IPPF Arab World Region ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ACRONYMS 🗲

ACAHM	Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine			
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome			
AAPF	Algerian Association for Family Planning			
AMPF	Mauritanian Association for the Promotion of the Family			
AMPF	Moroccan Family Planning Association			
ATSR	Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health			
AWRO	Arab World Regional Office			
AWR	Arab World Region			
BRHA	Bahrain Reproductive Health Association			
CAWTAR	Center of Arab Women for Training and Research			
CBOs	Community Based Organizations			
CMV	Cytomegalovirus			
СР	Collaborative partnership			

CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education			
СҮР	Couple years of protection			
DHI	Digital health interventions			
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade			
EFPA	Egyptian Family Planning Association			
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia			
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation			
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting			
GBV	Gender-Based Violence			
GoJ	Government of Japan			
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus			
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development			
IDPS	Internally displaced persons			
IEC	Information, Education and Communication			
IFH	Institute for Family Health			
IPES	Integrated Package of Essential Services			
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation			
IUD	Intrauterine device			
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency			
JSB	Japanese Supplementary Budget			
JTF	Japan Trust Fund			
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer , Intersex			
MENA	Middle East and North Africa			
MA	Member Association			

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization			
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation			
ONUSSR	National University Observatory for Sexual and Reproductive Health			
PFPPA	Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association			
R-FPAP	Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan			
RD	Regional director			
RTG	Regional technical group			
RTISALA	Real Time Information			
SALAMA	Lebanese Association For Family Health			
SDG	Service Delivery Point			
SDP	Safe Delivery Point			
SFPA	Sudan Family Planning Association			
SFPA	Syrian Family Planning Association			
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence			
SP	Service Provider			
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection			
ТВА	Traditional birth attendant			
UN	United Nations			
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund			
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees			
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund			
WHO	World Health Organization			
YARH	Yemeni Association for Reproductive Health			

Regional Overview Who We Are ?

International Planned Parenthood Federation Arab World Region (IPPF AWR)

IPPF Arab World Region is one of six global regions within the International Planned Parenthood Federation. It operates across 14 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Somaliland, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, Jordan, and Pakistan. The region comprises 12 Member Associations and 2 collaborative partners.



Headquartered in Tunis, the regional office collaborates with governments and stakeholders to advance sexual and reproductive health across the region, ensuring that no one is left behind. Niche areas that AWRO Promotes



Humanitarian crises



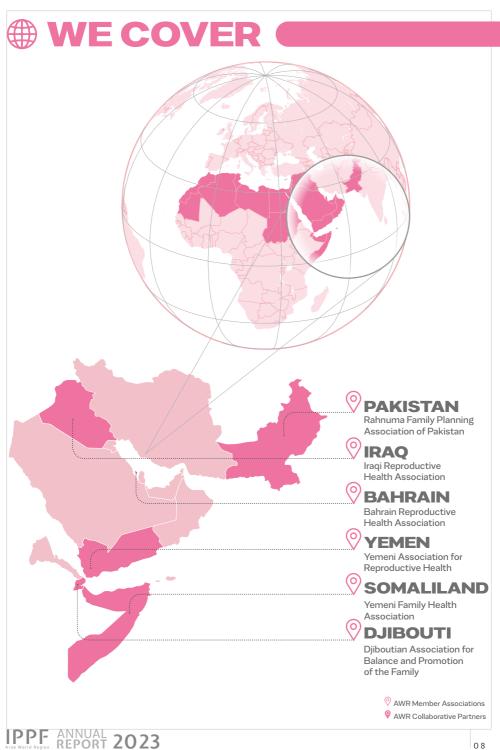
SRH services with a main focus on FGM / GBV / HIV / FP

