

Youth
Health
Population &
Development



GCC Sub-Regional Office

VOLUME V, ISSUE III (JULY-SEPT 2016)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UNFPA GCC HOLDS AN
ADVANCED TRAINING
WORKSHOP TO MOSD
STAFF MEMBERS 1

UNFPA GCC HOLDS A
TRAINING WORKSHOP
TO Y-PEER OMAN 2

UNFPA GCC PARTICI-
PATES IN THE CELEBRA-
TION OF THE INTERNA-
TIONAL DAY OF NON-
VIOLENCE HELD BY RAJ
YOGA CENTER IN OMAN 3

STATEMENT ON THE
WORLD CONTRACEPTION
DAY: SAVING & TRANS-
FORMING WOMEN'S LIVES 4

UNFPA GCC PARTICI-
PATES IN THE CCS 2016-
2020 FOR WHO AND
OMAN DISSEMINATION
WORKSHOP 5

UNFPA GCC HOLDS AN ADVANCED TRAINING WORKSHOP TO MOSD STAFF MEMBERS



Group photo of MOSD staff with UNFPA GCC Representative after receiving the training certificates

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, Sub-Regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, in Oman, held a Puppet Shadow Theatre advanced training workshop "Noor Omani" at the Majan Continental Hotel, Muscat. The five day event (04-08 September 2016) marks a collaboration between UNFPA GCC and the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD). The goal was to build the communication skills of the field workers through a fusion art of Puppet Theater and shadow techniques, in order to assure an entertaining and effective outreach to various target groups that include families, children, parents, teachers and others about relevant social issues. The 23 participants were MoSD staff from the Directorate of Guidance and Counselling. "This was the third time that we are doing this project along with Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation based in Beirut. The workshop trains MoSD field workers to use this art form and enhance the effectiveness of their work in communicating the right messages to their target groups, including orphans, troubled children, families and others," Said Asr Toson, UNFPA GCC Representative.

This form of communication tool is a creative method, and it was proved successful through the previous collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Oman Disabled Association, Association of Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs and Y-PEERs through their Edutainment (Entertainment + Education) activities.

It is an important tool to address sensitive topics in a fun, playful but also emotional manner. The art form also "stimulates the imagination of the person and let him/her

see life from different perspectives. The participants expressed their appreciation to the efforts exerted during the training.

"The training was innovative and creative," said Ms. Fatma bint Ali Al Memaria, Professional Guidance Specialist at the Social Development Directorate in Al Buraimi governorate.

"The workshop provided us a new communication tool which we can use to build people's awareness within our work scope," she added.



MoSD female staff members are making puppets to prepare for the shadow technique show

UNFPA GCC HOLDS A TRAINING WORKSHOP TO Y-PEER OMAN

UNFPA GCC organized a two- days training session (06-07 September 2016) about advanced techniques of Shadow Theater to Y-PEER Oman. Y-PEER, the Youth Peer Education Network, is a UNFPA supported global network of young people (15-30 years of age) that are civic engaged and volunteering to educate their peers about all social and youth relevant issues.

This was a refresher training in order to further the Y-PEERS' knowledge on the mechanism of using the puppet theatre and shadow techniques in order to enhance their communication with the public. Y-Peers are to use this methodology to sensitize community about important issues related to healthy life style to avoid the common non-communicable diseases, risks related to drug addiction, road safety and gender equality among other vital topics related to youth in Oman. The training was provided by the Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation (APTF) located in Beirut, Lebanon. The training was also a great opportunity for the Y-PEERS to connect again with APTF trainers, practice the skills they obtained before, meet up to plan for their future engagements and projects, and seek assistance from the trainers and UNFPA staff members in regard to the training topics.

"It was fun and interesting to attend this training and meet again with APTF trainers and other Y-Peers," said Ms. Islam Al-Guzuli, one of the Y-Peers in Oman. "I enjoyed the interactive exercises. It was a chance to refresh our communication skills using the techniques of Shadow Theatre," Islam added.



Omani Y-Peers attending the training sessions held by UNFPA GCC

UNFPA GCC PARTICIPATES IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE HELD BY RAJ YOGA CENTER IN OMAN

On Sunday, 2nd of October 2016, UNFPA’s Sub-regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries, represented by its staff members: Mr. Salah Al-Saleh, Programme Analyst, Ms. Shaima Aly, Programme Coordinator and Ms. Shubha Shetty, Admin/ Finance Associate, participated in an event held by Raj Yoga Center for Self-Development in Muscat.

The high-level assembly in this event included many Ambassadors and other Embassies’ representatives in Muscat, as well as several public officials and civil society organizations based in Oman.

According to General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/271 of 15 June 2007, which established the commemoration, the International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence". This year’s focus was on the importance of the UN member states commitment to the environment and its sustainability and the relevance of achieving this goal through the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

During this evening, and to indicate their commitment and obligation to a peaceful world, the top officials attending the event came to stage to light the candles of peace. That was followed by a theatre performance given by “Youth of Hope”, a young Omani acting group, reflecting the spirit of this remarkable day.

At end, Ms. Jayanti Kriplani, Director, Europe and Middle East, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University and its Representative to the UN Geneva, gave a speech about the importance of living in harmony and peace and spiritual ways to overcome conflicts.



