

Sultanate of Oman
Answers to the Questions of the
Committee on the Rights of the Child
Reference (CRC/C/78/Add.1)

PART I

A. Available Data and statistics

Q1. *Please provide demographic data of the under-18 population, including non-Omanis, disaggregated by region, sex, ethnic and religious background.*

The Answer to Q 1:

The mid-2000 estimation of Omani population of 18 years and less is 961,394, or 54% of total Omani population. The available population statistics that covers Omanis and non-Omanis are organized in age cohorts of five years; 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19 years. Ethnic and religious backgrounds are not available from the 1993 Census, which is the current source of demographic statistics. It is therefore not possible to provide the exact level of demographic details requested under question 1 of the Committee. The attached table no. 1.A, provides the demographic data of the under 19 population, including non-Omanis, disaggregated by region and sex, while table no. 1.B provides the same details for Omani children 18 years and less.

Table no. 1.A

Region	Sex	0-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-19 years		Total	
		Omani	Non-Omani	Omani	Non-Omani	Omani	Non-Omani	Omani	Non-Omani	Omani	Non-Omani
Muscat	M	22,612	8,233	23,964	7,522	24,222	4,930	26,907	2,019	97,705	22,704
	F	21,638	7,556	23,045	7,079	23,148	4,566	24,103	1,807	91,934	21,008
Batinah	M	42,703	1,990	44,182	1,880	42,260	964	36,695	536	165,840	5,370
	F	41,521	1,904	43,031	1,607	41,524	829	36,176	418	162,252	4,758
Mussandam	M	1,827	198	2,016	196	2,059	152	1,782	94	7,684	640
	F	1,796	167	1,862	163	1,992	136	1,533	76	7,183	542
Dhahira	M	11,807	1,409	11,989	1,267	12,567	837	11,160	507	47,523	4,020
	F	11,089	1,355	11,535	1,169	12,249	730	11,077	471	45,950	3,725
Dakhiliya	M	17,479	703	18,445	589	18,443	332	16,223	161	70,950	1,785
	F	16,893	635	18,115	516	17,875	276	16,027	116	68,910	1,543
Sharqiya	M	18,679	824	19,595	664	19,434	319	17,336	226	75,044	2,033
	F	18,198	809	19,137	647	18,893	249	16,853	123	73,081	1,828
Wusta	M	1,435	11	1,282	12	892	3	785	7	4,394	33
	F	1,280	21	1,235	12	770	3	663	1	3,948	37
Dhofar	M	10,441	1,642	11,154	1,591	11,168	908	10,878	456	43,641	4,597
	F	10,041	1,599	10,809	1,375	10,487	831	10,188	313	41,525	4,118
Total	M	126,983	15,010	132,627	13,721	131,045	8,445	121,766	4,006	512,421	41,182
	F	122,456	14,046	128,769	12,568	126,938	7,620	116,620	3,325	494,783	37,559
Total (Omani & non-Omani)		249,439	29,056	261,396	26,289	257,983	16,065	238,386	7,331	1,007,204	78,741
Total (age groups)		278,495		287,685		274,048		245,717		1,085,945	

Table no. 1.B

Region	Sex	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-18 years	Total
Muscat	M	22,612	23,964	24,222	20,881	91,679
	F	21,638	23,045	23,148	18,655	86,486
Batinah	M	42,703	44,182	42,260	30,007	159,152
	F	41,521	43,031	41,524	29,560	155,636
Mussandam	M	1,827	2,016	2,059	1,472	7,374
	F	1,796	1,862	1,992	1,232	6,882
Dhahira	M	11,807	11,989	12,567	9,102	45,465
	F	11,089	11,535	12,249	8,844	43,717
Dakhiliya	M	17,479	18,445	18,443	13,189	67,556
	F	16,893	18,115	17,875	13,195	66,078
Sharqiya	M	18,679	19,595	19,434	14,211	71,919
	F	18,198	19,137	18,893	13,876	70,104
Wusta	M	1,435	1,282	892	645	4,254
	F	1,280	1,235	770	549	3,834
Dhofar	M	10,441	11,154	11,168	8,819	41,582
	F	10,041	10,809	10,487	8,339	39,676
Total	M	126,983	132,627	131,045	98,326	488,981
	F	122,456	128,769	126,938	94,250	472,413
Total Omani		249,439	261,396	257,983	192,576	961,394

Total 19 years and less population represents 45% of total population. Omanis of 19 years and less represent 57% of total Omani population while non-Omanis of the age group 19 years and less represent 13 % of total non-Omani population residing in Oman.

- Q2. *Please provide specific disaggregated data on national budgetary allocation and spending for social needs for the last three years, in percentages. In particular, how much was spent on:*
- education (including allocations for primary and secondary education, salaries, preservation of school buildings, etc.);*
 - health (including allocations for primary health care, vaccinations, adolescent health care and other health care services for children);*
 - child protection (for example institutional or foster care); and*
 - juvenile crime prevention.*

Answer to Q2:

The Government would like to state that it has been apparent to us that the standard Government budget categories do not easily produce the type of “specific disaggregated data on national budgetary allocation and spending for social needs” the Committee has asked for. We have therefore decided to share with the Committee some background information on national spending on social needs. In addition, we have tried to extract, to the extent possible, from standard government reports information that could answer the specific questions of the Committee.

