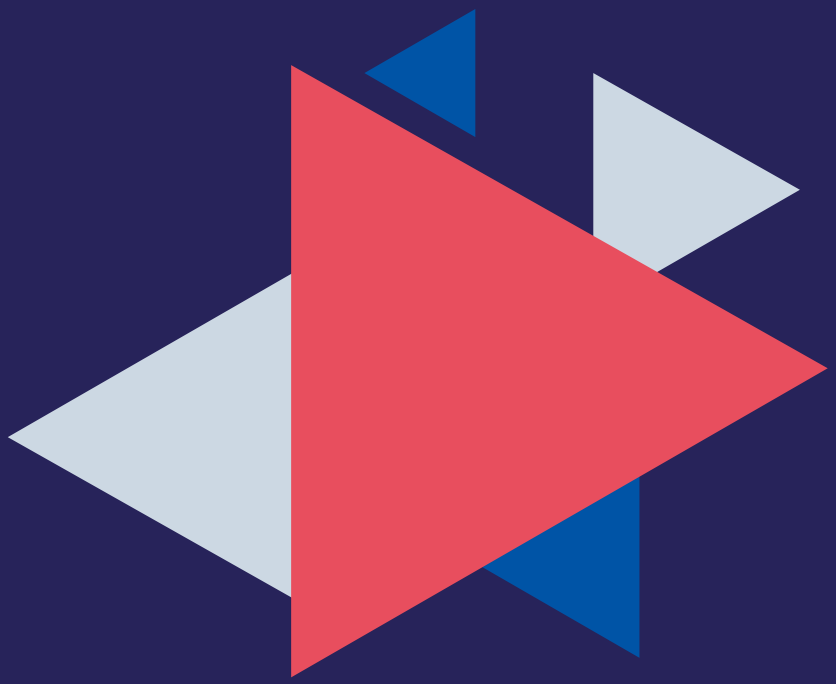
International Labour Organization

MAP16

Emerging Good Practices in the Elimination of Child Labour in the Middle East and North Africa



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▶ Abbreviations

AUB	American University of Beirut
BF	Banati Foundation
CAFAAG	Children associated with armed forces and armed groups
CBO	Community-based organisation
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CLDB	Child labour database
CLDW	Child labour in domestic work
CLMS	Child labour monitoring system
CSC	Community Service Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HVS	Hope Village Society
IDP	Internally displaced persons
INDH	National Initiative for the Support of Human Development
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOL	Ministry of Labour
MOSD	Ministry of Social Development
NAP	National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
NCFA	National Council for Family Affairs
NFCCL	National Framework to Combat Child Labour
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OSMM	Organisation of Moroccan Scouts of Mehemmedia
SCREAM	Supporting Child Rights through Education, Arts and the Media
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDOL	United States Department of Labour
WDACL	World Day against Child Labour
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour
WFP	World Food Programme

Glossary

- **Child:** According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child a child means a human being below the age of 18 years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.
- **Child labour:** Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and which is harmful to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and/or which interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to combine school attendance with excessively long hours and heavy work.
- **Child work:** Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour and targeted for elimination. Participation in work that does not affect the health and personal development of a child, or interfere with their schooling, is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays (see: What is child labour).
- **Hazardous child labour or hazardous work:** Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. Guidance for governments on some hazardous work activities that should be prohibited is given by Article 3 of ILO Recommendation No. 190.
- **Worst forms of child labour:** All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, pornography or for pornographic performances; the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, particularly the production or trafficking of drugs; and work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (see Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182).

Executive summary

Between 2000 and 2010, efforts against child labour in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) made relatively good progress. Since then, some countries have continued to make inroads, while others have faced additional challenges, particularly states affected by social conflict, war, natural disasters and, recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. These conflicts, disasters and humanitarian crises are usually accompanied by economic crises, placing additional constraints on government agencies and other bodies to respond effectively to deeply rooted social problems, such as child labour.

Nevertheless, this document surveys good practices that actors across the region, including governments, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), international agencies and the private sector, have implemented to tackle child labour. It was developed as part of the Measurement, Awareness-Raising and Policy Engagement (MAP16)[1] project covering 16 countries globally, including Jordan and Morocco within the MENA region. This piece of research explores good practices for child labour elimination as well as challenges faced by key child labour programmes in Morocco and Jordan as well as in other MENA countries. The aim is to provide knowledge and support for other existing or planned programmes.

The report was informed by: (a) a consultation process to map good practices;[2] (b) a regional webinar, including presentations of national programmes;[3] (c) interviews with participants from a wide variety of organisations; and (d) close coordination on a selection of good practices. The paper examines programmes and strategies tackling child labour from several different angles, including prevention, withdrawal of children from hazardous situations, and rehabilitation as well as a follow-up process.[4] The reflections in this report also include the voices of other child labour actors[5] within the Arab States. