



**Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

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**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF OMAN TO THE LIST
OF ISSUES (CRC/C/OMN/Q/2) FORMULATED BY THE COMMITTEE
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION
OF THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF OMAN (CRC/C/OMN/2)***

**SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF OMAN ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the
second periodic report of OMAN (CRC/C/OMN/2)**

* 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.

PART I

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 Oman.

Table 1

Distribution of Omani children (under the age of 18), by age group, sex and place of residence, 2003

Age group	Urban			Rural			Total
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
< year	14 307	14 073	25 380	7 528	7 528	10 056	43 436
1-4 years	56 449	54 201	110 650	31 210	30 184	61 391	172 044
5-9 years	77 081	73 438	150 519	44 139	42 818	86 957	237 436
10-14 years	88 650	85 445	174 095	48 971	47 199	96 170	270 265
15-17 years	52 190	49 811	102 001	26 727	26 137	53 864	154 865
Total	288 677	276 968	565 645	158 575	153 866	312 441	878 086
Total population of Oman	606 136	586 246	1 192 382	294 404	294 776	589 176	1 781 558

Source: General population, housing and institutions census, 2003.

Table 2

Distribution of Omani children (under the age of 18) as a percentage of the Omani population as a whole, by age group, sex and place of residence, 2003

Age group	Urban			Rural			Total
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
	(%)						
< 1 year	2.36	2.40	2.38	2.57	2.55	2.56	2.44
1-4 years	9.31	9.25	9.28	10.24	10.42	10.42	9.66
5-9 years	12.72	2.53	12.62	14.53	14.76	14.76	13.32
10-14 years	14.63	14.57	14.99	16.62	16.01	16.32	15.17
15-17 years	8.61	8.50	8.55	9.08	8.87	8.97	8.69
Total	47.63	47.24	47.44	53.88	52.20	53.04	49.29

Source: General population, housing and institutions census, 2003.

Table 3
Distribution of Omani children (under the age of 18), by age group and sex, 2004-2005

Age group	2004			2005		
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
< 1 year	21 594	21 178	42 772	22 222	21 792	44 014
1-4 years	89 235	86 823	176 058	882 801	86 301	174 581
5-9 years	120 655	116 042	236 197	7 611	113 132	230 742
10-14 years	128 960	134 404	273 347	135 832	131 270	267 102
15-17 years	83 724	80 299	164 023	84 881	81 782	16 663
Total	454 168	438 756	892 897	448 826	434 277	883 102
Total population of Oman	911 135	891 296	1 802 931	931 007	911 177	1 842 684

Source: Ministry of the National Economy.

Table 4
Distribution of Omani children (under the age of 18) as a percentage of the Omani population as a whole, by age group and sex, 2004-2005

Age group	2004			2005		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(%)					
< 1 year	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.39	2.39	2.39
1-4 years	9.79	9.74	9.77	9.48	9.47	9.47
5-9 years	12.24	13.01	13.13	12.63	12.41	12.52
10-14 years	15.25	15.07	15.16	14.59	14.40	14.50
15-17 years	9.19	9.00	9.10	9.12	8.97	9.04
Total	49.85	49.20	49.53	48.21	47.63	47.92

Source: Ministry of the National Economy.

Note: (a) As there are no estimates for the number of children under the age of 1 in Oman who are not Omani, the data supplied are for Omani nationals only; and (b) there are no data disaggregated by urban/rural area for 2004 or 2005.

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);

(b) 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);

(c) Programmes and services for children with disabilities;

(d) Support programmes for families;

(e) Protection of children who are in need of alternative care, including *kafalah*, and support of care institutions;

(f) Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour;

(g) Programmes and services for children of migrant workers; and

(h) Juvenile justice and the recovery and social reintegration of juvenile offenders.

Please also indicate the estimated expenses of the private sector, in particular for health and education.

(a) *Education*

- Expenditure under the education budget
- Expenditure under the budget for children with disabilities

Table 5

Expenditure by educational level

Grade	Expenditure on education					
	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
	Amount (in Omani rials)	%	Amount (in Omani rials)	%	Amount (in Omani rials)	%
1-6	142 838 720	43.94	159 559 273	39.23	174 397 381	37.05
7-9	112 653 827	34.75	168 609 726	41.45	204 376 448	43.41
10-12	68 473 283	21.07	75 978 962	18.68	88 677 710	18.84
Special education for persons with disabilities	784 092	0.24	995 206	0.24	1 630 041	0.34
Other expenditure (support services)	-	-	1 627 994	0.40	1 696 420	0.36
Total	325 049 922	100.00	406 771 161	100.00	480 768 000	100.00

Source: Ministry of Education.

Note: Total expenditure on special education is estimated at 24,493,250 Omani rials.

(b) Health care

Table 6

Total expenditure on health care by the Ministry of Health, 2003-2005

Year	2003	2004	2005
Indicators			
Total (in millions of Omani rials)	172.0	176.5	199.6
As a percentage of total public spending	5.7	4.9	4.7

Source: Ministry of Health.

Note: Although there are no disaggregated figures for individual programmes or the age groups they cater for, the Government's commitment to improving health care for children is clear from the number of programmes dealing with children's health.

Moreover, there is a budget line for child health care in the budgets of the Ministry of Defence, the Chancellery of the Royal Palace, Sultan Qaboos University and the Royal Oman Police.

(c) Programmes and services for children with disabilities

Table 7

Total expenditure on programmes and services for children with disabilities

Year	Annual amount (in Omani rials)
2004	78 945
2005	72 128
July 2006	30 325

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

(d) Support programmes for families

Table 8

Number of and expenditure on orphans receiving care

Year	Number	Annual expenditure (in Omani rials)
2004	5 434	3 164 667
2005	5 620	3 638 504
July 2006	5 745	2 334 423

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

(e) Protection of children who are in need of alternative care**Table 9****Protection of children who are in need of alternative care, including *kafalah*, and support of care institutions (Child Care House)**

Year	Annual expenditure (in Omani rials)
2004	69 439
2005	84 291
July 2006	43 208

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

Table 10**Expenditure on children's programmes**

Year	Annual expenditure (in Omani rials)
2004	51 961
2005	65 920
2006	121 180

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

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; or**
- (c) Placed through *kafalah*.**

(a) Number of children separated from their parents

Six children were separated from their parents.