Government Spending on Social Needs:

The Government of Oman finances the social needs of the society through the recurrent and development budgets of the concerned ministries of Health, Education, and Social Affairs, Labour, and Vocational Training (MoSAL&VT). It is important to note that there are other ministries and governmental institutions that contribute to government spending on social needs such as the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs through the alms fund known as Zakat, and the Royal Army, Royal Police, Sultan Qaboos University, and the Petroleum Development of Oman through their health facilities. It is unfortunate that the national accounts system does not allow easy extraction and aggregations of the spending made by these governmental units on the social needs of the society. All the government spending on social needs figures/percentages reported here

represent government spending through the Ministries of Health, Education, and the Social Affairs sector of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, and Vocational Training (MoSAL&VT), unless otherwise indicated.

The following table no. 2 summarizes Government spending on the social sector as a percentage of total Government expenditure for each year for the period 1998 to 2000:

Table no. 2

Sector	% of Recurrent Expenditure			% of Development Expenditure			% of Total Expenditure		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Health	6.9	6.9	7.5	2.3	2.4	1.7	5.9	6.1	6.2
Education	5.6	6.7	6.2	3.5	2.5	3.2	9.1	9.2	9.2
Social Affairs	5.9	6.3	6.1	1.2	1.8	1.6	4.7	4.4	4.5
% of total spending on social needs	18.4	19.9	19.8	7.0	6.7	6.5	19.7	19.7	19.9

Immediate Results of Government Commitment:

The following table no. 3 shows the government expenditure made by the Ministries of Health and Education as percentages of total government spending for each year and the correspondent change in infant mortality rate (IMR), number of schools and number of children enrolled for the period 1981 to 2000:

Table no. 3

Year	% Expenditure on Health	IMR	% Expenditure on Education (Academic year)	Number of schools	Number of children enrolled
1981	2.6	59.0	4.4	424	108,324
1982	2.6	55.0	5.3	474	122,143
1983	3.0	51.0	5.7	518	143,032
1984	3.5	48.0	5.4	561	166,385
1985	3.8	45.0	5.1	606	195,400
1986	4.2	42.0	6.1	668	221,694
1987	4.0	38.0	7.2	696	247,546
1988	4.2	34.0	7.4	721	272,018
1989	4.4	31.0	6.9	759	298,426
1990	3.9	29.0	7.2	800	327,131
1991	4.6	27.0	7.5	844	360,066
1992	4.9	25.0	6.7	878	391,984
1993	5.2	23.0	7.7	920	424,962
1994	5.5	23.0	7.9	947	453,984
1995	5.3	20.0	8.1	965	474,937
1996	6.0	18.3	8.0	971	490,482
1997	5.6	18.0	8.3	962	503,529
1998	5.9	18.0	9.1	970	514,983
1999	6.1	17.6	9.2	980	542,000
2000	6.2	16.7	9.2	993	554,845
% Change	+138%	-72%	+109%	+ 134%	+412%

The above table shows the continued increasing government spending on the social sector for the last twenty years. The government commitment has resulted in reducing IMR by 72%, increasing number of schools by 134% and number of enrolled children by 412%.

Government Spending on Education:

All the figures/percentages provided here on government spending cover general education up to the secondary level but excluding technical education, which is financed by the Vocational Training sector of MoSAL&VT. Total government expenditure on general education for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000 was R.O. 215.30 million, 223.33 million, and 226.18 million respectively. The following table no. 4 shows the percentage share of each of the five main types of educational levels of the annual total government spending.

Table no. 4

School Level	1998	1999	2000
Elementary – general, 6-12 years of age	43.16%	41.28%	42.86%
Elementary – special for disabled children	00.35%	00.34%	00.34%
Preparatory – general, 13 – 15 years of age	30.26%	30.60%	30.27%
Preparatory – special for disabled children	00.13%	00.13%	00.13%
Secondary, 16 –18 years of age	26.10%	27.65%	26.40%
Total for the year	100%	100%	100%

It is worth mentioning that the private non-profit and for-profit sectors contribute significantly to the financing of the education sector in Oman.

The pre-school care and education institutions are fully financed by the private for-profit and non-profit sectors. The Omani Women Associations operate a large number of pre-school care and education institutions for non-profit purposes. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour and Vocational Training (MoSAL&VT) oversees these institutions. The private for-profit sector operates another set of educational institutions ranging from kindergartens to secondary schools for which the Ministry of Education provides an overall management oversight. The Government does not directly contribute to the financing of pre-school care and education institutions. However, the government role covers management oversight, technical guidance in the form of developing curricula and training teaching staff.

As for special care and education institutions for disabled children, the private non-profit sector is taking the lead role in financing both the capital and recurrent expenses. For instance, there are currently 14 Disabled Centers (Al Wafa Social Centers) caring for 15,412 disabled children, which are almost fully financed by a philanthropist group of private sector businesses. The annual recurrent budget of these 14 Centers is around R.O. 670,000 (equivalent to US\$ 1,744,792). All the Community Rehabilitation Centers (CBRs) for disabled children are financed and managed by local community organizations. The Ministry of Education and MoSAL&VT share the overall management oversight of disabled care and education institutions.

