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
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
Wednesday, June 7, 2017 | Issam Fares Institute Auditorium

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
Thursday, June 8, 2017 | Issam Fares Institute Auditorium

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 Makhlouf 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

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 6th.