



Country Profile of Lebanon

A Review of the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
August 2011



Country Profile of Lebanon

A Review of the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

August 2011



This publication is fully funded by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency). SIDA has not taken part in its production and does not assume any responsibility for its content.

The Child Rights Governance Programme in Save the Children Sweden's Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa implemented the activities of the Manara Network: A Civil Society for Child's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa Region.

Work on Child Rights Governance aims to build societies that fulfil children rights by establishing and strengthening the infrastructure necessary for states to effectively implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other child rights obligations. It seeks to support a vibrant civil society pushing children up the political agenda and holding states to account for what they have or haven't done to realise children's rights. It is an effective strategy for impacting at scale the lives of millions of children, resulting in structural and lasting change.

Our long-term vision is that far more children have their rights fulfilled because:

- All states meet their obligations to monitor and implement children's rights
- A strong civil society, including children, holds states and the international community to account for children's rights

To advance this vision the Child Rights Governance Programme will have significantly contributed to two key objectives:

- Strengthened State institutions and mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of children's rights,
- Increased awareness and capacity among civil society and children to promote children's rights and hold duty bearers to account

This publication was created by:

Save the Children Sweden, Regional Office
for the Middle East and North Africa - Beirut

Sanna Johnson, Regional Director
Ibrahim Faltas, Child Rights Governance Programme
Adviser
Mohamad Alasmar, Child Rights Governance Com-
munication Officer
Abdullah Alkhamissy, CRC/Civil Society Specialist -
Yemen
Marina Pinheiro, Child Rights Governance Pro-
gramme Officer

International Bureau for Children's Rights - Montréal

Nadja Pollaert, Director General
Guillaume Landry, Programmes Director
Elodie Le Grand, Project Manager - Middle East and
North Africa

Lebanese Association for Education and Training (ALEF)

Darine el Hage, Executive Director
Raneem Baassiri, Researcher
Rita Karam, Project Officer

Naba'a—Developmental Actions Without Borders

Emad Abd El Razeq, Project Coordinator
Raed Aataya, Project Manager
Khalid Hasan, Volunteer
Feiruz Hussein, Volunteer
Laura El Bussa, Volunteer
Lucie Dos Santos, Volunteer
Nariman Yusif, Volunteer

Save the Children's vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Save the Children's mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

The Manara Network is a regional network focused on coordinating and promoting information and action on children's rights in the Middle East and North Africa. Based on the belief that civil society can and should play a key role in the protection and promotion of human rights in general and child rights in particular, Manara aims to support civil society organisations and children in the MENA region in their role as advocates and active development partners for the rights of the child.

© Save the Children Sweden 2011

Project management: Ibrahim Faltas

Production management: Mohamad Alasmar

Authors: Mizan Law Group for Human Rights, with
contributions from Save the Children Sweden and the
International Bureau for Children's Rights

Editor: Charmaine Seitz, independent consultant
Graphic design: Charmaine Seitz

This project is funded by the Swedish International De-
velopment Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

First Edition

Printed by Al Nasher Advertising and PR, 2011

Save the Children Sweden Regional office
P.O. Box 113-7167, Beirut, Lebanon
Phone: + 961 1 738 654/5
Fax: + 961 1 739 023

Contents

Foreword 6

Acronyms 8

Introduction 9

Country Overview 13

1. Demographic and Geographic Presentation 13
2. Historic Overview 14
3. National Political System 16
4. Social and Economic Situation 17
5. General Human Rights Situation 18

The Children of Lebanon 20

1. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols 21
 - i. General Overview 21
 - ii. Ratification and Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by Lebanon and Relevant Alternative Report Submissions 22
 - iii. Reservations 24
 - iv. Punctuality/Quality of State Reports 24
 - v. The Committee's Concluding Observations 24
 - vi. Overview of the Response of the Government to the Committee 25
2. Applicable International and Regional Human Rights Instruments 26
 - i. Overview 26
 - ii. Relevant International and Regional Human Rights Conventions and Treaties and their Status of Ratification by Lebanon 27
3. National Legal Framework and Practices Affecting Children's Rights 28
 - i. The National Legal Framework 28
 - a. Non-Discrimination 30
 - b. Best Interests of the Child 31
 - c. The Right to Life, Survival, and Development 31
 - d. Education 31
 - e. Health 32
 - f. Protection in the Penal Code 32
 - g. Participation 32
 - ii. The Main Stakeholders on Children's Rights Issues 33

a.	Government Bodies	33	
b.	Parliamentarian Committees	36	
c.	National Councils and Independent Human Rights Institutions	37	
d.	Local Civil Society Organisations and Networks	40	
e.	United Nations Agencies	41	
f.	International Organisations	43	
g.	Media	43	
h.	Regional Bodies	43	
i.	Donors and the Diplomatic Community	43	
j.	Religious Institutions	44	
k.	Children and Youth	44	
4.	Identifying Child Rights Commendable Practices in Light of the CRC's Main Principles	45	
i.	The Right to Non-Discrimination (Article 2)	45	
a.	Gender	45	
b.	Rural/Urban Areas	47	
c.	Ethnicity or Religion	47	
d.	The Status of Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced People	49	
e.	Children Living with Disabilities	50	
f.	HIV/AIDS	52	
ii.	The Best Interests of the Child (Article 3)	53	
iii.	The Right to Life, Survival and Development (Article 6)	54	
a.	Health	54	
b.	Nutrition	57	
c.	Physical Environment	58	
d.	Reproductive Health	59	
e.	Education	61	
f.	Violence Against Children	65	
g.	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	70	
h.	Child Trafficking	71	
i.	Children Associated with Armed Groups and Armed Forces	72	
j.	Landmines and Small Arms	73	
k.	Internally Displaced Children and Refugees	75	
l.	Orphaned, Separated and Unaccompanied children	76	
m.	Birth Registration	78	
n.	Children Living in the Streets	78	
o.	Child Labour	80	
p.	Juvenile Justice	82	
5	The Right to Express Views/to be Heard/Child Participation (Article 12)	84	



Foreword

The project “Manara Network: A Civil Society for Child’s Rights” was designed and has been implemented by Save the Children Sweden in a time when the Middle East has experienced an Arab spring.

Our partners, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights and the Lebanese Association for Education and Training (ALEF) and Naba’a—Developmental Actions Without Borders (Naba’a), were key in producing this country report, a component of the Manara Network project.

The objective of this innovative project is to assure and contribute to effective development and implementation of policies, strategies and legislation in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the national and regional levels in Middle East and North Africa countries. The overall project aim is to establish a regional child rights network of civil society organisations by supporting and strengthening the capacity of local organisations in four main components: analysis and reporting, coordination and networking, advocacy and child rights programme mainstreaming with a high degree of children’s participation. During the year, children across the region have been actively involved in the newly-developed child-led data collection. Based on their findings, the children developed their own animated movies for advocacy purposes, which can be found at www.manaracrc.org.

On behalf of Save the Children Sweden’s Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, I am happy to introduce you to one of the key components of the Manara project, the country profile, a report highlighting the commendable practices implemented by government,

civil society (parents, non-governmental organisations, media, religious leaders, etc.) and the international community (United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organisations) towards compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.

The country profile component of the Manara project is a rigorous and exhaustive report on the status of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aims to be a resource for identifying gaps and challenges on the status of the implementation of the Convention, to highlight the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on specific matters, and to identify commendable practices implemented by the State, civil society and the international community in addressing these issues.

We encourage its use as an inspiration to neighbouring countries, since the exchange of experiences presented in the country profiles can only lead to positive changes in the promotion and protection of children’s rights in the region. I would also like to thank the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and their regional office in Cairo who believed in this idea and made the funding available.

Sanna Johnson
Regional Director, Save the Children Sweden

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa



Acronyms

ACCD	Arab Council for Childhood and Development	LibanCAN	Lebanese Intersectoral Board of Associations Network for the prevention of child abuse and neglect
AKAM	<i>Al-Kifah Al-Musalab</i>	LPDC	Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee
ALEF	Lebanese Association for Education and Training	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
ANND	Arab NGO Network for Development	MENA	Middle East and North Africa
ARABISPCAN	Arab-International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	NGO	nongovernmental organisation
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	PC	Popular Committee
CERD	Centre for Educational Research and Development	PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organisation
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	UNCAT	Convention Against Torture
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GONGO	government-operated non-governmental organisation	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
HCC	Higher Council for Childhood	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IBCR	International Bureau for Children's Rights	UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
INGO	international nongovernmental organisation	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour	UNODC	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
ISF	Internal Security Forces	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
		UNSCOL	United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
		UNV	United Nations Volunteers
		WHO	World Health Organisation

Introduction

Lebanese Association for Education and Training & Naba'a—Developmental Actions Without Borders

This country profile was written by two organisations, namely the Lebanese Association for Education and Training (ALEF) and Naba'a—Developmental Actions without Borders (Naba'a).

ALEF is a non-governmental human rights organisation based in Beirut. ALEF seeks to strengthen respect for and practice of human rights at all levels of the social, political, and economic structure and seeks to re-instate the fundamental value of every human being as a priority for policy-makers and policy agendas.

Naba'a is a non-profit Lebanese organisation that works with Palestinian and Lebanese communities. The core team that established Naba'a was formerly part of the Save the Children - UK mission in Lebanon. After the withdrawal of the international organisation from the country in 2001, the team decided to continue working. Naba'a works to empower Palestinian and Lebanese communities to uphold their rights and build a better future. It aims at creating an environment in which children and youth can develop and live in harmony regardless of their religion, gender and nationality

The International Bureau for Children's Rights

Created in 1994 and based in Montreal, Canada, the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) is an international nongovernmental organisation (INGO)

with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IBCR offers its expertise, particularly in the legal sector, for the protection and promotion of children's rights in conformity with the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols. IBCR is involved in projects around the world to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and good practices and the development of tools and models to inspire implementation of children's rights. IBCR's expertise also lies in raising awareness about children's rights to persuade decision-makers to adopt laws and programmes that more effectively respect the rights of the child. In recent years, IBCR's main successes include its contribution to the elaboration of the Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Children Victims and Witnesses of Crime as well as their adoption by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. IBCR worked with Save the Children Sweden and the various country partners to produce the following country profile.

Save the Children Sweden

Save the Children Sweden was established in 1919 as an independent rights-based non-governmental organization (NGO) with no religious or political affiliations. The basis of its work is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the United Nations' Declaration on Human Rights. These build on the principles that all people are equal, children have special rights and everyone has a responsibility - but governments have a special obligation. We believe that children themselves can also fight for their rights, if they are given the chance to do so and if they receive support and encouragement.

Save the Children Sweden works both in Sweden and in eight regions around the world, carrying out its own programmes and in cooperation with other organizations.



It is also part of Save the Children International, comprised of 27 Save the Children organizations. Save the Children's vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Its mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

About This Country Profile

All Middle East and North Africa (MENA) states have ratified the CRC since its adoption in 1989. Following ratification, MENA countries have enacted or proposed the enactment of laws to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Some states have gone further, putting in place comprehensive mechanisms to prevent violations of children's rights, monitor the situation and ensure justice for victims of violations. However, despite these initiatives, the rights of children in the 17 countries of the region continue to face challenges.

In fact, child protection remains a sensitive issue in MENA countries, some of which have yet to comply fully with international standards. The nature and extent of child protection concerns varies from country to country, and includes issues such as violence against children, harmful practices (particularly female genital mutilation and early marriage), juvenile justice, exploitative child labour and birth registration. Children in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territories have been exposed to political violence and conflicts, and have been affected by the deteriorating humanitarian situation. In other countries around the region, children also face violence, abuse, neglect and discrimination. However, all children deserve the full enjoyment of their rights including the right to education, health, housing, and a basic standard of living, as well as the right to express their

views, to be heard and to participate in matters concerning them.

About the Manara Network

Bearing in mind the importance of the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in ensuring the respect, protection and fulfilment of children's rights, the project "Manara Network: A Civil Society for Child's Rights"¹ was designed and implemented by Save the Children Sweden in collaboration with IBCR, along with local civil societies from the region. This innovative project was made possible thanks to the funding of the Swedish International Development Agency.

The objective of the project is to contribute to the effective development and implementation of policies, strategies and legislation in line with the CRC in MENA countries but also at the regional level. The project aims to establish a regional child rights network of CSOs by supporting and strengthening the capacity of local organisations in four main components: analysis and reporting, coordination and networking, advocacy and child rights programming mainstreaming.

One of the components of the project is the production of a country profile. This report highlights commendable practices implemented by the government, civil society (including parents, local non-governmental organisations, media and religious leaders, among others) and the international community (both United Nations agencies and INGOs) to improve compliance with the CRC and, where applicable, its Optional Protocols.

The country profile component of the Manara project is two-fold: it includes the publication of a credible and exhaustive report on the status of implementation of the CRC in each country, but also involves strengthening the

capacity of local CSOs in conducting research and analysis. To this end, the IBCR provided technical expertise and support to partners. During the project, a one-week training workshop on research methodology on children's rights was given on site to each partner, followed by a complementary training session a few weeks later.

Throughout the project, the IBCR provided support in drafting the report in order to ensure its credibility and reliability.

Methodology Used

In order to paint a clear picture of the situation of children's rights in its respective country, each partner conducted an exhaustive literature review to identify existing reports and documents on all issues affecting the rights of children, followed by field research involving a series of interviews with identified stakeholders. Key respondents in relevant government ministries and institutions, local and INGOs, academics, unions and professional associations, media, religious authorities and United Nations agencies were contacted and interviewed. These interviews contributed to filling the gaps identified through the desk research. By meeting with relevant stakeholders, partners were able to gather information about the practices implemented by governmental and non-governmental actors following the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its latest Concluding Observations, as well as the challenges they faced.

“Child protection remains a sensitive issue in MENA countries, some of which have yet to comply fully with international standards.”

.....

The availability of respondents contacted in the course of the research for this project, and their willingness to share their experiences, allowed partners to identify praiseworthy initiatives implemented by a variety of stakeholders, at the same time as noting the gaps and overlaps that may prevent children from the full enjoyment and exercise of their rights. Therefore, the results of the research are based on responses given by a wide range of interlocutors in corroborating and completing data collected from secondary sources, so as to depict as accurately as possible the situation of children's rights in the country.

The research for the country profile on Lebanon was conducted between August 2009 and August 2010, covering the time period between 2006 and August 2010. The results of the research, and the selection of initiatives presented, were based on data gathered from interviews with 13 stakeholders and seven focus groups with relevant organisations.

It is important to note that initiatives were selected by their impact, their potential to have an impact and the fact of their implementation after the 2006 Concluding Observations of the Committee. Due to limited space, the initiatives presented are a representative sample and do not include all initiatives implemented since 2006.

The high level of coordination and cooperation between Naba'a and ALEF facilitated this work and ensured achievement of its goals.

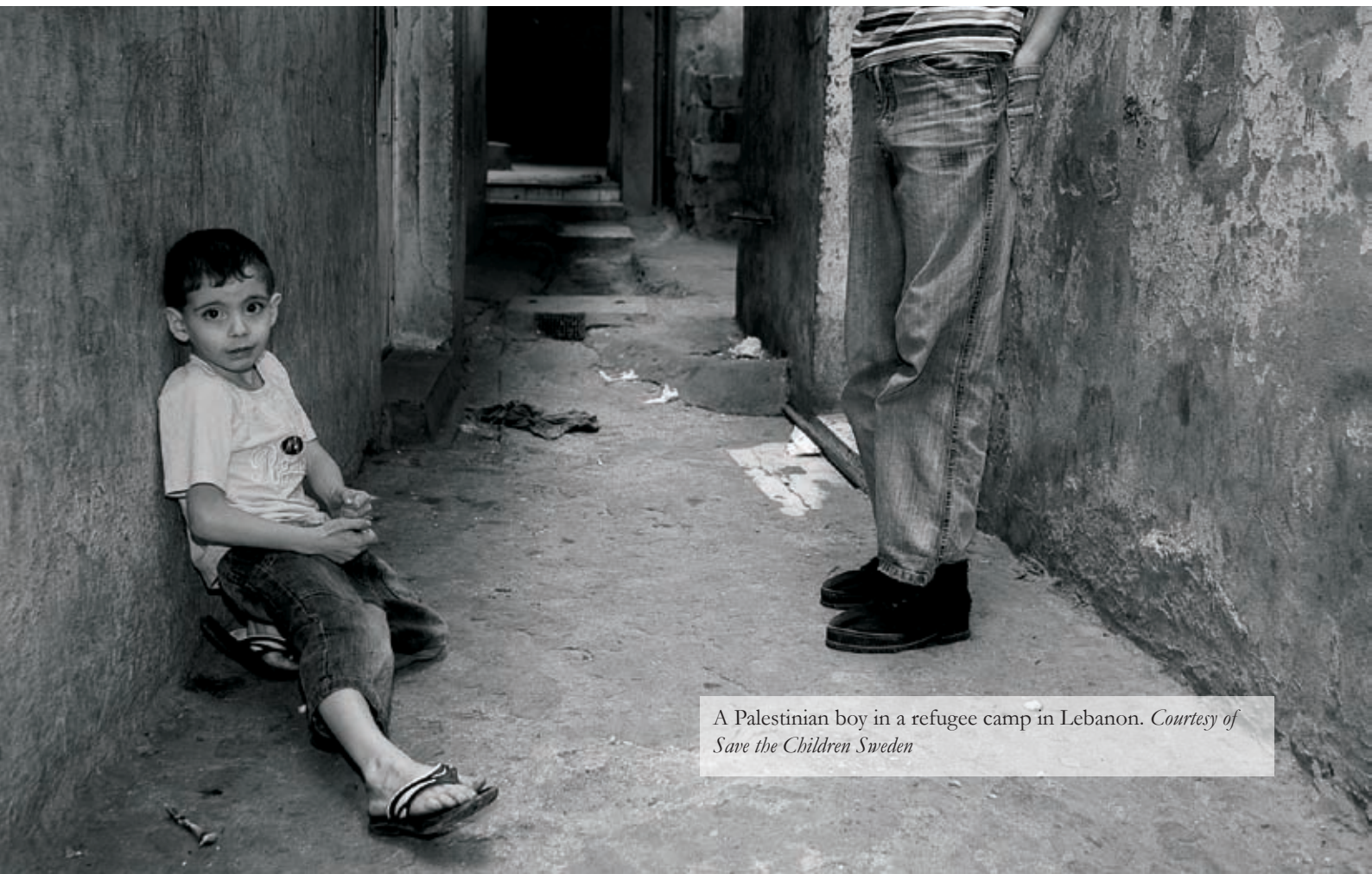
Imad Abed Al-Razeq and Raed Aataya were the main researchers in Naba'a. They were seconded by Khalid Hasan, Feiruz Hussein, Nariman Yusif, Lucie Dos Santos, and Laura El Bussa in collecting information and reviewing the report. Raneem Baasiri and Rita Karam were the report's researchers at ALEF.

Constraints and Challenges

Besides the contextual challenges specific to each country, the writing of the country reports has faced some constraints. The lack of up-to-date statistical data or information was a challenge common to all partners. While each country has rather extensive expertise on children's rights, accessing it remains a challenge as reports and studies conducted by experts and other stakeholders are not available to the public. Also, taboos and cultural considerations sometimes prevented partners and respondents from hav-

ing reliable and accurate data on issues that remain unspeaken of, underreported and therefore, unaddressed. On the other hand, stakeholders were at times reluctant to share their experience on the initiatives implemented. Therefore, the report reflects only information that was corroborated by various stakeholders.

Most country profiles were written by January 2011. While some countries have undergone major changes following uprisings in the MENA area, these reports do not reflect legislative amendments or projects implemented in the first quarter of 2011.



A Palestinian boy in a refugee camp in Lebanon. *Courtesy of Save the Children Sweden*

Country Overview

Lebanon has undergone a history of armed conflicts, including a civil war that harmed its physical infrastructure and greatly weakened its institutions. During the civil war (1975-1990), the average income per person decreased by two-thirds and the ability of the government to provide social, health, and education services nearly disappeared.¹⁷ Since then, Lebanon has heavily relied on foreign aid to finance its reconstruction throughout the 1990s and the post-war application of social and developmental policy combined with internal migration favoured the rise of Beirut and main coastal cities at the expense of the peripheries of the country. Great regional disparities and lack of investment in peripheral cities and towns caused the vast distinctions in standards of living across Lebanon's different regions.¹⁸

Twenty years onwards Lebanon has achieved considerable progress in raising living standards beyond pre-war levels but poverty persists. Among the poorest and most vulnerable groups of Lebanese societies are the refugee and migrant communities. Palestinian refugees constitute around 10% of the population in Lebanon. According to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), 425,000¹⁹ Palestinian refugees live in the country²⁰, most of them the descendants of those who fled their land after the creation of the state of Israel and the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war of 1948. Under international law they have the right to return to their land; however they have no prospect in the foreseeable future of exercising this right.

1. Demographic and Geographic Presentation

Lebanon is located along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea and is surrounded in the north and east by Syria and by Israel in the south. Lebanon extends 217 km from north to south and 80 km from east to west, with a surface area of 10,400 sq. km. The main cities are distributed along the sea coast and the capital is Beirut. Mountains align the inland and eastern part of the country and in between these lies the Beqaa valley, a fertile agricultural ground.²¹ Lebanon has a Mediterranean climate; its forests of cedar trees, its natural landscape and water are its primary natural resources, while the country's economy heavily depends on tourism and the commerce activity of its historical sea ports.²²

According to the 2004 National Survey of Household Conditions, the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon host approximately 50.4% of the population. The other four governorates host the following portions of the population: 20% in North Lebanon, 12.5% in Beqaa, 10.7% in South Lebanon, and 5.9% in Nabatieh. The average household contains about 4.3 individuals but this varies according to regions.²³

There are 18 officially recognised religious groups in Lebanon. The sensitivity and politicization of demographic statistics hinders a uniform and official demographic analysis of the country. The only population census to be made was under the French mandate in 1932 that found Christian Maronites to constitute the largest demographic group, followed by Sunni Muslims and then Shiite Muslims.²⁴ These findings formed the basis of the confessional political system elaborated below. Lebanon is the only United Nations member state that has not conducted a population census since the end of World War II.²⁵



General Statistics on Lebanon

Official Name	Lebanon
Capital	Beirut
Official /National Languages	Arabic
Type of Political Regime	Republic
Date of Independence/Foundation	22 November 1943
Date of Admission to the United Nations	24 October 1945
Human Development Index (/177)	56/177 ⁱ

	National	Palestinian Refugees
Total Population (as of 2008)	4,194,000 ³	425,000 ⁴
Youth (under 18)	1,317,000 ⁵	125,338 ⁶
Children (under 5) (thousands)	322,000 ⁷	32,446 ⁸
Density	394.1/sq. km. ⁹	n/a
Urban Population (%)	87% ¹⁰	n/a
Life Expectancy (2009) (male/female)	69.8/ 74.1 ¹¹	68/72 ¹²
Fertility Rate (births/woman)	1.8 ¹³	2.3 ¹⁴
Literacy Rate	90% ¹⁵	74.5% ¹⁶
People living on less than USD 1/day (%)	n/a	n/a

The vast majority of Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon, who arrived in Lebanon starting 1947-48, are Sunni Muslim. There is also a minority of Christians, mainly Greek-Orthodox, many of whom do not reside in the camps and gatherings, having left the country.²⁶ Almost 33% of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are under the age of 15²⁷ which implies that a large portion of the population was born in Lebanon. The Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon reside mainly in 12 official camps located around the main centres and in so-called “informal gatherings” that are spread across the country nearby the official camps²⁸ (as shown on the map). Moreover, 62% of Palestinian refugees live in the camps and 38% in the gatherings.²⁹

The camps are densely populated and overcrowded, with around 145 people living per 1,000 sq. meters.³¹ This is due to a fourfold increase of the population over the years.

The official language in Lebanon is Arabic, with English and French being primary languages of instruction depending on the school. Armenian is also spoken by Armenians, who constitute five percent of the population.³²

2. Historic Overview

Lebanon was historically part of Greater Syria, a protectorate under the Ottoman Empire until its capture by Anglo-French forces in 1918. Lebanon achieved independence in November 1943 after 25 years under the French Mandate. In the following decades, Lebanon underwent social and economic modernisation until 1975, when a combination of national and regional factors led to the outbreak of a 15-year civil war. The civil war came to an official end in 1989 after the Taif Accord, commonly referred to as the National Reconciliation document, which was agreed upon by Lebanese political factions.

Fields of operation



This map illustrates the locations of the official refugee camps and gatherings in Lebanon.³⁰

Most militias in the post-war period were disbanded and previous war-time leaders were given posts in the subsequent governments.

The first wave of forced migration of Palestinian refugees to Lebanon was in 1948, after the establishment of Israel. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was consequently created in 1949 by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302, specifically to address the needs

of these refugees. From 1948 to 1958, Palestinian refugees were welcome and well-accepted by the Lebanese population in general, as they represented a source of cheap labour likely to foster the economic development of the country.³³ However, as of 1958 with the coming to power of General Fouad Chehab, treatment of and attitudes towards Palestinians refugees changed and there was a crackdown on the refugee camps. In 1959, the Cairo Agreement was signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Lebanese government³⁴,

giving the PLO control over the Palestinian refugee camps.³⁵ The PLO moved its political, educational, and military institutions from Jordan to Lebanon as of 1970 and continued to grow until the Israeli invasion in 1982, which dismantled what constituted then, “a state within a state”.³⁶

Israel invaded Lebanon twice in 1978 then again in 1982 and remained occupying the south until May 2000. In July 2006, a 34-day war erupted between Hizbullah, Lebanese Shiite armed group, and the state of Israel, causing the death of 1,200 Lebanese civilians. The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others in February 2005 sparked a series of events including the complete withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon in April 2005.³⁷ A political vacuum characterised the subsequent period; there were recurrent delays in the election of a new president after Emile Lahoud’s end of term, as well as a suspension of legislative activity due to paralysis of the Parliament and absence of a government. From May to September 2007, an internal armed conflict erupted between the military group Fatah Al-Islam and the Lebanese armed forces in the northern Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr El-Bared, which led

to the camp’s destruction and the displacement of 30,000 Palestinian residents.³⁸

Army commander Michel Sulayman was elected president in May 2008 and a new “unity government” was formed in July 2008. The first parliamentary elections after this period of political stagnation were held in June 2009.

3. National Political System

Lebanon is a parliamentary democratic republic, with three branches of government: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Legislative power is held by a Parliament of 128 members with one-half of its seats



Girls are vulnerable and need assistance accessing their rights in Lebanon. *Courtesy of Save the Children Sweden*

reserved for Muslims and the other half for Christians.³⁹ The political system in Lebanon is based on a division of power between Lebanon's various religious groups, or sects. There are 18 officially-recognised religious groups that can more generally be categorised as Muslim or Christian.⁴⁰ Religious affiliation plays a major function in the daily life of the Lebanese, mainly because religious groups are the "primary social organisation through which political security has been maintained".⁴¹ The principle of equitable political representation between religious groups was defined in an unwritten national accord known as the National Pact of 1943. The resultant confessional system, which was based on the 1932 population census conducted under the French mandate, allocated government posts as well as the three leading national positions as follows: the president would be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, and the speaker of the parliament a Shiite Muslim. Other positions were allocated according to a set ratio. The judiciary system is composed of ordinary and exceptional courts such as the Military Court. Judges are appointed by the Court of Cassation. The Constitutional Court judges the constitutionality of government decisions while the Personal Status Courts settle marriage and divorce, child custody, inheritance, and other matters of personal status for each religious group separately.⁴²

To this day, external destabilising factors combined with a precarious sectarian balance of power and the absence of a national reconciliation process continue to threaten Lebanon's political stability. The Taif Accord, signed by Lebanese political factions in 1989, is also referred to as the "national reconciliation agreement" and is Lebanon's second national accord after the National Pact of 1943. The Taif Accord re-distributed but preserved the previous power-sharing system. Although its provisions envision the gradual elimination of the confessional nature of the

political system, no practical steps have been taken in this regard.⁴³

The political framework within Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps is distinct from the general national framework as they have a "remarkable degree of political autonomy", because their presence is deemed to be temporary and justified by the unresolved conflict with Israel.⁴⁴ These camps and gatherings are governed by Popular Committees (PCs). Each camp has at least one PC (some have two or three) that mediates conflicts and facilitates services such as garbage collection, water, electricity and sewage. Security and order in the camps are overseen by a body called *Al-Kifah Al-Musalab* (AKAM), also aligned with the PLO. Its members patrol the camps and support the mediating role of the PC in internal conflicts by investigating and intervening when disputes arise. However, in some instances their control is limited by the presence of militant groups residing in the camps. These groups are autonomous from AKAM and may clash with AKAM as well with each other.

4. Social and Economic Situation

Lebanon is a middle income country whose economy relies on two main sources: foreign aid and services.⁴⁵ In terms of internal funding, Lebanon continues to rely on the services sector, particularly its commercial banking system.⁴⁶ Simultaneously, a heavy inflow of foreign aid continues to support Lebanon's reconstruction, development, and fiscal and financial stability. Notably, it is the world's "most indebted middle income country"⁴⁷, its debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio standing at 173%.

Poverty in Lebanon continues to be a serious problem, despite the government's efforts in the post-war years. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

estimated Lebanon's extreme poverty rate at eight percent in 2005. Poverty is concentrated in certain regions in Lebanon, mainly in Baalback and the north in Akkar. Urban poverty (found in Lebanon's main cities including Beirut) is on the rise.⁴⁸ The unemployment rate in Lebanon was eight percent in 2004, although it was much higher (21%) among youth aged 15 to 24. Unemployment is also higher among poor unskilled workers, women, and extremely poor youth holding a secondary degree.⁴⁹

Palestinian refugees constitute the poorest community in Lebanon. According to UNRWA, 56% of Palestinian refugees are jobless; 66.4% of Palestine refugees in Lebanon are poor and cannot meet their minimal food and non-food livelihood requirements and 6.6% are extremely poor. Poverty (those poor and extremely poor) was higher among refugees living inside the camps than those in gatherings.⁵⁰

Recognising that UNRWA alone cannot hope to address all of these problems in a meaningful way, the agency works with other organisations and the Lebanese government to tackle the challenges of poverty. UNRWA's poverty reduction strategy focuses on three pillars: necessary welfare assistance for the extreme poor; programme reform through the shifting of priorities towards poverty-reduction through evidence-based programming; and service targeting to increase opportunities for refugees.⁵¹

As per various ministerial decrees, non-Lebanese nationals (including Palestinian refugees) are restricted to 72 trades.⁵² Although ministerial decree 94/1 issued by the Minister of Labour in 2008 partially repealed these labour restrictions, little improvement resulted and Palestinian refugees continue to face discrimination. On 17 August 2010, the Lebanese Parliament decided that Palestinian refugee workers would benefit from 'reciprocity' provided for in labour and social security legislation. This change

granted Palestinian refugees the same employment rights as other foreigners, while remaining barred from 'self-employed' professions, including law and medicine. It also cancelled a fee required to obtain a work permit and set up a private social security fund. Still, this legal amendment has yet to be applied. Effectively, there has been no change in Palestinian workers' legal rights but rather imposed upon them and their employers complicated legal conditions. Moreover, the amendment has not improved conditions for members of the free professions, who remain deprived of their right to work.⁵³

In Lebanon's post-war years, the private sector, NGO service providers, family and sectarian networks and charities have sought to fill the gap in public service provision.⁵⁴ There exists a "rudimentary public system subsidizing health care which covers about 50% of the population, but no publicly funded safety nets targeting poor or vulnerable groups".⁵⁵ The public health insurance system covers only full-time employees that are formally registered, and contracted staff in the public sector.⁵⁶ According to UNICEF, over 50% of education and over 90% of primary health care are provided by private (non-governmental) service providers⁵⁷ and more than 30% of drinking water is provided by the private sector.⁵⁸ NGO sources report that the health care system in Lebanon covers only 46% of the population, with wide disparities between poorer households (only 24% of health care beneficiaries) and well-off households (75%).⁵⁹ Furthermore, Lebanon's 30 public hospitals make up only 17.5% of all hospitals available.⁶⁰ In sum, public service provision in Lebanon remains weak. A culture of clientelism has developed due to an atmosphere where personal connections and sectarian or political affiliation are key to accessing social and welfare services.⁶¹

5. General Human Rights Situation

In its Constitution, Lebanon asserts itself as a founding and active member of the United Nations and declares that it abides by the world body's covenants and respect for human rights. Lebanon has ratified six core international human rights treaties (see section 2.1). At the time of writing, however, Lebanon is late in filing 12 reports to UN treaty bodies, with a delay period ranging from three to 14 years.⁶²

Civil and political rights have been jeopardised in the four years covered by the scope of this report. A series of political developments resulted in a decline in security through politically and non-politically motivated crimes. The right to life and its corollary have been repeatedly affected by international and domestic armed conflicts.⁶³ The death penalty is legal in Lebanon, but in October 2008, the Minister of Justice presented a draft law on its abolishment. Several reports by human rights groups indicate the arbitrary detention of Lebanese nationals and non-nationals, as well as the use of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities.⁶⁴ Beyond these events, the absence of a unified civil personal status code contributes to discrimination against Lebanese citizens on religious grounds. The political and civil rights of the Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon remain neglected by the current Lebanese legal framework.⁶⁵

Implementation of ratified treaties varies. For some treaties, such as the Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), key provisions have yet to be incorporated into national law and, due to this legislative gap, the practice of torture persists with impunity for violators. Other treaties such as the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) continue to pose a problem in application due to the reservations by the state of Lebanon on key articles within the convention. With regards to nationality rights, Lebanese women married to a foreign man cannot pass their nationality on to their

children. Furthermore, women face discrimination in the law, with regards to 'honour killings', wages and social security benefits, etc. Female migrant domestic workers face abuse and exploitation that resulted in a record number of suicides in 2009.⁶⁶

Freedom of association and expression are enshrined in the Constitution, which permits associations and NGOs to operate with relative freedom. However, reports have shown that laws governing associations are outdated and often restrictive; allowing the Ministry of Interior room for interference.⁶⁷ Furthermore, freedom of association is not granted to foreigners; for example, foreign workers and Palestinian refugees are not allowed to form unions.⁶⁸

Although statistically Lebanon is progressing towards achieving some Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), vulnerable sectors of Lebanese society face discrimination in the quality and accessibility of basic services.⁶⁹ Political instability and the fluctuating security situation has affected reform efforts in accordance with the MDGs, according to UNDP, as do other factors such as lack of coordination between stakeholders and proper monitoring and evaluation.⁷⁰

Furthermore, Palestinian refugees live in poor and inadequate living conditions, and lack basic human rights including civil, economic, social, and cultural rights. The human rights situation of Palestinian refugees is sensitive to the political climate.⁷¹ Lebanon is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and thus, "the protection framework is fragile". This framework also leaves other refugees and asylum seekers from Syria, Sudan, Iraq and other countries vulnerable to arbitrary detention and occasional forced deportation. Lebanon hosts 29,700 Iraqi refugees who fled the violence in Iraq and are living in poor conditions.⁷² The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assists about 8,000 Iraqi refugees in Lebanon each month.⁷³

The Children of Lebanon

.....

