

**National Council for Family Affairs, January 2007**

**The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

**Jordan's Efforts in Response to the "World Fit for  
Children" and Millennium Development Goals  
during the period 2002 -2006**

**The National Council for Family Affairs**

**January 2007**

## **"A Jordan Fit for Children"**

*Our mission is to build a Jordan Fit for Children; children of today and leaders of tomorrow, to provide them with a secure environment that guarantees their right to survival, development, protection and participation.*

*Our mission is achieved through the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children which puts the best interests of children first, in our families, communities and precious homeland.*

Abdullah II

Rania Al-Abdullah

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## Introduction

Jordan has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols. It has also ratified the Millennium Declaration and the "World Fit for Children" (WFFC) document. It has committed to submit its reports on the developments witnessed with regard to achieving their aims. This report explains Jordan's efforts towards achieving a world fit for children and the Millennium Developmental Goals during the period 2002 – 2006. The report consists of 7 parts: the first on the methodology adopted and the rest on the content.

### 1. Methodology and Procedures of Preparing the Report

The National Council for Family Affairs, being a supporter and coordinator of the efforts of the family in its different areas and being a major partner in drafting childhood policies and strategies, based upon its law number 27 of 2001, has formed a steering committee to supervise the preparation of the report. The committee was formed of representatives of ministries concerned with childhood such as the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Health (MoH), and the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD). In addition, a representative of Jordan River Foundation and a representative of UNICEF/ Jordan Country Office were also members of the committee.

The Committee, in its first meeting, suggested that the report should answer a key question (To what extent did Jordan pursue its efforts to respond to the "World Fit for Children" document and achieve the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs) during the period 2002 – 2006) through applying the following methodology:

A) The report is being based on the following general conceptual resources:

1. The Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Jordan in 1991 and its two Optional Protocols ratified by Jordan in 2000;
2. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, ratified by Jordan on 6 September 2000;
3. The recommendations UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, 8-10 May 2002, the commitment by the Assembly to translate these recommendations into action and the pledge by world leaders to apply them.

B) The report is based on: data and information from studies, surveys, plans, strategies, reports of governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned with childhood during the period 2002 – 2006 such as the "Arab World Fit for Children" study; the General Population Census 2004; the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children (2004 – 2013); the National Early Childhood Plan (2003-2007); Jordan Report on the Millennium Developmental Goals; Jordan's first report (1993), second report (1998) and third report (2004) submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; the National Report on Follow-up to the World Summit for Children; the draft report of social policies in Jordan; the reports of the ministries, public organisations and institutions, and civil society organisations working in the field of childhood; the reports of government ministries and their accomplishments; sectoral national strategies such as population, poverty eradication, youth, communication, health education strategies; the National Agenda on Social Welfare; the sectoral report of "We are all Jordan" Forum; the report of the Youth Forum of "We are all Jordan"; the Situation Analysis of children and Adolescents in Jordan and Jordan in Numbers booklets.

C) The report adopted a qualitative research methodology in data and information collection

D) The report has been sent to governmental and non-governmental organisations to examine the information it contained, each according to its specialisation, and was returned to the National Council for Family Affairs to produce it in its final form and submit it to the steering committee for discussion and endorsement.

E) Submitting the report through the official channel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the UN in New York within a period not exceeding end of December 2006 and follow-up on the mechanism of its discussion in 2007.

## 2. Jordan's Response to WFFC Initiatives during the Period 2002-2006

The Arab Children Development Report, issued by the Arab Council for Childhood and Development, in 2006 has revealed that Jordan ranks seven among Arab countries in terms of achieving the total value of its childhood development index (0.712) and sectoral values in the fields of health, education, economic performance, public and technical services 0.858, 0.863, 0.630, 0.975, and 0.236 respectively.

These values, when analysed according to human development standards, indicate an average overall performance, and a varied sectoral performance ranging between a high of 0.975 in public services, and a low of 0.236 in technical services. They also indicate and improvement in the overall development of Jordanian children.

Jordan continues its efforts to maintain its high performance in the area of health, education and public services. It seeks to improve its performance in the technical and economic fields by reviewing its policies and strategies related to its children, and developing them in participation with some children, in light of their rights stated in national, pan Arab and international treaties. Children have actively participated in some forums such as: the "Forum on the Rights of Children" held by the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), in cooperation with the UN on 31 October 2001; "We are All Jordan" Youth Forum held at the King Hussein Convention Centre in the Dead Sea on 12 and 13 September 2006 and aiming at examining opportunities and challenges facing youth and their developmental role as knights of change as described by HM King Abdullah II; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Congress on Child Rights in Tunisia in 2004.

Jordan, in 2003, prepared its report on the Millennium Developmental Goals, and launched it in 2004. The report was based on the vision expressed by HM King Abdullah II, at the United Nations Millennium Summit in which he has participated and addressed saying: *"It is required from this summit that we look forward to the future... towards achieving a human vision based on tolerance and peace, a vision that protects life and seeks to improve it for all people... let us reconcile our contradicting values... let us compete in the search for knowledge... let us cooperate in seeking excellence... let us contribute to our humanity through accomplishments, peace and vision"*. Jordan has sought to achieve the Goals by 2015. Most of these goals are for the best interest of children, their families, and their local communities. The preparation of Jordan's report on Millennium Developmental Goals and its launch was accompanied by other reports covering WFFC priorities in improving health, providing good quality education, protection from abuse, exploitation, and violence and combating AIDS. The most important of those reports are:

### **The Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children (2004 – 2013):**

The Jordanian Plan of Action for Children (2004-2013) follows-up on past achievements in implementing the first National Plan of Action and the Social and Economic Plan of Action (2004-2006).

The National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA), the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with the participation of other organisations and representatives of children, prepared a plan focusing on five components: health, secure life, capacity building, protection of children in difficult circumstances, media and follow-up and evaluation. In the

account as basic components of children's rights of survival, development, protection and participation. The plan was launched in October 2004 under the patronage of HM King Abdullah II and HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

### **Early Childhood Development Strategy (2000) and its Action Plan (2003 – 2007)**

These were prepared using the participatory approach and were put for implementation by the government and its partners in order to improve services provided for children before, during and after birth.