Answer to Q2.a: Budgetary Breakdown of Government Spending on Education:

In response to the Committee’s specific question number 2.a, the following table no. 5 provides detailed budgetary breakdown of annual government spending on education up to secondary level, excluding technical education, for the last three years by educational level and budget category.

Table no. 5

Year	Educational Level	% Share of each budget line item of total annual expenditure for each educational level					
		Salaries & Related Benefits	Training	Maintenance	School Furniture	Others (textbooks, teaching aids, etc.)	Total for educational level
1998	Elementary general	44.23	0.04	0.35	0.11	55.27	100%
	Elementary special	48.00	0.04	0.35	0.11	51.50	100%
	Preparatory general	44.23	0.04	0.35	0.11	55.27	100%
	Preparatory special	44.23	0.04	0.35	0.11	55.31	100%
	Secondary	44.23	0.04	0.03	0.07	55.59	100%
	Sub-total of line item as % of total spending for the year for all levels	44.22	0.04	0.35	0.11	55.28	100%
1999	Elementary general	43.62	0.13	0.32	0.11	55.82	100%
	Elementary special	43.62	0.13	0.32	0.11	55.82	100%
	Preparatory general	43.62	0.13	0.32	0.11	55.82	100%
	Preparatory special	43.62	0.13	0.32	0.11	55.82	100%
	Secondary	43.62	0.13	0.32	0.11	55.82	100%
	Sub-total of line item as % of total spending for the year for all levels	43.63	0.13	0.32	0.11	55.81	100%
2000	Elementary general	45.57	0.06	0.34	0.21	55.82	100%
	Elementary special	45.57	0.06	0.34	0.21	53.82	100%
	Preparatory general	45.57	0.06	0.34	0.21	53.82	100%
	Preparatory special	43.81	0.06	0.34	0.21	53.82	100%
	Secondary	45.57	0.06	0.34	0.80	53.23	100%
	Sub-total of line item as % of total spending for the year for all levels	45.56	0.12	0.33	0.36	53.63	100%

It is to be noted that the educational expenses on the different levels of general education are not organized along the budget line items reported under table 5. Effort was made to calculate the figures in this table in order to answer the question from the Committee. We have also noticed that most of the training expenses under the Ministry of Education are not charged to one specific "Training" line item. Instead such training expenses are broken down and charged to other smaller budget line items such as travel expenses, daily subsistence allowances foods & drinks, stationary, etc.

Answer to Q 2.b: Government Spending on Health:

The Recurrent Health Budget is organized along the six main budgetary categories of: Salaries & Allowances; Supplies & Materials; Services; Electricity, water, post and communication; Contributions to National & International Organizations; and Furniture, equipment, vehicles, & tools. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested by the Committee under question 2.b directly from the government budget records. However, the following table contains information that has been calculated for the specific purpose of answering the Committee's questions. The expenditure reported in this table relates to children in the age group 12 years and below, which is the age group covered by paediatric medical services. Children above the age of 12 years use the regular medical facilities.

Table no. 6

Category of expenditure on the health of children below the age of 12 years of age		% of Government Recurrent Health Expenditure for the year		
		1998	1999	2000
1	P.H.C	7.6	7.8	7.3
2	Immunization	5.0	4.9	4.5
3	School Health	1.5	1.5	1.4
4	Adolescent Health Care	n/a	n/a	N/a
As % of total recurrent health expenditure for the year		14.1%	14.3%	13.2%

Annex no. 01 provides more details on the Ministry of Health’s Recurrent and Development Expenditures in the Sultanate of Oman for the year 2000.

It is important to note that the Ministry of Health’s spending on health represents around 66% of total spending on health in Oman, while the health facilities owned by the Royal Army, Royal Police, Sultan Qaboos University, and the Petroleum Development of Oman collectively contribute 16%. The private sector contributes 18% of total spending on health in the country.

Answer to Q 2.c: Government Spending on Child Protection:

Child protection is a crosscutting function that is shared by a number of government institutions such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, and Vocational Training (MoSAL&VT), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Royal Oman Police (ROP). As stated earlier, government accounts are not organized in thematic order that would allow calculating government spending on the theme/function of child protection. However, since the focus of the work of the Social Affairs sector of MoSAL&VT is on child and family support and protection, we could present the following details of government spending against the Social Affairs portfolio as a representative sample of government spending on child protection.

Table no. 7

Category of expenditure		% share of Social Affairs Expenditures		
		1998	1999	2000
1	Social security	78.85	81.66	79.82
2	Social Development Programs	0.19	0.26	0.39
3	Child Care Home (for orphans and foundlings)	0.58	0.61	0.62
4	Disabled Care & Rehabilitation Center	1.46	1.72	1.77
5	Others (including salaries and administrative expenses)	18.71	15.75	17.40
Total		100%	100%	100%

Answer to Q 2.d: Government spending on juvenile crime prevention:

Similar to child protection, juvenile crime prevention is a function shared by a number of governmental and non-governmental institutions. Juvenile crime prevention is not readily available as an item of expenditure but it is built into the activities of the Ministry of Education, MoSAL&VT, General Authority for Youth, Sports, and Cultural Affairs (GoYSCA), Royal Oman Police (ROP), Ministry of Information, and Scouts and Guides.