Since the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by Lebanon on 30 October 1990, the State has managed to achieve significant improvements for children. NGOs and community-based centres that were active during the civil war era (1975-1990) in providing welfare services for children continued to be central in service provision after the ratification of the CRC. Key national coalitions such as the Lebanese Union for Child Welfare and others were active in the early 1990s in bridging international trends in child rights with national practice. The establishment of the Higher Council for Childhood within the Ministry of Social Affairs in 1994 was followed by the establishment of several child rights-mandated governmental bodies within the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and the Ministry of Labour. These bodies have strengthened the institutional framework for monitoring child rights. More recently, the growth of civic, rights-based organisations that focus on advocacy and lobbying, as well as the work of national missions of several international child rights NGOs, has initiated a process of gradual mainstreaming of key principles embodied in the CRC such as the right to participation and the principle of the best interests of the child. This process remains weak, however, and the principle of the best interests of the child has yet to be translated into national legislation, practice, and culture.

Lebanon has progressed in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, especially with regards to education. Enrolment in primary education is almost universal and roughly equal across genders.⁷⁴ However, discrimination

persists in education and other social services through the quality and equitable distribution of services by geography. For this reason, national progress indicators are not entirely reliable in that they do not reflect the regional disparities or the status of Palestinian and other refugee children. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted in its 2006 Concluding Observations that certain factions of Lebanese society continue to face *de facto* discrimination, including children with disabilities, foreign, refugee and asylum-seeking children, Palestinian children, children living in poverty, children in conflict with the law, and children living in rural areas and other vulnerable groups.⁷⁵ For example, Lebanon has achieved progress on developmental indicators such as a declining infant mortality rate, however, rates of infant mortality are unevenly distributed among Lebanon's different geographical regions. This also applies to a number of other indicators such as quality of education and health services.

“**Examples of commendable initiatives are found in the fields of juvenile justice, protection of children from abuse and exploitation, and education.**”

.....

Lebanon is in conformity with most articles of the CRC and other relevant instruments. In areas where it is lacking, it has made progress in achieving legislative reform or calls for legislative reform. Examples of commendable initiatives are found in the fields of juvenile justice, protection of children from abuse and exploitation, and education. However, with the continued absence of a national child rights action plan, and the lack of budgetary allocations for child rights issues, progress remains restricted within specific sectors and based for the most part on the initiatives and funding of international NGOs and UN organisations. Despite the favourable institutional framework and accumulation

of expertise in the implementation of child rights, Lebanon has yet to finalise a unified national action plan for children, and to mainstream in its legislative framework the principle of best interests of the child. Unfortunately, progress continues to be hindered by the political instability of the country, which overshadows development and poverty reduction needs and adversely affects large segments of children in Lebanon.

The generally difficult economic situation of the families obviously affects the environment in which Palestinian children are growing up. Families consider child labour as a valuable source of extra income, winning out over educational opportunities. The layers of discrimination and violations of the CRC experienced by Palestinian children in Lebanon have created growing feelings of frustration and despair that civil society organisations work on alleviating.

1. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols

i. General Overview

The State of Lebanon ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 14 May 1991. It submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter “the Committee”) in 1994, its second report in 1998, and its third report in 2004.

The initial report, due in 1993, was submitted a year after its due date, on 21 December 1994. Two alternative reports were submitted by NGOs for review by the Committee. Both were prepared by a coalition of NGOs working with children in Lebanon, the first by the Lebanese Union for Child Welfare and the second by the Coordination Forum of NGOs Working Among the Palestinian

Community. The Concluding Observations on the initial report were published by the Committee on 7 June 1996.

The State of Lebanon submitted its second periodic report on 4 December 1998, and the related Concluding Observations were issued by the Committee on 21 March 2002. Once again, the Coordination Forum of NGOs Working Among the Palestinian Community submitted an alternative report for review before the Committee’s 29th session from January to February 2002.

Lebanon submitted its most recent report to the Committee on 15 November 2004, a year after its due date. Two alternative reports were submitted; the first was a report by Amnesty International, and the second was written by the Coordination Forum of NGOs Working Among the Palestinian Community. The Committee considered the State report during its 42nd and 44th session and published its related Concluding Observations on 8 June 2006. The Committee requested that Lebanon’s 4th and 5th periodic reports be combined and submitted as one report in December 2011.

Lebanon signed the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 11 February 2002 but has taken no action towards ratification. As for the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Lebanon ratified it on 8 November, 2004. The first State report for this Protocol was due on 8 December 2006 but has not yet been submitted by the State.

ii. Ratification and Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by Lebanon and Relevant Alternative Report Submissions

	RE- PORT NO.	TYPE OF REPORT	DUE DATE	DATE OF SUBMISSION	CODE OR NAME OF ORGANISATION
Convention on the Rights of the Child Ratified 14 May 1991	1	State report	12 June 1993	21 December 1994	CRC/C/8/Add.23
	1	Alternative report		CRC 12 th Session 1 May 1996	National Report of Leba- nese Associations and NGOs Lebanese Union for Child Welfare
	1	Alternative report		CRC 12 th Session 1 May 1996	Coordination Forum for the NGOs Working Among the Palestinian Community
	1	Concluding Observa- tions		7 June 1996	CRC/C/15/Add.54
	2	State report	23 June 1998	4 December 1998	CRC/C/70/Add.8
	2	Alternative report		CRC 29 th Session 14 January 2002	Coordination Forum of the NGOs Working Among the Palestinian Community
	2	Concluding Observa- tions		1 February 2002	CRC/C/15/Add.169
	3	State report	12 June 2003	CRC 42 nd Session 15 November 2004	CRC/C/129/Add.7

	3	Alternative report		CRC 42 nd Session 1 October 2005	Child Helpline International
	3	Alternative report		CRC 42 nd Session 1 October 2005	Coordination Forum of the NGOs Working Among the Palestinian Community
	3	Alternative report		CRC 42 nd Session 5 June 2006	Amnesty International
	3	Concluding Observations		8 June 2006	CRC/C/LBN/CO/3
	4, 5	State report	12 December 2011	Not submitted yet	
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflicts Signed 11 February 2002	1	State report	N/A	N/A	N/A
	1	Alternative report	N/A	N/A	N/A
Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography Ratified 8 November 2004	1	State report	8 December 2006	Not submitted yet	
	1	Alternative Report		None	

iii. Reservations

The state of Lebanon has not lodged any reservations to the CRC nor to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.

iv. Punctuality/Quality of State Reports

The Lebanese government does not have a clear mechanism to report periodically to UN treaty bodies and, at the time of this report Lebanon had 12 overdue reports, with periods of delay ranging from three to 14 years.⁷⁶ The State report pertaining to the CRC and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) are the only two reports that have a reporting body—the Higher Council for Childhood for the former and the National Commission for Women for the latter.

Nonetheless, all three State reports pertaining to the CRC were submitted after a period of delay. The third periodic report was submitted 17 months late and was not considered until May 2006. Lebanon will be submitting its fourth and fifth periodic reports combined into one report not exceeding 120 pages by 12 December 2011. According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, this was an “exceptional measure” taken due to the large numbers of reports being reviewed by the Committee.⁷⁷

A clear evolution in the quality of the State report can be observed in the third periodic report in comparison with the two previous ones. The initial report was lacking in statistical evidence and did not cover the specific issues outlined in the writing guidelines. Nonetheless, a member of the Committee noted upon closure of the Lebanon review session that the report contained “an admirable self-criticism”.⁷⁸ As for the second periodic report, a member of the Committee noted that the report was “very interesting because of its analytical, intellec-

tual, and sometimes even philosophical approach” yet it had not followed the guidelines of the Committee in full.⁷⁹ The Committee also added that the report failed to address key issues from the perspective of the best interests of the child and presented ‘the child’ as a passive element. More information was requested on the integration of general principles into the law and practice.⁸⁰

The third periodic report was described by the Committee to have provided a “thorough and self-critical perspective to the implementation of the rights of the child in Lebanon”, although it noted that several points lingering from the previous consideration were still not addressed.⁸¹ The preparation of the third periodic report involved a cross-section of stakeholders including governmental representatives, civil society organisations as well as children.⁸²

v. The Committee’s Concluding Observations

In its latest Concluding Observations, the Committee was satisfied by the State’s efforts to address previous concerns and recommendations but noted that Lebanese legislation is not yet in conformity with the CRC in some regards. Some recommendations made by the Committee when Lebanon submitted its second report in 1998 remain to be implemented.⁸³ Among these, the Committee noted the following:

“A major source of concern for the Committee is the presence of children in Lebanon who are not registered because their father has no legal status, whether their mother is Lebanese or they are unregistered refugees.”

- ▶ The very low age of criminal responsibility;
- ▶ Gaps in the right to be protected against violence;
- ▶ Gaps in protection of refugee children, including Palestinian children;
- ▶ Inequalities in the right to a nationality and the minimum age for marriage, which depends on religion and is different for boys and girls; and
- ▶ The absence of independent monitoring.

The Committee welcomed the coordination among non-governmental and governmental actors under the umbrella of the Higher Council for Childhood and was encouraged by the active role of civil society in the fulfilment of children's rights. However, the Committee warned against the trend of "contracting out" services to non-governmental organisations, noting that this practice weakens accountability of the government and external monitoring by civil society.⁸⁴

The Committee welcomed plans to enhance data collection capacities through the establishment of a research and documentation centre for childhood, but without concrete progress as yet, saw data collection in Lebanon as inadequate and noted that the State report lacked updated information and data.⁸⁵

The Committee commended Lebanon on its developed healthcare system and appreciated the decline in infant and under-five mortality rates, while expressing concern over continued discrimination in access to healthcare, especially on a regional level and with regards to refugee children.⁸⁶ Indeed, the Committee pointed out that, although Lebanese legislation provides for the right to non-discrimination, there is ongoing *de facto* discrimination in access to services against children with disabilities,

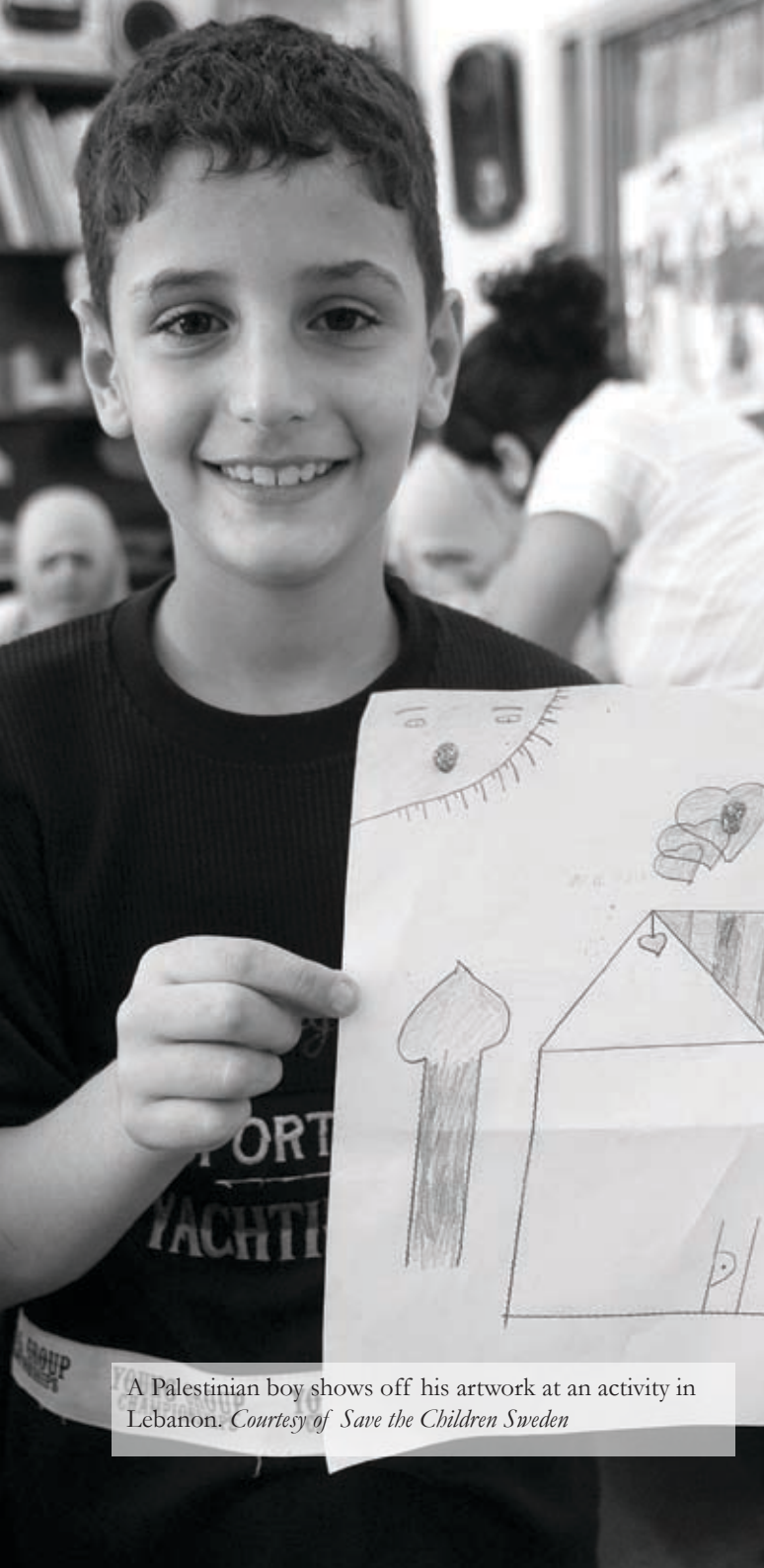
Palestinian children, children living in poverty, children in conflict with the law, and children living in rural areas.⁸⁷ With regards to gender discrimination and violence, the Committee was very concerned about 'honour crimes' affecting children, in particular the legal justification for a reduced sentence for perpetrators of these crimes.⁸⁸

The Committee also highlighted the importance of maternal and child health care services provided for Palestinian children by UNRWA, noting that it is the main provider of basic education for Palestinian refugee children. The Committee noted that enrolment rates for primary education are satisfactory but expressed concern over low enrolment in secondary education.⁸⁹ The Committee welcomed the efforts of the State party to address, in collaboration with UNRWA, the issue of Palestinian refugee children living in Lebanon by conducting field visits. However, the Committee expressed concern that "due to poor living conditions in camps children suffer from acute health problems".⁹⁰

A major source of concern for the Committee is the presence of children in Lebanon who are not registered because their father has no legal status, whether their mother is Lebanese or they are unregistered refugees. The Committee urged Lebanon to immediately recognise all of the children within its territory and give them access to all social services.⁹¹ The Committee also urged that the principle of the best interest of the child is not reflected in Lebanese laws and policies.⁹²

vi. Overview of the Response of the Government to the Committee

Following the issuing of the Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations in 2006, the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) categorised the Commit-



A Palestinian boy shows off his artwork at an activity in Lebanon. *Courtesy of Save the Children Sweden*

tee's recommendations and transformed them into questionnaires that were then sent out to all relevant ministries and government institutions. Not all have responded. The HCC then formed 14 committees composed of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and tasked with devising strategies for problem areas identified in the third State report and its Concluding Observations.

In 2006, national consultations led by the HCC were launched to prepare a national action for children. Among the various steps taken by the government, one important governmental response was national planning for the prevention of violence and abuse against children. A national task force was established by the Ministry of Social Affairs to devise a protection system that includes legislative change, data collection, advocacy, awareness-raising and so forth. The government has also been allegedly “developing more effective reproductive health information systems as a means of improving coordination and strengthening decentralization”.⁹³ The government holds that there is no discrimination in legal processes affecting children but a special committee was appointed to revise the juvenile justice law. A national campaign for the protection of children from violence entitled “Their rights are our duties” was launched in 2006. Further, two national training manuals on children’s rights and children’s participation were developed and put to use.⁹⁴

2. Applicable International and Regional Human Rights Instruments

i. Overview

According to the Lebanese Constitution, international treaties are paramount to national law and judges have the leeway to invoke the CRC and other international instruments in their rulings.

ii. Relevant International and Regional Human Rights Conventions and Treaties and their Status of Ratification by Lebanon

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS/TREATIES	STATUS	LAST REPORT SUBMITTED BY STATE
Admission to the UN	24 October 1945	
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Ratification 14 May 1991	15 November 2004
Optional Protocol to the CRC on Children in Armed Conflict	Signature 11 February 2002	No Action
Optional Protocol to the CRC on Prostitution and Pornography	Ratification 8 November 2004	Due on 8 December 2006
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Accession 12 November 1971	Submitted 18 January 2002
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Accession 16 April 1997	Submitted 7 July 2006
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	No action	
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Accession 3 November 1972	Submitted 12 May 1993
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Accession 3 November 1972	Submitted 8 June 1996
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	No action	
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	No action	
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Accession 5 October 2000	Due on 5 October 2005
Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Accession 22 December 2008	

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signature 14 June 2007	
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signature 14 June 2007	
Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Signature 6 February 2007	
Convention related to the Status of Refugees	No action	
Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees	No action	
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	No action	
Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others	No action	
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	Ratification 5 October 2005	
Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages	No action	
Convention concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (C-138)	Ratification 10 June 2003	
Convention concerning the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (C-182)	Ratification 11 September 2001	
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	No Action	

3. National Legal Framework and Practices Affecting Children's Rights

i. The National Legal Framework

In conformity with Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Article 4 of the Civil Code of 1951 defines a child as every human being below the

age of 18. The Penal Code defines a juvenile as every male or female over seven and under 12 years of age; an adolescent is every person between the ages of 12 and 15; a “young person” is every person between the ages of 15 and 18.

Shortcomings in the legislative application of the CRC that were highlighted by the Committee revolve around

the low age of criminal responsibility, early marriages, and discrimination against non-Lebanese. Lebanese law amounts to several codes, one of which is the Civil and Personal Status Code, which is religion-based and adjudicated by courts specific to each confession. For example, the minimum age of marriage in Lebanon depends on the individual's religion. As such, the Committee in its Concluding Observations encouraged the government to engage with religious groups "in efforts to prohibit in practice early and/or forced marriages".⁹⁵

The Law of 2 April 1952 defines the powers held by Jewish and Christian religious authorities, and determines what matters fall under their jurisdiction, namely family and children in what is known as the Family Code. Similarly the Law of 6 July 1962 is applicable to Sunni, Shiite, and Alawis in Lebanon while the Law of 24 February 1948 applies to the Druze population. Issues related to marriage, children, inheritance and testamentary disposition fall under the jurisdiction of these religious courts (in contrast, Christian courts do not have jurisdiction over these latter two issues).⁹⁶ The religious courts operate almost independently from the rest of the judicial system. Where oversight exists, it is not related to the legality of the courts' decisions. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "this limited judicial oversight and the wide prerogatives given to the religious and Sharia courts contradict the right to a just trial, to which the state is committed under the constitution."⁹⁷

The state's third periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child outlines legislative achievements made between the years 1999 and 2003. Among these was the ratification of Law No. 686/98, which made education free and compulsory till age 12. Intentions to raise this age to 15 have yet to be translated into action and the implementation of this law remains lacking. Another achievement related to corporal punishment was Decision No.

1130/2001, which prohibited public education employees from inflicting physical punishment or verbal humiliation on their students. This decision, however, does not have the authority of a law and has less legal value than a decree. Concerning child labour, existing legislation classifies jobs according to physical engagement and risk involved for children and prohibits employment accordingly. Concerning social security, children are allowed to access a parent's social security fund and/or benefits accorded public employees. Law No. 220/2000 addresses children with special needs by establishing a National Committee for Disabled Affairs. Decrees no. 1692 and 4265 call for the setting aside of a special section in hospitals and medical centres for children.

Several proposed laws remain under study since the submission and consideration of Lebanon's third periodic report. These include, as mentioned above, increasing the minimum age of compulsory education to 15.

Lebanon is party to bilateral treaties with France and Canada that are based on Article 11 of the CRC relating to the illicit transfer of children and the Vienna Convention of 1967 addressing child custody rights and the best interests of minors. Article 50 of the Public Budget Law reduces fees by half for disabled visitors and those under age 18 to historic and tourist sites in conformity with the right to rest and leisure.

Law No. 422 of 6 June 2002 dealing with protection of juveniles in conflict with the law or at risk was elaborated by a Ministerial committee for reform of juvenile justice legislation convened by the Minister of Justice under a reform project implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODC). The adopted law, considered a major step forward, changed the legal terminology used from "juvenile delinquents" to "juveniles in conflict with law" and



introduced new protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration provisions to bring Lebanese legislation in line with the CRC. Some provisions within this law, however, are seen to need further amendment, in particular provisions allowing juveniles complicit in a crime with an adult to be subject to adult trial procedures. A UNODC evaluation called for further revision of the law in order to fully implement the reform project objectives.⁹⁸

Decree No. 319 regulates the legal status of Palestinians in Lebanon as “foreigners who do not carry documents from their countries of origin and who reside in Lebanon by virtue of residency cards issued by the General Security Office or the Department of Refugee Affairs in Lebanon”.⁹⁹ This singular status confers Palestinian refugees (only those who fled to Lebanon in 1948 and their descendants) the right of residence in Lebanon, but with a “foreign” status that prevents them from accessing basic social services such as education or health (where UNRWA’s mandate fills the gap). On these matters, Lebanese law is generally based on the “principle of reciprocity” where laws related to the treatment of Lebanese nationals in the expatriate’s country of origin dictate the treatment the foreigner receives in Lebanon. Palestinians, as stateless foreigners, are left outside the governmental protection provided to other “foreigners” by this principle.¹⁰⁰ In spite of 17 August 2010 legislation allowing Palestinian refugee workers to benefit from reciprocity provided for in the labour and social security law, this amendment has yet to be implemented. Therefore, there has been no change in the status of Palestinian workers’ rights, but rather complicated legislative conditions have been imposed on them and their employers. Moreover, the amendment has not improved conditions for members of the free professions who are deprived of their right to work.¹⁰¹

The following is a compilation of national Lebanese laws and decrees that are related to children. Not all of these

are fully in line with the CRC—and some are even contradictory. The laws and decrees are presented according to the principle they relate to, although some are not in compliance with this principle. As will be seen, many laws apply only to Lebanese citizens, but exclude non-Lebanese children and children who do not have identification papers. For an elaboration on legislative gaps and legislative reform efforts, please refer to “Section 4: Identifying Commendable Practices in light of the CRC’s Main Principles”.

a. Non-Discrimination

► **The Lebanese Constitution** applies to all Lebanese indiscriminate of sex, language, religion, age, or colour as held in Article 7 which states the equality of all Lebanese before the law as well as equality in obligations and civil, political, social, and economic rights without discrimination.

► **The Code of Medical Practice (No. 288 22/2/1994)** aims at the protection of minors without discrimination.

► **The Labour Law (Article 26 No. 27 26/5/2000)** prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

► **The Law regulating the health register for newborns (No. 550/1996)** does not discriminate between Lebanese newborns, but also does not apply to non-Lebanese nationals or children of Lebanese women married to non-Lebanese men.

► **Law No. 686** and relevant laws regulating education make primary education free and compulsory for all Lebanese but also do not apply to non-Lebanese

nationals. There is no monitoring of the educational enrolment of Lebanese.

► **Law No. 220**, regarding to the right to non-discrimination for persons with disabilities, applies only to Lebanese citizens.

► **The Penal Law** applies to both adults and juveniles while the law for the protection of juveniles in conflict with the law or at risk (No. 422 6/6/2002) applies to juveniles without discrimination based on nationality or other aspect.

► **The Penal Law** discriminates on the basis of gender. According to the latest CRC State report, “the Penal Law discriminates concerning male and female sanctions that are applied in the case of adultery. Prior to 20 February 1999, the article 526 of the Penal Law provided ‘absolution’ for the murderer of a female accused of adultery if the murderer was her spouse, her brother or any of her ascendants or descendants. As a result of the amendment by Law No. 7 dated 20/2/1999 “absolution” has been replaced by “clemency”.¹⁰²

b. Best Interests of the Child

There is no legislation that reflects this principle *per se*. Some laws indirectly safeguard the best interests of the child but this rests on interpretation of the law. For example, according to the initial State report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the State safeguards the best interests of the child by way of Article 27 of the Personal Status Law in matters of custody wherein the parent granted custody cannot take the child out of the country without the consent of the other parent. However, this law does not explicitly address the principle of best interests of the child.

c. The Right to Life, Survival, and Development

► **Law No. 78/1983** requires that a medical certificate be presented before marriage. In 1994, **Decree No. 334** made a medical examination before marriage obligatory.

► **Penal Code Article 514-536** makes inducing a child into immoral acts or into acts of forced marriage, prostitution, or begging a punishable crime.

► **Penal Code Article 504-413** protects the child from rape or false promise of marriage and abuse.

d. Education

► **Article 10 of the Lebanese constitution** states that “education is free insofar as it is not contrary to public order and morals and does not interfere with the dignity of any of the religions or creeds”.

► **Law No. 686/98 (1998)** makes education compulsory and free till the age of 12.

► **Law No. 460/ 2001** amends Law No. 385 exempting pre-university student from registration fees in public universities and dedicating an independent municipal fund to cover them.

► **Ministerial Decision No. 47/18-9-2003** exempts all public education students in the pre-school, first, and second grade levels from registration fees; this applies to non-Lebanese as well.

► **Circular of the Minister of Education No. 57/26-9-2003** relates to parents councils funds, specifying the amount of money parents need to pay to these councils to be no lower than 10,000 Lebanese

pounds and no more than 30,000 Lebanese pounds for all pre-university education levels.

e. Health

► **Decree No. 159 (1982)** by the Minister of Public Health orders the provision of health services in 15 districts for every 200,000 individuals and a health centre for every 30,000.

► **Decree No. 159** was revisited in 1991 to include NGOs and community-based organizations in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of health service provision.

► **Decrees No. 1692 (1990) and No. 4265 (2000)** are concerned with child medical care and the designation of special sections in hospitals for children.

► **Law No. 220** calls for the establishment of a governmental committee for reform of the health sector and on the rights of disabled persons.

► **Decree No. 12268 15/2/2004** establishes certification conditions for the opening and operating of private day care centres.

f. Protection in the Penal Code

► **Article 119** stipulates that measures will be taken against anyone who attempts to sexually abuse or push a child (below the age of 12 or 15) into drug use. The article also sets the minimum age of criminal responsibility at seven years (considered too low by the Committee on the Rights of the Child).¹⁰³

► **Article 495** stipulates that anyone who separates a child below the age of 12 from his/her parents is

punishable by imprisonment and anyone who deprives a child of his/her liberty is also subject to imprisonment from six months to three years.

► **Articles 500-502** stipulate that parents who abandon their children or fail to provide the necessary care are subject to imprisonment.

► **Articles 490, 491, and 506** prohibit incest, establishing sentencing at three years imprisonment or hard labour.

► **Article 186** permits discipline allowed by “general custom” from parents and teachers on children.

► **Law 422/02** defines protection for children subject to maltreatment and/or sexual and other forms of abuse. The penalty for abducting a child for sexual abuse and/or related purposes is a jail term of one to three years.

► **Articles 22 and 23 of the Labour Code** hold that no child under the age of eight is allowed to work; no child under the age of 13 is allowed to engage in heavy industrial or similar work; and no child between 13 and 16 is allowed to engage in physically taxing jobs unless he/she has obtained a medical certificate. Also, “Youth may not work more than 6 hours per day, must have a 13-hour period of rest between workdays, and may not work between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.” Youth aged 14 to 18 must pass a medical examination before engaging in work.¹⁰⁴

g. Participation

There are no laws that explicitly guarantee the right of children to participation. **Articles 12, 13, 14 of the Constitution** ensure freedom of expression, freedom

of thought, and freedom of conscience and religion and these freedoms are protected within the bounds of the law. These articles, however, apply to Lebanese citizens and there is no explicit guarantee of these liberties for children. In fact, children and youth below 20 years of age do not benefit from the 1909 Law of Associations that guarantees freedom of association. Even youth organisations that are registered either with Ministry of Education or Ministry of Youth and Sports according to Law No. 16/72 of December 15, 1972 are obliged to be founded by members older than age 18.¹⁰⁵

ii. The Main Stakeholders on Children's Rights Issues

The Convention on the Rights of Child was ratified by Lebanon through efforts exerted by the Parliamentary Committee on Women and Children as well as networks of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in Lebanon. Today, the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) is a crucial player on the legislative and policy-planning level. The HCC is organisationally part of the Ministry of Social Affairs (another key stakeholder on children's rights), primarily through its department for alternative care institutions and the juveniles department. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Social Affairs are the main authorities responsible for provision of policy and services targeted at children as one of the direct beneficiaries.

In recent years, various other ministries have established bodies or committees with a child-rights related mandate. These include the Unit for the Combat of Child Labour in the Ministry of Labour, the Juvenile Justice Department in the Ministry of Justice, and the Human Rights

Department in the Internal Security Forces under the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.

Although the State of Lebanon holds the primary responsibility to protect and promote the rights of all children on Lebanese territories, it often redirects this responsibility with regards to refugee and asylum-seeking children, mainly to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).¹⁰⁶ For Palestinian children, no single entity has fully accepted the role of primary duty bearer, leaving gaps in their protection. Various Palestinian political factions (such as Fatah and Hamas) may be able to take up responsibility for certain issues, such as protection within Palestinian refugee camps. However, the actual duty-bearers are comprised of the Lebanese government, UNRWA, the international community, the Palestinian Authority, and Lebanese and Palestinian civil society organisations. The result, exacerbated by internal conflicts in the camps and competition for donor funding, is that a unified approach to the protection of refugee children's rights in the camps and gatherings has not been established to date.

a. *Government Bodies*

The Ministry of Social Affairs is divided into four departments, each of which reports annually to the Minister. The Ministry also monitors these departments through periodic visits by a social worker to the various alternative care institutions that it funds. The four departments are as follows:

- The Social Care Institutions department is responsible for children in private and/or religious institutions. The Ministry of Social Affairs funds these institutions, paying a sum per head and per day.

► Specialised Institutions for Children at Risk of Delinquency department governs the work of 14 NGOs under contract with the Ministry of Social Affairs to provide care for institutionalised children using ministry funding. These institutions receive children from all nationalities, age groups, and religions, with a particular focus on children living in the streets and victims of sexual abuse, maltreatment, neglect, incest, a risky family environment and psycho-social abuse. The funding given by the Ministry of Social Affairs is a lump sum for the year rather than per head. This guarantees anonymity for the children, in compliance with the principle of the best interests of the child.

