



# CHILD LABOR RAPID ASSESSMENT

August 2018

# BACKGROUND:

- ▶ This joint activity between MOSD and UNICEF was to gather more information about child labour in three different locations Zaatari, Petra, and East Amman (Al-Qweismeh) areas between December 2017 and April 2018
- ▶ A technical committee oversaw its implementation:
  - MoSD lead agency (heads of Combating Child Labor Unit, the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking Unit, and the Begging Prevention Unit)
  - Ministry of Labor (labor inspection unit)
  - Ministry of Education (Education Department)
  - Public Security Directorate (Juvenile Police Department)
  - National Council for Family Affairs (Studies and Research department);
  - UNICEF (Child Protection Section)
  - ILO (International Labor Organization)

# INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION RELATED TO CHILD LABOR RATIFIED BY JORDAN

- ▶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991.
- ▶ ILO Convention No. 138 in 1997.
- ▶ ILO Convention No. 182 in 2000.
- ▶ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, complementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.
- ▶ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000.

# THE SIZE OF CHILD LABOR IN JORDAN

- ▶ **The National Child Labor Survey 2007** show that about **33,000** children were working in Jordan.
- ▶ **National Child Labour Survey 2016:**
  - The number of children 5-17 years: 4,030,384;
  - Economically Active Children: 75,982;
  - Child labor: 69,661;
  - Children engaged in hazardous jobs: 44,917;
  - Children aged 15-17 who are exposed to hazardous jobs: more than 71%;
  - Children aged 12-14 who are exposed to hazardous jobs: 20%;
  - **Jordanian children in 5-17 age groups attend school: 92%;**
  - **Syrian children in 5-17 age group enrolled in school: 72.5%;**
  - The average weekly working hours for children in the 15-17 age group are high among males at 46 hours;
  - Economic activity in which most working children in Jordan engage: agriculture and forestry (27%); wholesale and retail trade (29%).

# Rapid Assessment:

- ▶ **Goal:** *Study the reality of child labor in three main areas (Al Zatari Camp, Petra, East Amman – Al-Qweismeh district) by obtaining information from service providers, community, families, and children affected by the phenomenon of child labor; and come up with practical recommendations that could be formulated within an executive program to reduce child labor, especially its worst forms.*
  
- ▶ **Objectives:**
  1. Identify the services provided by service providers and the main challenges and obstacles encountered during service delivery;
  2. Review the conditions of child labor and highlight the challenges and solutions proposed in order to build future positive partnerships aimed at reducing child labor;
  3. Collect feedback from the community and its recommendations on the sources, support, and coordination mechanisms required for an improved response to child labor;
  4. Identify the mechanism of children involvement in labor from the viewpoint of the children themselves, their families, and community, in addition to employers and service providers.

▶ Theme I: The nature of child labor in the three locations

- A) **Agriculture Sector:** Assistance in cultivation, fertilization, planting, irrigation of crops, spraying of pesticides, harvest, packaging of agricultural products, and loading and unloading of products and goods from and to the farm.
- B) **Tourism sector:** tourist guides; selling souvenirs, colored rocks, and correspondence cards; driving animals to transport tourists through various archaeological sites; and sometimes engaging in begging from tourists.

**C) Small businesses:** Transport of goods from one place to another within factories; operation of heavy machineries inside factories, and workshops; selling and delivering coffee and sandwiches in cafeterias; assisting technicians and mechanic for a small fee; filling, loading, and delivering vegetables and fruits from markets to shoppers outside

**D) Other informal Sector:** Collection and sorting of waste and scrap for sale; and working on vehicles to transport auto parts from one place to another. Children from both sexes also engage in begging in front of the markets. Girls sometimes do household chores, such as cleaning, weeding, packaging, sewing, and embroidering.

## ► Theme II: Factors of early engagement of children in the labor market

### A. Social factors:

- General weakness in social aid networks;
- Social disintegration, poor relationships and effective communication among members of a single community;
- Polygamy and the non-use of family planning;
- The spread of endogamy, especially in closed societies, which is mainly connected to the spread of disabilities related to endogamy;
- Lack of clear criteria for support by civil society organizations.