(b) *Children placed in institutions*

Table 11

Number of children placed in children's institutions

Year	2003			2004			2005		
	Age group	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
< 5 years	23	11	34	24	18	42	24	21	45
6-10 years	21	6	27	24	7	31	25	6	31
11-15 years	11	3	14	13	3	16	11	4	15
16-18 years	1	-	1	2	-	2	7	1	8
Total	56	20	76	63	28	91	67	32	99

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

(c) *Children placed in "alternative families" under the kafalah system*

Table 12

Number of children placed in alternative families, 2003

Region or province	Age group								Total
	< 5 years		6-10 years		11-15 years		16-18 years		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Mascate	23	18	11	22	12	30	6	9	121
Zuffar	1	4	5	13	6	4	4	5	42
Al-Batinah	9	15	10	12	10	6	4	-	66
Al-Sharqiyya	1	2	2	5	2	3	3	1	19
Al-Zahirah	3	4	4	4	3	6	4	-	28
Al-Dajiliyah	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	6
Total	37	44	32	57	35	41	21	15	282

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

Table 13

Number of children placed in alternative families, 2004

Region or province	Age group								Total
	< 5 years		6-10 years		11-15 years		16-18 years		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Mascate	21	19	13	18	12	25	5	7	120
Zuffar	1	2	3	14	6	5	6	2	40
Al-Batinah	6	16	10	13	12	5	2	1	66
Al-Sharqiyya	1	1	2	5	2	3	1	1	16
Al-Zahirah	2	5	4	4	4	5	2	1	28
Al-Dajiliyah	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	6
Total	31	44	32	55	39	45	17	13	276

Table 14

Number of children placed in alternative families, 2005

Region or province	Age group								Total
	< 5 years		6-10 years		11-15 years		16-18 years		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Mascate	20	25	13	19	15	25	5	8	125
Zuffar	1	-	1	13	7	7	5	3	37
Al-Batinah	4	12	11	12	12	7	2	2	63
Al-Sharqiyya	1	-	1	6	1	4	2	1	16
Al-Zahirah	1	7	3	3	6	6	1	1	28
Al-Dajiliyah	-	2	-	2	1	2	1	-	8
Total	27	41	29	56	42	51	16	15	277

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs.

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*;
- (d) Attending regular schools;
- (e) Attending special schools; and
- (f) Not attending schools.

(a) *Living with their families*

Table 15

Distribution of Omani children with disabilities under the age of 18, by age group, sex and place of residence

Age group	Urban		Total	Rural		Total	Grand total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
<1 year	37	27	64	21	14	35	99
1-4 years	460	332	792	310	216	526	1 318
5-9 years	1 059	710	1 869	682	480	1 162	3 031
10-14 years	1 557	1 129	2 686	918	716	1 234	4 320
15-17 years	989	705	1 694	559	485	1 044	2 738
Total	4 102	2 903	7 005	2 490	1 911	4 401	11 406

Source: General population, housing and institutions census, 2003.

(b) *Living in institutions*

Table 16
**Number of children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 14
treated in Child Care House**

Year	In-patients			Out-patients			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2003	23	6	29	31	12	43	54	18	72
2004	27	9	36	29	15	44	56	24	80
2005	20	12	32	16	8	24	36	20	56

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

Table 17
**Number of children between the ages of 14 and 25 in treatment and rehabilitation
centres for disabled persons (motor and hearing disabilities)**

Year	In-patient			Out-Patient			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2003/04	51	35	86	14	2	16	65	37	102
2004/05	48	40	88	11	4	15	59	44	102

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

Table 18
**Number of children attending schools run by the
Ministry of Education (boarding, 2005)**

School	Male	Female	Total
“Hope” school for the deaf	56	-	56
Omar Ibn Al-Jatab Institute for the Blind	83	26	109
Total	139	26	165

Source: Ministry of Education.

(e) *Attending (non-State) special schools*

Table 19
Number of children in special education overseen by the Ministry of Education

School	2003	2004	2005
“Hope” school for the deaf	243	301	298
Omar Ibn Al-Jatab Institute for the Blind	83	97	105
School for the mentally handicapped	298	299	320
Total	624	687	723

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

Centres of the Association for Disabled Children

Table 22

**Statistics on the number of children in the centres, disaggregated
by sex and type of disability, rehabilitation period 2003/04**

Centre	Mental disability		Hearing disability		Motor disability		Double disability		Learning difficulties		Autism		Total		Grand total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Al-Udaybah	27	23	3	-	2	8	5	4	-	-	-	-	37	35	
As-Sib	27	30	7	2	2	2	7	3	-	-	-	-	43	27	
Qurayyat	21	17	1	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	23	21	
Yaalan Bani Abu Hasan	24	16	3	9	2	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	29	31	
Sahm	36	19	2	3	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	44	23	
Danak	6	6	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	
At-Tawahud	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	5	21	5	
Total	141	101	16	18	9	20	18	10	-	-	21	5	205	154	
Family counselling													55	31	

Note: A total of 86 children registered with the Association and all its centres were included in the family counselling programme. The grand total in the centres, with 359 children plus the 86 from the family counselling programme, was 445.

Table 23

**Statistics on the number of children in the centres, disaggregated
by sex and type of disability, rehabilitation period 2004/05**

Centre	Mental disability		Hearing disability		Motor disability		Double disability		Learning difficulties		Autism		Total		Grand total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Al-Udaybah	28	21	2	2	3	5	3	4	1	-	-	-	37	32	
As-Sib	24	18	5	1	3	7	10	2	2	-	-	-	44	28	
Qurayyat	19	13	1	2	-	2	1	1	-	-	2	2	23	19	
Yaalan Bani Abu Hasan	23	17	4	7	3	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	29	29	
Sahm	32	25	2	4	1	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	42	30	
Danak	8	10	2	4	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	12	17	
At-Tawahud	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	8	15	8	
Total	133	104	16	20	10	18	23	12	3	-	17	9	202	163	
Family counselling													57	33	

Note: A total of 90 children registered with the Association and 10 not registered with it, in all its centres, were included in the family counselling programme. The grand total in the centres, with 365 children plus the 90 from the family counselling programme, was 455.