- Q3. *Please provide the following information about children deprived of a family environment, and separated from parents, disaggregated by sex, and age for the last three years:*
- a) *number of children separated from their parents;*
 - b) *number of foundlings; and*
 - c) *how many children are placed with relatives, in kafala, and in welfare institutions.*

Answer to Q 3:

Foundlings are the main category of children separated from their parents in Oman. The following table no. 8 provides the total number of foundlings over the last three years. The table shows how many of the foundlings have been placed with alternative families through the *kafala* system compared to those cared for in the “Child Care Home”, which is the government institution for foundlings.

Table no. 8

Category of Children in Especial Situations		Total Number of Cases		
		1998	1999	2000
Foundlings	M	140	156	171
	F	134	145	151
Children placed in <i>kafala</i> , (*)	M	127	133	140
	F	129	129	144
Children placed in welfare institutions	M	13	23	31
	F	5	6	7

Notes: (*) *This number relates to those cases handled by the MoSAL&VT. However, there are far more cases of orphan children cared for by relatives within the extended family system that are not reported to MoSAL&VT.*

- Q4. Please specify for the last three years, the enrolment and completion rates, disaggregated by sex, age, and region, in percentages, in:
- kindergarten;
 - elementary;
 - intermediate;
 - secondary;
 - vocational; and
 - religious schools.

Answer to Q 4 (a):

Tables 9 and 10 provide the total numbers of children enrolled in the nurseries and kindergartens, which are the two pre-school level care and educational institutions in Oman. Nurseries enroll children below the age of 3.5 years while kindergartens enroll children of the age group 3.5 to 5.5 years.

Table no. 9
Nurseries Total Enrollment (below 3.5 years of age)

Region	1998		1999		2000	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Muscat	555	492	580	574	665	675
Batinah	7	10	6	12	0	0
Dakhiliya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharqiya	3	2	5	5	7	6
Dhahira	8	11	23	20	26	17
Dhofar	0	0	4	3	0	0
Musandam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	573	515	618	614	698	698

Table no. 10
Kindergartens Total Enrollment (3.5 – 5.5 years of age)

Region	1998/1999		1999/2000		2000/2001	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Muscat	2,073	1,787	1,931	1,722	1,696	1,617
Batinah	2,273	1,925	2,490	2,285	2,322	2,465
Dakhiliya	1,219	1,169	1,323	1,158	1,292	1,212
Sharqiya	815	831	953	802	1,059	936
Dhahira	624	550	697	615	731	650
Dhofar	359	310	460	430	374	317
Musandam	118	118	127	124	133	131
Total	7,481	6,690	7,981	7,136	7,607	7,328

Please note that no completion rate is usually calculated for the pre-school level in Oman.

Answer to Q 4 (b, c, and d):

Please see Table no. 11 attached at the end of this report on Primary, Preparatory and Secondary School Net Enrollment and Completion Rates for the school years 1997/98 to 1999/2000.

Answer to Q 4 (e):

Table no. 12 provides total numbers of students enrolled under vocational training for the school years 1998/99 through 2000/2001. Vocational training is available only for boys within the age group 16 – 18 years.

Table no. 12

Region	Number/School Year		
	98/1999	99/2000	00/2001
Muscat	498	485	426
Batinah	353	274	194
Dakhiliya	0	0	0
Sharqiya	322	299	243
Dhahira	278	297	286
Dhofar	0	0	0
Musandam	0	0	0
Total	1,451	1,355	1,149

- Q5. *Please specify the number of children with disabilities, disaggregated by sex and age:*
- living with their families;*
 - in institutions;*
 - attending regular schools; and*
 - attending special schools.*

Answer to Question 5 on disabled children:

Table no. 13

Category of Disabled Children (Less than 15 years)	Boys	Girls	Total
1- Total number of disabled children according to the National Disability Survey of 1995, All living with their families except for temporarily attendance of boarding schools	4,396	2,991	7,387
2- Temporarily living in educational institutions – boarding schools within Oman.	80	9	89
3- Temporarily living in educational institutions – boarding schools outside Oman (scholarships)	56	10	66
4- Attending Special Schools (while living with their families)	1,042	783	1,824

Although there are many disabled children attending regular schools, there is no record kept on these cases.

- Q6. *Please provide the following statistical data of children (disaggregated by sex, age, type of crime, type of sanction) for the last three years:*
- number who committed a crime which was reported to the police;*
 - number who were sentenced by Courts to sanctions, and the nature of the sanctions imposed (imprisonment; community service; other);*
 - number of suspended sentences;*
 - where the sanction is deprivation of liberty, please further specify the period of imprisonment; and*
 - percentage of recidivism cases.*

Answer to Question 6 on children in conflict with the law:

Table no. 14 (attached at the end of this report) provides the numbers of children reported to the police as allegedly committed crimes, the number of young offenders convicted by courts and received imprisonment sentences. The table provides also number of young offenders who received sentence for imprisonment more than one time.

There is no central record available on young offenders (age group > 13 – 18 years) who received sentences alternative to liberty deprivation.

