

**Share-Net**  
Jordan

The Knowledge Platform on  
Sexual and Reproductive Health  
and Reproductive Rights



# NEWSLETTER

The Quarterly Periodic Publication - First Quarter 2020





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## Foreword:

Share-Net Jordan is pleased to present issue no. 15 of its quarterly newsletter, which reports on key achievements, activities and events carried out during the first quarter of 2020.

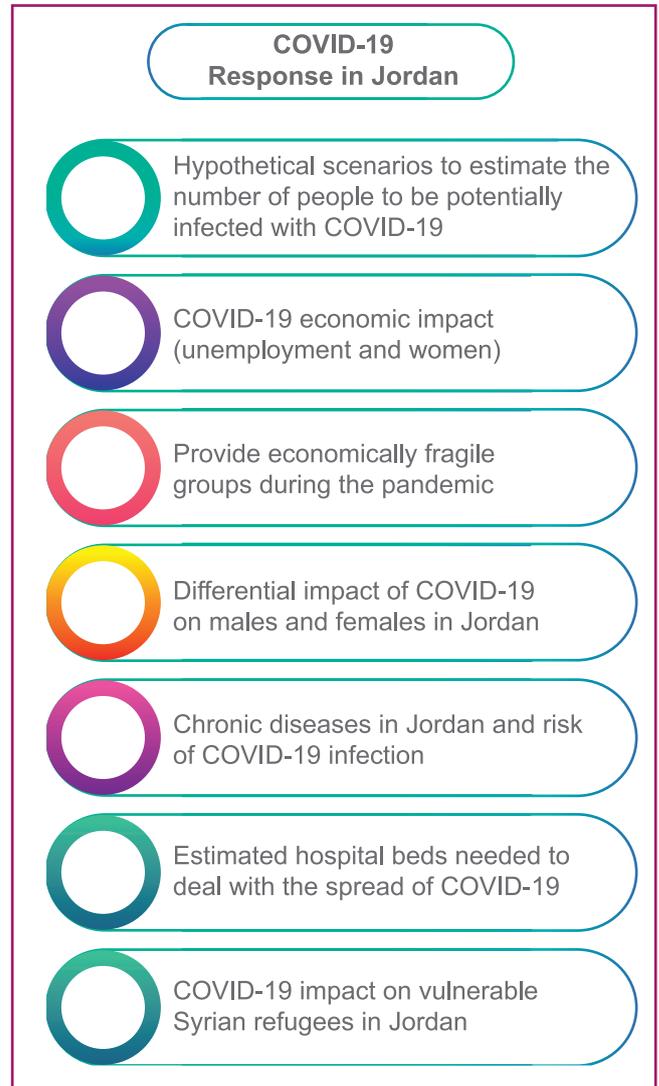
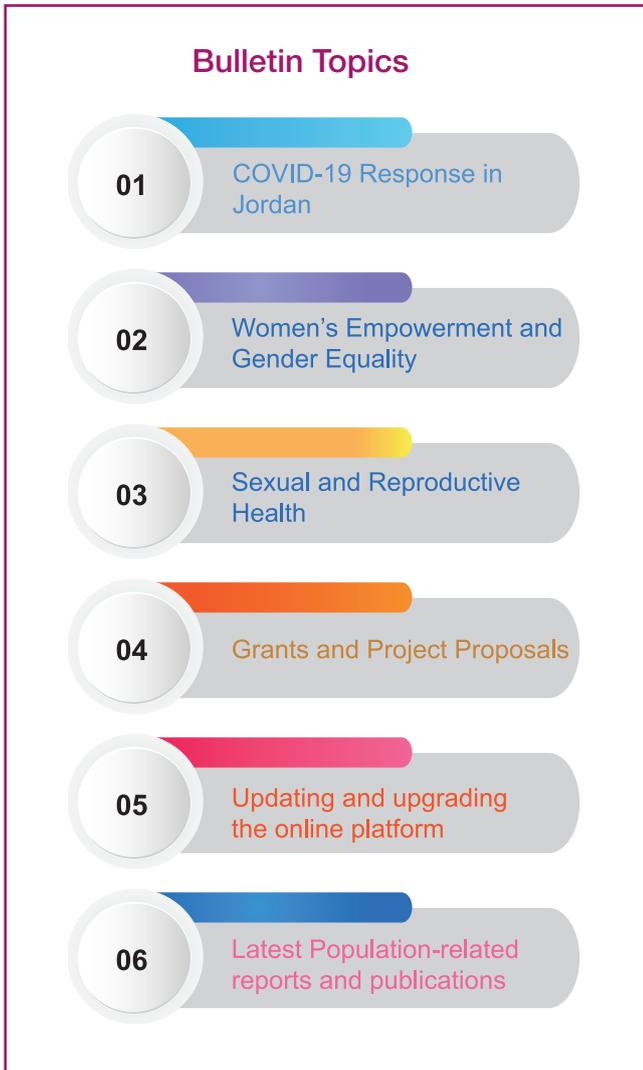
The bulletin is intended to keep stakeholders including researchers, decision-makers, policymakers, program developers and researchers informed about latest updates at the local and international levels in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) through project activities.

