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United Nations Population Fund
Sub-regional Office for the GCC Countries



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المكتب شبه الإقليمي لدول مجلس التعاون الخليجي

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UNFPA and IOM hold a joint workshop titled "Principles of Managing Labor Migration: Opportunities and Challenges in the Gulf States" in Qatar

On 2nd of April 2018, the United Nations Population Fund- the Sub-regional office for GCC Countries (UNFPA GCC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a joint workshop in Doha, Qatar, in co-operation with the Qatar Permanent Population Committee (QPPC) & the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics.

The event addressed several pressing issues in regard to the labor migration in the region, including the international definitions pertaining to migration management, as well as the reality and future of the international migration policies and the workers movements.

The workshop was presided by H.E Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Nabet, who mentioned that the country has been keen to bring manpower in order to achieve its ambitious developmental projects. On other side, the Minister's speech highlighted the consequent challenges in terms of the growing pressure on the local public services such as health, education and infrastructure that Qatar is constantly providing in order to ensure safe and decent living conditions for the entire population of the state.

"This workshop is a great opportunity to highlight the most significant population trend in the GCC region, which is migration. Thanks to the multi-lateral participation in this workshop, we are able to have a rich discussion and deeper insight into this important issue" said Mr. Asr Toson, UNFPA GCC Representative who gave a speech tacking UNFPA's provided technical assistance to many countries in the region in this subject matter. The concourse was widely covered by the local media outlets and received great public attention.



UNFPA initiative on CSE in Oman. More workshops held to nationalize the Peer Education Manuals

تثقيف الأقران حول الصحة المدرسية بالوسطى



المشاركون في حلقة العمل هيما - خالد بن إبراهيم الجثيني

تخلت دائرة الرعاية الصحية الأولية بالمديرية العامة للخدمات الصحية بمحافظة الوسطى عن تنظيم سلسلة من الورش التدريبية لعدد من الأخصائيين الاجتماعيين وعمرش الصحة المجتمعية ومدرسي المحافظة، التي أقيمت بقاعة المحاضرات بمستشفى هيما وتستمر ثلاثة أيام. وتهدف الحلقة إلى نشر الوعي بين طلبة المدارس حول المواضيع الصحية ورفع مستوى المعرفة والتدريب السلوكي الإيجابي والتغيير في الاتجاهات والمعتقدات، من خلال التثقيف في برامج التثقيف وحملات استخدام التبغ وأهمية ممارسة النشاط البدني، ويتم ذلك من خلال إعداد مدرسين لتثقيف الأقران وتعزيز قدرات المشاركين المحلقة، وذلك بالاعتماد على التثقيف بطرق تدريبية شفهية والتثقيف العملي وتبادل الخبرات بين المتخصصين.

Oman Ministry of Health, the General Directorate of Primary Health Care, Department of School and University Health has augmented its ownership of the Y-Peer manuals initiative that was launched by UNFPA, and took the programme to another level by disseminating the knowledge received through the Training of Trainers (ToT) conducted by UNFPA last year in co-operation with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Health (MoH).

In its report on this series of workshops, the MoH stated that the Y-Peer manuals (Peer Educator Training, Peer Educators, Life Skills, and four Y-Peer thematic manuals related to tobacco use, youth abuse, road safety, nutrition and physical activity) were disseminated and introduced to the staff members working in several targeted schools in Oman governorates around the country.

Due to the significance of this initiative and since the Ministry of Health identified the added value of the produced educational materials as they raise the awareness among adolescents and school students, therefore, the Directorate conducted nation-wide training workshops to disseminate the knowledge received by the programme's leaders from the Ministry. The workshops were held in 6 governorates (South Sharkiya, North Sharkiya, South Batinah, Dahrah, Musandam and Wasta), in accordance with the school educational programme 2017/2018.

The general goals of the workshop were to introduce the manuals and their contents to the targeted groups, provide the participants with the cutting edge skills in awareness promotion, introduce the useful life skills needed for the students, and provide the participants with the needed capacities to implement this programme.

حلقة عمل حول أدلة العمل المحدثة لبرنامج تثقيف الأقران بجنوب الشرقية



UNFPA GCC and Ministry of Social Development in Oman conduct 3-day workshop focusing on women empowerment



On 30 April- 2 May, UNFPA Sub-regional office for the GCC countries (UNFPA GCC) conducted a three-day workshop in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in Oman, in line with the office's annual work plan of 2018.

The workshop was titled 'capacity building for employees of the of Family Development Directorate and Women Affairs Department to analyze the social and legal cases related to women and provide need-based programmes'.

