



# No one left behind

## A feasible goal for the health-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region?

Conference organized by the Center for Research on Population and Health,  
Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), American University of Beirut (AUB)

June 6–8, 2017

**AGENDA**

**12:00 Registration and open buffet lunch**

**13:00 Opening: Welcome, Introductions**

**13:30 Plenary**

Jean-Paul Moatti Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Marseille

**14:15 Break**

**14:30 SESSION 1**

**Reaching SDG targets: Where are Arab countries starting from?**

Attainment of SDGs in the Arab region: Synthesis by the Global Burden of Disease project  
**Ali Mokdad** Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, Seattle

Infectious disease targets in the Arab region: Learning from the MDGs

**Rana Hajjeh** Division of Communicable Disease Control, World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Cairo

Challenges ahead: Young Arabs and development indicators

**Jad Chaaban** Department of Agricultural Sciences, AUB

**16:00 Comments and open discussion: Representatives of international organizations and ministries of health**

**17:00 Close**

**9:00 SESSION 2**

**Disaggregating indicators: Social and political differentials**

The political economy of the SDGs

Nisreen Salti Department of Economics, AUB

Gender inequalities in nutrition in North Africa: Magnitude of harmful effects and associated factors

Jalila el-Ati Institut National de Nutrition et de Technologie Alimentaire, Tunis

Agenda 2030 in the Arab world: Why health professionals should advocate multi-goal policies

Abbas El Zein Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies, University of Sydney

Inequalities: The evidence on early marriage and birth-weight in the Arab region

Sawsan Abdulrahim Department of Health Promotion and Community Health, AUB

**11:15** Break

**12:00 SESSION 3**

**Looking at health care: coverage, financing, and utilization**

Road Map to Universal Health Coverage in the MENA Countries: A health financing approach

Mohammad Abu Zaineh Aix-Marseille University and Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale

Patterns of health care utilization for non-communicable disease: Systems and client perspectives in Arab countries

Habiba Ben Romdhane Faculty of Medicine, Université de Tunis, El Manar, Tunis

Surveys and monitoring of non-communicable diseases: Challenges faced in low- and middle-income countries and the experience of Morocco

Hicham Berri Non-communicable Disease Division, Ministry of Health, Rabat

**13:30** Break

**14:30 SESSION 4**

**Taking account of intermediate structures: families, schools, and communities**

Including violence against women in the SDGs for Arab countries: Special challenges and opportunities

Claudia García-Moreno Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization

Re-formulating health, well-being and the measures used to assess them in light of wars and conflicts in the Arab region

Rita Giacaman Institute of Community and Public Health, BirZeit University

Learning from interventions to reach the SDGs: The relevance of context

Rima Afifi Department of Health Promotion and Community Health, AUB

Assessing and engaging deprived communities: Food security and empowerment

Hala Ghattas Dept of Epidemiology and Population Health, and Center for Research on Population and Health, AUB

**16:30** Open discussion

**17:00** Close

**9:30 SESSION 5**

**Advancing comparative research on the health SDGs in the Arab region**

Thinking across targets: Maternal health and communicable disease in Arab countries  
**Oona Campbell** Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Commonalities and differentials in cardiovascular health in Arab countries

**Julia Critchley** Population Health Research Institute, St Georges' University of London

Conflict, reproductive health, and the SDGs

**Jocelyn Dejong** Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, AUB

**11:00 Poster session and break**

Posters are presented by a group of junior researchers from Lebanon and other Arab countries.

**13:00 SESSION 5 continued**

Maternal and child risk factors: Burden and relationships to child development at country-level and globally

**Wafaie Fawzi** Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Comparative research on health care in Arab countries: The 3R (Regional Research Reviews) project

**Carla Makhoul** Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, and Center for Research on Population and Health, AUB

**14:00 Looking ahead: Research themes, tools, and collaborations**

Proposed themes:

1. SDG-relevant research
2. Harmonizing key variables and research tools
3. Facilitating multi-disciplinary collaborations
4. Training and exchanges across institutions

This session will be organized around participants' suggestions, and the proposed themes will be modified accordingly. The session will be kicked-off by selected presenters, and a general discussion will follow, driven by participants.

**17:00 Close of conference**

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**PLEASE NOTE**

As the conference happens during the month of Ramadan, we will have a schedule and format that make it possible for those who observe the fast to take a break at meal time around the conference venue. Others can have coffee and lunch breaks if they wish. We are inviting all presenters to an Iftar dinner on June 6<sup>th</sup>.