► The NGO department registers and funds organisations working with and receiving funding from the Ministry of Social Affairs for providing direct services to children including nurseries, clinics, health centres and social centres.

► The Child in the Family department was suspended at the time of this writing. The aim of this programme is to provide social services to children while they remain within the family, instead of institutionalising them. The only aspect of this programme that is currently functioning is funding for families who have triplets or other multiple births. These families receive a lump sum annually, mainly to ensure nutrition.

The Minister of Social Affairs is the president of the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC). The General Director in the Ministry is the vice president of the HCC. The Ministry of Social Affairs also presides over some 160 Social Development Centres dispersed geographically across the country. These centres provide social and health services to parents and children almost free of cost.

Some centres have nurseries funded by UNICEF and some provide vaccinations, health consultations, literacy training and vocational training for children and mothers. The Ministry of Social Affairs cooperates with the Ministry of Public Health and is responsible for linking social and health services and focusing health interventions on poor and vulnerable sectors of the population.¹⁰⁷

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education is composed of the Minister's office, with six departments supervised by the director of Common Management Services. Under the General Directorate of Education is a directorate for secondary schools, primary schools, equivalence of certificates, private schools, cultural affairs, pedagogic and scholar orientation, and exams. In addition, a separate directorate governs higher education. The Ministry of Education implements, through ministerial decrees, Law 686 of 1998 that makes education free and compulsory.¹⁰⁸

The Ministry is accountable for implementing the “National Educational Strategy”, approved by the Cabinet, which provides for upgrades in infrastructure, equipment, teacher training and curriculum.¹⁰⁹ The “National Action Plan for Education”, renamed “Educational Development”, has received funding from the World Bank for two consecutive phases as part of Lebanon's education reform.

The Centre for Educational Research and Development (CERD) is also structurally part of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The centre is mandated with the development of pedagogic materials and tools. It conducts surveys and studies on the status of the educational system and proposes recommendations for improvement. The CERD, at the time of writing, is responsible, along with the Guidance and Counselling Bureau in the Ministry, for the “continuous training” programme,

“In March 2008, a human rights division was established within the Internal Security Forces, but it remains inactive mainly due to a lack of resources and funding.”

.....

Ministry has contracted with the Association for the Protection of Juveniles (UPEL), a public utility association founded in 1936¹¹² with six offices in the six governorates and a Reformatory for Juveniles in Fanar.¹¹³ The public prosecutor, the juvenile court judge, the social representative of the UPEL, and the police cooperate in cases where children are in conflict with the law, or are exposed to ill-treatment or abuse. These stakeholders form a crucial network for juvenile justice in Lebanon.

The Ministry of Labour is responsible for executing child-related labour laws through the Unit for the Combat of Child Labour in Lebanon, whose purpose is to raise awareness on the dangers of child labour and to coordinate efforts to gradually eliminate child labour with governmental agencies, civil society, and international organisations.¹¹⁴ The unit also receives individual complaints and petitions concerning violations of the law and seeks to provide vocational training and training sessions for children in general and working children above the age of 15.

When it receives complaints, the Unit for the Combat of Child Labour cooperates with the Ministry of Social Affairs, which helps in locating the appropriate institutions

which provides teachers with on-the-job training on designated topics.¹¹⁰

The Ministry of Justice, through its Youth Department established in 2002 by Law No. 422, “plays a pivotal role in gathering and sharing relevant information on juvenile justice to all parties concerned”.¹¹¹

To implement this law, the

to refer the child in question. The unit does so because it is not mandated to intervene directly with children. Furthermore, because the Ministry of Labour does not grant educational scholarships, the unit also cooperates with the Ministry of Education.

The division of the inspectorate and occupational safety and health experts are involved directly with the issue of child labour, both centrally and regionally, through the monitoring of children’s workplaces.

The National Social Security Fund was established in 1964 and “is the most important source of public health insurance in Lebanon”.¹¹⁵ Problems of equitable coverage have been reported, however, which affects children who are eligible to receive insurance through their working parents.

Among the various branches within the **Ministry of Interior and Municipalities** is the Directorate General of Internal Security Forces (ISF), which deals directly with children in conflict with the law. An ISF officer is responsible for the investigation and follow-up of these cases, as well as cases where a child is in danger. In the latter, the ISF officer is obligated to contact the UPEL (see above) and follow up with the child until his/her case reaches a juvenile court.

In March 2008, a human rights division was established within ISF, but it remains inactive mainly due to a lack of resources and funding.¹¹⁶

UNODC recruited a coordinator for the ISF juvenile department and then handed over employment responsibilities to the Director General. This procedure was also used for a newly-opened residential institution for girls. Further, the Ministry of justice helped select a UNODC national expert who was subsequently designated office

space within the ministry's youth department and provided daily assistance to ministry staff.

Also under the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities is a committee against the worst forms of child labour, with a focus on children living and working in the streets and child trafficking.¹¹⁷ The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities has mobilised governors and municipalities across Lebanon on the issue of child labour within the scope of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) country programme.

General Security produces identity cards for all Palestinian children. Although approximately 2,500 “non-ID”¹¹⁸ Palestinian refugees have recently been issued with official temporary identity cards, a similarly large number have yet to approach the authorities for their identity cards due to long-standing and justified fears of arbitrary arrest when dealing with the authorities in any capacity.¹¹⁹

The Ministry of Public Health is composed of the General Directorate that includes the Directorate of Preventive Health Care, the Directorate of Medical Care, the Directorate of the Central Laboratory of Public Health, and the General Administration Service. The Ministry also comprises the Department of Projects and Programmes, the Department of Control on autonomous public hospitals and the Department of Information Technology. The Ministry of Public Health cooperates closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs, especially through state-sponsored health centres spread across the country. These centres provide “curative and preventive health care services, vaccinations, primary health care, advice on reproductive health and services aimed at the disabled population”.¹²⁰ Both ministries also provide support to health and social centres run by NGOs. These centres provide services for free or at minimal cost, with the patient paying for the service at the time of delivery and being reimbursed

later. The Ministry funds the costs of patients who are not covered by the National Social Security Fund or any other form of health insurance. “This coverage engulfs some 40% to 45% of the Ministry’s budget ... as such the Ministry has the largest share of total cost of public expenditure on health services in the country”.¹²¹ The Ministry of Public Health also covers hospitalisation and treatment costs for patients with acute and chronic diseases that have been turned away by private insurance companies. Governmental hospitals account for only 11.5% of all hospitals available in Lebanon.¹²²

The Ministry of Public Health is responsible for the development and endorsement of policies and strategies for health reform. It coordinates and mainstreams all health programmes, including those implemented by civil society, the private sector, and UN agencies.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education cooperates with the Ministry of Public Health to conduct health education in schools; the Ministry of Environment implements projects related to the environment and its effect on health; while the Ministry of Social Affairs “plays a parallel role with the Ministry of Public Health as far as social development and primary health care are concerned”. NGOs also play a role in all these projects, with the Ministry of Finance serving as the main source of funding.¹²³ In 2010, UNRWA signed agreements with 35 hospitals to allow Palestinians access to their facilities. Of these, 13 are public hospitals, 17 are private, and five are managed by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.¹²⁴

b. Parliamentary Committees

The issue of child labour was adopted as a key concern by the parliamentary committees for Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Education and Women and Children, which asked IPEC-Lebanon to present to them its programme and

needs.¹²⁵ The Parliamentary Commission on Women and Children is also responsible for reviewing, submitting, and ratifying draft laws related to children. For example, after Draft Law No. 422 concerning juvenile justice was completed by an inter-ministerial committee, it was submitted to the appropriate parliamentary committee, which was targeted by advocacy asking it to adopt the law. After 15 sessions, the committee adopted the law.¹²⁶

The Central Administration of Statistics conducts periodic national surveys related to health, social, and economic living conditions and provides assistance in strengthening the quality of data utilized in national programmes by various partners.

Municipalities play a potential role in supporting child rights and facilitating child rights protection networks across Lebanon for both Lebanese and Palestinian children. Moreover, they are members of a number of child rights networks.

The Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) is a governmental tool based on Cabinet resolutions 45/2005 (formation) and 89/2005 (appointment), located in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, and working under the supervision of the President of the Council of Ministers. The LPDC includes representatives of those ministries involved in Palestinian refugee issues and operates with a partnership network. However, it is largely a technical body using experts and an assisting team with a consultancy and executive body to implement the State's policies in Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

The LPDC is assigned to discuss with Palestinian representatives the following four issues:

- ▶ Social, economic, legal, and security aspects inside the camps and matters related to Palestinians

living in Lebanon. These discussions are to take place in cooperation with UNRWA;

- ▶ A mechanism that puts an end to the Palestinian armed presence outside the camps;
- ▶ Dialogue regarding the regulation and control of Palestinian weapons inside the camps; and
- ▶ The possibility of establishing representation relationships between Lebanon and Palestine.¹²⁷

c. National Councils and Independent Human Rights Institutions

There is no independent human rights-monitoring mechanism in Lebanon. In 2005, a law for the creation of an Ombudsman was adopted but has not yet been implemented; its organisational structure still awaits approval by the Council of Ministers. Beyond this, there have been efforts, mainly by civil society and the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee, for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution that would be responsible for independent human rights monitoring. Also, no progress has been made in this regard. The Higher Council for Childhood and the National Commission for Women are the only two specialised bodies that have rights-based mandates.

The Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) was established in 1994 by a decision of the Council of Ministers. Its purpose is to create a framework of cooperation between NGOs and the public sector on behalf of child care and development and to implement the CRC in Lebanon.¹²⁸ The HCC is responsible for developing child-related policies and programmes, as well as monitoring child rights, coming up with national action plans, and preparing the reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.





A boy plays a *tabla* or traditional drum in Lebanon. *Courtesy of Save the Children Sweden*

“The number of NGOs operating in Lebanon is estimated between 1,100 and 16,000 organisations. Although Lebanese civil society organisations are numerous, they often do not work together to monitor the situation.”

.....

cific issue. There are 14 committees focusing on different areas of the CRC, such as health, participation, etc. The 14 committees were formed in 2003 with the purpose of preparing the State's third periodic report on the CRC and are also comprised of NGOs, international NGOs, experts and professionals, lawyers, judges, religious figures, and children. Each committee has a president and a secretary general elected by members of the committee.

Whereas the departments of the Ministry of Social Affairs work directly with children and do not have a policy-making role, the HCC does develop policy, advocacy and coordination initiatives. At times, the HCC works directly with children through endorsing and organising activities, forums, focus groups and so forth.

d. Local Civil Society Organisations and Networks

Civil society is a key stakeholder in the promotion and protection of child rights. In Lebanon, civil society is diversified and spread out geographically. NGOs can be

The Board of the HCC is comprised of public, private/non-governmental, international and national organisations.

The Secretary General of the HCC presents project proposals to the Board, based on a needs assessment conducted by the Secretariat. The Board meets upon request of the Minister of Social Affairs. The staff of the HCC is divided into committees, each dealing with a spe-

classified according to scope of work, with some specialised in service provision and others in political, civic, and social engagement and advocacy.¹²⁹

Many NGOs have a direct working relation with the government. However, due the complexity of this system, it is difficult to classify such NGOs as government-operated non-governmental organisations (GONGOs). Such organisations consider themselves independent, while “outsourcing” or providing services under contract with and through funding from the government. Monitoring of these services by the government occurs through periodic visits by a governmental social worker who then reports back to the relevant ministry. However, the ability of the government to interfere or influence the internal programming and decision-making of these organisations is minimal and in some cases not applicable.¹³⁰

The number of NGOs operating in Lebanon is estimated between 1,100 and 16,000 organisations.¹³¹ Although Lebanese civil society organisations are numerous, they often do not work together to monitor the situation. Ideas of charity and service coexist with (and at times oppose) trends toward political emancipation and political and social development. Studies also point out that “many Lebanese [Civil Societies Organisations] CSOs are not noted for transparency, especially those which are family-based or dominated by a powerful individual. There is a rift between the active role civil society plays in promoting democratic values and a poor record of practicing them”.¹³²

Civil society networks can be classified in terms of geographic scope, target group, and/or thematic focus. Nationally, child rights networks include the Lebanon Union for Child Welfare, a network of NGOs founded in 1949, and the Union of NGOs for Child Rights in Lebanon.¹³³ Other NGO networks focus on human rights

in general, as well as humanitarian assistance. Examples of these include the Lebanese NGO Forum, which provides a coordination mechanism for humanitarian organisations, relief, and developmental work. The Collective of Lebanese Voluntary NGOs also provides a platform for coordination of social developmental work.

Regionally, NGOs often coordinate amongst themselves and with relevant municipalities and government institutions present in the area. For example, the Borj-Hamoud Sin El-Fil Coordination Committee of Social Organisations is a committee composed of 22 NGOs, two municipalities, and the Ministry of Social Affairs Development Centre that focuses its activities on the north-eastern poverty belts of Beirut.¹³⁴ In the south of Lebanon, a group of NGOs established four steering committees in the areas of Khiam, Bint Jbeil, Nabatieh, and Tyre. Cooperation on fundraising and project implementation between government institutions and these steering committees has been underway since 2007.¹³⁵ The Child Rights and Child Protection Networks in the North, Saida and Tyre areas incorporate NGOs working with Lebanese, Palestinian and other refugee children. For instance, Save the Children Sweden has established a Children Protection Network for Nahr El-Bared and Al-Baddawi Camps, and a Child Protection Network in the North, which includes representatives from municipalities and schools. Nevertheless, members of these networks report a serious lack of coordination with local foundations and government institutions.¹³⁶

The Co-ordination Forum of NGOs Working Among the Palestinian Community in Lebanon mostly targets Palestinian children. The Palestinian Disability Forum has worked since 2003 specifically with Palestinian children with special needs, specifically to facilitate their enrolment in kindergartens and UNRWA schools. The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) coordinates 45

NGOs in 12 Arab countries, focusing on economic and social rights. Other networks, like the Arab-International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ARA-BISPCAN) and its counterpart, the Lebanese Intersectoral Board of Associations Network for the prevention of child abuse and neglect (LibanCAN), have a broader focus.

e. United Nations Agencies

United Nations agencies provide regular funding and time-bound technical assistance to the government. In addition, they work with international and local civil society organisations to carry out fruitful initiatives for Lebanese and refugee communities.

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) “is the planning framework for UN system development operations at the national level” and it is intended to increase effectiveness and efficiency of UN operations in the country.¹³⁷

The following UN offices are found in Lebanon:

- ▶ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ▶ International Labour Organization (ILO)
- ▶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ▶ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
- ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- ▶ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- ▶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- ▶ United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
- ▶ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- ▶ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- ▶ United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODC)
- ▶ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- ▶ United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)
- ▶ United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- ▶ World Health Organization (WHO)

The UN agencies whose mandates relate directly to children in Lebanon are mainly UNICEF, and UNRWA. UNICEF began its activities in Lebanon in 1948. It conducts monitoring, research, and advocacy for better policy and practice with regards to children's rights, and it provides technical assistance and procurement services where necessary.¹³⁸ The country programme focuses on child and adolescent protection, education, child care and development, and research and advocacy. UNICEF's interventions with governmental and non-governmental partners have included national immunisation, HIV/AIDS awareness-raising, empowerment of youth, primary health care improvement, educational reform, and prevention of violence and exploitation.

UNRWA provides relief and humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The organisation was established by the UN General Assembly in 1949 in response to the displacement of Palestinian refugees from their homes after the 1948 war in Palestine. UNRWA began its operations in May 1950, and (as of December 2008) was providing education, health, and social services as well as microfinance and emergency aid to 422,188 registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. It has a USD 545 million annual budget and employs 2,950 local staff. It runs 83 schools for Palestinian refugees, two vocational and professional training centres, and 28 health centres, while contracting out hospital care to a network of Lebanese hospitals.¹³⁹ UNRWA's budget is continually subject to cuts due to a large deficit that has persisted since the financial crisis of 2009. This greatly impacts the refugee population, which is forced to pay for basic services such as health and education.¹⁴⁰

Other UN missions in Lebanon include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which has been working in Lebanon since 1960. Its recent programming has focused on poverty reduction, local and social development, as well as peace-building. UNDP has also been crucial in providing data on human development and the state of poverty in Lebanon. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 2006, has served as the Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States, strengthening regional capacity "to deliver education of quality and relevance for all at a national level and to provide expertise, foster partnerships and set standards".¹⁴¹

The office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) was established in 2000 with the responsibility of ensuring implementation of Resolution 425 (1978) and overseeing the demining of southern Lebanon. The United Nations Development Fund for

Women (UNIFEM) is not a resident UN agency but has contributed to national programmes. Finally, UNODC has provided its technical assistance to juvenile justice reform in Lebanon.

f. International Organisations

International non-governmental organisations are also influential in implementing the in Lebanon. The nature of their role in Lebanon ranges from funding to capacity-building, as most work through local partners. Relief operations during times of armed conflict such as the July 2006 war are usually led by national NGOs with the support of international actors.

g. Media

Children's programmes on most Lebanese television channels broadcast about an hour a day. They incorporate some educational messages, but no programming on child rights *per se*. Several youth programmes aired on national television tackle the concerns and viewpoints of youth in Lebanon. For example, the "Sawtouna" programme on Lebanese Broadcasting Television and supported by UNICEF has served as a platform for young people's voices and the issues youth face. UNICEF's country programme aims to integrate these concerns into the policies and programmes of key ministries.

Cable television networks in the Palestinian refugee camps play a role in raising awareness about children's rights issues and activities. The cable network is a monthly paid service provided by local satellite providers and managed by political and Islamic factions or influential individuals. Civil society organisations use these networks to present programmes about child rights-related issues, such as dropping out of school, the importance of education, and health awareness, for the audience living in the camps.

These programmes are transmitted at a low price paid by the owners of these television networks.

h. Regional Bodies

The Middle East and North Africa region lacks a formal human rights mechanism. Nonetheless, regional bodies such as the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD) have supported the Lebanese Government and other national stakeholders. Furthermore, the Arab League has supported the Higher Council for Childhood in Lebanon in various projects, such as programming combating corporal punishment.

The Arab Charter on Human Rights includes within its provisions the establishment of an Arab Court of Justice, but this has not been implemented.¹⁴²

i. Donors and the Diplomatic Community

A state of economic crisis intensified in the aftermath of the July 2006 war, leading to the Paris III conference in January 2007¹⁴³, during which USD 7.6 billion dollars in foreign aid was pledged to Lebanon. By 2007, the government treasury was almost depleted and it seemed that Lebanon would miss its debt payments that year, amounting to USD 3 billion.¹⁴⁴ A new package was granted despite the fact that socioeconomic reforms promised during the Paris II conference in 2002 had not been fully implemented.¹⁴⁵ The reform agenda that Lebanon adopted during the Paris III conference is known as the "recovery, reconstruction, and reform" agenda.

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the ILO country programme (see Section III: Child Labour) is funded by the United States Department for Labour and its Bureau of International Labour Affairs. The Arab Gulf Programme for Devel-

opment (AGFUND) has also funded several projects in Lebanon, mainly tackling health and education as well as family health and planning.

Lebanon has been cooperating with the European community since 1977 but contractual relations were firmly established at the Barcelona Conference in 1995 through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The EU-Lebanon Action Plan adopted in January 2007 spelled out the terms and details of this cooperation for a period of five years.¹⁴⁶ The World Bank has also been influential in funding, established an office in Lebanon in January 2000 and working in partnership with UN agencies and missions present in the country. As key international donors, the European Union and the World Bank have had a considerable influence in shaping not only official policy agendas, but the nature and focus areas of civil society organisations as well.

The Saudi government has granted significant funds for the construction, rehabilitation, expansion and equipping of public and vocational schools.¹⁴⁷

Other sources of funding have included the French Protocol; Italian Protocol; Kuwaiti Development Fund; Qatar; Prince Walid Ben Talal; the Islamic Bank; Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development; and the United States Agency for International Development.

j. Religious Institutions

Numerous local organisations are funded or linked to political or religious factions, or prominent figures.¹⁴⁸ For example, *waqf* or Islamic endowments allow individuals or groups to invest in social causes or create foundations.

The main religious institutions in Lebanon include:

- ▶ The Humanitarian Association of Dar El-Fatwa
- ▶ The Humanitarian Association of the Higher Shiite-Islamic Council
- ▶ The Druze Foundation for Social Welfare
- ▶ The Lebanese Federation for Child Care
- ▶ Young Men's Christian Association
- ▶ Humanitarian Associations of Greek-Orthodox Arch-Bishopric of Beirut
- ▶ Humanitarian Associations of Greek-Catholic Community Council
- ▶ Humanitarian Institutions of the Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon
- ▶ Humanitarian Institutions of the Lebanese Monastic Order
- ▶ The Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped¹⁴⁹

k. Children and Youth

The ability of children and youth to support themselves in child rights initiatives is still minimal in Lebanon, as they need to be empowered to engage in a higher level of participation. Nonetheless, children and youth have participated in adult-led initiatives such as the child municipality councils and the youth cabinet (see Section IV: The Right to Express Views/to be Heard/Child Participation).

4. Identifying Child Rights Commendable Practices in Light of the CRC's Main Principles

i. The Right to Non-Discrimination (Article 2)

The Preamble of the Lebanese Constitution provides for the equality of rights and obligations between all citizens without discrimination. Article 7 of the Constitution states that “all Lebanese are equal before the law. They equally enjoy civil and political rights and equally are bound by public obligations and duties without any distinction”.¹⁵⁰ However, as both the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter “the Committee”) and the third periodic report submitted by the State of Lebanon observed, this provision only applies to Lebanese nationals and not to foreigners. Furthermore, age is listed as a criterion for non-discrimination but no legislation preventing discrimination targets children and youth *per se*. Lebanon should revise its laws to apply to all children living on Lebanese territory and not just Lebanese nationals.

A member of the Committee during the review of Lebanon's third periodic report noted that three types of discrimination persist in Lebanon: religious affiliation (children are registered according to the parents' religious affiliation), gender, and origin (i.e. national or ethnic background).¹⁵¹

a. Gender

Lebanon is party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Types of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). However, Lebanon has three main reservations, mainly regarding nationality rights (Article 9), personal status and the marriage of a child (Article 16), and arbitration in case

of related disputes (Article 29). The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its 2006 Concluding Observations criticized the Lebanese government over these reservations, noting that those on articles 16 and 9 are particularly opposed to the object and purpose of the Convention.¹⁵² With regards to Article 16, early marriages in Lebanon are still prevalent, especially in the North and Mount Lebanon. Early marriages are not regarded as a form of sexual abuse but rather are sometimes seen as a way to preserve the female's honour or provide economic relief for the family.¹⁵³

The Lebanese Penal Code discriminates on the basis of gender. Article 562 of the Lebanese Penal Code provides for a lighter sentence for a husband who kills his adulterous wife and her partner when caught in the act than that for a wife found guilty of murder under the same circumstances.¹⁵⁴ Articles 487, 488, and 489 pertaining to adultery are also biased against women with regards to the conditions that establish the crime, the punishment of the perpetrators and the burden of proof. Articles 514 and 522 stipulate that if a perpetrator of sexual violence or rape agrees to marry the victim, then he will no longer be prosecuted. The Parliamentary Committee on Women and Children has allegedly proposed amendments to the Penal Code regarding so called “crimes of honour”.¹⁵⁵

Kinship in Lebanon is not based on matrilineal descent and Lebanese women are prohibited from granting their citizenship to their children or non-Lebanese husbands, a

“Kinship in Lebanon is not based on matrilineal descent and Lebanese women are prohibited from granting their citizenship to their children or non-Lebanese husbands.”

factor that the United Nations Development Programme says affects the human development of Lebanon. “[H]arsh residency rules for non-Lebanese threaten the integrity of families” while the Lebanese woman’s inability to transfer nationality to her own children renders them stateless in certain cases.¹⁵⁶ A commendable practice by the Lebanese judiciary was noted. In June 2009, a judge in a court in the Mount Lebanon area ruled in favour of a Lebanese woman, married to a foreigner, the right to grant her children the Lebanese nationality. The court decision was appealed by the State, however, on grounds that it contradicts Lebanese law. Political opposition to the decision claimed that such rulings would upset the demographic balance of Lebanon.¹⁵⁷

Several national awareness-raising campaigns have demanded that the Lebanese government remove reservations to CEDAW. Organisations like the Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action have been advocating this since 2006. Their campaign is ongoing in six Arab countries, including Lebanon, and aims to reform the nationality law preventing women from granting their children nationality.¹⁵⁸ In 2010, the Lebanese cabinet approved a decree facilitating procedures for granting children of Lebanese women married to foreign men residency papers in Lebanon. According to this decree, these children would be granted three-year residency papers.¹⁵⁹

There is no consensus position regarding discrimination based on gender because there is no single law governing Lebanese personal status and family affairs. Rules governing marriage age, divorce, child guardianship, inheritance, and polygamy differ from one confessional group to another, with some rulings being more discriminatory than others.¹⁶⁰ Positive initiatives by the Government that have taken a rights-based approach in family matters include bilateral agreements signed with a number of states including the United States, Switzerland, and Italy. These

bilateral agreements create joint committees tasked with reaching settlements in cases of custody and visitation for children from mixed nationality marriages. According to the State Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2006, these committees follow international law principles and embrace the child’s best interest.¹⁶¹

Discrimination against female children is usually invisible because it occurs within the home and is hard to monitor and document. Furthermore, the public generally frowns upon interference by the state in family and private matters. Beyond that, girls face discrimination in the public sphere such as sexual harassment¹⁶², restriction of movement, and social pressures arising from traditional norms. Unfortunately, these laws and the practice that emanates from them reflect an embedded cultural prioritisation of ‘honour’ and reputation at the expense of the well-being and fulfilment of women and girls.

Females represent more than 70% of the total educational body.¹⁶³ Female children do not face actual obstacles but enrolment levels vary by region. The poorest and most marginal regions experience a relative deficit in the enrolment of girls in both public and private schools. Nonetheless, the overall high enrolment rates of females in Lebanese schools are positive and reports have shown that illiteracy rates among women have dropped in the past decade.¹⁶⁴

Lebanon’s reporting record for and cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women has been positive in comparison with those related to other treaty bodies, due largely to the work of the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW). The NCLW has been active in preparing state reports for the CEDAW and in disseminating and following-up on the implementation of the Committee’s recommenda-

tions. Furthermore, in the non-governmental sector, several organisations focused on women's rights issues have incorporated child rights into their programming. For example, KAFA (Enough) Violence and Exploitation (hereinafter KAFA), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that has been working against gender-based violence and exploitation of women, in recent years has become more active in the field of child sexual abuse, adopting a child-rights approach to its work on gender issues.

Other stakeholders that have been active in eliminating gender-based discrimination have included the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which has worked in partnership with the ministries of Public Health, Social Affairs, and Education and Higher Education on gender issues. UNFPA's programme in Lebanon also extends its partnership to NGOs, other UN agencies, municipalities and other governmental agencies with the aim of integrating gender questions, especially the mainstreaming and institutionalising of gender-based violence in national planning and development.¹⁶⁵ Since 2005, UNFPA has been working in partnership with the NCLW on the elaboration of a national action plan on gender-based violence.¹⁶⁶

b. Rural/Urban Areas

In Lebanon, regional or geographic discrimination affects children as a result of the application of social policy in the post-war years. Lebanon is on track to achieve its Millennium Development Goals but, despite a steady improvement in social indicators, there continues to be vast regional socio-economic disparities in the provision of quality social, health, and educational services. For example, Lebanon has been successful in decreasing its infant mortality rate from 28/1,000 in 1996 to 26/1,000 in 2000 to 18.6/1,000 in 2004.¹⁶⁷ However, it has been reported that 60% of infant mortality occurs in the Beqaa and

Northern regions of Lebanon, which together are home to only 25% of the child population in Lebanon.¹⁶⁸

According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations of 2006, there is a "persistent *de facto* discrimination" faced by children living in rural areas, "especially with regard to their access to adequate social and health services and educational facilities".¹⁶⁹ The Ministry of Public Health has sought to build and rehabilitate additional health centres across Lebanese territory, and education officials are also attempting better geographic coverage.

One of the objectives of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) strategic framework in Lebanon is to improve the socio-economic status and access to basic services of vulnerable groups in Lebanon, particularly geographically, by improving policy. "The UNDAF outcome aims to also contribute to key goals of the economic and social reform programme, in particular the Social Action Plan, namely to sustain the long-term economic growth nationwide, to improve employment creation, in particular for women and the poor, and to ameliorate the living conditions of the most vulnerable, including through enhanced social safety nets".¹⁷⁰

To achieve this outcome and national priority, the framework allocates each UN agency within its sphere of expertise to a cooperative and assistance framework with relevant government agencies and private sector and civil society actors.

c. Ethnicity or Religion

The Code of Medical Practice (No. 288 22/2/1994) aims to protect minors without discrimination and the Labour Law (Article 26-No. 27 26/5/2000) prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. The law regulating the

registration of newborns (No. 550/1996) does not discriminate between Lebanese newborns but also does not apply to non-Lebanese nationals. Similarly, the national laws regulating education make primary education free and compulsory for all Lebanese but also do not apply to non-Lebanese nationals.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern in its 2006 Concluding Observations that Lebanese domestic laws exclude non-Lebanese children from protection from discrimination.¹⁷¹ Furthermore, with regards to discrimination based on religion, the Committee was concerned that the minimum age for marriage is not unified, but rather specific to the religious groups.¹⁷²

Another problem noted by the Committee is the problem of stateless children in Lebanon. Many children are left stateless either because of a failure to register the child upon birth or because the child was born to a Lebanese mother and a foreign father. Furthermore, as the Committee noted, Palestinian children who are born to Palestinian parents who do not possess identity documents are not registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and thus live their lives as “non-ID” refugees, prevented from accessing their fundamental human rights and basic services. Stateless children in Lebanon cannot access public health, education, and other services. According to a ۲۰۰۹ study conducted by a national NGO, there are two categories of stateless people in Lebanon: “*de jure* stateless persons—among whom are the Palestinian refugees, Kurds, and Arab Bedouins” who do not have a state, and “*de facto*” stateless persons who are entitled to a Lebanese nationality but do not have one for various reasons including failure to register at birth. Children born out of wedlock belong in the second category, which the study estimated to include tens of thousands of children.^{۱۷۳}

“Children of migrants and migrant workers usually do not hold identification papers, and sometimes not even birth registration, because they are often unrecognised refugees or children of domestic workers that have outstayed their residence permits.”

.....

attitudes, racism, and xenophobia persist in Lebanon.¹⁷⁴ Foreign children, refugees and asylum seekers are excluded from forms of legal protection enjoyed by Lebanese children. Foreign children, especially children of migrant workers coming from poor backgrounds, face racism by fellow pupils and even teachers in Lebanese public and private schools, making it extremely difficult for them to be integrated into mainstream educational institutions.¹⁷⁵

Children of migrants and migrant workers usually do not hold identification papers, and sometimes not even birth registration, because they are often unrecognised refugees or children of domestic workers that have outstayed their residence permits. Although Ministerial Decision No. 47/18-9-2003 exempting all public education students in the pre-school, first, and second grade from registration fees applies to non-Lebanese students as well, foreign students cannot register in public schools if they do not have identification papers. Additionally, in practice, fees for registration and books are not affordable for most refu-

Children of migrant workers, especially domestic workers, also do not benefit from protection offered to Lebanese children.

