

**Metropolis Women International Network**

**MENA Regional Office. Amman. Jordan**

**Presentation**

**‘Engaging and recognising young women in network and city administrations’**

**Presented by Arwa Balker (1)**

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*(1) Ms Rita Rachele Dandavino, Coordinator of the Metropolis Women International Network made the presentation on behalf of Ms Balker, who was unable to attend the event in Porto Alegre)*

**in**

**Metropolis WIN Day 23-11-2011**

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**Introduction:-**

**Amman vision**

Amman, an organized, Attractive, Safe, Liveable city of heritage and authenticity;  
Amman is a city with a soul.

**The core Values**

1. Commitment to service excellence
2. Honesty, justice, transparency, and **equal opportunity**.
3. Team work.
4. Continuous development and flexibility to change
5. **Engaging stakeholders**
6. **Encourage innovation, initiation, and creativity.**

**The Metropolis WIN regional office:-**

**References and Methodology**

The Metropolis WIN Regional office consider many references when it sets its yearly action plan, it considers the Metropolis WIN mission and objectives, the National Strategy for Jordanian Women, the Greater Amman Municipality action plan, the National Agenda, and the International conventions' besides the first and second International forums 'dynamic cities Need Women' Declarations and the related studies and surveys.

Before applying the action plan or any programme, the office count on data and analyses of women's representation and participation -including networks of women living in Amman city. Also consultations hold with institutional leaders. In addition, study the potentials in building a partnership and cooperation plan with other organisations.

### **2011 plan,**

Some of the MENA regional office plans for 2011, is to focus on the youth and young women to engage them in all the activities the office conducting besides organising a special programme to engage the young women in GAM and in the community in the Network and in GAM in general, and focus on women involvement in general and to introduce the 'women friendly city 'concept. Besides to continue implementing the programmes and activities started in the previous years.

### **The youth policies and programmes**

Aim to enable young people to become competent, responsible members and contributing the community with a feeling of hope for the future.

**\* Target the youth and the young inhabitants, and implemented by young employees in GAM.**

**They are the majority of the future in Jordan and in Amman city.** Using the definition of youth adopted by UNESCO (ages 15-24), the percentage of youth in the Jordanian population is 23% , and the percentage of ages (15-29) is 24.8%.(1) The women figures who live in Amman city estimated as 1150000 (2)

In this presentation I'll focus on the following points:-

- 1- The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) policy and activities for the youth and young.
- 2- The Greater Amman Municipality policy in supporting the Regional office initiatives.
- 3- The Metropolis WIN Regional office activities to engage the youth in the network.
- 4- The Metropolis WIN Regional office activities to engage the young women employees in the network and in the community.

## **1- The Greater Amman Municipality policy, activities for youth and young people.**

### **Examples:-**

#### **Child Friendly City:-**

Cover the ages from 6-18

To improve the quality of life of children; its goals organised around five core themes: health, informal education, child safety and protection, child built environment and participation. Efforts have included: rehabilitation of parks, libraries, opening of community spaces, support to educational programmes for drop-outs, campaigns against violence and abuse, and the creation of IT centres for deaf people.

#### **-Youth councils:-**

Cover the ages from 12-16 in the 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> school grades.

To involve young people in local government, and helping the municipal leaders to understand the youth and provide them with opportunities to serve the community and to address the needs of the youth and young and their priorities.

In 2010 election, 153 students won 84 girls and 69 boys, in 9 districts of Amman city. They participate in the financial, public relation, environmental, health, cultural, media, and social, committees.

#### **-Programmes and activities:-**

Conducting In different cultural, sports and IT centres,

To make youth and young understand the importance of the environment and to empowering them to gain leadership skills, better training and education and to develop a better sense of responsibility and community.

### **Examples:-**

- The (Garden rider) programme.
- Stopping youth poverty programme.
- Championing sport.
- The (young girls ) researchers , they collected information for a book (( Amman when she was a child)
- Hosting the youth from different girls schools in GAM, introducing them to GAM Dep. And to the Metropolis WIN.