B. General Measures of Implementation

- Q1. *i) In relation to the reservations:*
- a) *please identify "all the provisions of the Convention that do not accord with Islamic law and the legislation in force in the Sultanate";*
 - b) *in light of the reservation to article 21 of the Convention, which expressly refers to those States that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption, and therefore does not apply to the State party because it does not recognize adoption, what reasons prevent the State party from withdrawing its reservation;*
 - c) *with respect to the reservation to article 9(4) of the Convention, please specify what circumstances would justify withholding information about absent family members from a child for reasons of "public safety";*
 - d) *with respect to the reservation to article 7, please specify what restrictions exist to prevent a child from acquiring Omani nationality; and*
 - e) *with respect to the reservations to article 14 and 30 of the Convention, please specify the rationale for them.*
- ii) In light of the recommendations adopted in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights (1993), please indicate what consideration has the State party given to the possibility of reviewing its reservations to the Convention with a view to their withdrawal.*

Answer to question 1(i):

- a. The CRC articles/provisions that do not accord with Islamic Law and the Omani legislation are:
 - Child freedom of choice of religion, CRC article 14.1.
 - Adoption, article 21. It is noted that this provision is applicable only to states that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption.
- b. Oman intends to re-examine its reservations to articles 7, 9, 21, and 30. Oman will be able to report back to the Committee on the result of the re-examination process once it is completed.
- c. Same as point (b) above.
- d. There are only two restrictions with regard to granting a child an Omani nationality: (1) if the child is born to an Omani mother and a known non-Omani father. The principle here is that the child is entitled to his father's nationality. (2) If the child is born in Oman to an unknown father and a known non-Omani mother.

It is important to note that the Omani law grants the Omani nationality to any child born in Oman to unknown parents or to an Omani mother from an unknown father. Such children are entitled to names and nationality without any reference to their social circumstances and they enjoy full civil and political rights on equal foot with all other Omani citizens.

- e. Oman's reservation to article 30 would be re-examined as mentioned in point (b) above. Oman's reservation to article 14.1 is based on Islamic Law, which considers the child before reaching puberty/adulthood and acquiring the required reasoning abilities unqualified to make judgement on religion. The child is considered to be dependent on his/her parents' judgement/choice on such matters.

Answer to question 1(ii):

Please see the answer to question 1 (i) (b) above.

- Q2. *The report indicates that the National Committee for Child Care is entrusted with monitoring and coordinating efforts to implement programmes and projects related to child issues. The report also indicates that the National Implementation and Follow-up Committee is charged with the task of implementing the Convention.*
- i) Please indicate what role each of these institutions plays with respect to:*
- a) *intersectoral co-ordination and co-operation of policies and programmes affecting children at and between central, and local levels of government;*
 - b) *monitoring the implementation of the Convention at central and local levels;*
 - c) *receiving and addressing complaints of violations of child rights; and*
 - d) *the collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and definition of the appropriate indicators in order to design policies and programmes affecting all persons under 18 years.*
- ii) What, if any, overlap, or duplication exists in their functions?*
- iii) Please specify their operating resources, including budget and human resources.*

Answer to Question 2 (i) and (ii):

It is regretted that paragraphs 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 of the Preliminary Report, which dealt with the National Committee for Child Care and the National Implementation and Follow-up Committee, was not accurate. This inaccuracy resulted in giving the impression that there are two parallel bodies responsible of the implementation and follow up of the CRC.

The fact is that the *National Committee for Child Care* is a body that existed since 1985. Following Oman's ratification of the Convention on the Child Rights, Royal Decree number 71/97 was issued to reconstitute the National Committee for Child Care and modify its mandate in accordance with the State obligations under the CRC. The Committee is headed by the Minister of MoSAL&VT and includes the Under Secretaries of six relevant ministries besides others as members. The Committee is entrusted with national policy, programming, monitoring, and documentation issues. The mandate of the National Committee for Child Care is as follows:

- Conduct researches and studies on child related issues and establish a database in this field to be updated on regular basis.
- Develop programs and projects that address the child's physical, emotional, mental and social needs and promote the child's sense of national and Islamic belonging.
- Co-ordinate and combine the efforts of the concerned ministries and bodies through the development and implementation of child related projects and activities.
- Follow up the implementation of developed plans and policies along with the resolutions and recommendations made by child related international and regional meetings and conferences. The Committee shall also express its opinion with respect to child-related agreements and conventions.
- Prepare periodical publications on the status of childhood in the Sultanate of Oman.
- Raise funds to finance non-governmental child related projects.
- Co-ordinate relationships between the child care concerned bodies in the Sultanate of Oman and international, Arab and regional relevant Organisations. The Committee shall also lay foundations, which enables the Sultanate of Oman to benefit from those organisations and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in particular.
- Review child related legislation and suggests amendments and development thereof.
- Issue decisions and internal regulations related to its own governance.
- Carry out any other responsibilities or special tasks assigned and referred to the committee by childcare concerned bodies.

At the operational level this National Committee is assisted by a Technical Secretariat that is entrusted with the following responsibilities:

- To follow up and supervise the implementation of policies, programmes, and decisions adopted by the Committee and to provide related recommendations and reports.
- To provide advise on the correction of the currently implemented projects relating to children.
- To inform the relevant ministries of the recommendations and decisions made by the Committee to act accordingly.
- To provide recommendations to the Committee in relation to child related cultural and educational programmes.
- Any other special jobs assigned to the secretariat by the Committee.

The *National Implementation and Follow-up Committee* was a temporary body created by the Ministry of Health, which took the initiative of following up on the CRC between the time Oman ratified the CRC in 1996 and the time when Royal Decree 71/97 was issued to reconstitute the National Committee for Child Care. This Committee was dissolved since 1997.

