



# **UNFPA/ASRO Initiatives to Support Member States in Implementing the 2013 Cairo Declaration**

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# UNFPA/ASRO has been supporting Member States at national and regional levels



- Advocacy and policy dialogue
- Creating platforms for knowledge and learning; national level
- National capacity development
- Regional and global Partnerships

# Advocacy and Policy Dialogue

- Structure
- Cairo declaration 2013
- UNFPA/ASRO has engaged Regional and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) across the region to address Sexual Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights including GBV - A regional assessment report on the NHRIs capacities to address SRHRRs was developed for continuation
- High level meeting on ICPD based SDGs
- Joint policy dialogue between high level officials and Parliamentarians on ICPD based SDGs
- Policy dialogue meeting of Parliamentarians on issues of SRH, Youth, Migration and Family



# Advocacy and Policy Dialogue

- UNFPA/ASRO has led the advocacy and lobby efforts at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva to issue the Human Rights Resolution 38/6 of July 2, 2018 titled “Elimination of female genital mutilation” which recognises FGM as a grave human rights violation and expresses deep concern over the medicalization and cross-border and extra-territorial practice of Female Genital Mutilation
- Increased opportunities for adolescents and youth to lead and participate in networks that promote sustainable development and in humanitarian action as well as peace and security Key joint strategic: areas of focus: Civic Engagement, Participation and Social Inclusion; Education; Employment and Entrepreneurship; and, Health and Well Being
- UNFPA/ASRO in partnership with ESCWA has developed a “Step by Step Guide” to estimate the financial cost of Violence against Women to allow member states to calculate the cost of VAW at national level

# Creating platforms for knowledge and learning

- Mapping of Population Policies in the Arab region – 10 countries
- Analysis of SDG readiness of Health System in four countries and development of regional/national advocacy policy briefs
- Analysis of integration of SRH into Primary Health Care in eleven countries and development of advocacy policy briefs
- Analysis of SRH-related inequities in five countries and development of advocacy policy briefs
- Analysis of legislations related to and unsafe abortion in the Arab region
- Assessment of the maternal deaths surveillance and response systems in five countries and development of regional/national advocacy policy briefs

# Creating platforms for knowledge and learning

- Analysis of midwifery in times of crisis in six countries
- Analysis of midwifery workforce in thirteen countries
- Data – Contributed technical papers on use of technology in population and housing censuses; CRVS
- Aging In The Arab Region
- Policy briefs on aging, reproductive health, youth, family and migration



# National capacity development

- Linkages between population ICPD and SDGs; DD, developed DD profiles for Arab countries; and sub-national analysis on Egypt and Morocco;
- ICPD-based SDGs – Contributed a long with partners in setting up a regional task force on ICPD based SDGs, that adopted 39 priority indicators for the Arab region
- Develop comprehensive integrated evidence based national policies and strategies on population, reproductive health, youth, GBV in several countries e.g. Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Oman and Yemen and others on the way
- PAPFAM supported several countries in past five years in conducting national surveys including Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Djibouti etc.

# National capacity development: interventions and services

- Youth Country-specific interventions based on needs\opportunities\high-return on investment – **Demographic Dividend**
- Contributed to the establishment of the **maternal mortality surveillance system** in Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon and Egypt
- Supported the development of the **reproductive health package** for health structures and ensured RH commodity security in Jordan
- The Implementation of the **National Plan for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality** and strengthening of the **national family planning program**
- First CSE was piloted at schools in Oman
- **Humanitarian settings - MISIP**





# Regional and Global Partnerships



- Regional
  - ESCWA and LAS – ICPD based SDGs task Force
  - Co-chairing the UN task force on monitoring of SDGs
  - LAS, SRC and CO in advancing the work of parliamentarians on ICPD Agenda in the region
  - Regional Arab AIDS Strategy with emphasis on linkages to SDGs and priority needs of the most-at-risk young people
  - Co-leading The United Nations Inter-Agency Technical Team on Young People
  - Regional strategic framework on Youth Peace and Security (YPS) + Life Skills and Citizenship Education
  - Support the establishment of a Regional Youth Arab Forum
  - Supporting the institutionalization of Y-PEER as independent and sustained organization in the Arab states
  - With League of Arab States to develop the regional RMCAH strategy
  - IPPF and LAS; launched the regional Arab World Advocacy Network (AWAN)
  - Regional consultative meetings on Indicators, Migration, Parliamentarians,
- Continental
  - African Union Commission to develop the Africa health strategy
  - South-south collaboration
  - Midwifery: Syria and Iran, Sudan and Morocco
  - MDSR: Jordan and Morocco

# Regional and Global Partnerships : Child Marriage

- Under the umbrella of the African Union UNFPA/ASRO in partnership with UNICEF is running the continent wide Child Marriage Campaign which includes:
  - National Campaign is launched in the African countries covered by ASRO
  - Regional advocacy efforts targeting; policy makers, media and religious and traditional leaders
- To strengthen evidence based interventions ASRO has prioritized research addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings; in partnership with ESCWA as well as and ongoing research with John Hopkins university and Women Refugees Commission

# Support to Humanitarian Programming

- Preparedness: national capacity building initiatives e.g. Morocco and Tunisia
- Response: national capacity building initiatives e.g. Jordan, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen
- Resilience
- Interagency Working Group on RH in emergency situations (IAWG)

# Challenges

- Changing age structures with high disparities in the region
- Humanitarian settings – Data in humanitarian settings
- Child marriage and adolescent pregnancy: child marriage challenge linked to poverty and thus families are forced to do it; how to address the issue from legal perspective etc.
- Maternal mortality – High disparity in the region
- Gender and GBV remain sensitive issues - Low employment rate for women
- Integrated reproductive health services at primary health care level
- Family planning unmet need
- Youth inclusion and engagement
- Strengthening multisectoral coordination at national levels

Thank You

