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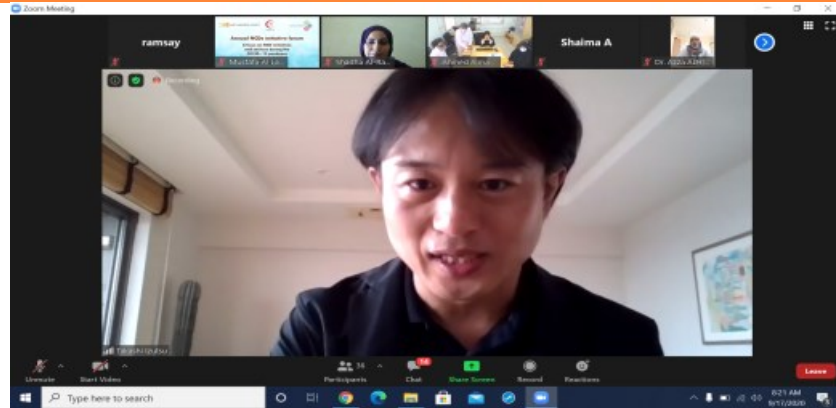
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UNFPA GCC and MoH hold the National Annual NCDs Forum in its second version titled “Responding to the health needs of PwDs”



On the 17th of September, the Omani National Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Annual Forum was held for the second consecutive year. The forum this year, which went virtual to meet the health requirements related to social distancing, was planned to address another relevant thematic area “the health needs of the People with Disabilities (PwDs)”. The number of attendants reached more than 50 officials, who were heads of the NCDs Department at the Ministry, Mental Health Department, PwDs Directorate, in addition to heads of local clinics in all governorates of the country.

The key speaker of the forum was Dr. Takashi Izutsu, the Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo, the expert at the World Bank Group, and the expert in the inclusion of persons with disabilities, mental health and well-being & disaster risk reduction. Through his presentation, Dr. Izutsu addressed the current impact of COVID-19 on the wellness and mental health of PwDs. He discussed the mechanisms to ensure that the health needs and mobility requirements of this vulnerable group are fully mainstreamed in the UHC systems, to ensure that no one is left behind. He pinpointed the linkage between the NCDs and occurrence of several disabilities, since some diseases can cause constant impairments.

This presentation was followed by Q&A session, where the participants discussed the Japanese experience in PwDs inclusion and the importance to integrate the services addressing the needs of these vulnerable groups in the Primary Health Care (PHC) and Tertiary Health Care (THC) tiers. Following this session, the participants offered several presentations on the interventions and services provided in each governorate’s health facilities in response to the pandemic, their current challenges and the best lessons-learnt.

A Telemedicine Hotline is launched in Oman to provide counselling services to women of reproductive age in response to COVID-19



On the 18th of May 2020, UNFPA GCC launched a medical consultation service addressing the inquiries of women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative was implemented in co-operation with the Ministry of Health- the Department of Woman and Child Health, and with the support of the World Health Organization - Oman Country Office, being the donor in this initiative. The Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) related Inquires/concerns are responded by experienced physicians of the Omani Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OSOG).

The initiative emphasizes the importance of responding to this health crisis under the “Deliver as One (DaO)” Approach and was developed considering several guiding instruments, including “WHO COVID-19: Operational guidance for maintaining essential health services during an outbreak”, & “UNFPA Internal Guidance Note for use in preparedness and response to COVID-19”. The women-led initiative, since all the staff members working on this initiative either from the UN agencies, MoH or OSOG were females, was implemented within the current Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) of Oman, & focuses at the same time on the 3TRs of UNFPA. Therefore, while we are responding to the pandemic, we put women at the heart of our response agenda, to minimize the maternal mortality, respond to women concerns related to pandemic and the usage of proper contraceptives and allow them to seek support if they are facing any disturbing emotional stress.

Given the importance of this initiative, and upon request of MoH and willingness of our donor (WHO), UNFPA GCC extended the service until mid-October. The MoH also expressed its readiness to continue providing the service and ensure sustainable provision of the counselling beyond the pandemic so women health needs are met in an accessible remote way. This initiative was selected by UNFPA Arab States Regional office, as one of the best SRH practices in the region.

