

(Translated from French)

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

**WRITTEN REPLIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ALGERIA TO
THE LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/Q/DZA/2) TO BE TAKEN UP IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND
PERIODIC REPORT OF ALGERIA (CRC/C/93/Add.7) BY THE
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

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Replies from the Government of Algeria to the issues and questions raised by the Pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

This document contains the replies of the Government of Algeria to the issues and questions raised by the Pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child following its initial consideration of the second periodic report of Algeria under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Fuller information on any questions not covered in this reply will be provided by the Algerian delegation to the members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child when the delegation presents its periodic report to the Committee at its fortieth session, due to be held in Geneva from 12 to 30 September 2005.

PART I

Data and statistics

Question 1

Trends in the age structure of the Algerian population (%)

Age	1966	1977	1987	1998	2002	2005	2010*
0-15 years	48.2	47.95	44.09	36.19	31.9	29.17	26.19
15-29	21.89	25.29	27.94	30.67	32.19	32.67	31.32
30-59	23.22	20.96	22.23	26.54	29.17	31.43	35.51
60 and over	6.7	5.8	5.74	6.61	6.74	6.72	6.98

* National Statistics Office (ONS) forecast.

Size of the population under the age of 18, by age group, sex and area, 2002

Age	Urban population						Rural population					
	Male	%	Female	%	All	%	Male	%	Female	%	All	%
0-4	896 131	9.43	857 692	9.21	1 753 824	9.32	597 421	9.43	571 795	9.21	1 169 216	9.32
5-17	2 848 353	29.98	2 740 910	29.43	5 589 264	29.71	1 898 902	29.98	1 827 274	29.43	3 726 176	29.71

Size of the population under the age of 18, by age group, sex and area, 2003

Age	Urban population						Rural population					
	Male	%	Female	%	All	%	Male	%	Female	%	All	%
0-4	893 431	9.25	855 286	9.05	1 748 718	9.15	595 621	9.25	570 191	9.05	1 165 812	9.15
5-17	2 801 020	29.01	2 693 123	28.48	5 494 143	28.75	1 867 347	29.01	17 960 157	28.48	36 662 762	28.75

Size of the population under the age of 18, by age group, sex and area, 2004

Age	Urban population						Rural population					
	Male	%	Female	%	All	%	Male	%	Female	%	All	%
0-4	899 495	9.17	861 550	8.97	1 761 045	9.07	599 663	9.17	574 367	8.97	1 174 030	9.07
5-17	2 747 863	28.01	2 640 236	27.48	5 388 099	27.75	1 831 908	28.01	1 760 157	27.48	3 592 066	27.75

Question 2: Budgets by sector

Question 2 (a): National education budget

In addition to the information contained in this document, fuller information will be provided when the report is presented.

Question 2 (b): National expenditure on health care

The budget allocated to the health sector as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) has remained stable at 3.6 per cent. National expenditure on health care, including the budget for the health sector and the National Social Insurance Fund (CNAS) and the contribution of households, has increased in constant dinars, from 47 billion dinars in 1997, 54 billion in 1999, 55 billion in 2000, 89 billion in 2003 and 89.23 billion in 2004 to 95.69 billion in 2005.

It should be noted that the proportion allocated to prevention is 1.16 per cent; to medicines, including essential medicines, 20 per cent; and to staff training, 2 per cent.

Question 2 (c): Programmes for children with disabilities

**Funding allocated to specialized institutions for children with disabilities
(in dinars)**

2003	2004	2005
2 089 835 000	2 649 192 000	2 693 588 000

Question 2 (d): Support programmes for families

A monthly allowance is paid to low-income families with disabled dependent children. The allowance amounts to 1,000 dinars per month for each disabled dependent child.

**Actual budgetary expenditure on the standard solidarity allowance (AFS)
paid to families with disabled dependents under the age of 18**

2003		2004		2005 (first quarter)	
No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount
17 332	207 984 000	17 795	213 540 000	23 069	69 207 000

Numerous measures are being implemented to help families in need through programmes to combat poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. The aim is to ensure that these families have a decent income. The measures are set out below.

Programmes for disadvantaged groups

Standard solidarity allowance (AFS)

The principle underlying this allowance follows the general logic of national solidarity. The aim is to help households and individuals with no income who are unfit for work to meet their most pressing needs and maintain their links with the rest of society, and to foster social cohesion. The programme is aimed at:

- People who have no income and are over the age of 60 or disabled and are unfit for work;
- Women who have no income and are heads of household or living alone;
- Individuals over the age of 18 suffering from a chronic incapacitating disease;
- Blind people;
- Low-income families with one or more disabled dependents not receiving the standard solidarity allowance.

The allowance is set at 1,000 dinars a month, increased by 120 dinars a month for each dependent up to a maximum of three persons.

Community service allowance (IAIG)

This programme is aimed at the social integration of deprived groups and the strengthening of social cohesion. It concerns family members of working age who have no income, and who apply to perform community service. Such work is limited to a single member of the family.

The monthly salary is 3,000 dinars for 22 eight-hour days of community service. The site foreman also receives a responsibilities and training allowance of 120 dinars a month.

Social security contributions are paid by the State.

Highly labour-intensive work of public benefit (TUP-HIMO)

The aim of this programme is to combat poverty and the different forms of marginalization and social exclusion.

The work, which is divided up into small lots, is allocated, on a competitive basis, to private-sector jobbers established in the localities where the projects are carried out, who must hire workers for at least three months to ensure that the workers have social security cover.

Highly labour-intensive projects are located in areas that are hard-hit by unemployment with a view to generating income for the rural population and helping to resolve local environmental problems.

The salary paid under this programme is at least as high as the guaranteed national minimum wage.

Community development programme

This programme is designed to combat marginalization, social exclusion and poverty, to improve the living conditions in communities by carrying out projects of public benefit and/or work in the community interest, to cultivate community spirit among disadvantaged people and population groups, and to strengthen social cohesion by encouraging marginalized groups to make use of mediation and social control facilities.

The programme is open to community groups and local communities that have identified projects of direct or indirect benefit to them; to service-providers and others involved in the study, implementation and operational phases of the project; and to employees who have been specially trained to ensure the success of the various activities and the smooth functioning and maintenance of the completed facilities.

The Social Development Agency provides 75 per cent of the funding for community development projects; the rest has to be provided either by the population groups who benefit from the projects or by the commune or non-profit associations contributing to or sponsoring the project.

Neighbourhood committees programme

Neighbourhood committees have been set up in deprived areas; they are flexible and mobile multidisciplinary teams of experts, comprising a doctor, an economist, a sociologist, a psychologist and a coordinator of cultural and sports activities.

The neighbourhood committees focus mainly on identifying the needs of really deprived population groups in order to ensure that social assistance is channelled towards the most needy on an objective and rational basis. The main aim of the neighbourhood committees is to bring the targeted communities into the development process and thus overcome the passivity shown by some population groups.

Considerable financial resources have had to be found to implement these programmes. The trend in their funding from 2003 to 2005 is shown in the following table.

Programme budgets (in billions of dinars)

Programme	2003	2004	2005
Standard solidarity allowance (AFS)	11.9	12.8	12.03
Community service allowance (IAIG)	7.6	7.9	7.5
Highly labour-intensive work of public benefit (TUP-HIMO)	3	3	0
Community development programme	0.2	0.3	1.3

Microcredit programme

The microcredit programme is a banking service intended to encourage self-employment, stimulate the development of small enterprises and reduce poverty, insecurity and the flight from the countryside.