Answer to Question 2 (iii):

The operating budget of the National Committee for Child Care comes from the following four sources:

- Funds allocated to the Committee from the government's general budget,
- Donations, grants and contributions approved by the Committee,
- Contributions of local bodies, organizations and establishments, and
- Revenues derived from the activities conducted by the Committee.

MoSAL&VT is allocating an annual operational budget of R.O. 8,000 (equivalent to US\$ 20,833) to support the work of the National Committee.

The Technical Secretariat to the National Committee is headed by the Under Secretary of the Social Affairs Sector of the MoSAL&VT and consists of mid-level representatives of the different relevant governmental institutions.

- Q3. i) *How effective have the State's public awareness-raising campaigns of the Convention been, particularly with respect to professionals working for and with children (eg. of Government officials, legislators, community-based organizations, religious leaders, the mass media), and the public-at-large, including children themselves.*
 ii) *Please describe any ongoing human rights training and education activities for professionals, especially those working for and with children.*

Answer to Q 3 (i):

There is no available information on the “effectiveness” of the public awareness-raising campaigns that could be reported here. The Government realizes the importance of undertaking studies to determine how effective the public awareness campaigns have been. For the purpose of answering this question, MoSAL&VT has organized a poll to measure the impact of awareness-raising campaigns among government officials. The results of this poll will be shared with the Committee during the review Session in September. Copy of the questionnaire being used in the poll is attached to this report as **Annex no. 02**.

Answer to Q 3 (ii):

The Coordination Committee of Women Voluntary Work is currently conducting human rights education and sensitization targeting both rural and urban women at the central and sub-national levels. The objective of this rights education was to raise the legal awareness of women of their legal rights. Women’s improved understanding of their legal rights is directly related to enhancing their understanding of their children’s rights.

PART II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages of the State party as well as in other languages or dialects spoken, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

Answer to the question of part III:

Copies of the CRC have been circulated in Oman in Arabic, the official language, and English as the widely used business language spoken by all expatriates. Copies attached.

PART III

Under this section, States parties are invited, whenever appropriate, to briefly (3 pages maximum) up-date the information provided in their report with regard to:

- *new bills or enacted legislation*
- *new institutions*
- *newly implemented policies*
- *newly implemented programmes*

Answer to Question Part III:

The new bills and enacted legislation relevant to children are listed in the Table no. 15 below:

Table no. 15

Legislation Title and number	Issuing Authority	Summary of Contents or Relevant Article/s
Civil Status Law Royal Decree (R.D.) 66/99	Royal Oman Police (ROP)	This Law was issued on 4 October 1999 and came into effect one year after publication. The Law consists of 61 Articles. Articles 1, 6, and 42 are related to children. The law regulates the organising of the registration of any civil event such as birth, marriage, divorce, nationality, residence and death. Provides that a new-born child must be registered (Omani-or non-Omani) in the birth register. Such register must show the date (in figures and letters), the hour of birth, place, sex, name of child, parental details, tribe, religion, address, and whether the new-born is or is not legitimate. Under Article 42, children between 15 and 18 years of age must apply for ID Cards (for those under 15 years of age this is optional, with parental approval).
Criminal Procedure Law R.D. 97/99	ROP	This Law was issued on 1 December 1999 and applicable since 15 March 2000. Contains 351 Articles. Articles 14, 108, 196, 269, 293, 301, 304, and 348 are applicable to children below the age of 18 years. The Law states that where a person who has not attained the age of 18 is being accused of a crime – in such situations the guardian must assist the accused in defending him/herself in all proceedings. A person under the age of 18 can be heard before a court without taking oath but his statements will not be considered as testimony.
Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law R.D. 17/99	Ministry of Health (MoH)	This Law consists of 72 Articles. Article 43, paragraph 3 indicates that using a minor in drugs trafficking could lead to death penalty.
Child Care Home Regulation Ministerial Decree (M. D.) 91/99	Ministry of Social Affairs Labour and Vocational Training	Issued on 2 May 1999 and took effect from 15 May 1999. Defined “Children in need of Care” as those born in the Sultanate of unknown parents or unknown father or those recently born and deprived of parental care. The Child Care Home (defined in the Regulation) provides such children with all of the services children need, such as food, clothes, cleaning, suckling, medical, psychiatric therapy, education, and guardianship. The needy child must be between 3 month and 10 years of age. (Note: children below the age of three months whose parents are unknown are kept under the care of hospitals). A substitute family could adopt a child of unknown parents while the child is still in the hospital or after joining the Child Care Home..
Cigarettes and Tobacco Products Regulation M..D. 39/2001	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	Article of this Ministerial Decree states that cigarettes and tobacco products shall not be sold to persons under the age of 18.