LNOB: a value translated into an action in a joint workshop held by UNFPA and MoSD Oman

Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) is a notion that is sought by Agenda 2030 and one of the accelerator interventions of UNFPA Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic response plan. This principle was reflected in a recent workshop held by UNFPA GCC in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in Oman. The 3-days workshop, which started on 20th of July, titled “Gender Mainstreaming Approach in Programmes Planning, Implementation and Evaluation” in its second version, addressed several persisting issues including women and adolescent girls issues through the pandemic time and how their needs can be responded by the government entities and responsible officials, how to collect gender-segregated data and use them to build a case for gender-balanced interventions, and the modality to conduct an evaluation addressing gender equality related milestones and outcomes.

The workshop which was held online and delivered by the gender region-wide recognized expert Ms. Gihan Abu Zaid, was attended by more than 45 participants and senior decision makers from MoSD, National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Ministry of Health (MoH), among other national stakeholders.

To ensure the sustainability of the provided knowledge, the educational modules of the workshop will be produced in a convenient ICT- based platform to be disseminated widely and used by the government entities in Oman and other GCC countries, being the second phase of the project.

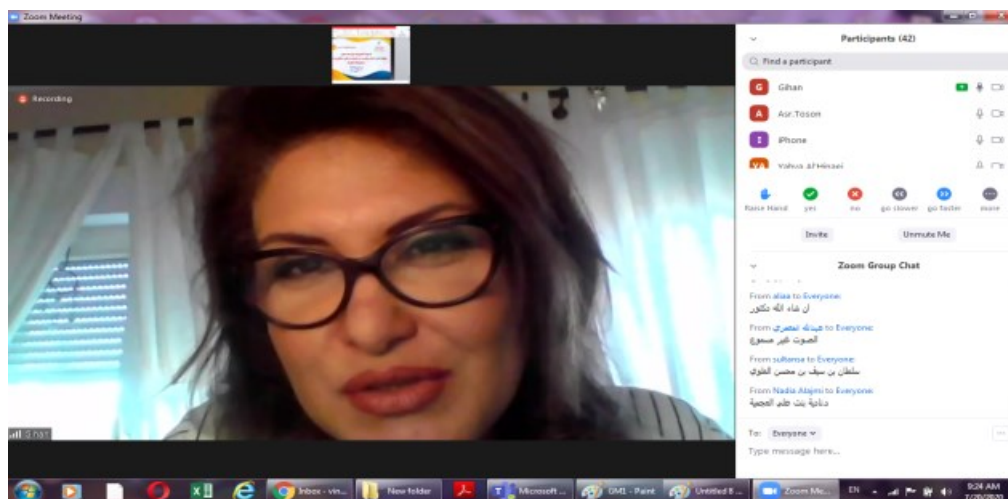
National Media Coverage on the event:

Al Bawaba: <https://bawabaa.org/news/433149>

Oman News Agency: <https://bit.ly/3fWk6ad>

AlRoya Oman: <https://bit.ly/3g0GrUd>

Al Watan Oman: <http://alwatan.com/details/393692>



Two initiatives supporting youth empowerment and women health are developed by UNFPA and Oman UNCT members

If there were any lessons learnt from this critical time of the pandemic propagation, they would be the need to develop synergies and collaborative platforms, adopt innovative modalities of co-operation and adhere to the “Deliver as One” approach.

Therefore, it was critical for UNFPA GCC to strengthen the coordination mechanisms with other UNCT members in the country in order to continue delivering our promises through this year. Two initiatives were developed accordingly with both the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Oman.

On 12th and 13th of June, 2020, UNFPA GCC took part in the COVID-19 Youth Technology Challenge. The CO, represented by its Programmes and Communication associate, participated in selecting the best innovative technology based projects presented by the competitors, who were from several Arab States. This Youth Technology Challenge was indeed an opportunity to come together, imagine the available possibilities, and create innovative solutions to meet the demands of our transformed society. The presented projects were related to improving sanitation and health services in response to the pandemic, tapping into technological tools to provide solutions at the healthcare facilities, using innovative virtual education modules, and using integrated tools to address people's needs through this time.