The two action plans early childhood development and Jordan's National Plan of Action for Children have contributed to the development of national childhood legislations and policies. They have led to the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that was endorsed by the Parliament in its extraordinary session number 42/ 2006. They have also led to the endorsement of the temporary law with regard to monitoring the behaviour of juveniles issued in 2002 as a permanent law as of 2006 by the parliament. Moreover, the government submitted the Draft Childhood Act in 2004 to the parliament as of June 2004. The Ministry of Social Development has submitted the draft Family Protection Act to Legislative Bureau, in the second half of 2006 for endorsement. A specialised committee of experts in law and social specialists was formed to review and develop the juvenile Act number 24/ 1968, and its amendments till 2002 to comply with international treaties and conventions. The Ministry of Political Development prepared a draft law for people with special needs in 2006. The Kindergarten Code number 52 was issued in 2005 and its regulations in 2006. The Ministry of Social Development has formed an expert committee from social, educational and law experts to set up standards for licensing and managing orphanages. On Sunday 3 September 2006, HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah met with the committee, gave it her blessings, and directed it "to make Jordan a model in childcare". Her Majesty urged the committee to continue its efforts, to finalise the procedures related to the Act and ensure its application and its impact in rectifying the conditions of orphan children. In August 2006, the Ministry of Social Development prepared two draft regulations for illegitimate children and the licensing of care institutions for disability using a participatory approach. One million and 600 thousand copies of the Jordanian constitution were distributed to schoolchildren within the framework of the wide awareness campaign entitled: "know your rights and protect yourself". Amman Municipality has set up the framework of its strategy that includes its policy and priorities with regard to childhood. In July 2005, this framework was launched by HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

The early childhood development plan and the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children have also contributed to the enrichment of the component of social welfare in the National Agenda. This has led to allocating 2,400,000 dinars of MoSD's 2006 budget. The amount allocated is to be spent on projects related to enhancing productivity and eliminating poverty such as the community awareness project implemented by the MoSD. The project was implemented as planned, through MoSD's field directorates, reaching 31. These directorates were able to reach out to thousands of fathers, mothers and caregivers and sensitise them to the needs of their children and means to respond to these needs. The periodic assessment of the early childhood development plan conducted in October 2006, the computerised system designed by the National Council for Family Affairs in 2006 to assess the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children, and the qualitative and quantitative indicators, reveal the level of progress achieved in the development of Jordanian children compared to children in other countries.

However, it should be noted that the outputs of the Plan of Action for Early Childhood Development and the Plan of Action for Children, including draft laws, cannot be considered positive outcomes as yet, because they have not yet been endorsed by the Parliament.

### **C. The National Strategy for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour**

In cooperation with its partners, the Ministry of Labour prepared the strategy in February 2002. The strategy is based on the principles of the two International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions of 1973 and 1999. These conventions prohibit the worst forms of child labour. They stress the importance of providing children with the necessary and adequate means to avoid hazardous jobs, and the importance of rehabilitating and reintegrating them within their communities. They also stress the importance of enabling children to study and receive adequate training according to their age.

### **D. The Strategy of the Ministry of Social Development and the National Aid Fund (2004-2006)**

This strategy included its vision, mission, goals, policies and its 81 programmes, most of which are concerned with children in special circumstances such as orphans, illegitimate children, children with disability, and juveniles. The strategy gave children priority in the programmes of social services such as institutional social care, foster care, kindergartens, financial aid and building and maintaining houses.

### **E. The National Youth Strategy (2005 -2009)**

The strategy was prepared using a participatory approach. It was gender sensitive and included nine components: education, training, health, entertainment, leisure time, environment, employment, ICT and globalisation, participation, civil rights, citizenship as well as culture and media.

### **F. The Government's Social and Economic Development Plan 2004- 2006**

This plan's report contained two chapters: one on the methodology and the other on the scope of development of human resources, government services, development of the governorates, combating poverty and unemployment.

### **G. The Government's Employment and Poverty Alleviation Plan (2005 – 2007)**

Many components in this plan have been implemented in 2006, specifically those related to social development such as community awareness with relation to child rights, restructuring civil society organisations, improving the mechanisms of targeting the poor and creating a coordinating commission for social solidarity.

## **3. Financial Resources Allocated for children (2002-2006)**

Jordan possesses limited natural resources but rich human resources. Its economy suffers from poverty, unemployment, and debt as indicated in Table 1 (see annexes).

Jordan faces many challenges related to its limited water resources, limited arable land, high population increase, high percentage of people below the age of 29 years (70%), high fertility rate among women (3.7), unemployment (14.3%), poverty (14.7%) and external debt (56.1% of Jordan's Gross Domestic Product in 2005). In addition, it is influenced by the impacts of political and security instability in some neighbouring countries (Iraq, the National Palestinian Authority, and Lebanon). Despite these challenges, Jordan continues to pay great attention to improving its human resources as revealed by the relatively high average which has increased from 0.715 in 1997 to 0.740 in 2005. This concern is best expressed in the annual budget allocated to social sectors, which has increased from 400 million dinars in 2000 to 584 million dinars in 2006, an average growth of 7.7% annually forming 16.6% of the total budget of 2006. The education and health sectors receive the bigger part of the budget allocated for social sectors, reaching more than 90% of the total budget for 1990-2006. The Ministry of Education's budget reached 10.6% of the total budget for 2005, while the Ministry

of Health's budget reached 5.5%. Table (3) in the annexes shows the size of the estimated budget for social sectors in Jordanian dinar for the period 1990-2006.

This concern is also expressed in the budget of the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children 2004-2013 which reaches 805 million Jordanian dinar. 70% of this budget is available, and the government is seeking to secure the remaining 30% from international donors.

In addition to the budgets of ministries concerned with social services, other institutions allocate budgets for children, their families and their local communities such as social and local organisations with revenues reaching 19,318,227 in 2003, out of which 17,765,451 was spent in the same year. Arab and foreign organisations have spent 16 million dinars between 2003 - 2004 on projects, social services such as micro-credit, housing, care for orphans, support for local charitable societies, social awareness, health care, kindergartens, information technology, vocational training and care for people with disability. Greater Amman Municipality allocated half million dinars for the Executive Committee for the Child-Friendly City Initiative for Amman.

In order to maintain and increase the level of financial resources for children, there is a need to address certain challenges such as external debt (writing off or rescheduling debt interest free), political and security instability in some neighbouring countries, and the need to secure the remaining 30% for the NPA's budget that can be obtained from international donors.

