



Cawtar

# **Program of CAWTAR on Arab Adolescence: 2001-2004 / 2005-2007**



## Background

The Adolescents Program is premised on CAWTAR's second Arab Women Development Report, the Arab Adolescent Girl: Reality and Prospects and covers different activities: research, database; documentaries, audiovisual, competitions for journalists and young Arab researchers and CD ROM, specialized network on adolescence and the Directory of the Members of the Arab Adolescence Network.

## Arab Adolescence: A Full-Fledged Program

The adolescents are not only the future of Arab societies, but they are their present. The number of adolescent girls and boys between age 15-19 is 31 million, and estimated at 11 per cent of the total population in the Arab region; this is notwithstanding the number of those between 11-14 years. These figures reflect the significance of this cohort of society, and explain why their issues are a priority for CAWTAR, as a center primarily concerned with gender and development in the Arab region.

For CAWTAR adolescents are the driving force of their societies. The Center specially established a full-fledged Adolescents Program: to preserve a space for adolescents to communicate their views and visions; to sensitize and persuade policy-makers to take into consideration adolescents' needs in their programs; and to reinforce the capacities of actors in the domain of adolescence.

The first phase of the Adolescent Program, which extended for four years (2001-2004), was funded by CAWTAR's donor agencies: UNFPA (agreement RMI/00/PO1) ; the European Union (agreement B76110/2000/03), World Bank agreement (DGF-500404-01), UNDP, AGFUND, UNICEF Tunis and UNIFEM.

### Arab Adolescent Girl: Reality and Prospects

Arab Adolescent Girl: Reality and Prospects, published in 2003, is the second of the Center's landmark periodical Arab Women Development Reports. It is an exploratory work for furthering knowledge on adolescents' issues, that are inadequately or sporadically dealt with at the regional level. It covers seven Arab countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco,

Tunisia and Yemen). Through its analysis, based on statistics and indicators from the 22 countries of the Arab region, the report presents an overall description of the conditions of adolescent girls and boys. It recommends policy actions and strategies for better serving the interests of Arab adolescent girls and boys.



### Rainbow: Testimonials of Arab Adolescents

The Rainbow is a complementary publication to the second Arab Women Development Report, Arab Adolescent Girls: Reality and Prospects. It consists of 200 testimonials of adolescent girls and boys from the seven Arab countries covered by the report. It spells out the views of adolescents on the thematic issues of the report: Identity and Self-Image; Puberty, Reproductive Health and Love; Family Relations; the School and Labor, Adolescence Culture and Behavior; and Attitudes and Values.



### National Reports

The second Arab Women Development Report, Arab Adolescent Girls: Reality and Prospects combines seven national reports and brought together national teams, who collaborated in the analysis of stock of information and data they had compiled from their fieldwork.

## Documentaries: The Rainbow

With the support of the Arab Countries Broadcasting Federation, CAWTAR prepared two documentaries on adolescents from Lebanon (13 minutes) and Morocco (26 minutes). The objectives of documentaries are to open a symbolic media space for Arab adolescent girls and boys to express their views; and to encourage the Arab media to adopt the same approach in their programs.

### **Training Kit: Ideas for Working with Arab Adolescent Girls and Boys**

The training kit is a blend of reference materials and training methods. It is for the use of intermediaries who work closely with adolescents girls and boys, such as trainers, specialized NGOs, and teachers. While it targets training of trainers some part of the Kit will be for the training of adolescents. The training materials are adaptable to suit the needs of national countries and attendees. The Kit accommodates the use of audiovisuals and innovative methods, such as translating press clips and daily events into training exercises. It provides cine-club films, 25 drawings by adolescent girls and boys; and the testimonies of adolescents for the trainer to creatively translate them into training exercises.

## CD-ROM

The CD-ROM encapsulates the main parts of the second Arab Women Development Report, testimonies culled from the Rainbow publication, exercises from the training kit, "Ideas for Working with Arab Adolescent Girls and Boys", games and caricatures. It is special layout and can be used as supportive training material.



## On-Line Training

The on-line training course on adolescence is an opportunity for interested actors to enroll in distance learning and to gain practical experience on adolescents' issues. The course is open to trainers, researchers and the youth and adolescents. The preparation of the online-training is an ongoing process:

- The whole training Kit will be posted on the web.
- An accessible electronic link for distant trainees to the first chapter of the training Kit, "Ideas for Working with Arab Adolescent Girls and Boys" available at the Center's website.
- A digital version of the second Arab Women Development Report.

## @DO Network

This network is a space for mobilizing key actors, specialized agencies and experts concerned with adolescents' issues. The network will facilitate coordination of efforts on research, exchange of experiences, building knowledge, and joint work. The network has 87 members and represents:

- a vertical institutional framework which permits continuous efforts on adolescents' issues in Arab countries
- a platform for exchanging information, experiences and views among active actors in the domain of adolescence
- a space for coordinating of activities focusing on the improvement of the conditions of adolescent girls and boys
- a space for generation of knowledge and data analysis on adolescence
- a future communication space of inter-generational and institutional dialogue

## CAWTARYAT Special Issue: Adolescence in the Arab Region



The Center special issue of its newsletter CAWTARYAT covers different adolescents issues raised by the contributions of six Arab journalists from Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The issues relate to adolescent girls and boys in armed-conflicts, delinquent adolescent girl, and female-gentle mutilation.

### Competitions

CAWTAR organizes different competitions. The competition under the theme of adolescence was for researchers to conduct studies in line with the topics of the second Arab Women Development Report; the Arab journalists to pay attention to adolescents' issues; and adolescent girls and boys to propose a design for the cover page of the Second Arab Women Development Report.

### Adolescence Program 2005-2007

*UNFPA continues its support of the Arab Adolescent Girl Program and its various activities including: in-depth studies based on the adolescents' transcripts, policy-oriented papers, production of advocacy tools and creation of opportunities for policy dialogue.*

### Statistical Database

The statistical database contains 44 tables of internationally approved human development indicators on population, education, health, the economy and living conditions, and status of the fundamental human rights.

It is extracted from the statistical data concerning adolescents between 15-19 years and their secondary education, as the most relevant distinctions used by the Second Arab Women Development Report, Arab Adolescent Girl: Reality and Prospects.

### Adolescence Bibliography

The Bibliography covers six Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunis and Yemen. This in addition to CAWTAR's collection covering adolescents' health, mental health, and education. It includes 488 records in Arabic, English and French.

### Directory of the Arab Adolescence Network Members

The Directory consists of the contacts information of 87 active individuals and institutions in the field of adolescents, such as experts, trainers, researchers and the media.

### Adolescence Program on the web

The full page of Arab adolescents program can be visited at [www.cawtar.org](http://www.cawtar.org).