

## Jordan Child Protection Sub-Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

**Date and time:** 29 June 2020/ 9:00-11:30

**Location:** Online Zoom meeting

**Co-Chairs:** UNICEF/ UNHCR

#### **Agenda:**

- Welcome
- Thematic discussion on child labor
- ILO technical guidance on child labor during COVID- 19
- Brief update from MoL on child labor
- CL coordination and SOPs on child labor by NCFA
- Update from Education working group on cross cutting issues on child labor with child protection by UNICEF, EWG Co-chair
- Update from Livelihoods working group on cross cutting issues on child labor with child protection by livelihoods WG Co-chair
- Updates from partners on their work related to child labor since COVID- 19
- Short update on the referral pathway
- Updating the 4 Ws
- AOB (War Child parenting MHPSS)
- Closure

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Point
<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcoming and discussing the Agenda.</li> <li>- Reviewing action points from last meeting.</li> <li>- Ministry of labor joined the meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MoM will be shared with CP SWG.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Thematic discussion on CL</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Before the pandemic: high dropouts after completion of Grade 6 with continued high levels of dropout in Grade 7 and above.</li> <li>- Sustainable development goal target (SDG) 8.7 calls upon the worst child labor. UN declared that in 2021 there will be an international day for child labor. COVID-19 is a threat on SDG 8.7 goal.</li> <li>- Collaboration between all involved parties is needed to reach most vulnerable children.</li> <li>- Disparity in access to secondary education. Only 18% of Syrian adolescents aged 16-17 were enrolled in Grades 11-12 (UNICEF, forthcoming).</li> </ul> <p>Age-appropriate pathways and support in labor market entry specifically for age 13 and above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the pandemic:</li> </ul> <p>Risks of child labor are likely to be on the rise due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Cross-sectorial efforts to mitigate their learning loss and accelerate learning recovery.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Families working in informal sectors have the highest numbers of child labor. COVID-19 will push more children into child labor to cover financial difficulties.</li> <li>- Ways forward:  Strengthen a knowledge base on what works and what doesn't and promote age-relevant pathways and skills development support.</li> <li>- Importance to enrich linkages between child labor and other sectors such as livelihoods and education.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>ILO technical guidance on child labor during COVID- 19</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ILO issued technical note on child labor during COVID-19. There was an increase in child labor during the lockdown in Jordan despite all measures that government is talking. Provides guidance and information for practitioners and policymakers on child labor issues during and after COVID-19.</li> <li>- Technical note COVID-19 and child labor: <a href="https://alliancecpha.org/en">https://alliancecpha.org/en</a></li> <li>- 2030 Sustainable Development Goal target 8.7</li> <li>- 2021 is the International year for the Elimination of Child Labor</li> <li>- The emergence of COVID-19 places these goals in great peril.</li> <li>- Worldwide, an estimated 152 million children are in child labor, almost half of them, 73 million, work in hazardous child labor.</li> <li>- Many children are out of school and economic pressures on families continue to grow.</li> <li>- This could push millions of children into child labor and makes child labor an imminent concern.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation will be shared with CP SWG.</b></li> <li>• <b>Members who have examples on on the impact of COVID-19 on child labour can contact Simon Hills <a href="mailto:hills@ilo.org">hills@ilo.org</a> and Silvia Onate <a href="mailto:Silvia.Onate@plan-international.org">Silvia.Onate@plan-international.org</a></b></li> </ul>

- Already working children are likely to be more exposed to the virus and falling into WFCL.
- Child labor risks (two categories):
- Children at risk of child labor.
- Children already engaged in child labor.
- Some examples of child labor risks are the following: commercial sexual exploitation, more hazardous working conditions, risks of arrest, legal sanctions, exposure to trafficking , exposure to contracting the disease, increased risks of family separation and migration, children, especially girls, assuming greater responsibilities for family survival and increasing psychosocial distress.
- Child Protection actors must work together with other sectors such as health, wash, education, etc to address the needs of child labour.
- Child Protection Minimum Standards: case management, group activities for child wellbeing, strengthening family and caregiving environments, community-level approaches and alternative care.
- Working with governments: uphold the rights of working children, provide opportunities for continuous (alternative) learning to children, create decent job opportunities for families and other initiatives.
- Resources: child labor Task Force and the alliance for child protection in Humanitarian Action.
- the Child Labour Task Force is gathering field examples on the impact of COVID-19 on child labour or/and how organisations adapt their programmes to address it.