<p>Prison Law R. D. 48/98</p>	<p>ROP</p>	<p>This Law was issued on 26 July 1998. The Law consists of 64 Articles. Articles 8, 27, and 28 deals with the situation of imprisoned children. Provides that prisoners who are less than 18 years of age shall be kept in a separate detention from other prisoners. A child born to an imprisoned mother will remain with her until the age of two, after which (if the mother wishes) he will be given to the father or an appropriate guardian. If the child has no known father or relatives to take care of him he/she will be taken to the Child Care Home or given to a substitute family.</p>
<p>Draft Juveniles Law (pursuant to the juvenile justice system under Art. 40 of the CRC)</p>	<p>MoSAL&VT</p>	<p>This draft legislation is a landmark in Omani juvenile justice. It establishes all the main elements of a juvenile justice system. The draft law introduces for the first time specialized juvenile police, courts, social case study, penalties alternative to liberty deprivation, separate corrective detention institutions, and after release social re-integration service. The draft law makes use of the international UN standards related to juvenile justice</p>

New Institutions Established:

1- The Unit for Medical and Social Care: A new medical and social care unit has been established under the Centre for Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled. The unit provides medical and physiotherapy services for severely disabled children. The unit also provides guidance and training for parents on how to care for the severely disabled children. The unit is currently caring for 97 cases of severely disabled between the ages of 3 to 5 years.

2-The Family Counseling and Guidance Department: MoSAL&VT recently established this department to assist in preserving healthy and culturally acceptable family relationships within the Omani society. The purpose of this Department is to assist troubled families overcoming their social problems related to differences between couples, divorce, child abuse and others.

3- Women Social Development Centres: Seven Women Social Development Centres have been set up by voluntary communal groups with the objective of developing rural women socially and economically.

4- Three additional Al-Wafa Social Centers for Disabled Children: This brings the total Al-Wafa Social Centers to 14 (See Government Spending on Education, page 4).

Newly Implemented Policies:

Prohibition of Hazardous Child Labor: By ratifying ILO Convention 182 and endorsing ILO Recommendation 190, Oman has introduced all the policies related to the prohibition of hazardous child labor embodied in Convention 182 and Recommendation 190.

Newly Implemented Programs:

Male Volunteer Community Support Groups: For a number of years the MoH has been effectively using women volunteer community support groups to promote breastfeeding, birth spacing, and triple A approach to nutrition. Now male volunteer community support groups have been created to disseminate health messages and raise health awareness among the male members of the communities.

Basic Education Reform: The Ministry of Education introduced basic education reform. The reform involves replacing the traditional teaching practice with the participatory student-centre approach; changing the school ladder; changing the curricula and textbooks; increasing total hours allocated to science and foreign languages; enhancing the skills of the teacher; etc.

Parents-Teachers Associations: Have been established by the MoE to ensure proper coordination between the school and family and to involve parents in the education of their children.

Salt Iodization and Flour Fortification: Have been instituted both and micronutrients policies and programs under the Ministry of Health.

HIV/AIDS and Congenital Diseases Screening and Counseling for New Couples: This service is now available for interested couples or people planning to marry.

Integrated Management of Child Illnesses (IMCI): IMCI has been introduced as a new health policy and program.

The Youth Theater: Has been introduced under the General Authority for Youth, Sports, and Cultural Affairs to encourage adolescents and youth to express themselves and address their concerns using social drama.

Table no. 11
Primary, Preparatory and Secondary School Net Enrollment and Completion Rates
School years 1997/98 to 1999/2000