On other hand, on 29th of June, UNFPA GCC provided a public webinar, within a co-operative initiative developed with FAO Oman. The webinar addressed several topics including the precautions that have to be taken by the pregnant women to ensure safe pregnancy through COVID-19, the suitable diet needed to help pregnant and lactating women in boosting their immunity and the best healthy habits that can be adopted by women of reproductive age.

The public webinar was an activity among many others, including creating and disseminating Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) messages pertinent to COVID-19.

The webinar was attended by more than 70 women and men, who expressed their willingness to join more similar activities.

متحمس لإن العيد قرب ?? كيف تقضي عيد مميز وفي الوقت نفسه يكون أكلك صحي ???

شاركنا في لقاء يتضمن محاضرة وحوار للإجابة عن أسئلتكم مع مختصين من دائرة التغذية بوزارة الصحة عن طريق برنامج زووم

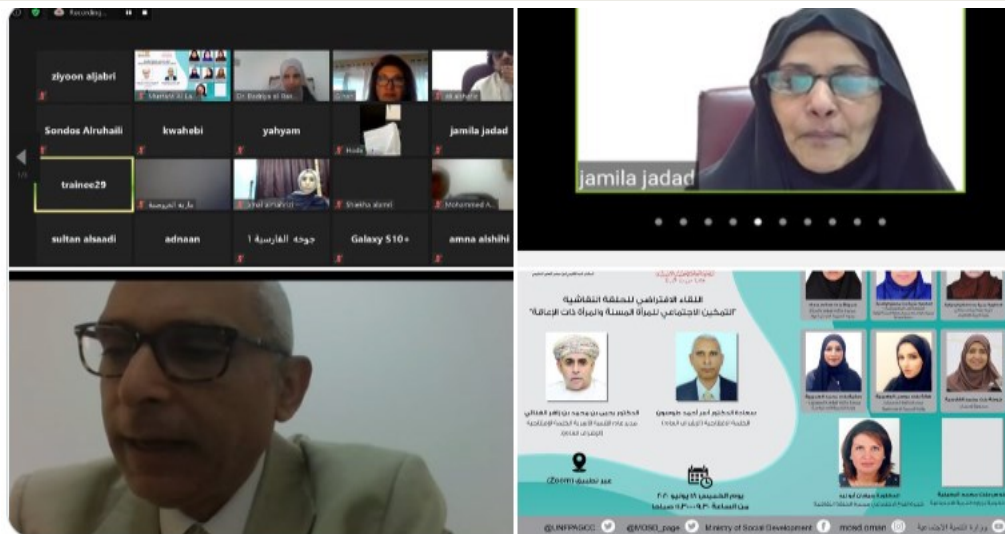
بممكنكم ارسال استفساراتكم تحت التفرقة

Meeting ID: 996 9878 3983
Password: MOH2020

يوم الثلاثاء 19 مايو
من الساعة 1-2 مساءً

f OmanHealth @ OmaniMOH www.moh.gov.om 1212-24441999

An online roundtable discussion on “elder women & women with disabilities inclusion policies in Oman”



On 18th of June, UNFPA GCC, in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in Oman, held a multi-stakeholders virtual roundtable discussion to address the available services provided to the ageing women and women with disabilities; the legal framework that safeguards their rights in the country; and the social protection and inclusion mechanisms in place.

More than 45 participants and six speakers took part in this event to shed light on the current situation of these vulnerable population categories, particularly during the pandemic, and on the legal and social measures taken by the respective government partners, including the Ministries of Health, Education, and Social Development.

Six papers, discussed during the workshop, which fed into a policy brief that was drafted by UNFPA GCC in consultation with the MoSD. This key document will pave the way for the development of a national strategy to help improve the conditions of this target population

A study on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women in Oman

As early as the eruption of the pandemic, UNFPA GCC adopted a proactive approach to address and mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on women in the country. Therefore, a comprehensive needs-driven and women-centered study to analyze the current and potential impact of COVID-19 on Omani women and create a linkage between these impacts and the SDGs indicators, was issued in end of April 2020.

