



Jordan

BRIEF SUMMARY
OF THE STATEMENT OF
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HEAD OF THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION

TO THE

TWENTY-FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE FOLLOW-UP AND-EVALUATION OF THE
IMPLEMENTAION OF THE ICPD
1994 PROGRAMME OF ACTION

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Mr. President

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to address the Twenty-First Special Session of the General Assembly for following up and evaluation of implementation of the ICPD, 1994 Program of Action. And to thank all those who worked to make this important meeting possible. Today, I want to share with you the major highlights of Jordan's experience since ICPD 1994.

As we are all aware, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, has created a new global consensus on population and development for the purposes of promoting objectives such as improved reproductive health, ensured gender equity, equality and empowerment of women. Furthermore, ICPD reaffirmed that population and development policies and strategies are important and integral part of all development considerations.

The Program of Action adopted at the ICPD in September 1994 has continued to resonate through all the population and RH activities in Jordan. It affected significantly Jordan's national agenda in terms of issues to be tackled and the resources to be mobilized in order to meet the commitments that Jordan, among other countries, made at ICPD.

Since 1994, Jordan carried out a Fourth Population Census, three Demographic and Family Health Surveys and two Employment Surveys. The data obtained through these surveys were utilized in planning for activities related to population and development. A number of policy-oriented research papers were prepared and a Family Planning KAP Survey and a Religious Leaders' Knowledge, Attitudes and Public Advocacy Survey were also carried out.,

A National Population Strategy (NPS) was formulated and officially endorsed in 1996 and then revised this year in light of new data with integrated RI-I and gender components. UNFPA provided financial and technical support to the development and updating of the National Population Strategy. The CST and advisers reviewed all NPS related documents and provided valuable advise.

A concomitant national FP Communication Strategy was also developed to inform married women and men, religious and community leaders and service providers about a full range of RH issues. A National Campaign to involve men in the familial decision-making was also launched.

Effective advocacy activities for Population and RH issues in Jordan were also started to bring about more support among policy makers and planners in public, private and NGO sectors.

Today, larger number of facilities in the public, private and NGO sectors throughout Jordan are providing better quality RH/FP counseling and services. In the last seven years, total fertility rate declined by more than 1.2 births and Contraceptive Prevalence increased to 53% among married mothers 15-49 years. More couples are currently informed and served so that they can freely take responsible reproductive health decisions.

Despite all these changes, the challenges that stand before us are tremendous. As a result of past high fertility in Jordan, large cohorts of young male and female adolescents and youth are about to start their reproductive life. We are well aware that further efforts are needed to meet their unmet reproductive health needs in order to avoid unwanted and shortly spaced children. The NPC is on the verge of addressing this sector and tackle the main issues within the budget limitation of Jordan.

Last year, Jordan National Population Commission participated in the Arab Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Program of Action - Beirut September, 1998. The Conference recommendations emphasized the following points:

1. To continue the implementation of the ICPD - Programme of Action.
2. To strengthen the political and institutional framework .
3. Implementation of Policies and Programs.
4. Enhancing national capabilities .
5. Resource allocations.
6. Sectoral Plans.

It gives me great pleasure to confirm once again Jordan's commitment to carry out the decisions of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to UNFPA and all other international and donor agencies around the world who supported Jordan's efforts that aim at placing population concerns at the heart of sustainable development.