#### **4. Developing and Using Monitoring Tools to Evaluate MDGs and WFFC Goals in Jordan during the period 2003-2006**

During the preparation of its report on the MDGs in 2003, National Plan of Action for Children 2003-2004, and Early Childhood Development Plan in 2002, Jordan developed monitoring and evaluation tools to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of its plans. These tools include two main databases:

**A. DevInfo Software:** DevInfo is a software tool created in 2003 at the Department of Statistics with the support of UNICEF. When the software was first introduced, it contained a limited number of population and social indicators. It was later developed to cover a bigger number of indicators. Given the growth in the indicators base, a technical team was formed to manage it. The responsibility of the team is to prepare a general framework of the existing database or the ones to be introduced, to enter the indicators that will be used and to connect them with the different geographic levels (the indicator's geographic representation). Another responsibility is to enter the values of the indicators, link them to relevant timelines, create the database, and issue needed reports. The database was extended to include all social, population, economic, agricultural, etc ... activities at the Department of Statistics. It also contains the indicators on MDGs in order for it to become a tool of monitoring the achievement of MDGs. At the end of each survey, the indicators and data collected are entered into the database and reports are produced according to the required geographical levels from the bigger to the smaller starting from the State, the governorate, Liwa (country sub division), Qada (district), to Tajamou' (community). The Department of Statistics, as a focal point of the software, is seeking to enlarge the database to cover all published indicators and spread the use of the software in ministries and government departments and institutions and in UN agencies by providing expertise and assistance when required. For example, data and indicators from the population and housing survey of 2004 were entered into the database in addition to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2005, the unemployment and income survey 2006, the two studies on the assessment of poverty for 2002 and 2005.

**B.** The other database is the one currently being developed by the National Council for Family Affairs to monitor change resulting from the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children and the Early Childhood Development Plan, on the conditions of Jordanian children. This shall

be done through linking the database with ministries and government departments and institutions to feed it with data on the characteristics of children enrolled in kindergartens, care institution, pre-schools and schools, abused children and other kind of data.

In addition, NCFA has developed an evaluation and monitoring system to use in following-up, evaluating the performance of its partners, and measuring their success in comparison with their aims and action plans. It also aims at coordinating national efforts to improve the quality of life of the Jordanian family; updating strategies and national programmes targeting families and children; determining the priorities of these strategies and ensuring compliance with the principles of transparency, accountability, and governance required in these institutions.

The system is currently used by NCFA's partners to evaluate and monitor performance in all projects, programmes and activities related to family affairs in Jordan. NCFA will seek in the next phase to develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with governmental and nongovernmental organisations working in the field of family and childhood by computerising the monitoring and evaluation system.

In addition, NCFA uses other monitoring tools, most importantly, reports on the performance of the government in light of its mandate, governmental retreats, national fora, periodic reports issued by the National Centre for Human Rights, Shadow reports produced by representatives of nongovernmental organisations and submitted to the UN Child Committee for Human Rights, media reports, poverty maps and efforts to combat poverty, the system used to follow-up on child abuse piloted in ten governmental hospitals, Jordan's periodic reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in fulfilment of its obligation and periodic situation analysis reports of children and adolescents. It also uses specialised focus groups such as the one formed by NCFA during November 2006 to assess the Early Childhood Development Strategy and its Plan of Action for 2003-2007, which has resulted in identifying priorities of the coming Plan of Action for 2008-2012.

#### **5. Enhancing institutional partnership and child participation and their impact on achieving MDGs and WFFC Goals in Jordan during the period 2002-2006.**

Institutional partnership and child participation are strategic issues as stressed in the Early Childhood Development Strategy of 2000 and its Plan of Action, the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children (2004 – 2013) and the MDG report. These issues receive serious attention as indicated by:

- A.** Founding the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) by Royal Decree in 2001 under the direct leadership of HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah. NCFA members include the Ministers of Social Development, Education and Health and other decision-makers. NCFA is an umbrella for national family and child organisations, a coordinating body of their activities and a major partner in setting their policies and strategies.
- B.** The National Council for the Care of the Disabled (NCCD), which was formed under Law 12 of 1993 for the Welfare of the Disabled. It is presided by the Minister of Social Development and its membership includes a number of individuals with disability representing people with disabilities. Among NCCD's major accomplishments is the survey of the national register for people with disability that covered, until 2006, 10 out of twelve governorates, where the number of people with disability has reached 14,911.
- D.** National Aid Fund and Zakat Fund, which have in their membership representatives from public, private and nongovernmental sectors.
- E.** Boards of Directors of some CSOs registered under special laws such as the Jordan River Foundation, the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development and the King Hussein Foundation, which have in their membership representatives from the public sector.

F. The government's endorsement of the social solidarity commission code in September 2006. This code came as a response to royal directives and in line with the government's efforts to promote social solidarity. It came because of the increased need to coordinate national aid efforts in a manner that guarantees optimum use of resources and avoids replication. The Commission aims at endorsing strategies and plans to coordinate the efforts of social solidarity and adopt a methodology to measure, analyse and define the causes of poverty.

G. The Youth Parliament project initiated in September 2004 with the aim of giving youth the opportunity to participate in and influence the decision making process; training them on democratic practices; widening the scope of participation; giving youth a bigger role in studying the current state of affairs, determining priorities, proposing and implementing programmes accordingly.

H. "We are All Jordan" Youth Forum, which is an extension of "We are All Jordan" Forum the activities of which were held on 12 and 13 September 2006 under the patronage of HM King Abdullah II. Youth in this forum presented a number of practical recommendations that ensure means to face the challenges in Jordan in the fields of education, poverty alleviation, political development, and other recommendations covering more areas of concern.

I. The Children Parliament Project, which is a free forum for children's rights with an effective influence on officials and decision makers. The parliament aims at enhancing and spreading the international convention on children's right, enhancing gender equality, strengthening democratic performance, spreading democratic culture, training children on citizenship responsibilities and participation in public life, enabling children to influence the public opinion and decision makers.

J. Elections of Children Municipal Council, which is a translation of article 12 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 28,000 male and female students in the age group 12-15 participated in the elections and 77 female and male students were elected to represent their constituents on the Greater Amman Municipality's board. This project represents a kind of institutional partnership between Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Political Development, and the National Centre for Human Rights.

K. Child Protection Committee in GAM's board. The committee consists of elected and appointed members and includes representatives from NCFA, UNICEF and experts in childhood.

L. The Team for Family Protection, which was formed in 2000, by some representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations to supervise the implementation of the family protection project at the Public Security Directorate. In 2003, the team was restructured after being transferred to the NCFA. It is now composed of two groups: a steering group and a technical group. The team has many tasks among which is preparing institutional operational guides and training manuals, in addition to directing and coordinating family protection services.

#### **6. Level of accomplishment of MDGs and WFFC goals in Jordan during the period 2002-2006, as indicated by available data and information**

The MDGs cross-cut with WFFC goals in their humanitarian developmental aspects focusing on different childhood stages aiming to improve the survival, development, protection and participation of children. This intersection is best revealed in Jordan's MDG report (and the data and information therein) and also in the data collected before until 2006 as shown below:

**A. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger as an MDG related to the the welfare of children**

This goal has two purposes: first, decrease the percentage of people with an income less than 1 dollar by half between 1990-2015; the second, decrease the percentage of people suffering from hunger by half during the same period.

With regard to the first purpose, measured against indicators such as the percentage of families living in extreme poverty, the poverty gap and the GDP per capita for the poorest 20% of the population, the percentage of people below the extreme poverty line has dropped from 4% in 2002 to less than 2% in 2003. This has been accompanied by a slight increase in the percentage of people below the absolute poverty line from 14.2% in 2002 to 14.7% in 2005, and an increase in the annual cash value of the needs of the poor from 392 dinars in 2002 to 504 dinars in 2005.

To combat poverty and reduce its effects on the population in general and on children in particular, the government, in cooperation with developmental CSOs, increased its intervention in poverty areas, specifically in areas where absolute poverty ranges from 26% to 75% such as Ruwaished, Ghor Al-Safi, Birin, Dhilail, Husayniyah and other areas. The government launched its employment and poverty eradication programme for 2006/2007 in a number of areas representing, directly or indirectly, the best interests of children. These areas cover: national aid, forming the social solidarity commission, the restructuring of the National Aid Fund, improved public health and education services in poor areas, expanding the child nutrition project for school children to cover 220,000 children in public schools with a total cost of 10 million dinars annually, including 541,000 poor children under the age of 6 in health insurance, establishing 50 kindergartens in poor areas and including pregnant women in health insurance as of the beginning of 2007.

Expenditures on poverty alleviation efforts (illustrated in detail in table 5 in the annexes), helped maintain the rate of the poverty gap (total expenditure needed to increase the spending in poor households to reach the poverty line) and the depth of poverty (differences between poor families) as it is between 2002 and 2005. This was possible because the increase in the former did not exceed 3% and the increase in latter did not exceed 1%.

Despite efforts to alleviate poverty and protect the poor, poverty still poses a challenge in terms of understanding its root causes and addressing them with appropriate programmes.

The second purpose is measured in Jordan by special indicators such as the number of underweight children compared to their age, the number of children suffering from malnutrition, the number of stunted children, and the number of families suffering from minimum levels of food consumption. In 2002, 4% of children were mildly to severely underweight, 2% were wasted, 8.5-9% were stunted and 4% of families were suffering from minimum levels of food consumption.

**B. Education for All (EFA) as an MDG and its impact on the welfare of children**

Education is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education (MoE), under its law number 3 of 1994. Education in Jordan consists of three phases: kindergarten, primary school and secondary school. MoE's law stresses the importance of the first stage as an educational stage. Data indicates that the number of kindergartens in Jordan has reached 1,559 in 2005. 70% kindergartens are privately owned, 15% are governmental and 15% established by NGOs. There is a tangible increase in the percentage of government owned kindergartens of 3% compared to 12% in 2004. The total number of children enrolled in kindergartens has reached 99,008. This indicates that the percentage of total enrolment has reached 37.9 with an increase of 4.5% compared to 2004 when the percentage was 33.4. The proportion of enrolment in KG1 has reached 23.4% with an increase of 3.4% compared to 2004 of 20%.

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The proportion of enrolment in KG2 reached 51.5% with an increase of 4.5% compared to 2004 of 47%.

Secondary education is compulsory and covers children in the age group of 6-16. The Ministry of Education supervises 73% of students whose numbers have reached approximately 12,564 males and females for the school year 2003-2004. UNRWA covers 10.3% of students and the private sector covers 16%. Other governmental bodies supervise 0.7% of students.

Secondary school is not compulsory but it is almost free of charge in public schools. It consists of two streams: one is comprehensive and covers academic and professional education. Students should take the exam of secondary school certificate. The other type of education is the applied one which covers vocational areas to prepare students to gain skills, which qualify them to enter the labour market.

Statistics indicate a decline in the number of students per classroom. The proportion of students per classroom has dropped from 28 in 2003, to 27.5 in 2004 and 27.1 in 2005.

The number of male and female teachers providing education in the primary and secondary stages is 78,298 out of which is 62.9% were females in the school year 2004-2005. 69% of teachers are employed by the Ministry of Education, 24% by the private sector and 5.2% by UNRWA and other institutions. 60% of the teachers are holders of a bachelor's degree, and 6.7% are holders a bachelor's degree and a diploma.

Statistics also indicate a decline in the student/teacher ratio. The ratio of teacher/ student in the primary stage has dropped from 21.9 in 2003 to 20 in 2005. The ratio has also dropped in secondary education from 11.8 in 2003 to 11 in 2005.

Students with normal growth and students with special needs, both the talented and those with visual and hearing disabilities benefit from education in Jordan. Some children with disabilities were integrated with their able peers since 2003 after shifting the sectoral responsibility of their schools from the Ministry of Social Development to the Ministry of Education in compliance with law 12 of 1993 for the Welfare of Disabled Persons.

The number of students with hearing disabilities reached 930, of which 175 were integrated into mainstream schools and 755 go to special schools under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. The number of blind students reached 305, of which 255 are enrolled in the Abdullah bin Um Maktoum Primary and Secondary School for the Blind.

The number students with learning difficulties has reached 7,739 (male and female) distributed in 463 resource rooms for students with learning difficulties from grade two to grade six. The number of male and female students with mental disabilities reached 28 in the age group 5-13 distributed among 4 rooms for mental disability in mainstream schools. The number of female and male students with motor disabilities reached 567 distributed among mainstream schools all over the Kingdom.

The number of male and female dropouts from the primary stage reached 6,381 (less than 5% of the total number of children). This percentage is nearly non-existent in the first grades, but increases in higher grades especially in the ninth and tenth grades. Dropouts are more spread in rural and industrial areas for reasons linked to the characteristics of dropouts (gender - more among males than females, degree of disability - more among children with disability, and the level of educational performance - less among those with average to high academic achievement and more among those with low academic achievement), the circumstances of their families, their backgrounds and social environment. Dropping out of school occur more in poor families and rural families.

The Ministry of Education, with its NGO partners, intervenes in the situation of dropouts to return children to education, and helps them enrol in vocational training and engage in

productive projects. Greater Amman Municipality contributes to the rehabilitation of dropouts through its non-formal education project, which helps children acquire literacy skills and return to mainstream education.

School curricula and teaching techniques underwent an improvement in 2004, exemplified in the new KG curricula, developing developmental standards for children in the age group 0–10 and indicators to measure those standards in the kindergarten and the first three grades, adopting an integrated curriculum for grades 1-4, and adopting a unified curriculum along with multiple schoolbooks in other grades. In addition, science and computers laboratories were provided for more than 60% MoE schools. Eleven educational resource centres were introduced and libraries were opened in more than 50% of public schools. Efforts are now under way to connect MoE schools through an internal information network with the directorates supervising them and the internet. There are also efforts to upgrade curricula in light of national and international considerations.

Another improvement occurred with regard to cultural services provided for children. The Ministry of Culture is providing many cultural services such as the mobile child library, annual issues of books and series directed to children, child media, a variety of activities to promote reading for all and reading for children. The Ministry of Culture is also conducting sustainable child cultural development projects such as establishing cultural centres in all the Kingdom's governorates, fine arts centres, libraries, cultural clubs, Arab and Jordanian art festivals and participation in Arab and international events and activities.

Greater Amman Municipality has created 38 public libraries and prepared guidelines according to international specifications and standards to revamp public libraries in order to ensure the safety and protection of children. The Higher Council for Youth has 80 centres for adolescents. These centres aim at developing the capacities of young people in different areas such as sports, culture and music.

Based on the above, we can say that Jordan is getting close to achieving universal education in the foreseeable future.

### **C. Enhancing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment as an MDG and its impact on the welfare of children**

Jordan is seeking to eliminate gender disparities in education as shown in table (8) and gender parity index in education. In 2005, the percentage of female students to male students reached 96.3% in the primary education, 101.5% in the secondary education, 157% in the diploma and 100.3% in university education.

Jordan is also seeking to eliminate all gender disparities in all fields of life according to the directives of HM King Abdullah II, who addressed the first ordinary session of the 14<sup>th</sup> held in January 2003. In his address His Majesty said: *"We have to ensure all necessary capacities and rights to women to promote their full participation in the political, economic and social life"*.

Governmental and non-governmental organisations are seeking to guide families to improve their child rearing methods through community-based awareness programmes such as the family awareness project implemented by the Ministry of Social Development in 2006 and the Better Parenting Project implemented by UNICEF with the participation of 14 local entities. In addition, governmental and non-governmental organisations also seek to review and develop national legislations to achieve women's best interest. These efforts are exemplified in the "Quota" system, in which women representation in the parliament was increased from 1.25% in 1997 to 5.45% in 2006. In professional unions, the number of female doctors enrolled in the union of doctors increased from 1,624 in 2002 to 2,614 in 2005, and the number of female lawyers enrolled in the Bar Association increased from 886 in 2002 to 1,279 in 2005. Volunteering women in CSOs formed 20% of the total number of volunteers reaching 10,000

in 2006. Impact assessment studies have shown that the salaries of females according to their professional qualifications are higher than those of men in the private sector, but are lower in the public sector due to legislative reasons.

According to these remarks, we can say that Jordan has achieved gender equality in education and is continuing its efforts to achieve equality in other fields by providing women with more opportunities and building their capacities to empower them socially, economically and politically. The challenge of women's advancement will remain a challenge until women themselves and their communities work together.

#### **D. Decreasing infant mortality rate as an MDG and its impact on the welfare of children**

Mortality rate for children below 5 has decreased from 39 for every 1,000 in 1990 to 34 in 1997 and to 27 in 2002. Infant mortality rate went down from 24 per 1,000 in 1990, and 29 per 1,000 in 1997 to 22 per 1,000 in 2002.

Moreover, Jordan is continuing its efforts to increase its services with regard to immunisation of children in their first year of life, which has already reached 100% for some types of vaccines as shown in table (9) in the annexes.

#### **E. Improving reproductive health as an MDG and its impact on the welfare of children**

This aim is measured in Jordan by two indicators: Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births and proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

Accordingly, maternal mortality rate declined from 48 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 41 in 1996. The target is to cut the number by 3/4 in the period from 1990 – 2015, that is 12 per 100,000 live births. The number achieved in Jordan is lower than that in the Arab world (48) and in other less developed countries. It is slightly higher by approximately one degree than the number in moderately to highly developed countries (40). The percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel increased from 98.6% in 2002 to 100% in 2004.

A major accomplishment in the field of reproductive health in 2005 is the government's endorsement of the National Youth Strategy 2005 – 2009, which is comprised of several themes, such as youth and health. Children and youth benefit from the cultural activities in this theme, especially those living in special circumstances such as detained and convicted juveniles and children in need of special protection and care. In addition, UNICEF, the Higher Council for Youth and the Ministry of Health have developed a manual on reproductive health and AIDS. The manual has proven its effectiveness and efficiency as illustrated by the findings of one field study, which has implemented the manual. The study revealed that the manual had a tangible impact in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes of youth.

#### **F. Combating HIV/AIDS and its impact on the welfare of children**

This goal aims at putting an end to or reversing the spread of HIV by 2015. It is measured in Jordan by 3 indicators: the number of infected pregnant women in the age group 14-24, women's use of family planning methods, and the number children orphaned by AIDS.

##### **1) Jordanian Youth and AIDS:**

A study conducted by UNICEF, in cooperation with the Department of Statistics, during the period July-October 2001, entitled "Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views", on a sample of 3,635 young men, 3,786 young women, 1,505 fathers and 1,807 mothers, revealed that the majority the young people consider themselves healthy. Reasons for this are related to two explanations. The first is the low rate of infectious diseases in their communities and the

second is related to their awareness. This is explained by the low rates of HIV/AIDS in Jordan, the relative lack of awareness of the disease, its causes and means to combat it. As for the low rates of HIV/AIDS prevalence in Jordan, it could be related to the fact that HIV/AIDS appeared in Jordan rather late and that it is under control due to the low number of cases, which did not exceed 361 (345 cases were accumulated from years prior to 2003) till the end of 2005, 50% of the infected are young people and most cases are for non-Jordanians.

Young people's awareness about HIV/AIDS began to increase due to school and university curricula, awareness and media campaigns, community awareness and targeted training. Modern studies such as the one titled: "Knowledge and attitudes of reproductive health among female seniors at the Science and Technology University" on a sample of 418 female students revealed that students in medical studies have better knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases. The study on the impact of health education on the attitudes of university students with regard to HIV/AIDS revealed that the training programme has left a positive impact on the study group and their skills. The group became more supportive of the rights and responsibilities of those infected with HIV/AIDS. They also became more aware of causes that could lead to the infection. The study also revealed that the training programme did not have an impact on the study group with regard to the perception of persons infected with HIV/AIDS and with regard to sexual relations before marriage compared to results obtained from the control group given the high scores both groups achieved. This shows that there is good knowledge about HIV/AIDS among both groups given the level of knowledge they obtained during school and university years.

