

Share-Net
Jordan



31th edition

Share-Net
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1st Quarter

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**Share-Net
Jordan**
The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health
and Reproductive Rights



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Introduction

Share-Net Jordan is pleased to publish the 31th issue of its periodic newsletter for the first quarter of 2024. This issue comes within the framework of Share-Net Jordan's keen interest in keeping researchers, decision-makers, policy setters, program developers, and research entities well informed about the most recent updates with regard to local and global developments in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

Among the most notable achievements are: launching two policy briefs on Sexual and Reproduce Health issues and needs for adolescent, girls, and boys in Jordan; signing a cooperation agreement with Institute for Family Health /King Hussein Foundation related to raising awareness of ge der-based violence and reproductive sexual health for youth, married women and girls; preparing for the Regional Co-Creation Conference on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and the Extent of Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health Concepts into School Curricula in Jordan (22-23/4/2024), as part of ShareNet Jordan's commitment to expanding its efforts to work at the national and regional levels to exchange information, experiences and expertise among the countries of the region in this field; a community of practice was formed to monitor the extent to which sexual and

reproductive health concepts are integrated into school curricula; and alongside creating four podcasts on parents' adolescents' sexual and reproductive health information and education using the SHIRIM knowledge product "Parents Guide for Sexual Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights".

Share-Net Jordan also completed the annual technical and financial plan for 2024 and the technical and financial annual report for the year 2023. Share-Net Jordan now has 298 individual and organizational members from different sectors including academia, policy makers, practitioners and NGOs. The number of visitors to the platform during the first quarter was 118.

Achievements

- **Studies, policy briefs, working papers and reports:**

- **Legal analysis of the Cybercrime Law of 2023 and the Penal Code of 1960 and its amendments in Jordan in relation to data on health, sexual and reproductive rights on which Share-Net Jordan platform operates and its impact on health, sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) activities.**

Terms of reference were drafted and approved by Share-Net international, and tender was awarded to a local expert. The study is primarily aimed at conducting a comprehensive analysis of articles of the Cybercrime Law of 2023 and the Penal Code of 1960 and its amendments in reference to the following issues:

- The effect of these laws on posting and circulating information on health, sexual, and reproductive health rights (SRHR) on the Share-Net Jordan platform on and off the Internet.
- The effect of these laws on the implementation of Share-Net Jordan's activities in the production, circulation, and interpretation of knowledge and promoting its use in the field of SRHR, and providing practical recommendations to be shared and posted on or off the internet in a manner that takes into account the safety of personnel of Share-Net Jordan. Moreover, introducing creative ideas and solutions on SRHR to be posted and circulated within the legal framework.

- The impact of these laws on the right to freedom of expression, especially the right to access information related to SRHR, one of the core values of the Share-Net network.
- Revealing the outcomes of laws imposed on individuals and organizations when posting information on SRHR, and the possible penalties that may be incurred by the relevant authorities when applying the new laws to digital platforms.

- **Creating 4 podcasts on Parents' Adolescents' Sexual and reproductive health information and education using the SHIRIM Knowledge product "Parents Guide for Sexual Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights", which were created by the Women Studies Center in University of Jordan CoP and were uploaded to the Share-Net Jordan website.**

- **Finalizing a study on nuptiality and its trends in Jordan for the period (2009-2022).**

• **Events and activities that were implemented and participated in:**

- **Launching policy papers on issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health and needs for male and female young adolescents in Jordan.**



In a meeting held on February 29, 2024, the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan in cooperation with Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) youth program launched two policy papers. The first paper was on addressing the culture of silence to improve reproductive and sexual health for male and female young adolescents in Jordan while the second paper was on information and services on reproductive and sexual health: opportunities and challenges facing males and females in underprivileged and less fortunate communities in Jordan. A large number of representatives of national government agencies, NGOs, UN agencies and international organizations, and

civil and academic societies participated in this meeting.

The two papers were designed to contribute to providing scientific evidence to operators in the field of policies and programs to promote planning and adopting programs that will help the Jordanian youth have access to reliable sexual and reproductive health information and services. Additionally, the two papers would also highlight the challenges facing the youth in the disadvantaged communities in Jordan.

- **Endorsed and supported by the UN Population Fund, the Higher Population Council held the fourth consultative meeting of the main producers of administrative data in the national statistical system**, on February 22, 2024. The meeting comes as part of HPC functions and duties as the national reference authority on information on the current demographic situation of Jordan.

