

# Population and Development



National Population Committee  
Technical Office

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## LUMINOUS WORDS

"Giving attention to human resources, including the provision of the various tools required to enhance their performance, incentives to develop their capabilities, diversifying their creative talents and to improving their scientific and practical qualifications, is the basis of real development and the cornerstone in its structure which is based on solid foundations. The human element is the maker of a renaissance and the builder of a civilization.

Therefore, we are sparing no effort and will continue to spare no effort in order to provide our human resources with all the help they will need to develop, hone and train. We will also provide educational opportunities for them in order that they may acquire useful knowledge, the required experience and the necessary technical skills that will be needed in the labour market as required by the sustainable development programmes in the various fields."

**Qaboos bin Said**

The annual session of the Council of Oman  
13<sup>th</sup> De Qaeda 1429 AH - 11th November 2008

## In this Issue

## EDITORIAL

We are pleased to publish the second issue of "**Population and Development**" bulletin continuance to what we have started in the first one regarding themes and issues related to population and sustainable development.

This issue coincides with the beginning of a new year in which efforts for the welfare of this country and its citizens without discrimination as to gender, age or other shall be exerted. Of the salient features of said efforts is the prudent planning based on study of data, defining priorities and formulating alternatives to provide economic and social security at the level of State, establishment, family or individual. As such rational planning is one of the most important duties of governments towards its population, individuals have a responsibility to pursue the same approach to planning the future for themselves and their families, and consequently their society, taking into account the nature of our era marked by the hastening of events and large fluctuations in economic and living conditions, along with the globalization effects at the various levels. This is in recognition that the choice of the individual related to education, work, marriage or expenditure have its direct effect on the society in which he lives and hence its development and progress.

This bulletin shed light on an important issue related to individuals' choices and their community behaviours which is (maternal mortality) aiming to spread awareness and for the benefit of community. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant us success and appositeness

**Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki**

**Minister of National Economy**

**Chairman of the National population Committee**

The Technical Office of the National Population Committee

Arab Institute for Planning in Kuwait

United Nations Population Fund

World Health Day

World Health Day

# The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

## The Technical Office of the National Population Committee:

The Technical Office was formed as per the decision No (3/2000) issued by the National Population Committee in 2/2/2000. The decision entrusted the Office with the activation and coordination of all activities aiming for formulation of the national population strategy, its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Also, the Office undertakes the setting up of perceptions and proposals to address the population problems relying on studies and research that diagnose the various population problems in collaboration with concerned authorities. The Office is considered a key partner in population planning and formulation of strategies regarding the various population sectors such as children, women and others.

Since formulation, the technical office had conducted several studies forming the basis for the documents of the National Population Strategy. These studies identified the main population challenges according to the available data in 2000. The database was updated on the availability of census 2003 data and used for conducting in-depth analytical studies in 2007 in the areas related to population issues such as children and maternal morbidity and mortality, determinants of fertility, population distribution, urbanization and migration in Oman, educational issues and challenges and determinants of gender gaps.

The technical office also organizes seminars and specialized conferences for discussing different population issue as well as preparing and conducting studies and working papers for its official delegates participating in local, regional and international conferences and seminars related to population and development.

### Dimensions of the population Strategy of the GCC States

The population strategy of the GCC of the Gulf States, which was agreed upon as a general framework in 1998, depends on a group of dimensions derived from the Council Statute and the developmental objectives, policies and plans approved for the Council States in addition to their general strategies for economic and social development. Further, is the special relations, common features and similar systems that are based on the Islamic faith linking the Council States, and the joint destiny and unity of goal that connect their people. Also, the desire to achieve coordination, integration and linkage among them in all areas. Six main dimensions were defined for the general framework of the population strategy which are:

Population, population structure, urban growth and internal migration, manpower and human resources development; maternal, child and family, and population statistics.

### Research Institutions in Area of Population and Development

#### Arab institute for planning - Kuwait

It is a non-profitable regional independent organization declared by the Arab member countries in 1980 to be used to advance the cause of economic and social development in them through training, research, consultancy, expert-group meetings, and publication. It was established by the Government of Kuwait in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1966 under the name of the Kuwait Institute for Economic and Social Planning in the Middle East. By the end of the agreement signed between the two parties, the institute was converted in 1972 into an independent Arab Institution called the Arab Planning Institute (API) - Kuwait and the role of the UNDP was limited for the next five years to providing a number of international experts in addition to a number of fellowships.

