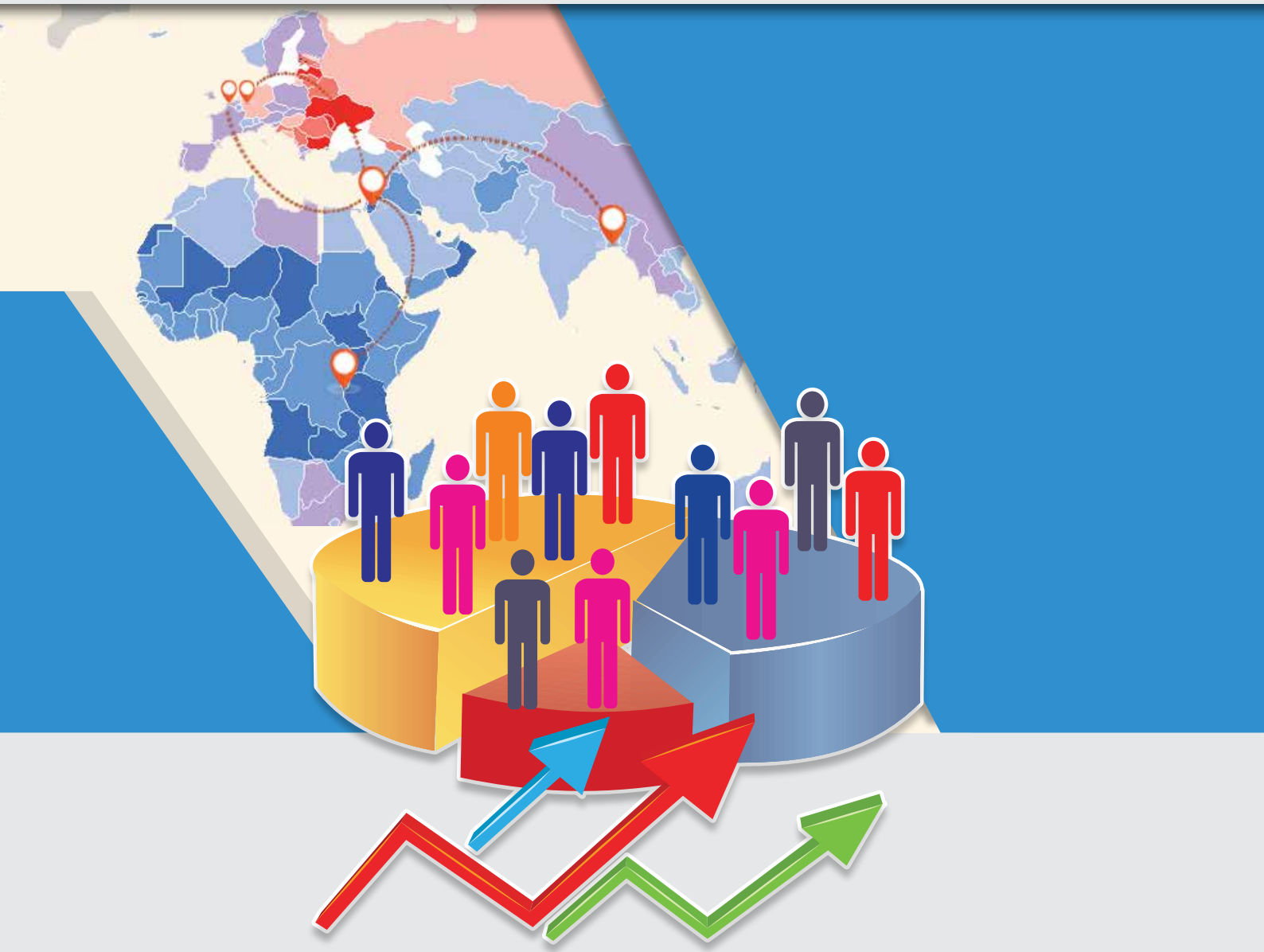


Share-Net
Jordan



**SHARE-NET
JORDAN**

**The Knowledge Platform
on Sexual and Reproductive Health**

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Introduction

Share-Net Jordan is the knowledge platform on sexual and reproductive health, one of the effective programs of the Higher Population Council funded by Share-Net International Netherlands. The mission of the program is to enhance links between research, policies and practices through the collaborative generation, translation and dissemination of information in order to develop policies and best practices in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Share-Net Jordan aims to achieve the following goals:

- Addressing priority knowledge gaps through research and further analysis and synthesis of existing data.
- Dissemination through a wide range of channels and tools of both new and existing knowledge.
- Ensuring evidence is presented in formats appropriate for the intended audience to facilitate accessibility, understanding and usage of knowledge.
- Promotion of use of knowledge products and formats by policy makers and practitioners
- Networking at national Community of Practice (CoPs) and international level (partners).

This publication presents the main accomplishments of the knowledge platform, including, studies, policies, events, capacity-building activities in the field sexual and

reproductive health, as well as key activities on the Share-Net Jordan website to keep researchers, decision-makers, policy-makers, program developers, service providers and research institutes informed about the latest updates locally and internationally in the field of reproductive health. We are pleased to present to you the tenth quarterly bulletin of the Share-Net Jordan Knowledge Platform on Reproductive health covering the fourth quarter of 2018.

First: Studies and Research

- **A research project for developing a national action plan for integrating sexual and reproductive health concepts in educational curricula in Jordan using deliberative dialogue**

Share-Net International approved a (10) thousand euros funding for a research project proposed by the University of Jordan to develop a national action plan for integrating the SRH concepts in educational curricula in Jordan. The implementation of the project will be led by the School of Nursing at the University of Jordan with Share-Net Jordan/ Higher Population Council as a key partner. The project aims to open dialogue channels with national institutions and educational experts in Jordan to develop a realistic action plan for integrating SRH concepts in educational curricula in line with our culture and priorities. This research will support efforts

to update the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy since the integration of SRH concepts is a key component of the strategy.

Along the same lines, the School of Nursing at the University of Jordan, in cooperation with Share-Net Jordan, the Higher Population Council and Dutch-based Rutgers foundation, organized a three-day event to conduct a workshop and launch the research project, where the school of nursing hosted the event for one day and the Higher Population Council for the other two days.

The workshop was attended by academia and specialists from different universities, representatives of the Ministries of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Awqaf Islamic Affairs and Holy Places, and



Health, as well as representatives of agencies and local community organizations. Participants engaged in discussion sessions with an aim to develop a comprehensive, reasonable and systematic workplan that facilitates, organizes and integrates sexual and reproductive health topics in Jordanian curricula of various levels of education in a professional manner based on scientific and research evidence. During the discussions, participants

reviewed suggestions and different perspectives on priorities, programs, activities, potential enablers and obstacles facing the national plan. The workshop outcomes will serve as the foundation for the national action plan that aims to raise health awareness and a culture of good health in the Jordanian society, especially in the area of sexual and reproductive health to equip young men and women –future parents- with correct information that helps them to adopt healthy habits from sound scientific sources, which helps increase their awareness and build healthy and sound families.

•The 9th edition of the online platform for sexual and reproductive health research

The Publication Was Issued And uploaded to the Jordan SRH knowledge platform website. The publication included the accomplishments of Share-Net Jordan for the third quarter of 2018.

<https://share-net-jordan.org.jo/>

Second: Studies pending funding and expected to be implemented in 2019

- Reproductive health priorities and issues based on the Population and Family Health Survey of 2017.
- Study and policy brief on the factors associated with lower fertility rates in Jordan and determinants of discrepancies between governorates.

•Study and policy brief on the social and economic characteristics of women who have abortion and determinants of abortion in Jordan.

