



**Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
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**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OF JORDAN CONCERNING THE LIST OF ISSUES
(CRC/C/JOR/Q/3) RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS
OF THE CHILD RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE
THIRD PERIODIC REPORT OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF
JORDAN (CRC/C/JOR/3)***

[Received on 17 August 2006]

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

A. Data and statistics, if available

- 1. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by sex, age groups, ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on the number and percentage of children under the age of 18 living in Jordan.**

See annex 1: Census data on the number of children under the age of 18.

- 2. In the light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide disaggregated data on budget allocations and trends (in absolute figures and percentages of the national and regional budgets) for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 regarding the implementation of the Convention, evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:**

- (a) Education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary)**

- 1. [Annual budget for 2006]**

- (a) Preschool (kindergarten):**

Current operating costs: 1,399,000¹

Capital expenditure: 16,000

- (b) Basic education:**

Current operating costs: 236,161,500

Capital expenditure: 20,257,000

- (c) Secondary education:**

Current operating costs: 63,672,000

Capital expenditure: 2,259,000

- 2. Annual budget for 2005**

- (a) Preschool (kindergarten):**

Current operating costs: 1,385,808

Capital expenditure: 49,492

¹ In Jordanian dinars. (*Translator's note.*)

- (b) Basic education:
Current operating costs: 228,459,920
Capital expenditure: 8,159,173
- (c) Secondary education:
Current operating costs: 38,815,851
Capital expenditure: 1,386,262

3. Annual budget for 2004

- (a) Preschool (kindergarten):
Current operating costs: 1,030,585
Capital expenditure: 42,019
- (b) Basic education:
Current operating costs: 213,310,291
Capital expenditure: 8,697,065
- (c) Secondary education:
Current operating costs: 35,540,132
Capital expenditure: 1,449,039

(b) Social development

Budget appropriations for 2004

Programme	Amount in figures	Amount in words	Percentage
Programme and services for children with disabilities	2 522 595 Jordanian dinars	Two million five hundred twenty-two thousand five hundred ninety-five Jordanian dinars	51.3% of the Ministry budget
Assistance programmes for poor families	55 504 695 Jordanian dinars	Fifty-five million five hundred four thousand six hundred ninety-five Jordanian dinars	93% of the Assistance Fund budget
Programmes for children in need of alternative forms of care, including <i>kafalah</i> , and support for childcare institutions	294 600 Jordanian dinars	Two hundred ninety-four thousand six hundred Jordanian dinars	6% of the Ministry budget

Programme	Amount in figures	Amount in words	Percentage
Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour	665 200 Jordanian dinars	Six hundred sixty-five thousand two hundred Jordanian dinars	13.6% of the Ministry budget

Budget appropriations for 2005

Programme and services for children with disabilities	2 090 000 Jordanian dinars	Two million ninety thousand Jordanian dinars	33.3% of the Ministry budget
Assistance programmes for poor families	56 083 228 Jordanian dinars	Fifty-six million eighty-three thousand two hundred twenty-eight Jordanian dinars	93% of the Assistance Fund budget
Programmes for children in need of alternative forms of care, including <i>kafalah</i> , and support for childcare institutions	468 000 Jordanian dinars	Four hundred sixty-eight thousand Jordanian dinars	7.5% of the Ministry budget
Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour	749 000 Jordanian dinars	Seven hundred forty-nine thousand Jordanian dinars	12% of the Ministry budget

Budget appropriations for 2006

Programme and services for children with disabilities	2 392 000 Jordanian dinars	Two million three hundred ninety-two thousand Jordanian dinars	33.7% of the Ministry budget
Assistance programmes for poor families	55 000 000 Jordanian dinars	Fifty-five million Jordanian dinars	93% of the Assistance Fund budget
Programmes for children in need of alternative forms of care, including <i>kafalah</i> , and support for childcare institutions	476 000 Jordanian dinars	Four hundred seventy-six thousand Jordanian dinars	6.7% of the Ministry budget
Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour	836 000 Jordanian dinars	Eight hundred thirty-six thousand Jordanian dinars	11.8% of the Ministry budget

Health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care, HIV/AIDS and other health-care services for children, including social insurance);

All data and statistics relating to health will be transmitted in the near future.

(b) Programmes and services for children with disabilities

See annex 2.

- (c) **Support programmes for families**
- (d) **Protection of children who are in need of alternative care, including *kafalah*, and the support of care institutions**

See annex 3.

- (e) **Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour**

With regard to programmes and activities relating to the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour, the Family Protection Department, which is part of the Public Security Directorate, investigates and handles cases of sexual violence and abuse involving children. Such children are the responsibility of social workers who have been specially trained in this area and who have been provided with procedural guidelines that allow them to offer high-quality professional services. In addition, children and their families are made aware of the effects of abuse through talks, articles in the media and orientation programmes.