The study, which is part of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Response Plan in Oman, provided insights on the current challenges facing women entrepreneurs, women caregivers in the healthcare sector, and those with special needs. It provided recommendations in regard to the necessity to have a better coordination between the UNCT members, and the government partners to mitigate these impacts. It also offered several proposals for future analyses and policy briefs to counter these challenges in a holistic approach.



The Socio-economic Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Omani Women

The way forward, the Engagement
of the UN System in the Response
Process



UNFPA GCC provides TA to National Family Support Programme of KSA

In a breakthrough initiative, UNFPA, along with other UN partners including ESCWA, has been providing a long term capacity building virtual activities to the National Family Safety Programme (NFSP) in Saudi Arabia. The first webinar, which was held on 30th of June 2020, in a series of 7, built the capacity of NFSP staff to respond to the Gender based Violence (GBV) and domestic violence cases in the country. These webinars would provide the best practices in this thematic area, and highlight the importance to adopt a resilient approach when handling these cases especially through the pandemic time.

The second webinar which will be led by UNFPA on 15th of October, will address the remote case management modality to manage the cases of women subject to domestic violence. The webinar will highlight the experience of IPDF (Initiative pour La Protection Des Droits Des Femmes) in Morocco, the partner in this webinar. In November, UNFPA and HelpAge International, our partner in this initiative, will provide couple of sessions related to addressing violence against elder women and the social protection and safety systems /programmes that can be adopted to manage these cases.



حلقة نقاشية عبر الإنترنت (Webinar)

الثلاثاء ٩ ذو القعدة ١٤٤١ هـ الموافق ٣٠ يونيو ٢٠٢٠ م
من الساعة ٣ وحتى ٥ عصرًا

تطوير خدمات خطوط المساندة ودعم المهنيين العاملين فيها أثناء جائحة كوفيد- 19

المحاور

- نظرة عامة على الممارسات الناشئة عالمياً والتي يمكن تطبيقها أثناء جائحة كوفيد- 19
- نظرة عامة على الممارسات والتجارب الإقليمية في خطوط المساندة أثناء جائحة كوفيد- 19
- التجارب الإقليمية في تقديم الاستشارات ومعالجة الاحتياجات المستجدة دعم المهنيين العاملين في مراكز بلاغات العنف الأسري
- تجربة خط مساندة الطفل في برنامج الأمان الأسري الوطني أثناء جائحة كوفيد- 19
- دور برنامج الأمان الأسري الوطني في تطوير مهارات المهنيين العاملين في خطوط المساندة

المتحدثون :

الاستاذ / أكرم خليفة – المستشار الإقليمي للمساواة بين الجنسين وتمكين المرأة ، الإسكوا
الاستاذ / أيمن السعيد – مسؤول برامج هيئة الأمم المتحدة للمرأة – المغرب
الاستاذة / جيهان السيد – مخرمة خط مساندة مؤسسة أبعاد (لبنان)
الاستاذة / أهيلة بثومر – المدير العام لمؤسسة سوا (فلسطين)
الاستاذة / تهاني المجدد – مديرة إدارة الخدمات المجتمعية في برنامج الأمان الأسري الوطني
الاستاذة / نوال العتيبي – مديرة إدارة التشغيل في برنامج الأمان الأسري الوطني

بالتعاون مع:



NFSP1 | www.nfsp.org.sa 0507740079

State of World Population Report 2020 is launched in Oman



A virtual press conference was held on 7th of July in Oman to launch the State of World Population Report 2020 “Against my Will”. Asr Toson, UNFPA GCC Representative extended several invitations to the chief editors of the major media outlets in the country. The event, which was applauded by the journalists, addressed the situation of women in Oman, and the need to achieve more progress in women empowerment process, as well as the achievements accomplished by the Omani government in this area. Through the virtual conference, the Representative highlighted that the pandemic may affect women adversely and there is a necessity to take further steps to mitigate such risks. “In 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, world governments called for universal sexual and reproductive health and decisively demanded an end to harmful practices. One year later, at the Fourth World Conference on Women, governments again declared that harmful practices must stop,” UNFPA Representative said. “Progress in slowing the rate of some adverse practices has been achieved, yet because of population growth, the number of girls subjected to harm is actually growing. Clearly, pledges and resolutions have not been sufficient to end harmful practices once and for all. What we need now are real change and real results,” he added.

