

Expert Committee Meeting on Ageing in the Arab World

MIPPA +10

5-6 July 2012

Dr Laurie AbiHabib is the Program Director of Public Health and Development Sciences and Assistant Dean at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Balamand. She received her PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. Her research interests include the social and cultural determinants of health, health and human rights, social support and networks among community dwelling older persons, and Mediterranean and Middle Eastern societies.

Dr. Fahmy Bahgat is a consultant psychiatrist from Egypt, he is currently working as mental health advisor to the WHO in Libya. Dr Bahgat worked in several humanitarian contexts in the region with a focus on health and mental health care of special groups, he was also formerly a focal point for health of elderly at the MoH in Egypt, where he participated in design of national strategy for active ageing, monitoring mechanisms for elderly care, awareness campaign and training program on age friendly PHC. Dr Bahgat has provided advice through WHO to health of elderly programmes in Syria, Jordan and Iran, participated in evaluation of age friendly cities program implementation, and coordinated for WHO regional advocacy campaigns on Ageing and Health for World Health Day 2012.

Dr Habiba Ben Romdhane is Professor of Preventive Medicine and the Director of the Epidemiology & Prevention Research Department of Cardio-vascular diseases at the University of Tunis. She has also served as Minister of Health after the Tunisian Revolution. Dr Habiba has implemented health programs and organised national and international trainings on public health. She has also coordinated several national studies on violence against women and NCDs. Dr Habiba has been involved in several WHO experts meeting as well as EU funded projects. She is a member of the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Human Reproduction Program. Dr Habiba has published many scientific papers, monographs and books on women's health, NCDs and health policy. Dr Habiba is also the co-founder and president of the Tunisian Society of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, co-founder and member of the board of the Tunisian Association for Research on Development (AFTURD) and the Maghreb Network on Research on Health System (RESSMA).

Dr Monique Chaaya-Arkhondis is Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut. Dr Chaaya is an epidemiologist with a specialty in mental health. She is a 1998 graduate of the Johns Hopkins University with a Dr.PH in Mental Hygiene. In the past decade her research has been devoted to psychiatric distress and postpartum depression in women of reproductive age as well as maternal smoking and an NIH grant to study Dementia in Lebanon. She is a member of a multi-disciplinary team at AUB whose research agenda is tobacco control, with particular emphasis on water-pipe smoking.

Dr George Karam is American board-certified in both adult and geriatric psychiatry. After finishing his medical studies, he pursued his adult psychiatry training at Washington University, St Louis USA and his geriatric psychiatry training at Pittsburgh University, Pittsburgh USA. Dr. Karam is also conducting several research projects on the epidemiology of mental health disorders, such as Alzheimer's, depression, anxiety, and dementia in Lebanon. He is in charge of geriatric research and public relations at the Institute for the Development, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), psychiatry residency director at Balamand University/St Georges Hospital University Medical Center, senior member of the Medical Institute for Neuropsychological Disorders (MIND) and an active member of several governmental and non-governmental institutions locally and internationally.

Dr Nabil Kronfol is a Professor of Health Policy and Management, the founder of the Lebanese HealthCare Management Association and a co-founder of the Center for Studies on Ageing. Dr Kronfol received his medical degree from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1969. Dr Kronfol graduated with a Doctorate in Public Health in Health Services Administration from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. Dr Kronfol worked in the position of Chairman of the Department of Health Services Administration, Assistant Dean for Allied Health and Deputy Vice President for External Programs in Health at AUB. While on the professional tenure, Dr Kronfol established the College of Health Sciences in the State of Bahrain, and four schools of nursing in the United Arab Emirates among others. Dr Kronfol received the International McGaw Award in 1984, the Fullbright International Scholar Award in 1985 and the Shusha Award in 2007. Dr Kronfol has served as chief advisor to Ministers of Health of both Lebanon and the UAE, and continues to be a frequent consultant to UN agencies. Dr Kronfol has an extensive list of publications and books.

Ms Asma Kurdahi is the UNFPA Assistant Representative in Lebanon. Ms Kurdahi oversees the UNFPA-supported program in Lebanon through expanding partnerships, advocating for focused country specific priorities areas, ensuring the implementation of a results based program and mobilizing resources, among others.

Ms Malak Makki is a poet and the scientific editor at the daily Assafir newspaper. Ms Malak started her official work in journalism in 2010. However, she has been a freelancer at different Lebanese newspapers prior to that time. Ms Makki holds a master's degree in history and philosophy of science from Montpellier II university and a Master degree in Biology from the Lebanese university. Ms Makki is interested in scientific subjects related to health, physics, space and technology. Ms Malak wrote several articles about the older population in Lebanon.

Dr Adnan Mroueh is a Professor at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American University of Beirut. Dr Mroueh has served as Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (2003-2011) and as Vice president and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut (1987-1993). Dr Mroueh served as Minister of Health, Labor and Social Affairs, Government of Lebanon (1982-1984), as Chairman of the Medical Committee of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, as President of Lebanon family Planning association. He currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Consultative National Committee on Ethics (since 1993) and as Chairman of the AUB Medical Center Bioethics Committee. Dr Mroueh has more than sixty publications in refereed journals to his credit. He is also a co-author of a three-volume book on "Health in Lebanon"

Dr Nabil Naja is the head of Geriatrics at Dar Al Ajaza Al Islamia Hospital and the consultant and coordinator at "Al Omar Al Madid " Senior Citizens home and club for Elderly. Dr Naja is also a consultant and coordinator for the Elderly care program at Ajjalouna. Dr Naja is the founder and current president of the Lebanese Geriatric Society as well as a member of the National Committee for Elderly Affairs since 1988. In addition, Dr Naja is a founding member and the Vice president of the Lebanese Alzheimer Association since 2004 and a founding member of the Center for Studies on Ageing 2008 (CSA).