This measure is aimed at economic and social integration through the creation of jobs in the goods and services sectors, and targets those groups of people with no income or with only a small and unpredictable or irregular income, including housewives.

The programme, for which the investment threshold is between 50,000 dinars and 400,000 dinars, is open to a very broad population group (anyone over the age of 18). The financing for any activity that is eligible for microcredit consists of the following:

- A personal contribution;
- An interest-free loan from the National Microcredit Agency (ANGEM);
- A bank loan.

It is worth pointing out that the microcredit programme actually got under way in 2004, with the establishment of the National Microcredit Agency and local offices in the provinces.

In the same year, the Agency received the funding needed to enable it to start work. These financial resources amounted to 500 million dinars.

Question 2 (e): Support for children living below the poverty line

The State, through the people's communal assemblies (APC), provides children whose parents have a low income that leaves them below the poverty line with assistance worth 2,000 dinars per child (amounting to 6 billion dinars in the 2005 State budget) and with education grants covering all fees related to enrolment and school meals.

**State support for children living below the poverty line
(in dinars)**

2001	1 998 165 000.00
2002	2 406 000 000.00
2003	3 634 000 000.00
2004	3 593 000 000.00
2005	6 044 380 000.00

1. *School canteens (primary education)*

Operating budget

2001: 1,998,165,000 dinars

2002: 2,406,000,000 dinars

2003: 3,634,000,000 dinars

2004: 3,893,000,000 dinars

2005: 6,044,380,000 dinars

Price of meals (in dinars)

Year	Northern provinces	Southern provinces	No. of canteens
2001	12	14	6 332
2002	12	14	7 249
2003	15	17	7 864
2004	17	19	8 539
2005	20	23	9 735

2005: 17,041 primary schools; 9,735 school canteens open.

Southern provinces (14): Adrar, Laghouat, Biskra, Béchar, Tamanrasset, Djelfa, M'Sila, Ouargla, Illizi, El Bayadh, Tindouf, El Oued, Naama, Ghardaïa.

Number of beneficiaries

Year	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage of students enrolled
2001	1 053 000	22.56
2002	1 406 200	30.00
2003	1 606 000	34.84
2004	1 607 500	35.68
2005	2 003 000	45.86

Beneficiaries of the 2,000-dinar allowance

No. of beneficiaries	3 000 000 pupils
Annual amount (State budget)	6 000 000 000 dinars

2. *Educational solidarity*

In 2004, 1,200,000 pupils of all school levels (children in need, children from families that have suffered from terrorism, orphans, children whose parents are not working, disabled children, etc.) received school outfits, stationery, smocks, books, etc.

3. *School Mutual Society (MAS)*

Three regional school mutual societies are still active in assisting children in need of emergency help, e.g. treatment for injuries, or other kinds of help, e.g. spectacles for visually impaired children. In 2004, 4,200 pupils received a pair of spectacles.

Education grants, 2000-2001

Secondary schools

Full board: 53,164 pupils (1,296 dinars per pupil)

Half board: 91,726 pupils (648 dinars per pupil)

Middle schools

Full board: 29,065 pupils (1,296 dinars per pupil)

Half board: 114,013 pupils (648 dinars per pupil)

Primary schools

Full board: 2,390 pupils (1,296 dinars per pupil)

Half board: 1,195 pupils (648 dinars per pupil)

Education grants, 2004-2005

Secondary schools

Full board: 49,540 pupils (1,296 dinars per pupil)

Half board: 156,649 pupils (648 dinars per pupil)

Middle schools

Full board: 29,221 pupils (1,296 dinars per pupil)

Half board: 246,245 pupils (648 dinars per pupil)

Primary schools

Full board: 4,130 pupils (1,296 dinars per pupil)

Half board: 1,816 pupils (648 dinars per pupil)

Assistance in buying school textbooks

The Algerian Government, in the name of national solidarity, has introduced a schooling allowance of 2,000 dinars for every pupil whose parents' income is no higher than 8,000 dinars a month.

**Expenditure on support for poor schoolchildren
(in millions of dinars)**

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004
Expenditure	4 400	6 000	6 000	6 000

Number of children receiving the schooling allowance

2001	2002	2003	2004
2 200 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000

Question 2 (f): Protection of children who are in need of alternative care, including the support of care institutions

Budget allocated to child protection institutions (in dinars)

Year	Specialized re-education/ protection centres (CSR/CSP)	Homes for children in care (FEA)	Foster homes for orphans (FAO)	Total
2003	556 599 000	410 541 000	75 791 000	1 042 931 000
2004	693 432 000	526 780 000	87 345 000	1 307 557 000
2005	724 215 000	528 612 000	81 849 000	1 334 676 000

Question 2 (g): Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour

- (a) Training of trainers: first group of 35 psychologists trained, in cooperation with International Federation Terre des Hommes (a Swiss non-governmental organization);
- (b) A multisectoral team from Algeria followed a training course in Lausanne on child abuse;
- (c) A group was established to combat these phenomena. Five areas are covered:
 - (i) The situation in Algeria (legislation, organization, statistics);
 - (ii) Enactment of legislation;
 - (iii) Prevention (public relations activities);
 - (iv) Training of social workers;
 - (v) Treatment;
- (d) Training for new heads of institutions;
- (e) Training (seminar, workshop on unmarried mothers and children with no family);
- (f) Three specialized national training centres offer a course on combating child abuse in institutions. At the same time, the Ministry of Employment and National Solidarity is planning to establish a mobile emergency medical service for children. This project is being set up in response to health and social concerns, with a view to preventing and detecting disease and drug addiction, providing psychological, educational and family-based assistance for children and youngsters at moral risk, and drawing attention to and transmitting information on abused children.

Further details are included in the part of this document relating to child labour.

Question 2 (h): Additional information

The different variants of the Amazigh language have been taught in junior high and high schools since the 1995/96 school year. As from the 2005/06 school year, Amazigh will be taught as from the fourth year of primary school. For this purpose, a curriculum has been devised and handbooks prepared for each level of study. The classes will be taught by teachers who are specialized in Amazigh and have received in-service training in the new courses.

Question 2 (i): Programmes and services for abandoned children

As well as providing institutional care for abandoned children, the welfare services are able to place them with foster families, which receive an allowance for taking care of them.

The size of the allowance depends on whether the child is able-bodied or disabled:

- Able-bodied child: 1,300 dinars a month
- Disabled child: 1,600 dinars a month

The assistance provided for children also includes one-off payments for the care of newborns abandoned in hospital maternity wards.

Question 2 (j): Programmes for refugee children

The programmes for Western Saharan refugee children are drawn up by the education ministry. They are implemented with the help of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in cooperation with the Western Saharan Ministry of Education and with the support of the Algerian Government (printing of textbooks, teaching materials, equipment, etc.).

Question 2 (k): Juvenile justice and the rehabilitation of young offenders

It has long been recognized that the system of justice for adults is not suitable for juveniles. To protect young people, a juvenile justice system that takes account of their age is required. Accordingly, legislation sets out flexible procedures for them. The Code of Criminal

Procedure sets out the rules for juvenile delinquents (book III, arts. 442-492). In the case of indictable offences, a child under the age of 18 may be subjected only to one or more of the protection or re-education measures listed below:

- (1) Restoration to his or her parents or legal guardian or to a person worthy of trust;
- (2) Non-custodial supervision;
- (3) Placement in an authorized public or private educational institution or establishment or a licensed vocational training establishment;
- (4) Placement in an authorized medical or medical-pedagogical establishment;
- (5) Placement in State care;
- (6) Placement in a boarding school suitable for young offenders of school age.