## B. Educational Factors:

- Lack of awareness of society and parents about the importance of education and children's educational needs;
- Lack of awareness among children about the importance of education and its positive future outcomes;
- Uneducated parents are role models for their children, which affects the children interest in education;
- Poor infrastructure and overcrowding in schools;
- Children and adolescents dropping out / attending school irregularly;
- Violence within schools;
- Weak enforcement of compulsory education laws;
- A general lack of extracurricular activities within schools;
- Distance between schools and the homes of students;
- Multiple risks that children may face on their way to school, especially those who travel long distances;
- High rates of illiteracy among middle school students, causing them embarrassment within the classroom;
- Lack of continuous follow-up of dropout cases by the authorities;
- Lack of public awareness of healthy alternatives to education, such as: informal education, vocational training, and dropouts program.

### C. Economic factors:

- Financial need that stems from the need to cover the cost of treating a family member;
- Inability of the head of household to access available jobs;
- The need to cover the basic needs of the child (such as food and clothing);
- Inability of the head of the household to keep up with the prices of local markets to cover the basic needs of the household (food, cleaning materials, transportation, etc.)
- High unemployment, especially among youth;
- Low minimum wages.

## ► Theme II: Factors of early engagement of children in the labor market

### • D. Family factors

- Large families and increased moral and material burden;
- The absence of one of the parents, which impose the responsibility of breadwinning on the child;
- Some parents push their children into labor to cover their own needs;
- The illness of the unemployed head of the family, thus changing the role of the child in the family;
- Parents lack awareness and interest in their children's educational and developmental needs;
- Parents lack awareness about the dangers of child labor and potential future consequences for children;
- Some parents believe that child labor will empower the child.

## ▶ Theme III: Effects of Child Labor

### 1. Effects at the educational level

- ▶ Children lose their ability to attend school, increasing drop out rate (including due to absence);
- ▶ Children lose interest in education versus work and remuneration in return;
- ▶ After exhausting the period allowed for re-admission to formal education, children are completely deprived of formal education. This leads to their full involvement in the labor market as a basic type of activity linked to the absence of any other healthy alternatives.
- ▶ If the child continued to attend school, he/she may transfer his/her behaviors and beliefs about the work environment to the classroom, which may affect his/her peers and their interest in work and education.

## 2. Effects at Protection Level

**A) Economic exploitation, verbal and physical abuse:** Children who work outside of the protection of the labor law are subject to significant problems with employers or clients. They are exposed to verbal violence and / or physical violence aimed at driving them to perform more than expected, to avoid paying for their services, or to compete for their jobs;

**B) The risk of engaging in illegal acts:** Although there is no evidence of children in conflict with the law during the rapid situation analysis, there is an indication that children may be involved with the wrong companions and learn some negative habits, such as alcohol and drug abuse from their peers or adults around them;

**C) Risk of sexual abuse:** Child labor sometimes requires interaction with a large number of trusted and mistrusted stranger adult, as well as several factors in the spatial environment of work that constitute a fertile environment for sexual abuse and exploitation.

## ► Theme III: Effects of Child Labor

### 3. Psychosocial effects:

Children are negatively affected at the psychological level by their involvement in child labor. These psychosocial effects are manifested mainly through behavioral changes adopted by the children. The results of the rapid assessment indicate that working children demonstrate the following behavioral changes observed by parents:

- 1) **Adopt negative expression mechanisms;**
- 2) **Lack of a sense of fun and joy;**
- 3) **Lack of meaningful participation in life and social life;**
- 4) **Negative change in behavior and perceptions of others;**
- 5) **Unclear future vision and goals.**

## ► Theme IV: Challenges of child protection caused by child labor

The results of the rapid assessment highlight four levels of challenges to protect children from child labor:

### **Level 1: The child himself**

- Lack of awareness among children of the negative effects of child labor;
- Lack of knowledge of the available support around them;
- Lack of knowledge of available healthy alternatives for formal education;
- Poor self-esteem among children and willingness to adopt negative behaviors;
- Negative family interactions and changing sense of responsibility;
- Child's lack of awareness of their rights.

