to participate. The state-of-the-art facilities motivate young people to explore new paths. NCCA caring, professional leadership and careful supervision encourage them to discover their full potential.

Princess highlighted the power of culture and arts in making a difference in the lives of our global communities. "Initiatives such as the Y-PEER International Center will help develop the intellectual and creative potential of our young people, so they can participate as healthy citizens in building stable societies and a better world for future generations", added Princess Iman.

centre. This is a place where the youth find inspiration, hope, and purpose.

Youth activities collaboration between the UNFPA and the NCCA started in 2013 when the UNFPA designated the NCCA to act as the global center for theatre-based Y-PEER Education program. Since then, more than 200 participants from the Y-PEER network were trained on utilizing theater skills and participatory drama to raise awareness on healthy lifestyles, reproductive health and civic engagement. From 21st to 26th of March 2015, GCC office facilitated the participation of active Y-PEER Oman Network



Network member during the training

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Technical Assistance Mission with CDSI

UNFPA, held two technical assistance mission with Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI) for revision of 2016 Demographic Survey Questionnaire & Population Projections Training and Developing geographic information systems (GIS). Organization's consultant worked with Population and Vital Statistics Section in CDSI, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Riyadh, The Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia (KSA), enhancing the skills of CDSI staff.

Eleven trainees working at the CDSI attended the training. The training covered the purposes, techniques and limitations of demographic projections, using mathematical and cohort component method to project total population as well as population and subgroups by age and sex. Analysis and measurement of components of population change over time, preparing

necessary inputs for running population projections, use of demographic software to evaluate and adjust data and run projections employing USA Census Bureau Population Analysis Spreadsheets (PASEX: AGEINT, AGESEX and AGESMTH) and Futures Group Policy and Projections Models (SPECTRUM: DemProj).

The training also included navigation into major population websites, E-lectures and presentations on training topics and uploading the most recent version of demographic software on the participant's computers. Demographic and Population Projections typically refers to economic growth potential in a country resulting from shifts in the age structure of its population. This is more precisely spelt out by identifying the age group of the population between 15 and 59 as the key source of deriving benefits.

UNFPA provided technical assistance to develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) interactive information system on the Internet to publish the Agricultural census data in KSA for the year 1436 in Arabic, including preliminary data for the census at the level of directorates. Building a database based on the geographic regions to publish the agricultural census database containing distributions to different items on the level of each directorate.



Arabia (KSA).

The Demographic Survey Mission reviewed and revised the Questionnaire for the 2016 Demographic Survey and discussed the necessary changes with CDSI staffs in order to bridge the gaps currently exist in demographic and family planning data. UNFPA consultant conducted training for en-

hancing the skills of CDSI staff.

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Development of the Internal Strategic Plan for the National Youth Commission

UNFPA, the United Nation Population Fund, provided technical assistance to the National Youth Commission (NYC) to develop its internal strategic plan (ISP). NYC in Oman was established in October 2011 by a Royal Decree (117/2011) and started its operations in September 2012, after the selection of its Board by the responsible authorities. The Royal Decree represents the main legal and regulatory reference regarding the mandate of the NYC, its scope of work and its operational approaches. The ISP is to assist NYC in its goal setting, assess internal structures, clarify internal areas of responsibilities, and facilitate the implementation programmes on the basis of the Royal Decree.

The draft ISP has been developed by a NYC task force and UNFPA, in consultation with other relevant stakeholders. The consultative process and participatory approach aimed at strengthening and assuring national ownership of all stakeholders.

Through technical assistance of UNFPA, a two day retreat was conducted with NYC board members at the Nahda Resort outside of the capital from 20th to 21st May 2015. NYC Chairman, Dr. Hamad Al Ghafri, inaugurated the retreat. UNFPA Representative, Mr. Asr Toson gave an opening speech welcoming participants to this milestone gathering of the commission, applauded the support received from the NYC executive board members and other stakeholders. NYC member, Mr. Bader Al Salhi, introduced the process of the retreat and elaborated on joint

NYC and UNFPA initiative to support the development of the ISP and stated “key and appropriate interventions are identified in the policy and youth issues will be among the priorities of strategy, placing youth development at the forefront of national educational, economic and social development programmes of the commission”.

Following series of meetings and focus group discussions held with government



mendations on ways to increase the impact of the NYC.