Lebanon is not party to the Convention for the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families. Under Article 7 of the Labour Code, domestic workers are excluded from the rights offered therein. Lebanon is party to the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

However, reports have shown that discriminatory

gees, domestic workers, or asylum seekers. Private schools usually accept children of migrant workers provided they have birth registration but the tuition is often too high for their families to afford. As a first step towards tackling such problems, some organisations have sought to map out the needs and problems of migrant workers and their children. For example, Terre des hommes-Lausanne and Insan Association published in 2010 a first-of-its-kind child protection assessment focusing on this group of children.¹⁷⁶

d. The Status of Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced People

Lebanon is not signatory to the 1951 Convention on the Rights of Refugees. Refugees coming to Lebanon from Iraq, Sudan, Syria, and other countries are severely restricted in protection and livelihood. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “more than 80% of the approximately 9,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Lebanon are from Iraq”.¹⁷⁷ Because of gaps in protection, Iraqi and other refugee children and their families face restrictions on movement and restricted access to public schools and health services (as private health services are too expensive). Despite having fled from and probably witnessing violence in their home countries, these refugees are not provided with safe spaces in educational settings or psycho-social assistance; rather it has been reported that they face great difficulties in assimilating in classrooms and in keeping up with the national curriculum.¹⁷⁸ In response, UNHCR and international organisations such as the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have supported the provision of specialised services to Iraqi refugee communities. For example, the NRC established in 2010 an Education Resource

Centre that provided intensive learning opportunities and mental health services.¹⁷⁹

Concerning Palestinian refugees, the Lebanese government has shown some willingness to improve the humanitarian situation in the country's refugee camps. In a positive step, the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee was established in 2005. This committee is directly connected with the Prime Minister's Office and has facilitated some co-ordination and communication between Lebanese and Palestinian leaders, although progress has been limited. Moreover, under the patronage of Salim El-Sayegh, minister of social affairs and president of the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC), the HCC along with a number of non-governmental organisations, mainly Save the Children Sweden, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), UNHCR, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Naba'a, and Children and Youth Centre (CYC), conducted a national workshop on the rights of Palestinian and refugee children in Lebanon in March 2010. The workshop focused on education, child participation, children living with disabilities, monitoring and protection from violence, health and legislation. At the end of the workshop, the participants made a number of recommendations to the Lebanese government about the child rights of refugees. These recommendations were inspired by the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Lebanon's third State Report. The recommendations were to be handed to the Government by the HCC, but no progress has been made in implementing them.¹⁸⁰

Forty thousand Palestinians living outside of the official UNRWA refugee camps have found shelter in one of the 42 gatherings of Lebanon.¹⁸¹ The scope of UNRWA's action is limited and the children living in these informal gatherings consequently face a lack of education, health, and relief services, making them even more vulnerable

than those in the camps. In response, Lebanese welfare institutions have reviewed the extent to which their services are able to address non-Lebanese children. Since 2004, institutions contracted with the Ministry of Social Affairs have been enabled to admit children whose mother is Lebanese. However, this is still not applicable for children whose father is Palestinian as the Government's position is that these children can benefit from the services of UNRWA.¹⁸² Accordingly, stateless children living with a disability, for example, can only be admitted to governmental institutions provided that their mother is Lebanese and not married to a Palestinian man; otherwise, they are referred to the Palestinian Disability Forum.¹⁸³ According to a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, "whenever the subject is brought up, it is instantly associated with the politically-sensitive issue of the naturalisation of Palestinians".¹⁸⁴ This also applies to access to vocational training for Palestinian children and youth. Registered and non-registered (or 'non-ID') Palestinian children face discrimination in accessing the benefits provided by public sponsorship programmes. This social issue is repeatedly linked with political concerns of naturalisation.

In its latest Concluding Observations, the Committee recommended that the Government strengthen its efforts to eliminate discrimination against Palestinian children, children living in poverty, children living in rural areas and other vulnerable groups.¹⁸⁵ Palestinians living outside refugee camps are prevented from benefiting from water and sanitation services.¹⁸⁶ In the refugee camps, the situation is often better due to UNRWA's work and increased governmental awareness of the Palestinian community's poverty and harsh living conditions. Nevertheless, tense political conditions and the numerous Palestinian parties operating inside the camps have had a tendency to thwart humanitarian improvements carried out by the Lebanese government in 2006.¹⁸⁷

The 'non-ID' status, transmitted over generations, deprives Palestinian refugees from attaining the rights they are afforded within the framework of Lebanese law or UNRWA's mandate. The Lebanese government took a positive step in August 2009 towards ending discrimination against Palestinian refugees without identity cards. From then on, 2,500 'non-ID' Palestinian refugees were expected to be able to obtain a temporary identity card in order to be able to claim their rights as do registered refugees.¹⁸⁸ One implication of this is that Palestinian children without identity cards will, in principle, be able to benefit from UNRWA's educational services.

e. Children Living with Disabilities

In 1999, a UNESCO study estimated the number children with special needs at approximately 310,000.¹⁸⁹ The National Committee for Disabled Affairs was established to ensure the implementation of Law No. 220/2000, which grants persons with disabilities the right to services. By law, persons with disabilities have the right to obtain health services, rehabilitation, and support; however, this law is inconsistently applied. According to the National Social Action Plan adopted by the government of Lebanon in 2007, poverty rates among persons living with disability are three times higher than the national poverty rate; accordingly, the plan gave priority to implementing the provisions of the law.¹⁹⁰ Disability status is granted through the Ministry of Social Affairs and ensures, in principle, access to free health care, equipment such as wheelchairs etc., and free education for children.

However, several sources point out to ongoing shortcomings in the enforcement of Law No. 220/2000. Inter-ministerial committees formed for the purpose of implementing this law rarely meet, and there is a lack of joint effort by relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of



Two boys play at a psycho-social activity in Lebanon.
Courtesy of Save the Children Sweden

Health and so forth. There are funding problems, since ministries are failing to designate a percentage of their budgets for people living with a disability. For example, the Ministry of Public Transport is supposed to dedicate 15% of its budget to adapt its services to persons living with a disability.¹⁹¹

Although there have not been any studies to measure how many children with disabilities face violence in school, most stakeholders interviewed for this report testify that children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to violence. Children with learning difficulties are mistreated, humiliated, and mocked in many instances.¹⁹² The Lebanese educational system lacks specialists qualified to follow up on academic achievement and the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schooling. Public schools do not have the required infrastructural and human resources. According to a report by the Arab Resource Collective in 2007, the “majority of children with disabilities are in special care institutions, and private schools have a policy of automatically eliminating students with disabilities”.¹⁹³ A 2009 survey found that 41 schools in Lebanon provide an educational environment inclusive of children with disabilities, the vast majority of which are located in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. These schools serve only about 0.6% of children with special needs, however, based on UNESCO’s 1999 estimate. The highest prevalence of children with disabilities is in rural areas such as the Beqaa, where only 5% of inclusive schools are found.¹⁹⁴

In response, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in 2009 initiated a national programme for inclusive education with funding by the Italian Cooperation and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and St. Joseph University (USJ). The programme included a component for devising a national strategy for inclusion,

as well as implementing pilot initiatives in selected schools (for more information, see the section on education).

Diagnosis and resource centres do exist for the detection and treatment of disabilities. These are concentrated in the capital, however, and are often unaffordable for poorer families.¹⁹⁵

Several NGOs have employed creative methods for raising awareness about the rights of persons living with disabilities in Lebanon and for building the capacities of young people with disabilities to become productive and active citizens. Other NGOs have developed an advocacy forum that addresses policymakers.¹⁹⁶

f. HIV/AIDS

The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that there is a relatively low HIV infection rate in Lebanon. The HIV epidemic has increased slowly since its introduction in 1983, with most cases being linked to travel and migration. However, the local spread of AIDS is on the rise and there is a need for a system of surveillance and monitoring.¹⁹⁷ Statistics regarding children living with HIV/AIDS and children that are orphaned due to the disease are unavailable among UN statistics. The State Report of 2003 estimated the percentage of affected children at 3.7%. The UN in 2004 said that mother-to-child transmission amounts to 6.7% of reported cases, but the State Report to the CRC holds that “vertical communicability between mother and child constitutes 3% of cases”.¹⁹⁸ It was however reported that in 2009, 4% of Palestinian children aged 12–17 years were living with HIV.¹⁹⁹

The Ministry of Public Health is responsible for treating AIDS patients, and it covers medication and hospitalisation costs for all Lebanese Nationals and Palestinians

“Currently, the principle of the best interests of the child is not a priority in legislative, judicial, and administrative decision-making.”

.....

UNAIDS, as well as various NGOs. The programme laid out a five-year strategy from 2004 to 2008, focusing on advocacy, prevention, therapy, care and support as well control, monitoring, and evaluation.

The programme has included awareness-raising among youth at higher risk of being infected by AIDS and is guided by three national committees, including the National Committee for the Combat of AIDS. A project providing youth with sex education and information on sexually-transmitted infections was launched in 2003.

The Ministry of Public Health has also created centres for Voluntary Counselling and Testing. These provide information, awareness-raising activities, counselling and assistance to individuals concerned about HIV/AIDS.

The Committee expressed concern that, despite efforts, awareness-raising concerning the modes of transmission of AIDS remain insufficient because there has been no corresponding increase in use of contraception by adolescents. The Committee referred the state to the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights adopted at the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, in particular Guideline Three, which encourages states to review and reform health legislation so that they

registered with UNRWA.²⁰⁰ Since 1994, a portion of the national budget has been dedicated to the control of AIDS.

The National HIV/AIDS Programme (NAP) is led by the Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and

apply specifically to HIV/AIDS and are in line with international human rights obligations.²⁰¹

According to a study conducted by UNFPA in 2004, Lebanese legislation on HIV fails to address youth. The study recommended the tailoring of regulations in order to facilitate youth access to certain services, and the development of a national policy regarding HIV and youth.²⁰²

ii. The Best Interests of the Child (Article 3)

The Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2006 noted that the principle of best interests of the child is not “adequately reflected in the State party’s legislation, policies and programmes”. In this regard, the Committee recommended that Lebanon review its legislation and administrative measures to ensure that Article 3 of the Convention is duly reflected therein and that this general principle is taken into account when judicial, administrative, policy, or other decisions are made.²⁰³

According to Lebanon’s third periodic report, the State has not relied previously on a national strategy specifically tailored for children. However, the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) is preparing a national strategy compliant with the CRC and the declaration “A World Fit for Children”. The HCC has been leading efforts, since 2006, in preparing a national action plan for the fulfilment of children’s rights, consulting civil society and relevant stakeholders in this regard.

Currently, the principle of the best interests of the child is not a priority in legislative, judicial, and administrative decision-making. One of the central issues debated during the consideration of Lebanon’s third periodic report was the absence of a unified law for children. The personal status codes that are unique to each religious group in Lebanon do not uniformly practice the principle of best



interests of the child. HCC, in partnership with Save the Children Sweden and UNICEF, is conducting a comparative study on Lebanese law related to children, the CRC, and other protocols ratified by the government.

Another central issue is the juvenile justice system. A child can be present in civil court proceedings, either representing him or herself or represented by a custodian. Children's testimony is accepted without their having taken an oath. Law No. 422/2002 offers judges sentencing alternatives other than the prevention of liberty. The prison sentence is intended to be used in exceptional cases "and restricted to juveniles aged between 15 and 18 years, and even in that case the juvenile judge can undertake measures that comply with the best interests of the child".²⁰⁴ Sometimes juveniles in conflict with the law are exempted from attending trial, if this is in their best interest. Law No. 422/2002 is also remarkable in that it uses terms that take into account the best interests of the child, so that language can reflect the overall spirit of the law.²⁰⁵ The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and NGOs have sought to offer more alternatives to prison sentences, as Law 422 envisions. For example, UPEL has been implementing a project in the South of Lebanon supported by Save the Children Sweden that promotes alternative sentencing avenues for juveniles in conflict with the law.

There is no central or local budget specifically for children. Rather, children are one of the beneficiaries of public expenditure on social services. In 2008, the Ministry of Finance reported expenditure on social services to be 21% of total spending.²⁰⁶

The use of drugs, cigarettes, or alcohol is not strictly prohibited and their sale to children is also not prohibited. In addition, children lack a sufficient number of places to play and enjoy their leisure time.

Children of employees benefiting from the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) also benefit from health, education, and family compensation. However, the children of employees who are not registered receive no benefits. The same applies to the Palestinian community; Nabaa consulted nine NGOs working in the Ein El-Helwe camp and found that decision-making by parents, the local community, or the state does not include the best interests of the child.²⁰⁷

iii. The Right to Life, Survival and Development (Article 6)

a. *Health*

Health expenditures comprise 23.2% of Lebanon's GDP, despite that some 90% of primary health services are provided by the private sector and the monitoring capacity of the Ministry of Public Health is limited.²⁰⁸ Decrees No. 1692/1999 and Decree No. 4265/2000 address child medical care and set aside special sections for children (including a number of beds and vacancies) in hospitals and medical centres.²⁰⁹

The Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs cooperate in the health sector. National NGOs are contracted by the Ministry of Public Health and receive funding for health care provision; three of these are the St. Jude Center for Child Cancer, the Chronic Care Center, and the Lebanese Association for the Disabled. UNRWA provides basic medical care for registered Palestinian refugees. However, its healthcare services are limited to maternity, childcare, family planning, and the prevention and control of infectious and non-infectious diseases. UNRWA has been unable to extend its range of healthcare services because of an increase in the Palestinian population, rising healthcare costs, and its own

budgetary restrictions. As a result, UNRWA has restricted its provision of healthcare services by reducing emergency coverage, medical staff recruitment, equipment availability and clinic maintenance. On average, UNRWA doctors see almost 40% more patients per day than international standards recommend.²¹⁰

In 2009, the under-five mortality rate in Lebanon was 12 per 1,000²¹¹ and the infant mortality rate was 11 per 1,000 live births.²¹² In 2008, 100% of the population (both urban and rural) was using improved drinking water sources.²¹³ In the same year, UNICEF reported that 100% of the urban population was using improved sanitation facilities. (In 2005, the World Bank had estimated that, 98% of the total population was using improved sanitation facilities.²¹⁴) In 2009, the maternal mortality rate was 26 per 100,000 live births.²¹⁵

For Palestinian refugee children living in Lebanon, the under-three mortality rate was 10.8 per 1,000 live births and the infant mortality rate was 19 per 1,000 live births in 1999. A lower percentage, 79.1%, of the refugee population was using adequate sanitation facilities.¹⁹¹ The maternal mortality rate was reported at 51 per 100,000 live births.²¹⁷

NGOs consulted by ALEF in six Lebanese regions all indicated two main challenges in the health sector. The first is the inequitable distribution of hospitals across Lebanon, and the second is the lack of mental health care services for children, especially in war-affected areas.²¹⁸

According to UNICEF, “Lebanon has achieved most of the goals of the World Summit for Children. The infant mortality rate (IMR) and under-five mortality rate (U5MR) have steadily declined with no significant gender disparity. National immunisation coverage is 96%, and no cases of polio have been recorded since 1994. Most national nutrition goals have been achieved for both boys and girls.

Nearly all pregnant women have access to prenatal care and trained attendants during childbirth”.²¹⁹

The Committee commended Lebanon’s “developed healthcare system” but remained concerned about disadvantaged families’ limited access to quality health services and the existence of regional disparities. It recommended increasing efforts to reform the health sector and further build the sector’s capacity to deliver.²²⁰

Despite state efforts to reform the health system in recent years, disparities continue to exist. The government’s efforts to improve the situation are manifested in the establishment and rehabilitation of additional health centres through a national strategy aimed at creating a network of centres extending to all governorates and districts. There are 81 Primary Health Care delivery centres, 18 of them public, 13 run by the Ministry of Public Health, three run by the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the rest run by NGOs and local municipalities.²²¹ The quality of these centres’ services is questionable and there is a lack of systematic monitoring and uniform funding.

According to one report, a growth in hospital services masks the weakness of the Lebanese public health system. “NGOs own over 80% of the 110 primary health care centres and 734 dispensaries spread across the country”.²²² Moreover, “more than 70% of the hospitals of the private sector are owned by private individuals or groups of doctors. The rest are owned and operated by non-governmental organisations, usually religious, charitable or community groups”.²²³

In 2010, UNRWA signed agreements with 35 hospitals to allow Palestinians access to these facilities. Thirteen of the hospitals are public, 17 are private, and five are managed by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS). All the hospitals are in close proximity to Palestinian gatherings

“**Salvatore Lombardo, director of UNRWA**

Affairs in Lebanon, has described the general quality of healthcare for Palestinians in Lebanon as ‘not ideal’. He added that: ‘Overall we are offering basic care through our primary healthcare centres, but we are not yet delivering the quality of care they deserve.’”

.....

ideal”. He added that: “Overall we are offering basic care through our primary healthcare centres, but we are not yet delivering the quality of care they deserve. That is our challenge, and that is our concern”.²²⁴ The overall level of health and life expectancy is therefore lower among Palestinians than among the Lebanese community. Since prices are very high, most of the refugee population relies on health facilities within the camps, either private or provided by UNRWA and other international NGOs. The scarcity of human resources and medical equipment means that these health facilities do not offer high standards of treatment. For example, the poor environmental conditions in the refugee camps tend to foster parasitic and intestinal infestations, while clinical interventions to treat them have limited impact because there is no accompanying improvement of the environmental infrastructure.²²⁵ UNRWA clinics and civil society organisations also fail to

around the country. It is worth mentioning that, previously, UNRWA and the health ministry shared the costs of treatment; the recent agreement between the two stipulates that the ministry will no longer contribute to the costs of treatment. These costs will now be split between UNRWA and the patient. UNRWA covers the full cost of care at PRCS hospitals, and part of the costs at public hospitals. Salvatore Lombardo, director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon, has described the general quality of healthcare for Palestinians in Lebanon as “not

provide children living with disabilities with appropriate medical services, leading most parents to resort to expensive specialists.²²⁶ Among Palestinian children living with a disability who actually receive treatment, 44.3% turned to non-governmental organisations or social rehabilitation centres.²²⁷

A national programme for immunisation is ongoing, endorsed and operated by the Ministry of Public Health in cooperation with UNICEF, national NGOs, private clinics, the national expanded programme of immunisation technical committee, WHO, and the World Bank.²²⁸ The immunisation programme falls under the umbrella framework of the National Health sector reform programme (2007-2009). The Lebanese government, with the financial and technical assistance of UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UNRWA, aim through programming to increase access to and use of quality health services by 2014, with special attention to under-served areas and vulnerable communities.

Child mortality is related to “inadequate neonatal care or insufficient immunizations for children”.²²⁹ Examples of commendable initiatives in this area include the Neonatal Resuscitation Programme (NRP), implemented with the support of the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF, with the objective of reducing neonatal mortality rates in health care institutions to fulfil the Millennium Development Goal to reduce under-five mortality by two-thirds and improve maternal health. According to the American University Medical Centre, “improving the outcomes of resuscitating skills of health attendants is likely to be an effective strategy for preventing a large proportion of neonatal death”.²³⁰

The Lebanese Association for Early Childhood Development (LAECD) has established a ‘model’ mental health care centre in the southern suburb of Beirut. The centre is funded by the municipality of Ghobeiri, which who

provides the space and pays fees, and Handicap International and International Medical Corps (IMC), which also contribute directly and indirectly. LAECD provides health, nutrition, and mental health services, charging only 20% to 25% of the total cost and treating Iraqi refugees for the equivalent of USD 2. The centre opened in 2007 and has since received 150 children between the ages of three and 12 on a monthly basis.

Following the July 2006 war, the Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy, and Applied Care (IDRAAC), upon the request of the Higher Council for Childhood and with funding by the EU and Handicap International, conducted an assessment of war-affected children in the south and in the southern suburb of Beirut, mapping available psycho-social resources.

During and after the war, several NGOs took the initiative of providing for the health needs of communities affected by the war. For example, during the war, Intersos with the support of UNHCR and in collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council, assessed the health, environmental, and social needs of communities in 173 villages in the south. It subsequently opened a mobile health clinic in partnership with a national NGO, Al-Kayan.²³¹

Also in response to the health needs of war-affected children, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Lebanese University, the Belgian Development Cooperation and the Higher Council for Childhood launched in September 2007 a Master's degree on "psychosocial animation in war-torn societies", which helped to train professionals and practitioners working with children on post-conflict trauma.

The Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy, and Applied Care (IDRAAC) has been working in association with the Department of Psychiatry and Clinical

Psychology in Balamand University Medical School and with the Lebanese Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), with funding by the European Union and IDRAAC. Lebanon participated in the World Mental Health (WMH) Survey Initiative of the WHO in 2000. The resultant report was "the first and only national study on mental health ever conducted in the Arab world". The results of a 2009 study conducted by IDRAAC, "Alleviating the Burden of Mental Illness in Lebanon: Towards a Mental Health Act", is the first step in preparing a draft law for the mentally ill, who currently suffer from a lack of public awareness of their issues and the high costs of treatment. This study showed that a considerable portion of the Lebanese population suffers from a mental health disorder and only one in ten has sought treatment.²³²

Finally, according to the state report, the main cause of child mortality is accidental deaths. The Committee recommended in 2006 that the state conduct a study on accident-related deaths and transform the findings into awareness-raising for parents, children, and the public.²³³ Some NGOs are active in advocating for better law enforcement of safety laws and improved data collection by the state on accidents and injuries in order to make the issue a public health priority. These NGOs, such as YASA, provide awareness-raising on injury and accident prevention in schools.²³⁴ Efforts led by a national task force are underway to devise a protection system, including addressing the problem of child injury, for children in Lebanon (see section: Violence against Children).

b. Nutrition

Micronutrient deficiencies and chronic malnutrition in young children (stunting) persists in Lebanon, especially in rural areas, and a high prevalence of overweight in all age groups has emerged, both in rural and urban areas.²³⁵

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), national statistics showing statistical trends in nutrition are incomplete, making it difficult to shape a national nutrition strategy. According to the FAO, “the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative has not been very successful in Lebanon.” It reports that hospital personnel need more training in information provision and encouraging mothers to breastfeed soon after birth and exclusively for six months.²³⁶

According to the 2008 UNRWA annual report of the Department of Health, the Palestinian refugee community suffers widely from protein-calorie malnutrition and other vitamin A and iron deficiencies. However, the most persistent issue appears to be anaemia, which is highly prevalent among women of reproductive age and children, as the following figures show:

- ▶ 87.2% of infants breastfeed for at least one month
- ▶ 30.2% breastfeed exclusively for up to 4 months
- ▶ 33.4% of children < 3 years old have anaemia
- ▶ 25.5% of pregnant women have anaemia
- ▶ 26.6% of nursing mothers have anaemia;
- ▶ 22.3% of schoolchildren from 1st grade have anaemia; and
- ▶ 16.9% of schoolchildren from 9th grade have anaemia.²³⁷

Relying on these facts, UNRWA recalibrated its Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) so as to meet the special needs of pregnant women and nursing mothers and thwart malnutrition among newborns. Neverthe-

less, the SFP went through austerity budget measures in 2008, which has led to a reduction of food rations and increased severity in criteria for beneficiaries' eligibility. As a result, the percentage of pregnant women and nursing mothers who are benefitting from the UNRWA's food aid programme has decreased in 2008 by 24% from the year before.²³⁸

c. Physical Environment

Key environmental issues that Lebanon faces include climate change, air quality, water quality, water resource management, waste management, the protection of natural resources, land use, coastal and marine pollution.²³⁹ Lebanon has yet to ratify the amendment of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols on Land-Based Sources and Dumping. It also has not yet signed the Emergency Protocol or the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol.

The Ministry of Environment aims to cooperate with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and the Ministry of Finance in executing the Environmental Protection Framework Law also known as Law No. 444. The Ministry of Environment has issued a plan to resolve the main environmental problems outlined above. The Institute of the Environment at the University of Balamand has been active in assisting national environmental and sustainable development efforts. It has proposed an action plan for “a decentralized environment and sustainable development monitoring network through local authorities” as part of a pilot project involving six Mediterranean countries. Forty-four of more than 700 municipalities belonging to three unions representing three different regions in Lebanon qualified for the project, while “a total of 110 indicators were generated and grouped into four major categories adopted by the national indicator system”.²⁴⁰

“Key environmental issues that Lebanon faces include climate change, air quality, water quality, water resource management, waste management, the protection of natural resources, land use, coastal and marine pollution.”

.....

sanitation are lacking and shelters are overcrowded and sometimes even hazardous. UNRWA reports that 60% of Palestinians are currently living below the poverty line.²⁴² Other studies have indicated that this number is as high as 80%, with 56% living in extreme poverty.²⁴³

In March 2009, two agreements were signed for relief activities and the rehabilitation of shelters in Palestinian camps in Lebanon.²⁴⁴ Around USD 5 million from the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent (UAERC)²⁴⁵ has been promised to rehabilitate 343 shelters in Burj Shemali camp in South Lebanon, which was identified as the most hazardous and unhygienic.²⁴⁶ In December 2009, a rehabilitation project funded by the European Union officially began in Burj El-Barajneh camp, aiming to install a new water supply system, replace the sewerage network, evacuate storm water and re-instate alleys, streets and roads, all in order to prevent flooding during the winter rains. The same type of work is currently underway in Shatila camp. Finally, the reconstruction of Nahr El-Bared camp after the conflict of 2007 was in progress at the time of this

In terms of living conditions in Lebanon, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) reported that many of the shelters in camps and gatherings did not provide “adequate space and protection from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, [and] structural hazard”.²⁴¹ The conditions in the camps have been steadily declining over the last 50 years. Basic services such as water, electricity and

writing. On 20 May 2009, the Directorate General Union for Urban Planning granted the construction permit for a camp at the same location and work began on 23 June 2009.²⁴⁷ It is worth mentioning, that these construction projects don’t include green and open spaces for children to play.

d. Reproductive Health

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Lebanon has made significant progress in the improvement of reproductive health indicators such as access to prenatal and postnatal care, the proportion of births attended by skilled personnel, and use of contraceptives. In 2004, the Pan Arab Survey for Family Health (PAPFAM) showed that 96% of all births in Lebanon are attended by skilled health personnel. Furthermore, the survey showed that “the infant mortality rate dropped from 28/1000 in 1996 to 26/1000 in 2000 to 18.6/1000 in 2004 despite the fact that regional disparities still exist”.²⁴⁸ Also, NGOs in six Lebanese regions held that child births facilitated by unskilled traditional birth attendants are not prevalent or problematic in their regions.

Reproductive health providers include the social development centres run by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the primary health care centres run by the Ministry of Public Health, the Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres for HIV, and the sexual and reproductive health clinics. In order to prevent duplication of efforts and to promote cooperation and mainstreaming of quality health services across all these service providers particularly with regards to HIV/AIDS, a national study was conducted to assess the current state of linkages being made between reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS. The American University of Beirut, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and UNFPA, disseminated in 2010 the results of an assessment study showing both the current weak-



ness of such linkages and their potential benefits.²⁴⁹ The project has helped to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and reduce the stigma surrounding it and reproductive and sexual health services in general.²⁵⁰

Family planning services have been endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and executed in collaboration with national NGOs such as the Lebanese Family Planning Association (LFPA). The LFPA operates reproductive and sexual health clinics across the country. In order to ensure better regional coverage, it works with other NGOs through a referral system connecting health clinics and medical professionals across the country.²⁵¹

The UNFPA has been working with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Public Health since 2006 on improving reproductive and reproductive health services. The programme's objective is to improve access to, utilisation of, and quality of reproductive health services "in a primary health context through capacity development, reviewing and updating the normative quality assurance tools".²⁵² These efforts have extended to awareness-raising among adolescents and youth, especially in underserved areas, through the Youth Friendly Service Package. The outreach and national awareness-raising component of the programme was implemented through 'entertainment education', youth-to-youth peer education, media campaigns, and awareness manuals.²⁵³

Some positive initiatives exist among private schools where a component of sexual education is integrated into the curriculum. Other schools hold yearly reproductive health sessions; however, these sessions do not have an integrated approach with structured goals. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education is yet to integrate reproductive health within the national curriculum.²⁵⁴

A study of youth in six Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon found that both girls and boys appeared to have a number of misconceptions about sexual health.²⁵⁵ However, 69% of UNRWA's beneficiaries in Lebanon use modern contraceptives.²⁵⁶ The total fertility rate among UNRWA's beneficiaries in Lebanon is 2.3 per woman.²⁵⁷ The maternal mortality rate in the Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings is 51/100,000.²⁵⁸ Post-neonatal deaths are mainly caused by congenital malformations (29%) and communicable diseases (30%).²⁵⁹

To foster awareness among Palestinians about reproductive health issues and prevention, NGOs have been taking the lead, in light of the absence of services from the Lebanese government. For instance, the Italian NGO Ricerca e Cooperazione (RC) has conducted workshops with UNRWA health service professionals, educational games targeting youth, and campaigns inside the camps.²⁶⁰ Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) opened in 2008 and 2009 two advisory clinics on reproductive health issues in Ein El-Hillweh and Rashidieh camps, respectively, in partnership with Naba'a, offering safe spaces for targeted medical, psychological and social support.²⁶¹

In 2010, Save the Children Sweden and KAFA launched the child sexual abuse tool kit "*Ila El-Aman Sir*" after two years of development. A number of social workers were trained in utilizing the prevention tool kit. However, this tool kit will not only be used in order to fight child sexual abuse in Lebanon, but will also be a key component in an upcoming project, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, funded by the European Commission, and set for implementation in Lebanon, Yemen and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).²⁶²

e. *Education*

School enrolment rates in Lebanon are high and roughly even across genders. According to 2008 figures reported by UNESCO, 88% of girls were enrolled in primary school in comparison with 89% of boys. Enrolment decreases in secondary schools, however, where it is reported at 78% for girls and 71% for boys.²⁶³ Unlike other countries in the region, enrolment rates in private schools (55.9%, 2007) in Lebanon is significantly higher than enrolment in public schools (41.3%, 2007). While these figures range from one region to another, enrolment rates in private schools are highest in Beirut and Mount Leba-

non (72%) in comparison with a range of 37.2 to 47.7% in the North and South.²⁶⁴

Currently, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) is implementing the National Action Plan for Education, with a budget of USD 70.9 million (mainly granted by the World Bank).²⁶⁵ According to official statements, the Ministry's emphasis on building the capacity of teachers and providing new teaching methods commensurate with international pedagogic trends is part of a strategy to close the gap between public and private schools and increase competition between them.²⁶⁶

The following table is a summary of progress indicators provided by the Central Administration of Statistics:

TARGET ²⁶⁷	INDICATOR	2000			2004			2007		
		Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education			98.3	92.7	92.7	92.7	93.4	92.8	93.1
	2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade one who reach last grade of primary	97	93.8	95.3						
	2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men			97.5	98.8	98.6	98.7	99.1	98.4	98.7



Public schools are financed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.²⁶⁸ In 2008, the World Bank reported that two percent of the GDP goes to public education,²⁶⁹ a decrease from previous years. Meanwhile, UNDP reported that public and private education combined is quite high at some 11% of Lebanon's GDP.²⁷⁰ Returns are not commensurate with this expenditure and, according to a 2008 study, the division between public and private schools contributes to this problem.²⁷¹

The Lebanese government has not yet met its "education for all" objectives, although some advancement has been made on legislatively and in practice. Although education is in theory compulsory and free until age 12, in practice this does not happen. According to the third State Report, Law No. 686 has not yet been fully implemented "due to the slow process of issuing implementation decrees".²⁷² In response, the HCC has led a national campaign since 2006 in order to increase awareness about the universal and mandatory education law, as well as the CRC and the right to education. The Lebanese government is studying legislation to modify the legal cut-off age for compulsory education from 12 to 15, but no progress has been made. As a first step, the government of Lebanon ratified ILO convention No. 138, setting the minimum age of employment at 15.

Education is not entirely free, however, with taxes and certain school funds being charged per student. Nor are books and stationery free, either. The Center for Education Research and Development (CERD) publishes books and sells them at a discount, as directed in Ministerial Memorandum No. 337. Also, Ministerial Memorandum No. 47 dating to 2003 exempts children in public kindergartens and grades one and two from school fees.²⁷³ In school year 2007-2008, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia covered the costs of all public school tuitions, as an act of charity.²⁷⁴

The dropout rate in Lebanon in 1994 was reported at 9.21% in elementary schools, 8.61% after grade seven and 6.67% after grade eight, according to statistics from the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD).²⁷⁵ Dropout and repetition rates are inconsistent geographically due to "weak quality control and lax teaching requirements".²⁷⁶ There is a growing number of out-of-school children, according to the Pan Arab Survey on Family Health (PAPFAM), and about nine percent of children aged 10 and above are out of school. According to UNICEF in 2007, NGO data suggests that up to 40% of adolescents between 15 and 18 are not in school.²⁷⁷

The government has in recent years sought to address the repetition and dropout rates in public schools. A five-year action plan was elaborated and approved in 2010, aiming at raising the quality of public education and improving access.²⁷⁸ In addition, starting in March 2009, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and St. Joseph University and with funding from the Italian government, cooperated on a national programme for inclusive education. The programme included two components: the Inclusion Pilot School Project (IPSP), "a micro intervention at the community level" that tackles 11 public schools in various Lebanese regions, as well as the National Policy on Inclusive Education Project, which is "a macro intervention at the level of policy reform and advocacy". The second project aims to establish "a rights-based legal framework guaranteeing the right of education for all...through the development of a rights-based national policy on inclusion".²⁷⁹

In Lebanon, regional disparities affect the quality of education, the number of teachers, the quality of school buildings, and availability of learning materials and equipment. The third State Report points out that the majority of school buildings are rented or were not originally built

“One achievement has been the revision of the educational curriculum, which had been on hold since 1997. The new curriculum has introduced, among other changes, five new subjects such as computer science and art.”