This edition offers a summary of the digital presentations prepared by the Higher Population Council to analyze the impact of (COVID-19) on various sectors in Jordan, with the aim of supporting national efforts in dealing with the pandemic. The bulletin also covers the activities and events that took place in the first quarter, grants and projects awarded to Share-Net Jordan, as well as progress in website development and updating of the knowledge platform with SRH research and studies carried out by relevant entities.

In 2020, Share-Net Jordan looks forward to establishing new partnerships by building on the results and outcomes of its previous work and honing in on research findings with respect to identified priority research gaps in sexual and reproductive health, generating knowledge and mapping of SRH & RR awareness programs for adolescents and youth

in Jordan by ensuring alignment between Share-Net Jordan' work plan, ICPD, SDGs, Nairobi Summit commitments, and national development priorities.

Share-Net Jordan will continue to strengthen existing partnerships with government agencies, civil society organizations, the media, academic institutions, research centers, experts and researchers, and will focus more on engaging youth through universities and youth organizations. In the first quarter of this year, 10 individuals registered as members of Share-Net Jordan from the Center of Women Studies at the University of Jordan, bringing the total number of members to 161, including 146 individuals and 15 organizations.

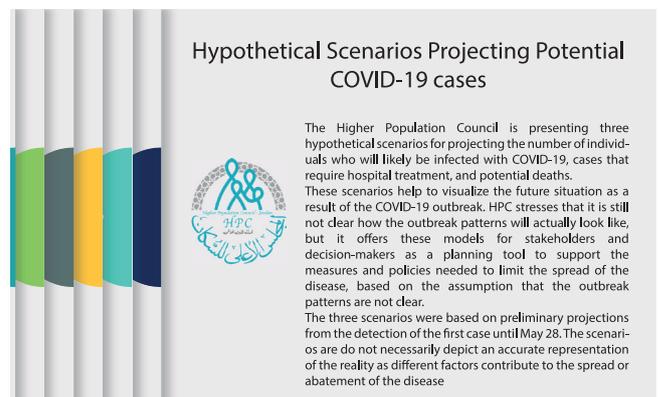


**One: COVID-19 Response in Jordan**

The global (COVID-19) outbreak world wide and in Jordan - led to considerable infection and death rates, and caused substantial losses in the economic and social sectors as a result of the precautionary measures taken by countries in an attempt to limit the spread of the disease and protect lives.

In Jordan, (COVID-19) has had numerous implications on different sectors as well as on male and female members of society. In response, the Higher Population Council prepared digital presentations on scenarios about the spread of COVID-19 in Jordan, the key impact areas of the pandemic and recommendations for mitigation:

**•Hypothetical Scenarios to estimate the number of potential COVID-19 cases:**



The presentation offered three scenarios to estimate the number of individuals likely to be infected with COVID-19, the number of cases that require treatment in hospitals, and potential deaths. The scenarios help to predict how fast the disease would spread, the impact of

government policies and changes in public behavior when following prevention instructions to limit infections.

The scenarios predicted infection rates under the following circumstances:

- The government continues to implement its plan of undertaking contact tracing of COVID-19 patients, infection control measures, social isolation and severe public behavior change.
- Strict prevention measures are eased without drastically changing individuals' behavior.
- Government measures to prevent the spread of infection are discontinued and non-adherence to government measures by the public ensues.

<https://cutt.us/IUJ8R>

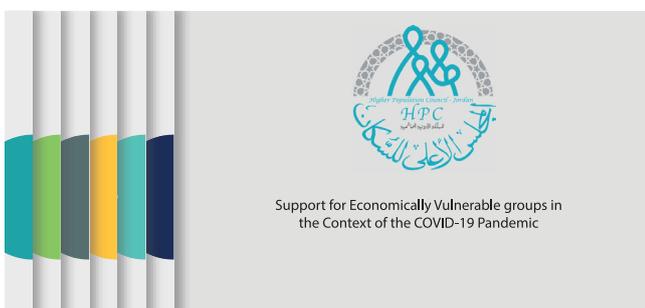
### •COVID-19 Economic Impact (Unemployment and Women)



The presentation tackled the impact of COVID-19 on women and unemployment both globally and in Jordan.