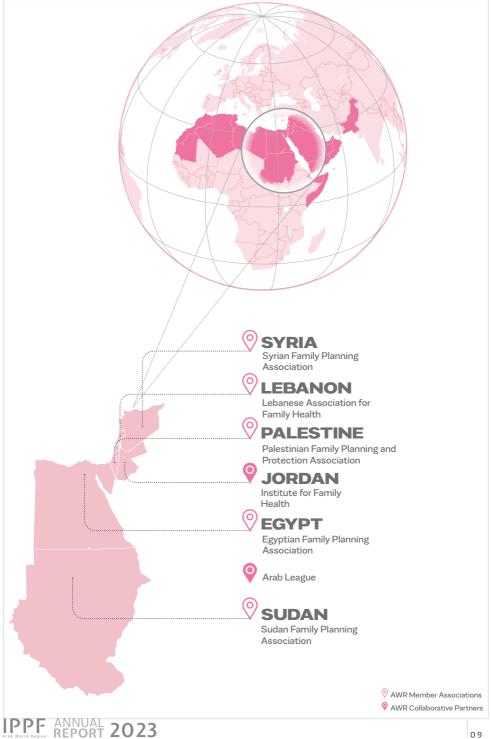


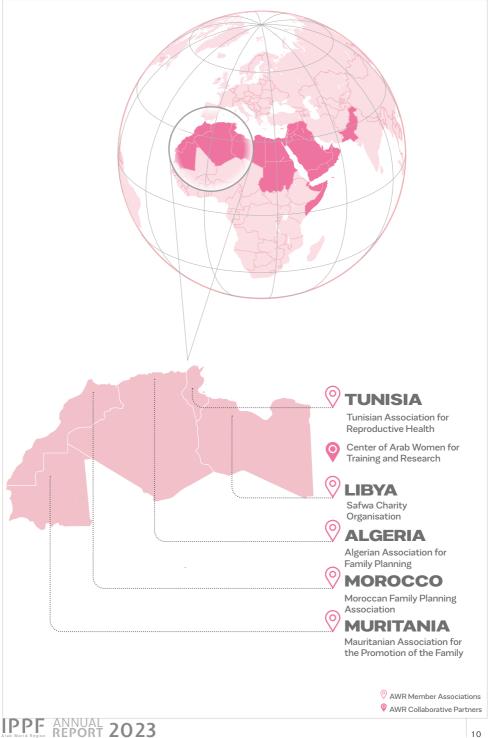
Minorities and excluded communities



Youth and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for the entire population, including parents and peers.









Dr. Fadoua Bakhadda

RD MESSAGE

2023, a difficult humanitarian crisis year for Arab World region. It started by Sudan in April and ended by Palestine in October 2023, with natural disasters over the year: earthquake, floods...etc. Women youth became more vulnerable than before. We ended the year with some good achievements, but many challenges and limits to overcome.

This 2023 report comes to share some important figures over the regions; from wish, impact is meaningful, mainly on youth under 25, women under humanitarian crisis...etc. It reflects our commitment to end FGM, bringing evidence base and services together to make social changes. Minorities, mainly LGBT community over the region got support on how to be networked regionally and get their voice heard.

Today, Arab world region recognizes barriers (cultural, political, and economic); however, we are determined to move forward to serve the unserved ones.

OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

21,7 M TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED



In 2023, IPPF served a total of 21.7 million clients. This figure highlights our unwavering commitment to providing integrated healthcare to everyone, regardless of race, gender, or income, and no matter how remote their location.



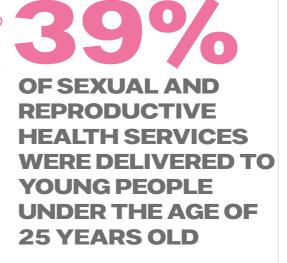




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Today young people under the age of 25 represent about 40% of the Global population. In the Arab world region, this rises to above 50% in countries such as Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and Jordan. This is the largest generation of young people, ever, and are a vastly diverse group of individuals.