.....

ed plan, which was officially closed in December 2003. The new programme foresees the establishment of an information system for the administration of the national educational system, both private and public. Additionally, it commissions a study on financing the educational sector and seeks to train teachers on new teaching methods, especially using information technology and educational reform strategies.²⁸⁰

One of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's on-going projects is “school mapping”, which aims to re-distribute schools, teachers, and students in the public sector, and to rationalise expenditures. The Ministry, in cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces, started working with a “GIS system” to electronically map all public schools. Second, the Ministry started the School Information System (SIS) to unify all data related to schools. Similarly, the Educational Management Information System project started in 2001 to connect all schools with the Ministry. The idea behind this is to create an ‘intra-net’ between the Ministry and all educational facilities and public schools.²⁸¹ A representative of the Ministry

for educational purposes, aside from the fact that there is no sustainable maintenance system. The National Action Plan for Education aims to tackle such shortcomings. This plan was restructured with a new budget of USD 709 million (USD 566 million from the World Bank and USD 143 million from the national budget) and includes elements that were not implemented from the previous World Bank-fund-

holds that the introduction of technology and computers will raise the quality of education because detection and monitoring will improve communication and minimise the bureaucratic procedures that cause delays and dispersion of accountability.²⁸²

One achievement has been the revision of the educational curriculum, which had been on hold since 1997. The new curriculum has introduced, among other changes, five new subjects such as computer science and art. The implementation of these changes is not uniform across all Lebanese regions, however. In some areas, parents' school committees and local NGOs have taken the initiative to fund extra lessons such as computer science and bring in teachers without government assistance.²⁸³

Most of the NGOs consulted in focus groups conducted for this study claimed that the main problem in the educational system is not one of policy, but rather the lack of qualified teachers. Many initiatives have successfully equipped schools with new learning tools and equipment. However, with little follow-up and no training for teachers on how to use this equipment, the impact was limited. In a focus group held in Akkar with NGOs working in the area, there was a consensus that the most successful initiatives in schools are those that ensured sustainability by monitoring the usage of equipment and their impact through follow-up with teachers and periodic visits to schools.

Other successful NGO initiatives have tackled the drop-out rate by providing remedial assistance to students with learning difficulties. For example, Mouvement Social launched in 2007 a national academic support programme that targets 16 public schools nationwide. This intervention began after the organisation conducted a study on the reasons for high drop-out rates in Lebanon, discovering that the highest rates were after the first and ninth

grades.²⁸⁴ Some NGOs worked on establishing a constructive link between the student, the school administration, and the parents. Parents' committees are in most areas inactive, even though all public schools are obliged on a yearly basis to report the committee members' names to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

UNRWA is the main provider of education services to Palestinian children in Lebanon. Non-Lebanese citizens are in principle allowed to attend public schools but priority is given to Lebanese children. UNRWA sponsors the education of Palestinian children in elementary school (five years), intermediate (four years) and secondary (three years) stages. Schools are unable to provide non-formal activities (e.g. scout camps, clubs, trips, and sport teams) as they are not part of the curriculum. UNRWA's ability to maintain the education of Palestinian children is deteriorating. Buildings are inadequate and staff insufficient and UNRWA began asking in school year 2010-2011 for NGO support with remedial education (through learning support programmes) for low-performing Palestinian refugee children in the elementary and intermediate stages.²⁸⁵

UNRWA schools follow the Lebanese curriculum and therefore do not include the geography and history of Palestine, which means some Palestinian children lose interest.²⁸⁶ Moreover, Palestinian refugee children do not benefit from educational and health services granted to Lebanese children, and this is a major reason why children leave school.²⁸⁷ In addition to economic factors, poor treatment by teachers, social problems such as early marriage, and lack of parental support²⁸⁸ all contribute to a drop-out rate of 35% in the secondary level.²⁸⁹ Indeed, most students drop out to start working in semi-skilled jobs and assist their families. Despair and frustration in the Palestinian refugee camps has led parents to believe that education will not overcome Lebanon's labour law

“A study conducted by St. Joseph University found that 45.6% of children interviewed experienced violence in schools. The types of physical violence used in schools included being slapped on the arm or hand, which was experienced by 40.7% of children interviewed.”



restrictions and guarantee jobs for their children. Unskilled or semi-skilled jobs appear more fruitful, at least from a financial point of view.

The percentage of Palestinian children of any grade who dropped out increased from 4% to 24% between 2002 and 2005,²⁹⁰ with one girl out of ten dropping out to get married or take care of her relatives.²⁹¹

Access to vocational schools and private universities is limited to those who can afford to pay the fees. UNRWA and other organisations can only grant scholarships to a limited number of Palestinians. Additionally, graduates from these schools rarely find employment because they remain unqualified and certain professions (i.e. medicine, law or engineering) are closed to them.

Civil organisations manage the majority of inclusive and rehabilitation programmes, in which UNRWA supports a limited number of children annually, including children living with a disability (representing 48.6% of the participants in such programmes).²⁹² These are equally plagued by overcrowding, lack of teaching materials (e.g. books) and the absence of facilities (e.g. libraries, computers and science laboratories). Within the UNRWA school system, children living with a disability are affected by the lack of extra-curricular activities needed to address their special needs.

Grassroots organisations are most committed to filling the gaps left by UNRWA in vocational education and training (integrating 8.6% of youth living with a disability in 2009),²⁹³ recreational activities and summer camps. This helps to maintain a social bond among the refugee students and encourages them to prepare for the future despite the economic and legal obstacles. Najdeh Association, Beit Atfal Assomood Association, Children and Youths Center (CYC) and Naba'a are examples of local NGOs particularly active on the field for that purpose²⁹⁴, creating remedial and special education services targeting Palestinian disabled children.

There are approximately 88 kindergartens distributed among the northern and southern camps. Many of these kindergartens have enjoyed some maintenance and improvements with the aid of various NGOs. However, some of them lack appropriate areas for playgrounds and do not have suitable programmes accompanying the new curriculum. As a result, UNRWA has been working with NGOs to unify education in kindergartens. Within this framework, teachers try to foster the well-being and creativity of Palestinian children at an early age so they are able "to complete their primary education, become independent individuals and know about their land".²⁹⁵ Some of the NGOs develop and apply their own kindergarten curriculum, including an introduction to Palestine through song, folklore, and special events. Thus, NGOs targeting Palestinian children living in refugee camps play a large role in the development of the youngest generations²⁹⁶, and in raising community awareness about the fundamental rights of children. Naba'a, for example, has sought to increase its inclusive activities and the participation of children living with a disability in its Early Childhood Programme in the southern refugee camps.

f. Violence Against Children

Although there is a lack of official data on the incidence of violence in the schools of Lebanon, several surveys conducted in recent years have suggested it is prevalent. Some reports have also shown violence to be one of the factors contributing to high drop-out rates in Lebanon. UNICEF reported in 2007 that "incidents of domestic violence, interpersonal intolerance, and child abuse and neglect are on the rise, with as few as 5 per cent of cases referred to shelters, police, or public facilities. Adolescents and young people face challenges linked to lifestyle, education quality and relevance, and the role and participation of the young in public life".²⁹⁷

A study conducted by St. Joseph University found that 45.6% of children interviewed experienced violence in schools. The types of physical violence used in schools included being slapped on the arm or hand, which was experienced by 40.7% of children interviewed. Over thirty-two percent (32.6%) said they had experienced objects being thrown at them. Other forms of physical violence described included beating, burning, and kicking to the extent that the victim suffers bruises or injuries.²⁹⁸ Emotional or psychological violence is also prevalent in schools: 51.7% of the children surveyed by St. Joseph University had been deliberately insulted while 48.6% had been shouted at with the aim of humiliation. Recent studies have also uncovered the prevalence of sexual violence in schools. KAFA's 2008 study on child sexual abuse in Lebanon revealed that six percent of sexual abuse cases occur in school.²⁹⁹ A 2006 study on the reasons why students drop out of school found that 24.52% of those surveyed cited being subjected to physical violence as the main reason for having dropped out of school.³⁰⁰

The social and cultural context in Lebanon plays a significant role in the prevalence of violence in schools. Vio-



lence is still perceived by many as a necessary pedagogic tool and, as reports have pointed out, there is a perceived distinction that ‘mild’ punishment is acceptable, unlike ‘serious’ punishment. Furthermore, corporal punishment is perceived to be sanctioned by some religions, which gives it greater social acceptance. A 2005 Save the Children study argued that regional variables related to the teacher and student’s socio-economic status determined the “frequency and the seriousness of corporal punishment”.³⁰¹

A study conducted by Save the Children Sweden on corporal punishment in Lebanon found that private schools enrol 30% more students than public schools. As a result, private schools are more overcrowded than public schools. One-third of Lebanese teachers are over 40 years of age and almost half do not have a university degree, which has implications for their training in recent pedagogic skills and values.³⁰²

The tense political situation in Lebanon, coupled with prolonged conflict (most recent of which was the July 2006 war and the internal armed clashes of May 2008),³⁰³ contribute “to a general culture that endorses weapon carrying and physical fights”.³⁰⁴ Also, “negative life events such as parental divorce, expulsion from school and academic failure appears to be associated with violent behaviour in adolescents”.³⁰⁵

A study released in 2008 and conducted by the American University Beirut in coordination with national stakeholders and UN organisations found that the rates of violent behaviour of adolescents in Lebanon is relatively high in comparison with other countries. The study found that more than 10% of adolescents in Lebanon carry weapons.³⁰⁶ It also showed that the rate of violence behaviour, be it weapon carrying or involvement in physical fights, is higher among boys than girls and that there is a posi-

tive correlation between socio-economic indicators and involvement in physical fighting.³⁰⁷

Finally, a lack of awareness by children of their right to be protected from violence contributes to the prevalence of violence in schools. Many children see corporal punishment as “a good disciplinary method” and “the only method they know”, and parents often choose not to report violence for fear of retaliation or to preserve their relationship with the teacher.³⁰⁸

In 2003, the HCC mandated a national task force to develop a comprehensive child protection system. This task force, the Lebanese Intersectoral Board of Associations Network (LibanCAN), is composed of “a multidisciplinary team formed of a law enforcement personnel, child welfare and mental health specialists in addition to research resources and medical professionals”.³⁰⁹ The national protection programme has addressed legislative change, research, awareness-raising, advocacy, and involvement of the media and civil society. According to the coordinator of the task force, “the momentum that fuelled the creation of this task force was the work conducted for the third State Report, as well as the Secretary General’s Study on Violence”.³¹⁰ One of the accomplishments of this process has been the establishment of an independent and academic-based research mechanism, the Child Observatory. This observatory responds to the need for more accurate information and data on violence, neglect, abuse, and maltreatment of children. Also, efforts are underway to establish a child help line.³¹¹ Moreover, KAFA runs a centre for women and children that are victims of violence, offering services such as legal consultation, counselling and support groups, court representation, and referral services.

National efforts for the protection of children have also been effectively linked with regional and international

efforts, mainly in collaboration with the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) and the Arab Professional Network for the Prevention of Violence Against Children (ArabSPCAN). These networks of professionals have played an active role in a series of regional and international conferences. Child participation has been boosted, for example, through the development of a questionnaire for children by ISPCAN in collaboration with UNICEF.³¹²

A national campaign for the protection of children from violence entitled “Their Right - Our Duty” was launched by the HCC in cooperation with local and international NGOs in 2006. Two training manuals on children’s rights and children’s participation were developed and employed.³¹³ Similarly, World Vision is conducting a national campaign to end corporal punishment; among its activities have been the “Protect Children from Violence Month”, which included awareness-raising and community mobilisation. In 2008, a national advocacy and awareness raising campaign was launched by the HCC and NGOs such as Save the Children Sweden, World Vision, KAFA, the Rene Mouwad Foundation (RMF) Amel, as well as UNICEF, wherein children set up “Love Checkpoints” across the country at which they distributed flyers and posters to raise public awareness about violence against children. They also visited the prime minister, the head of the Lebanese Army and other Lebanese leaders to provide recommendations on legislative reform.³¹⁴

The Higher Council for Childhood, UNICEF, Save the Children Sweden, and the University of St. Joseph have been working on a comparative study of gaps in national legislation compared with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international law instruments. Although the study has not yet been published, stakeholders have already started working towards the creation of protection legislation. The University of St. Joseph, through

its Centre for Studies on the Arab World (CEDROMA), is working to amend the existing Law 422 in order to fill gaps in protection and reach children at risk of abuse. In the Parliament, a review of the articles of the Penal Code is underway. According to the general director of the Higher Council for Childhood, the elimination of Article 186, which legally sanctions the use of violence against children by parents and educators, is being debated.³¹⁵

The Rene Mouwad Foundation (RMF), World Vision, UNICEF, Save the Children Sweden, and the Higher Council for Childhood formed a committee working on child protection. One of the important outcomes of this initiative was that it created momentum in the protection discourse and placed the issue on the policy agendas. For example, the committee conducted a legal analysis of Lebanese laws related to violence in order to determine deficiencies and present recommendations. These recommendations were then presented to governmental stakeholders, and the General Director of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in turn reissued in 2008 the ministerial memorandum of 2001 banning corporal punishment. Efforts to amend legislation and come up with a comprehensive protection law continue via the Higher Council for Childhood’s protection committee. In Bourj Hammoud and Nabaa, a community-based network exists to protect children from violence from police, parents, NGOs, schools, and the municipality.

On the ground, several NGOs with long histories in social protection work and who have access to public and private schools on a project basis have contributed to filling the structural protection gap. Community-based NGOs that provide after-school services for children at risk of abuse employ traditional means of conflict resolution when cases of violence in schools are detected. Social protection has been found to be faster and more effective than going through the Ministry of Education and Higher

Education or UPEL. Local NGOs contact parents and encourage them to press complaints within schools. However, it is commonly accepted that commendable practices on the school level still heavily depend on personal inclination or initiative by school administration members.

Save the Children Sweden has been a key player in putting the concept of protection on the policy agenda of national efforts. Save the Children Sweden's protection programme currently focuses on refugees and children without appropriate care. The INGO is running a project in the North in Nahr El-Bared and Beddawi camps, working with three local partners and funded by the European Union. Among the achievements of this project was the establishment of a child protection network in 2007 among NGOs working in the camp. This network is actively involved in advocacy and child protection; it is developing a referral system supported by Save the Children Sweden. The network has now been extended to Lebanese children and incorporates Lebanese NGOs and institutions working in the North. UNRWA schools are part of the network and cases are referred from its schools. Various types of services are provided (mainly psychosocial support and recreational activities organised by partners), and psychiatric services are provided by a medical institution.

The Union for the Protection of Juveniles (UPEL) and AFEL in partnership with Save the Children Sweden conducted a programme in the Mount Lebanon areas that included awareness-raising in schools and capacity-building of police and other actors on child protection. AFEL works on social protection while UPEL focuses on legal protection. For the best interests of the child, Save the Children Sweden refers cases first to social protection to see who in the community is available to protect the child.

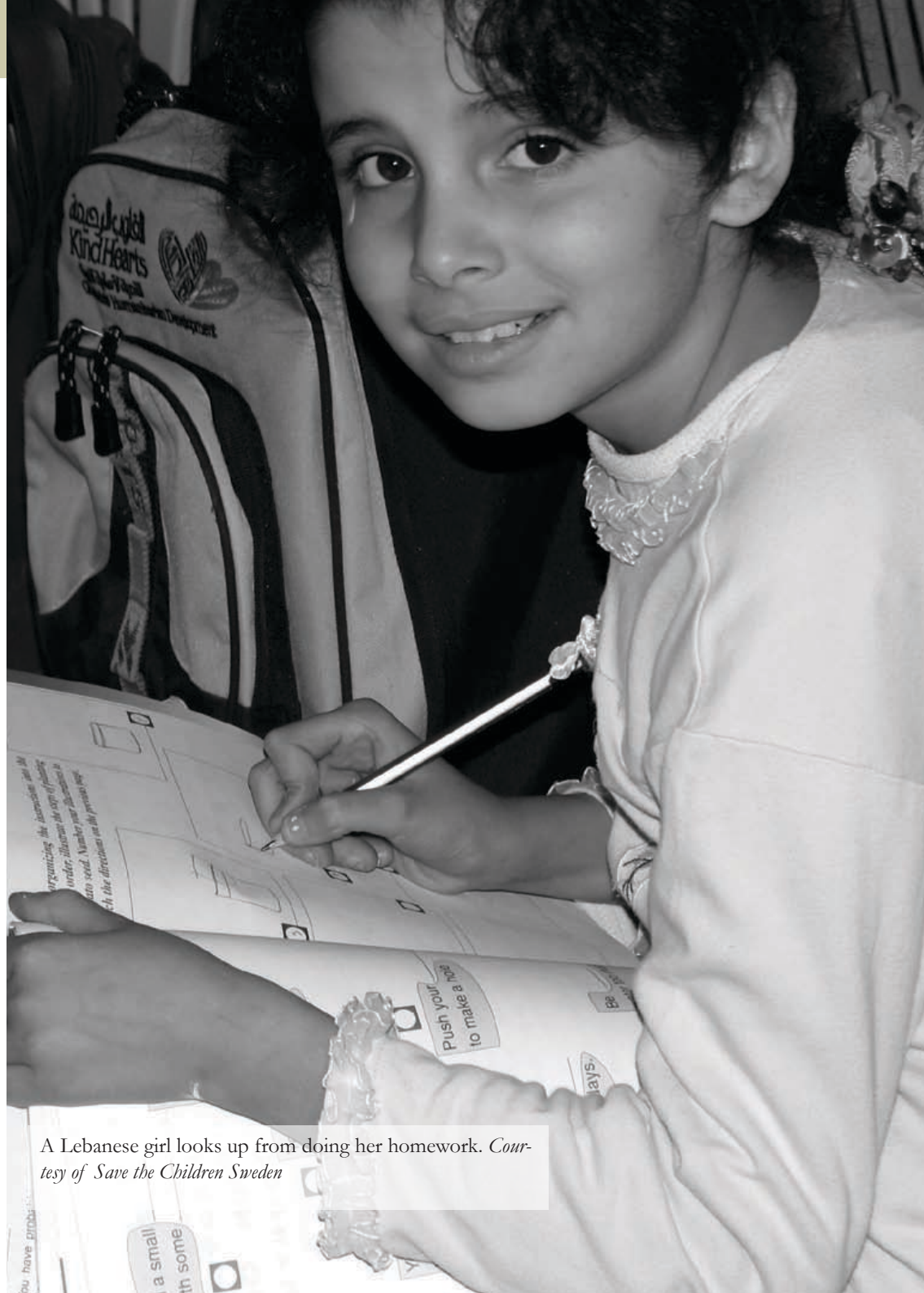
Some private schools have taken the initiative in establishing their own protection policies. For example, Al-Mabarrat schools, a network of schools reaching across the country, have adopted child protection as a priority. A protection officer has been appointed in each school and child protection policies and procedures are being incorporated into employment standards. Furthermore, a complaint and reporting mechanism is being put in place in case a child is subject to abuse.³¹⁶

Numerous initiatives by NGOs to prevent violence in schools have brought about specific changes, although in many cases violence continues to be a problem despite these interventions. The Blue Mission Training Centre for Community Development (TCCD) has been implementing the Ambassadors for Peace project since 2002 in Saida and its surroundings, as well as in Beirut. A project originally implemented in Canadian schools, Ambassadors for Peace incorporates conflict resolution, human rights education and child empowerment in schools and aims to end the practice of corporal punishment by way of interactive trainings and awareness-raising for teachers, students, and parents. The programme was formally recognised by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and has been incorporated into the national curriculum.³¹⁷

Save the Children Sweden's last situational analysis indicates that Palestinian children in Lebanon may be experiencing exceptionally high rates of domestic violence.³¹⁸ Studies indicate that levels of domestic violence tend to increase in situations where the adults are themselves experiencing high levels of structural and/or physical violence, degradation, or powerlessness. The Palestinian community in Lebanon has suffered three generations of rights violations and, since Lebanon's civil war, increased levels of hopelessness have been documented. This could be contributing to levels of domestic violence.³¹⁹

An assessment of six Palestinian camps concluded that, “despite positive social changes concerning relationship between the two sexes, and the better awareness of human rights in general with the growing efforts towards gender equality, traditional patterns of family relations and patterns of male predominance through domestic violence still seem worryingly diffuse among the new generations”.³²⁰

Twenty-eight percent of youth interviewed believed that “it is appropriate for a husband to hit his wife or for a brother to hit his sister”.³²¹ There is a significant disparity in gender reflected in this statistic: 44.3% of boys accepted violence, compared to 15.7% of girls. Notably, married and engaged youth were less likely to accept domestic violence. It should be noted that a study on domestic violence conducted in 2004 among adults, found the opposite: it reported that women had



A Lebanese girl looks up from doing her homework. Courtesy of Save the Children Sweden

a higher level of tolerance towards domestic violence than men.³²²

A study carried out in six Palestinian refugee camps in 2006 found that, although actual levels of violence in the camp were not as high as expected, conflict and physical/verbal aggressive behaviour among and towards youth remained widespread. Of the sample interviewed, more than one-fourth approved of violence in specific conditions, including domestic violence.³²³ The study noted that “such a high level of tolerance is surely one of the main determinants of the high and increasing prevalence of violent behaviours, and notably of violence against women and children.”³²⁴ In UNRWA schools, corporal punishment is prohibited by the Educational Technical Instructions. However, this prohibition is contradicted by Article 186 of the Penal Code, which allows corporal punishment.³²⁵

g. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

In light of a clear lack of systematic data collection on sexual violence against children, KAFA's 2008 study on child sexual abuse was the first of its kind. Social taboos still surround the subject in many areas of Lebanon. The study provided much needed statistical evidence of the prevalence of sexual abuse and its causes, and proposed a national strategy and recommendations for dealing with the issue. The study brought together the efforts of the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), the Development Community Centres, the ArabSPCAN, the Rene Mouawad Foundation (Access MENA Project), World Vision Area Development Programmes in Bourj Hammoud and Beqaa, and child protection NGOs.³²⁶ Of the 1,025 children studied, 16.1% experienced a form of sexual abuse after the July War in 2006; 12% were victims of sexual abuse, 8.7% experienced sexual attempts, and 4.9% were exposed

to visual material with sexual content.³²⁷ Based on the study's recommendations, KAFA and Save the Children have worked on developing the first Arab toolkit for the prevention of child sexual abuse. The first national trainings on this toolkit started in September 2010, targeting school advisors and teachers at private and public schools, NGOs, etc.

The national task force mandated to introduce a national protection system in Lebanon, the LibanCAN, conducted a situational analysis of services available to victims of abuse in Lebanon.³²⁸ Given the lack of data on children and child rights implementation in Lebanon, the information generated from this analysis is a crucial foundation for comprehensive policy solutions. The analysis found that services such as case management programmes, therapy programmes, home-based services, substance abuse treatment programmes, and short-term hospitalisation for mental illness adequately reach families in less than half of Lebanon.³²⁹ Services that are completely unavailable include therapy programmes for abusers, universal access to free medical care for all citizens (and children), foster care, and universal health screening for children. Based on these findings, the national programme for protection of children led by the LibanCAN envisions a framework that would include screening, prevention, diagnosis, referral/reporting, treatment, and cross-cutting advocacy.³³⁰

In 2005, regional partners consulted in Cairo as part of the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children. This inter-governmental review on the MENA region revealed that in Lebanon, children with disabilities, girls, working children, children in institutions and children living in the street are particularly vulnerable and exposed to abuse and sexual exploitation.

Several NGOs provide rehabilitation services to children exposed to sexual violence. For example, Dar El-Amal

is one of the national NGOs specialised in the field of sexual exploitation and abuse of children. They currently operate a programme to rehabilitate children victims of sexual exploitation and children at risk through a service centre. The organisation also collaborates with schools to identify children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. National NGO, KAFA, also provides counselling services to victims of sexual violence and runs a 24-hour emergency help line that is advertised through emergency cards and stickers.³³¹

Palestinian refugee children are particularly vulnerable to violence. In a study conducted in the Ein El-Helwe Palestinian refugee camp on the extent of violence and abuse against children, an estimated 40% of those interviewed had experienced sexual violence and abuse.³³² Other studies on Palestinian youth found that adolescents were confused about what constituted “sexual abuse”. Participants considered “illicit sexual relations” as a form of sexual abuse, they did not believe that sexual abuse was possible between a man and his wife, and few youth linked sexual abuse to consent.³³³ Many believed that sexual abuse was negative because it caused “social harm” and thus considered abuse “harmful” only if it was discovered. Other participants stated that abuse can be positive, developing into a relationship and marriage.³³⁴

h. Child Trafficking

According to a 2009 study by the United States State Department, “Lebanese children are trafficked within the country for the purpose of forced labour (mostly street vending), and sexual exploitation”.³³⁵ The government of Lebanon invited the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, to visit Lebanon in 2005. In her mission to Lebanon, Special Rapporteur Sigma Huda found that “there is a problem of child trafficking to and within Lebanon”, according to six cases

recorded by the Internal Security Forces between January 2002 to November 2005.³³⁶

The government of Lebanon does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but certain efforts have been made towards that end. In August 2005, Lebanon ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In 2006, the government created two steering committees for human trafficking and the protection of the rights of migrant workers in Lebanon while the Higher Council for Childhood also launched a working group against child trafficking.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the government review domestic legislation to criminalise trafficking, develop and implement a national strategy and a multi-sectorial task force to implement and monitor the strategy, produce a comprehensive study on the trafficking phenomenon, strengthen recovery and social integrations services, and implement bilateral and multilateral agreements with countries of origin and transit.³³⁷

Currently, there is no legislation that specifically addresses the crime of trafficking, instead the Lebanese Penal Code through Decree No. 340/1943 addresses aspects of trafficking such as kidnapping or procurement of a minor for sexual purposes or other immoral acts.³³⁸ A joint project between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior in collaboration with UNODC and UNICEF, which was initiated following Lebanon’s ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, aims to enact new legislation regarding trafficking and to build the capacities of security agencies and enhance cooperation between civil society, the judiciary, and law enforcement agencies. Among the outcomes of this collaboration

“The south of Lebanon and territories previously occupied by Israel currently suffer from the ‘presence of an unlimited number of mine fields with unknown places to date.’”

.....

report’s research was conducted by Statistics Lebanon, a Beirut-based organisation, between 2005 and 2007, in cooperation with UNICEF. It was launched with support from the country’s ministries of Justice and Interior, and the Human Rights Institute at the Bar Association.³³⁹ The report found the presence of trafficking activity, especially from East European countries and specifically from Moldova. The report also found that children are subjected to various forms of exploitation in Lebanon, including labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, the selling of newborn babies, and organ trafficking. According to the report, in cases that were detected, the Ministry of Interior through the Internal Security Forces intervened to arrest perpetrators and revoke the licenses of organisations facilitating such crimes. In cases of sexual or labour exploitation, the juvenile judge acted in accordance with Law 422/2002 to provide judicial protection for the child victims.³⁴⁰

Both the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, noted the absence of organised efforts to compile information on trafficking in Lebanon.³⁴¹ Since then, World Vision partnered with the Higher

is the completion of a draft law to criminalise trafficking. At this writing, the law is before the parliament waiting for ratification and the development of a subsequent implementation mechanism.

In October 2008, the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the UN-ODC launched a national report on trafficking. The

Council for Childhood has brought together national NGOs to collect information on trafficking in Lebanon and prepare a report that will contribute to awareness-raising and an informed policy response to the problem. According to World Vision, despite various efforts by NGOs and governmental organisations to compile information on the phenomenon of trafficking in Lebanon, “there is no consolidated data of the situation”.³⁴²

The government does not currently provide services directly to victims of trafficking, however it refers cases to contracted NGOs. In 2004, it contracted with the anti-trafficking NGOs International Catholic Migration Commission and Caritas Lebanon to provide enhanced shelter facilities for women trafficked into the country.³⁴³ According to the 2009 US State Department report, this provided shelter for 92 victims of trafficking in 2008.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is also currently working in Lebanon in the context of its Multi-Action Programme for Prevention and Assistance to Iraqi Victims of Trafficking. IOM organised a workshop in Beirut for NGOs from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon on “Networking and Cooperation in Providing Direct Assistance to Victims of Trafficking” in November 2008.³⁴⁴

i. Children Associated with Armed Groups and Armed Forces

The minimum age for recruitment into the Lebanese Army is 18, although 17-year olds are allowed to enrol but do not partake in actual service.³⁴⁵ During Lebanon’s civil war, child soldiers appear to have been used in armed conflict but after the disbandment of most militias and armed groups in 1991, this practice is believed to have stopped. However, some non-governmental organisations concerned with the issue, such as the Permanent Peace

Movement (PPM), have gathered evidence of military training of young children taking place today. The Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict visited Lebanon in April 2007, soliciting the commitment of key politicians to ratify the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The Special Representative reported that there is only “anecdotal evidence” of the association of children with the military wings of some key political parties but warns that “should sectarian violence flare in the current political climate in Lebanon, children and youth may well become involved”.³⁴⁶

The Permanent Peace Movement (PPM) launched a national campaign in 2007 calling for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict. In addition PPM produced a legal study on the obligations entailed in the protocol and a documentary portraying the military training of children. According to PPM, this campaign reached 9,000 youth in Lebanon.³⁴⁷ The HCC is also advocating for the ratification of the optional protocol. In addition, the issue of children associated with armed groups and armed forces is on the agenda in the national consultations that the HCC has been holding with civil society organisations and relevant stakeholders since 2006 to devise a national action plan for children.

More documented are the problems caused by the proliferation of armed groups in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. There are around 20 armed factions in the camps. Children are regularly trained and deployed by these factions to serve various (and often conflicting) political motives. According to the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, “military training is currently provided by some of the Palestinian factions to children as young as 10”.³⁴⁸

Unfortunately, ongoing political, economic and social tensions in Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps exacerbate these conflicts between the armed factions. This, coupled with the proliferation of arms in the camps, directly results in children’s increased exposure to and involvement in armed violence.³⁴⁹

Advocacy efforts to stop the involvement of children in armed conflict or military training have also been extended regionally and internationally, targeting UN mechanisms. In July 2009, a regional workshop was held in Beirut, bringing together NGOs from 12 Arab countries to discuss the Arms Trade Treaty and its relevance in the Arab world. The outcome of the summit was presented in a series of recommendations to the UN Open-ended Working Group and an inter-governmental meeting in Amman organised by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the UN Disarmament and International Security Committee.³⁵⁰

j. Landmines and Small Arms

According to the third State Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the south of Lebanon and territories previously occupied by Israel currently suffer from the “presence of an unlimited number of mine fields with unknown places to date, a large number of disseminated cluster bombs and unexploded missiles within inhabited areas...where about 46% of the injuries occurred as result of bomb explosions”. The report also adds that these mines and missiles are particularly attractive to children because of their shapes.³⁵¹ From 1998 to 2003, 20 children were killed and 48 injured by unexploded ordinance.

The Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC), chaired by the Minister of Defence and led by the Lebanese Armed Forces, is the main government stakeholder responsible for implementing the Lebanese National Mine Action



Refugee children peer over a wall in Lebanon. *Courtesy of Save the Children Sweden*

Program and for coordinating all related initiatives.³⁵² The Programme has comprised two consecutive strategic plans; a five-year strategic plan from 2001 to 2006, followed by another five-year strategic plan from 2005 to 2009. It is currently working within the framework of a defined Long-Term Plan, extending from 2008 to 2012.³⁵³ Priorities defined under this plan do not specify children as a separate target group but children are direct beneficiaries of a reduction in UXOs, assistance to mine victims, and mine-risk education campaigns within the community.