In exceptional circumstances, the juvenile court judge may, if he or she finds that the delinquent's situation or personality make it absolutely necessary, sentence a minor aged over 13 to a fine or imprisonment, after explaining the special reasons for such a decision. Every court has a juvenile division.

In every court in an administrative centre, one or more judges chosen for their aptitude and interest in children are assigned to act as juvenile judges; they are appointed by order of the Minister of Justice. The juvenile division consists of a juvenile judge, a presiding judge and two associate judges selected according to the same criteria.

The juvenile judge is above all an educator, whose primary concern is to protect children in conflict with the law, whence the necessity to favour protection and re-education measures and leave punitive measures as a last resort. Even so, punitive measures must obey certain essential rules, including:

- (a) An offender under the age of 13 may not, even temporarily, be placed in a penal institution;

(b) If a minor between the ages of 13 and 18 is convicted of a criminal offence, the sentence is determined as follows:

- If the minor is tried for an offence for which the penalty is death or life imprisonment, the sentence shall be between 10 and 20 years' imprisonment;
- If the minor is tried for an offence for which the penalty is a term of imprisonment, the sentence shall be one half of the term of imprisonment to which the minor would have been sentenced had he or she been an adult (Criminal Code, art. 50);
- If the minor or his legal representative fails to appoint defence counsel, the judge shall assign legal assistance to him or her or instruct the leader of the local bar to assign such assistance;
- If the minor has co-principals or accomplices who are of age, the investigating judge shall separate the case against the minor and refer it to the juvenile division.

One of the priorities of the Ministry of Justice is to modernize the methods used for dealing with children who are deprived of their liberty, by putting in place a rehabilitation strategy in order to prevent a repetition of the offence. All rehabilitation begins with efforts to nurture the individual's sense of dignity and self-esteem by means of psychological assistance and ongoing follow-up, so that he or she will be able to play a constructive part in society. To this end, the two specialized juvenile re-education centres (which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, and which can hold 100 to 120 youngsters) have psychologists on their staff to provide psychological assistance for every child who is deprived of liberty, in order to tackle deviant behaviour and discourage repeat offending. Other measures include:

- Providing leisure and entertainment facilities for the youngsters in the centres;

- Promoting education and vocational training by giving them access to educational and literacy courses and to vocational training workshops, in the knowledge that no qualification they might earn will mention that it was earned inside a penal institution;
- Signing agreements with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Algerian Muslim Scout Movement, with the main emphasis on the psychological rehabilitation of minors and their social rehabilitation through:
 - The organization of cultural and educational events, and campaigns to raise awareness of social evils such as drug addiction or alcoholism;
 - The organization of drawing competitions;
 - The organization of educational and cultural trips;
 - Equipping sports fields in two juvenile rehabilitation centres;
 - The preparation of leaflets and posters on the various social evils;
 - The organization of an international seminar on “Drug addiction among young people: prevention and therapy”;
- The organization of five training sessions for professionals working with young people (juvenile judges, psychologists, social workers and those responsible for the day-to-day running of youth facilities) with the aim of getting them to work together and reflect on better ways to deal with young people by working as a multidisciplinary team;
- The organization of training sessions for juvenile judges to address the legal and psychological aspects of dealing with young people, as part of continuous training on the following topics:
 - The Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - The role of the juvenile judge in the law’s dealings with minors;

- The social rehabilitation of minors;
- The report of the juvenile judge to the psychologist;
- The psychological treatment of young offenders.

Question 3: Children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents

Question 3 (a): Children separated from their parents

There are no statistics on this subject, since children are almost always taken in by their family. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are always ready to take care of the child and give the child the love, affection and education they give their own children. This type of help from relatives means that statistics are random and very difficult to collect.

Question 3 (b): Children placed in institutions

Number of children placed in institutions, 2002-2004

No.	Type of institution	No. of institutions	Capacity	No. of residents		
				2002	2003	2004
1	Homes for children in care (FEA)	32	2 548	1 245	1 700	1 700
2	Foster homes for orphans (FAO)	04	290	244	230	132
Total		36	2 838	1 489	1 930	1 832

Question 3 (c): Children placed with foster families (kafalah)

Year	Placed with foster families		Total
	In Algeria	Abroad	
2002	1 987	188	2 175
2003	1 644	303	1 947
2004	1 030	245	1 275

Question 4: Children with disabilities

Question 4 (b): Children living in institutions

See question 3 (b).

Question 4 (e): Children attending special schools

Disabled children placed in institutions, 2002-2004

No.	Type of institution	No. of institutions	Capacity	No. of residents		
				2002	2003	2004
1	Schools for blind youngsters (EJA)	17	2 350	1 254	1 340	1 491
2	Schools for deaf youngsters (EJS)	33	4 660	3 382	3 690	3 300
3	Centres for children with respiratory difficulties (CIR)	6	1 240	400	320	196
4	Guidance centres for mentally handicapped children (CMPEIM)	75	6 840	5 010	4 530	5 674
5	Guidance centres for physically handicapped children (CMPHM)	3	310	225	260	225
Total		134	15 400	10 271	10 140	10 886

Question 4 (d): Integration of children with sensory impairments in State schools

The Ministry of Employment and National Solidarity, together with the Ministry of Education, has taken measures to promote the integration of children with a slight disability in schools, as well as providing specialized education for children with a profound disability (deaf and blind children) in 35 schools for the deaf and 16 for the blind.

This form of integration is the first choice of national policymakers, as it gives the disabled child the best chance of becoming integrated as soon as possible in a normal setting. The children receive a normal education, as well as learning and psychological support and speech therapy.

Children with disabilities in regular schools

Type of education	2002	2003	2004
Preschool	48	46	89
School	254	328	417
Total	302	374	506

Question 4 (f)

Schooling is free and compulsory for children up to the age of 16, that is, through primary school and junior high school (see table relating to question 7 (a)).

Question 5: Health services

Question 5 (a): Infant and child mortality

The national programme to combat infant mortality adopted in 1984 has been strengthened and its goals and strategies have been reviewed since 2000 in order to address emerging health needs in the light of recent developments. The current mortality figures show that neonatal mortality accounts for a large proportion (65 per cent) of infant deaths. Maternal mortality, despite falling considerably by over 50 per cent to 99.5 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2004, remains at an unacceptable level given what should be achievable. In accordance with Algeria's international commitments and given the situation in the country, the goals set for 2015 are to reduce current levels of neonatal and maternal mortality by 30 per cent. In terms of the quality of services, this means providing universal and comprehensive health care for the mother and the newborn child under the national perinatal programme drawn up in March 2003 and implemented in April 2005. In this connection, attention is drawn to the publication in 2005 of the executive decree standardizing the organization and functioning of neonatal and perinatal services and the introduction of a form on which to report perinatal and neonatal deaths (currently awaiting approval).

The Expanded Programme on Immunization, which in 2002 introduced immunization at birth against hepatitis B, aims to eradicate polio, measles and diphtheria by 2005.

In the field of health care, the effect of the qualitative approach that by the end of the last decade had made population considerations an integral part of economic and social development strategies has been to consolidate reproductive health care and health care for adolescents and young people and to target other population groups such as older persons.