<https://cutt.us/qlQg0>

### •Economically Vulnerable Groups in the context of COVID-19

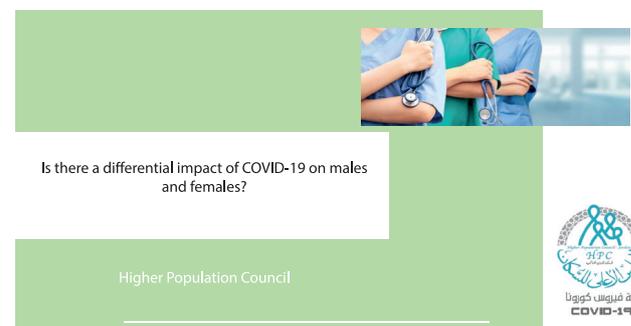


The presentation covers the proposed social protection framework for vulnerable groups which would help consider ways to improve their situation in the future and support national efforts in this context.

In addition, the presentation identifies the groups that need support during the pandemic, including those working in the informal private sector, elderly, people with disabilities, refugees, individuals below the poverty line, small-scale borrowers, female-headed households, in addition to foreign labour. The presentation also proposes intervention tactics to support these groups.

<https://cutt.us/k8ITK>

### •COVID-19 Differential Impact on Males and Females in Jordan



The presentation highlights the factors that determine the different impact of COVID-19 on males and females and demonstrates that the health situation of females in Jordan puts them at risk as they face difficulty accessing sexual and reproductive healthcare services and are more vulnerable to financial losses due to the pandemic.

The presentation explains that the pandemic

increases the burdens associated with the social role of women in general, and working women in particular, including the burden of providing care for children, the elderly, persons with special needs or ill persons.

As indicated in the presentation, while domestic violence rates generally increase in times of emergency, including pandemics, the situation becomes even worse for refugee and internally displaced women and domestic violence rates are likely to increase in Jordan as a result of the current circumstances.

<https://cutt.us/PWzDU>

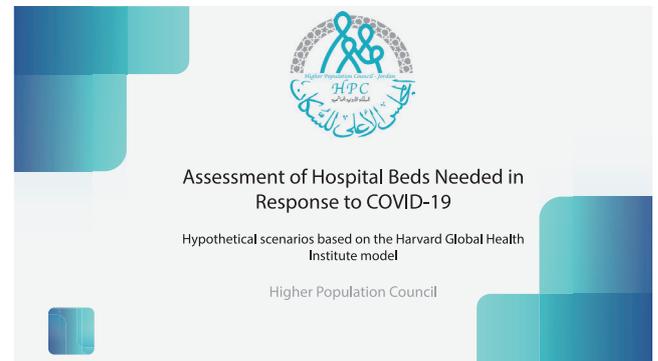
• **Chronic disease in Jordan and risks of COVID-19 infection**



This presentation tackles the impact of COVID-19 on patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney failure, cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The presentation revealed that the immune system and underlying chronic conditions are key determinants of the severity of COVID-19 infection; it also presented the prevalence rate of chronic disease in Jordan and the precautionary measures taken by the government to offer social protection to chronically ill patients.

<https://cutt.us/AM1BW>

• **Assessment of hospital beds needed to face the spread of COVID-19**



This presentation offers scenarios of hospital bed capacity predictions as COVID-19 spreads in Jordan. The scenarios were based on a simulation model developed by the Harvard Global Health Institute.

<https://cutt.us/p06pH>

• **COVID-19 Impact on Vulnerable Syrian Refugees in Jordan**



This presentation tackles the characteristics of Syrian refugees, the status of Syrian labor in Jordan and violations against the refugee workforce in Jordan.

The presentation addresses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees, the burden on workers, employers and the government due to the challenges brought on by the pandemic, in addition to other issues including the most impacted groups, the groups at risk due to COVID-19 including internally displaced

persons, refugees asylum seekers returnees and migrants, and the situation of refugee women with disabilities.