As regards the number of person involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking in persons, the following tables contain data on the total number of children who were provided with treatment and other forms of assistance, the number of child victims who received social and psychological services during 2003, 2004 and 2005, and statistics relating to the number of children transferred to the Social Service Bureau who received social and psychological guidance at the Family Protection Department during the period 2003-2005.

Year	2003	2004	2005
Number of cases	284	429	777

Number of sexual and physical assaults involving children dealt with by the Family Protection Department during 2003-2005

Type of assault	2003	2004	2005
Sexual assaults	489	589	622
Physical assaults	107	107	97

Number of child victims (of both sexes) of sexual and physical assaults whose cases were dealt with by the Family Protection Department during 2003-2005

Year	Sexual assaults		Physical assaults	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2003	315	218	63	84
2004	420	340	81	82
2005	353	284	60	73

**Number of sexual and physical assaults dealt with by the
Family Protection Department during 2003-2005**

Year	Sexual assaults		Physical assaults	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2003	680	27	94	36
2004	782	23	93	26
2005	815	15	88	32

With regard to child labour, the Ministry of Labour, through its Child Labour Unit, has carried out the following activities:

- In early 2001 a Child Labour Unit was established within the Ministry of Labour, in cooperation with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), thereby fulfilling the Jordanian Government's obligations under the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) of 1999. The Unit studies the problem of child labour from the economic, social, educational and health perspectives. In addition, in February 2003 the National Strategy for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, which has its basis in the principles of ILO Convention No. 182, was adopted.
- Following are the principal projects carried out and currently being implemented by the Ministry:

Project title: Gradual elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

This project is being implemented in two phases:

First phase (completed), January 2001-October 2003

Executing agency: Ministry of Labour (in cooperation and coordination with official and non-governmental entities active in the area of child labour)

Financing: IPEC (ILO)

Cost: US\$ 100,000

Objectives:

- Support and build the capacities of the Child Labour Unit;
- Create a database on child labour in Jordan;
- Prepare a report on the situation of child labour in Jordan;

- Establish national policies and strategies to combat child labour;
- Study national legislation to determine whether it is consistent with Jordan's obligations under the international instruments it has ratified in the area of child labour.

Project target group: Working children

Second phase (in progress), September 2004-September 2007

Executing agency: Ministry of Labour (in cooperation and coordination with official and non-governmental entities active in the area of child labour)

Financing: IPEC (ILO)

Cost: US\$ 76,000

Objectives:

- Remove 3,000 children from the worst forms of child labour;
- Afford protection to 500 children at risk of dropping out of school;
- Provide psychological and material assistance to 1,000 families of working children;
- Compile an inventory of efforts to support and assist working children and offer them a life with dignity;
- Monitor indicators and forms of child labour in Jordan;
- Monitor international and national legislation on the subject.

Project target group: Working children and their families

(f) Programmes and services for refugee children

With regard to programmes and services for refugee children, it should be noted that children receive equal treatment in Jordan regardless of nationality, race or belief, and foreign children are provided with the same services as Jordanian children.

The processing of refugees and coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are governed by the Memorandum of Understanding concluded by Jordan and UNHCR in 1998 and by the letter of understanding of 2005, which exempts refugees under UNHCR authority in Jordan from the terms of the Memorandum. The number of juvenile asylum-seekers and refugees are as follows:

- Total number of refugees aged 4 years and under: 28 (including 19 Iraqis);
- Total number of refugees aged 5 to 17 years: 285 (including 211 Iraqis);
- Total number of juvenile asylum-seekers aged 4 and under: 1,020 (including 986 Iraqis);
- Total number of juvenile asylum-seekers aged 4 to 17 years: 4,509 (including 4,341 Iraqis):
 - Total number of asylum-seekers under the age of 18 unaccompanied by parents: 62;
 - Total number of refugees under the age of 18 unaccompanied by parents: 7.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) also offers programmes and services for refugee children under its care.

See annex 4: Programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

3. With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from parents, please provide disaggregated data (by sex, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on the number of children:

(a) Separated from their parents;

(b) Placed in institutions

See annex 5: Number of children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents placed in custodial institutions.

The total number of children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents who were placed in custodial institutions operated by Government and non-governmental organizations in 2003 can be broken down as follows:

Social situation	Sex			Age group		
	Male	Female	Total	0-6 years	6-12 years	12-18 years
Family disintegration	204	222	426	245	123	58
Orphaned	160	167	327	22	191	114
Family ties unknown	190	204	394	154	163	77
Foundlings	5	6	11	11	0	0
Children adopted under the <i>kafalah</i> system	3	4	7	7	0	0
Children in foster homes	21	13	24	34	0	0
Total	583	616	1 199	473	477	249

The total number of children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents who were placed in custodial institutions operated by Government and non-governmental organizations in 2004 can be broken down as follows:

