

CONCEPT PAPER ON COMBATTING CHILD TRAFFICKING IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

INTRODUCTION

The problems of children in respect of beggary situation in Saudi Arabia has turned out to be a national concern.

It is an extremely complicated situation interrelated with many other problems originating in other countries such as Yemen, Sudan, Nigeria , Niger , Chad, Afghanistan , Pakistan and many other countries.

It is also some sort of situation deeply interrelated to issues of child exploitation , trading in humans, people smuggling, creeping across international borders , international relationships with Islamic countries, crime, money laundry resulting from trading in children , law enforcement, movements (request) from Muslims and Pilgrimage for beggar children desiring for Pleasing God.

The best way to deal with this complicated across-border situation is to be accomplished on two levels:

- First: Level of the Countries of Origin and the countries from which such people cross borders to Saudi Arabia.
- Second: Internal level in Saudi Arabia.

The second level as well as some factors of the first level can be included in the “National Work Plan” for enabling the Kingdom to deal with this problem.

However, the greatest part of the efficient & sufficient solution for this problem shall be in the countries of origin themselves

This paper focuses on details of the national plan within the Kingdom. It provides indicators for the type of necessary efforts on the level of countries of origin.

Objectives of the National Work Plan in the Kingdom:

- 1- Guaranteeing readiness for activating the National Work Plan in the Kingdom including developing understanding and knowledge of the child situation in the structure of beggary in the country. (Readiness and Knowledge)
- 2- Developing and supporting some sort of protective environment against using expatriate children in beggary. (Protection)
- 3- Recognizing the children who are victims of beggary and rescuing them from such situations, providing protection support to them, rehabilitating them, amalgamating them socially in their own societies or in the Kingdom or in other countries (Protection)
- 4- Emphasizing law enforcement and guaranteeing and assuring that those who cause such severe disastrous harm resulting in compulsory use of children in beggary shall never evade legal or judiciary pursuit. (Law enforcement and legal pursuit)
- 5- Supporting cooperation and coordination between authorities in concern and the countries to which such classified beggar children are belonging. (Cooperation and Coordination)
- 6- Erection and support of national structural establishments and specialized mechanisms that ensure execution of national work-plan for combating positions of beggary. (structures and Structural Execution Mechanisms)

SITUATION OF BEGGARY IN THE KINGDOM:

There is unknown number of expatriate children, however, they are estimated as thousands, who are working in the field of beggary scattered in cities, provinces and villages within borders of the Kingdom.

- The situations of an estimated number of such children can be Adapted and Classified as being victims of compulsory beggary. That is to say trading in humans processed by people or small criminal bands. There are also a lot of other children violating Law and migration & work procedures and regulations and find themselves actually in situations similar to those of what is classified as beggary.

- There are also a great deal of children who originally belong to other countries regardless of being born in the Kingdom, or those who remain living in the Kingdom for many years without any regular documentations. Some of the poor children among them are ultimately ready to insert themselves voluntarily in beggary profession. Some of them have family specialties that must be considered in order to find permanent solutions for them.
- Some children currently living in some poor Muslim countries who might be endangered into being victims of insertion into compulsory or voluntary beggary in the Kingdom. This class shall not be disregarded because they represent the warehouse of the children who might enter Saudi Arabia in the future under cover of pilgrimage or Omrah or via creeping or smuggling hence being used as beggars. The responsibility for such people are first laid upon their own countries and hence on support and Aid of the Kingdom and the international society.

The Basic Elements of National Work Plan for Combating Beggary.

1- READINESS FOR CONFRONTING SITUATING CHILDREN IN BEGGARY

- (1) erection of an office for the “General Coordinator” for leading the fundamental measures for combating child beggary and for ensuring coordination and cooperation between authorities in relation.
- (2) Preparation of National Work Plan for Combating child Beggary – supported in the same respect by all authorities in relation.
- (3) Making an urgent study survey (as preliminary estimation) depending on reviewing what is actually known about using children a beggars and the current actual efforts and mechanisms in relation
- (4) Commencing considering amendment of national regulations and procedures to match requirements of executing the National Work Plan for Combating Beggary.

- (5) Commencing training employees and officials in the same relation and in all knowledge, technical and procedural dimensions to the scope of combating beggary.
- (6) Starting designing central information system in respect of situating children in beggary profession, is shall also include specialized databases for any authority in relation.

2- PROTECTION AGAINST BEGGARY:

Data Gathering and processing studies and researches in respect of using children in Beggary.

- (1) Gathering data about children voluntarily or involuntarily used in beggary as per a report among boys and girls , nationals and non-nationals, as well as various nationalities in the Kingdom
- (2) Making studies about motivations of child beggary inside the kingdom, and making special study about properties of voluntary and involuntary children actually used in beggary. And studies about those who are trading in children for the purposes of beggary.
- (3) Developing more specialized scientific research in the field of inserting children in beggary and information transaction in the same respect.
- (4) Drawing maps for “ child beggary environments” and its areas in each administrative region.

