



Population

Towards Better Life For Population

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Editorial

It is my pleasure to present to our valued readers Issue No. 43rd of the "Sukkan Magazine", which is an extension of the previous Newsletter in a new suit, but it consists of specialized contributions which aimed at disseminating population culture, and raising awareness of population issues and sustainable development.

This issue deals with Population Policy through the presentation of one of its major themes, in order to shed light on the said theme and the method to achieve it and the benefits and outputs derived by Qatar population from its achievement. In this issue, first chapter discusses the Population Policy of the State of Qatar and its development between yesterday and today.

It also includes a detailed dialogue with the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Drylands. The dialogue addresses the vision of the Global Alliance of Drylands, which helps developing countries capacities to adapt to climate change and contribute

to the food security of dryland countries.

The third chapter deals with the most important activities and events which were held during the quarter that preceded the issuance of the magazine. It also holds announcements of upcoming activities and programs. This issue also includes an article on the symbiotic relationship between population policy and the media - The State of Qatar as a model .

"Spotlight" in this issue presents the events of the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Five Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration, held in Beirut from 30 October to 1 November 2018. This conference was attended by more than 100 participants representing 21 countries representing public institutions, ministries, national population councils, parliaments, civil society organizations, regional organizations, United Nations agencies, academia, experts, media and other stakeholders.

Dr. Saleh Mohamed Al Nabit

Chairman of Permanent
Population Committee

Achievements of the Permanent Population Committee: Qatar Population Policy as a model

PREAMBLE

BY DR. YOUSIF BREIK, PERMANENT POPULATION COMMITTEE

The population question has held and still hold the thought of philosophers, thinkers and scientists, as well as politicians and decision-makers, because of its impact on various aspects of people's social, economic and political life. Along with that, came the need of the countries for a national agency working to meet the challenges of the existing population challenges and improve the lives of people.

Pursuant to the General Framework of Population Strategy of the GCC States of 1998, and UNFPA guidelines calling for the establishment of a national authority on population and development issues, the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the Permanent Population Committee by Decree No. 24 of 2004.

This committee was reorganized by Cabinet resolution No. (11) of 2009, which was subsequently amended, as stated in the relevant Cabinet resolutions, in particular Resolution No. (22) of 2018, stipulating that the Permanent Population Committee shall be composed of a higher committee headed by the President of the Planning and Statistics Authority and includes members from various ministries and national agencies, as well as a technical bureau that includes a director and a group of experts and researchers whose most important functions::

- Study population structure, characteristics and trend
- Propose the population policy of the state and follow up its implementation.
- Prepare studies and research related to the population.
- Activate cooperation and coordination mechanisms between national, regional, Arab and international organizations on population and development issues.
- Study the subjects which are within its terms of reference that are submitted by the competent authorities.

Since its establishment, the Permanent Population Committee has reached many achievements that are difficult to pin down in this context; namely: 18 studies published in "Population Studies" series, 42 issues of Sukkan Newsletter, and 5 reports on Qatar's Population State, as well as a range of other published and unpublished reports and studies. Moreover, the Committee has organized several meetings (such as the Qatari Population Day which is celebrated in October each year), conferences

(such as the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development in 2009) and workshops (such as the Workshop on The Management of Expatriate Labor Migration: Opportunities & Challenges In GCC States).

Along with its success at the national level, the Permanent Population Committee has managed to make significant achievements at the regional, Arab and international levels, where it has established its presence and merit in these arenas. In the field of regional cooperation, PPC participates in the meetings of the Population Policies Committee for the GCC States, where it effectively contributed to the discussion of the General Framework of Population Strategy of the GCC States and the design of the questionnaire on population data in GCC States.

It is also the case in the field of Arab cooperation as the Committee also contributed to the promotion of Arab joint population action through several events, especially the meetings of the heads of national councils and committees in the Arab countries annually organized by the Social Sector in the League of Arab States . At the level of international cooperation, the Committee spares no effort to work with UNFPA through nonstop coordination and partnership in various population and development issues, in particular the cooperation agreement signed between the two parties. Perhaps the most important achievement of the Permanent Population Committee is Qatar Population Policy as a flexible development framework to improve the quality of life of all who live on the land of Qatar. Given the importance of Qatar Population Policy, we will try to highlight the most important milestones of this policy since 2009 to date.



First Population Policy 2009-2014

After its establishment in 2004, the Permanent Population Committee started in 2005 to prepare background studies on population policy, such as the study on the determinants and consequences of population structure, urban growth, migration, labor force, etc.

The set of background studies were discussed at an expanded seminar held in 2006, and attended by a group of experts and specialists from different local, Arab and international agencies. It has come up with specific proposals on mechanisms for preparing population policy documents. During 2007, an Expert Committee from the Technical Bureau of the PPC and specialists other from other stakeholders was formed and completed the first draft of the Policy, that was subsequently discussed during a national consultative 'Workshop on Population Policy' in January 2008.

After extensive discussions, the first draft of the population policy was completed based on the principles of Islamic law, the values of Qatari society, the Constitution, the political orientations of the State, Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy. The program of action of this policy includes a set of specific plans and programs aimed at quantitative and qualitative change in population, education, health, environment variables. This will lead to "balance population growth with the requirements of sustainable development so as to ensure a decent life for the people of Qatar, enhance their capabilities, broaden their options and raise their level of participation in the raise their

participation in the progress and eminence of the Qatari society".