Social situation	Sex			Age group		
	Male	Female	Total	0-6 years	6-12 years	12-18 years
Family disintegration	156	218	374	113	187	74
Orphaned	172	75	247	17	113	117
Family ties unknown	211	200	411	262	118	31
Foundlings	3	6	9	7	1	1
Children adopted under the <i>kafalah</i> system	5	14	19	15	4	0
Children in foster homes	10	11	21	21	0	0
Total	557	524	1 081	435	423	223

The total number of children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents who were placed in custodial institutions operated by Government and non-governmental organizations in 2005 can be broken down as follows:

Social situation	Sex			Age group		
	Male	Female	Total	0-6 years	6-12 years	12-18 years
Family disintegration	161	165	326	106	151	69
Orphaned	164	191	355	28	217	110
Family ties unknown	204	229	433	148	147	138
Foundlings	14	13	27	27	0	0
Children adopted under the <i>kafalah</i> system	105	72	177	26	63	88
Children in foster homes	10	9	19	19	0	0
Total	658	679	1 337	354	578	405

4. Please specify the number of children with disabilities, up to the age of 18, disaggregated by sex, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, and urban and rural areas, covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005:

- (a) **Living with their families;**
- (b) **Living in institutions;**
- (c) **Placed through *kafalah*;**

See annex 6: Ministry of Social Development services for disabled persons.

- (d) **Attending regular schools**

1. There are 930 hearing-impaired pupils of both sexes, of whom 755 are enrolled in the nine schools for the hearing impaired operated by the Ministry of Education, where they follow the regular curriculum.

2. There are 305 visually-impaired children of both sexes, of whom 255 are enrolled in the two schools for the visually impaired: the Abdallah ibn Umm Maktum Elementary School, located in Marka, for pupils in the first through sixth grades, and the Secondary School for the Blind, located in Abdun, for pupils in grades seven through basic secondary education.
3. There are 7,639 children of both sexes with learning disabilities studying in 463 resource centres for the learning disabled, which offer grades two through six of basic education.
4. Mental disabilities: 28 pupils, placed in four centres for the mentally disabled attached to regular schools. Pupil age ranges from 5 to 12 years.
5. Motor disabilities: 567 pupils, placed in public schools throughout the Kingdom.
5. **Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by sex, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on:**
 - (a) **Rates of infant and child mortality;**
 - (b) **Rates of immunization;**
 - (c) **Rates of malnutrition;**
 - (d) **Children infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS;**
 - (e) **Adolescent health, including early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), mental health problems (e.g. suicide rates, eating disorders, depression), tobacco use, alcohol and drug abuse; and**
 - (f) **The number of health professionals working in the health-care services for children**

The Ministry of Health will provide the Committee with the statistics, percentages and information requested in the near future.

6. **With reference to child abuse, please provide disaggregated data (by sex, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, and types of child abuse reported) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on:**
 - (a) **The number of reported child abuse cases**

**Total number of cases of sexual and physical assault of minors handled
by the Family Protection Department between 2003 and 2005**

Type of assault	2003	2004	2005
Sexual assaults	489	589	622
Physical assaults	107	107	97

Total number of children of both sexes who were sexually and physically assaulted and whose cases were dealt with by the Family Protection Department during 2003-2005

Year	Sexual assaults		Physical assaults	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2003	315	218	63	84
2004	420	340	81	82
2005	353	284	60	73

Total number of offenders committing sexual and physical assaults whose cases were dealt with by the Family Protection Department during 2003-2005

Year	Sexual assaults		Physical assaults	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2003	680	27	94	36
2004	782	23	93	26
2005	815	15	88	32

(b) The number and percentage of reports that have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up

See annex 7: Statistics on the number of sentences handed down by the Jordanian courts.

(c) The number and proportion of child victims who have received counselling and assistance in recovery

The following table shows the number of children who were referred to the Social Service Bureau and to whom social and psychological assistance and advice were provided by the Family Protection Department during the period 2003-2005.

	2003	2004	2005
Number of cases	284	429	777

7. Please specify the criteria for “poverty” and indicate the number of children living below the poverty line. Please also specify the support for children living below the poverty line.

See annex 8: Evaluation study of poverty in Jordan.