Ms Martine Najem Kteily is an Instructor of Public Health Practice at the Outreach and Practice Unit of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut. Before joining the OPU, she has worked during the past 5 years on Ageing issues (among others) in her capacity as Population and Development Program Manager with UNFPA supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon. During the course of her work, she led a number of research projects targeting the status of the elderly and the institutions that cater for older adults in Lebanon. She was also directly involved in MoSA initiative to develop standards for institutions serving older adults, and contributed to several advocacy activities in support of policy change and improvement of services.

Mr Ramzi Naaman (MPH 1984) is a development professional with more than 25 years of experience working with international and local non-governmental organizations as well as with the public sector. Throughout his career, Mr Naaman was able to build skills, expertise and knowledge in working on poverty and vulnerable groups both at national and regional levels. Mr Naaman is currently the Director of the Central Management Unit of the National Poverty Targeting Program at the Presidency of Council of Ministers. His work experience also extends to other countries of the region where he acts as a regional Consultant for the World Bank on Social Safety Nets. Mr Naaman's involvement with both the public and private sector has given him a privileged knowledge of the strengths and strategies of both sectors.

Dr. Hibah Osman is a family physician with a special interest in palliative care. She has received training in Palliative Medicine at the Institute of Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice in California. She founded Balsam - the Lebanese Center for Palliative Care in 2010. Dr Osman serves on the National Committee for Pain and Palliative Care under the Ministry of Public Health. Dr Osman holds a Masters in Public Health and is an Assistant Professor of Public Health at the AUB Faculty of Health Sciences.

Dr Kieu Phung obtained her MD in 1997 from McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and her PhD in neuro-epidemiology in 2008 at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Panum Institute, University of Copenhagen. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of dementia.

Mr Anthony Rizk is a FHS MLT graduate at AUB assisting Dr. Sibai with the project. Mr. Rizk has been active in civil society in Lebanon for the past three years working with organizations such as Nasawiya and Helem on gender and sexuality in Lebanon.

Ms Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is a Social Affairs Officer in the Population and Social Developmental Section of the Social Development Division of UN-ESCWA.

Dr Abla Sibai is Professor of Epidemiology at the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut. During the past 15 years, she has focused on aging issues in Lebanon and the Arab countries and has led the way to placing Lebanese older adult issues at the forefront on the national agenda and in the region. She is a member of the WHO-Geneva Expert Advisory Panel on Aging and Health since 1997, a member of the National Committee on Aging in Lebanon, a Board Member of the Dar Ajaza Nursing Home in Lebanon, a consultant for the Ministry of Social Affairs, Policies and Strategies Sub-Program and the regional representative for the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. Dr. Sibai is the author of over 100 scholarly articles, book chapters and reports, mostly on aging issues and older adults.

Ms Samar Sleilaty is a social worker at the department of Family Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs. Ms Sleilaty represents the MoSA at this meeting.

Ms Aida Sultan has been working at the National Council for Family Affairs in the field of family policies since 2004, as a researcher and policy analyst. She holds a bachelor and a master degree from the University of Science & Technology specialized in Environmental Sciences and Applied Biology. Since her appointment at NCFa, she has worked as a main researcher and coordinator to develop the National strategy for the Jordanian family and its plan of action 2005, the Jordanian National Strategy and plan of action for senior citizens 2008, among others. She is a member of national committees for the issues of child labor, elderly, poverty, reproductive health, mental health and population issues.

Dr Riad Tabbara received his BA from the American University of Beirut, MA from Northwestern University and his PhD from Vanderbilt University, all in economics. He served many years with the United Nations in many capacities including Chief of the Population Policy Section in UN Headquarters in New York, and Director of Social Development, Population, Human Settlements and Environment Division at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Dr Tabbara returned to AUB as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. He was then appointed Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States. Before leaving AUB in 1994, he established the Center for Development Studies and Projects (MADMA). He has recently served in many official capacities including as Advisor to the Prime Minister (the late Rafic Hariri) on Foreign Affairs and as Senior advisor to the United Nations Development Program.

Dr Abdallah Abdel Aziz Zou'bi joined the UNFPA Arab States Region Office (ASRO) as the Program Regional Advisor on Population & Development. His support to the region of Arab States is in population and related data collection including population and housing censuses, rapid assessment research, vital statistics, in-depth demographic and socioeconomic analysis, policy oriented research, policy dialogue and ICPD & MDG advocacy. Dr Zou'bi was also a CST regional advisor in the areas of population data collection and analysis in the Arab region, a UN CTA in Yemen for Poverty Information and Monitoring Systems and for Census analysis and the Executive Census Director and for the National HH Surveys in Jordan. Dr Zou'bi holds a Ph.D. in Sociology/Population Studies from the University of Michigan, an M. Phil. in Demography from Cairo Demographic Center and a BS in Mathematics from the University of Jordan.