

# Hi! I am Mariam

I am an Arab girl  
One of 40 Million



## ASRO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### ASRO



### Shaping opinion

On the occasion of World Statistics Day, UNFPA ASRO Regional Director, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, penned two op-eds in English titled '[Statistics connecting the world with the data we trust](#)' and in Arabic titled '[الإحصاءات الموثوقة لغة العلم ورفاه العالم](#)' to highlight the importance of reliable and authoritative data and its role in advancing the sustainable development goals. The op-eds were published on [Ahrām Weekly](#) and [Elpah news](#) websites on 22 October. *Photo © UNFPA Somalia*

Girls must **feel safe**  
Girls must **feel empowered**  
Girls must **feel equal**



'Mariam', an Advocate for the rights of adolescent girls in the Arab region

and reproductive health responses, allowing actors working in similar contexts to replicate the successful practices and to address potential challenges early on. The second report captures the fundamental lessons learned within the COVID-19 crisis, offering a simple blueprint for responses and initiatives that can be implemented within other programmes.



## The HR Corner

### Managing Family Relationships during COVID-19

With many changes in schools and workplaces due to the coronavirus pandemic, many of us are dealing with a new, and often very stressful, family situation. As part of its efforts to prioritize staff welfare, UNFPA ASRO organized a session on 'Managing Family Relationships during COVID-19'. The session was delivered by Counselor [Kate Bean](#) on 14 October.

[Watch the session](#)

## GCC



## Building the capacity of lawmakers on CEDAW convention

On 6 and 7 October, UNFPA GCC country office and the Ministry of Social Development in Oman held a capacity building workshop for the lawmakers and judges of the Supreme Judicial Council. The workshop reviewed the main provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and tapped into the comparative legal analysis conducted by UNFPA in 2019 to pinpoint the required changes in national laws. It also addressed the provisions related to women protection, social safety nets, and gender based-violence prevention and reporting mechanisms. *Photo © UNFPA GCC*

## LIBYA

### Protecting the rights, safety and dignity of women and young people in Safe Spaces

In October, social workers at UNFPA-supported Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Tripoli, Sabha and Benghazi continued providing remote and in-person services, reaching 292 women and girls through awareness sessions on gender-related topics, 336 through livelihood and life skills training sessions, and 417 through remote psychosocial support and information sessions. Furthermore, UNFPA and the International Medical Corps (IMC) trained 26 staff of the Ministries of Social Affairs, Education and Interior, LibAid and a local civil society organization on the key concepts and guiding principles of CSW.



The Kingdom of Netherlands contributed US\$7 million to UNFPA to provide life-saving emergency reproductive health medicines and supplies across the 333 districts of Yemen in the next four years. The new contribution will support the procurement of contraceptives and life-saving medicines to help prevent maternal and new-born deaths. It will also strengthen the supply chain and logistical systems to improve the reproductive healthcare in the country. *Photo © UNFPA Yemen*



## Supporting health facilities in south Yemen

In October, 61 reproductive health facilities across 10 governorates in south Yemen received essential reproductive health supplies as part of UNFPA efforts to improve the quality and availability of reproductive health services in Yemen. *Photo © UNFPA Yemen*

*"The equipment arrived at a time when we were in desperate need," said Dr. Hosni bin Fadl, Director of Gil Bawazir Hospital, one of the health facilities that received UNFPA medical supplies. "The hospital serves more than 8,000 people. There has been a recent increase in the number of C-Section and normal deliveries performed at our hospital. This equipment will help us meet this need."*

## Strengthening skills of midwives



UNFPA conducted an 18-day training programme on emergency obstetric and newborn care in Socotra governorate targeting 24 midwives from different districts with the support of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief). The training came as part of UNFPA efforts to strengthen the capacity of health workers to improve the RH services in Yemen. *Photo © UNFPA Yemen*

*"I am now able to identify signs of complication before. I was able to save a mother and her newborn. I used a partograph that I was trained on to identify signs of complication and immediately I referred her to Hadibo hospital where she was able to deliver with the assistance of a gynaecologist." said Mona Zakaria, one of the participants.*

## EGYPT

### Raising awareness about population issues



On 1-5 October, the Y-PEER Network held a five-day training of trainers (ToT) workshop in

## Launching the SLHDS 2020 results

The Government of Somaliland, through the Central Statistics Department at the Ministry of Planning and National Development and the Ministry of Health Development, launched the results of the Somaliland Health and Demographic Survey (SLHDS) with UNFPA support. The study aims to provide up-to-date information on health indicators, including fertility levels, fertility preferences, awareness and use of birth spacing methods, breastfeeding practices, nutritional status of children, adult and maternal mortality, maternal and child health, chronic diseases, awareness and behaviours regarding HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. It also provides important information on women empowerment, GBV and other vital socio-economic characteristics.



[Read the full report](#)

## Fight against GBV intensifies amidst COVID-19

On 13 October, 20 alternative dispute resolution officers in Puntland received training on sexual offences law, human rights and gender, rule of law, and referral mechanism of GBV cases to formal courts. UNFPA and its partners stepped up their efforts towards ending GBV amidst COVID-19 as GBV cases increased in many areas due to the lockdown. *Photo © UNFPA Egypt*