8. With reference to the right to education, please provide disaggregated statistical data (by sex, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas, immigrant children) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, in percentage of the relevant age group, on the:

- (a) Rates of literacy (under the age of 18)

Table 1

Illiteracy among the population under the age of 15

School year	Illiteracy (percentage)		
	Total	Boys	Girls
2003	0.8	1	0.6
2004	1.2	1.5	0.9
2005	0.9	1	0.7

Table 2

Illiteracy among the population aged 15 years and above between 2003 and 2005

School year	Illiteracy (percentage)		
	Total	Boys	Girls
2003	9.9	5.1	14.8
2004	9.1	4.5	14.1
2005	9.0	4.8	13.3

- (b) Preschool, primary and secondary school enrolment

By level of education, age group and sex for 2002-2003

Rate	Sex	Age group and level of education		
		Preschool (4 and 5 years)	Primary (6-15 years)	Secondary (16 and 17 years)
Gross rate	Total	33.88	98.97	79.66
	Boys	35.06	98.36	78.03
	Girls	32.64	99.60	81.38
Participation rate	Total	47.73	96.02	63.44
	Boys	48.84	94.99	61.83
	Girls	46.56	97.11	65.15
Net rate	Total	31.16	94.34	70.16
	Boys	32.20	93.50	69.74
	Girls	30.06	95.22	70.62

By level of education, age group and sex for 2003-2004

Rate	Sex	Age group and level of education		
		Preschool (4 and 5 years)	Primary (6-15 years)	Secondary (16 and 17 years)
Gross rate	Total	33.71	98.19	75.84
	Boys	34.51	97.84	73.96
	Girls	32.86	98.55	77.82
Participation rate	Total	46.62	95.27	67.7
	Boys	47.15	94.42	67.5
	Girls	46.04	96.16	67.92
Net rate	Total	31.14	93.61	60.02
	Boys	31.76	93.05	58.59
	Girls	30.48	94.20	61.52

By level of education, age group and sex for 2004-2005

Rate	Sex	Age group and level of education		
		Preschool (4 and 5 years)	Primary (6-15 years)	Secondary (16 and 17 years)
Gross rate	Total	33.91	96.26	73.51
	Boys	34.93	95.70	69.91
	Girls	32.82	96.86	77.31
Participation rate	Total	32.89	91.93	66.22
	Boys	33.57	91.29	63.98
	Girls	32.18	92.60	68.58
Net rate	Total	31.24	93.52	58.64
	Boys	32.11	92.48	55.44
	Girls	30.33	94.61	62.02

(c) Percentage of children completing primary and secondary school**Primary school completion rate for 1990-1992**

(Percentage)

1990	93.3
1991	93.9
1992	94.3

(d) Number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions**Repetition rates for all classes**

(Percentage)

Primary level

Total	0.68
Boys	0.72
Girls	0.63

Secondary level

Total	0.43
Boys	0.58
Girls	0.29

Repetition rates, Ministry of Education**Primary level**

Total	0.63
Boys	0.70
Girls	0.57

Secondary level

Total	0.43
Boys	0.65
Girls	0.24

The number of children who drop out of school is 6,381 (both sexes).

(e) Pupil/teacher ratio and number of children per class**Number of teachers in relation to number of pupils per class**

2003/04 school year	Teachers	Pupils
Kindergarten	4 312	87 803
Primary	64 048	1 242 851
Secondary	12 796	173 696

2004/05 school year	Teachers	Pupils
Kindergarten	4 877	91 486
Primary	57 834	1 256 433
Secondary	15 587	183 412

2005/06 school year	Teachers	Pupils
Kindergarten	4 722	95 389
Primary	62 735	1 269 327
Secondary	16 150	184 139

Percentage of teachers in relation to the number of pupils per class

2003/04 school year	Teachers	Pupils
Kindergarten	4 312	87 803
Primary	64 048	1 242 851
Secondary	12 796	173 696

9. **Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by sex, age groups and type of crime) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, in particular on the number of:**

- (a) **Persons under the age of 18 who have allegedly committed a crime, reported to the police;**
- (b) **Persons under the age of 18 who have been charged with a crime, and of those sentenced, and the type of punishment or sanctions related to offences, including length of deprivation of liberty**

See annex 7: Cases referred to the courts in 2003, 2004 and 2005 in which sentences were handed down against minors.

- (c) **Detention facilities for persons under the age of 18 in conflict with the law, and the capacities of these facilities;**
- (d) **Persons under the age of 18 detained in these facilities and persons under the age of 18 detained in adult facilities**

The public security services detain children (a child is any minor under 18 years of age) about whom complaints have been received, where necessary and in accordance with the law, for 24 hours in special juvenile detention centres that are found in all provinces. Children detained pursuant to a judicial order are placed in special centres known as educational and rehabilitation homes for minors run by the Ministry of Social Development, where they are grouped according to age and sex. A special centre of this type, also run by the Ministry of Social Development, exists for young girls. It should be noted that minors who have been sentenced are not held in adult facilities until they reach 18 years of age.

- (e) **Persons under the age of 18 kept in pretrial detention, and the average length of their detention**

Minors are not held in adult facilities but are placed in juvenile centres run by the Ministry of Social Development. Pretrial detention does not exceed 24 hours.