The Council of Ministers approved the first Qatar's Population Policy Document (2009-2014) on 15 April 2009. Then, this policy was announced at the conference organized by the Permanent Population Committee for this purpose on 20 and 21 October 2009.

During the conference, the previously formed 14 working groups, with a total of 82 focal points representing 46 state agencies concerned with the implementation of population policy, discussed the working mechanisms of each group.

The pillars of the population policy are as follows: population growth, population structure, urban growth, housing, labor force, education, training and human resource development, health and reproductive health, empowerment of women, children, youth, the elderly, environment and sustainable development, and the population database.

On the sidelines of the said conference, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabor Bin Jassim Al Thani, the then Chairman of the Permanent Population Committee, and HE Hafez Chouqair, the Regional Director of the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) for the Arab Region, signed the Program of Action for the Cooperation Agreement between the Committee and UNFPA.

In October 2009, the first phase of the follow-up to the implementation of the Population Policy Program of Action was launched, and continued for five consecutive years.



Second Population Policy (2017-2022)



Five years after the launching of Qatar's Population Policy in October 2009, the Permanent Population Committee felt the need to make a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of its goals, objectives and procedures in response to recent developments and demographic and developmental challenges facing the Qatari society, particularly the demographic imbalance and high population growth rates. The population policy is not a thing which is accomplished only once, but it is an ongoing process whose goals are changed according to the demographic reality of the State, and whose actions are renewed with each new development. The population policy assessment process was based on a set of methodological tools that enabled a broad sector of the Qatari society to participate in judging the extent to which the objectives and actions identified in the previous program of action were consistent with the changes that had taken place over the past years and with the aspirations of the population and their development goals for the next phase. This included a survey of the views of ministries and agencies concerned with the Population Policy implementation,

experts, specialists and opinion leaders in the different sectors of society concerning the previous program of action, and their proposals to amend some of the goals and objectives, or to add new goals and objectives.

The assessment results have shown the need to amend the themes of the Population Policy so as to incorporate the themes with convergent and overlapping goals together. The assessment also showed the need to develop objectives that combine the various components of each theme, while maintaining the content of most of the objectives contained in the previous document (as such objectives were initially set to be achieved by 2030 in line with Qatar National Vision). This approach is justified by the organic relationship between components of each theme, thus formulating one accurate and overall objective for each theme. This approach has resulted in reducing the number of goals and actions of the Population Policy, and making significant changes to a number of them. The following table shows the six themes included in the Second Population Policy and the components of each theme:

Theme	Goal	Objectives	Actions	Implementing agencies	
				Participant	Main
1- Population and labor force	1	5	26	16	9
2- Urban growth, housing and environment	1	3	13	20	6
3- Education, training and youth	1	4	10	20	2
4- Public health and reproductive health	1	2	13	13	2
5- Women and children	1	2	5	10	4
6- The elderly and persons with disabilities	1	2	10	9	6
Total	6	18	77	76	29



As a result of the aforementioned assessment process, the first draft of the second population policy document (2017-2022) was drawn up. It was reviewed by experts and local and international stakeholders specialized on population and development issues, especially UNFPA, whose experts followed the assessment process from its inception to the drafting of the document. This helped to keep this document in line with international standards and aligned with 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Then, this document was submitted to the Council of Ministers that approved it at its Ordinary Meeting No. 21 of 2017 held on 31 May 2017. Upon such approval, the document was published on Qatari Population Day on 31 October 2017, when HE Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al Nabit, President of the Planning and Statistics Authority (formerly the Minister of Development Planning and Statistics), announced the launch of the Population Policy Qatar 2017-2022 Program of Action.

The achievement of the goals and objectives of population policy is inaccessible and unattainable without the concerted efforts of and coordination among all ministries, institutions and bodies in the State with a view to ensure the successful implementation of the approved Population Policy Program

of Action. Therefore, a number of working groups, as was the case with the first population policy, were assigned to follow up the implementation of Qatar's Second Population Policy. Thus, six working groups representing various official and non-official bodies and institutions in Qatar took part in the first phase of the follow-up of the implementation of the Population Policy Program of Action (November 2017 - October 2018). Based on the data collected by the working groups, Qatar Population Status Report 2018 was completed and submitted to the Council of Ministers for action.

Currently, the six working groups are carrying out the tasks assigned to them in the second phase of the follow-up of the implementation of the Population Policy Program of Action (November 2018-October 2019). The data collection process is due to be completed by the end of April 2018. These data will then be checked and reviewed by the experts of PPC Technical Bureau for inclusion in the Qatar Population Status Report 2019, whose first draft is scheduled for completion in October 2019.

Finally, the Permanent Population Committee will continue to carry out the tasks entrusted to it in the areas mentioned and to develop its working mechanisms in order to achieve its slogan: "Towards Better Life For Population".