2419101 COUPLE YEARS OF PROTECTION (CYP)



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Member Associations design youth-friendly health facilities to increase access for young people in terms of opening hours and safe spaces that ensure privacy and confidentiality. Values clarification workshops and training courses equip IPPF staff with the skills needed to provide quality information and services to young people in a non-judgemental environment.



Humanitarian

HUMANITARIAN CLIENTS VS TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED

10.6m

Total clients served in humanitarian setting.

49%

Of total clients were served in humanitarian settings.

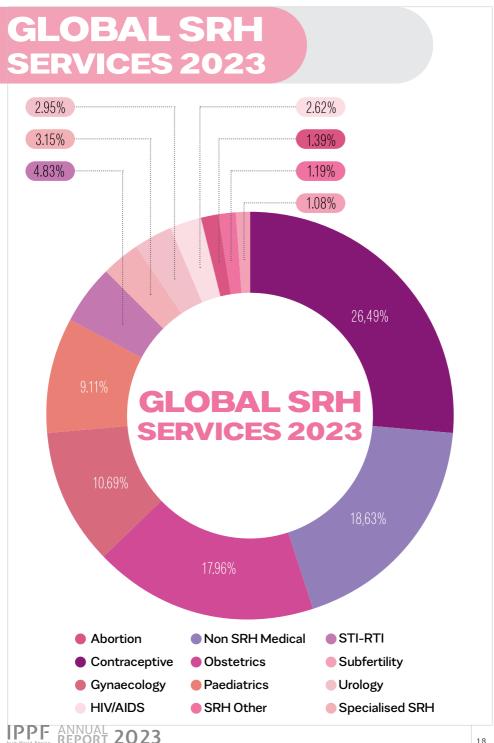
CBD/CBS 0,9M (8,1%)

ASSOCIATED CLINICS 2,5M (23,6%)

MOBILE/OUTREACH 3,4M (32,0%)

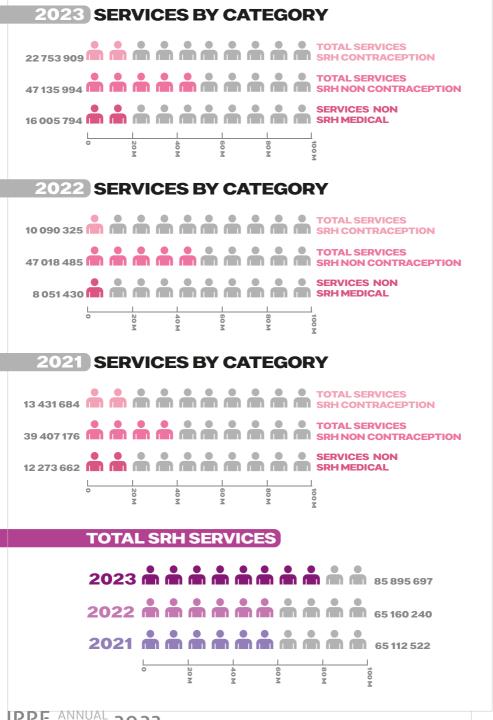
STATIC CLINICS 3,8M (36,3%)

CHANNELS BREAKDOWN



FAMILY PLANNING VS SRH SERVICES

SERVICES BY CATEGORY	2023	2022	2021
TOTAL SERVICES SRH CONTRACEPTION	22 753 909	10 090 325	13 431 684
TOTAL SERVICES SRH NON CONTRACEPTION	47 135 994	47 018 485	39 407 176
SERVICES NON SRH MEDICAL	16 005 794	8 051 430	12 273 662
TOTAL SERVICES	85 895 697	65 160 240	65 112 522