**Brief update from MoL on child labor**

- Government role of protecting children from risks and focus on child labor especially during COVID-19 as children were affected.
- International Day against Child Labor was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. A statement from the Minister of Labor clarifying the Ministry's role in combating child labor. Slogan "the protection of children under the COVID-19". On this day, there must be a linkage between child labor and COVID-19.
- Launching the reporting page in the national electronic system and focusing on the citizen's role and its importance in reporting child labor cases through **childlabor.jo**
- Presenting Video in cooperation with the ILO and the Association of Development Pioneers, explaining the partnership mechanism and its impact on withdrawing working children.
- Designing and launching an electronic game to children with the help of the Social Support Center and in cooperation with the MoL working to educate all children about the legal parts in the labor law.
- The Jordanian government has taken several measures and decisions directly and indirectly related to combating child labor, protecting them and facilitating their access to education during the outbreak of COVID-19.
- The suspension of all educational institutions, the provision of distance education via television channels and educational platforms, and the submission of exams through these platforms
- Disrupting all institutions in the public and private sectors.
- Preventing children under the age of sixteen from leaving at a time when citizens were allowed to roam.
- Intensifying the inspection campaigns on sectors authorized to work and take all legal

	<p>measures against violating employers, including child labor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting families in need.</li> <li>- Requiring workers in different sectors to conduct COVID-19 examination</li> <li>- Publication of 18 manuals for health safety procedures in the workplace.</li> <li>- Preventing children from entering malls and commercial centers.</li> <li>- How to look at child labor from a bigger perspective by giving services to families to avoid child labor.</li> <li>- There is a need to re-do child labor household survey, UN and other agencies will try to find a way.</li> <li>- The necessity of setting a national strategy that clarifies the role and responsibilities of all parties concerned with combating child labor.</li> <li>- Developing the national database for combating child labor.</li> <li>- Issuing evidence and brochures specializing in child labor in sectors where their work is frequent.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>CL coordination and SOPs on child labor/ NCFA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Labor Project in cooperation with UNICEF, the MoE and the MoL.</li> <li>- Working on developing SOPs within the national framework in cooperation with the Juvenile Police and MoSD.</li> <li>- Developing internal procedures for MoSD and the Juvenile Police, in cooperation with other parties.</li> <li>- The project, in cooperation with UNICEF, will inform companies of the procedures.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Update from Education working group on cross cutting issues on child labor with child protection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education co-chair: we must accelerate cross sectorial efforts. Late enrollment in grade one even before the pandemic, potential of drop out from schools for ages above 13 years old.</li> <li>- Syrian and other nationalities are not completing schooling due to many reasons, one of them is economic difficulties.</li> <li>- Promoting supporting labor market.</li> <li>- Pandemic increased the risks of child labor and we should mitigate the risk.</li> <li>- Solutions: to have a joint working group for child protection and education as they can work together, strengthen knowledge of what works and what does not regarding child labor. Focus on technical areas and having joint sessions between the working groups.</li> <li>- MoE and UNICEF have done child out of school study that will be released in September. A joint meeting shall be done in September/October to discuss linkages between children out of school and how can child protection help in this.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Update from Livelihoods working group on cross cutting issues regarding child labor with child protection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General overview about livelihoods formulation in Jordan. Since 2016 livelihoods became more viable source for supporting refugees. Livelihoods working group was formulated to run the sector, it has a key role in strengthen refugees' self-reliance and support host community in JRP and other national strategies. Working close with line ministries and partners during the JRP and maintain mutual collaboration within agencies to support refugees.</li> <li>- Providing Job matching, vocational trainings, etc.</li> <li>- UNHCR support stakeholders through information sharing, referrals, etc. Livelihoods currently plays a strategy role and continuing finding ways to support refugees to help them to be able to provide sustainable living.</li> <li>- On the 15th of June 2020, active registered Syrians between the ages of 18 and 59 are</li> </ul>	