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 health-care services for children.

(a) *Rates of infant and child mortality*

Table 24

Number and percentage of deaths among babies and children

Age group	2003	2004	2005		
			Male	Female	Total
< 7 days	182	181	111	76	187
7-28 days	47	47	20	18	38
29 days-1 year	106	96	45	45	90
1-4 years	51	55	26	37	63
5-14 years	71	78	43	19	62
Mortality among under-5s (per 1,000 live births)	11.08	11.09	-	-	11.05

Source: Ministry of Health.

(b) Rates of immunization**Table 25****Child immunization coverage (%)**

Year	2003	2004	2005
Immunization coverage	99%	98%	98%

Source: Ministry of Health.

Table 26**Immunization coverage among children under the age of 1 in 2003, 2004 and 2005**

Year	BCG	Polio (OPV)		Diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT, triple vaccine)		Hepatitis B (HBV)	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib, permanent)		Measles	Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR, triple vaccine)
		First dose	Third dose	First dose	Third dose	Third dose	First dose	Third dose		
2003	98.1	98.2	99.9	98.1	98.8	96.9	97.5	99.9	97.89	97.7
2004	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	98
2005	98	99.9	99.1	99.6	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	97.8	97

Source: Ministry of Health.

(c) Rates of malnutrition**Table 27****Indicators for child malnutrition, 2003-2005**

Indicators	2003	2004	2005
New cases of malnutrition related to calorie intake	4 238	4 580	5 388
Cases per 1,000 children under the age of 5	17	19	22
Percentage of cases of acute malnutrition	18.1	7.7	7.1
Percentage of cases of malnutrition requiring hospitalization	4.7	6.1	5.7
Percentage of cases in which complications of malnutrition required hospitalization	18.3	15.3	10.3
Number of deaths resulting from malnutrition	6	0	3

Source: Ministry of Health.

(d) Children infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS

Table 28

Number of children and young people affected by AIDS, by age group, 2003-2005

Age group	2003	2004	2005
< 1 year	0	0	1
1-4 years	1	1	0
5-14 years	0	2	2
15-17 years	0	0	1
18-20 years	1	5	6

Source: Ministry of Health.

(f) The number of health professionals working in health-care services for children

- In 2005 there were 156 doctors (Omanis or of other nationalities) providing health care for children. These doctors specialized in various areas of paediatric medicine.
- Basic health care is provided for children in all health centres in Oman by general practitioners and specialists, and specialized care is provided in the bigger hospitals and clinics.
- The initiative to provide comprehensive care for children and newborns is implemented in 65 per cent of the health centres in all regions of Oman.

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:

- Rates of literacy (under 18 years);**
- Rate of enrolment in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools;**
- Percentage of children completing primary and secondary education;**
- Number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions; and**
- Teacher per child ratio and number of children per class.**

(a) *Rates of literacy (under 18 years)*

Table 29

Distribution of Omani children (under age 18) who can read and write, by age group, sex and place of residence, in numbers and as a percentage, 2003

Age group	Urban				Rural				Grand total (%)	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	Total (%)		
10-14 years	87 916	84 832	172 748	99.23	48 349	45 947	94 296	98.05	167 044	98.81
15-17 years	51 620	49 269	100 989	99.01	26 295	24 919	51 214	96.88	152 202	98.28
Total	139 626	134 101	273 737	99.15	74 644	70 866	145 510	97.64	419 247	98.62

Source: Ministry of the National Economy.

(b) *Enrolment in kindergartens (%)*

Table 30

Enrolment in kindergartens overseen by the Ministry of Education (%)

School year	Net enrolment			Total enrolment		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2003	7.36	6.50	6.24	8.55	7.71	8.14
2004	8.30	7.67	7.99	9.75	9.16	9.46
2005	9.30	9.20	9.29	11.11	10.33	10.73

Table 31

**Number of crèches, children's centres and child development homes overseen by the
Ministry of Social Development and number of children in them, by sex, 2005**

Region/province	Crèches			Children's centres			Child development homes					
	No. of crèches	Male	Female	Total	No. of centres	Male	Female	Total	No. of homes	Male	Female	Total
Mascate	Number	25	803	778	1 581	3	146	150	296	0	0	0
	%	74.4	83	83	83	5	5	5.5	5	0	0	0
Al-Batinah	Number	1	15	18	33	16	1 006	1 41	2 047	8	489	547
	%	2	2	2	2	28.5	37	38	38	35	42	45
Al-Sharqiyyah	Number	3	30	24	54	11	44	519	1 063	3	107	110
	%	6.3	3	3	2	20	20	19	19.5	13	9	9
Al-Dajiliyyah	Number	3	51	41	42	9	641	640	1 281	8	452	458
	%	6.3	5	4	5	16	24	23.5	24	25	39	38
Al-Zahirah	Number	5	68	77	145	11	240	236	476	4	119	99
	%	11	7	8	7	20	9	9	9	107	10	8
Mustadam	Number	0	0	0	0	4	102	92	194	0	0	0
	%	0	0	0	0	7	4	3	3.5	0	0	0
Zuffar	Number	0	0	0	0	2	29	42	71	0	0	0
	%	0	0	0	0	3.5	1	2	1	0	0	0
Total	Number	47	967	938	1 905	56	2 708	2 720	5 428	23	1 167	1 214
	%	100	51	49	100	100	50	50	100	100	49	51

B. Public school enrolment rates, grades 1 to 12**Table 32****Enrolment rates, by sex and type of education, from the 2003-2004 school year to the 2005-2006 school year**

School year	Grade	Overall enrolment rate			Net enrolment rate			Enrolment rate among school-age people		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2003/04	1 to 6	101	99	100	89	98.3	89.1	91.2	91.4	91.3
	7 to 9	98	88.50	93.3	29.2	70.1	69.6	87.5	85.2	86.4
	10 to 12	79.10	81.40	80.5	53.7	62.5	58	78.1	77	77.5
2004/05	1 to 6	100.60	99.60	100.1	89.7	89.8	89.8	92.1	91.9	92
	7 to 9	101.50	91.60	96.57	72.4	73.5	72.92	87.3	87.3	87.3
	10 to 12	79.60	79.40	79.66	53.5	62	57.69	77.5	76.2	76.90
2005/06	1 to 6	100.11	99.53	99.83	89.26	90.15	89.69	91.66	92.9	92.27
	7 to 9	99.85	93.49	96.72	23.98	75.65	74.8	88.92	89.9	89.4
	10 to 12	85.56	81.99	83.78	62.42	23.60	12.98	82.02	75.52	78.81

Source: Ministry of Education.

