

Population and Development



National Population Committee
Technical Office

A Periodical Bulletin Issued by the Technical Office of the National Population Committee - Fifth Issue - January First 2010

((We awarded since the dawn of this era our full observance to the participation of the Omani woman in the pace of the blessed renaissance. We provided her chances of education, training, employment and supported her role in society and assured her participation in the various development areas. We facilitated all this through regulations and laws that ensure her rights and duties and enable her to achieve self-raising, upgrade her skills and experiences for her country progress)).

LUMINOUS WORDS

Qaboos bin Said

The Annual Session of the Council of Oman
29 Thul qidah 1430 HA -16th November 2009

In this Issue

Public Health and Reproductive Health

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

UNICEF

World Day of Safety and Health at Work

Population and Manpower

EDITORIAL

The issuance of this bulletin of "Population and Development" coincides with the world's celebration of the 2010-World Health Day under the theme (urbanization: One of the challenges of public health).

The importance of this issue stems from the fact that in 2007, and for the first time in human history, more than half of the world population live in cities, and it is anticipated that by 2030 more than two-thirds of the world population will live in urban areas. In the Sultanate, and according to the 2003-general census of population, more than 70% of the population live in urban areas.

The urban and constructional expansion worldwide, including the Sultanate, is linked to many health problems associated with water, environment, violence, injuries and non-communicable diseases (such as heart diseases, diabetes, cancers and chronic respiratory system diseases) as well as diets' patterns and physical inactivity. The strategy to deal with such problems depends not only on the provision of accessible health services but more on improving the social, economic and environmental determinants that assist in disease-prevention, promote health and avoidance of risks' factors that lead to diseases prevalence in cities within a comprehensive concept of Health Cities.

The Sultanate's efforts in this regard conform with the international trends in resolving issues related to constructional and urban expansion. In this respect, the Sultanate through the successive development plans adopted various health, social, economic and environmental projects and programmes to improve population health. Since several years ago, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant health sectors and community adopted the initiatives of (Health Cities). The said aim to promote healthy lifestyles and raise awareness of issues of health, environment, social and sound health behavior.

As result of the joint efforts of the various sectors, the Sultanate realized significant achievements at the health development aspect. This was manifested in the tangible quantity and quality improvement in population and demographic variables. This was reflected in the less than 5- year infants mortality rate where it fall back to 94% according to the WHO 2008-report which included a clear praise of the development witnessed in health care in the Sultanate.

Regardless of this , the increasing urbanization and the escorted challenges that exceed the provision of health care , necessitate more efforts from all components of sectoral or cross-sectoral health systems beside to the society. These components, together , can make a joint impact on population health.

Dr. Ali bin Mohamed bin Musa
Minister of Health

UNICEF

The United Nations established UNICEF in December 1946 to provide food, clothing and health care for children and in 1953 UNICEF became a permanent body of the United Nations. UNICEF awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1965 for the promotion of "Brotherhood among Countries". After more than a decade of focus on issues of child health, UNICEF expands its interests to include the needs of the whole child. Therefore, an interest in education has begun, starting with supporting teacher training to providing educational tools in the classroom. The organization works toward promoting girls education, which will ensure completing primary education as a minimum. In addition, the organization is working to immunize all children against common childhood diseases and provide well nourished for them. Moreover, UNICEF is working to prevent the spread of human immunodeficiency virus syndrome (AIDS) among young people, in order to keep them away from harm and enable them to protect others. UNICEF is helping children and families infected with AIDS to live their lives in dignity.

UNICEF is working with the Government of the Sultanate of Oman since 1971, when the first basic agreement was signed. They worked together to improve the health and social services for children and women in the Sultanate of Oman. As the partnership has developed over the time, UNICEF opened an office in the Sultanate of Oman in 1982, which later turned into integrated National Office in 1987. The partnership between UNICEF and the Sultanate of Oman has result on numbers of achievements, such as launching the national plan for women and children care and the national work plan for children and women. This partnership, also, resulted on the approval of the convention on the Rights of the Child and the additional protocols. In addition, the partnership has resulted in the success of the initiative of the Child-friendly hospital implementation in the Sultanate. Furthermore, the Sultanate was decelerated as state free of polio children and salt iodization at the country level as a whole. Nevertheless, the partnership has resulted on the establishment of a national committee for the Rights of the Child. The cooperation between the Sultanate and the UNICEF has crystallized in the field of women's empowerment, through the ratification of the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women, organization the law of women and children employment, publication of various reports, and the analysis of the situation of children and women in the Sultanate.

World Day of Safety and Health At Work

In the 24th of April each year the International labour Organization (ILO) celebrates the world day of occupational safety and health. The celebration of this year is under the slogan 'health and life at work - a basic human right' due to the continued accidents and injuries at work as result of limited attention to occupational safety and health measures . The regulatory measures, in enterprises under the Omani labour law, enacted by Ministerial decision No. (286/2008) confirmed the importance of providing healthy and safe environment for workers in the private sector, specially in industrial establishments. The measures include a group of legislations, procedures, laws and regulations to protect workers against occupational accidents and injuries.

The occupational safety and health is defined according to ILO as "Set of procedures that provide occupational protection for employees, limit risks of equipments and machineries on workers and establishment, along with trying to prevent accidents or reduce their incidence and provision of the sound occupational environment that assist workers to do their jobs ".

The achievement of the occupational safety and health principles depends on the role of the three production sides: government, employers and employees in applying the regulations , procedures and legislations enacted in this regard . The government role is to supervise the execution of regulations and legislations, employer is to enlighten employees on occupational safety and health measures to be taken during work in a way that leads to introducing practical amendments in improving work conditions and ensuring safety and health of the worker. Employees role is to abide by the occupation safety and health measures to avoid any hazards due to use of equipments or materials during work.

The collaboration of the three sides will create a healthy and safe work environment conducive to improvement of work conditions and achievement of higher productivity.

Nadia Alshkili

Charged with department of planning and studies
Ministry of Manpower

Today's Issue

The Links between the Population and Labour-force

The level of employment is determined by both the demand for labour and the available supply of labour. Population changes affect the demand for labour in certain ways, whilst the effect of population change on the supply of labour is much more direct and obvious. A wide variety of demographic factors influence the composition of the labour-force. Various combinations of age, gender and immigration in the population can cause subtle or sharp shifts in the composition of the labour-force. Other agents of change such as labour laws and equity legislation also contribute to shaping the labour-force. These various factors can be summarized as follows.

Regarding the Labour Market Supply, there are three direct factors affecting the filling of jobs available in the labour market, as follows. The first is the natural increase rate (births minus deaths). The birth rate in Oman remains above the replacement level, which means that more people enter the labour market each year than those who leave through death or retirement. The second is the rate of immigration. When countries suffer a shortage of appropriate personnel available from within the indigenous labour-force, they usually seek to fill the gap by recruiting workers from other countries. Such was the case for Oman at the beginning of the modernization and development process. Besides the lack of suitably qualified/experienced Omani workers, a great proportion of the Omani population was under the minimum age for working. The 1993 census data show that 52 percent of the Omani population was then aged less than 15 years. This sheer lack of numbers of workers, in combination the unavailability of workers possessing the requisite education, skills and experience within the local workforce. The third is labour-force growth. This is affected by the net rates of entry into and exit from the labour market. It is noted that the Omani population is young, although with the incipient trend in fertility decline the sector of the Omani population aged less than 15 years is beginning to decrease in percentage terms. From 52 percent in 1993 the proportion fell to 40 percent in 2003. With the passing of time the rate of increase in numbers of working-age Omanis will become even more rapid, and the numbers of females entering the workforce will parallel this trend.

Dr. Khalifa Al-Barwani

Director of the National Census Office

The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

Dear reader we continue reviewing the referral studies on the national population strategy prepared by the technical office of the national population committee with participation of representatives from various government units and institutions during 2000-2002. The topic of the third study is:

Public Health And Reproductive Health

The study targeted the follow-up of the salient changes in health policies and programmes during the first three decades of the blessed renaissance. Also, the analysis of the preventative and clinical aspects of health status, study of gaps and imbalances between different population groups and the association of this with pathological and epidemiological transitions during the same period. In addition to assessment of health care system in regions as per the coverage of the primary health care components and reproductive health, particularly the maternal and child services and birth-spacing.

The study concluded to a number of recommendations in maternal and child health, adolescent and youth health, public health and primary health care. Of these recommendations were the encouraging of couples before marriage to visit counseling clinics, establishment of such clinics in all the Sultanate Regions, the balance between sound reproductive pattern of positive impact on the mother and child health and maintain her reproductive health on the one hand and the effect of fertility changes in the long run on the society on the other hand.

The National Population Strategy of GCC Countries

The general aims of the population strategy of GCC states, approved in 1998 by the supreme council in its nineteenth session, reflects the goals to be achieved. A number of policies were formulated to translate the basic dimensions and contribute to directing of the executive work pace towards these general objectives. These policies are defined in six dimensions; in this issue we review the first dimension which is the population that includes the following policies:

- 1- To achieve population rates suitable for the Council citizens.
- 2- Provision of preventative and treatment health care for infants with focusing in birth-spacing to reduce mortality of mother and child.
- 3- Continuance in improving mother health care and encouraging pre-marriage medical examinations.
- 4- Continuing the efforts for control of epidemic and endemic diseases and ways of their control.
- 5- Attention to training and qualifying national cadres in the health field.
- 6- Reducing rates of incoming migration with concentration on recruiting skilled, trained and rare specialties workforce.
- 7- Carry out periodic research and studies on population variables and their relation to available resources.

Research Institutions in the Field of Population and Development

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)

The Union was established in 1928 at Paris as syndicate as per the recommendations of the first international conference of population in 1927. The syndicate was reformed in 1947 as the international union for the scientific study of population(IUSSP). Currently, it comprises more than 2000 member worldwide. The Union aims, in the first place, to promote the cooperation among researchers in field of demographic studies and draw the attention of governments, international organizations and scientific institutions for observance of population issues through its enhancing by researchers and undertakers of the various studies in the field of population. Since the approval of the Union in 1947 its work scope scaled up to include developing countries after being exclusively for industrial countries in Europe and North America.

The union carry out a number of training workshops and conferences, the results of which are published worldwide through different publications issued by the Union in addition to websites. The results published were of significant role in development of population studies in many countries. The Union convened its twenty six population conference at Marrakesh- Morocco during 27 September -2 October 2009 with a wide scientific participation from various world countries.

For more information regarding the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population see the Union website <http://www.iussp.org/>

Arab Countries Experiences in Population Policies:

Qatar (Permanent Population Committee)

Qatar national population policy was approved and declared in 2009. The policy aims for balancing the population growth and sustained development needs. This to ensure decent life for the people of Qatar, upgrade their abilities, expand their options and raise their level of participation in the progress of society. The policy formulation, assessment of achievement and measure of success in accomplishing goals was entrusted to the standing population committee which activated the participation of all ministries and government, quasi-government and civil authorities concerned with population issues. Experts from United Nations Fund for Population supervised all steps of preparation of the national population policy. The policy's dimensions had been derived from the provisions of Islamic Sharia, constitution, values of the society and H.H the Amir of the State.

The national population policy targeted to achieve a balance between population and economic, social and environmental resources, family development and cohesion, woman empowerment, entrench the values of gender justice and equity, reproductive health development to ensure the provision of family and child health services, assuring continuance towards the goals of programmes of safe maternity and healthy childhood, protect the population against impacts of degradation of surrounded environment and non-sustained unfair patterns of production and consumption. For accomplishing these goals by 2030, the policy depends on a number of dimensions: population, workforce, education, training and development of human resources, public health and reproductive health, empowerment issues, environment and sustained development, database and national indicators.

For more information regarding Qatar population policy see website. <http://www.ppc.gov.qa/>

Population Terms

Women Representation in Decision-Making Government Posts

The number of women in positions and high ranking posts related to decision-making ; measured as :

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{(\text{Number of women in decision-making government posts in specific year})}{(\text{Total employee in government decision –making posts at the same year})} \times 100$$

Rate of Acute Respiratory System Infection per 1000-Child Less than 5-Years

The number of acute respiratory system infections among 1000 –children less than 5-year divided by population less than 5-years ; measured as :

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{(\text{No. of acute respiratory system infection for less than 5-year children})}{(\text{population less than 5-year during specific period})} \times 1000$$

Source : MONE (2006). *The sustainable development indicators methodologies manual – Oman*

Arab and International Days

Arab Literacy Day	8 January
International Women's Day	8 march
World Heath Day	7 April
World Day of Safety and Health at Work	24 April

Do You Know ?

- (2.5) billion person worldwide lack improved sanitation facilities.
- (1) billion child worldwide lack one or more of essential services for existence and growth.
- (1.1) million child worldwide are irregular in primary schools with number of girls missing to attend regular education exceeds boys (2007).
- (8.8) million child died worldwide before reaching 5-years of age (2008)
- More than (500000) woman worldwide die annually due to pregnancy and delivery reasons (2006).

Source: UNICEF (2009). *The state of the world's children*

Population Indicators (Oman 2008) :

Still-birth ratio to total birth **0.89%**¹

Omani population below than 5-years of age **228355**²

Ratio of Omani women in higher administrative posts and supervisory jobs **8.03%**³

Total fertility rate **3.3%**¹

Number of illiteracy centres **93**²

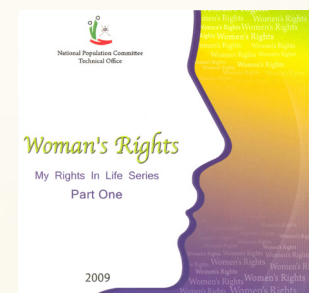
1- Ministry of Health (2009). Health facts 2008 2- Mone (2009). Facts and Figures 2008

3- Ministry of Manpower (2009). Annual Statistics of Civil Service Employees 2008

Technical Office of the National Population Committee Publications

Women Rights: First Part

The booklet is the first part of "My rights in life series". It comprises a simplified explanation for a number of laws related to women rights in social, profession, penal legislation and education aspects to raise their awareness concerning these rights.



Invitation for Participation

For participation and comments in the periodical bulletin or for access of a copy please use the email

npcoman@mone.gov.om
or contact 00986 24695169