<https://cutt.us/q0ii9>

## Two: Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

### • Participation in the MENA Regional Summit for Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative in Dubai (We-Fi)



The Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan, represented by its Secretary General and Chairperson of the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee Dr. Abla Amawi, participated in the MENA Regional Summit for Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative held in Dubai as part of the Global Women's Forum – Dubai 2020 organized by Dubai Women Establishment on February 16-17, 2020.

The summit, which was attended by women entrepreneurs from emerging economies around the region, aimed to spur action to support women entrepreneurs in the Middle East and North Africa, intensify efforts in this field, showcase success stories, and highlight programs, organizations and research that can help women entrepreneurs access markets, and obtain guidance and enhance policy.

The Global Women's Forum – Dubai 2020 "The Power of Influence" brought together global leaders from different sectors and serves as a leading global platform for influencing policy and building partnerships that promote the role of women and their impact in government, economy, society and the future.

### • HPC SG meeting with the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries and Jordan's Parliamentary Women's Caucus:



On February 24, 2020, HPC Secretary General and Chairperson of Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, Dr. Abla Amawi, met at the House of Parliament with members of the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries and Jordan's Parliamentary Women's Caucus to discuss key indicators for the empowerment of Jordanian women as per the "Women, Business and the Law" World Bank Data Catalogue.

### • Lecture on "Gender Equality and the Rule of Law in Jordan" at the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR):



HPC SG and Chairperson of Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, Dr. Abla Amawi, gave a lecture at the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) on 5/1/2020 about “Gender Equality and the Rule of Law in Jordan”.

The lecture stressed that the rule of law should be the principle of governance whereby all individuals, public and private institutions and entities, including the state itself are to be held accountable for the enacted laws which should be enforced equally and in line with international human rights rules and standards. The lecture also stressed that any gender-based discrimination or exclusion ultimately restricts women’ benefiting from their rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic and social spheres and beyond.

• **Participation in the first meeting of the experts advisory committee of the Arab Council for Population and Development held by the Arab League in Cairo.**



A Higher Population Council delegation headed by HPC Secretary General, Dr. Abla Amawi,

who is also the President of the Arab Council for Population and Development (the Arab League) and Chairperson of the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, participated in the first meeting of expert advisory committee of the Arab Council for Population and Development on 10-11/2/2020 in Cairo organized by the Arab League Secretariat / Social Affairs Sector/ Population Policies Department. The delegation also included Mr. Ghaleb Al Azzeh and Mr. Mohammad Al Assaf from the Share-Net Jordan Secretariat.

The meeting sought to consolidate Arab efforts in addressing population issues and challenges that impact progress towards achieving sustainable development in the Arab region. The meeting called for implementing joint initiatives and programs as well as sharing Arab expertise to identify the best approaches to achieve the desired objectives and implement the work plan of the Arab Council for Population and Development which was launched in Jordan. Moreover, the meeting discussed the need to develop an Arab population strategy that addresses population issues.

• **Participation in the Global Telehealth Conference in Dubai**



HPC Secretary General and Chairperson of the Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, Dr. Abla Amawi, participated in the global telehealth conference in Dubai on 26/1/2020 organized by the International Society for Telemedicine and E-Health.

Attended by representatives of countries from around the world and international experts, the conference aimed to establish a platform for exchanging expertise and experiences in the field of telehealth, sharing best practices among stakeholders as well as sharing the methods, challenges and benefits of using this type of healthcare in addition to offering best solutions and programs.

### Three: Sexual and Reproductive Health

The study on “Mapping SRH & RR Awareness Programs for Adolescents and Youth in Jordan” has been finalized and work is underway to translate, print and officially release the study. Completed by Share-Net Jordan back in 2019 with funding support from Share-Net International, the study relied on different methods to collect data including focus groups with service providers of youth SRH & RR awareness programs from government agencies, CSOs and international organizations, focus groups with youth in the northern, central and southern regions of Jordan, a survey given to participants before the focus group sessions, and a review of methods and identification of gaps in the awareness programs.

### • Share-Net Jordan Evaluation for the years 2016-2019:

Share-Net International contracted an expert to conduct an evaluation of partner platforms in Jordan, the Netherlands, Bangladesh, and Burundi to determine the extent at which the outputs of the project are useful and whether the generated knowledge is utilized in policy and programs.

The specialist could not conduct interviews with members of the Share-Net Jordan project due to the COVID-19 outbreak and sent instead the evaluation by email to the members for feedback on how the project supports their work and the extent at which project outputs are useful to them. Moreover, the expert held a lengthy meeting with Share-Net Jordan project coordinator to evaluate all aspects of the project.

