

Concept Note and Agenda:

Regional Workshop: “Mobilizing Youth to Promote Childcare and Household Responsibilities of Men and Boys in the Arab Region”

Dates: 5-6 June 2023

Venue and Location: InterContinental Muscat hotel (Al Kharjiya Street, Al Shati St, Area 114, Muscat, Oman)

Organizers: Arab Women Organization and UN Women

Background and Justification:

Global evidence shows¹ that the equal sharing of household responsibilities between males and females is key to achieve healthy and thriving families, communities and societies. Data reveals that engaged and positive fatherhood leads to more empowered women and girls, while making men and boys more likely to take their share in household work and less likely to perpetrate violence against partners and children. Additionally, research demonstrates that men themselves benefit from greater engagement in caregiving by improving their physical and mental health.

However, official data documented by UN Women² indicates that major efforts are still needed to reduce gender inequality in the Arab region when it comes to unpaid caregiving, as women are still performing many more hours than men in unpaid care work: between 17 and 34 hours per week, compared to only between 1 to 5 hours per week invested by men, depending on the country. Globally, women spend around three times as many hours on unpaid care work as men.³

This dramatic gap in the Arab region continues to hamper women’s access to paid employment and to restrain men, children and families from benefiting of a higher involvement of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work.

Positively, the findings of the IMAGES studies in six countries (Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Tunisia)⁴ show that around half of the men surveyed wish to spend more time with their children and that a vast majority of men and women are in favor of paternity leave of at least two weeks of duration. Some other evidence undertaken by UN Women in partnership with the Arab World for Research and Development⁵ also demonstrates an increasing interest from government representatives and other stakeholders to promote the involvement of males in caregiving and household responsibilities in the Arab region.

¹ State of the World’s Fathers reports 2021 and 2019. Available online [here](#).

² UN Women (2020). *The Role of the Care Economy in Promoting Gender Equality: Progress of Women in the Arab States 2020*. Available online [here](#).

³ UN Women. (2020). *Whose time to care? Unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19*. UN Women.

⁴ IMAGES studies from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine are available online [here](#); IMAGES Tunisia is available [here](#); and IMAGES Jordan [here](#).

⁵ UN Women (2023, not yet published). *Knowledge, Perceptions, Attitudes and Practices of Institutional Actors on Paternity Leave and on the Role of Men in Childcare in the MENA Region*.

However, paternity leave is not sufficiently recognized across the Arab region. Only six countries count with paternity leave, namely Morocco (up to 15 paid days for civil servants, and 3 paid days for employees in private sector), Palestine (three days for civil servants), Jordan (three paid days), Saudi Arabia (three paid days), Tunisia (two paid days) and Egypt (one paid day).

Capitalizing on global and regional evidence as well as on existing good programmatic and policy practices that promote unpaid caregiving and domestic work of men and boys, as well as youth engagement for gender equality, Arab Women Organization and UN Women are organizing this two-day workshop to promote knowledge sharing and activate a regional agenda that mobilizes youth for this important endeavor.

Objectives of Workshop:

- Present global and regional evidence on how the involvement of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work benefit individuals, families, communities and societies at-large;
- Promote the exchange of knowledge and sharing of good practices and vision among key government representatives and experts on youth engagement for gender equality and the involvement of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work;
- Discuss challenges and opportunities in countries from the Arab region to promote unpaid caregiving and domestic work of males;
- Identify common ground and joint actions for youth to promote unpaid care and domestic work of men and boys across the Arab region.

Participants: Around 50 government representatives and youth leaders and experts from the Arab region.

Agenda of workshop:

Agenda – Day 1 (Monday 5 th June)		
Time (Muscat time)	Sessions	Key Speakers/Facilitators
09:00-09:10	Welcome and logistical notes	AWO and UN Women team
9:10 – 9:30	Opening Remarks	<p>Dr. Fadia Kiwan, Director General of Arab Women Organization</p> <p>Ms. Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler, Deputy Regional Director for the Arab States, UN Women</p> <p>H.E. Mrs. Maani bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Director General of Family Development at the</p>