Consequently, improvements have been made in the institutional arrangements for funding such programmes at both the national and local levels.

Under the most recent decree (of June 2000) dealing with the organization and central administration of the Ministry of Health, the Population Department was boosted by the creation of a sub-department to deal with reproductive health and family planning.

The Department for Special Health Care now includes sub-departments dealing with health in specific settings, health care for people in difficult circumstances and the promotion of mental health.

Trends in infant mortality rates

Indicator	1985-1989*	1990-1994*	1995-1999*	2000-2002*	2004
Neonatal mortality (0-1 month)	24.0	22.0	20.2	20.5	19.8***
Post-neonatal mortality (1-12 months)	27.0	18.6	14.1	10.7	10.6***
Infant mortality (0-1 year)	50.9	40.6	34.3	31.2	30.4**

* Survey data.

** Corrected data, National Statistics Office (ONS).

*** Estimates from the Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform.

The estimates for 2004 also give the following indicators:

Indicator	Deaths per 1 000 live births
Infant mortality (0-1 year)	30.4
Post-infant child mortality (1-4 years)	5.3
Infant/child mortality (0-5 years)	35.5

According to data from two key surveys, the 1992 Pan Arab Project for Child Health (PAPCHILD) and the 2002 National Survey of Family Health (EASF), and registry-office data for 2004, the infant mortality rate fell in that period from 40.6 to 30.4 per 1,000 live births, a fall of over 10 points.

The infant/child mortality also fell, from 46.6 to 35.5 per 1,000 live births. It is noteworthy that child deaths (1-4 years) and post-neonatal deaths (babies aged between 1 and 12 months) account for a relatively small proportion of infant deaths, falling to 34.5 per cent of infant deaths in 2004 from 50 per cent in 1992. This clearly reflects a lower risk of death from

factors related to the child's background and environment, as well as the impact of national programmes targeting exogenous factors in mortality (the diseases targeted by the Expanded Programme on Immunization, diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections).

Future progress in the area of infant mortality depends largely on dealing with neonatal mortality, which is increasing concomitantly (and currently accounts for 65.5 per cent of infant deaths).

In line with general trends, infant mortality is markedly lower for girls. In 2004, for example, infant mortality among girls was 28.5 per cent per 1,000 live births as compared with 32.2 per cent among boys.

Question 5 (b): Immunization

Immunization coverage of children

The compulsory notification of diseases is regulated by a ministerial order of 17 November 1990 and a ministerial circular that sets out the arrangements for monitoring these diseases. The main goals of the Expanded Programme on Immunization are the eradication of polio, measles, diphtheria and neonatal tetanus. These goals are based on the implementation of strategies adapted to the different diseases targeted. Immunization coverage, for all types of vaccine, is over 80 per cent. It reaches 98 per cent for BCG and 93 per cent for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio.

Trends in routine immunization coverage (%)

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
BCG	91	92	87	93	94	94	94	95	97	97	97	98	98
DTPP 1	88	91	82	86	86	88	88	89	91	92	92	93	93
DTPP 2	86	85	78	81	80	83	84	85	87	89	88	89	90
DTPP 3	82	78	73	75	74	77	79	80	83	85	83	86	87
Measles	74	68	69	69	69	75	74	75	78	79	78	81	84

DTPP: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio.

Child morbidity

Trends in diseases covered by the Expanded Programme on Immunization

	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Measles: Incidence per 100 000 inhabitants	7.46	34.51	11.28	8.97	18.88	50.02	9.14
Tetanus: Total No. of cases recorded	38	34	10	-	-		
Neonatal cases	27	19	10	15	4	3	4
Diphtheria: Incidence per 100 000 inhabitants	0.12	3.49	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02
Pertussis: Incidence per 100 000 inhabitants	0.10	0.04	0.10	0.46	0.18	0.07	0.02
Polio: No. of cases reported	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Acute flaccid paralysis: No. of cases reported	-	48	83	124	86	56	73

Source: Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform, Department of Prevention.

Vaccine-preventable diseases are no longer a major public health problem, as shown by the particularly low figures for the annual incidence of such diseases. The epidemiological trend has been stable since the beginning of the decade, except in the case of measles, which reached epidemic proportions in 2003 in age groups older than those targeted by the programme.

No case of polio has been reported since 1997. The most important aspect of the monitoring of this disease is the research into all types of acute flaccid paralysis in children under the age of 15 years.

The table below gives an overview of immunization activities in schools, from the 1999/2000 school year to the 2003/04 school year.

Immunization coverage in schools

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
First year, primary (%)	89	81	94	96	96
Sixth year, primary (%)	88	83	94	95	94
First year, secondary (%)	87	78	92	94	91

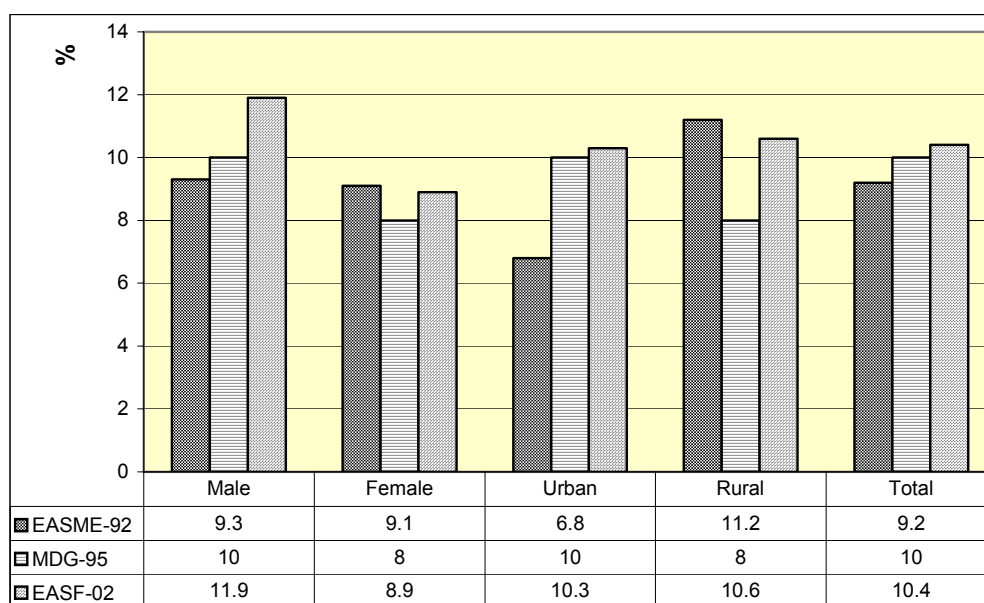
For the 2003/04 school year, immunization coverage for the different classes targeted remained stable at over 90 per cent in all cases.

Question 5 (c): Child malnutrition

Trend in the number of under-fives suffering from malnutrition, 1992-2002

Indicator	Pan Arab Project for Child Health (PAPCHILD)	Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM)
	1992	2002
Moderately retarded growth	12.8	12.3
Severely retarded growth	5.3	6.8
Retarded growth	18.1	19.1
Moderately stunted	4.0	4.6
Severely stunted	1.4	2.9
Stunted	5.5	7.5
Moderately underweight	7.7	7.9
Severely underweight	1.5	2.5
Underweight	9.2	10.4

Trends in children's weight-for-age Z-score (WAZ), 1992-2002 (%)



EASME: National Survey of Maternal and Child Health.

MDG: Mid-Decade Goals.