B. General measures of implementation

- 2. Please provide information on the legal status of the Convention after ratification. Does it have the force and effect of domestic law? Does it require approval by Parliament and gazetting to become domesticated?**
- 4. Please provide information on cases, if any, where the Convention has been directly invoked in domestic courts, and if so, please provide examples of such cases.**

The Government submitted the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the National Assembly for its ratification and publication in the Official Gazette. The large number of bills awaiting consideration by the Assembly, together with the fact that this body has not met for over two years and that priority has been accorded to legislation relating to the economy has held up approval of the Convention. It should be noted, however, that the Convention has been included in the programme of work for the next session of the Assembly.

- 3. Please provide updated information on the status of the comprehensive Child Rights Act, which was submitted to the National Assembly in 2004.**

The National Assembly has announced that the Act has been included in its programme of work for its extraordinary session scheduled for next month.

- 6. Please provide updated information on the activities of the National Centre for Human Rights particularly related to the implementation of the Convention, and on the number of individual complaints investigated and their outcomes, and provide specific information on cases involving children (e.g. number and nature of complaints filed by, or on behalf of, children).**

The National Centre for Human Rights is composed of four units, including the Complaints and Legal Services Unit, which receives and handles complaints, including complaints of violations of children's rights. Two lawyers specializing in women's and children's issues are responsible for the further processing of those complaints and provide legal advice as necessary. The Centre gives priority to complaints relating to children's rights. The Centre has received 60 complaints concerning specific situations involving children and 87 relating to the status of minors in Jordan.

Furthermore, please indicate how the independence of the National Centre for Human Rights is ensured, in the light of the Paris Principles (General Assembly resolution 48/134, annex), and when its permanency will be assured, as it currently exists through a temporary law.

Although the Constitution does not draw a distinction between permanent and temporary laws, article 94, paragraph 2, of that text states that "temporary laws shall enter into force in the same way as permanent laws, which are adopted pursuant to article 93, paragraph 2, of the Constitution". However, the fact that the National Centre for Human Rights Act is still a temporary law continues to pose an obstacle to the Centre's independence. It also prevents it

from becoming an active member of various international human rights leagues and associations, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum of Human Rights Institutions and the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC).

In order to become independent, the National Centre for Human Rights is doing everything possible to ensure that the Act acquires permanent status, and has taken various steps to this end, notably:

- Visits and meetings with the chairmen of the legal committees of both houses of Parliament (National Assembly and Senate);
- A meeting between the President of the Council of Municipalities and the President of the Senate;
- Numerous visits to the Chancellery of Legislation and Opinions.

7. Please provide information on the State party's initiative to create an ombudsman's office, and please clarify whether or not it will have a focus on children's issues.

A special unit has been set up within the Public Security Directorate to deal with complaints relating to citizens' rights. Any person, adult or minor, who believes that his or her rights have been infringed may submit a complaint to this unit.

To improve the treatment of offenders, two special juvenile units have been established on a pilot basis in two police stations in the Amman police district (Zahran and Al-Qawasmeh stations).

Two new units are being established in Amman and Zarka provinces for the same purpose.

In addition, the National Centre for Human Rights deals with complaints concerning children's rights. The Centre has received 225 complaints involving children, including children in conflict with the law. Some 200 complaints and requests for assistance have been received each year, concerning such issues as the rights to health, education, food, social security, recognition of legal status, equality, life, humane treatment, access to protective services and family visits.

8. Please provide updated information on the activities of the National Council on Family Affairs and its Child Welfare Unit.

1. The National Study on the Most Disadvantaged Children in Jordan (2003) provides quantitative and qualitative information on the most disadvantaged children and on programmes and policies targeted at them, and proposes recommendations and initiatives to improve the living conditions of the following groups within the juvenile population: children in greatest need, child workers, street children, children with special needs, children deprived of a family environment and juvenile offenders. A summary of the report was updated in 2005.

2. A compendium of data on kindergartens in Jordan covering the period 2004-2005 has been prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The report provides information on the number of kindergartens in the country and their geographical distribution; it also lists the number of teachers, their training and specialization, and will be therefore be useful in assessing future training needs. The compendium also provides information on the number of children enrolled in kindergartens in all provinces, disaggregated by sex, which will help ensure proper planning in this area.
 3. The first phase of a study on children's learning readiness in school has been completed; the second and third phases are being prepared in cooperation with the Human Resources Development Centre of the Ministry of Education.
 4. An analysis of the state of children in Jordan in 2006 has been prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the agencies concerned.
 5. Criteria for the establishment and certification of kindergartens developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education have been tested in the field, with a view to determining the extent to which the new criteria can be applied and the arrangements that kindergartens must follow in doing so.
- 9. Please provide information on the measures taken to implement the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children for the Years 2004-2013, published in October 2004, as well as on measures taken to monitor and evaluate its implementation.**

The National Council on Family Affairs has prepared a system for follow-up and evaluation of the National Plan of Action for Children and held a training seminar to build the capacities of executing agencies. In late 2005 a workshop for the agencies responsible for implementing the National Plan of Action for Children was held to set priorities for 2006. The Council is currently receiving follow-up and evaluation reports from the executing agencies.