## **2) Women's Use of Family Planning Methods**

The percentage has increased from 56% in 2002 to 60% in 2005. Despite the slight increase, there still remains a 40% of women in child-bearing age, who do not use family planning methods, and should, therefore, be targeted in different ways to help them avoid unwanted pregnancies and enhance the welfare of their families as there is a connection between poverty and the size of the family. The Poverty Assessment Report 2004 indicates an inverse correlation between the size of poor families and their income, meaning that the bigger the size the less the income.

## **3) Number of Pregnant Women Infected by AIDS and Number of Children Orphaned by AIDS**

Jordan's MDG report does not contain any information on the number of pregnant women infected by HIV/AIDS because there are no such cases or because there is no process for collecting such information. Most probably there are no such cases in Jordan as is shown by the Situation Analysis of Women and Children in Jordan 2006.

According to information contained in 1, 2 and three above, it seems that HIV/AIDS is under control despite the limited number of cases and the weak negative impact of the disease, but that does not preclude the possibility that it does pose a threat on the health of people in general, especially young people and women.

## **G. Health Insurance in Jordan**

The percentage of families covered by health insurance is 57%. In addition to those, children under the age of 6, pregnant women, the elderly, children in care centres (orphans, juveniles and children with disabilities), and families benefiting from the National Aid Fund (reaching 72,000 families) benefit from health insurance.

## H. At-Risk Children

### ▪ Juvenile Justice

The rate of juveniles increases from one decade to the other starting from 1970s until the beginning of the new millennium. The average has dropped from 5,553.2 in 2000-2005 compared to 1970s when it reached 6,248.2. More than 90% of the cases are among males. Efforts are underway to counter the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency. A review of policies and strategies focusing on the raising the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years, imposing penalties that do not deprive juveniles of their freedom, providing juveniles with post care, providing capacity building for staff working with juveniles, establishing a specialised judiciary system, and exchanging expertise in the rehabilitation and care for juveniles with other countries such as Switzerland.

Despite all those efforts, juvenile delinquency remains a social problem detrimental to families that face difficulties in raising their children due to their inability to coordinate with other child rearing institutions.

### ▪ Child and Women Abuse

Protection of children from all kinds of violence started in Jordan in the last decade when which the Family Protection Unit was formed at the Public Security Directorate and its sections grew to cover 7 governorates. The number of reported cases of abuse is increasing and some of the cases can be described as crimes. Sexual abuse and severe abuse are treated by social workers and administrative governors in cooperation with the police and the medical services (forensic, psychological and therapeutic).

NCFCA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development, has prepared a guide on "Family Protection" methods adopted by different organisations. It also prepared a training manual for social and health workers. The Ministry of Health prepared a system to document cases of child abuse dealt with at hospitals. Efforts are ongoing to conduct a survey study of child abuse cases by UNICEF and NCFCA. The survey will be conducted in the beginning of 2007.

Greater Amman Municipality has recently introduced a new position for social supervisors to supervise public parks and prepare a comprehensive training guide for social supervisors to include means of protection from abuse.

The result of the study referred to above, in the report entitled: "Towards a national strategy for the protection of the family (health and violence)" issued in 2003 by WHO in Jordan and NCFCA stresses that women, especially married women, are the most vulnerable group to violence. Despite the increase in violence against women, and the number of unreported cases, violence has become a social problem which requires intervention. This fact is emphasised in the study prepared by Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID), entitled "Abuse as perceived by various sectors in the society of Jordan". The study revealed that women are the most vulnerable group because of the alcoholic habits of husbands and because they leave the responsibility of raising children to their wives and then hold them responsible for their children's behaviour by punishing them. In addition, the conflicts arising between the husband and the parents of the wife may urge men to take revenge on their wives. Men are also influenced by the pornographic films they watch on satellite channels, which affect their relations with their wives.

In order to address the abuse inflicted on women and children, the Ministry of Social Development established community service offices at the Family Protection Unit in the Public Security Directorate and in its sections. It has also supported the Child Protection House of Jordan River Foundation and established a centre for resolving family problems (Dar Al-Wifaq Al Usari) according to the regulations of family protection number 48 of 2004. In addition,

abused children are hosted in special homes under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development. They are then returned to their families after resolving their problems and rehabilitating them. In order to better address the problem of child and women abuse, there is a need to enhance efforts to study societal factors that encourage abuse and the characteristics of abused children and women, and prepare development, prevention and treatment interventions in light of the study.

#### ▪ Disability

The Population Census 2004 revealed 62,986 cases of disability reaching 1.2% of the total population (5,500,000) and in 5.5% of the total number of families (1 million). It revealed that 65.7% of disabilities are among males and 39.43% among females; and that 95.83% of the cases among Jordanians and 4.17 among non-Jordanians. 40.47% of disabilities are among people less than 19 years old and 59.5% are among people above 19 years old. The percentage of disability differs according to the type of disability. Motor disability is 28.61% followed by hearing/ speech 16.36%, mental disability 16.04%, multi disability 13.37% visual disability 9.27%, cerebral palsy 8.35%, other disabilities 7.61%, and unspecified disabilities 0.38%. The rate of disability differs from one governorate to the other. In Amman the percentage is 33.75 followed by Irbid 19.88%, Zarqa 16.29%, Balqa 6.76%, Mafraq 5.38%, Jarash 3.91%, Karak 3.80%, Ajloun 3.03%, Madaba 2.26%, Maan 1.88%, Aqaba 1.73% and Tafleeh 1.33%.

People with disability receive training, rehabilitation and educational services provided by 157 governmental and nongovernmental organisations benefiting 27,000 individuals with disability.

In the beginning of 2005, Jordan received the Roosevelt Award for its distinguished efforts in the field of providing care for people with disability and the concern paid by its leadership to the conditions of people with disability.

Jordan has also recently completed the development of a national strategy for people with disability 2007-2009 with a total budget of 45 million dinars. However, the budget poses a challenge for the country's budget as it was instituted after the budget law came into effect.