2023 Best Practices

Pillar 1: Centre Care on People

PALESTINE

Resilience and Solidarity in Supporting Women's Empowerment and Health

October 7th, 2023, the Gaza Strip faced devastating turmoil. Despite destroying PFPPA's Safe Delivery Point and personal losses, dedicated staff like social worker Omar Khateeb and SRHR service provider Wafa Abu Hashish continued their mission. They provided tele counseling, pre and postnatal care, and other essential services amidst the chaos. Their resilience and unwavering commitment to their community highlight the transformative impact of solidarity and support in overcoming adversity and promoting health and empowerment. Besides, MA's midwives in Gaza made exceptional efforts to continue providing services to almost 600 Palestinian women, including treating reproductive infections, urinary tract infections, anemia, and other diseases. The PFPPA midwives assisted pregnant women to ensure a healthy pregnancy and avoid miscarriage to the best of their abilities, despite extreme stress levels and the scarcity of FP methods, medicine, and food options. Moreover, PFPPA distributed improvised hygiene tools to the IDPs in Gaza. In addition, offered basic counselling to the women and girls in need.



Building Solidarity for Maternal Health: Emergency Obstetric Unit in Yemen

The Yemeni Association for Reproductive Health, with the support of stakeholders, put in place an emergency obstetric unit at the Mamdara Center in Aden Governorate. This initiative, aimed at addressing the high demand for obstetric services among internally displaced persons, involved building two rooms and a bathroom with the Health Office in Sheikh Othman District. The center provides essential pregnancy monitoring and emergency obstetric care to the community.

Up of today 287 622 Services have been provided.



Sudan Family Planning Association's Efforts in Combating SGBV During Conflict

In response to escalating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during Sudan's ongoing conflict, the Sudan Family Planning Association (SFPA) has been actively providing essential healthcare services to survivors. Despite facing challenges such as attacks on their facilities, SFPA remains steadfast in delivering support through community-based initiatives and partnerships. Their interventions include training for service providers, awareness campaigns, and the establishment of referral pathways, resulting in a notable increase in services provided to survivors. SFPA's unwavering commitment underscores the vital role of civil society in addressing SGBV amid the crisis.

Up of today, they have been able to provide 22 007 SGBV services.



Male Contraception



IPPF and WHO conducted a research study on men's willingness to use new male contraception methods. The study reported that 65% of men are likely willing to use new male contraception (MC), with a high preference for oral pills and clinic injections. This study challenges stereotypes about men being disinterested in pregnancy prevention, supporting the development of new MC, especially for low- and middle-income markets.



Women's Health and Menstrual Hygiene

Women's health and menstrual hygiene has been debated by the Algerian MA as a critical public health issue, breaking the silence around this topic. The conference questioned the lack of information on the topic either at school, at home, as part of CSE... etc. Stakeholders who attended the conference, Ministry of Health representatives, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, journalists, emphasize the urgent need to include hygiene menstruation as school's activities besides CS main actions. The Algerian MA is committed to review and adjust its comprehensive sexual education manual to give more scientific evidences regarding menstrual hygiene.



HIV /AIDS and Domestic Violence



The Bahrain IPPF MA launched HIV/AIDS and domestic violence campaign along Bahrain's coastlines. The campaign aimed to raise awareness on HIV/ AIDS psychological consequences on families, mainly domestic violence. Domestic violence becomes frequent among families in Bahrain, mainly for PLHIV, where the infectious complications are still considered stigmatizing and limiting people's abilities to function in society. This campaign of two days attracted youth and teenagers who came to ask questions. More than 560 attendees attended the campaign. The Bahrain MA, through that campaign, gathered testimonies to support better psychosocial and wellbeing youth sessions in the near future. It will also offer the MA to share real stories and case studies that will serve as learning experiences for marginalized communities in the country, mainly migrants.



Comprehensive Care focus on safety

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In Yemen, beneficiary A, a 17-year-old orphan, found refuge from violence and mistreatment at our Maternal and Child Health Center in Sana'a. Through tailored services and psychological support, she experienced a positive pregnancy journey.

