

Raising awareness and overcoming challenges to achieving comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health in Jordan



SRHR research projects of NWO-WOTRO - SUMMARY BRIEF FOR JORDAN

INTRODUCTION

This summary brief is based on the collective learnings from the five SRHR research projects of NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development in Jordan. The research projects were conducted between 2015-2018, and were part of a three-country research programme supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Four research projects

1. SRHR of women and young people in Jordan: a mixed methods study using interactive theatre
2. Understanding and meeting the SRH needs of Jordanian and Syrian Youth
3. Syrian Refugee Youth in Jordan: early marriages in perspective
4. Examining reproductive health services of women, female youth, and female refugees in Northern Jordan with a behavioral economics lens



"My body is the same whether I am married or not"
-- Jordanian youth at the Youth Cafe, in-country workshop
March 2020



20% of the Jordanian population are young, aged 15-24

INSIGHTS

- **Parent-child relationship:** youth want to go to their parents for SRH information, but parents are mostly ill-equipped to provide SRH information
- **Youth:** mostly face conservative social and cultural norms, with the 'culture of shame' limiting the reproductive health-related support, information, and services they can receive
- **Young males:** low level of SRH knowledge
- **Married women of reproductive age:** counselling sessions in primary health care clinics are passive, short, lack privacy and might not address the mother's full needs
- **Women not currently married:** stigma and negative stereotypes and perceptions
- **Refugees:** financial issues that limit access to health care, Syrian girls at higher risk of early marriage and the intersection between RH, mental health and GBV
- **Service providers:** heavy workloads, moral, religious and cultural barriers
- It is necessary to involve each population group in defining the best service for them, and implicitly, the barriers to their use. A 'one size fits all' approach in SRH is unlikely to be effective



WHY IS THIS RESEARCH IMPORTANT?
The sensitive cultural context surrounding the youth SRH in Jordan makes studying it very challenging. There are few studies that focus on understanding youth's perspectives on SRH in Jordan, especially unmarried youth. As there is limited data, many argue there is no need.

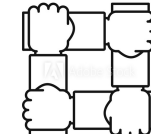
"What do Jordanian and Syrian youth have to say?"

The sensitive cultural context surrounding the youth SRH in Jordan makes studying it very challenging. A policy brief was published on why youth SRH matters in Jordan.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Involve youth and other vulnerable populations in defining the services they need



Use innovative and participatory methods to encourage dialogue



Work with health care providers to address their perceived biases to SRH and expand the general access of their services



Engage relevant and broad-based Ministries to ensure this is widespread across both public and private sectors

Additional project resources

Final workshop in Jordan March 2020

<https://cutt.ly/UiLjji>

Policy Briefs:

<https://cutt.ly/Tu8VRFC>, <https://cutt.ly/iu8BweX>

<https://cutt.ly/su8Bldp>

NWO WOTRO SRHR Programme site:

<https://cutt.ly/Su8B5lc>