

# Population and Development



National Population Committee  
Technical Office

A Periodical Bulletin Issued by the Technical Office of the National Population Committee - Eighth Issue – January First 2011

## LUMINOUS WORDS

(( It is important to emphasize that every citizen must take up his responsibility to his country without delay and without dependence on others . Everyone must participate sincerely and honestly in achieving our national goals. We must recognize that work is noble and it makes life positive and useful. Moreover, it is a sacred duty on the citizen towards the motherhood. These values are also called upon by our Islamic religion and in the words of God, Who said : “ Each will be assessed according to his work” ))).

### Qaboos bin Said

The 16<sup>th</sup> National Day

18<sup>th</sup> November , 1986

## In this Issue

Birth Spacing

United Nations University

International Women's Day

Traffic Accidents

## EDITORIAL

On the occasion of the World Day for Safety and Occupational Health, it is my pleasure to extend my greetings and gratitude to our national workforce and entrepreneurs to their interest and commitment to the standards of safety and occupational health measures in workplace. The defining of 28th of April each year as a World Day for Safety and Occupational Health by the International Labor Organization (ILO) reflects the observance of production parties to provide protection to employees to limit work injuries and occupational diseases. Pursuant to the provisions of the Labor Law and benefiting from ILO experiences, the regulatory regulation for safety and occupational health in private enterprises was issued in 2008 in accordance to that prepared by the committee for safety and occupational health. The committee included representatives of concerned government units, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Sultanate General Union of Workers. The Ministry of Manpower, in collaboration with private sector, pursues to provide safety, protection and care for workers at their workplace. The national program for decent work, signed with the ILO in 2010, includes programs for promoting national institutional capabilities in areas of safety and occupational health, formulation of a national strategy and manual for safety and occupational health in the Sultanate. In this occasion, I would like to extend my thanks to the production parties, workers and employers, stressing the importance of providing safety and occupational health in workplace for the welfare and benefit of workers and establishments leading to progress and prosperity of our national economy under the leadership of our blessed Renaissance, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said- Sultan Oman.

**Abdallah bin Nassr bin Abdallah Albkry**

Minister of Manpower

## Population Objectives in the Second Long-Term Development Strategy

To sustain the development achievements realized during the previous period and confront current and future challenges, the second long-term development strategy (1996-2020) was formulated to be implemented in five Five-Year Development Plans. The strategy is characterized by more attention to the social dimension of development manifested in adoption of the human resources development strategy which includes many population objectives. The first dimension of the strategy aims to achieve balance between population growth and economic growth through reducing the current population growth rate to less than (3%) in 2020 by awareness not coercion. This was demonstrated in the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan (2001-2005) through adoption of a clear population strategy in line with the directives aiming to development sustainability in the Sultanate. Further, the human resources development strategy includes other population objectives related to health, education and labor sectors. In the health domain it includes the provision of basic health care. This to be through a system that is characterized by effective cost and efficiency, encourage diseases prevention and public safety, reduce mortality rates and incidents of diseases to be at the levels of developed countries. In the education sector, the strategy aims to create an environment conducive to spreading, encouraging and supporting of knowledge and illiteracy obliteration, priority to be given to upgrading and spreading of basic education and its accessibility to all citizens through a system characterized by effective cost and efficiency to ensure equal opportunities among citizens. In the labor sector, the strategy pursues to engender work opportunities for Omanis interested in work to limit unemployment rate and necessity of their training and qualification in accordance to labor market needs. The objectives were translated into activities and programs in the Sixth (2001-2005) and Seventh (2006-2010) Five-Year Development Plans. From the above cited, it is clear that the population objectives were included in the Sultanate's development plans. The objectives were implemented and large funds were allocated in order to improve the living standard of the citizen and the development pace is still ongoing to develop our country and its citizen.

## International Women's Day

In March 8<sup>th</sup> of last year the world has celebrated the centenary of the first conference dealt with women's rights held in Copenhagen in 1910. This date was officially adopted by the UN in 1977 under the UN Day on Women's Rights and World Peace. The Charter of the UN, signed in 1945, was the first agreement confirming the right of gender equality as a fundamental human right. This was followed by several conferences and official meetings concerning empowerment of women and their participation in different aspects of the development process. Hence, the international community became aware that the absence of women from the decision making circles hinder efforts exerted to prevent conflicts, impede peace-making and its sustainability and interrupt the course of development. Various international organizations worked to consolidate these convictions and to stimulate communities and governments to amend their legislation and laws and introduce necessary reforms in the managerial systems to ensure the integration of women in the development process and their active participation in decision and policy making. In the Sultanate, since the beginning of the blessed Renaissance in 1970, the enlightened thought of the beloved leader of the country was an incentive to involve the Omani women in all development efforts and ensure that they benefit from its positive implications and fruits. The appeal of His Majesty to Omani women in his speech marking the opening of the second period of the Shura Council on December 26, 1994 where he said: "We call upon Omani women to shoulder their vital role in the community, and We are confident that they will respond to this call" is an evidence on His Majesty's far insight and faith that the success of development and sustainability is linked to the participation of all segments of society, particularly women. Oman continued to pay attention to women year after year, had a national symposium hosted by the Royal camp in 2009. Further, the 17th October of each year is allocated as an Omani Women Day. The first celebration of the day was in 2010 under the slogan "Partner in Development". Omani women have responded to the call of His Majesty and were quick to engage in all fields of work, leading the duty to build and maintain the achievements, and good breeding generations that will continue to work for the good of this nation.