Beneficiary B, a mother of six, faced economic hurdles in accessing family planning. YARAH offers 24/7 maternity services with free follow-up and counseling, empowering her to make informed choices about her reproductive health despite financial constraints.

Beneficiary C, a displaced woman, received thorough care at our center, successfully carrying her pregnancy to term despite previous miscarriages. This highlights the Yemeni Association for Reproductive Health's commitment to providing comprehensive reproductive health services and empowering women to navigate pregnancy challenges.

Beneficiary D, facing chronic hypertension during her pregnancy, received essential care at the Mamdara Center in Aden, ensuring a safe delivery. This reflects IPPF's dedication to holistic reproductive care for vulnerable individuals and promoting maternal health and reproductive autonomy in Yemen.



Capacity Building for Women-Friendly Healthcare Centers

In 2023, the Institute for Family Health (IFH) enhanced sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services across five locations through comprehensive capacity-building efforts. This included 17 continuous medical education lectures and two major training courses for all medical staff. Trainings focused on procedural manuals for women-friendly healthcare centers and covered essential SRH services, including antenatal and postnatal care, post-abortion care, and management of conditions such as gestational diabetes, hypertension, STIs, reproductive tract infections, and osteoporosis. Additionally, priority areas included diagnosing and managing leiomyoma, endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, preeclampsia, and clinical management of rape and sexual violence survivors. IPPF/AWRO supported IFH's efforts to prioritize comprehensive SRH services and enhance medical staff expertise.



Empowerment through SALAMA's SRH Project

In a Syrian refugee camp, Fatima, a young mother of two, experienced a life-changing transformation thanks to SALAMA's Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) project. After fleeing conflict in Syria, Fatima struggled to access basic healthcare services in a foreign land. Learning about SALAMA's initiatives through community awareness sessions, she attended a session and received vital information on family planning, maternal health, and sexual health. Empowered with this knowledge, Fatima made informed reproductive health decisions and received regular prenatal care during her third pregnancy.

Inspired by her newfound understanding, Fatima became a community advocate, sharing her knowledge with other women and encouraging them to attend SALAMA's sessions. Her efforts highlighted the importance of accessible SRH services, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility. Fatima's journey underscores SALAMA's mission to empower individuals and create a positive ripple effect within communities, emphasizing the profound impact of education and empowerment.

Pillar 2: Move the Sexuality Agenda



Promoting Dignity and Well-being for Elderly people and Persons with Disabilities

On June 18, 2023, the Institute for Family Health (IFH) held a comprehensive awareness campaign at their Sweileh center to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Torture Against the Elderly. The initiative focused on advocating for the rights and well-being of elderly and disabled individuals, highlighting IFH's tailored services for these communities. Participants discussed violence and sexual abuse against these vulnerable groups and strategies to enhance their community participation and inclusion. Sessions also covered chronic disease management, age-related health concerns, and cancer screenings. This campaign aligns with promoting inclusive health education and advocacy for marginalized populations.



FGM Masculinity Electronic Platform to end FGM



CAWTAR launched with IPPF Arab world an electronic platform to share good masculinity practices to end FGM. It is a discussion space for journalists, a place where to build narratives, a source of information, a supportive platform to men to fight against FGM, besides a civil society virtual gathering. Please visit us at:

https://www.men-end-fgm.org/

PAKISTAN

Empowering Women Through Family Planning and Telehealth



Pakistan is encouraging women to take control of their reproductive health through activism and innovative healthcare solutions. Field teams like Sadia are removing societal barriers to family planning services, clarifying myths, and allowing people to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Telemedicine is transforming healthcare access for women who are limited by cultural restrictions, connecting them with qualified doctors remotely. This narrative demonstrates the potential of telemedicine to guarantee equal healthcare access and advance Centre Care on People within the IPPF's strategic framework. A case study from Quetta, Balochistan, demonstrates how a women's-friendly environment and participation in gender-based violence sessions assisted Razzaq Khan in giving up violence and seeking family planning opportunities.