The NYC is managed by two bodies: 1) a governance body (Board), made up of representatives of Ministries and government bodies, private sector, universities, private universities/ civil societies and centers/ clubs, persons with interest and experience in youth work, etc. and 2) regular staff that work at the secretariat of the NYC to implement various

UNFPA Representative giving opening speech

agencies, NGOs, associations and private organization working with Youth, a comprehensive ISP was drafted and

National Youth Commission's Internal Strategic Plan focus:
 The institutional change management
 The areas of change
 The change mechanisms

presented to Oman NYC executive office and Board members. The document includes internal structure, work regulations and approaches, roles, responsibilities of different NYC bodies and other stakeholders, and it provides recom-

activities. According to article 6 of the Royal Decree, Board members serve for two years with the possibility for extension.

This strategic planning process improved the capacity of the NYC to become more “strategic”, to best respond to the growing needs of the Oman in a dynamic and challenging environment, increase its effectiveness and efficiency in managing its resources, develop creative ways to translate the mandate set by the Royal Decree into programs and actions.

First Five-Year Evaluation of the Qatar Population Policy

In 2015 UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, Sub-Regional Office for GCC Countries continued with Technical Assistance (TA) for First Five-Year Evaluation of the Qatar Population Policy (PP) for Qatar Permanent Population Committee (QPPC). The TA focused on identifying achievements,

The agenda of the consultation was to identify the methodological mechanisms for measuring the achieved progress in the objectives, goals and actions adopted in the Programme of Action of the PP, also revise the outputs of the evaluation that would be the Report of the First Quinquennial Evaluation of the

Final evaluation report will be prepared by QPPC and will be discussed with UNFPA. The consultant recommended QPPC to include additional tools related to political recognition of the PP, policy formulation, implementation planning, monitoring and evaluation planning, the level of coordination and collaboration of private and public efforts and the level of target group's involvement in the policy and program design. After the completion of all fieldwork activities, QPPC will do the statistical analysis and consult with UNFPA.

The consultant recommended training of QPPC employees on statistical and demographic analysis using Statistical Package for Social Sciences and Excel, to establish a population observatory, to monitor progress of the PP 2015-2020, also recommended the support of large-scale sample survey studies to provide highly needed indicators to monitor progress of the PP 2015-2020.



challenges, goals, and programme of actions using different mechanisms and tools, indicators to measure progress towards achieving the objectives.

During two days evaluation mission in May 2015, QPPC presented evaluation tools, UNFPA consultant reviewed all tools, publications and sample surveys that QPPC produced since 2009 especially the yearly population status report 2009-2013.

PP and Its Programme of Action.

As proposed by UNFPA consultant and agreed by the technical office of QPPC during the TA mission, the complete evaluation document is recommended to include three chapters. They are:

Chapter 1: Population status in Qatar 2009-2014 and best practices in other countries.

Chapter 2: The statistical results of all evaluation tools used.

Chapter 3: The next population policy 2015-2020.

Y-PEER Oman orientation to new network member

In Oman, an informal national network of Y-PEER started operating in 2008. Since that time, over 1500 young activists have been trained on SRHR, advocacy, volunteerism and leadership either directly or indirectly. Much to its credit, the Na-

people in serving their communities through volunteerism.

With support from UNFPA GCC office, Y-PEER Oman has conducted the day-long orientation and interviews in April 2015 in Ramford Institute of Business Management

lighted the challenges faced by young people and their impact on development of young people. At the same time, the event assessed the social and economic environment surrounding of young people, with a special focus on youth development programmes, employment skills and wellbeing.



Y-PEER Network member interacting during orientation

tional Y-PEER network is considering means to improve its sustainability and capacity for resources mobilization. This may include registering as NGO. The network has been successfully promoting comprehensive awareness on health and education issues, the rights of young people, healthy lifestyle, and peer education to improve the life of young people. Furthermore, the network promotes soft skills, leadership skills, gender equality and meaningful participation of young

and Caledonian College of Engineering. The event was well attended by students and participants were excited to be part of the prestigious young people network. The orientation session was led by Ms. Ghalia Al Buraiki, Focal Point of the organizing Team. Y-PEER role in delivering a comprehensive health awareness and leadership building activities were the key topics during the one day event with the theme of development and participation of young people. Y-PEER Oman high-

“Meaningful participation of young people in development activities is dependent on access to resources and job opportunities that would enable them to make the transition from childhood to adulthood and secure a livelihood. Youth also face the challenge of employment, mainly because young people may lack requisite skills, soft skills and / or qualifications needed by the labour market. As a result, they cannot access job opportunities providing them with financial stability and a satisfactory standard of living”, stressed Ms. Ghalia.