Spreading Awareness about Situations of Beggary

- (1) Initiating stronger and more effective campaign for creation of general social awareness about situations of children beggary.
- (2) Creation of awareness about laws and procedures as well as programs of protection executed by the country and organizations of the civil society against children insertion in beggary.

- (3) Such awareness campaigns shall target each class in relation to situations of beggary so as to ascend their own awareness, readiness and capabilities, i.e. their effectiveness and response.

Training

- (1) Capacity-building of the professionals working in the field of beggary combating and protecting children subject to the compulsory beggary through building up their abilities by getting them to acquire required knowledge and skills and hence enabling them through support and resources as well as authorities to deal with such situations more effectively.

Observation, Monitoring and follow up

- (1) Developing system for observation and monitoring of situations applicable for beggary occurrence, as well as for environments in which beggary processes occur (poor popular districts in cities, borders crossed by children victims of compulsory beggary, border villages, commercial malls, streets, mosques, stores, and any other places in which the children inserted in beggary are existing, ((Sacred Mosque))
- (2) Providing support for the governmental and non governmental bodies and departments specialized and authorized to collect observatory data about children under beggary.
- (3) Designing and enforcement of measures against “ Disappearance of Children Exploitation” that is occurred under cover of beggary, ranger sales and similar acts.
- (4) Use of social workers approved in the same respect for visiting families in poor popular districts who have unregistered or non-regulatory children in respect of being proposed victims for compulsory beggary.

Economic & Social Policies for confronting fundamental reasons of beggary

- (1) Execution of required measures resting upon recommendations of the specialized studies in respect of motivations of beggary within the Kingdom

3- PROTECTING COMPULSORY BEGGARY VICTIM CHILDREN:

Recognition of Victim Children

- (1) Initiating sufficient means for recognition of children who shall be victims of Compulsory Beggary .
- (2) Approving and supporting various possible mechanisms and structures enabling for early recognition of children who are victims of compulsory beggary, charity societies that provide programs of voluntary social aids and guidance, systems in relation to law enforcement such as police, neighbors and relatives who find themselves in so called relation to the actual and proposed victims of beggary.
- (3) Erection of common welcome centers in the poor popular districts , supporting work of charity societies, popular committees, leaderships of communities, mayors, so as to facilitate recognition of children who are victims to compulsory beggary and hence facilitating transferring them to utilizing available services including voluntary deporting them to their own counties.

Documentation of Cases of Children Victims to Compulsory Beggary:

- (1) Designing Tools for documentation, questionnaires and forms for recording the information necessary and sufficient for helping the victims.
- (2) Developing the directive guides about how to make interviews with children and women who are victims of beggary.
- (3) Designing the investigation lists about making interviews to be sufficient information.

Adapting legal situations for the various classes of children inserted into beggary and traders in children

- (1) Approval for the intrinsic differences between beggary professionals as a main basis for measures of beggary combating, victims of compulsory beggary, traders in children, victims of compulsory beggary, voluntary beggars.
- (2) Approval of children victims of compulsory beggary as victims of severely dangerous crime.
- (3) Initiating and execution of procedures that guarantee non-exposure of such children, victims of compulsory beggary, to more suffering and torture or to re-expose them to properties of trading nature such as returning them to their countries without assessing the dangers that might attack them.
- (4) Approval of measures that do not result in staining the victim children, criminalizing, sentencing, detaining, ousting, compulsory deportation to them as a result of criminalized acts that might have been committed by them in the course of making them as victims of compulsory beggary.

The legal Fundamental for providing support to compulsory beggary victim children :

- (1) Considering approving legislations that provide the legal regulatory basis for providing services and protection to compulsory beggary victim children during and after periods of investigation and judgment.
- (2) Considering complete separation between giving aids to compulsory beggary victim children and requirements of law enforcement.

Erection of mechanisms of national transfer for compulsory beggary victim children

- (1) Approval of an approach for cases administration within the mechanism of social protection that result in assigning a specialized and trained case administrator for each compulsory beggary victim child that is recognized and the case administrator shall process role

- of connector between the compulsory beggary victim child and providers of services so as to facilitate the victim's obtaining all aid and support available in the program of beggary combating. (one administrator for each 10 victims in one and the same time)
- (2) Erection of sphere of coordination and cooperation between governmental bodies and organizations of civil society in relation, so as to provide social support services for victims of compulsory beggary.
 - (3) Designing and procurement of coordination mechanisms between bodies providing several types of support.
 - (4) Coordination and conditional amalgamation of authority law enforcement efforts, police bodies specialized in combating beggary, case administrators, charity societies and other authorities and entities in relation to providing any type of protection required for victims of compulsory beggary.
 - (5) Erection of mechanisms for coordinating work between authorities providing aids for protection of victims and entities acting in the scope of law enforcement for investigation and judiciary pursuit.
 - (6) Supporting cooperation between security systems and charity societies in relation or connection with supporting and protecting victims .
 - (7) Designing and forming protocols of cooperation between various authorities in relation and authorization in respect of dealing with victims of beggary immediately on recognizing them.

Secure Houses For Compulsory Beggary Victim Children:

- (1) Erection of secure houses (dorms , Secure shelters, Secure Houses) for Compulsory Beggary Victim Children that are administrated and supervised by governmental entities or charity societies or other establishments of the civil society. Administration and security protection might be common between entities in relation

- (2) Such secure houses shall be culturally, socially and practically appropriate in respect of type and age (girls, adolescent girls, underage girls, girls in teens from 12- 18 , women with their children)

Provision of Documentary Papers

- (1) coordination and cooperation between bodies of law enforcement in the administrative regions, cities, villages, and officials in all establishments in relation so as to facilitate speedy documentation about Identities of Compulsory Beggary Victim Children.
- (2) Securing facilitating provision of documentary papers and travel documents for expatriate victim children as a first step for recognition of their entities and nationalities and for adapting their legal situation in the manner that facilitates going straightforward in the rout of available alternatives for support including voluntary return to their countries of origin and providing temporary or long term residence period and facilitating provision of work for young people when possible.

Providing Social, psychological and legal aids :

- (3) Procurement of procedures of readiness and response to rescuing Compulsory Beggary Victim Children and satisfying their needs.
- (4) Provision of beams of response for Compulsory Beggary Victim Children dues within the secure houses or in governmental and non-governmental bodies in the same relation. Provision of basic health care and voluntary health support in connection to sex &AIDS diseases , legal aid, psychological support, and provision of legal consultation and advise for the victims.
- (5) Considering legislative and legal measures for facilitating compensating the victim children for estimated harm.

- (6) Notifying the victim children of their rights to contact consuls and advocates of their own countries who shall provide them with protection.

Returning the Victims to their Families and Rehabilitating and amalgamating them.

- (1) Adherence to making assessment for the dangers that might Compulsory Beggary Victim Children be exposed to in case of returning them to their families of the situational status in which they had previously been exposed to being traded for the purposes of beggary.
- (2) Helping the victims in their (Voluntary) return to their countries and families and securing their safety according to completion of available dangers assessment without unnecessary delay.
- (3) Securing adherence to approved standards and procedures of professional sufficiency focusing on considerations and approaches of compassion and humanitarianism.
- (4) Contribution in rehabilitation of the victims and amalgamating them in their own families and societies.
- (5) Increasing awareness of the media systems so as to secure secrecy of information and privacy of the victims and not to publish any information or photographs that might be harmful to victims or route of justice.
- (6) Coordination between charity societies across regions, cities and countries so as to facilitate recovery and re-amalgamation of the Compulsory Beggary Victim Children.
- (7) Identifying responsibilities of related local authorities in respect of facilitating re-amalgamation.
- (8) Procuring partnerships between related and authorized authorities.

4- LAW AND REGULATION ENFORCEMENT

Supporting priorities, specialization, coordination and cooperation in the field of law enforcement.

- (1) Combating Children insertion into beggary shall be one of the priorities of Law enforcement systems (Allocation of Human and Financial resources)
- (2) Erection of specialized units.
- (3) Supporting sufficient training for employees in law enforcement systems.
- (4) Guaranteeing specialization and training for law enforcement systems in relation to children and their special needs.
- (5) Supporting coordination between various systems of law enforcement on both local and national levels.

CRIMINALIZATION

- (1) Criminalizing acts related to Compulsory insertion of children into Beggary as well as those related to voluntary beggary and children exploitation that causes the assessed harm.
- (2) Identifying the criminal, civil, administrative measures against normal and artificial characters participating in acts formulating the crime of Compulsory insertion of children into Beggary
- (3) Guaranteeing non-exposure of Compulsory Beggary Victim Children to criminal procedures for the acts resulting from their being victims of Compulsory Beggary.

5- COORDINATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN AUTHORITIES AND ENTITIES IN RELATION AND THE KINGDOM AND THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND CROSS-BORDER.

- (1) Coordination and cooperation on the level of the country.
- (2) Coordination and cooperation between administrative regions and the center.
- (3) Holding discussion forums for the professionals of the entities in relation.
- (4) Exchanging information via administrations and entities.

- (5) Preparation of protocols and Memorandums of Understanding between entities in relation in the administrative regions and cities in respect of all issues related to beggary situations.
- (6) Procurement of international cooperation with countries of origin and cross-border about situations of beggary.

6- ERECTION AND SUPPORT OF STRUCTURAL ENTITIES AND MECHANISMS NECESSARY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES AND MEASURES FOR COMBATING INSERTION OF CHILDREN INTO BEGGARY.

- (1) Erection and support of structural entities for enforcement of national work plan and its coordination.
- (2) Support and charging mechanisms of general supervision and providing experience and technical support and training
- (3) Formulating protocols of coordination between systems and entities participating in relation within the same country.
- (4) Planning, programming, enforcement, administration and evaluation for the initiatives of combating children insertion into beggary.
- (5) Designing tools for enforcing the national program for confronting beggary.
- (6) Training
- (7) Documentation
- (8) Advertising