

# Population and Development



Ministry of National Economy  
Directorate General of Social  
Statistics

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## LUMINOUS WORDS

(( When we call upon you all to take care of our youth's aspirations and ambitions, we also call with the same insistence upon our youth to be aware of their responsibility for building our country. They must roll up their sleeves with the utmost energy to contribute positively towards our comprehensive development" ))).

**Qaboos bin Said**

*23<sup>rd</sup> National Day  
18<sup>th</sup> November , 1993*

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National Population Committee  
Technical Office

## EDITORIAL

This issue of the Population and Development Bulletin coincides with the celebrations of the international community on the occasion of the World Population Day which corresponds with the 11th of July of every year. The purpose of the celebrations is to focus on the critical nature of population issues and their importance within the context of comprehensive plans and programs and the need for finding solution to these issues.

The Sultanate of Oman attaches paramount importance to its population under the consideration that human being is the pivot of sustained development and its main objective. The government of the Sultanate has been, since the beginning of the blessed renaissance, keen to provide all ways and means which will lead to securing a decent and safe life for its people. This task is carried out through giving more attention to education, health, services and other needs. Moreover, the five year development plans are based on the population characteristics and their geographical distribution among governorates and regions. These fundamentals have led to noticeable improvement in the Sultanates population standard of living during the past forty years.

We pray to almighty allah to retain to Oman its countless comforts and to grant success to all to achieve more development and prosperity.

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## The international year of youth (August 2010-August 2011)

The youth population is one of the most important groups of the community which should be availed good education and suitable employment opportunities, leading to developing their skills and enhance their chances for the effective participation in serving their communities. The marginalization of this group or ignoring them would lead to adverse social and economic impact on the community.

In light of this importance, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in December 2009 dedicating an International Day of Youth to start on the 12th of December 2010 and to celebrate the year under the theme "dialogue and mutual understanding" thus reflecting the importance awarded by the international community to the issue pertinent to the youth and the importance of incorporating these issues into the developmental schedule at all levels: international, regional and national. The International Year of Youth aims at spreading the ideals of peace, respecting human rights and disseminating the spirit of cooperation across generations, culture, religions and civilisations. Evidently, investment in youth and establishing partnerships for the purpose of facing the challenges confronted by the world at the security, financial, environmental, economical and social levels would guarantee the sustainability of development.

The government of Oman accorded great importance to the youth through the five year development plans which were implemented during the past forty years of the Renaissance. And in accordance with HM's concern about the comprehensive development of the youth and developing their capabilities and potential, a number of Royal instructions were issued in 2011 including: the provision of 50,000 job opportunities for those who are searching for work, establishing a second government university, increasing government scholarships in both domestic and overseas educational institutions, introducing a cost of living allowance for government sector employees and supporting the sports sector through the allocation of additional financial resources

For more information on the international year of youth visit:  
<http://www.un.org/ar/events/youth2010/index.shtml>



## International Women's Day

### Forest: nature at your service 5th June

The world celebrates the Environment Day on the 5th June every year since 1972 with the aim of increasing environmental awareness. The celebration is attended by governments and non government's organisations, civil society organisations and educational institutes from all over the world.

In its endeavour to achieve sustainable development the Sultanate strived to link environmental dimension with socio-economic development through adopting a national strategy for the protection of the environment. The strategy was compatible with the long term development strategy and the five year development plans. The Sultanate also ratified a number of international agreements in the field of the conservation of the environment such the Protocol Concerning Regional Cooperation in Combating Pollution by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

Upon a generous initiative by HM sultan Qaboos, the Sultan Qaboos Prize for environmental protection was established in 1989 as the first Arab Prize to be awarded at the international level in the field of environmental protection. The Prize is a clear expression about the importance of the participation of all people and governments in achieving the security and safety of the environment. The prize is awarded every two years through Man and Biosphere programme of the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The Prize was awarded for the first time in 1991 and was won by the institute of environmental Research in Mexico. In 2009 the prize was won by Spain's Autonomous Authority for National Parks.

The sultanate was chosen among the 10 countries best known for their concern about the environment at the international level due to the efforts in the conservation of the environment.