C. Percentage of pupils completing basic education (grades 1 to 12)**Table 33****Percentage who passed, by grade (public and private schools) during the period from the 2002-2003 school year to the 2004-2005 school year**

Grade	2002/03			2003/04			2004/05		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	98.42	98.64	98.53	98.58	98.83	98.70	99.2	66.6	99.4
2	99.61	99.72	99.66	99.59	99.92	66.75	100	99.7	99.9
3	99.87	99.74	99.81	99.59	99.57	99.58	96.6	99.9	99.9
4	97.19	97.99	97.58	100.22	99.78	100.01	100	100.4	100.5
5	97.69	98.10	97.84	97.95	97.44	97.70	97.2	60.7	96.5
6	99.40	99.33	99.37	98.49	98.58	98.53	98.1	98	98.1
7	86.59	93.33	89.29	84.99	92.34	88.40	67.3	97.8	97.6
8	89	93.62	91.18	93.20	97.09	94.97	67.6	98.5	98.0
9	90.84	93.74	92.24	88.99	93.45	91.13	95.9	97.8	96.8
10	83.87	87.80	85.79	80.36	86.68	87.41	94.7	97.1	95.8
11 (arts)	92.10	95.31	93.77	87.52	95.12	91.79	94.5	97.6	96
11 (science)	86.73	92.81	89.71						
12 (arts)	85.35	92.21	89.01	81.24	92.74	87.26	93.9	98	96
12 (science)	81.00	90.90	85.84	75.70	90.47	82.63			

Source: Ministry of Education.

D. Number of dropouts

Table 34

Number of pupils who drop out of school

Grade	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	361	240	285	229	106	55
2	86	54	88	5	77	95
3	21	59	98	98	89	51
4	237	186	88	51	49	55
5	96	222	78	179	316	247
6	152	2	0	82	167	118
Total (grades 1 to 6)	953	763	637	644	804	621
7	1 060	253	1 047	647	484	281
8	858	504	830	111	479	218
9	772	477	860	481	1 074	436
Total (grades 7 to 9)	2 690	1 334	2 737	1 239	2 037	935
10	1 478	1 152	1 826	1 154	917	515
11 (arts)	95	121	990	471	777	365
11 (science)	815	377	0	0	0	0
12 (arts)	664	382	1 076	567	1 108	367
12 (science)	886	480	1 172	567	2 802	1 247
Total (grades 10 to 12)	3 938	2 512	5 114	2 709	6 045	2 494

Table 35

Dropout rate

Grade	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	1.4	1	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.3
2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.4
3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2
4	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
5	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.7	1.1	0.9
6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.4
Total (grades 1 to 6)	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
7	3.3	1.4	3.5	2.5	1.6	1.1
8	3.2	2.2	2.8	0.4	1.8	0.9
9	3.2	2.1	3.5	2.1	3.6	1.7
Total (grades 7 to 9)	3.3	1.9	3.3	1.7	2.4	1.2
10	6.1	5.0	7.7	5.1	3.7	2.2
11 (arts)	1	1.2	4.6	2.2	3.6	1.8
11 (science)	7.8	3.7				
12 (arts)	8.4	4.2	11.5	5.5	4.2	1.9
12 (science)	8.2	4.6	11.5	5.3	1.8	0.9
Total (grades 10 to 12)	6.3	4.0	7.8	4.2	1.8	0.9

Source: Ministry of Education.

Table 36
Number of pupils repeating a year

Grade	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	No end of year exams		No end of year exams		1	1
2					1	1
3					2	1
4	587	406	441 366 306 189		1	3
5	464	247			1 179	1 608
6	264	129			942	633
Total (grades 1 to 6)	1 315	782	747	555	2 126	2 247
7	4 002	1 573	3 909	1 549	873	638
8	2 444	1 280	1 278	508	454	343
9	1 861	1 198	2 320	1 372	532	479
Total (grades 7 to 9)	8 307	4 050	7 507	3 429	1 859	1 460
10	3 385	2 423	3 962	2 715	629	479
11 (arts)	608	366	1 033	236	739	463
11 (science)	1 088	646	1 135	538		
12 (arts)	898	352	1 422	474	275	48
12 (science)	1 502	896	2 093	676	294	92
Total (grades 10 to 12)	7 481	4 683	9 645	4 639	1 937	1 082

Table 37
Percentage of pupils repeating a year

Grade	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	No end of year exams		No end of year exams		0.3	0.2
2					0.1	0.0
3					0.1	0.1
4	4.4	3.3	3.3 2.9 2.3 1.5		0.0	0.0
5	3.9	1.7			5.5	6.1
6	1.8	0.9			4.2	2.8
Total (grades 1 to 6)	2.0	1.9	2.8	2.2	1.9	1.8
7	21.7	10.9	24.0	11.1	3.5	2.9
8	9.8	5.6	6.1	4.3	2.5	1.5
9	7.9	5.4	9.8	6.2	2.8	2.5
Total (grades 7 to 9)	12.4	1.8	13.9	7.2	3.0	2.3
10	14.6	10.6	16.9	12.1	4.2	2.6
11 (arts)	6.5	3.5	9.2	1.9	4.7	2.6
11 (science)	10.9	6.6	12.1	6.2		
12 (arts)	16.8	4.1	15.8	4.7	4.2	1.3
12 (science)	14.8	5.6	21.5	7.1	4.6	2.0
Total (grades 10 to 12)	12.4	7.0	15.4	7.4	4.4	2.3