The workshop, which highlighted also the provisions of CEDAW convention and the linkages between its provisions and the applicable gender related laws in Oman, was attended by more than 40 officials from MoSD led by Ms. Jamila Jaddad, Director of the Women's Affairs Department at the Ministry. UNFPA GCC provided technical assistance, logistics support and training needs including an experienced international trainer in the subject matter, in consistent with the Ministry's areas of work and the employees' needs and requirements to have the skills which enable them to scrutinize women related cases in the Sultanate such as GBV, marital, social, financial and heritage related issues.

The opening speeches were given by H.E Dr. Yehia bin Badr bin Malek al Mewali, Undersecretary of the Ministry, which was read on behalf of him by Ms. Jamila Jaddad, and Mr. Asr Toson, UNFPA GCC Representative, who stated that the workshop was a reflection of the policy of the government in Oman, which pays attention to women's roles & needs and supports their activities in all aspects of life.

On the other side, Ms. Jaddad said "the workshop comes to crown a long term fruitful co-operation with UNFPA, which works in the country to support the Ministry of Social Development, so its employees are able to deliver their message and achieve their mission."

On the last day, MoSD distributed the certificates of achievement to the staff members participated in the workshop and who provided added-value inputs to the final recommendations given by the training expert. Appreciation certificates were also presented to UNFPA GCC staff members for their work that rendered the successful delivery of the workshop.

A triangular research project agreement is signed between UNFPA and SQU

On Wednesday 6/6/2018, the UNFPA Sub-regional office for the GCC countries (UNFPA GCC) signed a research agreement with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU).

The co-operation agreement is related to conducting a 'Comparative Study between the Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Omani applicable laws and legislations'. Noting that the accession of the Sultanate to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was made by Royal Decree No. 42 in 2005.

The study comes in response to a request made by the Woman Affairs Department at the Directorate General of Family Development at the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) to conduct this comparative study in order to pave the way for further legal reforms benefiting women in the country. The study is to be provided by Prof. Rashed Al Baloushi, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the Sultan Qaboos University, being an experienced legal national expert.

The study will also aim at implementing the observations made on the 2nd and 3rd National Reports on Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women, revising the national laws to ensure that they are consistent with the convention.

The expert will revise the articles of the convention and compare them to corresponding texts in the national laws. He will shed light on the areas that needs to be addressed for more consistency with the articles of the Convention, and draft a road map for law-making in this regard.

It is expected that this study will be launched as part of the events related to the celebration of Omani Women's Day in October 2018.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Aser Toson, Representative of UNFPA GCC and Dr. Rahmah bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah, Deputy Chairman of the University for Post Graduate Studies and Scientific Research.



Oman Y-Peers mark the World Health Day



On 17th of April, 2018 the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER) of Oman marks the World Health Day to emphasize its mission in promoting healthy life style and physical activities in order to fight non-communicable diseases and improve people's quality of life.

The two Y-Peer leaders Ms. Asila al-Harrasi and Mr. Mohammed al-Balushi took part in a major public event held by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Muscat, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, to celebrate the World Health Day. The event took place at Muscat Grand Mall, featuring several public interactive activities, puzzles, quizzes, awareness raising discussions and an exhibition.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Ali Bin Talib Al Hinai, Undersecretary of the Ministry, who visited the event venue to stress on the importance of health as a major pillar for a healthy society. "It was very important to let the participants know about the importance of the physical activities," said Asila. "Through such events we enhance the visibility of the Y-Peer network and let the people know about how to live a better healthy life", she added.

Y-Peer Oman takes part in "Momken" National Youth Workshop

Public service engagement, volunteerism and political participation are principles for youth empowerment and social equality. From this perspective, the Y-Peer Oman, represented by its leader Ms. Asila al-Harrasi participated in an important innovative workshop organized by the Youth and Human Resources Committee at the Shura Council titled "Momekn Youth" on 2nd of May.

The event aims at empowering young people and enhancing their participation in the local society through enabling them to take part in the decision-making process, development policies and strategies since this will support the sustainable development mechanism in the country and the implementation of Agenda 2030 on national level.

The workshop focused on the youth challenges to participate in public life and emphasized four pillars: the social empowerment, economic empowerment, political empowerment, and cultural empowerment. This national workshop gathered more than 90 young men and women and resulted in set of solutions and work plan proposals, which were suggested by youth to improve their participation in the public arena.





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Sub-regional Office for the GCC Countries

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