EASF: National Survey of Family Health.

The trends clearly reflect the prevalence of malnutrition in rural areas as a result of both sociocultural factors (dietary habits) in some parts of the country and economic factors in the case of the poorest families.

However, the relative lack of improvement in the overall malnutrition index is a result of the differences in scores between urban and rural populations. The large increase recorded for the urban population, from 6.8 per cent in 1992 to 10.3 per cent in 2002, is probably attributable to the modernization of lifestyles and dietary behaviour, which can lead to malnutrition, as shown by the relative increase in the scores for children over the age of 24 months. It should be stressed here that breastfeeding is the best strategy for preventing malnutrition, but is still not sufficiently prevalent or sustained for a long enough period, and that the most common weaning methods are unsuitable and pose a risk. In 1995, according to the Mid-Decade Goals, 56 per cent of children in the age group 0-4 months were exclusively breastfed, but that figure had fallen to only 15.9 per cent in 2000, according to the End-of-Decade Goals. In 2002, according to the National Survey of Family Health, 10.4 per cent of babies aged between 1 and 3 months were exclusively breastfed. In the age group 6-9 months, 54 per cent of children received food supplements in 1995 as compared with only 38 per cent in 2000. It should be stressed that girls are less likely to be malnourished than boys.

Trends in demographic and social health indicators

The demographic transition, which has been marked by a dramatic decline in birth and mortality rates, has had a major impact on the country's age structure. In particular, there has been a fall in both the percentage and number of under-20s, an expansion in the working-age population and the beginnings of an ageing process, indicating increased life expectancy.

It may be recalled that the overall mortality rate, which stood at 16.4 per 1,000 in 1970, fell by nearly 50 per cent (49.1 per cent) between 1980 and 1990 and by 23.3 per cent between 1990 and 2000. The rate remained steady between 2000 and 2004 at around 4 per 1,000, and in 2004 overall mortality was 4.36 per 1,000.

Question 5 (d): HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS prevalence rates (per 100,000)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
HIV/AIDS as at 31 December	1 316 (0.00437)	1 533 (0.00500)	1 697 (0.00546)	1 861 (0.00592)	2 069 (0.00649)	2 363 (0.00731)
(a) No. of cases						
(b) Percentage						
Adults (as a percentage of the population aged 15-49)	728 (0.00447)	769 (0.00481)	996 (0.00574)	1 097 (0.00616)	1 233 (0.00675)	1 599 (0.00855)
Women (as a percentage of the population aged 15-49)	192 (0.00238)	248 (0.00314)	293 (0.00342)	329 (0.00374)	388 (0.00431)	683 (0.00714)
Children (as a percentage of the population aged 0-14)	42 (0.00041)	48 (0.00043)	59 (0.00059)	62 (0.00062)	71 (0.00071)	81 (0.00081)

Source: Ministry of Health.

Question 5 (e): Adolescent health

Constant attention is paid to the health of young people and adolescents, both at the sectoral level, in school and university health services, and from a multisectoral perspective, including civil society. A network of detection and monitoring units (1,463 of them in 2003) and of preventive medicine units in universities (approximately 100) has been developed in partnership with the ministries concerned; the network of youth information and activity centres has been expanded to cover all provinces; and reproductive health issues are now being addressed with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), following the 2002 qualitative survey conducted to assess young people's needs in this area. These initiatives, which are directed, inter alia, towards the promotion of healthy behaviours, preparation for responsible parenting, the prevention of AIDS and sexually transmitted infections or diseases, and the prevention of smoking, drug addiction and violence, have been developed by the State authorities with the support of international agencies (UNFPA, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and UNAIDS).

Measures targeting young people and adolescents and based on information, education and communication campaigns through a multisectoral network embracing the State sector, NGOs - including youth associations - and the media, have been reinforced by the training of

relay personnel and through peer-multiplier education. One action in particular well reflects the political will that has been reaffirmed at the highest levels in recent years, namely the creation of specialist youth health facilities within the State health system. Examples are (a) a “youth-friendly” centre set up as a pilot project in the capital, and (b) anonymous self-referral screening centres for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections for young people in some provinces.

Question 5 (f): Health-care coverage for children

Health-care coverage for children, 1998-2003

	1998	2000	2002	2003
General practitioner	16 783	17 078	18 046	18 348
Paediatrician	687	755	821	865
Midwife	5 523	6 020	6 508	6 580

	Number of children aged under 18 per professional		
	2000	2002	2003
General practitioner	737	678	658
Paediatrician	15 334	14 907	13 955
Midwife	2 091	1 860	1 835

Question 6: Child abuse

In the context of the United Nations Secretary-General’s study on the question of violence against children, the Office of the Head of Government’s Deputy Minister for the Family and the Status of Women, with the participation of other ministries concerned, drew up a national strategy against child abuse in cooperation with UNICEF, as part of a study by an Algerian expert.

The national strategy against child abuse takes a systemic approach, highlighting the multifaceted nature of violence and its physical, legal, social, behavioural and sexual impacts on the various areas of the child’s life - family, school, other social institutions and public spaces.

The strategy adopts a global approach that covers prevention, action, protection, treatment and reintegration of abuse victims in their original social milieu.

Question 7: Right to education

Question 7 (a): Literacy rates

Literacy rates, 6-14 age group, by sex (%)

Year	Male	Female	Total
1966	56.80	36.90	47.20
1977	80.80	59.60	70.40
1987	87.75	71.56	79.86
1998	85.28	80.73	83.05
2002	95.00	92.10	93.60
2004*	97.60	95.18	96.44

* Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform estimate.

Question 7 (b): School enrolment rates

Enrolment by level of schooling

Year	Primary	Middle	Secondary
2000-2001	4 720 950	2 015 370	976 862
2001-2002	4 691 870	2 116 087	1 041 047
2002-2003	4 612 574	2 186 338	1 095 730
2003-2004	4 507 703	2 221 795	1 122 395
2004-2005	4 361 744	2 256 232	1 123 123

Illiteracy rates, age group 10 and over, by sex (%)

Year	Male	Female	Total
1966	62.30	85.40	74.60
1977	46.60	72.60	59.90
1987	30.75	56.66	43.62
1998	23.65	40.27	31.90
2002	18.20	35.00	26.50
2004*	17.05	33.79	25.30

* Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform estimate.

Question 7 (c) and (d): Educational attainment, repetition and dropout rates

Detailed information will be provided to Committee members when the State party presents its report.

Question 7 (e): Student/teacher ratio and class size

The distribution of students is very uneven owing to the concentration of the population in the more productive north of the country. As in every other country, the density is greatest in the major urban centres; it is average in the high plateaux and lower in the mid- and extreme south. The converse applies to teachers, with too many in some areas and too few in others. A system has been introduced to forecast schools' needs, with the aim of redressing the balance in school populations and teaching coverage.

Question 8: Justice

Question 8 (a) and (b): Number of persons aged under 18 charged with a crime and number subsequently sentenced

- 2002: 464 charged, 210 sentenced
- 2003: 58 charged, 210 sentenced
- 2004: 510 charged, 220 sentenced

Types of offence: theft, murder, involuntary homicide or wounding by negligence, assault, indecent assault, narcotics abuse, illegal possession of a knife.

Length of deprivation of liberty: prison terms of between one month and 10 years.

Question 8 (c)

There are two detention facilities for persons aged under 18 in conflict with the law: the juvenile rehabilitation and reintegration centre in Sétif and the one in Gdyel. Total capacity for the two centres is 280 juveniles.