	<p>64.5% of the Syrian population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cash based intervention program.</li> <li>- Alternative pathways aimed to improve livelihoods for households' families. Some activities: small economic projects and career guidance. This had a component on enhancing technical skills.</li> <li>- Entrepreneurship, 3000 plus beneficiaries on guidance on labor market.</li> <li>- Smaller intervention: one component that is home based businesses for Syrian refugees and female heads of households were engaged in this project.</li> <li>- Refugee protection is the heart of UNHCR program, therefore livelihoods sector under JRP is aligned with UNHCR mandate. Advocate for refugee inclusion, dialogue with MoL to find ways were refugees can be legally employed.</li> <li>- Important: linkages of livelihoods with families, providing self-employment and support to prevent child labor. looking for more linkages between livelihoods and child protection.</li> <li>- Livelihoods working group would have a session on HBBs registration in its next meeting. Members who would like to learn about it can join and get all info they need by sending an email to Najwan Aldorgham at <a href="mailto:aldorgha@unhcr.org">aldorgha@unhcr.org</a> in order to receive the invitation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Updates from partners on their work related to child labor since COVID-19</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IMC: offices in Irbid, Mafrqa, Jerash and Balqa are opened. Also covering the south.</li> <li>- JOHUD: social support centers, working on the online education in Marka centers targeting child in labor. Intervention in Zarqa in partnership with TDHL, and CBOs in Zarqa. Available activities for children and parents. Provide online intervention during COVID-19 and coordinate with MoL on this database.</li> <li>- JRF: received child labor cases in 4 governorates and there are around 115 cases in Amman,</li> </ul>	



	<p>others in Aqaba and Tafila. Working on support families so that children can go back to school or join formal or non-formal education. Providing financial aid based on the needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Save the children: cash for education /eco project: reaching out to several groups such as CP, protection, education. Working with beneficiaries and referring beneficiaries to different sectors. Working with Danida focusing on child labor. Focus in east Amman and Zarqa, case management, cash and other activities are available. Project in partnership with UNICEF targeting children. Will conduct baseline in east Amman and will work with local partners in east Amman. Communicating with JOHUD. Focusing on child labor. Will work with parents and provide vocational trainings. Will keep members updated when the project starts. Elaboration with MoL and other organizations working in CP and child labor. Launch in September.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Short update on the referral pathway</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Referral pathways available in English and Arabic. An update is required as the last one was in December 2019.</li> </ul> <p>Arabic: <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g4yKMzDtufkuW3Nn_AZ_dps_fAjKmmrR/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g4yKMzDtufkuW3Nn_AZ_dps_fAjKmmrR/edit</a></p> <p>English: <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UvbYNkd_EjJ8Dg2ney2nstSaQZz81kZc/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UvbYNkd_EjJ8Dg2ney2nstSaQZz81kZc/edit</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Co-chairs to share the links with members for updates.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Updating the 4 Ws</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members can update the 4Ws sheet by requesting access to the link from: <a href="mailto:mahafza@unhcr.org">mahafza@unhcr.org</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB (War Child parenting MHPSS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>War Child:</b> working in Jordan for the next few years, developing a family-based intervention.</li> <li>- Learn what has been done in Jordan to identify gaps and needs.</li> <li>- Sent an email through the WG, looking for any program and evaluation report that agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Members to share with War Child any document for family programs that were</b></li> </ul>

	<p>share.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Field level coordination meetings:</b> look at parenting programs, good to have dedicated session on parenting and how it can be used to prevent CP issues.</li> <li>- National agencies working on parenting programs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>conducted.</b></p>
<p><b>Closure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Siyma's last meeting with CP, thanking her to all the great work and support that she provided.</li> <li>- ILO: important to learn from Livelihoods and education sectors, hoping to keep the coordination.</li> <li>- Introducing Seema the new co-chair for CP (email address: <a href="mailto:salzibdeh@unicef.org">salzibdeh@unicef.org</a>)</li> <li>- It was good to bring a lot of agencies in this platform. It is good to have government presence in these meetings. Hoping for stronger collaboration between agencies.</li> </ul>	