Currently the members of the institute are Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen. The Institute aims to provide scientific and practical experiences that assist Arab countries to cope with the recent developments in areas of development, economic management and planning. In addition to facilitating the research process and data retrieval by decision makers and Arab researchers, improving the quality of research and studies, raising research capabilities levels of those concerned with areas of development, economic management and planning in Arab countries, provision of information and databases related to economic and social development for the same.

The Institute issues a group of periodicals such as Development and Economic Policies journal, Jaser series and experts meetings series, in addition to scientific books and work papers series.

For more information about the Arab institute for planning see the website [http://www.arab-api.org/about\\_a.htm](http://www.arab-api.org/about_a.htm)

### Arab Experiences in Population Policy

#### Jordan (The Supreme Council for Population)

The Council was formed in 2002 to succeed the national committee of population formed in 1973 and continue its path for activating the national strategy of population so as to encounter population and developmental challenges facing Jordan. The Council, headed by His Excellency the Prime Minister and membership of a number of ministers, is considered the higher referral body entrusted to propose and formulate the national population policy in Jordan, its follow-up and evaluation.

Also, the Council functions include proposing of policies related to increasing awareness for population and developmental issues and lobbying for them, along with provision of population information, conduction of population surveys, studies and research and their follow-up.

Of the most important objectives of the Council is the addressing of the imbalance in the geographic distribution of population to achieve a better interaction between Man, land and capital through regional balanced development (population and development), limit the negative impacts of reproductive health on family, society and maternal and child health, raising the standard of living of household and support woman empowerment (social role).

For more information about the Council see the website [www.hpc.org.jo](http://www.hpc.org.jo)



## United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international developmental agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every young girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. UNFPA has been providing the Sultanate with technical assistance for many years. This continuous collaboration prompted the establishment of an office in Oman to serve the GCC Area in 2006 to provide technical assistance for several programmes implemented by the governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the Sultanate and other Gulf countries.

UNFPA works with its partners in the GCC countries to:

- Increase/Build capacities for integrating population, reproductive health and gender issues in development processes at all levels consistent with ICPD and MDGs.
- Increase availability of timely, user-friendly, population-related data and indicators disaggregated by sex and geographical areas.
- Strengthen national capacity to integrate quality reproductive health services and information into the primary health care (PCH) system.
- Increase understanding and support amongst legislators, policy makers, planners and media.
- Increase awareness on a community level on:
  - Reproductive health and gender issues, focusing on male involvement.
  - Barriers to women's access to reproductive health services.
  - Gender-based violence.
  - Youth Issues and concerns.



## World Health Day

In the 7th of April each year, the World celebrates the World Health Day (WHD) under a new theme to attract the focus of the World around an important health issue. The celebration of this year coincides with the anniversary of the foundation of the World Health Organization (1948). In 2008, the WHD under the slogan "Protecting Health from Climate Change" focused on exerting more efforts to address the challenges of the anticipated climate changes and formulating an agenda for the research needed to face health problems arising. According to the World Health experts, the agriculture sector shall be the first greatly affected among others along with spread of extreme natural disasters such as storms, floods and the subsequent heat waves that shall raise rate of morbidity and mortality particularly in Urban areas.

The Sultanate efforts in this respect are manifested in the Royal support of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said for the various scientific research particularly that related to environment, and His Majesty Royal unlimited support to the Scientific Research Council programmes along with establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs to address climate change phenomena.

It must be emphasized that, climate change is a reality and necessitates mobilizing all efforts, serious and effective measures by governments, international and domestic organizations to limit its effects. It also calls for serious cooperation among governments and health organizations to render Health the prime pivot for all their programmes with importance of linking climate change, health and other areas such as environment, food, energy and transport.

## Today's issue

### **The Maternal Mortality in Sultanate of Oman :**

The maternal mortality is an important issue that reflects a number of developmental indicators and statuses in the country such as health, educational and cultural statuses. Maternal mortality is defined by WHO as the death of a woman during pregnancy or during 42 days of termination of pregnancy regardless of the duration and site of pregnancy, due to any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes. The international studies indicate the relation of these mortalities to the mother pregnancy at unsafe age (less than twenty or above forty), in addition to repeated un-spaced pregnancy. Also, shortage in provision and spread of health services is one of the most important reasons in some developing countries.

In spite of the efforts exerted by the Sultanate to achieve the Millennium goals by 2015, such as reducing maternal mortality rate by three quarters during 1990-2015, the rate is still high compared with the neighboring Gulf States and fluctuates annually in accordance with the annual change in number of births. The Ministry of Health statistics indicate that maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live birth) in 2007 reached (22.9) compared with (13.2) in 2006. Since the method of calculating the rate includes comparison between number of maternal deaths in a given year and number of live births in the same year, a single maternal mortality will increase the rate by (2.5) taking into account that number of live-births in the Sultanate is around (40,000) annually.

The Ministry of Health, since 1990, monitors all cases of maternal mortality related to pregnancy and delivery registered at health institutions in the Sultanate. This is achieved through special form prepared for this purpose and submitted to a specialized committee for study and to diagnose whether it falls within maternal mortality or not.

The Ministry of Health data for the period (2000-2006) indicated that the repeated un-spaced pregnancies is one of the main causes of maternal mortality in the Sultanate, where about (84%) of these occurred at the safe pregnancy age (20-39), and (48%) of them were marked by un-spaced repeated pregnancy.

Although antenatal care provided by the Ministry of Health with a coverage exceeding (99%) had a significant role in reducing maternal mortality and improving the reproductive behaviour in the society, achieving further progress in the reduction of this rate needs continuous awareness programs directed to mothers as maternal health of woman is one of her rights and an entrance to her empowerment and participation in development.

## Population Terms

### 1. Dependency Ratio

It is number of population (below 15 years) and old age people (65 years and above) per person in the age of work (15-64). It is a measurement used to indicate the range of rising or reduction in the dependency load related to Age composition and is measured as follows :

$$\text{Age Dependency Ratio} = \frac{(\text{Population below 15} + \text{population above 65})}{(\text{Population between 15} - 64)} \times 100$$

Source: National Population Committee Technical office. (2006). *The population Situation In The Sultanate of Oman 2000-2005*.

## Mortality Rate by Cause

### 1. Infant Mortality Rate:

Is the number of deaths among infants below one year of age per 1000 live births during a given year and measured as follows:

$$\text{IMR} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths among infants below one year of age in a year}}{\text{Number of live births in the same year}} \times 1000$$

Source: National Population Committee. *Population Guide*. Jordan

## Arab and International Days

Arab Day for Illiteracy Obliteration	8 <sup>th</sup> January
International Woman's Day	8 <sup>th</sup> March
World Health Day	7 <sup>th</sup> April

## Do You Know?

- 1.1 billion in the world do not get safe water.
- 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.
- Annually, 1.6 child die due to diarrhea and other diseases resulting from unclean water and poor wastewater drainage.
- 750 million are handicapped in the world according to WHO.
- 80% of handicapped are in developing countries.
- 2-3% of handicapped children in poor countries attend school.
- 7.4 million child are not in school in Arab countries; 4.5 million of them are females.

(source: World Bank website)

## Population Indicators (Oman 2007)

Omanis below 5 year are **11.58<sup>1</sup>**

Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live birth) is **10.1<sup>1</sup>**

Percentage of Omani teachers in basic education is **89.0<sup>2</sup>**

Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births) is **22.9<sup>1</sup>**

Percentage of Omani women in private sector registered in Public Authority for Social Insurance is **17.5<sup>3</sup>**

1. Ministry of Health. (2008). *Health Facts 2007*.

2. Ministry of Education. (2008). *Educational Statistics Year Book*.

3. Public Authority for Social Insurance.

## The Publications of the Technical Office of the National Population Committee

### Omani Woman :

The technical office of the national committee of population issued two booklets in 2007 and 2008 in celebration of the International Woman's Day in March 8<sup>th</sup>. The first booklet includes the Omani laws and legislations related to woman together with some statistical indicators regarding woman in areas of health, education, labour and social life for 2003 and 2005. The second booklet reviewed some international agreements regarding woman approved by the Sultanate with some general statistical indicators for 2006. It also included a comparison between woman statuses in GCC States through some health and education indicators of 2005.



## 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](mailto:npcoman@mone.gov.om)  
or contact 00986 24695169