(e) *Teacher per child ratio and number of children per class*

Table 38

Number of pupils per teacher in the various classes supervised by the Ministry of Education

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Basic education	10	10	10	10
Grades 1 to 6	27	26	24	23
Grades 7 to 9	25	25	25	22
Grades 10 to 12	20	20	19	21

Table 39

Number of pupils per teacher in each of the different education levels supervised by the Ministry of Education

Type	Number
Day-care centres	4
Children's centres	20
Child development homes	24

9. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by sex, age 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 allegedly committed a crime, reported to the police;
- (b) Persons under the age of 18 who were charged with a crime, and of those who were sentenced, and the type of punishment or sanctions related to offences, including length of deprivation of liberty;
- (c) Detention facilities for persons under 18 in conflict with the law, and their capacity;
- (d) Persons under 18 detained in these facilities, and persons under 18 detained in adult facilities;
- (e) Persons under 18 kept in pretrial detention, and the average length of their detention;
- (f) Reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of persons under 18 occurred during their arrest and detention; and
- (g) Persons under 18 tried and sentenced as adults.

Table 40

**Number and type of offences committed by minors and type
and number of offenders in 2003**

Type of crime	No. of crimes	Offenders		No. of offenders
		Male	Female	
Theft and attempted theft	299	424	1	425
Minor assault	112	161	8	169
Attack against honour	68	106	3	109
Brawls	28	73	0	73
Illegal entry into the country	65	91	5	96
Property damage	28	38	0	38
Actual or attempted indecent assault	19	29	0	29
Fire owing to negligence	1	1	0	1
Breaking and entering	19	28	2	30
Alcoholism	10	10	0	10
Other offences	4	5	0	5
Drug-related offences	4	4	0	4
Adultery and pregnancy out of wedlock	8	0	8	8
Serious assault	7	7	0	7
Contempt of a civil servant	1	1	0	1
Actual or attempted robbery	10	17	0	17
Public indecency	2	2	0	2
Intentional homicide	2	3	1	4
Forced abduction	1	1	0	1
Currency counterfeiting	1	1	0	1
Violation of the Oman Passport Act	1	2	0	2
Breach of the peace	3	5	0	5
Abuse of confidence	2	2	0	2
Pronouncing threats	4	4	1	5
Fraudulent representation	1	1	0	1
Forced detention	1	1	0	1
Attempted homicide	1	1	0	1
Falsification of documents	2	2	0	2
Total	604	1 020	29	1 049

Source: Police of the Sultanate of Oman.

Table 41

**Number and type of offences committed by minors and type
and number of offenders in 2004**

Type of offences	No. of offences	Offenders		No. of offenders
		Male	Female	
Theft and attempted theft	236	374	1	375
Minor assault	120	156	11	167
Attack against honour	62	95	1	96
Brawls	28	64	12	76
Illegal entry into the country	88	130	12	142
Property damage	23	36	2	38
Indecent assault	23	48	0	48
Battery resulting in death	1	1	0	1
Breaking and entering	6	10	0	10
Alcoholism	6	6	0	6
Other offences	7	8	0	8
Drug-related offences	3	4	0	4
Adultery and pregnancy out of wedlock	5	0	6	6
Serious assault	8	10	0	10
Contempt of a civil servant	1	2	0	2
Actual or attempted robbery	13	22	0	22
Public indecency	3	1	2	2
Arson	4	7	0	7
Slander	1	1	0	1
Currency counterfeiting	1	2	0	2
Assault against a civil servant	2	2	0	2
Breach of the peace	2	1	0	2
Abuse of confidence	1	8	0	1
Pronouncing threats	5	2	0	8
Disrespect of an official	2	1	0	2
Pickpocketing	1	4	0	1
Unintentional homicide	1	1	0	4
Falsification of documents	1	1	0	1
Violation of the Weapons Act	1	3	0	1
Use of uncovered cheques	1	-	0	3
Total	656	1 012	47	1 059

Source: Police of the Sultanate of Oman.

Table 42

**Number and type of offences committed by minors
and type and number of offenders in 2005**

Type of offence	Number of offences	Offenders		Number of offenders
		Male	Female	
Theft and attempted theft	234	352	2	353
Minor assault	100	147	3	150
Attack against honour	79	131	12	143
Brawls	40	103	15	118
Illegal entry into the country	92	128	5	133
Property damage	31	47	3	50
Actual or attempted indecent assault	22	48	-	48
Fire resulting from negligence	1	2	-	2
Breaking and entering	9	6	5	11
Alcoholism	5	7	1	8
Other offences	15	29	-	29
Drug-related offences	3	3	-	2
Adultery and pregnancy out of wedlock	7	-	7	7
Serious assault	5	5	-	5
Contempt of a civil servant	-	-	-	-
Actual or attempted robbery	13	26	-	26
Public indecency	1	-	1	1
Premeditated murder	1	-	1	1
Assault against a civil servant	1	-	1	1
Arson	3	4	2	6
Violation of the Oman Passport Act	1	1	-	1
Breach of the peace	2	2	-	2
Abuse of confidence	7	4	3	7
Pronouncing threats	4	4	-	4
Fraudulent representation	1	1	0	1
Forced detention	1	1	-	1
Violation of the Weapons Act	1	1	0	1
Falsification of documents	1	-	1	1
Payment of a ransom	1	1	-	1
Resisting arrest	1	1	-	1
Violation of the Foreigners' Act	1	2	-	2
Abortion	1	-	1	1
Adultery	2	-	2	2
Communication of false information	1	4	-	4
Sodomy	2	4	-	4
Impostering	2	4	-	4
Begging	1	1	-	1
Attempted homicide	2	1	1	2
Total	684	1 068	66	1 134

Source: Police of the Sultanate of Oman.

