

Building Research Capacity on Gender and Work in the MENA Region

CAIRO, EGYPT (15 March 2010) — The Population Council celebrated the dissemination of research projects supported by its initiative to build research capacity on gender and work in the MENA region. Through training workshops, individual research awards, mentorship, and dissemination venues, this capacity-building initiative aimed to generate methodologically sound research on issues related to gender and work in different countries in the region. The initiative primarily sought to provide a deeper understanding of the changing labor markets and opportunities for women in the wake of globalization and demographic changes.

Through this initiative, the Population Council has provided training workshops on research concepts and methodologies relevant to gender and work issues. The Population Council also offered two rounds of research award competitions in order to expand the body of publications and evidence-based research on gender and work in the region.

Overall, 22 awards were made to researchers from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian territories, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen. Projects varied widely in focus, spanning from rethinking the division of labor within the household, to women's job search behavior, to the impact of international trade agreements on women's work. The conference was a venue for these researchers to present their research findings to a wide audience comprising academics, policy makers and practitioners.

This initiative was made possible with support from the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is one of the world's leading institutions in the generation and application of new knowledge to meet the challenges of international development. For 40 years, IDRC has worked in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies.

The Population Council is an international, nonprofit, nongovernmental research organization that seeks to improve the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world and to help achieve a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources. The Council conducts biomedical, social science, and public health research and helps build research capacities in developing countries. Established in 1952, the Council is governed by an international board of trustees. Its New York headquarters supports a global network of regional and country offices.

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Media contact:

Abeer Salem asalem@popcouncil.org