One of the most prominent objectives of the meeting is to follow up on the progress of national efforts to upgrade and complete administrative record data in light of the recommendations of previous consultative meetings,

discuss the production mechanism of vital indicators according to internationally recognized methodologies, and confer on the structure and contents of the annual statistical reports of the participating parties.



- An agreement of cooperation between the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan on one side, and the Family Health Institute/ Al Hussein Foundation on the other, was signed.

The agreement addressed awareness on issues related to gender-based violence, SRH for male and female young adolescents, and married women. This agreement comes within the framework of cooperation for awareness and education on important health issues, and for playing an active role in addressing violence, protecting individuals and communities from dangers, psychological, social, and economic repercussions. The agreement proposes preparing and developing materials on raising awareness about gender-based violence and SRH.

The compiled information will then be printed in a guide book and used in awareness-raising sessions and in local community training workshops.



- HPC signed an agreement with the United Nations Population Fund for 2024 within the framework of the 10th country program for the United Nations Population Fund for the years (2022-2027).

The action plan includes the implementation of several supporting initiatives and programs to adopt the national strategy for SRH for the years (2020-2030), and prepare studies and policy briefs in the domain of reproductive health issues based on the outcomes of the 2023 Population and Family Health Survey (DHS). Studies will also include a report on research priorities in the field of SRH based on results of the survey, and a study on the unmet needs and on trends of using traditional methods of family planning.

- Participating in the membership of the technical committees entrusted with writing a report on the main results of the 2023 Population and Health Survey in cooperation with the Department of Statistics.

- Participating in the technical working groups assigned with preparing a comprehensive national review report for the launch of and implementation of the Beijing 30 + report. Working groups are organized by the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs within the scope of promoting SRH&RR for women and girls.

- Participating in the membership of the technical committee to prepare the National Strategy for the Elderly for the years 2024-2028 which is arranged by the National Council for Family Affairs in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

- Participating in the membership of the advisory committee for the advocacy programme in support of the SRH services project, conducted by the Information and Research Centre/King Hussein Foundation with the support of Anhar Organization. Also, attending the relevant meetings to identify the tasks of the committee and determine the priorities of the policy papers to be completed in an effort to help identify legislative gaps and challenges related to reproductive and sexual health services for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, with special emphasis on people with disabilities, people with AIDS, as well as refugees.

- Participating in the meetings of the Committee of Youth Practitioners and Sexual and Reproductive Health, January 30th, 2024 and March 13th, 2024 with the purpose of involving the youth in updating the contents of the DARBI platform so as to cover a wide range of topics that the youth require.

- Participation of HPC Secretary General/ Chairman of the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh and Ali AL-Metleq, Director of Studies & Policies Unit in the Advocacy and Consultation on the right of employment for people infected with blood-borne diseases and the sustainability of comprehensive health services, held on February 8-10, 2024. The seminar meant to consult with a number of parliamentarians and relevant parties at the Ministry of Health and civil society organizations on transmitted SRH issues. Among its objectives also was to discuss obstacles hindering the right to work for people infected with blood-borne diseases, ways to introduce and sustain these rights by integrating them with SRH services.



- Participating in a meeting to exchange experiences of practitioner committees by country centres of Share-Net International held on February 28 and 29, 2024.

The meeting aimed to promote the exchange and utilization of knowledge, and provide a platform for communication and cooperation amongst all practitioner committees within the Share-Net International network.

- Participating in a meeting to measure health and the level of personal hygiene of girls. The meeting, organized by UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education on February 26, 2024. The meeting aimed to introduce a proposed study on gauging health and personal hygiene of girls during menstruation at the individual level, the school level, in addition to the national and governmental levels.

- Participating in meetings held during January and February on developing the Share-Net International Theory of Change.

The Theory of Change is a strategic framework which shows where Share-Net is heading and what it is undertaking towards achieving its important mission of refining and uplifting SRH.

The Theory of Change is founded on a model based on evidence; it defines a comprehensive strategy involving a variety of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, researchers, policy makers, implementers, advocates, students, media, firms and establishments.

- Share-Net Jordan held a session with representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and the Royal Society for Health Care on January 25, 2024. The session aimed to introduce participants to the goals of the conference on integrating the concepts of SRH into the school curricula. Participants were then invited to be included in the committee of practitioners.

- HPC Secretary General/ Chairman of the Steering Committee for Share-Net Jordan, Prof. Dr. Issa Almasarweh accompanied by Assistant Secretary-General Rania Al-Abbadi and Director of Studies and Policies Ali Al-Mutlaq took part in the pilot show of the interactive theatre on March 6, 2024. The show, sponsored by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Norway, aimed to address issues related to SRH as part of the project Empowering Youth for a Safer Future. The play explicates the SRH of women and youth in Jordan, with special emphasis on the rights of youth and women on reproductive health, and the level of disparity in accessing health services and facilities in different regions of Jordan.

- Monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual and Health (NSRSH) for the years 2020-2030 through following up on:

- Updating the matrix of indicators at the level of impact and the level of results, in light of the outcomes of the 2023 Population and Health Survey through holding meetings for members of the technical sub-committee represented by concerned institutions.

The index was brought up to date by reviewing and updating the base year data and actual values for the years 2021 and 2022 and by determining the target values for indicators throughout the years of the strategy.

- Drafting a report on the execution plan of the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health (NSRSH) for 2023 and the execution plan for 2024. To this end, a meeting was held with the sponsorship of UN Population Fund and the participation of representatives of the relevant national authorities on March 7, 2024. The meeting intended to discuss the draft of the execution report in order to produce a final version of the report a plan after including the achievements, contributions, and interventions of all partners.

- **Taking necessary steps to update the electronic knowledge platform, DARBY, in a way that prepares it to respond to and address the needs of Persons with Disability.** HPC held a meeting sponsored by UN Population Fund on March 20, 2024 for members of the committee of experts on DARBY. Representatives of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship also attended the meeting to discuss the steps needed to update the platform in a manner to enable it to be responsive (in terms of content and technicality) to the needs of people with disabilities.

Updating the electronic platform would contribute to raise awareness of persons with disabilities on issues, concepts and importance of SRH to their health and life and the lives of their families as well.

- **Preparing for the regional conference on comprehensive sexual education and the extent of integrating the concepts of SRH in the school curricula** to be held on April 22-23, 2024 in Jordan under the patronage of Chairman of the National Council for Curriculum Development in Jordan. The conference comes in line with Share-Net Jordan's adherence and commitment to expand the scope of its efforts to operate at the national and regional levels, exchange information, experiences and expertise among Arab countries of the region in this field. Furthermore, the conference is an opportunity for participants in the conference to exchange experiences, boost and bolster their abilities in this field herein.

- **Creating a committee of practitioners to track and oversee the extent of integrating SRH concepts in the school curricula.**

The committee reviewed achievements and preparations for the conference, as well as reviewing elements of the UNESCO manual and finally came to an agreement on the work mechanism.

The UNESCO manual comprises of a set of primary basic concepts, principles and explanatory learning objectives to gear the development of a locally adapted curriculum for learners aged 5 to 18+, modify and amend it in a way to meet the prevalent religious and cultural contexts.

- Participation of the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan on March 27, 2024 in the monthly meeting of the SRH group formed and designed by the UN Population Fund from parties operating in the same field. Topics under discussion during the meeting covered HIV/AIDS.

- Online Meeting with Dr. Sarah Salman of the UN Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia ESCWA/ Lebanon, to discuss finalizing the study on international migration in Jordan, January 3, 2024.

- Online meeting with Share-Net Colombia on January 9, 2024, to make preparations for the workshop where the committees of practitioners would discuss the status of the marginalized people.

- Online meeting with Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) youth programme on January 11, 2024, to plan for the workshop to be held January 29, 2024.

- Online meeting with Share-Net International and Share-Net coordinators on January 22, 2024.

- Online meeting with Share-Net International on grants of knowledge translation funded by Share-Net International on January 22, 2024.

- Meeting of the fundraising team held on January 23, 2024. The team discussed Share-Net International plan of action for sustainability, fundraising and discussing the Share-Net International planning phase for the coming years.

- Meeting to confer and evaluate phase III of the participatory approach, Share-Net International Rapid Improvement Model, SHIRIM III held on January 24, 2024.

- Online meeting with Share-Net International to discuss the workshop of committees of practitioners on the marginalized groups of people, January 25, 2024.

- Participating in the online meeting with Share-Net International which was attended by organizers and recipients of grants, January 29, 2024.

- Online meeting with Share-Net International February 1, 2024 to invite and include all members to the Share-Net International platform.

- Online meeting with Share-Net International on March 12, 2024, to evaluate mechanisms and procedures of grants and assess them with the organizers.

- Online meeting on March 14, 2024 to oversee and follow up on the grant presented to Share-Net Jordan.

- Online meeting of Share-Net coordinators with Share-Net International on March 18, 2024.

- Participating in a workshop organized by the Department of Statistics in cooperation with the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) March 25-29, 2024. The workshop included a national team to prepare a report on the final results of the 2023 Population and Family Health Survey(DHS).

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