Table 43
Age of juvenile offenders and number of their offences,
by police station, in 2003

Offenders Police station	Under 9 years		From 9 to 15 years		From 15 to 18 years		Total juvenile offenders		Total offenders	Total offences
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Mascate	1	0	62	4	176	6	244	10	254	152
Al-Batinah	2	0	57	2	189	5	284	7	255	181
Zuffar	1	0	19	0	101	3	121	3	124	66
Al-Dahirah	0	0	20	2	55	3	75	5	80	52
Al-Sharqiyyah	0	0	47	1	116	2	163	3	166	107
Al-Dajiliyyah	1	0	21	0	63	1	85	1	86	54
Musandam	0	0	7	0	66	0	73	0	72	49
Al-Wusta	0	0	2	0	9	0	11	0	11	7
Total	5	0	240	9	775	20	1 012	29	1 049	704

Table 44
Age of juvenile offenders and number of their offences,
by police station, in 2004

Offenders Police station	Under 9 years		From 9 to 15 years		From 15 to 18 years		Total juvenile offenders		Total offenders	Total offences
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Mascate	0	0	66	3	224	7	290	10	300	181
Al-Batinah	3	0	62	5	252	15	352	20	372	245
Zuffar	1	0	14	5	45	7	60	12	72	31
Al-Dahirah	0	0	24	0	53	1	77	1	78	48
Al-Sharqiyyah	3	0	28	0	78	2	109	2	111	69
Al-Dajiliyyah	0	0	25	1	52	1	77	2	79	51
Musandam	0	0	7	0	32	0	39	0	29	26
Al-Wusta	0	0	3	0	4	0	7	0	7	5
Total	7	0	259	14	745	23	1 011	47	1 058	256

Table 45
Age of juvenile offenders and number of their offences,
by police station, in 2005

Offenders Police station	Under 9 years		From 9 to 15 years		From 15 to 18 years		Total juvenile offenders		Total offenders	Total offences
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Mascate	2	1	54	1	196	15	252	17	269	184
Al-Batinah	1	0	92	1	252	16	246	17	363	219
Zuffar	2	2	14	2	60	2	76	7	82	41
Al-Dahirah	2	0	19	0	94	5	115	5	120	82
Al-Sharqiyyah	1	0	47	7	74	9	122	16	138	78
Al-Dajiliyyah	2	0	32	1	63	3	97	4	101	49
Musandam	0	0	7	0	43	0	50	0	50	22
Al-Wusta	0	0	1	0	9	0	10	0	10	8
Total	10	3	267	13	791	50	1 086	66	1 134	684

Source: Police of the Sultanate of Oman.

B. General measures of implementation

1. The Committee would appreciate receiving specific information on activities intended to implement recommendations contained in the Committee's previous concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.161) on the initial report of Oman (CRC/C/78/Add.1) that have not yet been fully implemented, in particular those related to reservations and legislation (paras. 8-11), non-discrimination (paras. 24-28), the right to a nationality (paras. 33-34), violence against children and child abuse (paras. 35-36), children with disabilities (paras. 41-42) and the administration of juvenile justice (paras. 53-54). Please explain the obstacles to implementation and how the State party envisages overcoming them.

Paragraphs 24 to 28 on non-discrimination

The Sultanate of Oman considers that the observations made, especially those in paragraph 24, do not correspond to the legislative provisions, and that there is no justification for implementing a dispensation of the text in question, as it is not at variance with the principles of non-discrimination, especially as the text is aimed at ensuring the best interests of the child, insofar as it maintains the confidentiality of information that can identify the child as being born out of wedlock. It is one thing to certify a fact in a confidential registry, and quite another if such certification gives rise to discrimination, which does not exist in respect of either rights or obligations.

This group of children enjoys a social insurance and protection system that both ensures that they have a life of dignity and provides them with financial stability.

Paragraphs 33 and 34 on the right to a nationality

- The child has the right to the nationality of his father;
- The difficulty in granting the child the nationality of his or her mother is a legal problem that stems from the non-recognition of dual citizenship in Omani legislation. Therefore, a child born to a non-Omani father acquires the father's nationality.

Paragraphs 35 and 36 on violence against children and child abuse

Child abuse in Oman is a matter of a few individual cases that are not representative of a general phenomenon. That notwithstanding, the following measures have been taken:

- As recommended by the Special Commission, a study was carried out to evaluate the nature and scope of child abuse. The first part of the study concentrated on models of child abuse in Omani society. The second part of the study, which is quantitative, is currently under way.
- A special department has been established to provide guidance, advice and information on family matters; it is competent to provide family orientation and awareness services, and is equipped with a telephone hotline, which receives complaints and communications;

- A high-level work team has been established to study the question and the implications of child abuse in all its forms.

Paragraphs 41 and 42, children with disabilities

A draft law on the disabled has been drawn up, and the authorities are now reviewing it. It is centred on various themes, including policies and practices related to disabled children. It is hoped that the act will be adopted before the end of this year.

Paragraphs 53 and 54, the administration of juvenile justice

Please see the reply in section 10 for information on the juvenile justice system.

3. Please describe measures undertaken to strengthen data and statistics collection mechanisms and procedures with regard to the implementation of all provisions of the Convention.

In 2003, the Ministry of Social Development developed the Omani social indicator database, in keeping with Committee recommendation No. 17 and observation No. 16 issued regarding Oman's first report. The database covers 15 fields, which are in turn divided into 61 different categories. For each category there is a set of indicators, each of which in turn contains various statistical indices. The development of the database is itself considered a dynamic and continuing process that is based on the introduction of such data periodically and annually, together with the most recent statistical values. At the same time, the scope of the database is being extended to other bodies interested in the indicators, and continuous training is provided to the national supervisory staff responsible for managing the database, as new developments take place in this field.