10. Please provide information on the content, and results, of implementation of:

- (a) The Early Childhood Development Strategy in Jordan published in December 2000 and the subsequent Plan of Action for the Years 2003-2007**

The Early Childhood Development Team, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Rania Abdallah, prepared the Early Childhood Development Strategy at the end of 2000. The Strategy addresses various issues and factors relating to early childhood development. Using research and analysis, the strategy covers 14 main areas encompassing various topics and aspects of early childhood. These areas are: planning and management; legislation; prenatal health care; institutional care of children; preschool education; basic education in the first three years; basic education and the local community; children with special needs; plans and programmes; health-care services; the culture of the child; the role of the media in early childhood development; human resources and social security.

(b) The National Strategy for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour published in February 2003

The Government has ratified the ILO Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (No. 138); Jordan was also one of the first countries to ratify the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182).

- In September 2004, the second phase of the National Project for the Elimination of Child Labour in Jordan was launched. Project co-signatories were the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Security, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, the Jordanian Chamber of Industry and the University of Yarmuk as well as ILO. The aim of the Project is to coordinate, under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour, efforts to eliminate child labour.
- The first phase of the Project was launched in 2001, when an agreement was concluded between the Ministry of Labour and ILO for the gradual elimination of child labour.
- The objectives of the National Project for the Elimination of Child Labour are to:
 - (a) Build the institutional capacities of all the bodies concerned;
 - (b) Remove 3,000 child workers from the labour market, rehabilitate them and provide them with vocational training;
 - (c) Protect 500 children at risk of abandoning their studies and joining the labour market.
- The Ministry of Labour, in cooperation with ILO, organized a series of training courses for labour inspectors aimed at enabling them to conduct on-site investigations into the worst forms of child labour. The courses were offered in early 2005.
- The Ministry of Labour implemented the “Scream” programme, in an Arabic language version. This is an awareness-raising programme aimed at supporting children’s rights through the arts, education and the media. The programme was organized for schoolchildren and university students (2004-2005).
- The Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Labour, in cooperation with the national training and employment project, organized training courses for child workers in the automotive industry in 2006, with a view to removing them from this type of work, rehabilitating them and helping them enter the labour market with a certain amount of skills, education and training, in accordance with the provisions of ILO Convention No. 182.

- The Ministry of Labour recently concluded an agreement with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (2006) aimed at regulating the health, educational and leisure conditions of child workers and offering them the possibility of acquiring life skills that would help them to enter the labour market with a certain level of skills, education and training, in accordance with the provisions of ILO Convention No. 182.
- A draft of the National Strategy for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour was prepared, with drafting begun in 2001. The strategy is designed in such a way that it can keep pace with the latest developments in the labour market. The soliciting of feedback from all bodies concerned by child labour is under way. The final version of the strategy is now ready (2006).
- A Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Labour and comprising representatives of official and non-governmental bodies involved in the area of child labour was established in early 2006. It is a successor to the Advisory Committee that existed at the start of the project in 2001. The Committee's tasks are to:
 1. Provide guidance on activities for the elimination of child labour in Jordan and integrate IPEC activities with national initiatives to combat child labour;
 2. Advise official bodies and non-governmental organizations dealing with the elimination of child labour on key areas of the question;
 3. Regularly revise and assess IPEC activities;
 4. Ensure that the Government and the agencies responsible fulfil the objectives laid down in ILO programmes relating to child labour.
- Preparations have been made with local participants to observe the World Day against Child Labour on 2 September 2006 under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Labour's Child Labour Unit, with the involvement of schoolchildren, university students, the local population and local community representatives.
- A workshop for media professionals was organized with a view to raising greater public awareness of the phenomenon of child labour through the media (2006).
- Efforts are being made with the help of a local expert to identify the worst forms of child labour in Jordan through the distribution of a questionnaire on child workers in workplaces throughout 2006.
- Cooperation with the Higher Council for Youth is taking place under the National Youth Strategy, prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF. One of the strategy's key areas is children, with activities focused on sensitization; to this end the Child Labour Unit has organized

awareness-raising presentations specifically aimed at schoolchildren and their parents. Presentations have also been organized for teachers and students at the Vocational Training Centre, and official publications have been issued. A play was also staged to raise awareness of child labour.

- A training workshop on the collection and analysis of data relating to child labour was held in Cairo in November 2006.
- Local workshops on child labour were held from the beginning of 2001 to the end of 2006.
- A special study on the question of child labour in Jordanian legislation was published in 2003.

(c) The National Youth Strategy for Jordan for the Years 2005-2009, adopted in December 2004

See annex 9: National Youth Strategy for Jordan 2005-2009.

11. Please provide information on the Juvenile Justice Reform Programme in Jordan and the State party's collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in this respect, in particular on how many aims of this reform have been achieved.

