



FOCUS

A UNICEF Jordanian Partnership

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Publications:

- Call for Partnership fundraising booklet
- How to Deal with Students Undergoing Difficult Circumstances leaflet for teachers
- How to Deal with Your Child Who is Undergoing Difficult Circumstances leaflet for parents
- Health Guidelines in Camps leaflet
- Series of eight documents on the Integration of CRC & CEDAW in Law Schools
- Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views-a national youth survey
- Care Centres for Children with Disabilities in Jordan- A Study
- Future Search Conference II

Upcoming Events:

- Breastfeeding Week (Jordan, August)
- Anti-Tobacco Day (Jordan, May)
- Second Meeting of the UNICEF Subregional Adolescents Network (Jordan, June)

Helping Children Cope With War

"Don't you see them shooting the soldiers?" asked 10-year-old Abd Al-Qader from Somalia.

The little boy was referring to his sketch of the Third Gulf War which he had witnessed first hand. Abd Al-Qader and his family were among those who fled war-torn Iraq and had lived as refugees in the Third Country National (TCN) camp in Ruweished- 70 kilometres away from the joint Jordanian Iraqi border.

With a great look of concentration on his little brown face, the boy studiously continued to colour his drawing, careful to include minute details in the background including the respective flags and uniforms of the warring parties.

Looking up from his drawing, and in a manner common to children Abd Al-Qader changed the subject and proudly announced : "I am responsible for all the kids here in this camp. I clean and take care of all the toys." With a twinkle in his dark brown eyes he pointed a little finger towards the toys being used by children in the large tent provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Jordan-at the time, there were 34 children in this camp.

This tent serves as a school for primary school students, and gives refugee children the opportunity to play in a safe environment. The tent meets the educational, psychosocial and recreational needs of the children living at the TCN camp.

"With all the activities provided in this tent, and the new friends I have made, I have not been bored or had time to think of what has happened," said Asma (13) from Djibouti. In this camp, children of different ages spend their days attending school administered by eight teachers, drawing or playing snakes and ladders, monopoly, chess and billiards.

"The response (from the children) has been overwhelming. They are very eager to participate in all activities," said Maha Homs, UNICEF's Protection / Early Childhood Development Officer.

Each of the 7 education tents provided by UNICEF, for both the TCN and Refugee Camp A, is 72 square metres large with a capacity to serve 1,000 children every day. To-date, there are currently 170 male and female students of grades 1-6, and 29 children between 3-6 years benefiting from these interventions in Camp A. The Ministry of Education is UNICEF's main partner in the education intervention.

These education tents are fully equipped with furniture and supplies such as Arabic, science, maths and English textbooks as well as



Refugee child playing in TCN camp

stationary and bags for children between the ages of 6-13 years-teaching aids and equipment are also provided for.

"The purpose of these UNICEF interventions is to give children the opportunity for self-expression through drama, play-acting and drawing," said Homs. The ultimate aim is to bring a sense of routine and normalcy back in the lives of these children.

At the time of this story, there were some 235 refugees at the TCN camp largely comprising nationals from Somalia, Djibouti, and Sudan.

Abd Al-Qader was born in Iraq and had lived there all of his young life. He is very tense about what is happening in Iraq as was reflected in his colourful depiction of the war. The boy said that he wanted to return to Iraq as soon as the war was over. "When I grow up I want to be a soldier," the boy said with great determination.

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Little refugee girl in Unicef-supported tent

Signing of the Master Plan of Operations between the Government of Jordan and UNICEF

In January, and on behalf of the Government of Jordan, the Ministry of Planning signed the Master Plan of Operations with UNICEF Jordan. The new cycle, which covers the years 2003-2007, consists of five interdependent programmes that include Integrated Early Child Development, Protection, Adolescent Participation and Empowerment, Community Development and the National Movement for Children and Monitoring of Rights.

The new programme of cooperation builds on previous successes and pledges US \$ 3,340,000 from the regular UNICEF global resources in addition to US \$8,440,000 that can be raised from other resources.

The new cycle aims to support the Government of Jordan within the framework of its national plan for the acceleration of socio-economic development and within the framework of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), a United Nations strategy that allows for a unified approach towards common development goals.

The programme follows a rights-based, gender sensitive and life cycle approach. At the national level, the proposed programme will focus on informing policy and legislative changes through surveys, research, advocacy, mobilisation, facilitation of policy dialogue and setting standards at all levels with opinion leaders. This will be supported with alliance-building and strategic partnerships at all levels with opinion leaders, the private sector, youth, civil society

organisations and other United Nations agencies.

In addition to its traditional partners such as the Ministries of Planning, Health, Education and Social Development and major non-governmental organisations, UNICEF will work closely with other partners including the Higher Council for Youth, the Jordanian Department of Statistics, the National Council for Family Affairs, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Holy Places, the Ministry of Interior in addition to grass root organisations and governance structures especially in Irbid, Zarqa and Mafrak.



