



Child Protection
Sub-Working Group

Joint Child Protection and SGBV SWG Meeting

Meeting Minutes 17th of September 2019
UNHCR BO Amman, Jordan – EMOPS Room



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Agencies present: UNFPA, UNHCR (co-chair)

Alianza Por La Solidaridad, ARCS, AWO, Caritas, CVT, RI, ICMC, IFH-NHF, IMC, Intersos, IOM, IRC, JCLA, JRF, JWU, MECI, MEDAIR, PRM (US Embassy), Mercy Corps, Plan International, RDPP, Relief International, SAMS, TDH, UN Women, MECI, NCFA, UNICEF, UNRWA, TDH – L, TDH-IT, World Relief Germany, World Vision International

Agenda

- **Child marriage**
 - o Presentation on determinants of Child marriage (UNICEF)
 - o Short presentation on community perceptions collected from FGDs in Zaatari Camp
 - o Child Marriage analysis/ study by TDHL
 - o Presentation on exception of child marriage program
 - o Briefing on Regional Accountability Framework against Child marriage and behavioural change strategy (UNFPA)

- **National Standard Operating Procedures on Family Violence**
 - o Presentation on the national SOPs by NCFA
 - o Q&A session led by co-chairs and NCFA

Agenda items	Discussion	Action points
Welcoming and introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After a consultation between CP and SGBV coordinators, it was decided that among several cross-cutting issues two main topics will be discussed during the meeting: child marriage as well as the National Standard Operating Procedures on Family Violence - 	



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Child marriage:

Presentation on determinants of Child marriage (UNICEF)

- Reason for comprehensive study and data review on child marriage is the fact that several large-scale studies have been undertaken since the onset of the crisis, however, few only looked at the root causes; knowledge of all actors on the large-scale problem and high numbers, however, drivers are not so well understood; in addition, proposed solution and plan needs to be put in place to ensure proper program and response;
- The **main research questions** driving this study are:
 1. The underlying social and behavioural drivers of child marriage in Jordan.
 2. How does normative beliefs and expectations influence child marriage among different groups and in what circumstances?
 3. What can be done to address these drivers?

Mixed Methods Study Design:

- A systematic literature review of 30 scholarly articles on child marriage in Jordan for the past 10 years and a secondary analysis of DHS datasets.
- A qualitative study on the social and behavioural drivers: geographic mix and key issues surrounding child marriage including all geographical areas in Jordan; focus of the assessment was on vulnerable groups within the society (Palestinians, all governorates, impoverished communities; 126 interviews were conducted;
- Thematic analysis involves discovering, interpreting and reporting patterns and clusters of meaning in the data.

The data was analysed within two separate frameworks: The Child-Centred Framework and the Social and Behaviour Change Framework.
- Findings: Systematic Review & Secondary Analysis. Administrative data captures only about half of all the child marriages captured in nationally representative datasets.
 - **More than 1 in 4 children are married before the age of 18** and nearly 1 in 10 are married before the age of 15 according to recent DHS data.
 - A recently declining trend over the past five years has reversed and child marriages are now increasing.