Interview with HE Ambassador Bader bin Omar Al Difaa, Executive Director of the Drylands Global Alliance



Ambassador Bader Bin Omar is currently the Executive Director of the Drylands Global Alliance, an international food security organization based in the State of Qatar. Prior to this position, Ambassador Al-Difaa was Assistant to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Ambassador Al-Difaa has a long experience in foreign affairs, international relations and non-governmental organizations, where he was ambassador to the United States of America, permanent observer to the Organization of American States and ambassador to Russia, France, Egypt and Spain and a non-resident ambassador to Switzerland, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Mexico and the Director of European and American Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

In addition to these tasks, he has had achievements in the area of NGO work, such as his supervision of home-building programs for low-income families in Africa and contribution to demining programs in the Balkans.

He also contributed heavily to fundraising programs for pediatric hospitals catering to the social needs of children in Asia and North America, raising funds to support the empowerment of women in North Africa and Central Asia, and organizing various conferences on democracy, free trade and interfaith dialogue.

During his administration to ESCWA, Ambassador Al-Difaa represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations in a

number of international conferences, including the African-United Nations Meeting on the Palestinian Question in 2010, the 2009 Annual Conference of Host Countries and the Palestinian Refugee Fund, and the UN-League Sector Meeting in 2009.

The second session was held in Sana'a in 2008 and the second in Beirut in 2010, which resulted in decisions, including the promotion of the ESCWA Center for Women to become a department in ESCWA and the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Center based in Amman, Jordan.

Wherever he worked, Ambassador Al-Difaa highlighted art and culture as a means of promoting understanding between the Arab world and the international community, so he hosted a number of cultural events and international art exhibitions.

At the local level, the payment has contributed to the support of the education sector at the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, in coordination with the largest American universities to establish branches in Education City. He was a member of the Center for Cultural Development at the Qatar Foundation and served as Vice President of Heritage and Identity Center.

Mr. Bader bin Omar Al-Difaa holds a master's degree in international political science from Johns Hopkins University and a BA in political science and economics from the University of Western Michigan in the United States. He is a holder of the Order of Merit Medal from the French Republic. He is married to Awatif and has two sons and two daughters.



Ambassador Bader Al Dafa, we are glad to meet you to speak about the Global Dryland Alliance. We would like to know more about the organization and its relation to food security.

First, I would like to highlight the important role of food security as a support for national security, political stability and sovereignty.

Since the food crisis in 2008, the world's population is on the rise with a daily growth of 200 thousand person. Therefore, global food production should increase by 70% by 2050.

Considering the challenges and risks faced by dryland countries, who are highly exposed to political and socio-economic instability due to poverty and hunger, mainly among youth and manpower, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar launched the initiative of the Global Dryland Alliance (GDA).

The vision of the Alliance is to make dryland countries food secure and contribute to peace and stability in the world, and since the initiation, it had two key objectives:

- Prevention of food insecurity risks in dryland countries
- Enhance the intervention and preparedness among these countries in case of food security related crises and ensure a strategic food storage to intervene in times of crises.

His Highness has spoken of the initiative during the UN

General Assembly in September 2013, and GDA launched in October 2017. Why it took so long for the launching to happen?

It is not realistic to establish an international organization that is credible, capable and sustainable in a short period of time. When you have a multilateral task, in normal circumstances, it takes more time than what you mentioned.

First, we have prepared the legal documents of the organization in collaboration with UN Secretary General office and UN specialized agencies (FAO, WFP, IFAD etc.) to ensure the Alliance will complement the work of the existing international organizations and will not duplicate their tasks nor competed with them.

Then we proposed the initiative to a group of potential Members in the Arabian Gulf, MENA region, the Sahel and the desert, Central Asia and North America.

As you know, more than 50 countries are classified by the UN as drylands covering more than 40% of the globe's surface and inhabited by third of the world's population.

Presenting the initiatives to the world require time and regional and international circumstances that were certainly not appropriate in the last few years, following the withdrawal of some GCC ambassadors from Doha, then the unfair blockade against Qatar.

Thankfully, we managed, with the continuous support of



His Highness the Emir, to overcome obstacles and launched the organization in a large international conference held in Doha, and to defy the blockade imposed by some countries to hinder Qatar's unparalleled growth.

Ironically, some of the blockade countries, Saudi Arabia and UAE, were among the first supporters of the Global Dryland Alliance and took part in all the preparation process to launch the organization; but after the blockade they deployed many efforts to convince a number of countries to not attend the conference and sign the GDA convention of establishment.

What are the GDA priorities? What is your starting point?

We raised this question since we launched the organization in Doha, and to answer it, we have held a high level seminar in the Institute of Dry Areas in Medenine in the South of Tunisia. It was attended by all founding members who all presented their current challenges and priority programs and projects related to food security.

Now, we have a clear roadmap to rely on in each country. Our next step is to raise funds in order to implement each project separately.

The Alliance will play a preventive role to face disasters on one hand, and to deal with their repercussions on the other hand. Your Excellency, what are the preventive measures

that GDA is planning to take to detect natural disasters?

The Alliance adopts two types of preventive measures:

The early warning system of climate change and environmental phenomena that might deter agricultural and animal production;

Assistance of Member States to improve their policies and food security plans, develop their financial and logistical capacities to respond to potential food crises.

In this regard, GDA will help Member States benefit from technological and research innovations in clean and renewable energy, water rationalization, irrigation and agricultural diversity.

The Alliance has developed a global network of leading research institutes specialized in agriculture and capacity building to help countries adapt to climate change.

In the Permanent Population Committee, we are interested in the matters that your organization is handling, as they affect all population groups. Could you please shed light on the groups affected by drought and what are your plans to help these groups from food insecurity in drylands?

To answer the first part of your question, I assure you that drought can lead to more human loss and physical damage than hurricanes, floods and earthquake together.

The land surface affected by drought have doubled since the great drought wave in the 1970s, and the most affected categories are women, children and elderly.

On the global level, the FAO estimates indicate that third of working women are active in the agricultural sector, and their number reach 50% in some regions like Central Asia and Sub-Saharan.

In order to improve these circumstances and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, namely eradication of poverty and hunger, GDA has laid out integrated practices for the food security problem taking into consideration environmental, social, nutrition and health dimensions in all its programs and projects in Member States.

The Alliance will focus on two key areas in the upcoming period:

First: Implement an innovative financing mechanism to strengthen the financial capacity of the organization and sustain its development programs and projects.

Second: enhance partnership between the private and public sectors (PPP). The private sector has a key role in raising funds and developing joint investment projects.

To successfully implement its programs, the Alliance has established an extensive network of international organizations in the field of food security and development

banks (Islamic Development Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank), and with donors like Germany, Netherlands, Finland and food exporting countries with which GDA have concluded agreements and partnerships.

Do you have any projects for Qatar in the pipeline?

I would like to highlight the status of Qatar in the Global Dryland Alliance and to its commitment.

The State of Qatar has launched the initiative to establish GDA, hosts its headquarters, and is the depository of its convention of establishment.

In addition to the financial and institutional commitments, Qatar has pledged to grant the organization two parcels of lands, the first is to establish an international food security research institute and the second will be allocated in Hamad Port as a strategic food storage to help intervene in times of crisis.

Qatar will benefit from these two projects as they serve Member States and will help strengthen Qatar's position and leadership in food security related matters.

Thank you Ambassador Al Difaa.

Most important activities and events of the Permanent Population Committee and its Technical Bureau during first quarter of 2019

Along with its regular meetings, the Permanent Population Committee and its Technical Bureau during the first quarter of 2019 (1 January - 31 March 2019) completed a number of activities, events, training courses and meetings related to population and development issues,

Completion of the technical report of the State of Qatar on the follow-up to the implementation of the General Framework of Population Strategy of the GCC States for the

years 2015-2016-2017: Pursuant to the recommendation of the 17th meeting of the GCC Population Policy Committee held on Wednesday and Thursday, 10-11 March 2018 in Kuwait, The Technical Bureau completed a questionnaire to follow up the implementation of the General Framework of Population Strategy of the GCC States for the years 2015-2016-2017.

- **Continued preparations for the First Forum on Population and Sustainable Development:** In continuation to its previous meetings, a meeting was held by the committee tasked with the preparations for the First Forum on Population and Sustainable Development, to be held at Qatar University on 14-15 April 2019 and to be organized by the Permanent Population Committee, Qatar Social Work , Qatar University, and Doha International Family Institute (DIFI). The Forum will focus on the issues of population composition and the resulting Problematic issues in Qatar, international migration, population changes, reproductive health, population and environmental interactions, population aging, issues related to children and youth, education, labor force, and the impact of population policies on achieving sustainable development goals. Attention will be paid to developments in methods and data for measuring population phenomena and assessing progress towards the goals of health, education, the environment, labor force and development.

- **Release of PPC Annual Report 2017:** The

Permanent Population Committee used to document its work in an annual report, as is the case for this report, which monitors the most important achievements and activities of the Permanent Committee for Population

during 2017. This includes, for example, the preparation of the program of action for the first phase “November 2017-October 2018”, the celebration of Qatar Population Day on 31 October 2017, participation in local and non-local activities related to population issues, and awareness and information campaigns, in particular the publication of the “Sukkan” Newsletter aimed at raising awareness of various population issues.

- **Completion of PPC Draft Annual Report 2018:**

In accordance with its time plan, the Technical Bureau of the Permanent Population Committee at the end of January 2019 has completed the annual report 2018, which documents PPC achievements over the course of a full year in various fields. The most important achievements are: the Population Policy (concentrated summary of Phase 2 Program of Action “November 2018 - October 2019” of the follow-up to the implementation of the population policy of the State of Qatar). This also includes the meetings and training courses organized by the Committee during 2018, including the celebration of 2018 Qatar Population Day, and participation in the internal and external events and activities related to population and development. Moreover, the report incorporates efforts exerted and information published by the committee to inform its work and raise awareness about population issues.

Issue Article

The relationship between Population Policy and media - The State of Qatar as a model



* PREPARED BY DR. ABDUL HAMID SIAM

Population issues are of great importance as every state is trying to follow a scientific approach towards sustainable development. Since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo 1994, the United Nations began to link population issues to the comprehensive development process, which is important for the future of each nation and thus for the future of humanity. Population is the target and the means; i.e. the achievement of population goals is achieved only by the cooperation of all segments of the population, and achieving these goals is beneficial to those segments.

Global trends in the early stages of collective action were to control the rapid population growth witnessed from 1960 to 1990, which added one billion people between 1960 and 1974 and another billion people between 1974 and 1987. The most important issue covered in Cairo Conference, which has raised widespread controversy, was about obtaining access to reproductive health services for birth control, as well as three other topics related to reducing child mortality and maternal mortality and ensuring greater women access to higher educational, professional and cultural levels by 2015.

Based on the fact that the population growth rate has declined; the households size has dropped in many countries, women's education rate has increased, life expectancy of children has increased, and the mortality rate among children and women has declined, then the subsequent international population conferences (2004 and 2014) focused on various development issues; including, youth, gender equality, non-discrimination, attention to older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, migrant workers and other emerging issues.

Media and recent revolution in social networking sites have been the closest allies to communicate population policies to broad audience and mobilize public opinion to support those goals. Let us take Qatar as an example of this comprehensive

approach to the communication of population pillars to the broad audience.

The State of Qatar and Population Policy

Qatar has adopted a wise population policy aimed at bringing cheer and happiness to all citizens and expatriates and ensuring a stable and prosperous future for future generations. Yet, the implementation of such policy means a comprehensive awareness of that policy at all community levels. Population is the end and the means at the same time as stipulated in the policy document for the years 2017-2022. This means that the primary goal of all development policies pursued by the state is the population's happiness and well-being. In order for this policy to succeed, the population must be the means to implement it; the population's awareness of that policy and the change of their behavior in line with its goals ultimately lead to achievement of its ultimate goals.

Qatar has conducted several reviews of its population policy and systematically approved a set of themes for the first time in October 2009. However, a number of demographic developments have taken place in the country. Therefore, it was necessary to align the new demographic themes with Qatar National Vision 2030 after their approval, and with Sustainable Development Goals 2030 adopted by the United Nations in 2015, which became indicators for all countries to measure the national development process in Member States. Officials and experts at the PPC Technical Bureau reviewed the previous policy. In light of the new data and facts, the six population themes for the years 2017-2022 were approved:

- First: Population and labor force
- Second: Urban Growth, Housing and the Environment
- Third: Education, Training and Youth
- Fourth: Public health and reproductive health
- Fifth: Women and children
- Sixth: The elderly and persons with disabilities

For each Theme, experts have formulated a primary goal, which results in a set of sub-goals, all of which are related to the primary goal. Procedural programs have been also developed to implement these goals within specific time frame and expected outputs. For example, the first theme of the population policy has resulted in the most important goal of the policy related to the demographic imbalances. This primary goal has a set of sub-goals that must be achieved to deal with this great challenge. The sub-goals include: increase the number of citizens, support knowledge economy trend; reduce the recruitment of foreign workers; eliminate surplus labor force; achieve a balanced distribution of workers by nationalities. Thus, the population policy continues to monitor these primary goals, the sub-goals emanating from them, the steps to be taken by the official and the community, and the estimated time frame to achieve those goals in an objective manner and the expected outputs. But the question is whether these goals and sub-goals can be achieved without being outreached to the masses and becoming part of their collective consciousness.

Turning Population Themes Into A General Culture - Role of Media

In order to turn the population themes and their main goals and sub-goals into a general awareness and a comprehensive community culture, the Technical Committee has developed a media outreach strategy that explains, mobilizes, raises awareness and changes attitudes and behaviors in order to contribute to achieving these goals and overcoming the obstacles they may face. The media outreach strategy will reach the people through the media, furnished with population themes distributed through effective and efficient mechanisms that will settle in the conscience of all segments of the society and translate into daily behavior that contributes to reaching these goals.

In this vein, the Permanent Population Committee has adopted a strategy that utilizes the three integrated and overlapping information pillars: traditional media, education and social media sites. Thus, they would strengthen each other and make it more stable and widespread. Let us examine this issue in some detail.

Communicating Population Policy to the Audience – Three Pillars (IEC)

Considering the complexity of population issues and the

multiplicity of target groups that make up the country's population, it is incumbent upon the bureau in charge of communicating the population policy to the audience to diversify the means and methods of communication through the intelligent, balanced and continuous use of the three pillars of media and communication:

First: Information

It means to prepare, furnish and employ all information, facts and issues related to population in order to facilitate their access, use and utilization by officials, specialists, academics, administrators and the general public. The information package includes all activities, policies, names of officials, their positions and available population resources. The basic means used here are the traditional media; including newspapers, radio, television and news agencies, which will reasonably repeat the approved messages reflecting population policies and the importance of their dissemination and application at the grass-roots level and their benefits for the country.

Second: Education

Awareness and education are the process of the facilitation of learning, expansion of Knowledge and awareness of population issues so that informed decision-taking and long-term behavioral change are easy. Awareness-raising can be achieved through formal and non-formal education channels, access to civil society groups, community networks, professional and vocational gatherings, clubs, urban gatherings and craftsmen. Awareness-raising means include activities, training courses, grass-roots and school education, and inclusion of population policy in school curricula and in university courses. Furthermore, this also includes field visits, seminars and meetings with various population groups such as the elderly, people with special needs, women and urban groups. It also includes the distribution of magazines specialized in population issues, booklets and pamphlets; the presentation of documentary films; the selection of sports, artistic and intellectual figures as Goodwill ambassadors, and the exploitation of festivals and celebrations to mainstream population policy.

Third: Communication

Communication means well thought-out and planned interactive processes to exploit the mechanisms of social communication, which easily and quickly reach the largest possible number of the population, especially young people.

These communication plans address all people, listen to their complaints and needs and deal with their current behavior in order to change them. Communication is a two-way process: A give-and-take; provide information, assess its impact and receive feedback, then correct, adjust, and change according to lessons learned. The communication is more successful when more modern social media are used that reach a very large number of people at maximum speed and at lowest cost such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Netscape, Instagram, Lincoln, text messages and others.

The three pillars constitute a single package of intentional and planned intervention that combines the presentation of information in an interesting, comprehensive, coordinated and easy to access manner. In tandem, this is followed by well thought-out incentive activities for a number of target

groups such as students, women, government employees, civil society activists, local leaders and professionals. Then comes the two-way interactive communication to build bridges of continuous relationships, while monitoring their impacts and adjusting tracks that do not lead to positive results.

The Permanent Population Committee and its Technical Bureau have adopted a balanced, realistic and achievable population policy. Then, they developed an ambitious communication media plan to communicate such population policy - including its six themes- to broad audiences in order to transform population policy from a paper-based program into a collective practice that achieves the goals desired by population and for the happiness of the population.

Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Communication at Rutgers University - New Jersey and media expert in UNFPA *

Five Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development

(BEIRUT, 30 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 2018)

Over three days, the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Five Years After The 2013 Cairo Declaration, was held in Beirut from 30 October to 1 November 2018. The conference was attended by more than 100 people representing 21 countries, including representatives of public institutions, ministers and officials, national population councils, parliaments, civil society organizations, regional organizations, United Nations agencies, academia, experts, media and other stakeholders.

This conference reflects the ICPD Program of Action adopted in 1994 and marked a global consensus on putting people and human rights issues at the center of sustainable development. It recognized the interdependence of population, development and the environment, and introduced a new measurement for progress: the extent to which political, social and economic inequalities are addressed.

In the Arab region, the 20th year review of ICPD took place in June 2013 and resulted in the adoption of the Cairo Declaration, a statement that renewed the commitment of member States to the Program of Action as an unfinished agenda on population and development to guide Arab countries' efforts beyond 2014. It highlighted several priority areas for the Arab region including gender equality and

women's empowerment, youth, sexual and reproductive health, international migration, internal displacement and large refugee movements, and environmental sustainability. On this basis, the activities of this regional conference reviewed the progress made since 2003 in cross-cutting population issues of concern to youth, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, as well as migration, displacement, asylum and social groups at risk. The review stressed that equitable, comprehensive and sustainable development is a right for all and should be accessible to all. It also focused on the importance of bringing about peace and security, establishing social justice and environmental sustainability for the overall human and economic development of the Arab countries.

The conference highlighted success stories and identified gaps in the implementation of the Cairo Declaration across the Arab region. It also explored connection between the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with its 17 sustainable development goals, as such integration and connection serve as a paradigm shift that puts people at the heart of development process and reflected a global commitment to individual dignity and human rights as a basis for ensuring a resilient and sustainable future. The





conference was also keen to present tangible progress in the lives of individuals over the next four years. It noted that a number of Arab countries have updated their policies, modernized their development plans and adopted practices that address the aspirations of the population and the balance between population growth and the requirements of sustainable development.

Among the most notable speakers was Dr. Natalia Kanem, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA, who emphasized the importance of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994, during which the Arab States committed themselves to the goals of sustainable development. She stressed that the current conference was organized to discuss the points achieved in the Cairo Declaration after five years and to explore ways to achieve what is not yet achieved. She also stressed the importance of the full enjoyment by women and girls of their rights as one of the development pillars that benefits the society as a whole, pointing to the positive indicator recorded by a number of Arab countries in the reduction of maternal mortality.

She considered that youth are a major resource for sustainable development as they can be catalysts for social change, economic growth and technological innovation. Moreover, she called for investing in youth education and skills development, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being in order to unleash their power and potential and allowing them to participate in society. She emphasized UNFPA support to Arab countries in their efforts to help young people and develop their potentials, especially as young people and women were the most affected by crises in some countries of the region.

The Conference also addressed the issue of crisis and conflicts in the Arab region, which affected the demographic situation and made "Arab countries as one of world's major refugee hosting and exporting countries, where the displaced population from the battlefields exhaust resources of the

hosting countries in order to secure their residence and the education of their children and to provide them with health care. This also results in a reduction in human resources inside refugee-exporting countries

Perhaps, these repercussions inflicted on the population of the Arab region constituted one of the reasons for the establishment of the Arab Council for Population and Development, which will follow up the implementation of Cairo Declaration and the results of the reviews of the regional conference in partnership with international organizations. It will also follow up the implementation of sustainable development agenda within Arab countries. It also develops the Arab population strategy, monitors challenges facing population issues within the Arab region, and gives opinion to decision-makers to assist in proactive actions and measures.

