



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



*Expert Group Meeting on the
Population and Development Report issue No. 9
Building Forward Better for Older Persons in the Arab Region*

Concept Note

I. Background .

Underdeveloped care ecosystems continue to be among the root causes for the vulnerability of large groups of older persons. The care ecosystem for older persons is multifaceted and composed of social protection system, which includes social insurance, social assistance, and health coverage, as well as the care economy defined as the range of services that are available to older persons provided both by the public and private sectors.

Developing the care ecosystem in the Arab region is gaining urgency and increased attention by Arab governments, given the fast-paced demographic transition the region is witnessing, which is resulting in rapidly increasing numbers and percentages of older. The need to develop the care ecosystem came into focus more recently, particularly given the heightened vulnerability of older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, countries that are working on delivering on the SDGs and leave no one behind, need to ensure that their efforts to build forward better for all, are sensitive and responsive to older persons issues and priorities.

Against this backdrop, the 9th issue of the population and development report focuses on how to build forward better for older persons in the Arab region. The report is guided by the 2030 Agenda and MIPAA, and adopts a human rights- based approach and applies a gender-sensitive and disability-sensitive lens in the analysis, providing disaggregated data where possible.

II. Objectives of the publication

The previous issues of the Population and Development Report (PDR 8) focused on deepening the understanding on the ageing transition in the Arab region and the socio-economic situation of older persons today and of future cohorts. PDR 9 builds in the findings and priorities identified in PDR 8, and zooms in on the care ecosystem as a main priority for ensuring older persons wellbeing in the Arab region.

The study will seek to answer the following central research question: How do we build forward better for older persons in the Arab region?

To answer this question the report's chapters will seek to answer the following questions:

- According to population projections, what is the status of ageing transition in the region?
- How inclusive are social protection systems (social insurance and social assistance) of older persons in the Arab region?
- Do social protection systems adequately address older persons needs in the region?
- How inclusive is the health care coverage and does it respond to older persons needs?
- What are the implications of ageing to the care ecosystem for older persons in the Arab region?
- What are the main policy-recommendations that decision makers need to focus on for the aging agenda?

The report will be composed of: an introduction that frames the report, Chapter 1 that focuses on population projections and ageing transition in the Arab region, Chapter 2 that delves deep into social protection systems for older persons, Chapter 3 that focuses on the care economy, and Chapter 4 that presents the recommendations for moving forward.

The main objectives of PDR9 are to:

- Provide an update on ageing in the region, using the most updated data on demographic trends and projections as well as the socio-economic situation of older persons. Indicators include fertility, mortality, ageing transition, education, health, disability living arrangements etc.
- Focus on social protection for older persons by exploring the coverage of social protection programs, and what governments are doing to ensure the sustainability of social insurance schemes, and looking at the economic cost of filling the coverage gap today.
- Explore the care economy in selected Arab countries, particularly focusing on 1) the status of the care economy and the lessons learnt from the pandemic, 2) the implications of ageing on the care economy 3) and a cost-benefit analysis of developing integrated care economy.
- Offer a roadmap for countries through providing a set of concrete actionable and phased policy recommendations.

III. Expert Group Meeting Objectives

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) aims to bring together Member States representatives and leading experts in the area of ageing and social protection to peer review the draft PDR9 Report. Drafts of Chapter 1, 2 and 3 will be shared with confirmed participants prior to the meeting. The EGM will serve as an opportunity to discuss, provide input, and validate the research findings of the report. Written comments and feedback are highly encouraged.

IV. Logistical information

a. Date and time

The meeting will be held on Monday, 6 December 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (Beirut time).

Registration for the meeting begins at 9:30 am.

b. Location

The meeting will be held via Zoom. Details for accessing the meeting will be shared with participants via e-mail.

V. Agenda

Monday, 6 December 2021 (Beirut time)

09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:10	Welcoming remarks and overview of the report
10:10 - 10:30	Presentation and discussion of Chapter I
10:30 - 11:35	Presentation and discussion of Chapter II
11:35 - 11:45	Break
11:45 - 12:50	Presentation and discussion of Chapter III
12:50 - 01:00	Closing remarks and the way forward