SOMALILAND

Open Communication Bridges Divide: Women in Somaliland Find Common Ground on Sexual Rights

A successful effort in Somaliland facilitated transformative interactions between over 10,000 grassroots women and female political leaders. The effort arose from advocacy work in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), which was motivated by the need to effectively engage decision-makers. Both parties addressed complaints through open communication, which promoted understanding and harmony. The program is a critical opportunity to mobilize collective action and promote meaningful change in Somaliland's SRHR advocacy arena.



Promoting comprehensive sexual education for soldiers

In 2023, the Institute for Family Health (IFH) enhanced sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services across five locations through comprehensive capacity-building efforts. This included 17 continuous medical education lectures and two major training courses for all medical staff. Trainings focused on procedural manuals for women-friendly healthcare centers and covered essential SRH services, including antenatal and postnatal care, post-abortion care, and management of conditions such as gestational diabetes, hypertension, STIs, reproductive tract infections, and osteoporosis. Additionally, priority areas included diagnosing and managing leiomyoma, endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, preeclampsia, and clinical management of rape and sexual violence survivors. IPPF/AWRO supported IFH's efforts to prioritize comprehensive SRH services and enhance medical staff expertise.

TUNISIA

"The Words We Don't Say"

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The ATSR has produced a powerful short film titled "The Words We Don't Say" to advocate for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) among young people. This film emphasizes the significant roles of the media and parents in advancing these important rights.

The film aims to raise awareness about ESC/DSDR and encourages thoughtful consideration of topics often deemed taboo. It strives to educate youth from diverse backgrounds in an engaging, captivating, and innovative manner.

To amplify our message, the ATSR plans to showcase this film at an upcoming educational film festival, sparking crucial conversations and promoting awareness on these critical issues.

The film was presented at Tunisian film festivals. We seek to initiate vital discussions, foster awareness, and engage key stakeholders, such as the media and parents, in promoting positive change and advancing the sexuality agenda.

TUNISIA AND MOROCCO

Innovative Board Game: "My Body, My Choice, My Rules" for Comprehensive Sexuality Education



ATSR and AMPF have developed a groundbreaking board game, "My Body, My Choice, My Rules," to transform the tools used for informal education on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). Modeled after the popular game of Goose, this interactive and entertaining board game serves as an effective platform to deliver essential knowledge about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). By providing scientifically accurate and credible information in a fun and engaging manner, "My Body, My Choice, My Rules" aims to educate players and promote awareness on SRHR, making critical information both accessible and enjoyable.



Overcome the disability

Amani's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and determination in overcoming challenges. Despite being diagnosed with Down syndrome, her passion for learning and self-improvement remained unwavering. Since joining the Syrian Family Planning Association, she has experienced tremendous personal growth and expanded her dreams. She became a peer educator for youth with Down syndrome.

Starting with a love for drawing, Amani achieved her high school diploma and pursued a bachelor's degree. Eager to further develop her skills, she enrolled in a computer literacy course at the Women's Support and Empowerment Center in Damascus, under the supervision of Syrian Family Planning Association staff and with support from UNFPA Syria.

At twenty-seven, Amani embodies resilience and determination, illustrating how empowerment in CSE and access to education can enable individuals to realize their full potential and thrive despite obstacles.



Arab Adolescent Forum: Call to Youth Action

The Arab Adolescent Forum 2023 recommends a multi-faceted approach to empower youth in the region. This includes advocating for the integration of Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) into formal school curricula, establishing community-based programs with local engagement, promoting youth-friendly health services through digital platforms, encouraging parental involvement, providing comprehensive training for educators, implementing peer education programs, and advocating for policy changes at regional and national levels. These measures aim to ensure age-appropriate, culturally sensitive information on sexual and reproductive health, foster open dialogue, and create a supportive environment for informed decision-making among Arab adolescents. 120 people attended the forum: stakeholders, youth, CS, journalists, and activists. All of them endorsed the final declaration to review its achievement by the next edition in Egypt in 2024.