It can be said that the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Five Years After 2013 Cairo Declaration is a stopover in which many Arab countries have made specific commitments to the welfare of their citizens. Despite the fact that many goals have not been achieved to meet the commitments agreed upon in the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Cairo Declaration, but it was an opportunity to develop a roadmap for advancing population issues and for empowering vulnerable groups and promoting their participation in building a better future for the Arab region. The plenary sessions enables participants to share experiences, challenges and options. They also stressed that the crises facing the Arab region are affecting the human being, which is the core of development. This requires countries to take quick and radical interventions that take into account population interaction and movement in development planning for the region to take a faster course to achieve the outcomes of the Cairo Declaration, which has Interlinkages with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Arab Woman and Sustainable Development

DR. KHEDR ZAKARIA

On International Women's Day, we should investigate the extent to which Arab women; especially mothers, participate in the sustainable development of Arab countries. The definition adopted by the UNDP Human Development Report 1994 for sustainable development provides a detailed description of this concept, which is to "enable all individuals to enlarge their human capabilities to the full and to put those capabilities to their best use in all field". Such a paradigm must "protects the options of unborn generations. It does not run down the natural resource base needed for sustaining development in the future". This Sustainable human development "addresses both intragenerational and intergenerational equity. In the final analysis, sustainable human development is pro-people, pro-jobs and pro-nature. It gives the highest priority to poverty reduction, productive employment, social integration and environmental regeneration. Sustainable Human Development accelerates economic growth and translates it into improvements in human lives, without destroying the natural capital needed to protect the opportunities of future generations».

In this sense, the issue of Arab women should be considered as an integral part of the issue of development in general. It is inherent in the socio-economic structure of the Arab societies, in which the influence of customs, traditions and distorted understanding of religious teachings interferes with the influence of legislation and laws that are still far short of coping with this age, as well as with the impact of the inability of education and training systems to prepare good productive citizen who is able to participate effectively in the making of his personal destiny and the fate of his society. Yet, we believe that the essence of the issue of women lies in the development plans implemented in the Arab countries during the past five decades, which focused on economic growth without paying sufficient attention to human development that considers humans as the means and goal of development and considers the active participation of all citizens; women and men, in all spheres of social, economic

and political life as prerequisites for development.

As a result of such policies, the proportion of Arab women participation was, and still is, much lower than that of men. In spite of the improvement in the status of Arab women in some areas; as a result of the strive of women's and human rights organizations, the impact of global forces supporting democracy and equality and the influence of culture and media globalization in raising Arab awareness of the importance of women's participation, nevertheless women's share of wealth is much lower than that of men and their access to job opportunities is much lower. The fields in which women work are less important in general. Household burdens remain burdensome for women, their chances of education are lower than men's, their participation in political and public life and their contribution to important decisions are still insignificant.

While answering the question "why?", we do not see great benefit in listing all the reasons leading to such a situation experienced by Arab women, since these reasons or factors are too many to be listed. There are factors related to social awareness (prevailing customs, traditions and values; inherited culture which insists that women's place is in the home and not in social life; religious misinterpretations and malpractices; and traditional hegemony of men). Moreover, there are factors related to legal status laws and other legislation that discriminate against women. There are factors related to the lack of women's participation in political and decision-making positions. Besides, there are other reasons and factors that are frequently repeated in the literature that dealing with women. These and other factors undoubtedly affect the continued low social status of Arab women. However, we believe that solving the issue must be based on figuring out the crucial factor that hinders women's access to their rights and their advancement towards true equality with men: namely, the lack of effective participation in development, especially active participation in work and production.

We think this must be the main focus of all organizations and bodies concerned with Arab women's issues.

Contributions

International Women's Day and Statistics

BY: JAWAHIR AL-MANAA

MOTIVATOR AND TRAINER ON SELF-MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONAL COACH FOR WOMEN

DOHA – 20 MARCH 2019

Many institutions and organizations around the globe work towards establishing women's rights by celebrating International Women's Day, which is observed on 8th March every year. The State of Qatar is keen to highlight and encourage agencies and institutions to participate in this day given the deserved status attained by women in the State of Qatar through their proven achievements in many areas. The room of creativity and excellence has become limitless and Qatari women confidently nudge their way into most of the fields, thanks to the wise leadership and its keenness to promote and activate the role of women in the Qatari society. As a motivator and coach, I usually receive generous invitations from various sectors to present motivational workshops. This year, the invitation of the Planning and Statistics Authority was an extra advantage for me. I was honored to be one of the keynote speakers at this event which brought together the staff who eagerly listened to the speakers' experiences and passionately participated with them. Moreover, I was impressed how the Planning and Statistics Authority has organized the celebration of International Women's Day. Leading entrepreneurs from the Authority's female employees were invited to present their projects and experiences, and the challenges they faced, in order to inspire their female colleagues. In addition, a number of short films were screened about the achievement and success of women in various sectors in the country.

We; the specialists in motivation, training, self-development and self-management – depend on the results and statistics provided by the Planning and Statistics Authority, which

would give us indicators to design the content of the women's workshops in a scientific manner based on the latest data. In addition, the figures issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority are given the utmost priority by the State in drafting its development plans and projects targeting women through various state agencies and civil society institutions that provide their various services to women as members of the family.