Question 8 (d): Number of persons aged under 18 detained in these facilities

- 2002: Sétif 97, Gdyel 150 (total 247 minors)
- 2003: Sétif 67, Gdyel 100 (total 167 minors)
- 2004: Sétif 88, Gdyel 96 (total 184 minors)

Question 8 (e): Number of persons aged under 18 held in adult facilities (juvenile wing)

- 2002: 778 male, 15 female (total 793)
- 2003: 462 male, 6 female (total 468)
- 2004: 520 male, 11 female (total 531)

Question 9: Special protection measures

Question 9 (a): Child victims of sexual exploitation

There are no statistics available on this issue.

Question 9 (b): Children involved in substance abuse

The prevention and treatment of addictions was made a public health priority in the early 1990s in response to steadily rising trends and the prevailing risk factors. An institutional framework has gradually been built up, starting with the establishment of a multisectoral advisory commission within the Ministry of Health in 1992 and a Drugs Control Office accountable to the Head of Government in 2002, followed by the promulgation of Act No. 04-18 on the prevention and punishment of the illicit use of and trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances in December 2004.

Work is coordinated at the sectoral level by a national committee to combat drug abuse. The strategy adopted in the action plan favours a multisectoral approach involving NGOs and the media in information, education and awareness-raising, particularly in schools, universities, youth clubs and activity centres, and prison facilities; the setting up of special prevention and treatment facilities, which requires training for doctors and other professionals; and improvements in the areas of data collection, study and research. In practical terms, the aim is to establish one treatment centre in each health district and one intermediate centre in each province. The network currently comprises two treatment centres and three intermediate centres.

In terms of prevalence, the average age of first use is between 17 and 18, although two extreme cases have been found, one aged 9 and one aged 11. Multiple drug abuse (psychotropics, alcohol, cannabis) is the most common manifestation of the problem.

Question 9 (c): Child labour

Although article 15 of Act No. 90-11 of 21 April 1990, on labour relations, sets the legal age for employment at 16 and prohibits all economic exploitation of children, the Government has nevertheless set up a framework for discussion and consultation on this matter, in the form of a national commission to combat child labour, created in March 2003 under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

This commission concentrates mainly on:

- Preventive action targeting youth through junior high or high schools and State-run or private training centres and institutions;
- Information and sensitization for the public at large on the negative effects of child labour;
- Possible amendments to current legislation;
- Involvement of employers, unions and NGOs in actively preventing and combating child labour;
- Reintegration, in school and society, of children in difficult circumstances.

Algeria has also ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Recommendation No. 190, concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-seventh session in Geneva (Convention No. 182 of 17 June 1999).

1. International instruments and standards

In terms of international standards, Algeria is committed to taking all necessary legislative, regulatory and other measures to implement the rights recognized in international instruments. Mindful of the need to ensure special protection for children, Algeria has ratified several conventions, including the following:

- The ILO Convention (No. 138) concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973, ratified on 30 April 1984;
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, ratified on 19 December 1992;
- The ILO Convention (No. 182) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, adopted by the International Labour Conference on 17 June 1999 and ratified on 28 November 2000;
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, adopted in Addis Ababa in July 1990 and ratified on 8 July 2003.

2. *Work of the intersectoral commission to prevent and combat child labour*

Action taken to prevent and combat child labour is summarized below.

A seminar was organized from 22 to 24 September 2002 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, with the support of the Arab Centre for the Administration of Labour and Employment (Tunis) of the Arab Labour Organization, on “The role of labour administration in combating child labour”.

The seminar was attended by national and international experts and representatives of several government departments, trade unions, employers’ organizations and youth associations.

Following a discussion of the issue of child labour, participants agreed unanimously on the need for preventive measures to be put in place, given the negative impact of child labour on children’s growth and physical and mental health, as well as on the economic and social development of the country.

The intersectoral commission to prevent and combat child labour was inaugurated by the Minister of Labour and Social Security. The commission comprises representatives of the Algerian Workers’ General Union (UGTA) and 11 government departments.

One of the tasks assigned to the commission, which is required to identify measures to prevent and combat child labour, is to coordinate action by the various government departments as part of a national plan of action.

The commission is also tasked with centralizing data from each government department on the situation of children in Algeria and carrying out any studies needed to assess the extent of the problem and thus contribute to the implementation of the strategy to combat child labour.

The intersectoral commission is well aware of the importance of awareness-raising and information, and therefore decided to hold information days for the parents of schoolchildren, who play such a key role in the harmonious development of a child's personality.

Thus, between 3 and 17 May 2004, 14 information and awareness-raising days for parents were organized in cooperation with the national federation of parents' associations and with the participation of representatives of the education, health and religious affairs sectors.

Within that same framework, an introductory lesson for schoolchildren, on children's rights and the consequences of child labour, was given on the first day of the 2004/05 school year.

In addition, as part of the drive to implement the national action plan to prevent and combat child labour, the intersectoral commission has considered and put forward proposals on:

- Awareness-raising and mobilization of society at large, trade unions, employers, the media, children and parents;
- A review of criminal procedures and penalties for offences relating to child labour;
- Implementation of a special monitoring, advice and information programme for the agricultural sector, among others.

3. *Surveys and studies*

A survey carried out by the General Labour Inspectorate in 2001 revealed that, in the sample of 5,847 enterprises visited, employing a total of 16,895 workers, there were 95 young workers (0.56 per cent) who had not reached the legal age of employment.

A study on child labour and its consequences was conducted in 2004 by the National Labour Institute in cooperation with ILO. The study looked at three groups - child workers who were enrolled in school, child workers who had dropped out of school, and children who had never been to school.

The analysis was based on a sample of 2,146 children aged from 6 to 17, from 12 provinces: Ghardaïa, Ain Temouchent, Sidi Bel Abbès, Tiaret, Mostaganem, Médéa, Tipasa, El Tarf, Guelma, Algiers, Djelfa and Tébessa.

The results revealed that 559 children were working - 26 per cent of the total sample, with boys in the majority (74.6 per cent). They fell into two categories: children who were working and attending school (15.9 per cent) and children who only worked (10.2 per cent). This shows that the mere fact that a child is of school age or has never been to school does not necessarily mean they will be working.

In the 6-15 age group, 82 per cent of the children worked on a casual basis. Only 18 per cent worked on a regular basis.

Generally speaking, children were employed by family members, particularly close relatives, with a large percentage in the rural sector.

The study also showed that the children's main desire (in 42.36 per cent of cases) was to help meet their family's needs, although 36.66 per cent were concerned about their own needs.

In the 16-17 age group, the children in urban areas worked mainly as street vendors (54 per cent); the next largest group worked as waiters. In rural areas, agricultural work predominated (91 per cent); the majority worked seven days a week (32 per cent) or six days a week (20 per cent). These results show that long working hours are the norm in this category.

This survey did not reveal any inhuman or degrading child labour in Algeria, or extreme exploitation or any of the worst forms of child labour.

Another study of child labour and its consequences was conducted by the National Labour Institute. This one looked mainly at practices in child labour and at the state of the applicable legislation and regulations, with a view to devising a common strategy to combat child labour in all sectors.

The survey showed 559 children, or 26 per cent of the sample, classed as workers. They fell into two categories: children who were enrolled in school (15.9 per cent) and children who only worked (10.2 per cent).

