

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Y-Peers Oman participate in 1
Khareef Salalah Festival to
promote ICPD25

UNFPA provides Technical 2
Assistance to NCSI Oman to
lay out "The Omani Youth
Development Guide"

A Press Conference on Nairo- 3
bi Summit held in Oman to
raise awareness on ICPD25
Agenda

UNFPA & Oman Human 4
Rights Commission discuss
future co-operation plans



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Y-Peers Oman participate in Khareef Salalah Festival to promote ICPD25 messages



On 14th-16th August, 4 members of Oman Y-Peer Network participated in Khareef Salalah festival, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health of Oman. Khareef Salalah is an important annual event which gathers a large number of population in Oman, and features international shows and several awareness activities organized by the government entities in the country.

The International Youth Day was marked at the festival through several interactive Y-Peer activities. Almost 115 participants joined the Y-Peer pavilion to engage in funny edutainment games aiming at promoting healthy life style, with focus on avoiding harmful practices that may let them be vulnerable to many non-communicable diseases as diabetes and obesity.

The Y-Peers spoke to the public about the Nairobi Summit ICPD25, and the substance of this major global event in accelerating the promises made to women and young adolescents girls in the world. They also addressed the importance of having access to age-appropriate information and services that are required to adequately protect youth from unwanted pregnancies, STDs and HIV/AIDS, in addition to having regulations that consider age of marriage for young women, which allows them to continue their education and participate in the development processes in their countries.

UNFPA provides Technical Assistance to NCSI Oman to lay out “The Omani Youth Development Guide”



UNFPA, the sub-regional office for Gulf Co-Operation Council Countries (UNFPA GCC), launched a joint project with the National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI)- the Department of the Social Statistics, aiming at developing the Omani Youth Development Guide. To kick-start this joint project, UNFPA and NCSI held a multi-stakeholders workshop on 4-5 September, 2019. The workshop focused on reviewing several international good practices and global reports that may feed into the Omani Youth Development Guide. The consultant of UNFPA, Mr. Muhannad Ghanem walked the head of government partners who attended the workshop, through the proposed youth related development indicators and their linkages with the global SDGs, Agenda 2030 and the national development plans.

On the second day of the workshop, the participants agreed on specific roadmap and timeline to develop the guide, and expressed their commitment to offer the data required by the consultant to start drafting the guide. Before the end of the year, it was agreed that UNFPA and NCSI will hold a subsequent workshop to discuss the first draft of the guide and provide their inputs, along with other national stakeholders.

A Press Conference on Nairobi Summit held in Oman to raise awareness on ICPD25 Agenda



On Thursday 27th of June, 2019 UNFPA GCC held a widely attended press conference discussing the upcoming Nairobi Summit and ICPD25 Agenda, as this year marks the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, where 179 governments adopted a landmark Programme of Action that was set out to empower women and girls for their sake, and for the benefit of their families, communities and nations. Several journalists from major media outlets in the country covered the event, including the national News Agency of Oman.

In his statement addressing journalists Mr. Asr Toson, UNFPA GCC Representative stated that “the governments of Kenya and Denmark, together with UNFPA, have agreed to convene a high-level summit to bring all stakeholders together to take action on the unfinished business of the ICPD Programme of Action.”

Mr. Toson pointed out that the summit seeks to mobilize the efforts of world leaders in the face of outstanding challenges related to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in particular those focusing on the reproductive health and rights aspects.

“The summit aims to obtain a strong political commitment to the agenda of the international conference, which was held in Cairo in 1994, the year that witnessed the launch of the programme of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as finding political and financial momentum for advancement of the ICPD agenda as an indispensable part of the 2030 Plan, providing a comprehensive platform for a wide range of member states to meet around the universally applicable principle of rights and options for all,” Mr. Toson added.

UNFPA & Oman Human Rights Commission discuss future co-operation plans



UNFPA adopts culturally sensitive, gender-responsive, human rights-based approach to programming in each of UNFPA's three core areas of work: population and development, reproductive health, and gender. Building partnerships with human rights entities is critical to share experiences, best practices and create a conducive environment for its work, accordingly, Mr. Asr Toson, UNFPA GCC Representative held a bilateral meeting on 8th of May, 2019 with Dr. Abdullah Al Kalbani, Secretary General of the Omani Human Rights Commission in Muscat. Through the meeting, several topics were discussed, including the potential collaborative initiatives, particularly in the areas of work related to UNFPA mandate.

In this meeting, which was attended by heads of the international relations department at the Commission, Mr. Toson provided a summary of the office's programmes in the country, and UNFPA's mission to empower youth and women through programmes that adopts a human rights based approach and considers the international development agenda. He also pinpointed the long term co-operation the office has with several leading government partners, including Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health and the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). He highlighted the significance of the upcoming Nairobi Summit to deliver the promises made to young adolescent girls and women since 25 years at the first International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo.



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