Co-chairs to share presentation by UNICEF



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ DHS Data from 2017 also measures child marriages by ethnicity➤ Those who report being ethnically Syrian also report higher percentage of being married before the age of 18.- In 2012, divorce among those who married aged 18 years or younger was slightly more common in the poorest and poorer wealth quintiles compared to the middle and richer quintiles.- The Level One Drivers: the top drivers identified by participants across all focus groups were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Customs and TraditionsPovertySeparated families / Family DisintegrationIgnoranceSutra.- Interesting finding that previously higher divorce rates amongst wealthy families while now higher divorce rates are found amongst impoverished families; particularly in Palestinian camps;- Level Two drivers: traditions and culture, poverty and family disintegration.- Social Norms are the key drivers of Child Marriages in Jordan (culture of shame); reputation of girls most important amongst the population;- Child Marriage and Education: Increasing education is associated with lower percentages of child marriage; reviewing messaging and attendance at schools;- Family Violence: in the form of intimate partner violence and spousal conflict, is both a driver and a consequence of child marriages (according to DHS 29% of the girls below 18 are exposed to violence)- Conclusion: Four Main Messages from Study Findings:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We must address social norms through interventions if we are to reduce child marriages: reduce community sanctions and change norms;2. Educational transition from primary to secondary school completion, especially for girls, is important for reducing child marriages.	
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	<p>3. Family Violence, in the form of intimate partner violence and spousal conflict, is both a driver and a consequence of child marriages.</p> <p>4. Multisectoral response is required: all sectors must be engaged to address the root causes of child marriage;</p> <p>National framework needs to be in line with international standards and needs to be reviewed and properly rolled out.</p> <p>New Regulations on Child Marriage at the Sharia Courts: Ministry to review those decisions and the current additional; discussion and increase of legal age of marriage without exceptions to be done.</p> <p>Need to get additional entities on board including anti-trafficking department for severe cases where child marriage includes trafficking of girls.</p>	
<p>Presentation on community perceptions collected from FGDs in Zaatari Camp</p>	<p>CP SGBV WG in Zaatari Camp – FGDs with camp population on child marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers of Child marriage have been with up to 65% of all marriages issued in the camp between 2017/2018 being child marriages; Similar trend in 2019 - Zaatari CP SGBV WG have put strong efforts in addressing child marriage in the Inter-Agency response holding all actors accountable; to understand dynamics in ZC, 12 FGDs were undertaken by the agencies with girls, boys, women and men between 7-9 October; 12 districts, 6 different age and gender groups; <p>Child marriage ongoing activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevention: Awareness-raising (IMC, UNHCR, UNICEF) Empowerment activities (IFH, UN WOMEN) Child marriage counselling (UNHCR) Life skills (UNICEF) 2. Response: Case management (IFH, IMC, UNHCR) Support groups (IFH, IMsC) Drop-out/remedial programs (RI) 	<p>Co-chairs to share presentation by ZC CP SGBV</p>



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Psychosocial support (MC).

Perceptions assessed in the FGDs:

- **Awareness of Jordanian legal framework:**

Adolescent groups: girls can get married at 15, boys at 16 or 18

Adult groups: only M 18-39 knew legal age for marriage to be registered at Sharia Court is 15.

- **Child marriage causes:**

- Tradition and social norms have been the main reason
- Protection from sexual harassment
- Poverty is a main driver and reason to get girls married at young age
- Religion: in Islam it is seen acceptable and a religious fulfilment; according to the beneficiaries they mentioned that the prophet also married a child and hence it is seen appropriate;
- Love
- Family lineage
- Teaches responsibility
- Ignorance or lack of awareness: parents and groups of boys didn't know the risks of child marriage for girls;

- **IFH and UNFPA are coordinating a high-level roundtable discussion in October 2019**

Purpose: to discuss current policies/regulations and to develop plans/programs to reduce CM in Zaatari Camp.

Expected participants: community leaders and members, SRAD, Sharia Court, other governmental actors, humanitarian agencies, CP-SGBV and Education SWG members, media.

- **Recommendations:**

- Ensuring that all boys and girls receive education
- Social media campaign including on religious leaders



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vocational trainings for youth 	
<p>Presentation on Regional Situation analysis on Child Marriage (TdHL)</p>	<p>Situation Analysis from TDH Lausanne on Child Marriage in MENA region, including in Jordan; aim was to understand social processes versus legal procedures; review coordination and provide information for response using theory of change methodology (focus on religious leaders – formal actors and faith-based leaders)</p> <p>NOTE; study is not indicative of prevalence but a qualitative assessment on child marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key outcomes of the research (Jordan and Lebanon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome 1: Understanding of the social processes underpinning the increase in child marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Programming to reflect trends in high divorce rates as well (development of evaluation and monitoring tools and framework for interventions) Outcome 2: Current policy and practice responses to child marriage across Jordan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevention activities are very blurry and not well structured Outcome 3: Evidenced-based practice tools developed based on the research findings - Child marriage in Jordan: Target Groups Researched <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Married Syrian refugee girls and their families ➤ Unmarried Syrian refugee girls and their families ➤ Syrian refugees (adolescent girls, adolescent boys and caregivers of adolescent girls and boys) ➤ Religious justice leaders ➤ Policy makers - Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expansion of support to prevent (SGBV) ➤ Strengthening laws which prohibit child marriage ➤ Strengthen the education ➤ Strengthen community-based engagement and activities ➤ Developing and extending direct services to young women impacted by child marriage 	<p>Co-chairs to share presentation</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Specific prevention programs for adolescent young women - Interviews and focus group discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Why wait?</i> national campaign: a set of positive messages on marriage after 18 years of age ➤ Investment in married girls and religious justice/faith-based actors ➤ Advocacy and awareness-raising message that consider community perceptions of child marriage ➤ Peer to peer work with male refugees on child marriage ➤ Peer to peer work with mothers ➤ The lens of gender inequality and sexuality must remain at the heart of prevention activities. 	
<p>Presentation on exception of child marriage program/ RDPP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the status of women in Jordan through combating child marriage and promoting positive masculinity. Project duration 2019-2021 funded by RDPP - Project Impact: contributing to a safe environment for women and girls in Jordan through prevention of negative practices and behaviours such as child marriage as a form of GBV - Project Outcome: - Capacities, attitudes and knowledge of stakeholders around implementation of legislation and practices linked to child marriage are positively influenced - Communities' attitudes and behaviours toward child marriage as a form of GBV and other gender-related issues are changed in positive. - JNCW and partners have improved capacities in managing women-related interventions. - Project outputs: Capacity building, Advocacy actions targeting policy makers and key stakeholders, Awareness campaigns, positive masculinity programme for school and university students, Review of public-school curricula, Capacity building for JNCW staff, Capacity building for JNCW partners and key stakeholders and Mapping of social protection services. - Project Activity related to Combat child marriage: Develop a training toolkit on the consequences of child marriage Conduct a TOT training for Shariah Judges department & family reconciliation committee. 	