5. Please provide updated information on the activities of the National Committee for the Follow-up on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1. The Committee held two meetings for Omani children from different regions of the country in order to give them the opportunity to express their views and ideas freely and through organized channels, and also to develop their cultural, artistic and perceptive skills. The first event was held under the slogan "Science, happiness and knowledge" in October 2004, and the second under the slogan "What I want to become", in January 2006.
2. Awareness programmes were held on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; a Tent of the Child was set up during the annual Muscat festival (in 2005 and 2006). In addition, nearly 20,000 copies of brochures and stickers on the Convention were distributed.
3. It also took part in:
 - (a) A regional practical course on the application of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, held in Qatar in 2005;
 - (b) A round of discussions for the Gulf region on how to protect our children against abuse, held in Kuwait in 2005;

(c) A national practical workshop was held in preparation of the “Conference on the Arab Child subject to Various Cultural Influences”, led by gifted and creative children, with the participation of 15 children from various regions of the Sultanate, held in Muscat in 2005;

(d) An “International Conference on the Arab Child subject to Various Cultural Influences”, held in Alexandria, Egypt, in 2005, with the participation of two children from Oman.

4. Information continued to be disseminated on the rights of the child on television and radio and in periodicals.

6. Please provide information on whether a new national plan of action for children has been developed and whether it covers all areas of the Convention and takes into account the objectives and goals of the outcome document entitled “A world fit for children” of the United Nations General Assembly special session on children in 2002.

As a complement to the national activities carried out by the various State bodies to provide for conditions ensuring the right of children to survival, a life of dignity and development, and reaffirming the national commitment undertaken in past years under the Arab and international treaties and agreements on children, the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with the Ministry of the National Economy and UNICEF and with the cooperation of governmental, non-governmental and private bodies, is currently involved in the preparation of a national strategy for the child. The strategy establishes national objectives, programmes and projects in which to work for a comprehensive vision of the principles underpinning a national plan based on coordinated and complementary action. It is hoped that this strategy will be ready for the first quarter of 2007.

In 2005 the Ministry of Health began drawing up a draft strategy for children’s health that is based on the articles of the Convention (relating to the survival, development and protection against all forms of abuse of children and the provisions of the best level of health care for children). It is expected that the strategy will be published in the second half of 2006.

7. Please provide information on the content of, and implementation measures for, the Seventh Five-year Development Plan 2006-2010, particularly those relevant to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The “Vision of the Economic Future of Oman 2020” includes strategic objectives applicable during the coming five-year plans. Guided by this vision, the implementation measures of the Seventh Five-year Development Plan 2006-2010 address the need to work to raise and improve the standard of living, in particular by improving the conditions of Omani children and their upbringing, reaffirming the implementation of the articles of the related international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Such articles will be explicitly included in the fundamental orientations and national strategy measures for children.

8. Please provide updated information on the policies and programmes adopted and implemented to promote the respect for the views of the child, children’s participatory rights and their access to information.

1. The learning club on the electronic site of the Ministry of Education is an open window for pupils' freedom of expression. Any pupil may post his or her proposals and observations and point of view on any question relating to his or her school experience.

2. The "Meeting with Education" television programme:

This is a weekly open discussion programme for pupils. In each broadcast a group of girl and boy pupils discuss an education topic of interest in an open dialogue with the people who deal with such questions both from the Ministry and from other bodies. The programme will begin with the next school year (2006/07).

3. "Teaching Window" supplement

This is a teaching supplement that is published every two weeks by a periodical in Oman. It is above all intended for girl and boy pupils, and provides opportunities for them to express their creativity, show their activities and state their cases. The supplement also informs society and the school environment how pupils work together to form a genuine relationship between school and society.

4. The Annual Meeting of Children of Oman, the aim of which is to allow children to express their points of view and to discuss the programmes and services available to them, expressing ideas and recommendations for the future.

5. In 2004 and 2005, a study was conducted in some 51 schools in the Sultanate to find out about trends and teenagers' knowledge of the following questions: nutrition models; exercise; violence and abuse; factors providing protection; knowledge about HIV/AIDS. It is hoped that the results will be published in 2006.

9. Please provide information on the ban on the use of child camel jockeys adopted in 2005, the task force for the follow-up on the situation of children in camel races, and the measures taken so far to implement the ban and the results of these measures.

The task force for the follow-up on the situation of child camel jockeys continuously carried out its work in cooperation with the Camel Racing Union to ensure that the established age limits were observed. No violations of the standards were reported.

10. Please provide information on the status of the Juvenile Law bill and the draft Judiciary Organization Law.

- The Police of the Sultanate of Oman have drawn up a Juvenile Law bill;
- A commission has been established in the old Criminal Tribunal, with the competent bodies as members (Ministry of Social Development and the Police of the Sultanate of Oman), in order to revise the draft law and express its observations on it;
- The question has been raised in the Ministry of Legal Affairs;

- The draft law has been forwarded to the (*translator's note: Arabic original unclear*) of the bodies concerned so that they can send observations as they deem appropriate;
- The Ministry of Social Development brought the draft law up in the Council of Ministers after adding its observations;
- The draft law is currently being studied by the Council of State and the Consultative Assembly as a preliminary step to its adoption.

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

While referring to the reply to issue 5, we should point out the following:

- An expert was invited to hold a practical course on the integration of the articles of the Convention in curricula. Persons responsible for teaching methodologies took part in the course;
- A delegation of persons responsible for drawing up curricula visited Lebanon to become acquainted with that country's experience in incorporating the articles of the Convention at the various levels of study and to take advantage of such experience.

The Directorate General for Study Plans has adopted the following measures as part of its efforts to incorporate the articles of the Convention in school plans:

1. It has carried out an exhaustive study of the articles of the Convention, concentrating on the most essential ones (those considered to be the at the core of the instrument) for each grade, without prejudice to those that have not been ratified by the State.
2. It has carried out a study of the age groups that correspond to each article of the Convention, taking into consideration the following considerations:
 - (a) The extent to which the pupil can interact to assimilate the content of the article or provision;
 - (b) The extent to which the pupil can take part in ensuring the success of this learning;
 - (c) The extent to which the pupil can actively take part in society by bringing this learning to his or her family circle and community;
 - (d) An article of the Convention that has been incorporated in a school subject is taken and activities are set up in relation with the rest of the instrument's articles;
 - (e) The mutually complementary concepts in school subjects and the skills common to the various subjects are studied;

(f) It is determined which concepts correspond to the academic content, and to what extent the articles of the Convention can be included.

