

Social protection for elderly male and female

“Buthaina” alliance for the Rights of elder Male and female

Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI)

Most elderly people in Jordan do not have either social protection nor partial social protection, elder women suffer more because of their lack of owning immovable properties and lands, also their lack of involvement in the labor market, and their low economic participation, and if they were workers, they suffer from the gap of salaries between them and men, and work in disorder sector.

Women don't have social protection from wages and health insurance because of their low economic participation, and women who have social protection get less value than men do. Also, the Unpaid care and domestic work in which women do is over the paid opportunities available for them, and a lot of women work in the disorder sector which lacks many social protection tools.

The percentage of insured women and retirees in Jordan reached up to 27.9% of the total number of insured people, of whom 313,571 are women (out of a total of 1122,843), of whom 21980 are optional secured and 7% is the percentage from the total insured women. Women's average salary was 493 dinars compared to 564 dinars for male.

The number of retired women reached up to 33252 women or 16.3% of the total retirees out of 203289 male/female retirees. As the distribution of pensioners according to the type of pension shows that 9950 of them receive the old-age pension with the percentage of (29.9%).

In order to reduce the poverty level, reduce gender inequalities, and advance sustainable development, we have to follow social protection policies in order to take care of elder people, especially women. For example, measures for health coverage, non-contributory pensions, maternity, and parental leave, and basic income for childcare.

Despite current social protection policies, we recommend the following actions:

First: Endorsement a comprehensive social protection strategy

Jordan approved in 2014 (entered into permeation in 2015) the International Labor Organization (ILO) Minimum Standards Convention on Social Security No. 102 of 1952, stating that Jordan is bound by its provisions relating to old-age, disability, death, work injury and inheritor rights. A comprehensive social protection strategy is therefore needed. Its main objective is to consolidate and coordinate efforts among different agencies, to ensure strategic planning, implementation and evaluation, and to monitor progress and challenges in securing comprehensive social protection for older persons, especially for women, through indicators of measurement and monitoring.

Second: doing a comprehensive review of the social protection policies for elder people

- A comprehensive review of social protection policies will lead to identifying the vulnerabilities and the to eliminate gender discrimination and consequently, putting social protection policies that are considerate elder people, gender and social justice, including the revision of civil and military retirement and social security laws to achieve gender equality, and the agreement of legislation with the provisions of the Standards Convention Social Security No. 102.
- The social protection programs of the Ministry of Social Development should be reviewed to include a wider segment of the poorest and most vulnerable elder people, who are most vulnerable to violence, discrimination, deprivation, and marginalization, and adopt a method based on self-building and self-confidence, and participatory approach, especially in shelters for vulnerable women, girls and elder women, the shelters of juveniles. Health insurance for the elderly male and female should be expanded.

Third: a comprehensive review of the policies of women's economic participation

Because of the weak economic participation of women, as it was obvious through the high unemployment women among them up to (26.8% in 2018), and the lack of new job opportunities, in addition to the low percentage of women participating in social security, and the high percentage of women who are not economically active, a full review of economic legislation, including the labor law and civil service is needed.

Fourth: make a comprehensive review of policies to protect elder people, especially women, from violence, discrimination, and inequality

- It has to be a comprehensive review to protect elder people and from violence, discrimination and inequality, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in legislation, we therefore recommend:
- In the case of personal status, the practices of depriving the elderly people of legal inheritance must be stopped, and share the mutual funds between spouses when separation or divorce.
- In the field of human trafficking, working on modifying the law to prevent human trafficking, updating the national strategy to warfare trafficking in human during the period of (2017-2020), providing criminal protection and shelters, health and psychological protection for victims of human trafficking, especially the elderly people, training and building the capacity of workers in this field.
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- Regarding education, ensure elder people having access to high-quality education and literacy, including people with disabilities and girls who live in remote and rustic areas; uproot illiteracy of elder women and encourage girls to enter occupational training to ensure better employment opportunities.
- Regarding the health sector, providing basic health services to the elder people in various regions of Jordan, including genital, sexual and psychological health services.
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- Taking actions in order to sensitize elder people to their rights, elevate the rights of elder people in rural areas, persons with disabilities, male and female refugees, access to justice, and elevate political participation through access to decision-making positions.
- Provide more statistics for the elder people by age group, gender statistics, development of new indicators consistent with United Nations indicators, in particular, the indicators of the possible Development Goals within the year of 2030.