Government agencies, international donors, and NGOs have combined efforts in these three main domains: demining action, victims' assistance, and mine-risk education. Among the achievements of previous strategic plans was the "Land Mine Impact Survey" conducted in 2003 with funds from the European Union and producing information on 306 affected communities. In 2006, the Lebanese Army conducted a technical survey to update these

statistics. Steady improvements have been made since the end of the civil war. Between 1990 and 2000, the average casualty rate from mine explosions was seven per month, in 2003, it declined to two per month, and in 2004 and 2005, it was approximately one per month.³⁵⁴ Between August 2006 and August 2008, a total of 321 people were injured by UXOs, 280 of which survived.³⁵⁵

Still, at this writing, half of the affected areas have yet to be cleared. According to the Mine Action Centre, "35 per cent of affected areas have not received mine-risk education and the remaining 65 per cent require mine-risk education refresher sessions". Further, victim assistance suffers from lack of funding. The National Demining Office is said to be supporting the inclusion of mine-victim specific language in the law on the rights of the disabled through the Ministry of Social Affairs.³⁵⁶

Various awareness-raising and educational campaigns within the framework of the National Mine Action Programme have targeted children and their communities. Key messages have been disseminated using billboard campaigns developed in 2006 and 2008, a calendar for students published annually, a puppet show for children that reached 21,000 children in November 2006 and June 2008 in the South of Lebanon, and the production of games, story boards, drawing books and a children's magazine (Nour and Noura) on mine-risk education, with funding from Save the Children Sweden. The programme has also utilised face-to-face interventions in schools in more than 400 public schools and 50 private schools in the South of Lebanon and the Nabatiyeh area between 2001 and 2008; more than 600 teachers were trained on mine awareness between 2002 and 2005; and about 300 sessions have been held regularly since 2001 in youth clubs and summer camps.³⁵⁷ The programme also aims to integrate these messages into the school curricula to ensure sustainability.³⁵⁸ Save the Children Sweden has developed a brochure and conducted awareness-raising activities in Nahr El-Bared Camp when displaced Palestinian refugees were returning to the camp and adjacent area after the 2007 crisis.³⁵⁹

According to a study entitled "Violence Against Children in Lebanon - Ein El-Hillweh Camp" led by Naba'a in 2007, Palestinian children and youth often encounter small arms, mostly inside the camps. Forty-seven percent of 126 surveyed children in El-Ein El-Hillweh said that they had already witnessed armed conflicts involving knives and sharp tools and guns ('white weapons'). Twenty-four percent said they had seen the use of wooden sticks in personal conflicts.³⁶⁰ Another study launched in May 2009 by Naba'a entitled "The Impediments and Problems Facing the Protection and Participation of the Palestinian Children and Youth in Lebanon" sampled Palestinian children living in camps all over Lebanon. Nearly 63% of the

401 surveyed children said that they had witnessed armed conflicts involving white weapons. More importantly, 27% of them said they had used such a weapon in a conflict.³⁶¹ More recently, the focus group that Naba'a conducted in El-Ein El-Hillweh camp in January 2010 with nine NGO members of the Child Rights Protection network highlighted the tendency of parents to encourage their children to carry razors and sharp tools so as to protect themselves and 'make men' out of them.

k. Internally Displaced Children and Refugees

The right to life, survival and development of refugees, migrants, and internally displaced children in Lebanon is routinely hindered in comparison with that of Lebanese children. In addition to the resident Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon, the number of Iraqi refugees in Lebanon is estimated by UNHCR to be 50,000 persons. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) estimates that 77.5% of these refugees are illegal.³⁶² In addition, insufficient attention has been given to non-Iraqi and non-Palestinian refugees. By the end of 2007, these refugees were estimated to be 266 persons (31 of them children) of Sudanese, Syrian, Somali and other origin. Because Lebanon has not ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, refugees or asylum seekers in Lebanon are considered illegal, which puts them at risk of arrest. In fact, detention over the past few years has been used as "tool to compel Iraqi refugees to 'choose' to return to Iraq rather than be sent back to overcrowded detention places".³⁶³

Army checkpoints proliferated in Lebanon due to political tension and conflict, thereby restricting the movement of internally displaced persons/refugees fleeing armed conflict and making Iraqi refugees and other asylum-seekers more vulnerable to arrest.³⁶⁴ This restriction on movement along with transportation costs is detrimental to the ability

of Iraqi refugee children to access health care, education, and social institutions and NGOs.³⁶⁵

Many applauded the government's decision in February 2008 to grant amnesty to Iraqi detainees and give Iraqi refugees in Lebanon a three-month grace period in order to legalise their status. Since then, this has been done annually, whereby Iraqis arriving in Lebanon have a temporary visa until they can find an employer willing to sponsor them.³⁶⁶

Along with UNHCR, a number of non-governmental organisations have sought to support Iraqi refugees in accessing their basic rights. The Danish Refugee Council has provided basic living requirements while Caritas and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) have provided financial assistance for health services.³⁶⁷ The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) established an Education Resource Centre in response to the problem of how to integrate Iraqi refugee children into mainstream public schools and their high tendency to drop out. The centre provides intensive learning and mental health services, with the ultimate aim of integrating these children into mainstream schools.³⁶⁸

Of the more than 30,000 Palestinian refugees who were internally displaced from Nahr El-Bared camp by the conflict between May and September 2007, only a small minority was able to return to areas adjacent to the camp. Work to clear Nahr El-Bared camp of rubble and UXOs began in September 2007.³⁶⁹ UNRWA and NGO service providers, however, have resumed health care services for all displaced communities. Children also missed school exams and part of the 2007 school year and current living conditions may be further disrupting children's learning. These youth and children face many challenges. They have limited access to leisure and cultural activities, such as sport clubs, playgrounds or internet cafes. They

end up spending spare time in the streets where they are frequently exposed to extremists and militia groups. They are at risk of exhibiting anti-social and violent behaviour. Most youth activities are provided by neutral local and international NGOs, but sometimes they are provided by political groups. Financial resources are limited and they rarely have contact with Lebanese peers, which generates tensions between the two communities.

There are number of serious concerns for the displaced refugees, particularly regarding the safety and protection of returning children. Because of the destroyed homes in the adjacent area, the propensity of refugees to come back there haphazardly to collect belongings without being accompanied by any military, and the lack of service provision in UNRWA temporary shelters, displaced persons have expressed frustration about cramped living conditions and the ongoing risk of injury. Not to mention that the relationship between the Palestinian returnees and the neighbouring Lebanese municipalities is strained and threatens to erupt in violence.³⁷⁰

Lebanon has not signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and thus, the children of migrant workers in Lebanon lack protection. Seeing that the CRC applies to all children on Lebanon territories, several actors on the field extend their services to non-Lebanese children.

1. Orphaned, Separated and Unaccompanied children

The number of children separated from their families in Lebanon and placed in residential care institutions amounts to 1.92% of the total child population in Lebanon.³⁷¹ Institutional care in Lebanon is not limited to orphans or children with severe social problems within the family. There are a large number of poor families

who cannot afford to provide their children with basic needs and hence resort to placing their children in care institutions. Following the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of Child in 2006, UNICEF led a steering committee to address the recommendation by the Committee that a study be conducted on the best interests of the child.³⁷² The steering committee was comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), the HCC, the National Council for Social Service, and additional experts and stakeholders. The study covered a sample of 144 institutions, although 19 institutions refused to participate.

In 2008, the Consultation and Research Institute in partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs, conducted a situational assessment of children deprived of a family environment. Among their key findings were that the two principle reasons for families to place children in residential care institutions are education and poverty.³⁷³ Institutions provide free education to children of poor families who cannot afford the registration and other fees required by the public educational system. The study also showed that the proportion of children from one-parent households, orphans, or children removed from the home through a court protection order is continuously decreasing as compared with the total number of institutionalised children. The Paris III reform package and the Social Action Plan prioritise the need to address the large numbers of children residing in residential institutions.

The social care institutions department in the Ministry of Social Affairs is one of the largest and oldest running departments, put in place with the Ministry itself. For this reason, more than half of the Ministry's budget goes to funding its various care institutions. It is estimated that 60% of the Ministry's budget goes annually to institutions. Currently, there are 186 alternative care institutions that are contracted with the Ministry of Social Affairs. The

maximum capacity of boarding institutions that receive funding from the Ministry is 23,000, and currently there are about 23,000 children permanently residing in these institutions.³⁷⁴

With increasing numbers of children residing in institutions and given the increasing international trend deeming the institutionalisation of children as contradictory to the CRC, reform efforts were made but ultimately failed. In 2005, the Ministry of Social Affairs issued a decision supporting care of the child within the family and forming a new ministerial department. This decision was repealed, however, through an order by the Council of Ministers. The Council argued that the number of poor families in need of the allotted cash transfer would be far too great, putting the programme on hold for further study.³⁷⁵ According to a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the existing institutions sought to block the decision because they receive funding per head and, therefore, greater numbers of children are in their interest. Traditionally, it is the practice in Lebanon to direct charitable donations to large and well-known institutions, especially religious ones, rather than give directly to needy families.

Few of the proliferating care institutions espouse a participatory and need-based approach to caring for these resident children. Some institutions, like the S.O.S Children's Villages and Dar El-Awlad, have integrated into their programmes projects aimed at promoting care of the child within the family, or (in case the child is residing in the institution), more participation by the parents in his/her care or upbringing.

Non-Lebanese children do not benefit from funding by the Ministry of Social Affairs, but some institutions, depending on their capacity and resources, accept children regardless of nationality or background. In 2006, the Ministry of Social Affairs announced that children with

Lebanese mothers married to non-Lebanese fathers can be considered eligible to receive care services. There are no boarding institutions in Palestinian camps; orphans typically remain in the homes of their extended family or neighbours, although there are institutions that provide financial assistance to families or care-givers for orphans.

m. Birth Registration

The registration system in Lebanon is based on the administrative division of the country. Each sub-district of the five governorates has one or two registration centres where families are obliged by the Personal Status law to register their newborn within a month of birth. A certificate of birth is to be prepared by the parent, guardian or other and is to be presented to the local registrar (mukhtar).³⁷⁶ The Personal Status Law of 1951, Article 11 regulates birth registration while the Lebanese nationality law is Decree No. 15 of 1925.

Nevertheless, many children in Lebanon are stateless due to negligence or lack of awareness by their parents of the importance of registering them at birth. Stateless children can be both Lebanese and non-Lebanese, such as Palestinian children or other refugees or asylum seekers. Frontiers, a national NGO, has produced several reports highlighting the categories and predicament of stateless individuals in Lebanon. Among Frontiers' findings were that children born to Bedouin tribes who settled in Lebanon after the drawing up of borders between Lebanon and Syria remain today without registration, as their parents are stateless. According to Frontiers, undocumented children coming from these tribes can go to school but cannot undergo official public exams. Nonetheless, Frontiers found that some "could sit for public exams and obtain a diploma from a technical institute based on the mayor's attestation, but they could not go to university".³⁷⁷ The same applies for access to health-care. Frontiers detected the worsen-

ing of the problem as "marriages and children of stateless persons are also not registered".³⁷⁸

Some groups and NGOs provide pro bono legal assistance to families on custody matters, statelessness, or registration problems. These include Frontiers, the Lebanese Centre for Human Rights (CLDH), and the Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO).³⁷⁹

Children born of non-ID Palestinian fathers are themselves not registered as refugees with UNRWA nor registered as having Lebanese nationality. They are not able to acquire nationality, even if they have a Lebanese mother, since nationality can only be transmitted through the father. In its Concluding Observations, the Committee expressed concern over the statelessness that this situation causes, and urged the State party to review its legislation (Decision No. 15/1925) so that a Lebanese mother would have the right to confer Lebanese citizenship on her children equally and without discrimination.³⁸⁰ Since 2006, women's rights NGO have been advocating for the right of Lebanese women married to foreigners to transmit their nationality to their children. According to the Palestinian Human Rights Foundation's official statement, this issue is still pending despite that it affects the future of 4,000 Palestinian refugees.³⁸¹ Without such a change, this category of refugees cannot benefit from the most basic rights enabling them to live a decent life. For instance, non-ID Palestinian refugees risk arrest at every checkpoint and face difficulties in accessing education or getting married.

n. Children Living in the Streets

Evidence based solely on anecdotal observations and brief reports indicate an organised movement of children from socio-economically marginalised backgrounds into street begging. According to the report of the Special

Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, “[i]n organized operations, the children are picked up every day from their own neighbourhoods and driven to the city centre. Having been moved out of a zone of relative protection into an area where they are more vulnerable to being exploited by their handlers or third persons, they must be considered to be internally-trafficked children”.³⁸²

According to Lebanese legislation, any child who has left his or her home to work or beg in the streets is subject to arrest on charges of delinquency.³⁸³ NGO statistics have found that 15% of children living or working in the streets in Lebanon are Lebanese, while 55% are foreigners and 30% are of mixed Lebanese-foreign origin.³⁸⁴

“According to Lebanese legislation, any child who has left his or her home to work or beg in the streets is subject to arrest on charges of delinquency.”

.....

children on an ad hoc basis, bringing them to the police station and contacting the general prosecutor. The general prosecutor then transfers the child to the Lebanese Evangelical Society that hosts them.

The Lebanese Evangelical Society is a local NGO that runs an institution in Kahale, an area east of Beirut, to house children living or working in the streets, many of

which are orphans or have been abandoned by their families. The NGO notes that most children admitted do not have any identification papers, one sign of their marginalisation (without identification papers, they have no access to health care or other social or educational services).³⁸⁶

According to Law 422, it is illegal to handcuff children, however, this is often not followed. Once the child has left the institution and/or has been returned to his or her family, they easily return to street life, even if the parents signed a pledge with the general prosecutor. When the child is admitted to the appropriate institution, sometimes problems such as abuse in the home etc. are detected. Still, if the general prosecutor decides to release the child back to the family, no follow up occurs, especially because institutions do not employ social workers able to file a protection request with the juvenile court.

A study conducted by the Lebanese Ministry of Labour in 2004 found that the majority of children working in the streets in Lebanon were not actually Lebanese citizens but mostly Syrians and Palestinians. Most were selling lottery tickets, polishing shoes and washing car windshields for between USD 2 to 15 a day. Most were male and poorly-educated or illiterate. The United Kingdom Consortium for Street Children (CSC) found that approximately 1.5% of children in the streets were Palestinians (in comparison with 70% of Syrians). The CSC also referred to the higher vulnerability of children who lack access to government services such as education, healthcare and skills training, and who are consequently more likely to be in breach of the law. ³⁸⁷ The methods used today to apprehend children living and working in the streets are acknowledged to be inadequate and inconsistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.³⁸⁸

a. Child Labour

Lebanon in 2001 ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action For the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, as well ratifying in 2003 the ILO Convention No. 138 Concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment. The minimum age for employment according to the Labour Code is 14 years. Children under the age of 18 are not allowed to work more than six hours a day and are prohibited from working at night. Children under the age of 17 are not allowed to work in jobs dangerous to health, safety, or morals.

Child labour has reportedly declined since the 1970s, while remaining “a problem in low-income families that often use all family members for income generation”.³⁸⁹ According to the third State Report, “no progress was achieved in reducing the number of working children”. The report recommends the endorsement of a new labour law for youth (articles 18-34 of the Labour Code), preparation of a new law to protect working girls, support for work inspectors and penal sanctions, creation of a database on child labour, and the allocation of adequate funds for combating child labour from the national budget.³⁹⁰

In the majority of cases, child labour is the result of poverty, wherein the child is an indispensable source of much-needed income for the family. The objective of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organization (ILO/IPEC) is to cooperate with the State in providing assistance to families of working children, i.e. providing alternative sources of income. The Ministry of Labour is chiefly responsible for addressing the issue of child labour. The weakness of child labour policy is due to several factors. Most children work in sectors that are not covered by the

Labour Law, in what is known as “invisible work”; there is an absence of regular and comprehensive labour inspection; duty-bearers and stakeholders remain uninformed; and penalties are ineffective as a deterrent.³⁹¹ According to a U.S. State Department report, “[i]n August 2005, the Secretary General of the Higher Council for Childhood stated that officials dealing with the issue of child labour face three main problems: lack of coordination between the appropriate ministries; little capacity building for NGOs who offer education/vocational training to working children; and the absence of a problem-solving approach that addresses prevention, rather than detection of the problem.”³⁹² There is also a need to protect foreign children serving as domestic workers, especially that many of them lie about their age, saying that they are older than they really are. The Ministry of Labour in collaboration with ILO’s IPEC, has set up special units within the ministry and within the Ministry of Justice and municipalities. The programme includes training for labour inspectors and police personnel, and legislative reform of child labour protection laws.

UNICEF in 2009 reported the presence of 100,000 child labourers, with 0.6% of these children being between the ages of 10 and 14. It also found that 3.75% of these children are illiterate, 11% have finished primary education, and 38% work between 10 and 14 hours a day. These children originate from regions of extreme poverty, including the North of Lebanon, Tripoli and Akkar, as well as the eastern Beqaa Valley and the South of the country. In the Beqaa valley, the main industry for child labour is agriculture, including tobacco plantations.³⁹³

The Ministry of Labour, through Decree 13/1 in 11 February, 1998, formed the national committee for combating child labour. This committee is composed of members of different ministries, the Higher Council for Childhood, and employers and employee organisations. It advises

the government on policies concerning child labour and supervises implementation of the action plan to decrease child labour.

Child labour is an increasing problem among Lebanon's Palestinian communities. Greater numbers of Palestinian children are dropping out of school and engaging in paid work as a result of frustration with school, poor quality education and educational environments, and a decreased belief in the relevance of higher education because of the job restrictions for Palestinians.³⁹⁴ In 2006, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that 16.5% of Palestinian youth between the ages of 15 and 19 were economically active.³⁹⁵

According to data from Statistical Central Office and Palestinian Natural Resources dating September 2009, child labour among Palestinians in Lebanon is characterized by the following:

- ▶ Half of children aged 16 to 17 drop out of UN-RWA schools.
- ▶ 55.5% of male drop-outs are working, while 7.5% of females are working.
- ▶ More than 45.7% of these children actually have no job due to the lack of opportunities, while 38% of the females work in domestic settings.
- ▶ 6.1% of Palestinian children between ages seven and 17 are working, a rate that increases to 10.8% among males of that age. The average age of child labourers is 13.6.
- ▶ 16.3% of employed children are working in construction, 11.4% in trading, and 16.3% in garages.
- ▶ The highest rates of child labour among children are found in the camps and gatherings of Beirut,

while the camps of Tripoli recorded the lowest rates of child employment.

- ▶ 66.8% of employed children work six or seven days a week, 8.5 hours a day.
- ▶ The average monthly income for employed children is USD 109.33.
- ▶ Two-thirds of Palestinian working children do not enjoy any annual vacation.
- ▶ More than half of Palestinian child labourers work in dangerous circumstances (39.4% of them work next to machines, 37.1% work with flammable materials, 81.9% are obliged to lift heavy things, 80.7% perform their duties in uncomfortable physical conditions, 79% become stained with oil, and 71.9% are subjected to heat and smoke from flames).
- ▶ 9.8% of employed children suffer from chronic diseases and disabilities.
- ▶ 40% of male and 19% of female employed children are subjected to harassment during the working day. Approximately 90% of this harassment consists in insults and threats from their supervisors and managers.
- ▶ 38.4% of Palestinian working children are not satisfied with their jobs due to hazards and low salaries. A third of them say they regret their decision to drop out of school. ³⁹⁶

Poverty and a need for income are the main reasons Palestinian working children give for engaging in paid work. It is illustrative to mention the example of children from Sikkeh, a poor and violent gathering adjacent to Ein El-Hillweh camp. Here, children are used to collect paper, plastic and metals from garbage dumps for sale to junk traders in their community.³⁹⁷

NGOs seek to fight child labour by tackling the high numbers of school drop-outs, targeting those most at risk with vocational training programmes, supportive lessons and inclusive activities.

b. Juvenile Justice

There have been gradual improvements in the juvenile justice system in Lebanon, especially in light of the co-operation between the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Office on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODC), which began in 1999 and ended after a two-phase country project in 2007. UNODC contributed to two projects, with the first finishing in 2002 and the second ending in 2005. Now the organisation is working on detention conditions with the Ministry of Justice.

The passage of Law No. 422 in 2002 was a positive step forward in the justice system serving juveniles. Whereas previously, the law provided for rehabilitation, reintegration and alternatives to detention, these were reportedly rarely applied.³⁹⁸ Law No. 422/2002 was developed in 2006 by the Ministry of Justice and the UNODC to resolve these and other gaps. As a result, there has been an increase in judges' use of alternatives to detention and a decrease in the population of juveniles in prisons from 320 before 2002 to about 129 in 2006.³⁹⁹

Furthermore, the law provides for the protection of juveniles during all stages of the judicial process. For example, police interrogations must occur in the presence of a social worker from UPEL and police personnel are obliged to contact this social worker within six hours of the juvenile's arrest. The UPEL social worker then reports back to the Juvenile Department in the Ministry of Justice, which is tasked with oversight of the process. The Juvenile Department was established as part of the

reforms implemented with the technical assistance of the UNODC.

The social worker fills in a report on the interrogation and sends it to the Ministry of Justice, which monitors the case. Currently, monitoring of the amount of time it takes the Internal Security forces (ISF) to call UPEL is insufficient. Still, some improvements have been reported since the adoption of Law 422. The Juvenile Department has signed a contract with UPEL and Mouvement Social to follow up on implementation of these measures, with funding by UNICEF.

Problematic areas remain, however. One such area is the low minimum age of criminal responsibility. Currently it is seven years, although the government intends to raise it to 12 years of age. A committee of judges was appointed by the former minister of justice to issue suggestions for further legislative reform. Among these suggestions was the raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Nonetheless, civil society and judges remain divided on this issue. Some believe that the current age protects the child from being taken advantage of by an adult to commit a crime while others hold that the current practice already does not imprison children under the age of 15. According to the aforementioned evaluation of Law 422 in 2006, raising the age should not pose a challenge since children under 12 are already not imprisoned and the number of crimes committed by the age group 7 to 12 amounts to only 4% of crimes committed by juveniles. All that needs to be done, according to this study, is to present a draft for amendment.⁴⁰⁰

Another problematic issue is that under Law 422/2002, sentencing is permanently recorded in the juvenile's civil record. This is in contradiction with the CRC because it hinders reintegration and the juvenile's assumption of a constructive role in society.

“As a result of reforms, there has been an increase in judges’ use of alternatives to detention and a decrease in the population of juveniles in prisons from 320 before 2002 to about 129 in 2006.”

.....

Juveniles in conflict with the law are still prosecuted with adults in a case where the crime was committed by the child and an adult. Although they are legally obliged to do so, not all judges implement rules of procedure specific to juveniles. For example, a judge may decide whether to clear his/her courtroom in order to ensure privacy during the trial.

The Ministry of Justice (through UPEL and Mouvement Social) is solely responsible for the period of prosecution, and for following-up on education and community service measures imposed by the judge. In the period preceding and following sentencing, it is up to the Ministry of Social Affairs to follow up on cases of juveniles at risk of becoming in conflict with the law or being reintegrated into society after coming into conflict with the law. The Ministry of Justice is accountable for preventing the repetition of criminal acts, whereas the Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible for prevention in general. Prevention plans are meant to be put in place through consultation between various relevant ministries. However, meetings of the inter-ministerial committee do not take place regularly.⁴⁰³

The Ministry of Justice and the ISF’s institute train police personnel in Law No. 422. One of the difficulties faced here, attested to by both the Ministry and the evaluation report of UNODC, is the constant reshuffling of security personnel, which prevents trainees from institutionalizing acquired skills and knowledge.⁴⁰¹

The Ministry of Social Affairs is the party responsible for rehabilitation and reinsertion programmes, particularly through its Protection of Juveniles Department. The department oversees 10 specialised institutions contracted to the Ministry. Eight of these are for protection and prevention (not all, however, are residential) and two are specialised in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of males and females. The number of children in these institutions ranges from an estimated 1,200 to 1,500, with yearly fluctuations. Unlike the Department of Care institutions, the specialised institutions extend their services to non-Lebanese and refugee children. This department, however, lacks social workers to conduct monitoring visits. It receives funding from approximately two percent of the Ministry’s budget.⁴⁰²

There are no studies that focus specifically on the situation of Palestinian children in conflict with the law. The Coordination Forum of the NGOs Working among the Palestinian Community has reported that all Palestinian children who were arrested and interviewed about their experience claimed violations of their rights during their detention. Examples of violations by the authorities included beatings, threats of violence, refusal to inform the parents of the child’s detention, refusal to allow the child to make phone calls to next of kin, refusal to allow the parents to visit, the absence of a social worker or other independent authority figure responsible for the child’s welfare during questioning of the child, and forcing the child to undertake menial tasks such as cleaning, washing or other errands for the guards. Further alleged violations of rights included denying Palestinian children access to services such as the Judicial Support Fund that provides families who cannot afford their own legal services with support. It was noted by the Coordination Forum of the NGOs Working among the Palestinian Community that children who were arrested and suffered from such violations may be experiencing trauma and should receive special attention. In conclusion, it stated that in practice



refugees are detained in excess of 60 days and without the protection of legal services nor the right to a lawyer, as well as usually receiving the maximum verdict at trial.⁴⁰⁴ According to the Ministry of Social Affairs, the implementation of Law 422/2002 regarding the protection of Juveniles in breach of the law is simply not relevant for Palestinian refugees living in the camps where there is neither authority nor law. Furthermore, it recognised the fact that no initiatives have been taken towards the Palestinian community in general, and specifically Palestinian children in conflict with the law.⁴⁰⁵

5. The Right to Express Views/ to be Heard/Child Participation (Article 12)

Although there is no legislative framework guaranteeing the right to participation, several stakeholders in Lebanon recognise the importance of participation and have accordingly exerted efforts to ensure that children's views and opinions are heard.

World Vision conducted national consultations of children on issues that affect them in nine areas and three Palestinian refugee camps. The consultation, "Children make their voices heard", showed that children were rarely given the opportunity to speak up and participate in decision-making.⁴⁰⁶ World Vision also implements a project called National Children's Council, a group composed of 60 children from different backgrounds. The National Children's Council is a participatory platform for children, one of a few forums where a select number of children can exercise their right to speak up and be heard. Other participatory councils for children include the HCC's children's councils, which are formed usually for consultative purposes. The HCC, in fact, has attempted to mainstream the principle of participation into its reporting and national planning activities.

However, these national councils are for select group of children and their impact is not widespread. The principle of participation should be embedded in the adult-child relationship at every level of social life. The national education system is crucial in transmitting values and skills necessary for transforming this relationship, and in fact the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has sought to mainstream the principle of participation in its reform efforts in recent years.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s latest National Human Development Report, "Towards a Citizen's State", focuses on civic values and national identity. In the process of preparing the report, a survey of ninth grade students was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). The survey showed that students are highly interested in national politics, however "their expectations of political participation appear to be limited".⁴⁰⁷

Through the new school curriculum, the MEHE has integrated the principle of participation, introducing new participatory subjects, student councils and elections. Not all schools have implemented these in full, however. The MEHE aims to move away from indoctrination teaching techniques towards a more interactive learning environment. "The general goals of the revised school curricula, particularly the interest in citizen formation, reflect Lebanon's interest in education" and "Lebanon's identity and unity have been adopted as basic and central tenants of the entire curricula".⁴⁰⁸ However, the aforementioned UNDP report points out that, although these values are being taught through the new school curriculum, the opportunities given to students to practice these values are insufficient. The civics education course that is included in the national curriculum focuses on citizenship and national belonging.

Al-Nahar, a national newspaper, has demonstrated a commendable initiative by media to make children's (and especially youth's) voices heard through its supplement newspaper *Nabar Al-Shabab*, which is edited and written by youth. Al-Nahar also ran a shadow government initiative whereby youth between the ages of 15 and 30 participated in a shadow ministerial cabinet. Each elected youth minister developed projects to be implemented during his or her tenure.

Participation of children in the political process in Lebanon has raised protection concerns. In the June 2009 elections, media reported broad participation of children in electoral campaigning. Even though the legal voting age in Lebanon is 21, children between the ages of 14 and 18 were involved in media campaigns, handing out flyers, etc. The Child Protection Working Group along with other national NGOs criticised political parties for not taking into consideration the protection of children involved, and emphasized the need for children to be fully informed and participate on a voluntary basis. Otherwise, their involvement would amount to exploitation.⁴⁰⁹

The Euromed Youth Programme promotes activities and projects to bring youth in the Euro-Mediterranean region together for intercultural exchange and peaceful dialogue. Children under 18 are able to participate in youth exchanges coordinated through the Ministry of Youth and Sports.⁴¹⁰

In Palestinian camps, the participation of children and their chances to express their views and to feel these opinions are taken into consideration are limited for several reasons. Among those are the general overcrowding of UNRWA classrooms, as well as the absence of extra-curricular activities that foster self-expression such as music and art. Outside school, the opportunities to speak freely and engage in discussions with peers are rare. Leisure

activities for children are limited and facilities for children inadequate, preventing children from enjoying their rights. Gender discrimination is also an obstacle: adolescent girls are restricted in movement due to social pressures. Not being able to join mixed groups added to the limited numbers of female-only youth groups limits the right of free expression of young Palestinian girls living in Lebanon.

The Committee acknowledged the State party's efforts to promote the right to participation of children who belong to the most vulnerable groups, such as Palestinian refugee children.

Nevertheless, a May 2009 Naba'a study entitled "The Impediments and Problems Facing the Protection and Participation of Palestinian Children and Youth in Lebanon" concluded that there is a need to work on this issue. The study highlighted a variety of obstacles to child participation. These included widespread lack of awareness from parents and local organisations on issues related to child rights—particularly the rights of children and youth living with a disability and those who work—and the existence of Lebanese legislation protecting children from abuse and violence. Furthermore, parents typically do not understand the concept of participation, since not expressing one's view is culturally seen as a form of respect. In addition, community workers and volunteers sometimes do not foster a culture of children participation in the community, and therefore do not model the participatory approach as an alternative to the current cultural system. The political participation of children and youth inside the Palestinian camps is often nothing more than an illusion, insofar as it is limited to their attendance at events, with no opportunity to raise their voices or question mainstream views.

Endnotes

¹ “Manara” means “lighthouse” in Arabic.

² UNDP “Worldwide Trends in the Human Development Index 1970-2010-Lebanon” available online at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/trends/> (last accessed 22 February 2011)

³ UNICEF, “At a glance: Lebanon statistics” available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 28 January 2010)

⁴ UNRWA, ‘Lebanon’ official website available online at www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=65 (last accessed 23 September 2010)

⁵ UNICEF, “At a glance: Lebanon’ statistics” available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 28 January 2010)

⁶ UNRWA: Registration statistical bulletin, the fourth quarter 2009, 31 December 2009.

⁷ UNICEF, “At a glance: Lebanon’ statistics” available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 28 January 2010)

⁸ UNRWA: Registration statistical bulletin, the fourth quarter 2009, 31 December 2009.

⁹ United Nations Statistics Division, “World Statistics Pocketbook”, available online at <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Lebanon> (last accessed 28 January 2010)

¹⁰ UNICEF, “At a glance: Lebanon’ statistics” available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 28 January 2010)

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) “Arab Statistics”, figures taken from UNDP Human Development Reports, available online at <http://www.arabstats.org/country.asp?cid=9&ind=121> (last accessed 28 January 2010)

¹² World Health Organization Statistical Information System (WHOSIS) - World Health Statistics 2008, available online at <http://www.who.int/whosis/en/index.html> (last accessed 23 September 2010)

¹³ Figure in 2009. UNICEF, “At a glance: Lebanon’ statistics” available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 28 January 2010)

¹⁴ UNRWA: The Annual Report of the Department of Health, UNRWA, 2009.

¹⁵ World Bank “Lebanon at a glance” 2009, available online at http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/lbn_aag.pdf (last accessed in October 2009)

¹⁶ UNRWA website: <http://www.un.org/unrwa/publications/index.html> (last accessed October 2009)

¹⁷ World Bank country brief - Lebanon <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

¹⁸ Are Knudsen, “Precarious PeaceBuilding: Post War Lebanon 1990-2005”, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) Working Paper, 2005, p. 5.

¹⁹ UNRWA official website, www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=65 (last accessed 23 September 2010)

²⁰ UNRWA official website, www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=65 (last accessed 23 September 2010)

²¹ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), “Geographic Description-Lebanon”, available online at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/18310/en/lbn/> (last accessed 16 August 2009)

²²Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN news), “Rising temperatures, reduced rain window threaten water crunch”, available online at http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=105327 (last accessed 15 August 2009)

²³ For example, in Beirut this figure is 3.8 while in Northern Lebanon it is 4.7 individuals. According to “Living Conditions of Households” 2007, Ministry of Social Affairs, UNDP, ILO, Central Administration for Statistics, Lebanon available online at http://www.undp.org.lb/communication/publications/downloads/Households_Living_conditions_2007.pdf (last accessed 20 August 2009)

²⁴ Maronites 28.8% Sunni 22.4% Shiite 19.6%. According to Muhammad A. Faour in “Religion, Demography, and Politics in Lebanon”, Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 43, No. 6, November 2007 p. 909

²⁵ Mohammad A. Faour, “Religion Demography, and Politics in Lebanon”, Middle Eastern Studies,

Vol. 43, No. 6, 909 – 921, November 2007, p. 910

²⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Lebanon#Palestinian_refugees

²⁷ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, official website http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/refugees_E.pdf (last accessed 9 October 2009)

²⁸ Norwegian Refugee Council- official website: <http://www.nrc.no/?did=9167197>

²⁹ Power point presentation of UNRWA-AUB Poverty Assessment Household Survey among Palestine Refugees, 2010, presented in December 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon

³⁰ This map was designed for the purpose of this document, relying on a map available online at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/images/lebanon/map_lebanon.gif (last accessed in January 2010)

³¹ Palestinian Refugee Research Network, official website: <http://prrn.mcgill.ca/research/papers/ajial.htm> (last accessed 9 October 2009)

³² Encarta, “Lebanon, facts and figures” available online at http://encarta.msn.com/fact_631504799/lebanon_facts_and_figures.html (last accessed September 2009)

³³ Jaber Suleiman, April 2006, “ Marginalised Community: The Case of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon”, p. 20, available online at http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/research_reports/JaberEdited.pdf (last accessed 23 September 2010)

³⁴ The Cairo Agreement was annulled in 1987 but in practice, Palestinian camps continue to have de facto autonomy.