## Theme IV: Challenges of child protection caused by child labor

### Level 2: Family Unit

- ✓ Lack of awareness of the family about the negative effects of child labor, the importance of education, and children's rights;
- ✓ Urgent economic need and lack of alternatives;
- ✓ The difficulty of changing social habits and established convictions and lack of responsibility towards the protection of children's rights;
- ✓ Negative child adoption in the life challenges facing the family.
- ✓ Poor means of dialogue with the child and poor follow-up on the child's activities outside the home.
- ✓ Ignorance of the child's psychosocial and developmental needs.



## Level 3: Society

- Poor cooperation and coordination between different community bodies to provide integrated services to rehabilitate working children and provide suitable alternatives to their families;
- Communal justification and acceptance of child labor by expressing empathy with the children;
- Lack of community awareness initiatives on child labor and child rights;
- Poor accountability on protecting the rights of children in society;
  - Lack of community networks and channels to support the most vulnerable families, in addition to the weakness of existing programs;
- Disintegration between community units and poor effective communication.

## Level 4: Political and government institutions

- Weak networking programs and mechanisms between the parties concerned with the withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children;
- A general lack of policies to deal with the problem of child labor;
- Few professional and trained staff to deal with working children;
- Poor economic programs available to families who engage their children in labor;
- This issue is not considered a national priority;
- No special budgets are allocated in government budgets to reduce child labor and prevent school dropouts;
- Lack of guidance and procedures for support of work alternative when children are withdrawn from the labor market and rehabilitated.

## ► Theme V: Existing elements to respond to the problem of child labor

Common themes between the Zaatari camp, the Petra District, and Al-Qweismeh District:

- 1. Current attention to the problem of child labor:** Currently, there are several bodies at the national level (MoSD, NCFA, MoL, MoE, JC, FPD, JPD, SRAD, ILO, UN agencies and local and international NGOs).
- 2. Civil Society Institutions/ under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development:** There are a large number of civil society organizations in the three regions.
- 3. Professionals and employers have expressed their keen interest in cooperating with the various authorities in order to responsibly implement the Jordanian labor law in their sectors of work (excluding the Petra District).**
- 4. UNICEF Makani Centers:** There are effective Makani centers in all the three regions operated through UNICEF and partners. These centers can play a key role in identifying, supporting, and referring child labor through the use of existing mechanisms in each region.

# Recommendations:

## POLICY, LEGISLATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LEVEL

1. Commit to the implementation of the national framework to prevent child labor, and incorporate mechanisms of referral within the framework, and abide by the framework's applied procedures linking with case management system;
2. Form a joint committee on child labour Labor, Social Development, and Education to work exclusively on the application of the framework and case management, in coordination and cooperation with the international bodies currently working on case management.
3. Revisit the Juvenile law and child labour bilaw

## INFORMATION AND RESEARCH LEVEL

1. Strengthen the monitoring system for children at risk of dropout and link them through the referral system
2. Conduct a qualitative study of the reasons for low enrollment rates;
3. Conduct an economic and social study of alternatives related to the provision of educational services, quality improvement, and teacher training instead of support programs for dropouts and non-formal education.
4. Strengthen case management system to better reach out to child labourers

## EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

- ▶ Rehabilitate the infrastructure of the schools, so it becomes an attractive environment for children, while focusing on expanding play grounds;
- ▶ Engage with university students and well performing students to support their peers and guide them towards learning;
- ▶ Support efforts to address violence within schools;
- ▶ Strengthen vocational training opportunities and open vocational education classes to increase youth employability;
- ▶ Strengthen early identification and referral for children at risk of dropping out and joining the labor force.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION:

- ▶ Support families to prevent children from dropping out and activate compulsory education;
- ▶ Raise community awareness to caregivers and children;
- ▶ Inform employers regarding the risks of labor to children and legislation related to child labour;
- ▶ Revisit and strengthen the role of the JPD and MoSD to address worst forms of child labour;
- ▶ Discuss the possibility of establishing a support fund for the families of at risk children (including children in labour) led by MoSD, MoL, and the NASSF;
- ▶ MoSD to establish a social service office in locations where child labour is high to deal directly with the individual cases of child labor;
- ▶ Establish electronic link between charities, the National Aid Fund, and the Zakat Fund to ensure that there is no duplication of services,
- ▶ Activate the national database located in the MoL and linked with the MoSD and the MoE;