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	<p>Conduct training for the CBO's on the consequences of child marriage on girls. Develop the template on the application of exception on cases of child marriage. Orientation session on Personal status law. Conduct 2 days' workshop /round-table discussion on the health effects of child marriage. Preparation workshops for the design of awareness campaign. Carrying out media/social media campaign to raise awareness on child marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project main partners: Shariah Judges, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Awqaf, Shama'a network and Higher Population Council. 	
<p>Briefing on Regional Accountability Framework against Child marriage (RAF) and COMBI (behavioural change strategy on child marriage) UNFPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Accountability Framework against Child marriage: UNICEF/ UNFPA joint program including 12 countries; - UNFPA and UNICEF have a Global joint programme working on child marriage. Most important aspect is looking at methodology and mapping of gaps. - UNFPA piloted COMBI: Behavioural change project to strengthen impact of our program; focusing on community-based mechanisms - Importance for HPC to meet for the task force in order to feed in the national framework and to bring important work forward; 	<p>Co-chair UNFPA to share mapping</p>
<p>National Standard Operating Procedures on Family Violence.</p> <p>Presentation on the national SOPs by National Council for</p>	<p>Presentation by NCFV on the national SOPs on family violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General goal: strengthening the system and procedures of protection at the national level, unifying/ harmonize the efforts exerted by national governmental and non-governmental institutions, UN organizations and international organizations working, unifying the national reference work and the mechanism to deal with all cases of violence in Jordan; goal is that anyone who is working in Jordan on the ground has a SOP on response to family violence, reflective of national laws and legislation. - Background of the draft is the death of 13 persons; death were mainly related to the lack of coordination between different agencies and entities; 	<p>Co-chairs to share the presentation.</p> <p>NCFV website: www.ncfv.org.jo</p> <p>National Standard Operating</p>



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<p>Family Affairs (NCFA). presentation in Arabic and a translation was provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodology for preparing procedures: The procedures have been developed through a participatory approach between the Council, UN organizations, governmental and non-governmental institutions, international institutions and sub-working groups on GBV and child protection through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of all relevant documents in the field of family protection at the national and international level. 2. Formation of technical committees. 3. National workshops for governmental, non-governmental and international institutions to discuss draft procedures. 4. Extensive meetings to review and amend drafts in preparation for adoption. 5. Official launching the procedures under the auspices of the Prime Minister. - Objectives: - National reference for all institutions, establishing the general framework of policies and programs for protection and prevention of violence, develop a systematic process of supervision and follow-up and many other actions; ensure clarity on roles and responsibilities for all actors involved; enhanced documentation of cases, unified methodology for all agencies. - Main document on policies and procedures: The document contains 2 parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Policies and principles for the prevention and Response to Violence in Jordan. 2) Procedural evidence for each type of violence through frameworks, policies and guidelines. - The Council, in partnership with international institutions and under the supervision of the national team of family protection is currently working on the development of internal procedural evidence for the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Department of Family Protection and the Ministry of Interior to align with these procedures. 	<p>Procedures for the Prevention and Response to Violence in Jordan link:</p> <p>http://ncfa.org.jo:85/NCFA/sites/default/files/Publications/ops.pdf</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SGBV meeting: 29 Oct 2019 - CP SWG meeting: 8 October 2019 	