³⁵ Jaber Suleiman, April 2006, “ Marginalised Community: The Case of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon”, p. 20, available online at http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/research_reports/JaberEdited.pdf (last accessed 23 September 2010)

³⁶ Jaber Suleiman, April 2006, “ Marginalised Community: The Case of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon”, p. 20, available online at http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/research_reports/JaberEdited.pdf (last accessed 23 September 2010)

³⁷ The Taif Accord had called for their temporary presence on Lebanese land; it was endorsed by the Arab League to re-establish order. In September 2004, the Security Council passed Resolution 1559 calling for Syria’s withdrawal from Lebanon but they remained until April 2005.

³⁸ ALEF, IKV Pax Christi, “Displacement and Return Monitoring Unit: A Preliminary Report on Mandates and Challenges” August 2007

³⁹ Euro Mediterranean Partnership- Country Strategy Paper 2002-2006, available online at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/lebanon/csp/02_06_en.pdf (last accessed 20 August 2009)

⁴⁰ Mohammad A. Faour, “Religion Demography, and Politics in Lebanon”, Middle Eastern Studies,

Vol. 43, No. 6, 909 – 921, November 2007, p. 910

⁴¹ Mohammad A. Faour, “Religion Demography, and Politics in Lebanon”, Middle Eastern Studies,

Vol. 43, No. 6, 909 – 921, November 2007, p. 909



- ⁴² UNDP-POGAR “Lebanon in Brief”, <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/country.aspx?cid=9> (last accessed 26 February 2011)
- ⁴³ UNDP- National Human Development Report, Lebanon, “Towards a Citizen’s State”, 2009, p. 26
- ⁴⁴ International Crisis Group, “Nurturing Instability: Lebanon’s Palestinian Refugee Camps”. Middle East Report N°84 – 19 February 2009, p. 1.
- ⁴⁵ Ghassan Dibeh, “Foreign Aid and Economic Development in Postwar Lebanon”. UNU-WIDER Working Paper June 2007, p. 1, available online at http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/research-papers/2007/en_GB/rp2007-37/ (last accessed 12 August 2009)
- ⁴⁶ Ghassan Dibeh, “Foreign Aid and Economic Development in Postwar Lebanon”, UNU-WIDER Working Paper June 2007, p. 1, available online at http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/research-papers/2007/en_GB/rp2007-37/ (last accessed 12 August 2009)
- ⁴⁷ Commission of the European Communities, “Implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy in 2007” Progress Report Lebanon, 2008.
- ⁴⁸ United Nations Development Programme, “What we do: Social and Local Development”, available online at <http://www.undp.org.lb/What-WeDo/poverty.cfm> (last accessed 28 January 2010)
- ⁴⁹ United Nations Development Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) ‘Arab Statistics’, figures taken from UNDP Human Development Reports, available online at <http://www.arabstats.org/country.aspx?cid=9&ind=313> (last accessed 1 February 2010)
- ⁵⁰ Power point presentation of UNRWA-AUB Poverty Assessment Household Survey among Palestine Refugees, 2010, presented in December 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon
- ⁵¹ Power point presentation of UNRWA-AUB Poverty Assessment Household Survey among Palestine Refugees, 2010, presented in December 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon
- ⁵² No. 1/289 of 18 December 1982 and Ministerial Decree of 15 December 1995.
- ⁵³ Phone interview with Mr. Suhail El-Natour, chairman of Human Development Center (The Rights of Palestinians in Lebanon), 10 November 2010
- ⁵⁴ Rana Jawad, Journal of Social Policy, Cambridge, Jan. 2009, Vol. 38, Part 1, p. 141
- ⁵⁵ Ghassan Dibeh, “Foreign Aid and Economic Development in Postwar Lebanon”, UNU-WIDER Working Paper June 2007, p. 3, available online at http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/research-papers/2007/en_GB/rp2007-37/ (last accessed 12 August 2009)
- ⁵⁶ The National Social Security Fund covers about 32% of the population while private funds provide total or partial insurance coverage to about nine percent of the population. According to ALEF, “Right to Health: Greater Access to Health Care for a Healthier Population”, 2009.
- ⁵⁷ Some primary care centres are operated by non-governmental community or religious-based organisations that are contracted with the Ministry of Public Health. Private health service provision in Lebanon is mixed between profit and not-for-profit. WHO, Regional Health Systems Observatory, “Health System Profile Lebanon” 2006 p. 4 available online at <http://gis.emro.who.int/HealthSystemObservatory/PDF/Lebanon/Full%20Profile.pdf> (last accessed October 2009)
- ⁵⁸ UNICEF, “Short-duration country programme document- Lebanon”, 26 April 2007, E/ICEF/2007/P/L.26
- ⁵⁹ Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTDA) “Health for all” factsheet. Available online at http://crt-da.org.lb/webfm_send/375 (last accessed 25 February 2011)
- ⁶⁰ Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTDA) “Health for all” factsheet. Available online at http://crt-da.org.lb/webfm_send/375 (last accessed 25 February 2011)
- ⁶¹ Ghassan Dibeh, “Foreign Aid and Economic Development in Postwar Lebanon”, UNU-WIDER Working Paper June 2007, p. 4, available online at http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/research-papers/2007/en_GB/rp2007-37/ (last accessed 12 August 2009)
- ⁶² ALEF, “Delays in Reporting by the State of Lebanon to UN Treaty Bodies” 2009
- ⁶³ ALEF “Human Rights Practices in Lebanon, Civil and Political Rights” unpublished 2008

⁶⁴ ALEF “Lebanon: the Painful Whereabouts of Detention” February 2008

⁶⁵ Amnesty International, “Limitations on Rights of Palestinian Refugee Children”, 2006, available online at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE18/004/2006/en/7e57926f-d43b-11dd-8743-d305bea2b2c7/mde180042006en.pdf> (last accessed in October 2009)

⁶⁶ Human Rights Watch, “Lebanon: Deadly Month for Domestic Workers”, Beirut, November 9 2009, available online at <http://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2009/11/09/lebanon-deadly-month-domestic-workers>

⁶⁷ Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), COSV, KAFA, PPM. “The State of Freedom of Association in Lebanon” December 2010

⁶⁸ CRIN “Background Note on Freedom of Association in Lebanon” available online at <http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=24090> (last accessed 24 February 2011)

⁶⁹ UNDP, “What We do: The Millenium Development Goals in Lebanon” available online at <http://www.undp.org.lb/WhatWeDo/MDGs.cfm> (last accessed September 2009)

⁷⁰ UNDP, “Millenium Development Goals: Lebanon Report” 2008. p. 8, available online at http://www.undp.org.lb/communication/publications/downloads/MDG_en.pdf (last accessed September 2009)

⁷¹ “State policies and practices in Lebanon discriminate effectively on grounds of racial and national origin against Palestinian refugees who reside in Lebanon and consequently, Lebanon is failing to comply with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child with respect to the Palestinian children.” Amnesty International, “Limitations on Rights of Palestinian Refugee Children”, 2006, available online at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE18/004/2006/en/7e57926f-d43b-11dd-8743-d305bea2b2c7/mde180042006en.pdf> (last accessed 12 December 2011)

⁷² UNHCR planning figures for Lebanon, January 2011, available online at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486676.html> (last accessed 5 February 2011)

⁷³ UNHCR planning figures for Lebanon, January 2011, available online at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486676.html> (last accessed 5 February 2011)

⁷⁴ UNDP “the Millenium Development Goals in Lebanon”, available online at <http://www.undp.org.lb/WhatWeDo/MDGs.cfm> (last accessed 24 January 2011)

⁷⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 6, § 28

⁷⁶ At the time of writing Lebanon has 12 reports overdue to treaty bodies, with a delay period ranging from three to 14 years. ALEF “Contextual Analysis: Delays in Reporting by the state of Lebanon to UN Treaty Bodies” March 2010

⁷⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 23, § 89

⁷⁸ Committee on the rights of the Child, Summary Record of the 291st meeting: Lebanon. 1996-05-24. May 1996 CRC/C/SR/291- 21

⁷⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of the 751st meeting: Lebanon. CRC/C/SR.751. 18 January 2002

⁸⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of the 751st meeting: Lebanon. CRC/C/SR.751. 18 January 2002

⁸¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child. Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8. June. 2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3

⁸² Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of 1142nd meeting: Lebanon 21 August 2006 CRC/C/SR.1142 P. 2

⁸³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 2, § 7

⁸⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 4, § 21

⁸⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 4, § 19

⁸⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 12, § 52



- ⁸⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 6, § 27
- ⁸⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 7, § 32
- ⁸⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 16, § 65
- ⁹⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 13, § 55
- ⁹¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 8, § 37
- ⁹² Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 6, § 30
- ⁹³ Statement by Counselor Majdi Ramadan before the Third Committee, 63rd Session. 17 October 2008.
- ⁹⁴ Statement by Counselor Majdi Ramadan before the Third Committee, 63rd Session. 17 October 2008.
- ⁹⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 25, § 6
- ⁹⁶ Third Periodic Report to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women due in 2006: Lebanon 7/7/2006, CEDAW/C/LBN/3
- ⁹⁷ UNDP- Fourth Human Development Report- Lebanon, “Towards a Citizen’s State” 2009
- ⁹⁸ UNODC “Independent Evaluation Report” Juvenile Justice Panel July 2005, available online at http://www.UNODC.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Juvenile_Justice_Lebanon.pdf (last accessed 2 February 2011)
- ⁹⁹ Jaber Suleiman, “Marginalised Community: The Case of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon”, April 2006, available online at http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/research_reports/JaberEdited.pdf
- ¹⁰⁰ According to Phone interview with Mr. Suhail El-Natour, chairman of Human Development Center (The Rights of Palestinians in Lebanon), 10 November 2010.
- ¹⁰¹ According to Phone Interview with Mr. Suhail El-Natour, chairman of Human Development Center (The Rights of Palestinians in Lebanon), 10 November 2010.
- ¹⁰² Third Periodic Report of Lebanon due in 2003: Lebanon, 25/10/2005, CRC/C/129/Add.7, p. 39 § 112
- ¹⁰³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 21, § 84 (a)_
- ¹⁰⁴ Alternatives to Combat Child Labour through Education and Sustainable Services, “Access-MENA 2004-2008” in Access MENA Newsletter no 6, May 2008, available online at <http://www.accessmena.net/pdf/ACCESS-MENA%20Issue%206%20En.pdf> (last accessed 23 August 2009)
- ¹⁰⁵ Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), COSV, KAFA, PPM. “The State of Freedom of Association in Lebanon” December 2010
- ¹⁰⁶ Written replies by the government of Lebanon concerning the list of issues (CRC/C/LBN/Q/3) received by the Committee on the rights of the child relating to the consideration of the third periodic report of Lebanon, CRC/C/129/Add.7, p. 8.
- ¹⁰⁷ “United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Lebanon 2010-2014” May 2009 p. 35 available online at <http://www.undg.org/docs/10503/Lebanon-UNDAF-Report-2010-2014.pdf> (last accessed December 2009)
- ¹⁰⁸ Rola Hbeichi “Women and Education for All in Lebanon” Background Paper – CRTDA, available online at <http://old.crttda.org/crtd.org/www/acgen/pdf/Background%20Report%20on%20Women%20and%20Education%20for%20All%20in%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed October 2009)
- ¹⁰⁹ Rola Hbeichi “Women and Education for All in Lebanon” Background Paper – CRTDA, available online at <http://old.crttda.org/crtd.org/www/acgen/pdf/Background%20Report%20on%20Women%20and%20Education%20for%20All%20in%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed October 2009)

- ¹¹⁰ Center for Educational Research and Development- Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Official website: http://www.crdp.org/CRDP/Arabic/a_default.htm (last accessed 2 February 2011)
- ¹¹¹ UNODC “Independent Evaluation Report” Juvenile Justice Panel July 2005, available online at http://www.UNODC.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Juvenile_Justice_Lebanon.pdf (last accessed 2 February 2011)
- ¹¹² UPEL official website: <http://www.upel.org/about.htm>
- ¹¹³ UPEL official website: <http://www.upel.org/about.htm>
- ¹¹⁴ Unit for Combat of Child Labour, available online <http://www.clu.gov.lb/english/definition/index.html> (last accessed October 2009)
- ¹¹⁵ Kronfol, “Rebuilding of the Lebanese Health Care System: Health Sector Reforms”, Eastern Mediterranean Journal Vol. 12, Nos 3/4 , 2006 p. 464
- ¹¹⁶ Commission of the European Committees “Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2008: Progress Report Lebanon” Brussels, 23/04/09 available online at http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/progress2009/sec09_518_en.pdf (last accessed October 2009)
- ¹¹⁷ Unit for Combat of Child Labour, available online <http://www.clu.gov.lb/english/definition/index.html> (last accessed October 2009)
- ¹¹⁸ “Non-ID” status refers to Palestinian refugees not registered with UNRWA nor registered with Lebanese nationality.
- ¹¹⁹ Amnesty International “State of the world’s Human Rights 2009” available online at <http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/lebanon>
- ¹²⁰ Kronfol, “Rebuilding of the Lebanese Health Care System: Health Sector Reforms” Eastern Mediterranean Journal Vol. 12, Nos 3/4 , 2006 Rebuilding of the Lebanese Health Care System: Health Sector Reforms”
- ¹²¹ Kronfol, “Eastern Mediterranean Journal Vol. 12, Nos 3/4 , 2006 p. 465
- ¹²² UNDP- Fourth Human Development Report- Lebanon “Towards a Citizen’s State”, 2009
- ¹²³ EMRO Regional Health Systems Observatory “Health systems profile- Lebanon”, available online at <http://gis.emro.who.int/HealthSystemObservatory/PDF/Lebanon/Health%20system%20organization.pdf> (last accessed 9 November 2009)
- ¹²⁴ The Palestine Telegraph, “UNRWA opens up healthcare for Palestinians refugees in Lebanon”, 14 January 2011, available online : <http://www.paltelegraph.com/palestine/palestinian-refugees/3637-unrwa-opens-up-healthcare-for-palestinians-refugees-in-lebanon.html>, (last accessed on 2 February 2011)
- ¹²⁵ Unit for Combat of Child Labour, available online at <http://www.clu.gov.lb/english/definition/index.html> (last accessed October 2009)
- ¹²⁶ UNODC “Independent Evaluation Report” Juvenile Justice Panel July 2005, available online at http://www.UNODC.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Juvenile_Justice_Lebanon.pdf (last accessed 2 February 2011)
- ¹²⁷ Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, available online at <http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/Sections/sTopics.aspx?Type=1&displang=en-us>
- ¹²⁸ The Higher Council for Childhood’s official website <http://www.atfalouna.gov.lb/en/AboutUs/Ourmission.aspx>
- ¹²⁹ Save the Children Sweden, Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon, May 2008, available online at <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 23 September 2010)
- ¹³⁰ Focus Group conducted by ALEF with NGOs in Jounie, 27 January 2010
- ¹³¹ Save the Children Sweden, Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon, May 2008, available online at <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 23 September 2010)
- ¹³² Save the Children Sweden, Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon, May 2008, available online at <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 23 September 2010)

¹³³ The Union prepared the “The National Report of Lebanese Associations and NGOs”, the alternative report sent on the occasion of the 12th Session for the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1996. More information can be found on “Convention on the Rights of the Child Monitor”, available online at <http://www.lnf.org.lb/child/participating.html#a1>

¹³⁴ Save the Children Sweden, Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon, May 2008, available online at <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 23 September 2010)

¹³⁵ Focus group conducted by ALEF with NGOs in Bint Jbeil, 19 January 2010

¹³⁶ Focus Group with 9 NGOs, Ein El-Helwe Camp, Saida- conducted by Nabaa in January 2010

¹³⁷ UN Resident Coordinator System in Lebanon, “United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Lebanon: A platform for collaborative action 2002-2006, Beirut, December 2001, available online at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/1629-Lebanon_UNDAF__2002-2006_-_Lebanon_2002-2006.pdf

¹³⁸ UN System in Lebanon- “United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)” official website: <http://www.un.org.lb/Subpage.aspx?pageid=63> (last accessed January 2011)

¹³⁹ UN System in Lebanon- “UNRWA” official website: <http://www.un.org.lb/Subpage.aspx?pageid=65> (last accessed January 2011)

¹⁴⁰ U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) – World Refugee Survey: Lebanon, available online at http://refugeesandimmigrants.org/countryreports.aspx?__VIEWSTATE=dDwtOTMxNDcwOTk7O2w8Q291bnRyeUREOkdvQnV0dG9uOz4%2BUwqzZxIYLI0SfZCZue2XtA0UFEQ%3D&cid=973&subm=19&ssm=29&map= (last accessed 23 September 2010)

¹⁴¹ UN System in Lebanon- “UNESCO” official website: <http://www.un.org.lb/Subpage.aspx?pageid=61> (last accessed January 2011)

¹⁴² Amnesty International “Regional mechanisms: 9 December 2007 ” available online at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/protection-mechanisms-state-regional-and-international/regional-mechanisms>

¹⁴³ The Paris II and Paris III Conference were held respectively in 2002 and 2007 in order to harness international reconstruction aid for Lebanon.

¹⁴⁴ Randa Takieddin, “Paris III for All Lebanon” Dar Al-Hayat 2007-01-03 available online at <http://international.daralhayat.com/archivearticle/241779> (last accessed September 2009)

¹⁴⁵ Ghassan Dibeh, “Foreign Aid and Economic Development in Postwar Lebanon”, UNU-WIDER Working Paper June 2007, p. 12, available online at http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/research-papers/2007/en_GB/rp2007-37/ (last accessed 12 August 2009)

¹⁴⁶ “Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2007”, Progress Report Lebanon, Commission of the European Communities, 2008

¹⁴⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted By States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention. Third Periodic Reports of States Parties Due In 2003: Lebanon, CRC/C/129/Add.7, 25/10/2005, p. 99

¹⁴⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted By States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention. Third Periodic Reports of States Parties Due In 2003: Lebanon, CRC/C/129/Add.7, 25/10/2005,

¹⁴⁹ Amnesty International- Regional Mechanisms, available online at <http://www.lnf.org.lb/member.html> (last accessed October 2009)

¹⁵⁰ The Lebanese Constitution, translated by Paul E. Salem for the Lebanese Center of Political Studies (cf. The Beirut Review No. 1/1991), available online at http://www.servat.unibe.ch/icl/le00000_.html (last accessed 3 September 2009)

¹⁵¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Summary Record of 42nd Session: Lebanon, 24/05/2006, CRC/C/SR.1142, p. 6, § 35

¹⁵² Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Session 33, Concluding Observations: Lebanon. CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/2, 12 July 2005

¹⁵³ Dalila Mahdawi, “Stolen Lives: Lebanon suffers problem of child brides”, The Daily Star, Lebanon. 10 November 2009, Available online at http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=108509#axzz1DHNrNaW7 (last accessed 10 November 2009)

¹⁵⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted By States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention. Third Periodic Reports of States Parties Due In 2003: Lebanon, CRC/C/129/Add.7, 25/10/2005

¹⁵⁵ Majdi Ramadan. “Statement of Lebanon before the third General Assembly Committee, 63rd Session”. 14 October 2006, available online at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/documents/ga63/lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 14 September 2009)

¹⁵⁶ UNDP- Fourth Human Development Report- Lebanon “Towards a Citizen’s State”, 2009

¹⁵⁷ Najia Housari “Lebanese women demand citizenship rights for their children” Al-Shorfa, 20 March 2010, available online at http://www.al-shorfa.com/cocoon/mcii/xhtml/en_GB/features/mcii/features/main/2010/03/20/feature-01 (last accessed March 2010)

¹⁵⁸ Nationality Campaign Newsletter, Issue No.1, June-July 2006, available online at <http://old.crttda.org/crttda.org/www/wrn/index.htm> (last accessed October 2009)

¹⁵⁹ Tanmia, “In Focus: Claiming Equal Citizenship: Lebanese Women’s Right to Full Citizenship”, August 2010 available online at <http://lebanon-support.org/tatimma/?q=node/14> (last accessed August 2010)

¹⁶⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Third periodic report of States Parties: Lebanon 7 July 2006, CEDAW/C/LBN/3

¹⁶¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Third periodic report of States Parties: Lebanon, 7 July 2006, CEDAW/C/LBN/3

¹⁶² Rabea Naciri and Isis Nusaair “The Integration of Women’s Rights into the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: Women’s Rights in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.” Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Copenhagen, May 2003, p. 6

¹⁶³ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Third periodic report of States Parties, Lebanon, 07/07/2006, CEDAW/C/LBN/3, p. 21, § 48.

¹⁶⁴ Martha Ruedas, INFPA representative- speech as the “World Women’s Day” conference, UNESCO Palace, 29 March 2009, available online at <http://www.nclw.org.lb/pictures/Activity/101216060635720.pdf> (last accessed 25 January 2010)

¹⁶⁵ UN news- UN System in Lebanon- “Review and Validation of the National Gender Based Violence Action Plan United Nations Population Fund” 9 April 2009, available online at <http://www.un.org.lb/NewsDetails.aspx?pageid=230> (last accessed 20 January 2010)

¹⁶⁶ National Commission For Lebanese Women and United Nations Population Fund, Progress Report “Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Security and Stability”, April -June 2009, available online at mdtf.undp.org/document/download/4553 (last accessed October 2009)

¹⁶⁷ UNDP, “the Millenium Development Goals in Lebanon”, available online at <http://www.undp.org.lb/WhatWeDo/MDGs.cfm> (last accessed 24 January 2011)

¹⁶⁸ Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTDA) “Health for all” factsheet, available online at http://crttda.org.lb/webfm_send/375 (last accessed 25 February 2011)

¹⁶⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 6, § 27.

¹⁷⁰ UNDAF Results document: “Socio-Economic Development/Regional Disparities”

¹⁷¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 6, § 27.

¹⁷² Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 5, § 25.

¹⁷³ Frontiers “Invisible Citizens: A Legal Study on Statelessness in Lebanon” November 2009 available online at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/44520515/RS-Statelessness-in-Lebanon-Executive-Summary-English-Final> (last accessed January 2011)



¹⁷⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Third periodic report of States Parties: Lebanon, 7 July 2006, CEDAW/C/LBN/3

¹⁷⁵ Paige Austin, “Insan School Keeps migrants children from falling through the cracks”, The Daily Star, 2 November 2006 available online at <http://insanliban.blogspot.com/2007/04/insan-school-keeps-migrant-children.html>

¹⁷⁶ Terre des hommes Lausanne, Insan Association, “A Child Protection Assessment: Migrant Workers and their Children in Lebanon”, 2010 available online at <http://simbarusseau.com/reports/migrantworkerschildreninlebanon.pdf> (last accessed February 2011)

¹⁷⁷ UNHCR “2011 UNHCR country operations profile - Lebanon” official website: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486676.html> (last accessed February 2011)

¹⁷⁸ Simba Russeau, “A Lost Generation: Iraqi Refugee Children in Lebanon” 20 June 2008, available online at <http://www.menassat.com/?q=en/news-articles/3982-lost-generation-iraqi-refugee-children-lebanon> (last accessed September 2009)

¹⁷⁹ Norwegian Refugee Council, “Opening of an Iraqi Community Education Center”, Lebanon, 29 July 2010 available online at <http://www.nrc.no/?did=9505805> (last accessed January 2011)

¹⁸⁰ See <http://www.paltelegraph.com/palestine/palestinian-refugees/3637-unrwa-opens-up-healthcare-for-palestinians-refugees-in-lebanon.html>, (last accessed 2 February 2011)

¹⁸¹ Needs Assessments in the Palestinian Gatherings of Lebanon, Premiċre Urgence/ NRC, June 2009, p. 7.

¹⁸² Minutes of Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon on 19 December 2009. Interview with Nada Fawaz by ALEF and Nabaa upon the subject of “Specialized institutions and minors in conflict with the law”

¹⁸³ Minutes of Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon on 19 December 2009. Interview with Corine Azar by Raneem Bassiri and Raed Ataya (from Naba’a) upon the subject of “National social framework and commendable practices concerning disabilities”

¹⁸⁴ Minutes of Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon on 19 December, 2009. Interview with Nada Fawaz by ALEF and Nabaa upon the subject of “Specialized institutions and minors in conflict with the law”

¹⁸⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 6, § 28.

¹⁸⁶ Save the Children Sweden, Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon, May 2008, p. 27, available online at <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>

¹⁸⁷ Save the Children Sweden, Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon, May 2008, p. 29-31, available online at <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>

¹⁸⁸ Amnesty International, “The State of the World’s Human Rights” Annual Report 2009.

¹⁸⁹ Pauline Nadjarian, “Inclusive Education: the Lebanese Context”, Afkar 2 Project Panel Discussion 26 May 2009. Available online at www.autismlebanon.org/docs/.../Pauline_Nadjarian_Inclusive_Education.ppt (last accessed January 2011)

¹⁹⁰ “Social Action Plan: Toward Strengthening Social Safety Nets and Access to Basic Social Services” Government of Lebanon. January 2007

¹⁹¹ Interview with General Director of the Ministry of Social Affairs, 9 December 2009

¹⁹² Interview with Ghida Anani, Child Sexual Abuse programme coordinator, KAFA, 21 October 2010

¹⁹³ Arab Resource Collective, “Comparative, regional analysis of ECCE in four Arab Countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Sudan) 2006 (2007/ED/EFA/MRT/PI/1) available online at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001474/147440e.pdf> (last accessed October 2009)

¹⁹⁴ Pauline Nadjarian, “Inclusive Education: the Lebanese Context”, Afkar 2 Project Panel Discussion 26 May 2009. Available online at www.autismlebanon.org/docs/.../Pauline_Nadjarian_Inclusive_Education.ppt (last accessed January 2011)

¹⁹⁵ Focus group conducted by ALEF in Chiah, Beirut, 29 January 2010

¹⁹⁶ These include the Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union (LPHU), Sesobel, the Lebanese Autism Society (LAS), IDRAAC, Younbou and others.

¹⁹⁷ WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS - Epidemiological Fact Sheets on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2004 available online at http://data.unaids.org/Publications/Fact-Sheets01/lebanon_en.pdf (last accessed December 2009)

¹⁹⁸ Lebanon's third periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child p. 91 CRC/C/129/Add.

¹⁹⁹ UNRWA: The Annual Report of the Department of Health 2009, p. 132 and 133

²⁰⁰ Ministry of Public Health, National AIDS Control Programme "UNGASS Country Progress Report: Lebanon" March 2010 available online at http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/monitoringcountryprogress/2010progressreportsubmittedbycountries/lebanon_2010_country_progress_report_en.pdf (last accessed August 2010)

²⁰¹ Commission on Human Rights, Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva 23-25 September 1996) Report of the Secretary General. E/CN.4/1997/37, available online at [http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.1997.37.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.1997.37.En?Opendocument) (last accessed October 2009)

²⁰² UNFPA, "Advocacy Needs Assessment for Youth and HIV in Lebanon" 2004 available online at <http://www.unfpa.org.lb/GYP/ANA.pdf> (last accessed September 2009)

²⁰³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 08/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 7, §30-31

²⁰⁴ Lebanon's third periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/129/Add.

²⁰⁵ Judge Ralph Riachy, Ministry of Justice, "Implementation of Law 422/2006" 2007

²⁰⁶ Ministry of Finance, UNDP, "Public Finance Review 2008", p. 26, available online at http://www.finance.gov.lb/en-US/finance/ReportsPublications/DocumentsAndReportsIssuedByMOF/Documents/Public%20Finance%20Reports/Annual/YR_2008.pdf (last accessed December 2010)

²⁰⁷ Focus group with nine NGOs, Ein El-Hillweh Camp, Saida, conducted by Nabaa in January 2010

²⁰⁸ Lebanon's third periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child- CRC/C/129/Add.

²⁰⁹ ALEF, "The Right to Health: Greater Access to Healthcare for a Healthy Population", March 2010

²¹⁰ Save the Children fact sheet 2008, available online <http://www.palthink.org/download/Palestinian%20refugee%20children%20fact%20sheet%20June%202008.pdf>

²¹¹ UNICEF, "At a glance: Lebanon- Statistics", available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 11 March 2011)

²¹² UNICEF, "At a glance: Lebanon- Statistics", available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 11 March 2011)

²¹³ UNICEF, "At a glance: Lebanon- Statistics", available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 11 March 2011)

²¹⁴ World Bank, Data, Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access), available online at: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.ACSN> (last accessed 11 March 2011)

²¹⁵ UNICEF, "At a glance: Lebanon- Statistics", available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 11 March 2011)

²¹⁶ UNRWA: The Annual report of the Department of Health 2009(Hard copy),p. 132 and 133 .



²¹⁷ The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Natural Resources, UNICEF, Pan-Arab Project for Family Health, League of the Arab States “Monitoring the Situation of Women and Children. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Palestinian Refugee Camps, Lebanon, 2006, Final Report” May 2007, available online : (http://www.childinfo.org/files/MICS3_Palestinians_in_Lebanon_FinalReport_2006_En.pdf).

²¹⁸ Focus groups were conducted by ALEF in Chiah (29/01/2010), Jounich (27/01/2010), Akkar (14/01/2010), Baalback (02/02/2010), Bint Jbeil (19/01/2010), and Bourj Hammoud/Sin El-Fil (02/02/2010)

²¹⁹ UNICEF, “At a glance: Lebanon- Statistics” available online at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lebanon_statistics.html#57 (last accessed 28 January 2010)

²²⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 13, § 53

²²¹ EMRO Regional Health Systems Observatory ‘Health systems profile- Lebanon” available online at <http://gis.emro.who.int/HealthSystemObservatory/PDF/Lebanon/Health%20system%20organization.pdf> (last accessed 9 November 2009)

²²² N.M. Kronfol “Rebuilding of the Lebanese health care system: health sector reforms” 2006 p. 461 available online at http://www.emro.who.int/Publications/Emhj/1203_4/PDF/25.pdf (last accessed 9 November 2009)

²²³ N.M. Kronfol “Rebuilding of the Lebanese health care system: health sector reforms” 2006 p. 460 available online at http://www.emro.who.int/Publications/Emhj/1203_4/PDF/25.pdf (last accessed 9 November 2009)

²²⁴ See <http://www.paltelegraph.com/palestine/palestinian-refugees/3637-unrwa-opens-up-healthcare-for-palestinians-refugees-in-lebanon.html>, (last accessed on 2 February 2011)

²²⁵ UNRWA’s Health Department Consistence with the Standards Set Out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Lebanon Field, 26 October, 2009, Nimer Kassim, Field Family Health Officer from the Health Department of UNRWA Lebanon.

²²⁶ Palestinian disability forum report about handicapped Palestinian children and the international convention of child rights, November 2009.

²²⁷ Palestinian disability forum report about handicapped Palestinian children and the international convention of child rights, November 2009.

²²⁸ UNICEF- Summary results matrix - Lebanon country programme 2009 available online at http://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/08-PL27-Lebanon-Summary_results_matrix.pdf (last accessed 28 January 2010)

²²⁹ N.M. Kronfol, “Rebuilding of the Lebanese health care system: health sector reforms”, 2006 http://www.emro.who.int/Publications/Emhj/1203_4/PDF/25.pdf

²³⁰ AUBMC News, “Establishing a Neonatal Resuscitation Programme in Lebanon with the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF NCPNN Recipient of UNICEF Grant” available online at https://services.aubmc.org.lb/ext/aubmc_news/users/article.asp?art_id=285 (last accessed 29 January 2010)

²³¹ World Health Organization, Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Lebanon Crisis Health Cluster Bulletin #31, available online at http://www.emro.who.int/Lebanon/crisis/Lebanon_crisis_Health_Cluster_Bulletin_26%20September%2007.pdf (last accessed 29 January 2010)

²³² IDRAAC, “Alleviating the Burden of Mental Illness in Lebanon: Towards a Mental Health Act”, 14 November 2009, available online at <http://www.idrac.org.lb/NewsDetails.aspx?MID=34&PID=34&ID=366> (last accessed 13 December 2009)

²³³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 13, § 53

²³⁴ YASA, official website: <http://yasa.org/ar/Section.aspx?id=2> (last accessed 29 January 2010)

²³⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization - Lebanese Republic Nutrition Profile- Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, 2007. Available online at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/nutrition/ncp/lbn.pdf> (last accessed October 2009)

²³⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization - Lebanese Republic Nutrition Profile- Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, 2007. Available online at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/nutrition/ncp/lbn.pdf> (last accessed October 2009)

²³⁷ UNRWA, Annual Report of the Department of Health, 2008, pp. 72 and 134

²³⁸ UNRWA, Annual Report of the Department of Health, 2008

²³⁹ Commission of the European Communities, “Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2007”, Progress Report Lebanon, 2008 p. 12

²⁴⁰ Nader, Abi Salloum, Karam “Environment and sustainable development indicators in Lebanon: A practical municipal level approach”, Ecological Indicators, Volume 8, Issue 5, September 2008, pp. 771-777

²⁴¹ Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, “General Comment No 4: the right to adequate housing” (article 11(1)), sixth session, 1991, para 8(d).