### • Releasing the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Knowledge Platform on Sexual and Reproductive Health Research.

The edition covered Share-Net Jordan achievements in the 4th quarter of 2019 and has been posted on the website of the reproductive health knowledge platform- Jordan.

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

### • Meeting with Ms. Rawan Daas from the Netherlands Embassy in Amman:

HPC secretary General and Chairperson of Share-Net Jordan Steering Committee, Dr. Abla Amawi, and the Director of Studies and Policies at HPC and Share-Net Jordan

Coordinator, Mr. Ali Al Mutlaq met with Ms. Rawan Daas, Policy Advisor for Development Cooperation and Human Rights and Gender from the Netherlands Embassy in Amman in January 2020.

During the meeting, Share-Net Jordan Coordinator gave a presentation on Share-Net activities in 2019 and plans for 2020. Also during the meeting, Share-Net Jordan discussed with the Embassy of the Netherlands cooperation between the two sides and acknowledged the extensive support received from Share-Net International to facilitate the generation of SRH knowledge and establish networks of researchers and national institutions for sharing information. In addition, the two sides discussed collaboration between the Embassy of the Netherlands, HPC and Share-Net Jordan on a new project funded by the embassy and implemented with the participation of stakeholders led by the King Hussein Foundation.

### • Releasing the Finding of NWO-WOTRO-Funded SRH Research Project



On March 10-12, 2020 Share-Net Jordan and HPC, in cooperation with NWO-WOTRO,

organized a concluding session to release the findings of Sexual and Reproductive Health research projects funded by NWO-WOTRO. The session was attended by the research projects teams, reproductive healthcare providers, youth, media representatives, and policy makers from concerned national institutions.

The event aimed to convey the findings to key stakeholders and service providers, enhance stakeholder, youth and media awareness in this area, engage their perspective in the formulation of policy briefs and discuss reproductive health issues in Jordan.

The studies, which were initiated in September 2017 and lasted for two years, covered the topics of “Youth and Women’s Rights to Reproductive Health in Jordan, different access levels to healthcare services across different regions in Jordan (multimodal research conducted by the National Center for Culture and Arts and the American University of Beirut), “understanding the Reproductive Health needs of Jordanian and Syrian youth” (collaborative research by Harvard University/ United States, University of Jordan and the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development).

The research projects also covered topics such as “Family Planning through behavioral economics” (analytical field research carried out by the Jordan University of Science and Technology, University of Texas, and the Jordanian Ministry of Health), “Syrian youth refugees in Jordan: Child Marriage in Perspective” (Qualitative Study by Yarmouk

University, Vrije University in Amsterdam, Ahl Al Jabal Association for Human Development, the Graduate Institute for International Studies and Development - Geneva).

The event featured a discussion session entitled “promoting reproductive health in Jordan and promoting better policy and practice through research”. The session addressed the findings of the studies and discussed the development of policy briefs by national stakeholders and experts to support the formulation of reproductive health policies and practices and present recommendations to disseminate the findings and facilitate the exchange of gained knowledge with practitioners and policy makers about the utilization of research outputs in policy and practice.

**• Informative session about Share-Net Jordan at the Center of Women Studies in the University of Jordan**



On February 18, 2020 Share-Net Jordan organized an informative session at the Center of Women Studies for students of the center to raise awareness about Share-Net Jordan, which aims to spread knowledge about sexual and reproductive health issues.

The session gave participants a comprehensive overview of Share-Net Jordan, and explained the idea behind forming a committee of practitioners and the importance of their participation as members of Share-Net Jordan.

Based on the outcomes of the meeting, a committee of higher education students was formed at the center and is to be assigned tasks in the future to identify research gaps in the field of women issues.

**Four: Grants and Project Proposals: Grants**

**• Grant received from Share-Net International**

Share-Net Jordan received a grant from Share-Net International to prepare a policy brief on the “Role of Localization and Multisectoral Approaches in Sustaining SRHR Programs and Accountability in Crisis and Fragility Situation”. The policy brief aims to institutionalize multisectoral accountability in the field of sexual and reproductive health and enhance coordination between stakeholders to improve access to quality SRH services for affected individuals in crises and fragile situations in Jordan.

This policy brief is the outcome of the Share-Net International Co Creation Conference, held in the Netherlands in October 2019.

**• Share-Net International grant received jointly with the Institute for Family Health**

Share-Net Jordan and the Higher Population Council partnered with the Institute for

family health to receive a grant from Share-Net International to produce a film entitled “Know-how of early marriage prevention (Knowledge & practice)”. The film aims to expand knowledge in child marriage prevention through the opinion of married children to influence policy makers and practitioners from national and international NGOs.