### **-Access of information and communication channels:-**

To improve access to information about services, opportunities for youth and address the youth hopes, priorities and their vision for the city, now and in the future. By open channels like the new social media (facebook, blogs) and through Radio (GAM Radio), through surveys, different seminars , and forums directly with the mayor.

### **The best results:-**

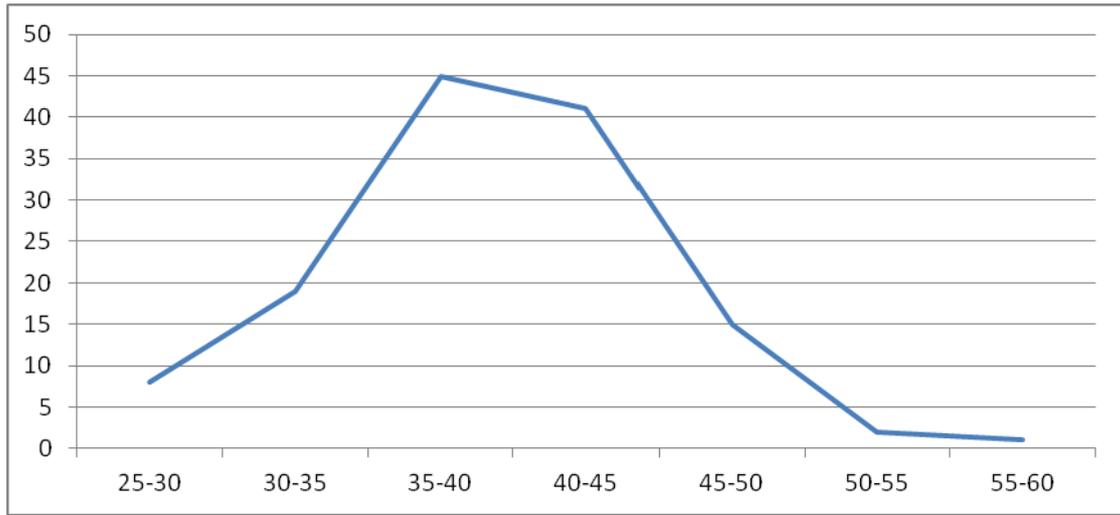
- Involving the young people in local government.
- Giving the young people a chance to be engaged in their communities,
- Engaging the next generation of civic leaders.
- Helping in craft better policies and solutions to youth issues.
- Empowering young to gain leadership skills, to develop sense of responsibility and community.

## **2- The Greater Amman Municipality policy in supporting the Regional office initiatives and recognising the young women employees.**

To facilitating sharing of experiences and best practises between women as councillors, professionals and executive managers at local governments **in Jordan and the region.**

To empowering women in GAM with different leadership skills, and to foster Gender mainstreaming in GAM.

The Regional office organising different activities to achieve the goal, and GAM is funding most of the activities and programmes,



This table shows the average ages for the women managers, head of departments, in GAM. In 2011

**Examples:-**

**- Meetings with the Mayor, to address the women managers, head of Dep. point of views, their priorities and the obstacles they face.**



Meeting with the previous mayor.

**- Supporting the activities of women with special needs.**



**- Celebrating different occasions**



celebration of International Women's Day

**- Supporting Capacity Building programmes.**



Visiting Fahais Municipality for networking and sharing experiences between councillors and women employees.



Training course for women candidates for 2011 municipal election



Seminar conducted by the Metropolis WIN regional office in the City hall. GAM.

**- Awarding one of the WIN office projects.**



Chairman of GAM council awarded the director of Metropolis WIN regional office

- Sharing WIN regional office activities and news in the GAM website, interviews with Hawa Amman Radio, and in the daily press report, Helping us in covering the activities in the local news papers.



Announcing the winners in the competition ‘Women’s creativity’ organized by the Metropolis WIN regional office. From GAM website

## WIN-Metropolis Visits Greater Salt Municipality

The regional office of women international network of metropolis (win-metropolis) in greater amman municipality (gam) conducted a visit to greater salt municipality to tour its downtown development project, which aims to preserve the city's cultural and historic identity plus its architectural character on one hand, and to boost its commercial and tourism activities on the other hand.