Third: Local and international meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences organized or attended

•**The third workshop on the collaborative approach in addressing child marriage in Jordan:**



Share-Net Jordan and HPC held the third workshop on the collaborative approach in addressing child marriage in Jordan on October 23-24, 2018 with support from Share-Net International Netherlands funded by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. Twenty-eight participants representing concerned governmental and civil society organizations attended the workshop, which is a follow-up to a previously held workshop on the same topic. The workshop aimed to share experiences, overview achievements since the last workshop, build capacity of partners in sharing, using and transferring knowledge and develop a change package for the third work stage. The workshop was also an op-

portunity for reviewing the experiences of local partners (Storyboard), organizational conflict management methods, communication and advocacy strategies, the Johari window technique and how it is used for organizational development, methodology for preparing policy briefs, stakeholder analysis, creating workgroups, presenting workgroup outcomes. The event resulted in collaborative initiatives that will be implemented by partners and monitored by HPC.

•**Training workshop on the mechanisms for integrating child marriage in the plans of civil society institutions and societies:**

With funding support from ESCWA, HPC held a four-days workshop on 22-25 October, 2018, on the mechanisms of integrating the issue of child marriage in the plans of civil society institutions and local societies.

Attended by representatives of civil society institutions and local societies, the workshop aimed to build the capacity of participants in how to integrate the concept of reducing child marriage in plans by explaining the important and diverse roles they play in raising awareness, capacity-building, mobilization, capacity building, and service delivery. The workshop also explained methods of utilizing media, communication and social media networks to limit child marriage. In addition, the workshop included presentations on the concept of child marriage, related figures and statistics, the definition and conditions of marriage from a religious perspective, the

health and psychological consequences of child marriage, the economic and social impact of child marriage.

The workshop reflects the strong belief of HPC in the important role civil society institutions and local agencies play in reducing child marriage and translates into reality the national action plan for limiting the marriage of individuals under the age of 18 (2018-2022) prepared jointly by national stakeholders.

•Annual meeting of Share-Net Jordan project members:

HPC/ Share-Net Jordan held on December 23, 2018, the annual meeting of the members of the SRH knowledge platform / Share-Net Jordan, who represent different national governmental, civil society and private sector institutions. Attended by 65 participants, the meeting aimed to apprise project members of achievements in 2018 and the annual plan for 2019. It also provided an opportunity for sharing experiences, information and progress on research projects in Jordan funded through dutch-based Share-Net International and NWO including:

- The reproductive health rights of women



and youth in Jordan and different levels of access to health services across the kingdom.

- Young Syrian refugees in Jordan: child Marriage in Perspective.
- Family planning through behavioral economics.
- Assessment of maternal and neonatal services offered in service delivery locations in Jordan.
- Social and cultural barriers and opportunities for accessing family planning methods by Palestinian refugees.
- The reality of reproductive health for persons with disability.
- The advantages of involving the husband in caring for his pregnant wife.
- Prepare a national plan for integrating the SRH concepts in educational environments.
- Understanding the SRH needs of Jordanian and Syrian youth.
- Developing outcome indicators to assess the impact of integrating SRH information programs for youth in higher education curricula.

Share-Net is an organization initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to serve as a knowledge platform that combines the expertise of Dutch organizations, Southern partners and key international actors working in the area of reproductive health to support the role of knowledge in developing policies and evidence-based practices and ensure a strategic use of resources for maximum benefit at the local and international levels and establish a platform that supports

reproductive health research.

•Participation in a meeting on “Achieving Health and Reproductive Rights for All in the Arab World Through the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda: Role of Strategic Partnerships”

At the invitation of the International Planned



Parenthood Federation/ Arab World Region in cooperation with the UNFPA’s Arab States Regional Office, HPC Secretary General, Dr. Abla Amawi, attended the meeting in Dubai, UAE on 3-5, December 2018.

