



**Child Protection**  
Sub-Working Group

**Joint CP and GBV SWG Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes 08<sup>th</sup> of June 2022**



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Sub-Working Group

**Co-chairs: UNHCR/ UNICEF/ UNFPA**

**Agencies present:** Action Aid, AWO, Caritas Jordan, COOPI, CVT, DRC, GFP, Good Neighbors International, IFH/NHF, ILO, IMC, INTERSOS, JNCW JOHUD, JRF, JWU, Medair, NAFE, NOVIA, Oxfam, Plan International, PRM/US Embassy, Reclaim Childhood, Relief International, Right to Play, Rowad Al Khair SAMS, Save the Children, Sharia Supreme Court, SOS, Takatoat, TDH Italy, TDHL, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, VDT, War Child.

**Agenda**

- Introduction and welcoming participants
- Presentation from Sharia Supreme Court on Child Marriage statistics
- Presentation by the national task force on marriage under 18
- JRF presentation – Child Marriage programs
- Presentation by UNHCR
- AOB

Agenda items	Discussion	Action points
<b>Welcome and introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcoming participants and discussing the agenda.</li> <li>- The meeting was held in Arabic.</li> <li>- Representatives of institutions members of the two sub-working groups met in a joint meeting in the presence of several representatives of governmental, semi-governmental entities, and civil society institutions working in the field of providing prevention to child marriage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>MoM will be uploaded on UNHCR’s data portal:</b> <a href="http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situati">http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situati</a></li> </ul>



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<p><b>Presentation from Sharia Supreme Court on Child Marriage statistics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Sohaib Al-Shakhanbeh, Inspector General of the Sharia Court, presented a summary of the work of Chief of Justice Department regarding the issue of marriage for those under 18 years and the granting of exceptions. The most prominent of what was indicated were as follows:</li> <li>- A historical overview was presented regarding the laws and legislations related to marriage, such as the family law, up to the personal status law.</li> <li>- The participatory role was emphasized by all institutions and members of societies for guarantees of protection related to groups under the age of 18, in addition to the role of raising awareness and building relevant cognitive capacities to address causes and motives.</li> <li>- It was pointed out that the current legislative framework, which serves as a reference in cases of under-18 marriage, was nationally agreed upon, and the Council of Ministers approved the national plan related to the marriage of under-18 years old.</li> <li>- Mechanisms for dealing with requests for marriage permissions were discussed through an organized hierarchical authority that begins with the conciliation court judge, and then the judge makes the decision as he deems appropriate. Passing through a social study by the family reform that represents a specialized study for each case and separately within the inheritance and minors' affairs office, followed by the approval procedures of the Judicial specialized committees, that includes verification of agreement by both involved parties.</li> <li>- Problems of asylum are related to documenting marriages, depriving children of education, and the consequences of the absence of judicial protection guarantees. It was emphasized that the purpose of procedures and restrictions is related to granting permission to allowing marriage under the age of 18. The consequences of documenting these marriages, are to control, monitor and protect the rights of these groups through standards and directives for granting permission to achieve preferences.</li> <li>- The department's plan is to resume the rehabilitation courses for those who are about to marry within the next stage. It was pointed out that the department is currently working on developing a computerized archiving system related to marriage under the age of 18, in addition to implementing training courses targeting judges and building their capacity on instructions for granting permission to marry and conducting sessions targeting refugees on related issues.</li> </ul>	



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- It was emphasized that the follow-up team for the implementation of the recommendations on marriage for those under the age of 18 within the Department of the Chief Justice is based on reviewing the criteria for granting permission, issued in 2017 and included in the instructions to be developed in accordance with the current data and developments.
- Mr. Muhammad Abu Samra - Head of Statistics and Studies Department in the Department of the Chief Justice gave a presentation that included the following:
  - Comparison of statistics from 2016 to 2021, specially within the Jordanian and Syrian nationalities.
  - Review the details of the age group for males and females during 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- Most prominent inquiries and interventions of the participants:

Inquiries were made about the concept of “satisfaction” for girls under the age of 18, specifically how to verify this (the mechanism used to verify this).

The importance of a computerized system was emphasized as a positive step in this regard.

The importance of involving the concerned institutions in the re-examination of granting permission to marry was noted.

It was clarified by Dr. Sohaib Al-Shakhanbeh that one of the challenges they face in their work is related to the issue of marriage for those under the age of 18, is the existence of cases based on the prevailing culture). The contribution of the instructions for granting permission to marry and their strictness in reducing the percentage in recent years has been emphasized. Regarding responding to participant’s query about publishing the reasons for which permission is denied, it was clarified that the department cannot share those reasons due to the specificity of the cases in which permission is denied. It was confirmed by Dr. Al-Shakhanbeh that the origin is the best interest of these groups, with the emphasis that judges deal with legislation and instructions.