There was also a large number of children who only attended school - over 60 per cent of the total surveyed.

The children in the sample who were found to be working can be categorized in various ways:

- Child workers who were also attending school: 54 per cent
- Child workers who had dropped out of school: 31 per cent
- Child workers who had never been to school: 15 per cent

By level of education:

- Middle school or above: 44 per cent
- Primary: 41 per cent
- Illiterate: 15 per cent

By sex:

- Boys: 74.6 per cent
- Girls: 25.4 per cent

Frequency of work:

- Regular: 18 per cent
- Casual: 82 per cent

Age on starting work:

- 12-15: 53.6 per cent
- 9-11: 44.5 per cent
- 6-8: less than 3 per cent

Main types of work:

- Boys: street vending (44 per cent)
- Girls: handicrafts (39 per cent)

Employers:

- Parents: 57.4 per cent
- Close relatives: 37 per cent

Working conditions:

- 4-8 hours/day: 50 per cent
- Boys: 4-8 hours/day (construction, street vending, handicrafts)
- Girls: 1-3 hours/day (street vending, handicrafts, agricultural or domestic work)
- 50 per cent of the children stated that their work was tiring

Pay:

- Cash: 64 per cent
- Kind: 4 per cent
- Cash/kind: 10 per cent
- Did not say: 22 per cent

Child workers aged 16-17

Urban areas:

- Street vendors: 54 per cent
- Waiters: 44.4 per cent

Rural areas:

- Agricultural work: 91 per cent

Main types of work:

- Agricultural: 58.3 per cent
- Bar work: 55.6 per cent
- Construction: 65 per cent
- Handicrafts: 63.6 per cent

Employed by relatives:

- Boys: 32 per cent
- Girls: 38 per cent

Working hours:

- 7 days/week: 32 per cent
- 6 days/week: 20 per cent
- 4-6 hours/day: 23.2 per cent

The survey did not reveal any inhuman or degrading child labour in Algeria, or any extreme exploitation of children.

Algeria has ratified the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

Question 9 (d): Unaccompanied asylum-seeking, refugee and displaced children

Child refugees are not separated from their families and live in a community, and are thus under the responsibility of the United Nations humanitarian agencies. Algeria generously offers asylum to refugees while they await resolution of the problem that prompted them to flee.

B. General measures of implementation

Question 1: Implementation of the Committee's recommendations

(a) Harmonization of domestic laws

A number of new legislative and regulatory texts have been drafted in implementation of the Committee's recommendations regarding the need to harmonize domestic law on children (see part III).

Work has also begun on draft legislation on the organization and promotion of social action. This bill identifies the key considerations in the protection and social integration of vulnerable groups, including children in difficult circumstances. Several sections are devoted to children deprived of a family environment, children at moral risk, young offenders, disadvantaged children and the very young.

Provision is made for the child's welfare, education in sheltered and normal environments, and integration into society and employment.

The main aim of the bill, apart from providing framework legislation identifying rights and benefits recognized to this sector of the population, is to compile all the legislation covering these groups into a single coherent whole.

(b) *Awareness-raising activities*

- Various campaigns to publicize the Convention on the Rights of the Child by means of booklets and brochures for children, distributed on 1 June;
- Session for children in the two houses of Parliament - the National People's Assembly and the Senate - at which the children asked a number of questions concerning their rights;
- Creation of a statistical data collection and management system relating to certain provisions of the Convention dealing with special education, social integration, welfare mechanisms and vulnerable groups;
- Various nationwide sectoral programmes that address some of the recommendations in the United Nations report, in particular those relating to education, preschool and child protection;
- Cooperation programme with NGOs (Handicap International, International Federation Terre des Hommes) and UNICEF in various areas:
 - Training for specialist staff in specialist facilities (abuse, mothering, hospitalism);
 - Provision and equipping of reception facilities for children deprived of a family environment (ages 0-6);
 - Funding of study days;
 - Provision of teaching equipment for partially deaf children;
- First regional seminar on children at moral and physical risk, Ain Temouchent, 15 October 2003;

- Second regional seminar on children at moral and physical risk, Djelfa, 23-24 February 2004;
- Study day on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the participation of the Centre d'Information et de Documentation sur les Droits de l'Enfant et de la Femme (CIDDEF) and UNICEF, National Public Health Institute, 9 December 2003;
- First national conference on the concerns of children and young people, with the participation of the Organization Nationale des Associations de Protection des Enfants, Centre des Loisirs Scientifiques, Algiers, 1-2 June 2004;
- Third regional seminar on children in three areas - family, school and society, Ouargla, 25 September 2004;
- Seminar on violence against children, Judicial Training College, Algiers, 16 September 2005.

Question 2

The Convention has not yet been invoked before an Algerian court. Most observers consider that there are sufficient texts and references in domestic law to make it possible for claims to succeed.

Question 3: Progress with the revision of the Family Code (Act No. 84-11 of 9 June 1984) and the Code of Algerian Nationality (Ordinance No. 70-86 of 15 December 1970)

Act No. 84-11 of 9 June 1984, on the Family Code

Act No. 84-11 of 9 June 1984 has been amended to reflect the social, cultural and economic changes that have taken place in Algerian society and also to bring it into line with the international conventions ratified by Algeria, notably the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The most important amendments relate to the nature of the marriage contract, the notion of consent, the age of marriage and polygamy.

The marriage contract is essentially based on consent between the partners, which is a necessary condition: failure to comply with it will invalidate the marriage.

The law gives a woman who is of age full capacity to contract marriage. Minors, however, may do so only through their legal guardians.

A spouse who is a minor now has the right to take part in legal proceedings in respect of matrimonial rights and obligations.

Marriageable age is set at 19 for both spouses. The court may, however, waive the age requirement if special circumstances apply or in case of necessity, taking due account of both parties' readiness for marriage.

The prospective couple must present a medical certificate to the effect that there are no illnesses or risk factors impeding marriage.

Polygamy has been restricted by the introduction of conditions to be met by the husband before he can take another wife. He is required to:

- Inform his last wife and his next wife;
- Request the authorization of the president of the court, who must ascertain that both the last wife and the wife-to-be have given their consent, and that the husband is able to provide equitable treatment and the requisites for married life.

In addition:

- In case of a grievance, each wife may apply for divorce through the courts;
- If the new marriage is contracted without due authorization, it may be annulled if it has not been consummated.

Both parties may insert any conditions they deem necessary in the marriage contract, including in respect of polygamy and the wife's work.

It is now possible to introduce modern scientific evidence in filiation proceedings.

The provisions on divorce and its consequences have been revised in the interests of equity for both spouses.

The wife may apply for divorce on grounds of constant discord between the spouses or for violation of any of the clauses in the marriage contract.

The order of claims for custody of the children has also been changed, with the father now immediately behind the mother, followed by the maternal grandmother and then the paternal grandmother, the father being deemed to be closer to his children.

The mother now has the right to act in the father's place in administrative and other matters, where the father is absent or prevented from acting.

Code of Algerian Nationality: Ordinance No. 70-86 of 15 December 1970

The aim of revising the Code of Algerian Nationality was to bring it into line with the international conventions ratified by Algeria and in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The main changes to the Code under Ordinance No. 05-01 of 27 February 2005 relate to:

- Transfer of Algerian nationality at birth through the mother;
- Acquisition of Algerian nationality through marriage with an Algerian man or woman under certain conditions established in the Code;
- Right to Algerian nationality by filiation through two Algerian-born ancestors on the mother's side.