### •Applying for Share-Net International grant jointly with King Hussein Foundation

Share-Net Jordan and the Higher Population Council partnered with selected national institutions led by the King Hussein Foundation to submit a grant proposal on “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Climate Resilient societies” as part of a Share-Net International-led consortium of 8 countries including Jordan aiming to support the achievement of SDGs (3, 5 and 13) and specifically target (7) of SDG (3) and target (6) of SDG 5 concerning universal access to sexual and reproductive health, as well as target (1) of SDG 13 on climate resilience.

### •Small Grants from Share-Net International

Share-Net International announced small grants call for proposals for 2020. This year, the small grants will focus on innovation and testing new approaches to translate existing knowledge to products and promote their use to influence practices and policies in the field of sexual and

reproductive health. The Objectives of the grant are:

- Investigate and test new and innovative approaches in SRH (i.e. knowledge gaps in the linkages between SRH and gender equality, youth and/or links with other SDGs).
- Translation of research into products and materials that will be used to facilitate tangible change in policy or practice. This process can build on research done by our members in the field of SRHR.
- Documenting actual changes in policy and practice, related to work done through earlier Share-Net International grants of Share-Net members, and how these have been implemented.
- Share-Net Jordan disseminated these grant calls to all members and answered inquiries about them.

### • Project Proposals:

#### •Acquiring additional support from Share-Net International

- Share-Net Jordan submitted the following three project proposals to Share-Net International to obtain additional support:
  - Training program for new university graduates to provide them with sexual health knowledge and skills by assigning to them specific assignments with defined deliverables.
  - Policy Brief on “Linkages between Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Jordan”

-Policy Brief on “Economic Empowerment of Women, Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights”

## Five: Upgrading and Updating the online Knowledge Platform



The development of the Share-Net Jordan website has been completed, the online knowledge platform has been updated with SRH studies and research and re-designed to match the design of Share-Net International. New pages have been created, namely a page for the collaborative approach, community of practices page, (which includes: committee tasks, meetings calendar, and key meeting outcomes), and the members page (which includes: membership, members, and our partners). Moreover, a news ticker has been added to present news highlights, the “Map of Jordan” page has been adjusted to include new indicators from the population and family health survey (2017-2018) and the featured news articles have been updated.

## Six: Latest Reports and Publications on Population Issues

This section covers the latest population-related reports and publications issued by national and international organizations.

Report/ Publication Title	Link to Arabic version	Link to English version
REGIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 ESCWA	<a href="https://cutt.us/uGy4y">https://cutt.us/uGy4y</a>	<a href="https://cutt.us/QXtεq">https://cutt.us/QXtεq</a>
COVID-19 and Domestic Violence in Jordan (Findings and Indicators) - Center of Strategic Studies	<a href="https://cutt.us/QLak">https://cutt.us/QLak</a>	Currently not available in English
Jordan and the Social, Economic and Psychological Impact of COVID-19- Crisis - Center of Strategic Studies	<a href="https://cutt.us/lmfjz">https://cutt.us/lmfjz</a>	Currently not available in English
COVID -19: A gender Lens: TECHNICAL BRIEF PROTECTING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY -UNFPA	<a href="https://cutt.us/siBRA">https://cutt.us/siBRA</a>	<a href="https://cutt.us/mPSrG">https://cutt.us/mPSrG</a>
COVID- 19 and Gender: Immediate Recommendations for Planning and Response in Jordan - JNCW and UN WOMEN	<a href="https://cutt.us/uvEj">https://cutt.us/uvEj</a>	<a href="https://cutt.us/8nj8Z">https://cutt.us/8nj8Z</a>
Policies to deal with COVID-19 in Jordan: Alternatives and Future Steps - Jordan Strategy Forum	<a href="https://cutt.us/m4DeG">https://cutt.us/m4DeG</a>	Currently not available in English
Prospects for Promoting Gender Equality in the Arab Region - ESCWA	<a href="https://cutt.us/nfRo4">https://cutt.us/nfRo4</a>	<a href="https://cutt.us/bHjXN">https://cutt.us/bHjXN</a>
Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence: Availability and Accessibility in the Arab region-ESCWA in partnership with UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, ABAAD Resource Centre for Gender Equality, and Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE).	Currently not available in Arabic	<a href="https://cutt.us/nC6KZ">https://cutt.us/nC6KZ</a>