•Participation a meeting to discuss and endorse the regional analytical report and policy on “Sexual and Reproductive Health inequalities in Arab region and policies to address discrepancies:

HPC Secretary General, Dr. Abla Amawi,



headed a team of national experts at a meeting to discuss and endorse the regional analytical report and policies on sexual and reproductive health inequality in Arab region, at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Four: Maintenance of the online knowledge platform

The total number of members of the online knowledge platform on sexual and reproductive health has reached 15 institutions and 53 individuals

Five: Development of the 2019 annual plan of Share-Net Jordan

The Share-Net Jordan annual plan for 2019 was prepared in cooperation with Share-Net International. The plan includes priority activities which have been aligned with the goals of Share-Net International, share-Net Jordan, the strategic goals of HPC, the Jordan Vision 2025 Strategy, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Six: The fourth and final workshop on the International collaborative approach in Jordan

Share-Net Jordan completed diligent preparations for three-days workshop on the collaborative approach which will be held in Jordan on 14-16 January, 2019, and will be attended by Share-Net International, Share-Net (Netherlands, Bangladesh, Burundi, Indonesia and Jordan). On the sidelines of the

event, the team of Share-Net International will meet with the team of the Higher Population Council and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Jordan.

Seven : Latest population-related reports and publications

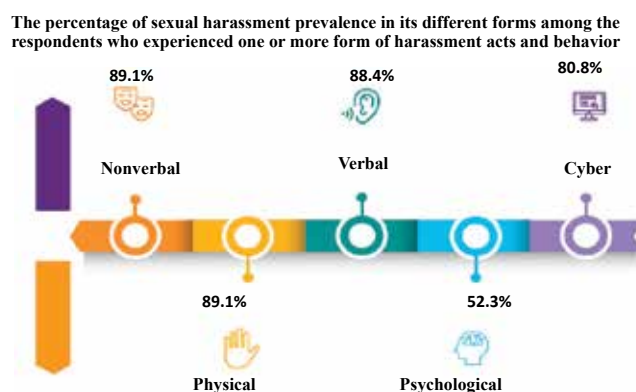
1. Harassment in Jordan, 2017



The Jordanian National Commission for Women a study to identify the extent and spread of harassment cases by place, gender, age, social groups and nationalities, as well as the most common forms of harassment in Jordan. The study followed a descriptive analytical methodology through a qualitative and quantitative approach through which a field survey was conducted of a sample of 1366 respondents, including 322 respondents as an intentional sample of perpetrators of harassment. The study also included

interviews with experts in the field from national governmental and civil society institutions as well as a review and analysis of local, Arab and international related literature, studies, research, and legal documents. The findings of the study were released at a press conference held by JNCW to kick-start activities of the international 16-days campaign to end violence against women. The main findings of the study included:

- 75.9 % of the sample were exposed to one or more instances of harassment acts and conduct. The spread of sexual harassment among members of the sample was



source: The Jordan National Commission for Women, Sexual Harassment in Jordan, 2017

• Characteristics of victims of harassment were as follows:

- 86% females and 14% males.
- 75% of the sample live in cities
- More than half of the sample were aged between 19-25 years old.
- 55% of the sample hold a bachelor degree or higher.
- Around 30% of the sample were male/

female students, 21% unemployed males/ females.

- 29% of the sample were married males/ females and 64% had never been married.

- 44% the sample came from families consisting of 3-5 members.

- 58% of the sample earn a monthly household income of less than JD 800.

- 7% were persons with disabilities.

•General characteristics of perpetrators of harassment are:

- 80% males and 20% females

- 68% live in cities

- 52% aged between 19-25

- 48% are holders of bachelor's degrees, 6% master's degrees and 1.5% PhD.

- 26% are male / female students. 19% are unemployed males/ females.

- 26% married males/ females and 64% never been married.

- 51% from families consisting of 3-5 members

- 70% with a monthly household income of less than JD 800.

- 5% are persons with disabilities.