Jordan & Unicef sign a cooperation agreement

The Ministry of Social Development and UNICEF Sign an Annual Project Plan of Action for 2003

The Ministry of Social Development and the UNICEF Jordan Country Office signed an annual project plan of action in March at the Ministry of Social Development.

The agreement focuses on the implementation of two programmes: Integrated Early Child Development (IECD) and Protection. The IECD programme, with a project budget of \$235,000 and involving 13 national partners, will focus this year on national policy programming, community care for the young child, and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses.

UNICEF has supported the development of IECD in Jordan in areas including the development of the national early childhood care and development strategy and plan of action to ensure optimal child development and growth, and the expansion of

IECD services to promote family and community integration.

The Protection Programme will primarily address the development of national policy related to the rights of both women and children, and provide protection services to abused children; the latter includes the upgrading of the Jordanian juvenile justice system through the implementation of the children at risk component of the Programme. The total cost of the Protection Programme is \$ 60,000 for this year.

UNICEF's involvement in protection programmes stems from its conviction that alternative care systems are needed for dealing with children in conflict with the law and abused children and women with a focus on community-based solutions.

The Higher Council for Youth and UNICEF Jordan Sign an Annual Project Plan of Action for 2003

The Higher Council for Youth (HCY) and the UNICEF Jordan Country Office signed an annual project plan of action in April.

The agreement focuses on the implementation of the Adolescent Participation and Empowerment Programme, and highlights a set of activities to be conducted with the programmes' main partners, namely the Ministry of Education,

Ministry of Health and the Higher Council for Youth, in addition to a large number of non-governmental organisations.

The Adolescents Programme will work closely with the HCY in developing a gender-sensitive participatory National Youth Strategy, promoting basic life skills and healthy life-styles through summer camps, and supporting initiatives by adolescents through the HCY centres.

SHERATON AMMAN HOTEL and UNICEF JORDAN

Support Community Based Rehabilitation Programme in East Amman

The staff of the Sheraton Amman Al Nabil Hotel & Towers have raised funds for a UNICEF supported Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme for physically and mentally challenged children in Al-Nasser area in East Amman. This effort is part of the "Give Us A Push" global fundraising campaign between Starwood Hotels and UNICEF.

The involvement of the private sector in such issues clearly demonstrates that the well-being of children is everybody's business. In this context it is crucial to expand and strengthen ties with the private sector in ways that are commensurate with the challenges faced by societies.

To see the results of just what sort of fruits are reaped between a partnership with the private sector, a field trip was organised to Al-Nasser in March for the management of Sheraton Hotels and the media to see for themselves children using the rehabilitative equipment purchased.

"Nothing is more worthwhile than helping children and trying to ensure they grow up in a healthy and stable environment", said Jan Kirstein, General Manager of Sheraton Amman, at the meeting.

UNICEF in Jordan has been supporting a CBR programme in Al-Nasser to help rehabilitate physically and mentally challenged children and their families, and to raise the awareness of parents of the natural rights of the disabled and empowering them to look after them.

"UNICEF is mandated to mobilise material resources through alliances with various partners including the private sector, to build

capacities to deliver services for children and their families. We commend the staff of the Sheraton Hotel for their exemplary efforts," said Nasser Moeini UNICEF's Jordan Acting Representative.

"Give Us A Push" was initiated in Europe, Africa and the Middle East last year- Its focus is to raise funds for UNICEF's maternal and neonatal tetanus campaign. In Jordan the funds raised by the Sheraton Hotel employees have been used to purchase much needed equipment for children undergoing Community Based Rehabilitation.



Sheraton GM speaking with mothers & children in CBR Programme

Presentation of the Main Findings of the National Youth Survey

" Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views"

The Friends of Jordanian Children advocacy group and members of the media were brought together at UNICEF House in April for a presentation of the most significant findings of the national youth survey "Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views."

With the aim of creating public awareness and commitment to improve the situation of adolescents in the Country, UNICEF in Jordan commissioned this survey in an attempt to gather data on the situation of this very important segment of Jordanian society.

The survey is part of a broader project which focuses on increasing the participation of young Jordanians and their involvement in their society by promoting opportunities, especially for girls, which is implemented by many of UNICEF's partners namely the Higher Council for Youth and Ministry of Education.

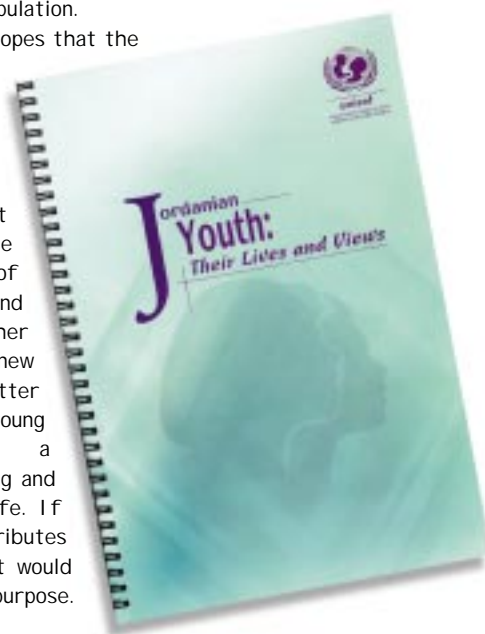
Many achievements have been made for youth in Jordan and in many areas, especially in the field of education; Jordan sets an example in the region with its high enrolment rates for boys and girls.