## Today's Issue

### The unemployed

Social development with all its dimensions and aspects is considered an important pillar in any country which aims at achieving development and progress. The most important issue in social development is the provision of job opportunities for the increasing numbers of those searching for work. The failure in securing jobs for the unemployed can have a very adverse socio-economic impact. This issue is central in the government of the Sultanate's concern especially with the rise in Omani population in working age from 56.2% in 2003 to around 62% in 2010 and the number of those searching for job for the first time and had registered in the Ministry of Manpower reached 82,528 at the end of March 2011.<sup>1</sup>

The importance attached to the issue of employment was manifested by the Royal Directives of HM the Sultan to recruit 50,000 citizens in 2011 in addition to HM's instructions to grant R.O 150 as an unemployment allowance for those searching for jobs up to the time of finding employment. The objective of this allowance has been the improvement of the living conditions of those looking for work. On the other hand it will be an incentive for those looking for work to register in the Ministry of Manpower database, thus providing accurate and up-to date information about this group of the population.

The Royal Instructions embodied many meanings. The private sector establishments are required to assume their social responsibilities in giving the national workforce the priority in recruitment in the different professions in the supervisory, administrative and technical jobs. Moreover, the private sector is required to participate in the training, qualification of citizens, and to participate in the financing of various programmes known for their high social returns. Investment in citizens is considered the best and most sustainable measure and would definitely have a positive effect on supporting establishments.

Taking into consideration that population growth results in an increase in the population in the working age group, and in light of the recruitment of 35,000 in the public sector in implementation of the Royal Directives, the sector's capability to recruit more in the coming years will be limited especially in view of the fact that only 5% of the civil service employees were in the age of 50 or more in 2009. This would mean that private sector should be more effective to absorb the majority of those looking for work in the future, according to their qualification and potentials.

1. The Ministry of Manpower. (2011). Monthly Bulletin of indicators of the national labor force until the end of March 2011.

## The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

Dear reader

IN this issue of the bulletin we continue reviewing the seventh 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:

### Environment and Natural Resources

This study embodied an analysis of the environment situation in the Sultanate of Oman, especially the water resources. The paper reviewed a number of environmental problems facing the Sultanate, such as water resources deficit, desertification, intrusion of sea water due to the decreasing ground water levels, deterioration of agricultural land and the pollution of ground water in some regions. The study has also pointed out to the negative impact and accumulations accompanying the development process in view of the limited natural resources and the absence of their renewal. Among these impacts is the weak experience of the human factor especially among expatriate labour force, the competition for the limited water resources between grazing and irrigation, in addition to the increasing pressure on natural resources and ecological systems due to the expansion in agriculture, road construction, buildings and the imbalance between population distribution and that of the natural resources. The study presented a number of recommendations including raising environmental awareness in the society, tightening environmental legislations and increasing investment directed at conservation of natural resources.

### The National Population Strategy of GCC Countries

Maternity, childhood and family is the 5th dimension of the population strategy of the GCC countries, included in the general framework document. This framework was endorsed by the Supreme Council of the GCC countries in 1998 in its ninth session held in Abu Dhabi. The policies and dimensions of this dimension can be summarized as follows:

1. Provision of necessary social services to achieve family stability, cohesiveness and protection of the family from causes of weaknesses.
2. Provision of mother and child care services within the primary health care programmes for all population settlements.
3. Raising the awareness level of the GCC children, developing their capabilities and skills and taking care of those who excel or are gifted.
4. Paying attention to groups with special needs and elderly with due concern to the disabled.
5. Provision of institutional alternative for caring and raising GCC children on the basis of Arabic and Islamic values to mitigate the negative effect of household expatriate workers.
6. Supporting kindergartens and nurseries for the provision of care for children at the pre-school age .

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

#### The economic and social committee for western Asia (ESCAW).

The United Nations issued in 1973 a resolution to establish the ESCWA as a fifth committee to be added to the previously established regional committees and was given the name the Economic Committee for western Asia (ESCAW). In 1985 and in recognition of the importance of the social aspect in its duties the committee's name was changed to the Economic and Social Committee for western Asia (ESCAW).

In view of the exceptional circumstances which befall in the region because of the many wars, the committee headquarters moved between many capitals of member states until 1997 when Beirut was chosen as the permanent headquarter of the committee.

The committee members comprise of Arab countries in the continent of Asia in addition to Egypt and Sudan. The total membership of the committee is 14 countries at present.

The committee aims at strengthening socio-economic development in member states and between them, increasing the interaction, exchange of experiences, policies and lessons learned among member states. The committee also aims at achieving regional integration between member states together with acquainting the outside world about the conditions and requirements of the countries affiliated to it.

The committee endeavours to provide sectoral policies for member states as well as a platform for coordination and a host for the different experiences and a monitor for the different information. The committee performs its activities in cooperation with the different United Nations agencies and international organisation especially the Arab League and the General Secretariat of the GCC states.