²⁴² “Persecution faced by Palestinian refugees in Lebanon”, available online <http://refugees.resist.ca/document/situationlebanon.htm> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁴³ “Persecution faced by Palestinian refugees in Lebanon”, available online <http://refugees.resist.ca/document/situationlebanon.htm> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁴⁴ By Dr. Ali Abdullah Al-Kabi, Chairman of the Board of the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent (UAERC) and Mr. Peter Ford, Representative of UNRWA’s Commissioner-General

²⁴⁵ Interview with a representative of UNRWA’s public information office on 3 February 2010

²⁴⁶ More info available online <http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=19855> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁴⁷ Interview with a representative of UNRWA’s public information office on 3 February 2010

²⁴⁸ United Nations Development Programme, “What we do / The Millennium Development Goals in Lebanon”, available online at <http://www.undp.org.lb/WhatWeDo/MDGs.cfm> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁴⁹ UNFPA “Lebanon: Results of Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Assessment to be announced”, 14 January 2010, available online at <http://inthenews.unfpa.org/?p=499> (last accessed December 2010)

²⁵⁰ American University of Beirut (AUB), “Rapid Assessment towards establishing linkages between HIV and SRH services” News Highlights 21 October 2009. Available online at <http://www.aub.edu.lb/news/archive/preview.php?id=99383> (last accessed December 2010)

²⁵¹ See <http://www.lfpa.org.lb/indexarabic.html> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁵² UN System in Lebanon- UNFPA, available online at <http://www.un.org.lb/Subpage.aspx?pageid=71> (last accessed 28 January 2010)

²⁵³ UN System in Lebanon- UNFPA, available online at <http://www.un.org.lb/Subpage.aspx?pageid=71> (last accessed 28 January 2010)

²⁵⁴ Interview with Ghida Anani, Child Sexual Abuse programme coordinator, KAFA, 21 October 2010

²⁵⁵ More than 2/3 of the girls who participated in the survey experienced “very painful periods”, 37% had experienced burning during urination (4.8% always experienced it), and 33% experienced ‘itching’ (6.7% always experienced it). The study also found that the culture of shame impacts both girls and boys. Notably, 19% of boys reported “having felt scared or ashamed when entering puberty.” The study found that misperceptions and inadequate awareness coupled with the culture of blame and honour resulted in stigma, discrimination, and serious misunderstanding of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS. Twenty-three percent of youth involved in the study thought that persons living with STDs and HIV/AIDS should be isolated, 17.7% thought that infected persons “deserved it”, 49.4% that “proper behaviour” prevented infection, 33.3% believed that it was possible to tell from appearances if a person was infected, and 25.3% thought that it was possible to contract STDs or HIV/AIDS from slight physical contact. Of particular concern was the fact that focus group discussions suggested that a significant portion of youth were sexually active and while some of these sexual relations are motivated by love or desire, other are in exchange for money, gifts or benefits. In many cases, adults are having sex with young people. Most such practices happen outside the camps. Due to social stigma, condom use is rare. Contraceptive prevalence is highest in the Sur camps at 70.8% followed by Beirut at 70.5% and Saida at 68.8%, while 67.5% of married women use contraceptive methods in Bekaa camps and 62.2% of married women in the Tripoli camps. Adolescents are far less likely to use contraception than older women. Only about 22.5% of married women aged 15-19 currently use a method of contraception compared to 48.2% of 20-24 year old married women and 79.8% of 35-39 year old women. Coverage of antenatal care (by a doctor, nurse, or midwife) is relatively high in the Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings in Lebanon, with 90.5% of women receiving antenatal care at least once during the pregnancy. Over 63%



(63.4%) of women's antenatal care was attended by a doctor while 27.1% had their care provided by nurses or midwives. Most pregnant women were provided with all basic care including weight and blood pressure measurement, urine testing, and blood testing. "Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon", Save The Children Sweden, May 2008, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>

²⁵⁶ UNRWA's Health Department of Lebanon, "Consistence with the standards Set Out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Lebanon Field", Dr. Nimer Kassim, Field Family Health Officer, 26 October 2009.

²⁵⁷ UNRWA's Health Department of Lebanon, "Consistence with the standards Set Out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Lebanon Field", Dr. Nimer Kassim, Field Family Health Officer, 26 October 2009.

²⁵⁸ United Nations Children's Fund, Pan-Arab Project for Family Health, League of the Arab States Final Report, May 2007, available online http://www.childinfo.org/files/MICS3_Palestinians_in_Lebanon_FinalReport_2006_En.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁵⁹ UNRWA's Health Department of Lebanon, "Consistence with the standards Set Out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Lebanon Field", Dr. Nimer Kassim, Field Family Health Officer, October 26, 2009.

²⁶⁰ The National Institution for Social Care and Vocational Training, "Reproductive Health and Sexual Education for Palestinian Youth in Lebanon", available online at <http://www.socialcare.org/Project.aspx?id=25> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁶¹ Medical Aid for Palestinians, "Advisory Clinic on Reproductive Health Issues in Ein El-Hillweh Camp" 17 September 2009, available online at <http://www.map-uk.org/regions/lebanon/projects/view/-/id/63/> (last accessed 4 February 2010)

²⁶² Save the Children Sweden, "A Massive Effort against Child Sexual Abuse in Lebanon" 11 November 2010, available online at http://sca.savethechildren.se/Middle_East_and_North_Africa/News-and-events/News/A-massive-effort-against-child-sexual-abuse-in-Lebanon/ (last accessed 4 February 2011)

²⁶³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, "UIS Statistics in Brief- Lebanon", 2008 available online at http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=121&IF_Language=eng&BR_Country=4220 (last accessed January 2011)

²⁶⁴ Central Administration for Statistics 2007, available online at <http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/Educational%20status-2007-ar.pdf> (last accessed October 2010)

²⁶⁵ See <http://www.mehe.gov.lb/Templates/Internal.aspx?PostingId=9> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁶⁶ See http://www.lebanonfiles.com/news_desc.php?id=183787 (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁶⁷ Central Administration for Statistics, Lebanon, table available online at http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=50 (last accessed October 2010)

²⁶⁸ Antoine Skaf & Zeina Habib, Lebanon, International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) Timss 2007 Encyclopedia: A Guide to Mathematics and Science Education Around the World (Volumes 1 and 2)

^{Edited} by Ina V.S. Mullis, Michael O. Martin, John F. Olson, Debra R. Berger, Dana Milne, Gabrielle M. Stanco, 2008.

²⁶⁹ World Bank, "Public Education Expenditure on Education, as % of GDP", 2008, available online at <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.XPD.TOTL.GD.ZS> (last accessed October 2010)

²⁷⁰ UNDP, "Education and Citizenship", 2008, <http://www.nhdrlebanon.org/pdf/English%5B1%5D.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁷¹ UNDP, "Education and Citizenship", 2008, <http://www.nhdrlebanon.org/pdf/English%5B1%5D.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

²⁷² Lebanon's third periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child- CRC/C/129/Add.

²⁷³ Four, Hajjar, Bibi, Maysoun "Comparative regional analysis of ECCE in four Arab Countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Sudan)" (Arab Resource Collective 2006). Background paper prepared for Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2007- 2007/ED/EFA/MRT/PI/1

- ²⁷⁴ Save The Children Sweden, “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon”, May 2008, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ²⁷⁵ Centre for Educational Research and Development, “Studies and statistics”, available online at http://www.crdp.org/CRDP/Arabic/a_default.htm (last accessed October 2010)
- ²⁷⁶ UNDP “Education and Citizenship” 2008 available online at <http://www.nhdrlebanon.org/pdf/English%5B1%5D.pdf> (last accessed September 2009)
- ²⁷⁷ UNICEF “Short Duration Country Programme Document- Lebanon” 26 April 2007
- ²⁷⁸ Ministry of Education and Higher Education “Quality Education for Growth- National Education Strategy Framework”, available online at <http://www.mehe.gov.lb/Templates/Internal.aspx?PostingId=20> (last accessed January 2011)
- ²⁷⁹ Interview conducted by ALEF with Imad Al-Askhar, head of the private education department, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon, 17 December 2009
- ²⁸⁰ Ministry of Education and Higher Education “Educational Development Programme” description on official website, available online at <http://www.mehe.gov.lb/Templates/Internal.aspx?PostingId=9> (last accessed on January 2011)
- ²⁸¹ Interview conducted by ALEF with Imad Al-Askhar, head of the private education department, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon, 17 December 2009
- ²⁸² Interview conducted by ALEF with Imad Al-Askhar, head of the private education department, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon, 17 December 2009 Al-
- ²⁸³ Interview conducted by ALEF with Imad Al-Askhar, head of the private education department, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon, 17 December 2009 Al-
- ²⁸⁴ Amelia Rousseau, “School drop-out study offers student-centric answers”, Daily Star, 10 December 2009, available online at http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=109627#axzz1GfgHfyBv (last accessed December 2009)
- ²⁸⁵ Nabaa representatives participated in the meetings between UNRWA and NGOs during October and November 2010.
- ²⁸⁶ Lala Demirdjian, “The Case of Palestinian Refugee Education in Lebanon”, Dissertation submitted to the University of Oxford in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Educational Studies, (Comparative and International Education), St. Edmund Hall Trinity Term 2007
- ²⁸⁷ Lala Demirdjian, “The Case of Palestinian Refugee Education in Lebanon”, Dissertation submitted to the University of Oxford in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Educational Studies, (Comparative and International Education), St. Edmund Hall Trinity Term 2007
- ²⁸⁸ Lala Demirdjian, “The Case of Palestinian Refugee Education in Lebanon”, Dissertation submitted to the University of Oxford in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Educational Studies, (Comparative and International Education), St. Edmund Hall Trinity Term 2007
- ²⁸⁹ Save the Children, “Last in line, last in schools”, London, UK, 2007. Available online http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/rewrite-the-future/RTF_Last_in_Line_Last_in_School_report_FINAL.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ²⁹⁰ Palestinian Human Rights Organization, “The Palestinian Refugee Situation in Lebanon”, 2005, available online <http://www.palhumanrights.org/reports/ENG/pal-ref-situations-05.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ²⁹¹ Lala Demirdjian, “The Case of Palestinian Refugee Education in Lebanon”, Dissertation submitted to the University of Oxford in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Educational Studies, (Comparative and International Education), St. Edmund Hall Trinity Term 2007

²⁹² Palestinian Disability Forum, “Report about Handicapped Palestinian children and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child”, introduced to the National Workshop on the Rights of Palestinian and Refugee Children in Lebanon on 16 and 17 of March 2010, November 2009.

²⁹³ Palestinian Disability Forum, “Report about Handicapped Palestinian children and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child”, introduced to the National Workshop on the Rights of Palestinian and Refugee Children in Lebanon on 16 and 17 of March 2010, November 2009.

²⁹⁴ Lala Demirdjian, “The Case of Palestinian Refugee Education in Lebanon”, Dissertation submitted to the University of Oxford in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Educational Studies, (Comparative and International Education), St. Edmund Hall Trinity Term 2007

²⁹⁵ Lala Demirdjian, “The Case of Palestinian Refugee Education in Lebanon”, Dissertation submitted to the University of Oxford in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Educational Studies, (Comparative and International Education), St. Edmund Hall Trinity Term 2007, p. 23.

²⁹⁶ Lala Demirdjian, “The Case of Palestinian Refugee Education in Lebanon”, Dissertation submitted to the University of Oxford in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Educational Studies, (Comparative and International Education), St. Edmund Hall Trinity Term 2007, p. 52.

²⁹⁷ UNICEF “The Situation of Women and Children in Lebanon- Short duration country programme document”- 2007 E/ICEF/2007/P/L.26

²⁹⁸ Newell, Peter- “Briefing for the Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review- 9th session”, 2010- Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

²⁹⁹ Contradicting this statistic, a situational analysis conducted by Save the Children Sweden in 2008 indicated that 27% of sexual abuse cases occurred in schools.

³⁰⁰ USJ- Mouvement Social, “Education: Realite et Perspectives”- Rapport du Forum 4/5 Decembre 2007,

³⁰¹ Save the Children Sweden, The International Save the Children Alliance’s global submission to the UN Study on Violence, “Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children Making it Happen”, p. 23-24, available online at http://www.savethechildren.nl/Publicaties/UNStudy-onViolenceagainstChildren_1.pdf/ (last accessed November 2009)

³⁰² Halabi, Zeina “Corporal Punishment in Lebanon: the Role of the Public Administration in Implementing a Ban on Corporal Punishment in Schools in Lebanon”, Save the Children Sweden, 2005. Cited in “Punishment in Schools in Lebanon”, available online at [www.crin.org/docs/SAVE_THE_CHILDREN_Corporal_Punishment_in_Lebanon_\(English\).pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/SAVE_THE_CHILDREN_Corporal_Punishment_in_Lebanon_(English).pdf) (last accessed November 2009)

³⁰³In July 2006, a 34-day war erupted between Hizbullah and the state of Israel, causing the death of 1,200 Lebanese civilians. In May-September 2007, an internal armed conflict erupted between the military group, Fatah Al-Islam and the Lebanese armed forces in the Palestinian camp of Nahr El-Bared, in the north of Lebanon, which led to its destruction and the displacement of 30,000 Palestinian residents.

³⁰⁴ Sibai et. al., “Violent Behavior among adolescents in postwar Lebanon : the role of personal factors and correlation with other problems“, Journal of Public Health Vol. 31 No. 1 pp. 39-46 3 December 2008

³⁰⁵Sibai et. al., “Violent Behavior among adolescents in postwar Lebanon : the role of personal factors and correlation with other problems“, Journal of Public Health Vol. 31 No. 1 pp. 39-46 3 December 2008

³⁰⁶ Weapon-carrying refers here to the possession of knives, blades, clubs, etc.

³⁰⁷ Sibai et. al., “Violent Behavior among adolescents in postwar Lebanon : the role of personal factors and correlation with other problems“, Journal of Public Health Vol. 31 No. 1 pp. 39-46 3 December 2008

³⁰⁸ Save the Children Sweden, The International Save the Children Alliance’s global submission to the UN Study on Violence, “Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children Making it Happen”, p. 23-24, available online at http://www.savethechildren.nl/Publicaties/UNStudy-onViolenceagainstChildren_1.pdf/ (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³⁰⁹ Gerbaka, Bernard, “Intervention during the ICRC meeting in Geneva, concerning the Lebanese report on the prevention of violence against children”. Ref: rLibanCAN0605Geneva.doc. found on <http://www.childoflebanon.com/data/rLibanCAN0605Geneva.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³¹⁰ Interview with Bernard Gerbaka, 11 February 2010

³¹¹ Gerbaka, Bernard “intervention during the ICRC meeting in Geneva, concerning the Lebanese report on the prevention of violence against children”. Ref: rLibanCAN0605Geneva.doc. found on <http://www.childoflebanon.com/data/rLibanCAN0605Geneva.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³¹² Gerbaka, Bernard “ArabSPCAN and the UNSV: A global movement, with ISPCAN, towards protecting children from violence in the MENA region” 7 February 2008 found on <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/27811017/ArabISPCAN> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³¹³ Statement by Counselor Majdi Ramadan before the Third Committee, 63rd Session. 17 October 2008.

³¹⁴ <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/reform/campaigns.html#Lebanon> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³¹⁵ Interview with Elie Mekhael, General Director of the Higher Council for Childhood, 25 October 2010

³¹⁶ World Vision, “Twenty Years On: Children and Their Rights in Lebanon”, 2009

³¹⁷ http://bluemission.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=74:training-workshops-on-childabuse&catid=43:workshops&Itemid=63 (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³¹⁸ Save the Children Sweden “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon” May 2008, p. 75, available online : <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³¹⁹ Are Knudsen, “The Law, the Loss and the Lives of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon” (Working Paper), CHR, Michelsen Institute, 2007

³²⁰ Ricerca e Cooperazione, Lebanon Family Planning Association and National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training (October 2007). “Adolescents and Young Adults in Six Palestinian camps in Lebanon: Reproductive Health and Emotional Wellbeing” Funded by the European Commission. p. 78, cited in Save the Children Sweden, “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon” May 2008, p. 75, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>, p. 75 (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³²¹ Ricerca e Cooperazione, Lebanon Family Planning Association and National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training (October 2007). “Adolescents and Young Adults in Six Palestinian camps in Lebanon: Reproductive Health and Emotional Wellbeing” Funded by the European Commission. p. 78 cited in Save the Children Sweden “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon” May 2008, p. 75, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>, p. 75 (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³²² Save the children Sweden “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon”, May 2008, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³²³ Ricerca e Cooperazione, Lebanon Family Planning Association and National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training (October 2007). “Adolescents and Young Adults in Six Palestinian camps in Lebanon: Reproductive Health and Emotional Wellbeing” Funded by the European Commission. P. 78, cited in Save the Children Sweden “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon” May 2008, p. 75, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>, p. 75 (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³²⁴ Ricerca e Cooperazione, Lebanon Family Planning Association and National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training (October 2007). “Adolescents and Young Adults in Six Palestinian camps in Lebanon: Reproductive Health and Emotional Wellbeing” Funded by the European Commission, p. 55 and 58 cited in Save the Children Sweden “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon” May 2008, p. 75, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³²⁵ Briefing from the Global Initiative to end all corporal punishments of children, available online <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/globalall.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)



³²⁶Save the Children Sweden, “Lebanon: Child Sexual Abuse- the Situation in Lebanon” 10 October 2008, available online at <http://www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=18660> (last accessed December 2009)

³²⁷Save the Children Sweden, “Lebanon: Child Sexual Abuse- the Situation in Lebanon” 10 October 2008, available online at <http://www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=18660> (last accessed December 2009)

³²⁸Bernard Gerbaka, “Building a National Strategy for the Protection of Children in Lebanon” available online at <http://www.childoflebanon.org/data/Dr.%20Gerbeka%20-%20202.pdf> (last accessed October 2010)

³²⁹Statistics are from 14 December 2006 <http://www.childoflebanon.org/data/The%20Lebanese%20Program%20For%20Child%20Protection2.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³³⁰Bernard Gerbaka, “Programme for Child Protection: It needs connections” presentation for ICAN/NCFR Session, San Diego, California – January 21-28, 2006 available online at <http://www.childoflebanon.org/data/The%20Lebanese%20Program%20For%20Child%20Protection2.pdf> (last accessed December 2009)

³³¹www.kafa.org.lb/victim.html (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³³²Naba’a, “Violence against Palestinian Children in Lebanon (Ein El-Hillweh camp)” 2007

³³³Palestinian Human Rights Organization, “The Palestinian Refugee Situation in Lebanon”, 2005, available online <http://www.palhumanrights.org/reports/ENG/pal-ref-situations-05.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³³⁴Though the youth acknowledged that anyone could experience sexual abuse, participants tended to blame the woman/girl for the abuse or at least to identify her as co-responsible, since “she may be looking, or dressing, or moving in a certain way” to encourage abuse. Palestinian youth who participated in this study stated that there were “millions” of instances of sexual abuse – adult to child, child to child, and incest. The above-mentioned study done by Save The Children Sweden found that Lebanese and Palestinian girls rejected honour crimes as socially deplorable, criminal and expressions of ignorance. They emphasized that familial problems should be solved through dialogue, not violence. However, the study found that girls “subconsciously assumed that the acts of the girl were dishonourable” and blamed the parents for her “wrongdoing”. Lebanese girls who participated in this study were informed about honour crimes but did not feel personally threatened. They did note that interaction with a boy could result in being beaten by a father or brother. The Palestinian girls who participated in the study were not aware of honour crimes. They stated that “their community greatly mistrusts girls, which results in abusing [them] but not killing [them]”. Of the boys interviewed (both Palestinian and Lebanese), 83% rejected honour crimes. The majority of boys who supported honour crimes limited their support to cases of “conjugal infidelity”. Supporters were predominately located in Beirut and its southern suburb. In the same study, girls and boys were asked if they would report being raped. Over half (56%) of girls said that they would report it, 17% said they would not, and 27% did not answer the question, exposing the sensitivity and stigma related to the subject. Boys were asked what they would do if their sisters were raped and 52% stated they would support her, 14% wanted to cover up the issue to avoid a scandal (including marriage between sister and rapist), 3% wanted to violently deal with the rapist (including killing him), and 31% did not respond to the question. Ricerca e Cooperazione, Lebanon Family Planning Association and National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training (October 2007). “Adolescents and Young Adults in Six Palestinian Camps in Lebanon: Reproductive Health and Emotional Wellbeing”, p. 80.

³³⁵U.S. State Department “Trafficking in Persons Report” June 2009 available online at <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/Lebanon-2.htm> (last accessed September 2009)

³³⁶Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially of women and children, “Mission to Lebanon 7 to 16 February 2005”, 20/02/2006, E/CN.4/2006/62/Add.3

³³⁷Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 20, § 82.

³³⁸Saliba, Issam “Children’s Rights: Lebanon” August 2007, The Law Library of Congress, available online at <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/lebanon.php#f34> (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³³⁹“Lebanon: UNODC launches report on trafficking”, available online at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/lebanon-unodc-launches-report-on-trafficking.html (last accessed 11 December 2011)

³⁴⁰Ministry of Justice, UNODC, UNICEF “Trafficking in Lebanon” May 2008, p. 48-52

³⁴¹Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 20, § 82

- ³⁴² World Vision, “Twenty Years On: Children and Their Rights in Lebanon”, 2009
- ³⁴³ “The Rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking in Group Residential Facilities in Foreign Countries” September 2007 http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADK471.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁴⁴ See <http://www.un.org.lb/Subpage.aspx?pageid=142> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁴⁵ Child Soldiers Global Report 2008 – Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
- ³⁴⁶ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict, “Visit of the Special Representative for Children & Armed Conflict to the Middle East: Lebanon, Israel and occupied Palestinian territory, 9-20 April 2007”, p. 7, available online at http://www.un.org/children/conflict/_documents/countryvisits/SRSGCAAC-Middle-East-visit.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁴⁷ Permanent Peace Movement, “Campaigns - Child Soldiers”, official website at <http://www.ppm-lebanon.org/campaigns.html> (last accessed October 2009)
- ³⁴⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, “The vulnerability of children to involvement in armed conflict”, October 2007, available online www.child-soldiers.org/document/get?id=1252 (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁴⁹ Save the Children Sweden, “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon”, May 2008, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>, p. 98-99.
- ³⁵⁰ International Action Network on Small Arms “IANSa hosts workshop on Arms Trade Treaty in Lebanon” 10 July 2009, available online at http://www.iansa.org/whats_new.htm (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁵¹ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of Reports Submitted By States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention. Third Periodic Reports of States Parties Due In 2003: Lebanon, CRC/C/129/Add.7, 25/10/2005, p. 153
- ³⁵² See http://www.lebmac.org/files/publications/Mine_Action_in_the_Republic_of_lebanon.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁵³ Established by Council of Ministers in 1998 as the National Demining Office; renamed in 2007
- ³⁵⁴ Lebanon Mine Action Centre, “Mine Action In The Republic Of Lebanon” available online at http://www.lebmac.org/files/publications/Mine_Action_in_the_Republic_of_lebanon.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁵⁵ Lebanon Mine Action Centre, “Long term plan 2008-2012”, available online at http://www.lebmac.org/files/publications/Long_Term_Plan_08-12.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁵⁶ Lebanon Mine Action Centre, “Long term plan 2008-2012”, available online at http://www.lebmac.org/files/publications/Long_Term_Plan_08-12.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁵⁷ Lebanon Mine Action Centre, report available online at http://www.lebmac.org/files/publications/Mine_Action_in_the_Republic_of_lebanon.pdf (last accessed September 2009)
- ³⁵⁸ See http://www.lebmac.org/files/publications/Mine_Action_in_the_Republic_of_lebanon.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁵⁹ On 20 May 2007, a violent conflict erupted between Fatah Al-Islam, a militant group based in Naher El-Bared camp (a Palestinian refugee camp located outside Tripoli in northern Lebanon), and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF).
- ³⁶⁰ Naba’a, “Violence against Palestinian children in Lebanon – Ein El-Hillweh camp”, November 2007
- ³⁶¹ Naba’a, “The Impediments and Problems Facing the protection and participation of the Palestinian children and Youth in Lebanon”, May 2009
- ³⁶² Yara Bayoumy, “UNHCR hails Lebanon move to legalise Iraqi refugees”, Reuters, 21 February 2008
- ³⁶³ ALEF, “Human Rights Practices: Rights of the Child”, Unpublished 2008
- ³⁶⁴ ALEF, “Human Rights Practices: Rights of the Child”, Unpublished 2008



- ³⁶⁵ Save the Children Sweden “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon”, May 2008, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁶⁶ Yara Bayoumy, “UNHCR hails Lebanon move to legalise Iraqi refugees”, Reuters, 21 February 2008
- ³⁶⁷ Save the Children Sweden, “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon”, May 2008, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁶⁸ Simba Russeau, “A lost generation: Iraqi refugee children in Lebanon”, 20 June 2008 <http://menassat.com/?q=en/news-articles/3982-lost-generation-iraqi-refugee-children-lebanon> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁶⁹ Amnesty International, “State of the World’s Human Rights 2009”, available online at <http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/lebanon> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁷⁰ Save the Children Sweden, “Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon”, May 2008, available online <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>, p. 32.
- ³⁷¹ “Children deprived of family care in Lebanon: Institutional Care and Alternative Care, the current situation and available alternatives”, presentation by the Consultation and Research Institution, UNICEF, MOSA April 2008 [title translated into English]
- ³⁷² Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 9, § 44
- ³⁷³ “Children deprived of family care in Lebanon: Institutional Care and Alternative Care, the current situation and available alternatives”, presentation by the Consultation and Research Institution, UNICEF, MOSA April 2008 [title translated into English]
- ³⁷⁴ Meeting between ALEF and a representative of Ministry of Social Affairs, 9 December 2009
- ³⁷⁵ Meeting between ALEF and a representative of Ministry of Social Affairs, 9 December 2009
- ³⁷⁶ Zurayk, H.C., “Births and Birth Registration in Mreyjeh”, Journal of Tropical Pediatrics, 1972 18(2): 139-143. 1972 Oxford University Press
- ³⁷⁷ Frontiers, “States made them Stateless?”, 2010 p. 9 available online at <http://frontiersruwad.wordpress.com/2011/03/04/states-made-them-stateless-%D9%8D%D9%8D%D9%8D/> (last accessed January 2011)
- ³⁷⁸ Frontiers, “States made them Stateless?”, 2010 p. 9 available online at <http://frontiersruwad.wordpress.com/2011/03/04/states-made-them-stateless-%D9%8D%D9%8D%D9%8D/> (last accessed January 2011)
- ³⁷⁹ Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network “Pro Bono Legal Aid- Lebanon”, available online at http://www.srlan.org/beta/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=110%3Alebanon-pro-bono&catid=36&Itemid=120 (last accessed October 2010)
- ³⁸⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Lebanon, 8/06/2006, CRC/C/LBN/CO/3, p. 8, § 39-40.
- ³⁸¹ Palestinian Human Rights Foundation Monitor official statement from 18 January 2010, available online : <http://www.pal-monitor.com/Portal/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=408> (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ³⁸² Economic and Social Council, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children”, Sigma Huda, Addendum, Mission to Lebanon (7 to 16 February 2005), 20/02/2006, E/CN.4/2006/62/Add.3, p. 16.
- ³⁸³ World Vision, “Twenty Years On: Children and their Rights in Lebanon”, 2009
- ³⁸⁴ “Street children becoming a new problem on Lebanon’s streets”, available online at <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/193007,street-children-becoming-a-new-problem-on-lebanon-streets--feature.html> (last accessed September 2009)
- ³⁸⁵ “Street children becoming a new problem on Lebanon’s streets”, available online at <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/193007,street-children-becoming-a-new-problem-on-lebanon-streets--feature.html> (last accessed September 2009)
- ³⁸⁶ “Street children becoming a new problem on Lebanon’s streets”, available online at <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/193007,street-children-becoming-a-new-problem-on-lebanon-streets--feature.html> (last accessed September 2009)
- ³⁸⁷ Consortium for Street Children (UK), “A Civil Society Forum for North Africa and the Middle East on Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Street Children” 3-6 March 2004, Cairo, Egypt. London: Consortium for Street Children, 2004.

- ³⁸⁸ Minutes of Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon on 19 December 2009, interview of Salam Chreim by Raneem Bassiri and Raed Ataya (from Naba'a) upon the subject of "Specialized institutions and minors in conflict with the law"
- ³⁸⁹ Economic and Social Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Sigma Huda, Addendum, Mission to Lebanon(7 to 16 February 2005), 20/02/2006, E/CN.4/2006/62/Add.3,
- ³⁹⁰ Third Periodic Report of State Party due in 2003: Lebanon, CRC/C/129/Add.7, 25/10/2005, p. 161
- ³⁹¹ Minutes of Meeting with the Ministry of Labour of Lebanon on 5 January 2010, interview with Nazha Shallita by Raneem Bassiri upon the subject of "Child labour in Lebanon and role of the Child Labour Unit"
- ³⁹² United States Department of Labor, "2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor – Lebanon", 29 August 2006, available online at <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/48d748f73e.html> (accessed 8 October 2009) <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,USDOL,,LBN,4562d8cf2,48d748f73e,0.html>
- ³⁹³ UNICEF, "Characteristics of Child Labour in Lebanon", available online at www.unicef.org/lebanon/stop.htm (last accessed October 2009)
- ³⁹⁴ Save the Children Sweden, "Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon", May 2008, p. 82, available online at <http://mena.savethechildren.se/Documents/Resources/Child%20Rights%20Situation%20Analysis%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>
- ³⁹⁵ UNDP, "Living Conditions of Households: The National Survey of Household Living Conditions 2004", A collaborative study done by UNDP, Central Administration for Statistics, and Lebanese Republic Ministry of Social Affairs, 2006, p. 53
- ³⁹⁶ Statistical Central Office and Palestinian Natural Resources, Child Labour and their circumstances in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings in Lebanon, Field study by Yousef Madee, technical officer in the bureau of Palestinian statistics, September 2009
- ³⁹⁷ Third Supplementary Report 2005, issued by The Coordination Forum of NGOs Working among the Palestinian Community in Lebanon, p. 18
- ³⁹⁸ Schmid, Alex and Riachy, Ralph "Juvenile Justice Initiatives in Lebanon", Ministry of Justice, UNODC
- ³⁹⁹ Judge Maroun Abu Jawde "Juveniles in Conflict with the Law or at risk: implementation of Law 422/2002", Ministry of Justice, Lebanon 2006
- ⁴⁰⁰ Judge Maroun Abu Jawde "Juveniles in Conflict with the Law or at risk: implementation of Law 422/2002", Ministry of Justice, Lebanon 2006
- ⁴⁰¹ UNODC "Independent Evaluation Report". July 2005 available online at http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Juvenile_Justice_Lebanon.pdf (last accessed 11 December 2011)
- ⁴⁰² Meeting between ALEF and a representative of Ministry of Social Affairs , 9 December 2009
- ⁴⁰³ Meeting between ALEF and a representative of Ministry of Social Affairs , 9 December 2009
- ⁴⁰⁴ Coordination Forum of the NGOs Working Among the Palestinian Community submission to the Committee on Rights of the Child on the occasion of Lebanon's third period report (01/10/2005) "Rights of the Palestinian Child in Lebanon, Third Supplementary Report." (last accessed on 25 February 2008)
- ⁴⁰⁵ Minutes of Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon on 19 December 2009, interview with Salam Chreim by Raneem Bassiri and Raed Ataya (from Naba'a) upon the subject of "Specialized institutions and minors in conflict with the law"
- ⁴⁰⁶ World Vision, "Twenty Years On: Children and their rights in Lebanon", 2009
- ⁴⁰⁷ UNDP, "Education and Citizenship: Concepts, Attitudes, Skills, and Actions", 2008
- ⁴⁰⁸ UNDP, "Education and Citizenship: Concepts, Attitudes, Skills, and Actions", 2008
- ⁴⁰⁹Dalila Mahdawi, "Children 'abuses' during political campaigning, says rights coalition", Daily Star, 30 May 2009
- ⁴¹⁰ See www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=53&id_type=10 (last accessed 11 December 2011)

Save the Children Sweden

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

P.O. Box 113-7167, Beirut, Lebanon

Phone: + 961 1 738 654/5

Fax: + 961 1 739 023

<http://mena.savethechildren.se>

info@mena.savethechildren.se

**Manara Network: A Civil Society
for Child Rights in the MENA Region**
www.manaracrc.org



Save the Children

Sweden



BUREAU
INTERNATIONAL
DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

INTERNATIONAL
BUREAU
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA
INTERNACIONAL DE
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO



This project is funded by