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

In addition to the cooperation programmes mentioned in the replies, there are other fields of cooperation, such as:

(a) At the local level

1. Cooperation between local development committees at the regional level (which include the governors' offices and government bodies and NGOs dealing with this question) to resolve family cases and on matters related to children's programmes;
2. Cooperation with private charitable institutions and NGOs in implementation of programmes for children and for the protection of children.

(b) At the regional level

There is cooperation with the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Social and Labour Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council on joint activities and initiatives held in the context of cooperation in the Arabian Gulf. For example, a "Round of discussions on the problems of fatherless children aimed at encouraging families to take part in adoption programmes and to study ways of integrating them into society" was held in 2004, and in 2005 an "Arabian Gulf round of discussions on the protection of children against abuse" was held.

(c) At the international level

1. There is cooperation with the Directorate General for Family and Children (Department for Childhood) of the League of Arab States for the preparation and revision of the Second Arab Ten-year Plan for Children. In addition, preparations are under way for organizing and holding an Arab Children's Meeting, scheduled to take place in Muscat in November 2006; it will foster ties of friendship and provide an opportunity for Arab children to meet, and will be held under the slogan "The right of the child to comprehensive health care". There is also participation in programmes for children.
2. There is cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the preparation of a study on the plan for Education for All (2003-2015).
3. Cooperation is continuing with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (Muscat office) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the implementation of programmes for children, as described in the replies to the Committee's questions.

14. 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.

1. Minors (definitive revision and adoption of the Act).
2. Smoking among children (as study on the scale of the problem and the drafting of a plan to address it from the legal point of view and in respect of awareness).

PART III

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

– New bills or enacted legislation;

1. Ministerial Decree No. 58/2006 adopting the post-basic education teaching programme (grades 11 and 12), which provides the pupil with ample choices in this stage of learning which follows basic education, so that each pupil can find what best corresponds to his or her interests and skills.
2. The Executive Regulations for private schools, issued through Ministerial Decree No. 26/2006, and the Executive Regulations for State schools, adopted through Ministerial Decree No. 4/2006, and which contains among its general provisions guidelines on “the importance of providing children with information and developing their capacities in various fields, including self-expression and the expression of their opinions”.
3. The Ministry of Education adopted the “Continuing education system” which replaces the system of exams at the end of the academic year. This system uses evaluation tools including research and written and artistic works, practical tests and test examinations and other such tools that make it possible to confirm that the pupil has assimilated the necessary knowledge. This system takes into account individual differences among pupils and provides attention for those who are outstanding while assisting those who have not reached the required level. It will translate into an improvement of capacity and teaching levels and will help reduce the number of repeated years and dropouts.
4. A system of mandatory registration has been set up of all births and deaths occurring in the Sultanate of Oman.
5. Ministerial Decree No. 271/2006, which establishes the places where minors’ sentences must be served and resolutions relating to the handover of a minor and visiting rights, and the appropriate persons responsible.

New institutions

Recently applied policies

6. Work is under way on a draft regulation on literacy. The draft will among other things make it possible for children who cannot continue their education at school to have an alternative and accessible alternative with which to finish their studies.
7. Work is also under way on a bill to regulate the safety and integrity of school buses to ensure safe transport for schoolchildren.

8. The regulation governing children who require care and attention in families is being amended.

9. The regulation governing the conditions and measures for the establishment of foster homes is being amended.

Recently implemented programmes and projects and their scope

1. *The vocational guidance corner in Omani schools.* This is a set of information and data provided by the school administration or the education resource centre in schools that have grades 11 and 12, the aim being to assist students to become acquainted with the learning, training and professional opportunities in Oman and in other countries and to help them decide properly about their scientific and personal futures. Such information is also useful to them as it helps them choose their study plans for grades 11 and 12.

2. *The “Inyaz Oman” project (Oman Exceeds).* This is a group of training courses carried out by a group of people from the private sector who share their experiences and the secret of their success with the pupils, who thus acquire required knowledge and are motivated to join the labour market.

3. *Project to fight anaemia in girls’ schools, implemented from grades 7 to 12.* This is an awareness programme for girls in grades 7 to 12, consisting of a set of training materials for a group of girls and teachers who later disseminate the material among the rest of the girl pupils.

4. *Anti-smoking campaign among schoolchildren from grade 5 to 12.* This is a school awareness programme which includes a set of teaching disciplines which provide a group of teachers and students with training that they later impart upon the rest of the students.

5. *“Breakfast” project.* This project encourages students to take breakfast before coming to school. It also encourages them to take a refreshment to have at school or during recess, or to take a refreshment at the school cooperative.

6. *Programme of care for beneficiary children.* This programme distributes a free refreshment to pupils with limited means (beneficiaries or those receiving grants) during the school recess on all school days and also provides them with a school uniform at the beginning of each school year. The value of the refreshment is approximately one US dollar.

7. *The schools strengthening health project.* The concept of “schools strengthening health” is an international concept that is practised in many countries and that basically involves the introduction of a programme for the school and its local community that ensures a favourable health environment for living and for learning. Work began two years ago in 19 schools and will progressively be extended to the rest.

8. A telephone hotline project in the Ministry of Social Development, to help the various sectors of society to overcome social and psychological difficulties, provide support, solve problems and concentrate on children (implementation is imminent).

9. Establishment of a high-level task force to study the phenomenon of child abuse and its different forms and to draw up observations in this respect.

10. The Ministry of Health has adopted the measures necessary to monitor cases of child abuse. It has drawn up a child abuse report form which has been distributed to basic health-care centres. The form asks for information about the type of abuse, be it physical, psychological, related to negligence or abandonment or sexual in nature. It also clearly sets out the measures to be taken if any such cases are encountered in respect of health, psychological or social care and emphasizes the importance of providing continuous follow-up for such cases after release and to inform the competent authorities of them so that they can take the appropriate measures.

11. A parental training guide entitled "Guide to the various forms of child development" has been prepared. It is intended for people who work in primary care of children in their families or communities. The guide provides them with training and the knowledge and skills to allow them to assimilate basic information on their responsibilities with children. Its effectiveness has been tested at various practical courses for persons responsible for children's programmes, where such persons were asked to evaluate it.