Further information can be obtained through the following website:- <http://www.escaw.un.org/about/main/asp>

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

The state of Kuwait had in 1992 adopted a population policy for the purpose of rectifying the disequilibrium in its population composition for the benefit of the national population and implementing a selective immigration policy. It is worth noting that the population policy objectives were included in the development plans since 1974.

The Ministry of Planning is the official body responsible for the formulation of the population policy and its development in Kuwait in cooperation with the Ministries of interior and social affairs.

The national Arabic and Islamic identity is considered the basis for the population policies of the State of Kuwait which has adopted the upgrading of the quality of life and securing reasonable standard of living for its citizen as the main and strategic objective for the population policy. This will be accomplished through quantitative and qualitative development of national human resources in addition to correcting the population composition disequilibrium in the country.

The population policy of the State of Kuwait is incorporated in the national human resources development strategy aimed at enhancing its contribution in the different activities thus leading to the decrease in the dependence on expatriate workforce. Improving the characteristics of the national labour force and developing the education systems are considered among the most prominent challenges facing the population strategy in Kuwait.

The population policy of Kuwait embodied a number of strategies in different areas, where it is aimed at maintaining the population growth rate of Kuwaitis in that period which was 3.5%. In the area of international migration the population policy endeavoured to curtail the unnecessary expatriate population growth, and decrease their percentage and contribution in the Kuwaiti labour force.

The population policy also embodied strategies related to general, child and reproductive health and other policies in relation to the development of the education set-up, eradication of illiteracy, eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and achieving the principals of equality between the two sexes for the purpose of empowering women.

## Population Terms

### 1. Poverty line:

The level of income below which it will be impossible to bear the minimum cost of food and non-food requirements.

### 2. Median age:

The age at which half the population are younger than this age and the other half is older.

### 3. Optimum population:

It is the situation where the population of one area can develop resources to the greatest extent and achieve the maximum possible per capita income.

### 4. Dependency ratio:

Is the total population not economically active divided by economically active population.

Source: GCC for Arab states, general secretariat. The unified guide for concepts and statistical terminologies used in the gulf states, Second edition 2010, Riyadh.

## Do You Know ?

- Under five mortality rate at the world level in 2008 was 65 per 1000 live births and at national level was 11.7.<sup>1</sup>
- Total fertility rate reached 2.5 children per woman at the world level and 3.3 children per Omani woman in bearing age in 2007<sup>2</sup>
- 9.7% of GDP was the ratio of health expenditure from the GDP at the world level in 2008<sup>1</sup> while it reached 3.8% in the Sultanate in the same year<sup>2</sup>.
- 15% was the percentage of newly born (underweight) children at the world level in 2008<sup>1</sup>

1.world health organisation, health statistic report 2010. <http://www.who.in>

2.ministry of national Economy (2010), statistical year book 2009.

3.ministry of health, 2009, annual health report 2008.

## Arab and International Days

World Environment Day	5 <sup>th</sup> June
World Population Day	11 <sup>th</sup> July
World Literacy Day	8 <sup>th</sup> August
International Year of Youth	12 <sup>th</sup> August

## Population Indicators (Oman 2010) :

Omanis represented 70.6% of the total population of the sultanate.<sup>1</sup>

11% of the sultanate population live in Walayat El Seeb.<sup>1</sup>

Sex ratio among Omani was 102 and 320 among expatriates.<sup>1</sup>

Special education school students totaled 577.<sup>2</sup>

The total number of Omani households in the sultanate reached 260,120.<sup>1</sup>

The highest percentage of expatriate was in Muscat governorate at 45.2%.<sup>1</sup>

The total number of student enrolled at all education level reached 523,832.<sup>2</sup>

The total number of Omanis in paid employment at the private sector reached 207,009.<sup>3</sup>

1. ministry of national economy, the general census of population housing and establishments 2011. Final results 2010.

2. Ministry of Education. (2011). Summary Education Statistics 2010/2011 .

3. The Ministry of Manpower. (2011). Monthly Bulletin of indicators of the national labor force until the end of December 2010.

## Technical Office of the National Population Committee Publications

### Millennium Development Goals Mid Term Evaluation

The publication represents the second report of the sultanate in the evaluation of progress achieved toward the implementation of the MDG. It was issued in both Arabic and English languages and included the updated framework for monitoring the MDG. The analysis embodied in the report was based on the 2008 indicators which represent the middle period specified for achieving the MDG. The report shows that the Sultanate has achieved many of the MDG and is on the way to accomplish the rest.



## Invitation for Participation

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

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