



International Labour Organization



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Launching of the Project “Moving Towards a Child Labour Free Jordan”

Sunday 11 March 2012

Landmark Hotel, Amman, Jordan

Information Note

This new project of the International Labour Organization (ILO), funded by the United States Department of Labour (USDOL), is a key element of the new Decent Work Country Programme being signed by the ILO tripartite partners on 11 March 2012. It is built on the premise that the twin goals of eradicating child labour and enforcing the right to education for all are achievable in Jordan within a relatively short time frame. They are reflected in the National Agenda, the National Employment Strategy, the National Plan of Action for Children and, more recently, the National Framework on Child Labour. The political will and commitment in Jordan are sufficiently strong for the country to progress significantly towards attaining the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and to go beyond it by eradicating the residual pockets of child labour in different locations. This project will help design and develop action to address child labour in Jordan based on relevant policy and legislative frameworks and build the requisite capacities to underpin and sustain this action.

The 2007 National Survey on Child Labour estimated that 37,760 children (2.1%) of the 1,785,596 children between the ages of 5 and 17 were economically active and that 58% of them were above 15. As far as the sectors are concerned, 36.3% of them were involved in wholesale and retail trade, 27.3% in agriculture and 15.8% in manufacturing. With renewed attention, broad-based and strategic partnerships and enhanced integration and coherence between related policies, programmes and activities, these numbers are not insurmountable. The ILO project will focus on policy-level interventions to prepare the ground for the country to move towards becoming child labour free. It will sustain the momentum created by the previous USDOL-funded ILO project, 2002-2007, and will work in close collaboration with two other USDOL-funded child labour projects in

Jordan managed by Community Housing Foundation (CHF) International and Save the Children.

The National Child Labour Committee (NCLC) supported the formulation of the National Framework on Child Labour (NFCL) which was adopted by the government in August 2011. A key element of the ILO project will be to support the implementation of the NFCL through capacity-building and awareness-raising. Central to the success of achieving the goals of the NFCL is the role of the Ministry of Labour and particularly its Child Labour Unit and support will be offered to help set up necessary coordination mechanisms, including the facilitation of a Technical Committee on Child Labour and the development of a database to contribute to more effective management information systems to monitor child labour in the country. An important effort within this monitoring framework will involve mobilising different stakeholders working on issues relating to child and family protection and education and building effective integration of relevant management information systems. The information gathered will be used, on the one hand, to refer identified child labourers to appropriate service providers and ensure that the situation of children withdrawn from child labour has improved and, on the other, to guide policy development and reform and provide up-to-date information for reporting on child rights commitments.

In summary, the project aims at achieving its goals through four main strategies.

- ❖ Establishing a comprehensive Child Labour Monitoring Systems (CLMS) to serve as a coordination to improve reporting, referral and follow-up.
- ❖ Enhancing the existing knowledge base on child labour, occupational safety and health and youth employment to guide future policy development.
- ❖ Building institutional capacity to support the implementation of the National Framework on Child Labour, including through a tripartite, inter-ministerial and inter-agency Technical Committee on Child Labour.
- ❖ Advocating for mainstreaming child labour and youth employment concerns into national development policy frameworks.

The project engages various stakeholders at different levels in designing and implementing its work plan through the participation of relevant government ministries, national and international organisations, UN agencies, civil society organisations and social partners in the National Child Labour Committee and its Technical Committee both chaired and administered by the Ministry of Labour.