REGION	SEX	PRIMARY						PREPARATORA						SECONDARY					
		97/98		98/99		99/2000		97/98		98/99		99/2000		97/98		98/99		99/2000	
		ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %	ER%	COM %
Muscat	M	88.41	92.18	90.10	93.90	89.94	98.02	60.31	66.20	66.90	65.06	67.10	72.70	35.37	38.08	37.20	41.91	39.50	n/a
	F	87.93	87.74	88.20	88.76	89.53	95.95	66.38	76.97	67.20	77.28	68.81	84.69	44.33	51.07	47.20	60.14	50.94	n/a
	T	88.18	89.99	89.15	91.24	89.74	96.97	63.27	71.59	67.02	71.14	67.93	78.68	39.58	44.66	41.92	50.96	44.92	n/a
Batinah	M	91.61	85.69	93.50	87.32	93.47	97.02	62.05	59.30	69.00	64.40	69.90	60.50	34.47	31.64	36.50	38.34	43.33	n/a
	F	90.70	87.15	91.50	89.57	92.14	91.43	67.22	69.45	72.80	76.40	75.21	70.96	41.34	48.32	45.80	55.17	53.34	n/a
	T	91.16	86.41	92.53	88.42	92.81	94.31	64.61	64.21	70.91	70.25	72.53	65.63	37.88	39.75	41.21	46.45	48.30	n/a
Dakhiliya	M	90.19	82.36	90.40	89.03	90.41	97.97	69.65	77.85	71.50	71.88	71.64	77.96	40.62	48.43	45.20	56.54	51.63	n/a
	F	87.57	85.35	87.60	87.44	88.54	96.30	70.43	84.25	74.10	85.20	74.43	79.89	43.83	62.09	50.70	72.46	58.75	n/a
	T	88.89	83.85	89.00	88.24	89.48	97.15	70.03	80.92	72.75	78.33	73.01	78.91	42.21	54.78	47.91	64.18	55.15	n/a
Sharqiya	M	89.11	81.61	90.50	86.68	90.31	95.45	59.93	65.94	64.30	68.33	66.20	65.54	37.16	39.23	38.60	43.88	43.53	n/a
	F	85.23	80.68	85.10	88.23	87.86	89.12	60.28	76.75	64.70	77.31	66.43	73.57	42.70	57.18	44.80	64.05	50.58	n/a
	T	87.19	81.16	87.84	87.41	89.10	92.44	60.10	70.89	64.48	72.56	66.31	69.48	39.88	47.40	41.69	53.22	46.98	n/a
Dhahira	M	89.21	88.73	87.80	86.83	85.42	96.65	65.06	76.45	67.90	73.78	65.70	69.57	47.05	42.77	50.30	50.94	54.88	n/a
	F	85.27	88.21	83.20	90.56	83.16	89.89	68.21	80.02	70.10	79.54	68.82	79.55	52.02	55.71	54.10	70.76	58.25	n/a
	T	87.27	88.48	85.52	88.63	84.31	93.32	66.56	78.18	68.97	76.55	67.24	74.36	49.49	49.21	52.18	60.51	56.56	n/a
Dhofar	M	84.43	76.32	84.10	93.79	82.80	98.91	54.91	58.09	57.50	58.38	61.98	64.72	43.14	39.91	49.90	40.85	33.00	n/a
	F	84.83	82.85	83.80	91.74	82.44	94.98	62.85	69.03	63.30	76.80	67.26	81.18	56.78	51.64	57.20	51.38	45.07	n/a
	T	84.62	79.54	83.96	92.77	82.63	96.98	58.74	63.28	60.32	67.14	64.53	72.84	49.89	45.50	53.58	45.73	38.84	n/a
Wusta	M	91.31	48.54	94.30	70.65	96.08	61.79	37.18	0.00	43.10	0.00	55.65	32.77	10.09	0.00	11.40	0.00	16.52	n/a
	F	62.94	50.00	67.40	41.99	72.47	50.39	9.80	0.00	24.20	0.00	41.13	42.86	1.79	0.00	3.50	0.00	4.28	n/a
	T	77.55	49.14	81.16	56.62	84.60	56.00	24.55	0.00	34.27	0.00	49.05	34.96	6.26	0.00	7.70	0.00	10.99	n/a
Musandam	M	74.88	78.44	68.90	80.05	65.25	75.90	64.42	64.59	59.70	55.69	52.79	53.37	26.26	29.38	39.10	36.39	42.15	n/a
	F	72.43	77.75	69.00	81.41	68.25	71.81	53.56	62.75	50.50	68.00	44.80	68.98	37.23	45.08	39.40	50.00	47.24	n/a
	T	73.68	78.12	68.97	80.70	66.70	74.00	59.24	63.69	55.30	61.62	48.87	60.09	31.21	36.17	39.25	42.12	44.50	n/a
Total	M	89.37	84.58	90.30	88.70	89.88	96.51	62.04	65.88	66.80	66.55	67.62	67.36	37.38	38.25	40.20	43.80	43.63	48.71
	F	87.44	85.30	87.50	88.55	88.37	92.00	65.68	74.82	69.10	78.12	70.67	77.69	44.20	52.93	47.80	60.88	52.62	63.28
	T	88.42	84.94	88.90	88.63	89.14	94.30	63.82	70.19	67.94	72.16	69.12	72.40	40.71	45.32	43.96	51.98	48.03	55.69

**Table no. 14
Juvenile Offenders**

Details of Sentences	1998						1999						2000					
	Males			Females			Males			Females			Males			Females		
	Age Groups (Years)			Age Groups (Years)			Age Groups (Years)			Age Groups (Years)			Age Groups (Years)			Age Groups (Years)		
	9-12	13-<15	15-18	9-12	13-<15	15-18	9-12	13-<15	15-18	9-12	13-<15	15-18	9-12	13-<15	15-18	9-12	13-<15	15-18
police (total)	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	257	757	0	9	15	13	273	706		12	20
♦ <i>Theft</i>							3	87	332			1	4	90	203		6	1
♦ <i>Homosexuality</i>								15	33					17	34			
♦ <i>Adultery</i>									1					1	2			7
♦ <i>Quarrel</i>								15					3	1	21	58		
♦ <i>Drunkenness</i>								2	13						8			
♦ <i>Murder</i>							1	1	8						4			
♦ <i>Drugs</i>									7									
♦ <i>Traffic</i>																		
♦ <i>Others</i>							6	137	363		6	7	8	144	397		6	12
2- Cases Sentenced to Imprisonment (total)	0	9	104	0	0	0	0	9	74	0	0	0	0	8	49			
♦ <i>Theft</i>		7	52					7	37					5	23			
♦ <i>Homosexuality</i>		2	18			16			14					3	19			
♦ <i>Adultery</i>			5						2						2		1	6
♦ <i>Quarrel</i>			11					1	1						2			
♦ <i>Drunkenness</i>									2						1			
♦ <i>Murder</i>			2						1						1			
♦ <i>Drugs</i>																		
♦ <i>Traffic</i>																		
♦ <i>Others</i>			16					1	17									3
3- Length of Imprisonment																		
♦ <i>1-11 months</i>		8	70					9	30					3	22			7
♦ <i>13-36</i>		1	43						38					4	26		1	2
♦ <i>37-60</i>			1						2					1	1			
♦ <i>61- More</i>									4									
4- Detainees released prior to completing full sentences			19						10					2	5		1	
5- Cases of recidivism (repeated imprisonment)			2						2					1	2			