At the beginning of 2006 a commission was established, composed of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of the Interior and of Criminal Justice, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the National Centre for Human Rights and the Arab Organization for Human Rights. The Juveniles Act has been revised and a proposal has been made to amend various legal texts. The Commission will organize training programmes for persons working with children and will train a large number of judges working directly with children. A proposal has been made to establish special juvenile courts separate from adult courts, and this project has now reached the final stage prior to approval and submission to the Council of Ministers for ratification and subsequent submission to the National Assembly in the near future.

The Juvenile Conduct Monitoring Act (Act No. 37/2006)

This Act was promulgated by Interim Act No. 51/2001 and concerns types of labour that children may not perform under the law. The Act also punishes persons who assist or cooperate in getting children to perform dangerous or prohibited work, including pharmacists who sell narcotic substances to children and nightclub owners who allow children to enter their clubs. Such persons are required to check the age of persons frequenting such places by requiring them to show their national identity card.

The Act also requires the establishment of one or more commissions for the monitoring of juvenile conduct in each province. These commissions will be given legal powers for the monitoring of implementation of the Act.

The Code of Criminal Procedure and amendments thereto, and Act No. 9/1961, as amended by Act No. 76/2003 through the addition of a third paragraph to article 158

Evidence of Jordanian legislators' commitment to protecting children's interests and preventing repeated appearances in juvenile court is demonstrated by this Act, which authorizes, the use of modern recording technologies in investigations and trials; accordingly, under article 158, paragraph 3, of the Act, a prosecutor or a court can decide, should the need arise, to use modern technologies to protect witnesses under the age of 18 years when they testify.

12. Please provide updated information on efforts to disseminate the Convention, the State party report and the previous concluding observations of the Committee (CRC/C/15/Add.125).

Regarding the dissemination of conventions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with the National Centre for Human Rights, advised the President of the Council of Ministers that human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, do not require submission to the National Assembly, and that the enactment of a royal decree approving the convention and its publication in the *Official Bulletin* are sufficient. The National Centre considered that this legal opinion was a positive step and created favourable conditions for the incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into the Jordanian legal system. The National Centre for Human Rights repeatedly encouraged the Government to publish the Convention on the Rights of the Child, following the enactment of four other instruments (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment), sending a written request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

13. Please provide updated information on efforts made to provide training on and raise awareness of the Convention and human rights in general, to children, parents, teachers, social workers and other professionals working with and for children.

- The National Centre has conducted many training programmes on the dissemination of human rights culture among various sectors and segments of society. Themes relating to children's rights have been given high priority in the National Centre's strategic plan for 2005-2008 within the component focusing on the most vulnerable sectors of the population and individuals exposed to human rights violations.
- The National Centre for Human Rights has conducted many training activities relating to children, such as cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality on the project "Amman, Child-friendly City", which the Municipality is carrying out to provide training for school pupils, religious and local leaders, teachers and community leaders in the culture of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and

child-related legislation. Furthermore, most of the training programmes conducted by the National Centre include field studies in the area of training on the Convention and on issues relating to children.

- Civil society institutions and human rights organizations, both general and sectoral, specializing in children’s issues also play an effective role in the area of training in children’s rights in general and on the Convention in particular. These organizations develop and conduct campaigns aimed at incorporating the Convention into the Jordanian legal system. A non-exhaustive list of such organizations includes the Jordan River Foundation and the National Council on Family Affairs.
- In addition, a project entitled “Small voices, big ideas” was implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Education from 4 April to 19 May 2005. Part of the project involved teaching principles relating to children’s rights at basic education levels (fourth, fifth and sixth grades) in three provinces (Madaba, Amman and Salt). The training was designed for both boys and girls. The project was intended to define children’s basic human rights in accordance with international covenants and treaties with a view to strengthening the concept of rights and duties among children.
- The Centre, in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality under the latter’s “Amman, Child-friendly City” project, has developed a training programme aimed at school pupils, religious and local leaders, teachers and community leaders. Training focuses on the culture of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and legislation relating to children. Most training programmes carried out by the National Centre included surveys on the level of training in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The National Centre has in fact carried out a great many training programmes on dissemination of the culture of children’s rights and human rights among the various sectors and segments of society.
- A programme entitled “Child Rehabilitation and the Justice System”, which seeks to provide policy guidance in the area of juvenile justice and find alternatives to prison sentences for children, is currently being implemented. Training has been provided to more than 120 senior professionals from official and non-official institutions dealing with children in conflict with the law, such as judges, prosecutors, the police, social workers and directors of child welfare agencies under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development, as well as representatives of local community organizations.

Experience-sharing

A Swiss expert (a judge) in the field of the application of non-custodial sentences was invited to provide insights into the practical experience obtained in the treatment of juvenile offenders and children in conflict with the law.