Intellectual and diligent women in the State of Qatar held several senior positions. Also, Qatari women were the pioneers in new emerging specialties. I will mention some examples, including but not limited to, Aisha Ahmed Al-Yousif who is the first Qatari physician to use robotic hysterectomy surgery for women, and Muneera Al-Fadala who is the first Qatari veterinarian lady. HE Lulwah Al Khater was the first official spokeswoman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Shaikha Al Mahmoud was the first Qatari and Gulf woman to serve as Minister of Education. There are many areas in which Qatari women took the lead; such as entrepreneurship, tourism, sports and others.

Qatar deserves the best, and you - my dear lady - have the opportunity to be a successful woman. Choose and master your field in order to join the list of Qatari distinguished women in the near future.

In my capacity as a woman specializing in the field of motivation and development, I extend my thanks to the Planning and Statistics Authority for providing statistics and information in a systematic and scientific way that serves us and serves the society.

Last word .. Be proud of being a woman.

Contributions



I am Thamer Abdul Rahman al-Suwaidi; I am 15 years old studying in grade 9 in Abdulrahman Bin Jassim Preparatory School for Boys. My passion for drawing and illustration started when I was at a young age. My drawing entitled "This is Qatar" participated in the celebrations of Qatar National Day 2018 and I won. My drawing expresses my pride in my beloved country Qatar hosting 2022 FIFA World Cup. All Arab countries are depicted inside the map of Qatar and looking at us with anticipation. I am also so proud of my country

Issue's Picture

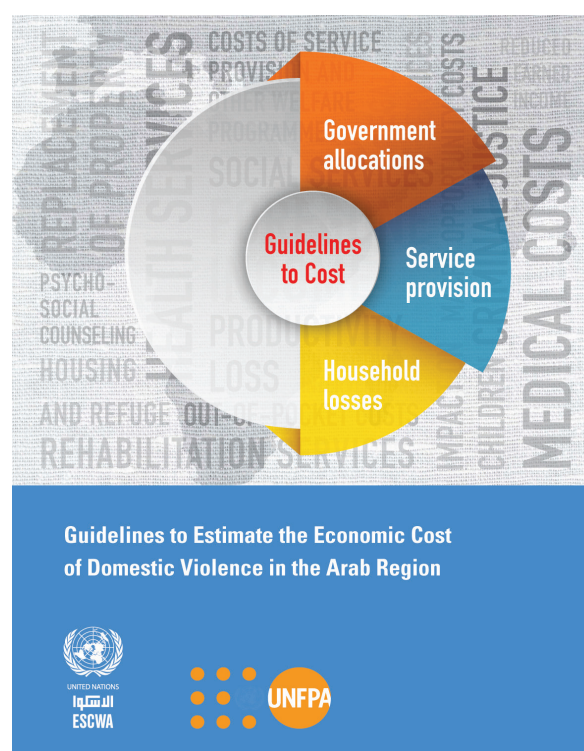


Guidelines to Estimate the Economic Cost of Domestic Violence in the Arab Region

Executive Summary*

Domestic Violence is a pervasive problem worldwide. In the Eastern Mediterranean region, 37 per cent of women have experienced physical violence by a male spouse or fiancé. In addition to being a human rights violation and public health issue, domestic violence has a significant economic impact on individuals, the community and the wider society. As such, governments need to take a comprehensive response that takes into consideration the full spectrum of measures to address domestic violence. Estimating the costs of domestic violence to society as a whole can be a powerful tool in directing this response. The economic costs of domestic violence are both direct and indirect, tangible and intangible, and range from healthcare and criminal justice service costs to lost productivity for both the survivor and perpetrator. Having an estimation of these costs provides an evidence base from which the systemic impact of domestic violence on a country's economic potential can be clearly demonstrated to government planners. The undertaking of such studies is gaining momentum, particularly in the Global North. The findings have been employed to highlight the importance of addressing domestic violence holistically by informing policy and increasing the resources dedicated to domestic violence prevention and response. For example, in Viet Nam, the Government agreed to develop and deliver a minimum package of services based on the cost data produced. While data on domestic violence in the Arab region is available to a certain extent in some countries, the understanding of its economic impact is limited. Estimating the costs of domestic violence will address this gap in knowledge and provide a potentially important opportunity to positively influence the budget decision makers in the Arab states. These guidelines are intended for government officials, programme managers

and researchers intending to estimate the costs of domestic violence in the Arab region. They are designed to enable users to understand the purpose of costing studies and the steps required to undertake a costing exercise in the users' country. The guidelines are divided into three parts. Part 1 details the purpose and importance of costing domestic violence, with a focus on the Arab region, as well as the recommended steps to take when conducting a costing study. Part 2 outlines how to translate the research findings into concrete actions to ensure impact. In Part 3, four case studies from a selection of countries which have successfully undertaken or are in the process of undertaking costing studies are presented.



* United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Arab States Regional Office.- Beirut 2019
<https://www.unescwa.org/publications/guidelines-estimate-economic-cost-domestic-violence-arab-region>