Question 4: Strengthening of mechanisms and procedures for collecting data and statistics relating to the Convention

There is no central clearing house for statistics on work relating to children, but each government department which is in any way concerned with children's rights maintains relevant statistics.

Question 6: Work of the National Advisory Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The mandate of the Advisory Commission covers all groups and rights, including children's rights. One of the tasks assigned to the Commission is to assist in the dissemination of the Convention at meetings, study days and seminars.

The Commission is independent and the government authorities represented on it are non-voting members.

Question 7: UNICEF-National Judicial Institute partnership

Training is a priority, and a series of in-service training sessions for judges, including juvenile court judges, have been arranged for the period 2002-2006. Special attention is being paid to juvenile judges, who play a vital role in protecting children. These sessions form part of the UNICEF-Judicial Training College partnership programme.

The main objective of this training programme is to improve protection for minors against all types of risk and to safeguard the rights of the child.

Question 8: Other measures

The measures taken following the study on street children carried out in 2001 by the National Centre for Population and Development Studies are described below.

(a) Creation of a service called SAMU Enfants, run by Dar Erahma, a reception facility for social groups in difficult circumstances

A team of specialist psychologists and youth workers, among others, comb the streets to find children - from the very youngest up to 18 - with the aim of helping them to reintegrate into society. They are usually children on welfare, orphans, victims of divorce or abuse, or children affected by the vicissitudes of the country's social and economic climate.

Number of children assisted in 2001

A total of 130 children and adolescents were taken in by the above-mentioned service:

(a) 42 on a permanent basis, of whom 25 were enrolled in school, 12 in vocational training and 5 (very young children) were cared for in-house;

(b) 88 on a temporary basis, of whom 60 were reunited with their families, [18] were transferred to other centres and 10 left voluntarily.

A success rate of 45 per cent was noted among those enrolled in school.

Number of children assisted in 2002

A total of 150 children and adolescents were taken in:

(a) 48 on a permanent basis, of whom 30 were enrolled in school, 10 in vocational training and 8 (very young children) were cared for in-house;

(b) 108 on a temporary basis, of whom 80 were reunited with their families and 10 were transferred to other centres.

A success rate of 55 per cent was noted among those enrolled in school.

Number of children assisted in 2003

A total of 125 children and adolescents were taken in:

(a) 30 on a permanent basis, of whom 24 were enrolled in school, 4 in vocational training and 2 (very young children) were cared for in-house;

(b) 98 on a temporary basis, of whom 55 were reunited with their families, 15 were transferred to other centres and 15 left voluntarily.

Number of children assisted in 2004

A total of 42 children were taken in, of whom 12 were reunited with their families.

(b) *Care for the homeless, including children*

In 2004, the Ministry of National Solidarity ran an operation to help the homeless during the winter.

Of the total number of 9,388 people lodged in the shelter provided, 1,583 were children, with ages ranging from 0 to 9 (872) and from 10 to 19 (711).

Question 9: Publicizing the Convention

Upon ratification, the Convention was published in Arabic and translated into French in the Official Gazette. As requested in part II of the list of issues, two copies of these documents are attached herewith. The Official Gazette may be consulted at www.joradp.dz. Other publications on children's rights include:

- A collection of writings on the protection of children (Judicial Training College, 2005);
- A guide to children's rights (Ministry of National Solidarity and the Family, in cooperation with UNICEF, 1999);
- A leaflet on children in Algeria (in Arabic; conceived and prepared by the Head of Government's Deputy Minister for the Family and the Status of Women, 2005);
- A feature article on children at moral and physical risk (*Revue Rissalat El Oussra*, No. 2, Office of the Head of Government's Deputy Minister for the Family and the Status of Women, 2004);
- A feature article on children's rights (*Revue Rissalat El Oussra*, No. 7, Office of the Head of Government's Deputy Minister for the Family and the Status of Women, 2005).

Question 10: Awareness-raising and training in human rights

In addition to the awareness-raising activities organized to mark the various human rights events, a number of special initiatives may be mentioned:

- Study day on the work of juvenile court judges, 28 June 2004; National Centre for Specialized Training, Birkhadem, Algiers;

- Training session on dealing with minors, for juvenile court judges and directors of specialized centres for minors, organized by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNICEF; Judicial Training College, Algiers, 19 April 2005;
- Introductory module on human rights, inserted into the police training curriculum;
- Module on children's rights, introduced into the primary school curriculum;
- Memorandum of understanding signed in May 2004 between the Ministry of Education and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Algiers, on the teaching of the concepts and principles of international humanitarian law in schools. Subsequently, a training workshop was organized for a group of teachers from 20 to 23 June 2004, in preparation for implementation of the memorandum of understanding at the start of the 2004/05 school year.

Question 11: Cooperation with NGOs

Another feature of Algeria's work in the area of human rights has been its openness to international human rights NGOs. A series of visits to Algeria has enabled the representatives of a number of NGOs to see for themselves the progress that has been made, including in the promotion of children's rights.

PART III

New bills or enacted legislation

The importance Algeria attaches to children is reflected in various pieces of legislation recognizing a wide range of children's rights. However, while these have made it possible to ensure children's protection, they have proved insufficient. What is required is a legal and regulatory framework that will ensure genuine protection, particularly for young offenders or children in difficult circumstances.

Accordingly, a bill on child protection prepared by the Ministry of Justice is currently under consideration by the General Secretariat of the Government. The aim of the bill is to establish rules and mechanisms for the protection of children, on the basis of a harmonization of Algerian law with the international instruments the State has ratified.

The general provisions contain several principles to be found in the international instruments that have a bearing on children's rights, including:

- The definition of a child as anyone up to the age of 18;
- The rights to be enjoyed by children without discrimination;
- The principle of the best interests of the child;
- The principle of involving children in all judicial measures and decisions affecting them;
- The establishment of a national fund for the protection of children, etc.

In title II, on the protection of children at risk, the bill recognizes the right of children at risk to social and judicial protection and proposes the establishment, under the aegis of the President of the Republic, of a national child protection officer, to whom any individual may report violations of children's rights. At the provincial level there would be an officer who, to ensure the protection of the child, could take conventional measures giving first priority to keeping the child with his or her family. The provincial officer would involve the child and the family in the process of finding the most appropriate measure, making the necessary enquiries in order to ascertain the child's situation and notifying the juvenile court judge if it no longer appeared possible to leave the child with the family.

In addition, the Office of the Head of Government's Deputy Minister for the Family and the Status of Women has prepared a draft executive decree on the establishment of a national council on women and the family, which also makes provision for the establishment of a children's commission.

New health legislation is currently going through Parliament. It includes wide-ranging provisions on access to reproductive health care for various groups including couples and young people; mental health; the prevention and treatment of violence; and the protection of persons in difficult circumstances and in specific categories (children, young people and adolescents, mothers in difficult circumstances, etc.). It thus takes a comprehensive social approach to public health care, at the same time restructuring the health system and identifying bodies, instruments and actors, at the national and local levels, so as to underpin and provide the legal and regulatory basis for health sector reform. In the light of biomedical and technological advances, the legislation also contains an important section on bioethics, which includes special provisions on medically-assisted reproduction, which is rapidly gaining ground in the country.

New institutions

The Office of the Head of Government's Deputy Minister for the Family and the Status of Women was created in 2002. As indicated in other sections of this document, several aspects of the department's mission are concerned with the advancement and protection of children.