		Ministry of Social Development - Sultanate of Oman Member of the Executive Council of the Arab Women Organization
9:30-10:00	Ice Breaker Session	
Part 1	Gender Stereotypes and Status of Gender Equality in Arab Region & Global and Regional Evidence on Caregiving and Household Responsibilities of Men and Boys	Moderated by AWO
10:00-10:45	<u>Presentation</u> : Addressing Gender Socialization & Masculinity Norms: Gender, Social Roles and Stereotypes	Ghada Hammam , Gender Expert
	Q&A	
10:45-11:45	Working Groups: Exercise on Social Roles	Moderated by Ghada Hammam , Gender Expert
	Group Presentations	
11:45-12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00-01:00	<u>Presentation</u> : Status of Gender Equality in the Arab region and the importance of the involvement of males in caregiving and household responsibilities: What do we know from global and regional evidence?	Rodrigo Montero , Regional Programme Manager, UN Women's Regional Office for Arab States
	Q&A	
01:00-02:15	Lunch Break	
02:15-03:15	<u>Presentation</u> : Findings and recommendations of the regional research <i>Knowledge, Perceptions, Attitudes and Practices of Institutional Actors on Paternity Leave and on the Role of Men in Childcare in the MENA Region</i>	Dr. Nader Said-Foqahaa and Dr. Raghida Ghamlouch , Senior Researchers at Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD)
	Q&A	
Part 2	Panel Discussion: Good Practices on Youth Engagement for Gender Equality and Positive Masculinities	Moderated by AWO
03:15 - 04:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WeRise gamification app and other youth-led initiatives for gender equality in Arab Region</i>– By Mr. Laith Abu-Taleb, Youth Mobilization Specialist, UN Women's Regional Office for Arab States • <i>The role of men to promote gender equality in Arab countries: Good examples from the Maghreb</i> – By Ms. Sofia Slami, Founder of Houwa Li Hiya and President of Man for Women Association 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The journey of HeForShe in Oman</i> – By Mr. Hafidh Ali Saleem Al Shukairi, Leader of HeForShe in Oman
	Q&A
04:45 - 05:00	Coffee break
05:00 - 06:00	<p><u>Discussion with all participants</u>: Based on the good practices presented, as well as the existing challenges and opportunities, how can the involvement of men in unpaid caregiving and household responsibilities be promoted across the Arab Region?</p> <p>Moderated by Ghada Hammam</p>

Agenda – Day 2 (Tuesday 6th June)		
Time	Sessions	Key Speakers/Facilitators
9:00 – 9:05	Welcome and recap from Day 1	AWO and UN Women
Part 3	<u>Panel Discussion: The Role of Religion and Religious Actors in Promoting Gender Equality in the Household and Beyond</u>	Moderated by UN Women
9:05 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>'You are all shepherds': Some religious foundations for shared care</i> - By Dr. Nayla Tabbara, President of Adyan Foundation (Lebanon) <i>Mobilizing youth to promote childcare and household responsibilities of men and boys: The experience of the Mohammadian League of Scholars</i> - By Mr. Yacine Bellarab, Chargé de Mission of the General Secretariat of Rabita Mohammedia des Oulémas (Morocco) <i>Men and Women for Gender Equality: Reviewing current religious discourses</i> - By Ms. Heba Ahmed, Researcher in Gender and Islamic Studies (Arab region) 	
	Q&A	
Part 4	<u>Panel Discussion: Good Practices on Family Friendly Policies and Men's Involvement in Childcare</u>	Moderated by UN Women
10:35 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Advocating for family friendly policies at the workplace in Jordan</i> – By Ms. Sahar Aloul, Co-Founder and Executive Team Member of SADAQA <i>'Program P', an initiative to promote shared household responsibilities and gender-equitable masculinities in Morocco</i> - By Ms. Zineb Chebihi, Project Coordinator, UN Women Morocco <i>'Dare to Care': A community-based model to engage men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work in the Arab Region.</i> By Mr. Suhail Abualsameed, Gender, Masculinities and Social Norms Specialist, UN Women's Regional Office for Arab States 	

	Q&A	
12:00 - 12:15	Coffee break	
Part 5	The Way Forward: Youth-led Social Mobilization in Arab Region for the Engagement of Men and Boys in Caregiving and Household Responsibilities	
12:15 - 01:00	Plenary Discussion: How to Enhance Men Participation in the Provision of Domestic & Care Work in the Arab Countries	Ghada Hammam , Gender Expert
01:00 - 02:30	Working Groups: Exercise on Engaging Men in Domestic & Care Work in the Arab Countries Group Presentations	
02:30 - 03:00	Closing of Workshop	Dr. Fadia Kiwan , Director General of Arab Women Organization Ms. Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler , Deputy Regional Director for the Arab States, UN Women
03:00 - 04:00	Lunch Break	

Notes:

- Agenda of workshop is subject to change without prior notice.
- Interpretation in Arabic and English will be available throughout the entire workshop.
- Travel costs of workshop participants will be covered by UN Women's regional programme "Men and Women for Gender Equality," which is funded by Sweden.