#### ▪ Orphans

In Jordan, there are 26 care institutions for the orphans where 1,095 children reside (277.87 in government institutions and 817.62 in non-governmental organisations). Under the directives of HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, modern standards have been developed for licensing and managing residential childcare institutions to guarantee the rights of children in those institutions and improve their efficiency and that of their employees. Efforts are underway to implement these standards. Al-Aman Society for the Future of Orphan Children has been recently registered to provide care to those who leave the care institutions.

### **I. Developing a global partnership for development and its effect on the welfare of children**

Due to the efforts of HM King Abdullah II, Jordan thrives to enhance its communication and interaction with neighbouring countries in order to improve its relationship with them, increase developmental cooperation and spread peace in the region. This is clear in the many protocols that Jordan has signed with those countries. Jordan has hosted the Dafus World Economic Forum in 2005. The number of participating foreign organisations in the Forum reached 49. Moreover, Jordan hosted the World Family Summit +2 from 5-7 December 2006, the Young Arab Leaders Forum on 26 and 27 November 2006, as well as the Future Forum held on 30 November 2006.

In 2006, Jordan obtained some grants and loans to finance its developmental activities. The value of the committed grants from countries and donors for 2006 totals 493 million dollars compared to that of 2005 which amounted to 470 million Jordanian Dinars. The value of the grants obtained from donor countries to support the budget in 2006 reached a total of 256 million dollars as compared to 268 million dollars in 2005. The value of from financing organisations for 2006 reached a total of 206 million dollars. However, these figures are not enough to meet all of Jordan's developmental needs; therefore, donor countries need to increase their grants and loans to Jordan and turn loans into grants so that the country can avoid the problem of external debt, which adversely affects the GDP.

#### **J. Protecting the environment and its impact on the welfare of children**

In order to measure this developmental goal, a number of indicators were used; some are traditional while others are new. On the level of traditional indicators, the percentage of households with access to water, electricity and sanitation in 2005 was 97.7%, 99% and 57.3% respectively. On the level of new indicators, the average daily water consumption per capita increased from 136.6 litres per day in 2003 to 141.2 litres per day in 2004. The number of local samples which were analysed and did not contain pesticide residuals increased from 1,448 samples in 2003 to 1,524 samples in 2004. The number of imported samples which did not contain pesticide residuals also increased from 4,029 samples in 2003 to 4,716 samples in 2004.

These indicators, in both their traditional and modern dimensions, prove that the Jordanian environment is improving and that some of its aspects are being controlled.

#### **7: Lessons learned from Jordan's achievements of MDGs and the WFFC goals for the period 2002-2006**

In assessing Jordan efforts in both the achievement of the MDGs and WFFC goals, it is clear that Jordan has enhanced the development of its children at a level of 0.712 through:

- a- The Commitment and will of its leaders to change and their ability to act positively for the welfare of the people despite their different demographic, social, economic and cultural characteristics
- b- Its strategic planning for the future of its population in general and its children in particular
- c- The implementation of development projects and programmes of comprehensive, integration, effective and fair nature that directly and indirectly target children
- d- Its integration in the international community, signing and ratifying international conventions and agreements and commitment to submit related reports in fulfilment of its obligations
- e- Facilitating the work of the United Nations agencies and the activities of foreign organisations working in Jordan
- f- The search for excellence and seeking to achieve it
- g- Its belief in its human resources and exerting efforts to improve their conditions according to its development indices
- h- The integration of the National Agenda into the Millennium Development Goals
- i- Setting up national plans to improve the condition of children

Despite all efforts exerted to achieve child welfare, Jordan still has to improve its performance in the following areas by 2015:

- a. On the technical level: Jordan has to improve its performance in order increase the average child development index from the low level of (0.235) to the medium level in the near future and to a high level on the long run.

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- b. The economic level: Jordan has to improve its economic performance to enhance its child development index from the medium level of (0.630) to the high levels achieved in other fields such as public services (0.975), education (0.863) and health (0.858).
- c. On the education and health levels: Jordan should improve these two levels to achieve better results.

Hence, Jordan should concentrate on the qualitative rather than quantitative aspects to improve services provided for children. The legislations do exist but implementation mechanisms are weak. Jordan should be able to collect the allocated amounts in order to implement its National Plan of Action for Children for the period 2004-2013. This amount is 30% of the total estimated at 85 million dollars.

Jordan will continue with the development, implementation, assessment and monitoring of its ambitious plans to put an end to challenges affecting the quality of life for children. These challenges are mainly poverty, unemployment, and population growth. It should strike a balance between local legislations and international legislations elated to children, and professionalize the jobs of those who work with children. It should advocate the peace process worldwide and in the Middle East in specific.

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## **Annexes of Tables**

**Table Number (1) - Some population, economic, and geographic indicators in Jordan (1990 – 2005)**

The Indicator	Years		
	1990	1995	2005
Population size (in thousand)	3453	4291	5350
Gross Domestic Product at market price (in million dinars)	26683	46546	8164
GDP per capita	809	1085	1526
The highest level of cost-of-living	21.6	3.7	3.4
Gross exports of goods (in million dinars)	612252	1004534	2570222
Balance of public debt of the central government (in million dinars)	279	966	2467
Ratio of internal public debt to GDP %	9.9	20.7	27.1
The balance of external debt (in million dinars)	60525	5508.1	5056.7
The ratio of external debt to GDP %	216	118	55.5
Proportion of the extremely poor population %	1.5 **	6.6 ***	4 ****
Proportion of absolute poverty %	18.7 **	24 ***	10.2 *****
Unemployment %	16.8	15	14.8 *****
The Area (Km2)			89.342*****
Population density (per Km2) *****			60.3 *****

Source: \* Jordan Central Bank, Statistical Bulletin, December, 1995:4-7, and April, 2006.

\*\* Al-Sqour and others, 1989.

\*\*\* Al-Sqour and others, 1998.

\*\*\*\* Al-Khasawneh and others, 1998.

\*\*\*\*\* Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Social Development and the World Bank 2004.

\*\*\*\*\* Department of Statistics, different publications covering the period 1990-2005.

\*\*\*\*\* Department of Statistics, 2005:4.

\*\*\*\*\* The area of Land in Jordan is 88,802 sq km; Badiyah forms 70,000 of this total area, which is 78.82%.