• 88% of victims and 84% of harassers knew what harassment was, but 70% of victims and 68% of harassers know that sexual harassment is punishable

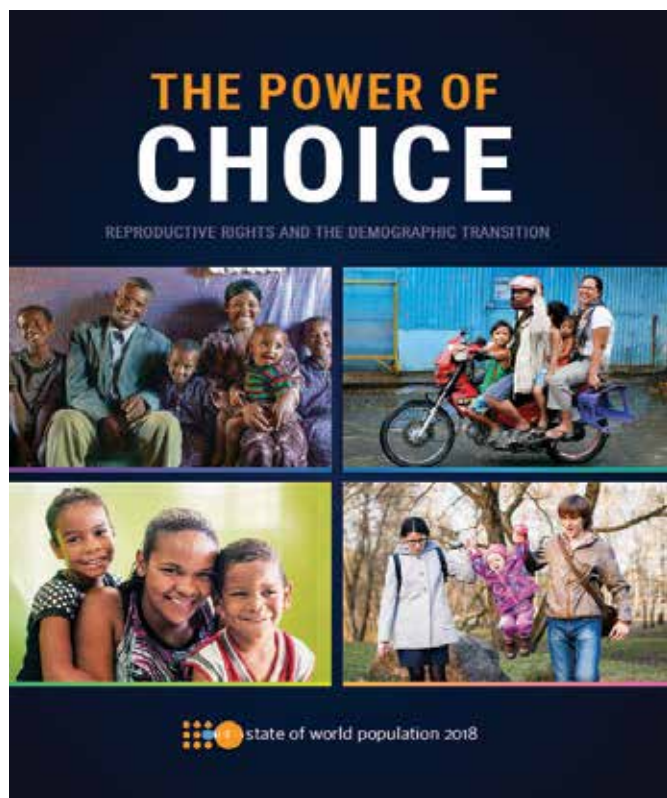
by law.

•The majority of the study sample (males or females) did not report or file a formal complaint against the perpetrators of these acts.

• 28% of the harassers put the blame on the victims, while 14.7% put the blame on themselves.

•The study presented several recommendations including the need to review and revise legislation, enhance the enabling environment for combating harassment, review and update prevention and protection mechanisms, provide training and capacity building in this area, enhance reporting and response mechanisms, stress the importance of cooperation, networking and partnerships to address this phenomenon as well as the important role of media in reinforcing anti-harassment narratives and raising awareness, and build databases to help measure the spread of the phenomenon and progress made to combat and / or reduce it. These recommendations highlight the need for a comprehensive national strategy and related action plans and programs to address sexual harassment while taking into account the elements of prevention, protection and response, formulated collaboratively by all concerned national governmental and civil society institutions and the media.

2. The State of World Population 2018



The UNFPA issued the State of World Population 2018 report entitled “The Power of Choice: Reproductive Rights and the Demographic Transition”. The report highlights the impact of fertility, rights of couples to choose timing and spacing of pregnancies, as well as the demographic transition of societies which is directly affected by different fertility rates and makes comparisons between country categories based on fertility rates and procedures taken by different countries according to their population-related policies. The report consisted of six chapters, the first chapter is entitled “global trends towards smaller families, the second is entitled “a legacy of large families, the third “departures from the typical fertility transition”, the fourth “many paths to one destination”, the fifth “creating conditions

for parenthood”, and the sixth “everyone has the right to choose”.

In general, the report encompassed key messages including:

- Creating smaller families is a reflection of people making reproductive choices to have as few or as many children as they want, when they want.
- The lack of choice can have a long-term impact on fertility rates, often making them higher or lower than what most people desire.
- Family size, whether big or small, is closely linked with reproductive rights, which in turn, are tied to many other rights, including the right to adequate health, education, income and the right to free choice and non-discrimination. Where people can exercise their rights, they tend to thrive. Where these rights are stifled, people often fail to achieve their full potential.
- When a woman has the power and means to prevent or delay a pregnancy, for example, she has more control over her health and can enter or stay in the labor force and realize her full economic potential.