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**NCFA: presentation  
by the national task  
force on marriage  
under 18.**

- Ms. Mai Sultan, Director of the Directorate of Childhood / NCFA, made a presentation on the National Committee to Restrict the Marriage of Under-18 years of age. The increase in the percentage of organizations working on the issue of child marriage was indicated as a positive step towards supporting and mobilizing against marriage for those under 18 years of age.
- The national plan for the marriage of those under the age of 18 was introduced and a mechanism entrusted with the task of following up on the implementation of the national plan. The levels of work within the committee were indicated, in addition to the most prominent tasks entrusted to this committee. The role of liaison officers within the committee's second level, consisting of representatives of institutions that are members of the committee, and the time frame related to periodic meetings, was discussed.
- The most important achievements of the liaison officers during the last period were noted, the most prominent of which was the updating of the national plan after receiving the approval by the Prime Ministry, in addition to preparing the 2020 and 2021 report. It was emphasized that the Council welcomed the receipt of membership applications for liaison officers by institutions that implement projects and programs related to the issue of marriage for those under 18, to follow up and monitor the related achievements and challenges.
- It was pointed out the necessity of coordinating and unifying efforts in light of the multiplicity of parties concerned with the implementation of relevant projects and programs, where language represents one of those challenges in order to exchange: views and viewpoints between international bodies and representatives of national bodies, weak coordination between international bodies, issues related to the suspension of the membership of some members due to the expiration of the available funding, and the presence of some overlaps by implementing repetitive projects and activities in the same areas and within the same target group and by following the same methodologies and methods.
- It was clarified that all the committee's recommendations regarding limiting the marriage of those under 18 are included in the report of the Higher Population Council, in addition to the committee's reports for the years 2020 and 2021.



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**JRF presentation –  
Child Marriage  
programs**

- The participatory approach of building interventions adopted by the "Together Strong" program was mentioned, a program that targets groups concerned with the issue of early marriage in a parallel and separate manner. The program ends with joint sessions between the concerned groups, specifically the group of young girls and the group of mothers. It was emphasized that the criteria for selecting the target groups are carried out through networking and coordination with case management programs and community committee programs.
- It was clarified that the awareness sessions targeting fathers and brothers on issues against child marriage to cover "family support" in a participatory manner.
- The "Ambassadors of Change" initiative, who represents (active activists from local communities) among the participants in the implemented sessions, was discussed and in turn implements sessions within the local communities and transfers knowledge and experiences to them.
- It was emphasized that the program works mainly on changing stereotypes, ideas, beliefs, and related practices, with a focus on activating channels of communication, and constructive dialogues between girls and parents, especially mothers.
- The approach to change based on interventions targeting the family was discussed, emphasizing the importance of this approach and its role in involving family members and ensuring their influence as supporters of the cause against child marriage, in addition to the role of this approach in activating positive change in the long term by adopting the issue and working to support it.
- The consideration of presenting and sharing relevant information with different groups was discussed through activities that are developed based on considering the characteristics of each category in detail, for example, using methods of debates, storytelling and expressing feelings within the implemented activities targeting all nationalities.
- Mechanisms for dealing with challenges in presenting and discussing issues related to the program were discussed, through a participatory approach that all concerned parties involved in case management, program implementers and members of local communities contribute to work, emphasizing that all lectures and awareness sessions respect the societal context and the specificity of community culture. The prevailing situation, where the importance of girls' right to education and its role in supporting the quality of life for girls in the future is discussed.



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<p><b>Presentation by UNHCR</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The most prominent services carried out by the Commission, including prevention and response, in relation to child marriage issues were reviewed.</li> <li>- The factor of customs and traditions influencing the practice of child marriage has been mentioned mainly.</li> <li>- The approach to be adopted in constructing relevant interventions through the approach based on social theories such as the theory of social norms (norms), and strategies related to changing societal behaviours and practices was discussed.</li> <li>- Child marriage statistics were reviewed in Zatari and Azraq camps until the end of October 2021, and the mechanism for calculating the percentage of child marriage by referring to the number of cases relative to the number of girls in the age group (15-17).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Examples of the efforts and interventions of institutions working on prevention of child marriage programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>International Relief:</b> Works to provide educational services, remedial education, and education services for students who have dropped out of school, specifically regarding educational grants and taking education as a basic method in prevention, in addition to a program to promote culture among school dropouts.</li> <li>- <b>Plan International:</b> relies on a holistic approach in implementing programs with partners in implementing awareness sessions related to sexual and reproductive health and early marriage issues, in addition to parenting programs with the involvement of parents.</li> <li>- Interventions are implemented through community campaigns and community initiatives through which we support the cause against child marriage.</li> <li>- Implementation of seminars on child marriage targeting different age groups in separate sessions, issues related to the causes of early marriage and proposed solutions to combat this phenomenon are discussed.</li> <li>- <b>International Relief Committee IRC:</b> working on the response and prevention through specialized awareness-raising and capacity building approaches such as the Sun Girls curriculum, including issues related to sexual and reproductive health rights, and specialized case management services.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>IACU:</b> members were asked to report their activities under ActivityInfo database.</li> </ul>	