UNFPA Programme Analyst, Mr. Al-Saleh, delivers the 2016 statement of the UN SG a speech

Mr. Salah Al-Saleh delivered the 2016 statement of the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, marking the International Day of Non-Violence observed on 2nd of October each year, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.



Group of Omani youth performs a theatre play marking the International Day of Non-Violence



Participants lit the candles of peace

STATEMENT ON THE WORLD CONTRACEPTION DAY: SAVING & TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S LIVES

BY DR. BABATUNDE OSOTIMEHIN, UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFPA

26TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2016

Access to modern contraception saves and transforms women's lives. It transforms their families and communities, too. Family planning is one of the best investments countries can make for women's empowerment, gender equality and economic prosperity.

Still, wherever I travel, I continue to meet women and girls who are unable to exercise their right to choose whether or when to have children.

Women like Melody Abadji, a 24-year-old food vendor in the Republic of Benin, who became pregnant at 18, before she and her partner were ready. "We didn't want to have any children because of our difficult financial situation," she said.

Melody was forced to drop out of school and put her dreams on hold. To support their baby, the couple moved from the northern city of Parakou to Cotonou to find work, leaving the child with her parents.

In Cotonou, Melody learned about a clinic run by the Benin Family Planning Association, an affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The clinic receives health commodities, including male and female condoms and a wide range of hormonal contraceptives, from UNFPA Supplies, the largest global fund dedicated to family planning.

Melody opted to receive a contraceptive implant to avoid pregnancy until she and her partner were more financially stable.

But far too many women and couples still lack access to modern contraception.

Today, as we mark World Contraception Day, some 225 million women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using safe and effective family planning methods. Moreover, a global funding crisis is threatening family planning programmes like the one in Cotonou.

Last year alone, contraceptives provided by UNFPA Supplies averted an estimated 9 million unintended pregnancies and 26,000 maternal deaths. This support saved families and countries approximately \$500 million in pregnancy, delivery and other health care costs. These kinds of gains are at risk.

And this jeopardizes the health and well-being of millions of women and adolescent girls and global prospects for sustainable development.

As for Melody, she recently returned to the clinic in Cotonou to have her implant removed. "Now we are ready," she said.

Together, let us recommit ourselves to ensuring that every woman and adolescent girl has the means and information to delay pregnancy until she is ready.

Today, I call on global leaders and the international community to prioritize funding for contraceptives and the systems that deliver them.

Let us ensure that every pregnancy is by choice, not chance.

UNFPA GCC PARTICIPATES IN THE CCS 2016-2020 FOR WHO AND OMAN DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

On 27th of September, 2016 UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, Sub-regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries participated in a one day workshop discussing the Country Co-operation Strategy (CCS) 2016-2022 of WHO and the Government of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The workshop was held at the Institute of Health Sciences, Ministry of Health, and attended by HE Dr. Ali Al Hinai, MOH Undersecretary of Planning Affairs, WHO staff members, UN agencies Representatives and MoH senior officials.

UNFPA GCC, represented by its Programme Analyst, Mr. Salah Al-Saleh and Programme Coordinator, Ms. Shaima Aly, attended the two sessions of the workshop which addressed the CCS objectives, CCS development process in Oman and the drawn out operational planning and monitoring process. During the two sessions, the attendants provided relevant inputs within the working groups and learnt about the new strategy priorities and objectives.

The first session titled “overview of the country co-operation strategy”, included a welcome address given by Dr. Salah Al Muzahmi, Deputy Director General of Planning at the MoH followed by a presentation given by Dr. Rayana Bou Haka, Manager, Country Support, WHO/EMRO which highlighted the objectives of the workshop and the importance to link the CCS with the global health action plan. She also pointed out the purpose of the CCS as being an interface between country health priorities and WHO medium term vision for health as defined in the 12th General Programme of Work 2014-2019, adding that the CCS providing a framework facilitating bottom-up planning process. The following presentation was given by Dr. Ruth Mabry, Technical Officer at WHO Oman, addressing the development process of the CCS including WHO strategic approach to SDG implementation aiming at achieving 2030 Agenda and Oman Health Vision 2050 and ending with a short speech on the priorities of the strategy according to the country national development plans and the country context that formed the agenda. Dr. Deirde Ryan-Christensn, WHO Regional Adviser, Planning, Budget and M&E gave a presentation about the operational planning and monitoring of the CCS including information about the Managerial Framework/Business Cycle of the strategy.

Following that, the attendants were divided into 5 groups according to the set 5 priorities, including NCDs, CDs, emergency preparedness, lifelong health services and general health system development. The attendants reflected on the priorities and the areas of work within the draft ninth 5 years health development plan and demonstrating the leadership in health promotion. The groups focused to identify priority areas and relevance of technical assistance to be provided by WHO to the government to achieve the strategy objectives.



UNFPA staff members among the CCS 2016-2020 workshop attendants



The panel consists of WHO/EMRO staff members and Oman Ministry of Health personnel



**UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the
Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council
(GCC)**

PO Box 1960, PCI30

Muscat , Sultanate of Oman

Phone: +968 24496893

Fax: +968 24496381

E-mail: gcc-info@unfpa.org

Web: gcc.unfpa.org

Twitter: [@UNFPAGCC](https://twitter.com/UNFPAGCC)

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!