He concluded the e-conference stating that “the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, representatives from governments, grassroots organizations, development agencies and the private sector moved beyond pledges and resolutions and committed to ending the unmet need for contraceptives, ending preventable maternal death, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices. Therefore, we have to work hard in order to deliver our promises to women all over the world”.

On other hand, the UN Resident Coordinator Offices in Kuwait, KSA and Bahrain highlighted the issuance of the SWoP in their daily digest and their social media platforms upon a request from UNFPA GCC.



Issuance of UNFPAGCC/ NCSI Youth Development Index of Oman

In early September 2020, the National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI) Oman approved the country's first Youth Development Index. The project, which was launched last year and initiated by a multi-stakeholders workshop led by UNFPA GCC consultant Mr. Muhannad Ghanem, the expert in statistics and youth development, aimed at proposing a human-centered multi-faceted comprehensive youth development guide. The project included several partners, to provide inputs and impressions throughout the process, including the National Youth Commission (NYC) of Oman, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

The index provides the necessary information and analysis for the decision-maker in the Sultanate, through an international methodology that monitors the status of youth and focuses on the most important areas affecting their lives as active individuals in their society. It also provides a benchmark that can be used through all the phases of development and for the purposes of comparisons at national and regional levels, since it offers the opportunity to explore progress or shortcomings in the basic areas of youth development.

The report includes an exhaustive analysis of the Omani youth situation by reviewing specific indicators. The analyzed data are segregated according to gender, governorate, and the pertaining advancement area. Eventually, the Index includes also some recommendations and future perspectives to accelerate the engagement of Omani youth, and in parallel, it pinpoints the necessity to have further related statistical reports. Thanks to the efforts made to have this index materialized, Oman is recognized as being the first country in the Arab world to prepare such index. UNFPA GCC will make sure that the Omani Youth Development Index is promoted and disseminated among key partners in GCC countries for potential replication of such newfangled experience.



An educational statistics mission to Qatar was launched in May 2020

Under the joint continuous co-operation framework between UNFPA GCC and the Permanent Population Committee (PPC) of Qatar, a mission was initiated in order to conduct a comparative analytical and statistical study in the area related to students enrollment numbers nationally, to ensure that these data and statics are unified and consistent with the world educational reports including those issued by UNESCO and other UN agencies on Qatar.

The mission which is still undergoing, includes providing specific benchmarks and equations that are needed for future analytical reports. It also ensures that there is a coordinated mechanism allowing easy enumeration of school students and feasible data collection tools. It also provides a governance structure of the information and data flow among relevant stakeholders to provide timely reports and updates on these statistics.

The mission would include a field visit to Qatar in near future, where the experts of UNFPA can apply the enumeration methods to identify the exact enrollment numbers and to collect data through several multi-stakeholders meetings and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).



اللجنة الدائمة للسكان
Permanent Population Committee

UNFPA GCC holds a virtual meeting with the National Observatory on Sustainable Development in Kuwait

On 2nd of June 2020, and in coordination with the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) in Kuwait, UNFPA GCC held a virtual meeting with the National Observatory on Sustainable Development (NOSD) .

The meeting undertook several topics including the data clusters that are needed for an inclusive Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Kuwait, the data collection and analysis tools and the ways to create data platform between NOSD and other government entities, so the information can flow from one bureau to another to be used eventually in the VNRs and other UN SDGs related reporting mechanisms.

There was an agreement among participants that UNFPA, being the leading agency in population data, can work later with NOSD to facilitate this governance of collected data on national level and to provide assistance ahead of the upcoming VNR of Kuwait.



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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.

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