**Table Number (2) – Jordan's Human Development Index (1990 – 2005)**

Year	Jordan's Ranking Amongst Other Countries	Life Expectancy (In Years)	Adult Literacy %	GDP Per Capita	Human Development Index	Level of Human Development
2000	92	70.4	88.6	3.347	0.721	Average
2001	88	70.1	89.2	3.955	0.714	Average
2002	87	70.3	89.7	3.966	0.742	Average
2003 *	90	70.6	90.3	3.870	0.743	Average
2005 **	90				0.740	Average

\* Source: Shtaiwi, 2004: 64

\*\* Source: UN, 2006

**Table Number (3) - Government Budget for Social Sectors in Jordanian Dinar\* (1990-2006)**

Sector	Years		
	1990	2000	2006
Health	24403000	131000000	201486000
Education	113778400	258192000	367805000
Social Development **	3249000	10161000	11670000
Total	142073700	400746000	584050000

\* The exchange rate of the Jordanian Dinar against the Dollar in 1990, 2000, 2004, was 50.1, 41.1, and 41.1 respectively (ESCWA 2006:118)

\*\* Despite the fact that the Minister of Social Development chairs the National Aid Fund, and despite the fact that some employees of the ministry use the buildings of the Fund, it is financially and administratively independent according to its law number 36 of 1986. Its annual budget is estimated at 60 million dinars. Most of this budget is spent on the beneficiaries of the Fund.

**Table Number (4) - Some children and Women Indicators From Study of Social Attitudes in Jordan**

The period of comparison and the Relative value	Indicator	
Population growth	4.4% in 1994	2.5% in 2005
Average births	3.7% in 2002	3.2% in 2005
Married women's use of family planning methods	40% in 1990	60% in 2005
Mean age for unmarried women		26.8 years in 2005
Mean age for unmarried men		29.4 years in 2005
Illiteracy rate among females	68.2% in 1961	10% in 2005
The proportion of male students attending kindergarten, primary and secondary education to the total number of enrolled students		50.7% in 2005
The proportion of female students attending kindergarten, primary and secondary education to the total number of enrolled students		49.3% in 2005
Average number of students per class	28.3 in 2000	27.5 in 2004
Number of students per teacher (primary education)	23.9 in 2002	22.0 in 2004
Number of students per teacher (secondary education)	11.8 in 2003	11.8 in 2004
Rate of unemployment among women	20.8% in 2003	25.9% in 2005
Rate of dependency	1.1 in 1979	0.7 in 2005

Source: Al-Arab Al-Yawm daily, 31/10/2006:23.

**Table Number (5) - Some Population Indicators (1980 – 2004)**

Indicator	Years				
	1980	1991	2000	2001	2004
Births per 1000	47	40	28	28	29
Mortality per 1000	11	7	5	5	7
Natural Population Increase (%)	3.6	3.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
Annual Population Growth (%)	4	3.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
Male Life Expectancy (year)	58	64	68.6	68.6	70.6
Female Life Expectancy (year)	62	68	71	71.1	72.4
Average Child Mortality	97	39	31	27	27
Average Infant Mortality per 1000 Live Births	89	34	29	27	27
Average maternal Mortality per 100,000	60	60	41	40	41
Average fertility rate	6.9	5.6	3.6	3.5	3.7
Average doctors per 10,000 individuals	10	17	19	20.5	22.4
Average hospital beds per 10,000 individuals	17	17	16	17	17
Male Average Age at First Marriage (year)	26	27.9	29.8	29.3	29.3
Female Average Age at First Marriage (year)	21	24.7	25.9	26.8	25.9
Percentage of Population below 19					49.8
Percentage of Population between 20 and 64					46.4
Percentage of Population above 65					3.8%

Source: ESCWA, 2006, 114-115.

**Table Number (6) - Budget Expenditures on Poverty**

Budget (In Thousand Dinars)	Years						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	2039.5	2187.1	2316.3	2396.3	2809.8	3180.5	3538.9
Expenditures on Poverty	68.2	90.0	78.1	104.1	135.3	129.4	115.3
% of Expenditures on Poverty	3.34	4.11	3.37	4.34	4.81	4.07	3.26

Source: Prime Ministry, 2006:4.

**Table (7) - Illiteracy rate, Secondary school graduates and higher education of age group above 15 years as revealed by the Population Census\* (1961 – 2004)**

Illiteracy Rate	1961	1979	1994	2004
Males	52.5	18.9	9.0	6.6
Females	85.4	48.3	21.0	13.6
Total	68.2	33.5	14.8	10.0
Percentage of Secondary Education Degree Holders and Above	1961	1979	1994	2004
Males	**	19.1	34.1	42.7
Females	**	10.3	29.2	43.2
Total	3.7	14.7	31.7	43.0

\*Source: Department of Statistics, 2006.

\*\* Data not available.

**Table Number (8) - Total Rate of Enrolment according to School Stage and Gender (1991-2003)\***

Period Age	1991-1992			1995-1996			2002 -2003		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Kindergarten 4-6 years	26	22.9	24.5	27.1	23.9	25.5	30	27.6	28.8
Elementary School 6-15 Years	86.5	86.9	86.7	94.2	94.9	94.6	98.5	98.9	98.7
Secondary School 17-19 years	51.9	53.3	52.6	67.2	72.2	69.9	89.9	98.6	94.1

\* Jordan in Numbers Booklet 2005 indicates that the rate of male and female students in the primary school is 97.3%, in the secondary school 101.5%, in the diploma 157% and in universities 100.3%.

**Table Number (9) - Immunisation coverage among children under one year (2001 – 2004)**

Year	Measles	Polio 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose	Polio 4 <sup>th</sup> dose	Hepatitis	Tetanus (pregnant women)	DPT	MMR	HIB
2001	99	97	86	97	20	99	89	30
2002	96	93	97	92	23	92	90	93
2003	98	96	97	96	24	96	88	96
2004	99	95	98	95	22	95	98	98

\* Source: Ministry of Health, 2004:123

**Table Number (10) - Number of Child Abuse Cases Dealt with by Community Service Offices/ Family Protection Department**

Community Service Offices	2003	2004	2005
Amman	643	495	585
Zarqa	190	120	193
Aqaba	36	55	94
Irbid	117	142	236
Salt	82	110	290
Madaba			48
Karak			118
Total	1068	922	1567

Source: Ministry of Social Development, 2005

**Table Number (11) - Prevalence and Rates of Distribution of People with Special Needs by Age Group and Gender\***

Age Group	Males		Females		Total	
	Incidence	Percent	Incidence	Percent	Incidence	Percent
Children under 19 years old	14072	53.18	10.361	43.36	24433	40.47
20-64 years old	9412	35.55	88828	47.87	30675	50.69
Above 65 Elderly	2978	11.25	2345	9.81	5323	8.81
Unspecified	8	0.02	16	0.06	24	0.03
Total	36470	100	23894	100	60364	100

\* Population Census 2004