The delegation consisted of members of gam's council, Dr. Wala al-Haymi and Mrs. Samia Sukkar along with some of gam's women directors, met with salt mayor Salamah Wajari and the four women members of the municipality.

Wajari reiterated that 70% of the municipality staff are women, holding the highest administrative positions.

Municipality members, Huda Abu Mureman and Najal Shammara hailed the delegation's visit that granted them the opportunity to experience the role of women in gam, and of future cooperation with them. Participants agreed that despite the challenges facing women, yet their participation in the municipality councils and in decision making are vital for the development of society, especially since women are more capable of feeling and following-up on the needs of their society.

The visiting delegation were briefed on the salt municipality projects, such as the tourism, developmental and rehabilitational projects, in addition to the field studies conducted recently to document the historical buildings, and planning ahead policy. Wajari and Sukkar—both members of gam's tourism committee—reiterated the importance of connecting salt with amman in the tourism sphere.

The delegation also got first-hand knowledge on salt's experience in the geographical database systems field, besides the computerization of the municipality and rehabilitation of its code. The delegation also toured projects which benefited from gam's experience such as the white meat slaughterhouse project and the autopark project.

In line with the program which allows its members the chance to exchange knowledge and to learn the best methods in municipal and developmental work, the win-metropolis delegation visited several governorates including Ajlun special economic zone and others across the kingdom.

Greater salt municipality, which is considered one of category A municipalities, was established in the year 1999, and consists of 3 districts.

nahawaly



### The best results:-

- Better involving for the young in local government, and in the different activities.
- Empowering young women to gain more leadership skills, and to look for forward to involve in the higher administration.
- Networking between young women in GAM and other municipalities.
- Networking with other organisations and NGO'S

### 3- The Metropolis WIN Regional office programmes and activities to engage the youth and the young women in the network.

Cover ages 16-30

Aim to engage the young women to the Network, and its activities, to empowering them in the municipal work, to introduce the Metropolis WIN mission and goals, also to discuss the young women's priorities and their needs in the city and help the Municipal leaders, managers to understand these needs and priorities and to address them in the projects and programmes.

**Examples:-**

- “Maaneeon“ (we care, we are involved) programme: (includes; seminars, workshop, about the municipal work and GAM council, the municipal law, etc) focus on young women at universities and the fresh graduate.
- Surveys.( aim to study the information young has related to the municipal work, and how they are ready to participate in election and if in the future they are ready to run for election, and their needs for training course)
- Seminars, Training courses, (for young women in different NGO'S and in the community).
- Newsletters.



One of the meetings for the participants in 'Maaneeon' programme



-Access of information and communication channels,

Young women became members of the ‘network friends’; share them our newsletters, information and the Metropolis WIN news.

**The best results:-**

- Empowering young women to become community leaders, and in different aspects cultural, environmental, etc.
- Helping the municipal leaders to understand the youth and the young women and provide them with opportunities and to address their needs and priorities.
- Giving the opportunities to the youth and young to learn the local government work.
- Engorging the young women to practice the democracy.
- Engaging young women in women’s affairs and concerns.
- Introducing young women with the national and international women organisations. And with the human rights and UN resolutions related to women affairs.

**4- The Metropolis WIN Regional office activities to engage the young women employees in the community.**

- **Roundtables meetings**

. - **Seminars, Training courses conducted with partnership with other NGO’s.**

**The best results:-**

- Empowering the young women to gain new leadership skills.
- Improving the representativeness of women in the municipality and community.
- Obtaining the recognition from different women's NGOs and INGO'S.
- Participating in putting the National Strategy for Jordanian women.
- participating in different debates, and be more involved in the National concerns.
- Introducing the young employees with the national and international women organisations. And with the human rights and UN resolutions related to women affairs.

### **References:-**

(1) Jordan population report 2010. The Higher population council. Jordan.

(2) The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS).2010 Figures

[http://www.dos.gov.jo/sdb\\_pop/sdb\\_pop\\_a/index3\\_o.htm](http://www.dos.gov.jo/sdb_pop/sdb_pop_a/index3_o.htm)

### **Related websites:-**

<http://www.amman.jo>

<http://www.ammancity.gov.jo/en/initiatives/goalsw.asp>

<http://www.women.jo>