Publication of periodic and non-periodic reports

Pursuant to articles 5 (a) and 9 (b) of the law, the Centre makes periodic visits to the Kingdom's various juvenile welfare centres and publishes periodic reports on the situation of the children in these institutions, which are made available to the Ministers of Social Development, Health, Education and to other ministers who do not deal with juvenile offenders in need of care and protection, so that they can oversee their care, provide follow-up and improve their living conditions.

The National Centre carries out field visits to orphanages to assess the health, psychological and social conditions of orphans and to learn about the difficulties and problems they face; it then formulates observations and recommendations regarding these orphanages and seeks to ensure that they are implemented.

The Centre issues an annual report on the human rights situation, which includes a follow-up of children's rights in the Kingdom.

14. Please provide updated information on the cooperation between the State party and the national and international communities, including non-governmental organizations, in efforts to implement the Convention.

1. The National Study on the most disadvantaged children in Jordan (2003) provides qualitative and quantitative data on underprivileged children and on policies and programmes aimed at this segment of the child population, together with recommendations and initiatives proposed to improve the situation and living conditions of this group (children most in need, working children, street children, children with special needs, children deprived of a family environment and juvenile offenders). A summary of the National Study has been prepared and was updated in 2005.
2. A statistical report on kindergartens in Jordan for 2004-2005 has been prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, which provides information on kindergartens, tells how many such establishments exist in Jordan, where they are located, how many teachers work in them and what their qualifications and specialties are, information that will make it possible to identify their training needs. The study also indicates by sex how many children are enrolled in kindergartens in all provinces of the Kingdom with a view to ensuring proper planning in this area.
3. The first phase of a study on children's learning readiness in school has been completed and the second and third stages are being prepared, in cooperation with the National Centre for Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Education.
4. An analysis of the state of children in Jordan in 2006 has been prepared in cooperation with UNICEF and the agencies concerned.
5. Criteria for the establishment and certification of kindergartens, developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, have been tested in the field, with a view to assess the viability of the new criteria and the arrangements that kindergartens will have to follow in applying these criteria.

15. **Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities, requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.**

See annex 10: Urgent priorities with regard to implementation of the Convention.

PART III

Under this section, the State party is invited to briefly (3 pages maximum) update the information provided in its report with regard to:

- **new or enacted legislation;**
- **new institutions;**
- **newly implemented policies.**

Newly implemented legislation

1. The Juvenile Conduct Monitoring Act (Act No. 37/2006) has been adopted, thus replacing the Interim Juvenile Conduct Monitoring Act No. 51/2001.
2. The Legal Enforcement Act (Act No. 11/2006), which regulates and enforces legal decisions in courts of law, has been adopted. This Act establishes that one of a presiding judge's prerogatives is to exempt children from performing legal procedures applicable to them in the ordinary judicial enforcement system.
3. Regulations governing childcare facilities (No. 52/2005) for children between the ages of 1 day and 4 years have been issued.
4. Regulations governing family protection shelters (2004), which provide diagnostic and assessment services to resident women and girls and to children accompanying them aged up to 3 years, have been adopted. In special cases, children over the age of 3 are admitted, provided they are not older than 5, for a maximum period of one month.
5. Guidelines regulating transport by bus (coaches and medium-sized passenger vehicles) for pupils and school employees have been issued for 2006.

Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope

Ministry of Education

- A programme to end child labour, developed in cooperation with the UNICEF office in Amman;
- A programme for the protection of children aged 8 to 12 years exposed to ill-treatment and exploitation, funded by the general budget of the Guidance Unit of the Ministry of Education;

- A preventive project aimed at familiarizing school pupils with the dangers of drugs and psychotropic substances, implemented in cooperation with UNICEF;
- A project entitled “The arts and the protection of children aged 5 to 8 years”, which is part of a Ministry of Education educational development project;
- A project entitled “The culture of school absenteeism” carried out in cooperation with the [*illegible*] Foundation;
- A school canteen project, funded by the State budget.

The Ministry of Education is considering:

- Increasing the number of kindergartens in disadvantaged regions, with funding from the Ministry of Education and other entities;
- Integrating kindergartens into basic education, thereby making attendance compulsory.

National Council on Family Affairs

Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope

The National Council on Family Affairs has developed an integrated two-year project for the development of childcare services for children from birth to age 4, in accordance with the National Early Childhood Development Strategy and its Plan of Action. The Council plans to implement the project in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and with the support of the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations. This project is intended to:

1. Develop the criteria and principles adopted for the licensing of childcare facilities and prepare a guide for assessing the quality of the early childhood development environment;
2. Establish the national professional criteria that childcare service-providers must meet, and develop an accreditation framework linked to career path, together with tools for evaluating work performance;
3. Develop a paedagogical method and handbook to improve service quality;
4. Enhance the performance of service-providers for children in the under-4 age group;
5. Expand and support the parenthood awareness-raising programme.