Pillar 3: Solidarity for Change

LGBTQI Regional Platform

IPPF AWRO convened a meeting with LGBTQI+ and sex worker representatives from Pakistan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Lebanon. Objectives included actionable networking strategies, enhancing the IPPF Policy on Sex Work in the MENA region, and aligning with IPPF Strategy 2028.

National activities are essential to address challenges faced by communities, including discrimination, legal barriers, and stigma. Local organizations indicate that initiatives should be undertaken, such as advocacy, awareness campaigns, and the provision of essential services, to tackle these issues.

Priority areas for intervention, identified through working groups, included safety and security, access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, psychological support, and advocacy needs.

Regional activities are crucial for highlighting the significance of networks, sharing resources, building capacity, and countering opposition. Participants recommended establishing a regional platform to disseminate knowledge and address diverse needs throughout the region.

Discussions on IPPF Policy on Sex Work and the establishment of a Regional Platform emphasized the need for community-led governance, inclusivity, and independence from IPPF. Objectives were drafted, focusing on advocacy, support, evidence-based policymaking, and creating a safe environment.

Arab Council of Ministers of Health to eliminate sexual gender-based violence and criminalize female genital mutilation.



The League of Arab States showed its support to the IPPF combating FGM center in Mauritania through a statement, urging the Arab Council of Ministers of Health to eliminate sexual gender-based violence and criminalize female genital mutilation.

IPPF's involvement in these efforts underscores its commitment to addressing FGM comprehensively. From organizing essential workshops to supporting regional initiatives and advocating for legal measures against FGM, the organization's multifaceted approach highlights its dedication to the cause and its significant contribution to the fight against FGM in the Arab States region.

The Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development

Regional Conference on Population The Arab and Development, organized by IPPF-Arab World Region, ESCWA, UNFPA ASRO, and the League of Arab States, took place in September 2023 in Beirut. The conference aimed to assess the progress of Arab states in implementing the 2013 Cairo Declaration on Population and Development. It served as a platform for governments and stakeholders to share experiences, identify challenges, and explore policy solutions. The conference featured sessions on various topics, including poverty, health, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and humanitarian crises. The outcome document, derived from consultations and presentations, will contribute to the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The conference report will be submitted to the United Nations Commission on Population and Development in April 2024.

Pillar 4: Nurture our Federation

Campaign Against Female Genital Mutilation: Empowering Communities for Lasting Change



In 2023, the Arab World Regional Office (AWRO) of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) launched a new theory of change for combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through workshops. This comprehensive strategy aims to redefine global priorities for FGM programming. The FGM Excellence Center in Mauritania received technical support and training to improve care quality, in line with the latest IPPF guidelines. These efforts led to a strategic meeting in Tunis, resulting in recommendations to strengthen the center's role in guiding IPPF's global efforts to end FGM.

Regional Technical Group meeting



AWRO member associates formed the only MA-driven working group to advance the implementation of the new IPPF strategy. This technical working group for the Arab world Member Associates held six meetings in 2023 with various discussions on several topics and exchanged ideas and best practices among member associates concerning the quality of work and adherence to the quality of care recommended by IPPF Client Cantered Guidelines. The group also shared and discussed new delivery methods, innovations, and best practices in several fields of implementation, like HIV, GBV, humanitarian approaches, youth, and abortion.

Together We Rise

Monthly team meetings are essential to our federation's growth and development. These sessions generate a strong sense of community, allowing us to exchange resources and support one another's efforts. We talk about our advocacy goals, plan our activities, and learn from one another's experiences. We define our federation's goals, develop a common vision for the future, and challenge the status quo. By increasing awareness about important issues, we may support good change and attract new members and volunteers, broadening our impact. We hold ourselves accountable to our promises and uphold our common ideals.



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