According to the survey, though, there are many challenges ahead, especially in terms of the existing gender gaps between young men and women. The levels of preparedness young people have to participate fully in their society and become agents of development and prosperity is another challenge.

The survey results highlight the opportunities and ventures that lie

ahead for all those who are seriously concerned about the future of Jordan's young population.

UNICEF Jordan hopes that the media will grasp the existing chance to tap into this vast human potential and make it flourish. It is the responsibility of decision-makers and the media together to create new realities that better prepare young Jordanians for a personally fulfilling and productive adult life. If the survey contributes to such actions it would have fulfilled its purpose.



Farewell to Misrak

Misrak Elias, UNICEF Jordan Country Office Representative, ended her four year term in Jordan this January. Many farewells and activities were hosted in her honour as Misrak prepared to leave to take up her new post - she is now the UNICEF Representative in Pretoria/ South Africa.

Closest to Misrak's heart was the UNICEF Adolescents Project which focused on girls. In her departing words she said " I am leaving Jordan with a vision of a flourishing future for its youth. I can see young people sustaining and facing the challenges life throws their way".

Prior to her departure, Misrak was bestowed the Istiqlal (Independence) Medal of the 2nd Order by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II in recognition and appreciation of her work in Jordan, especially in the field of early child development and her leading role in fostering dialogue among youth.



Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah & Misrak Elias

The Development Process of the Jordanian National Plan of Action for Children

A workshop to launch the development process of the Jordanian National Plan of Action kicked off in April. The event was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Planning and was organised by UNICEF Jordan in cooperation with the National Council for Family Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development.

The aim of this workshop was to take concrete action and to turn commitments made by Jordan at the United Nations Special Session for Children (UNSSC) into reality.

UNSSC was held almost one year ago, whereby world leaders and decision makers gathered to renew their commitment to children more than ten years after the famous World Declaration on the survival, protection, and development of children agreed to at the World Summit for Children in September 1990.

In 1990, all the world gathered and agreed on a plan of action to ensure the rights of every child. In May 2002, the world gathered once again, to take stock of the achievements made, lessons learnt, and to identify the future course of action to be taken to make the world a world fit for children.

Known for its commitment to children, Jordan took an active role in the long process leading to this meeting, participating in different preparatory committee meetings, and reviewing various drafts of the world fit for children document until it reached its final stage.



A national conference on children was held in 1992 where all issues related to children were discussed and a new agenda for children drafted in a National Plan of Action for children.

In 2000, Jordan, represented by the Ministry of Planning, led the process of assessing its achievements and constraints related to children, and prepared its end of decade report to highlight the progress made and challenges faced in meeting its commitments to children.

Parallel to this, the Arab League drafted a plan of action for the Arab Child. Jordan will be basing its national plan on both the Arab League's and the WFFC.

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Iraq has gone through three major wars in less than 20 years and UN aid workers fear that a new generation of children may be mentally scarred for life. It is estimated that as many as 500,000 children may be in need of psychological help.

After the initial few days of recreation and building trust between UNICEF staff and children, the Organisation and its main partners, from the Ministries of Social Development and Education, and concerned non-governmental organisations, has begun to counsel and address children's fears. One nine-year-old boy living in the TCN camp has so far been identified as suffering from difficulties: He has witnessed first hand the devastating effects of bombing and is already suffering from bedwetting.

UNICEF Jordan is providing psychosocial support to children, and has trained 25 Jordanian teachers and 15 counsellors to this end. The Children's organisation has rented two houses 16 kilometres from the camps for the teachers and counsellors. As additional support for parents and professionals, simple information leaflets

have been produced about the early detection of a psychosocial trauma.

Two education and psychosocial tents have been set up by UNICEF in Camp A whose population is currently 812 people including 220 children. Due to an increase in the number of children in Camp A, UNICEF decided to expand its education and psychosocial services by setting up an additional tent. In the afternoons, adolescents will be using it for non-formal education in healthy life skills.

Health, hygiene and sanitation are other fields UNICEF supports in partnership with the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNFPA. UNICEF has already set up one tent functioning as a health clinic fully equipped with basic drugs and equipment in Camp A, currently serving on average 80 patients per day. UNICEF Jordan has provided hygiene kits for women and infants and simple information leaflets on water, hygiene and sanitation for parents.

for more information contact:

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