## Today's Issue

The human soul is valuable and a trust from Allah, thus should be preserved and in this Allah said "and make not your own hands contribute to (your) destruction" (Surah Al-Baqarh, Ayat 195).

In spite of this and in reality we find transcendence to this where traffic accidents are considered a major social and economic problem world-wide. It takes hundreds of lives every year leaving behind thousands of injuries and disabilities.

National statistics of traffic accidents confirmed that two thirds of deaths are in the economically productive age group (20-50) years. They represent the hands needed by the country for building and are considered as one of the pillars of successful economy. Hence, their death is a great loss in human capital.

The paternalistic stance of His Majesty during the Royal Tour in Saih Al Makarem in Wilayat Sohar on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009, was a clear indication of the personal interest of the beloved Leader. His majesty said: (What is happening on our roads has become an issue that should be of interest to everyone. The use of cars in unsound way in express and non-express roads by the different groups of the society is of no doubt a disturbing matter. This issue should be discussed in our gatherings and be a dialogue among families until we limit this phenomenon which is no doubt a result of the so-called progress, growth and urbanization, but this should not pass unnoticed).

To translate His Majesty Royal Orders a number of programs were carried out in this respect, the important of which included the holding of the (Traffic Safety Symposium) on May 2010. The symposium concluded to a number of important recommendations which aim to reduce accidents and their results to the minimum possible.

In spite of the efforts exerted by the government to raise the efficiency of traffic safety, the personal-awareness is the optimal solution for this issue in terms that the human factor is the main element in causes of traffic accidents.

We pray to Almighty Allah to guard this beloved country and its citizens from any harm and grant safety and security on it.

Talib Al-Wahshi  
Population studies researcher  
Directorate General of Social Statistics

## The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

Dear reader

We continue reviewing the sixth study of the referral studies on the national population strategy prepared by Ministry of National Economy with participation of representatives from various government units and institutions during 2000-2002. The topic of this study is :

### Birth Spacing

The study focused on the intellectual and political basis of birth spacing programs in the Sultanate. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said speech, after the announcement of the 1993 census results was taken as an intellectual and political guide on which the program was based. His Majesty address drew attention to the large number of families' members. His Majesty called for taking family planning in consideration in a way that in line with the values, Sharia and benefit of the family as an intellectual and political base for birth spacing program in the Sultanate. The study also mentioned the health and social dimension of the birth spacing program such as the relation between birth spacing methods and child and maternity mortality. The study analyzed the development stages in services of family planning since the beginning of the birth spacing program in 1994. Also, it evinced quantitative and qualitative determinants on unmet needs regarding birth spacing. It concluded by giving recommendations and proposals to raise rates of use of the new effective and affordable methods. Such recommendations and proposals include: continuance of studies and research to identify the reasons of weak response to the long-acting IUD and other, more improvements to counseling services, call upon voluntary NGOs to support the program's events, producing new media materials for awareness of the long-acting methods through cooperation of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Information, services should include sterile husbands and wives, participation of female social workers from Ministry of Social Development in the program's efforts in remote areas and aware husbands to participate in the program.

### The National Population Strategy of GCC Countries

We continue reviewing the objectives of the dimensions of the Population Strategy of the GCC States included in the document of the strategy's general framework approved in 1998. In this issue, the objectives related to workforce and human resources development are as follow:

1. Complete and productive employment of the national workforce.
2. Facilitating employment and transfer of national workforce within the GCC States and creating more work opportunities for them.
3. Recruiting expatriate workforce according to regulatory standards in consonance with the demands of development, social stability and demographic homogeneity.
4. Encourage citizens to join technical education and vocational training centers.
5. Distribution of national workforce to the various economic sectors.
6. Activating role of private sector in as simulating the national workforce.
7. Continual review of the educational systems outputs.
8. Widening the scope of work for women in the Gulf region with respect to Islamic values and their social responsibilities.