Following the success of a day-long orientation, newly identified members will undergo trainings and workshops conducted as part of capacity building process based on the Annual Work Plan for 2015. This initiative of the network was well received by the two hosting institutions which also provided necessary logistical support for successful implementation of the event.

Population Development

UNFPA GCC Office Annual Retreat 2015

UNFPA GCC organized a one day retreat for staff members on 7th of June 2015 at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Muscat. Aimed as a refresher and a get-together for the staff members, this retreat brought together all the staff from the UNFPA GCC, Sub Regional Office. Building on the retreat theme of last year, 'Team Building', the theme this year focused on "Being the Best You Can Be" to make the difference.

In order to meet these objectives, the agenda used two main activities: information

sharing and training. Unlike the traditional practice of hiring a consultant to facilitate the country office retreat, this time under the guidance of the Office Representative, new approach was initiated that all the interested staff will facilitate the session based on agreed topics, using the soft skills.

During the planning process,

Objectives:

To identify the skills of the staff members and agree on the best way to increase its use in office work.

To bring the team together and increase synergy in order to enhance the productivity.

Introducing the team to the essence of relationship and principles of Communication, respect, trust and team building.

each member was requested to propose a topic that they would like to present at the retreat. The response was high



GCC staff after the annual retreat

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from each staff member; most of the members proposed to take up a couple of sessions and activities. A consultation meeting was held by the coordination committee of the office retreat to finalize the sessions.

On the day, several methodologies such as classroom training sessions, teaming exercises, group discussions, presentations from the staff members and Q&A session was used to demonstrate effective participation, exchanging knowledge and work experiences.



GCC staff during the annual retreat

Staff members were not just the participants of the retreat, rather went beyond in actively organizing logistics up to presenting and documenting this year's annual retreat. Issues discussed included Ethics and Integrity, Teamwork, Organizational Performance, training on newly introduced UNFPA Strategic Information System (SIS) and its accompanying Business Plan along with other team building activities. Facilitator's presentations built

the capacity of the staff on Team Building, SIS Training, Self-Motivation and Visual Communication.

Capacity building exercise focused on enhancing advanced skills in group facilitation and team building. The feedback indicated that participants were generally very satisfied with the outcomes of the retreat. They found the topics to be highly relevant and practical to their work and they valued

the opportunity to share experiences regarding their successes and challenges. Participants appreciated the different role and responsibility allocations in regard to the preparations for retreat, as well its process, methodology, and having their colleagues as facilitators. Representative thanked the participants and all agreed the purpose of the new approach has been entirely achieved.

Youth

Y-PEER Oman Quarterly Meeting

UNFPA GCC conducted Y-PEER quarterly meeting as part of organization's support to strengthen the Y-PEER Oman network on the 14th of June 2015 at UNFPA GCC sub regional office, it was an informal gathering as Youth Forum. Key focal points, members and former network focal point were also present at the meeting.

During the quarterly meeting current Y-PEER Oman Focal point in-charge (FPC) Mr. Mazin Al-Araimi, briefed the members about the status of activities conducted over last

six months and plans were discussed to achieve the remaining programmes by the year end. FPC also updated members on the outcome and knowledge he gained from Global Advisory Board (GAB) meeting held at Amman, Jordan from 8th to 10th of May, 2015.

Y-PEER Oman members developed a plan for the upcoming Khareef Salalah Festival and Training of Trainers (ToT) aiming at capacity building of new network members and increasing network outreach through the events. Members discussed

modalities to strengthening and expanding the network to rural region of Oman, identified Buraimi and Salalah as a focus area to build the Y-PEER network. UNFPA Programme Analyst, Mr. Salah Al-Saleh, shared the experience and examples of other regions on expanding the network and provided suggestions for implementing 2015 Annual Work Plan successfully.



Y-PEER Network member interacting during the meeting



United Nations Population Fund
Sub-Regional Office for GCC Countries

UNFPA, The United Nations Population Fund: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA—Because everyone counts!

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