### Research Institutions in the Field of Population and Development

#### United Nations University (UNU)

Established in Tokyo in 1973 as an international community of scientists to generate and share knowledge, formation of experiences in aspects of human security and development. The University interests include various issues such as: peace, security, human rights, social and economic change, development, application of science and technology in development, providing support to UN organizations operating in the various countries to build their plans and strategies. In December 2009, the University entered a new stage of development. The General Secretariat of UN recommended the change of the University's Charter which resulted in the approval of distance education via internet, provision of support to graduate programs and long and short term training courses organized by the University. The UNU holds conferences, seminars and consultancy meetings worldwide covering current topics such as: addressing central problems, conflicts resolution, peace, good governance, development economies, science and technology and environment issues. Also, UNU provides advice to decision makers through participation in the international conferences organized by UN such as: Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992), World Summit in Copenhagen (1995), World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995), and the World Conference on Higher Education in Paris (1998).

For more information see website:

<http://www.unu.edu>

### The Arab Experiences in Population Policy (Syria)

The Syrian government's interest in population issue started after issuance of the 1970-Census results. Worried about the high rate of population growth, which reached to 33 thousand - per year the government established the National Committee for Population in 1973. Hence, an active informally declared population policy emerged. It was characterized by tangible activity to reduce fertility through family planning and maternal and child health care programs or through NGOs for family planning, spread of contraceptives, establishing health clinics for maternal and child health care to provide advice and instructions related to birth spacing, delay age of marriage and other. Also, awareness and population education programs were carried out. Studies and research on population were conducted supported by international organizations such as UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP UNICEF, ILO and other in order to support policies of family planning and population awareness. Population issues were introduced in the education curricula warning of high growth rate of population and showing its consequences. These works were culminated by setting the basic dimensions of population policy and formulation of a memorandum for this purpose under the title Horizons for 2000. In 2005, the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) was submitted by the State Planning Authority. Thus, the strategy adopted by the current Plan in Syria aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality, empower women and encourage her participation in development, expanding reproductive health services in urban and rural areas, raising awareness to population issues through illiteracy obliteration, upgrading education level of population particularly females and encouraging adoption of the concept of small family. Looking in the previous Five-Year Plans, it could be noted that population policies were always merged with the economic and social development process.

For more information see the following website:

<http://www.planning.gov.sy>

## Population Terms

### 1. Income

Is the return earned in cash or kind to the individual or household during a specific period such as week or month or year. The current income consists of two main sources;

- a-Initial incomes
- b-Current transfers

Source : Ministry of National Economy. (2010). [Main results of the household expenditure and income survey for the period \(20/5/2007- 19/5/2008\)](#). Muscat

### 2 .Neonatal Mortality Rate

Number of deaths among children less than 28 days in age per 1000 live births in the same year.

Source: Ministry of Education and UNFPA. (1998). [Referral book in population education](#). Jordan.

## Do You Know ?

- One death occurs every 15 minutes in Arab world by traffic accidents (2009) .<sup>1</sup>
  - 67.5 year is life expectancy at birth in the world (2009) .<sup>2</sup>
  - 67.5% is net enrolment ratio in primary education worldwide while the rate in Arab world is 66.2% (2009).<sup>2</sup>
  - 13% of the population of Arab world suffer from malnutrition (2008) .<sup>3</sup>
  - Almost one billion of the world population suffer from food shortage (2008).<sup>3</sup>
  - About 87% of the world population use safe sources of drinking water (2006).<sup>4</sup>
  - 39% of world population live without improved sanitary drainage facilities (2006).<sup>4</sup>
- Source : [www.omanet.com](http://www.omanet.com)

1.Arab Organization for Traffic Safety. <http://www.aroso.org>

2.Human development Report 2010 . <http://www.undp.org>

3.FAO report. State of Food Insecurity in the World 2010 .

<http://www.fao.org>

4.WHO 2010. <http://www.who.int>

## Arab and International Days

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

## Population Indicators (Oman 2009) :

Number of Omani females registered in the Public Authority of Social Insurance is ( 29273 )<sup>1</sup>

Number of general secondary graduates admitted in universities and colleges is ( 23644 )<sup>1</sup>

Percentage of Omani households living in owned house is ( 86.5% )<sup>2</sup>

Number of doctors per 10000 population is (17.5 )<sup>1</sup>

Infant mortality rate is ( 9.6 ) per 1000 live birth<sup>1</sup>

1.Ministry of National Economy . (2010). [Facts and Figures 2009](#) .

2.Ministry of National Economy. (2010). [Main results of the household expenditure and income survey for the period \(20/5/2007- 19/5/2008\)](#) .

## Technical Office of the National Population Committee Publications

### Omani Women Based on Time-Use Survey

This release coincides with the celebrations of the Omani Women Day which is celebrated on the 17th of October every year and is based on the 2007- time use survey. It aims to measure the amount of time people spend doing various activities according to some geographical, economical and social variables.



## 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 00968 24695169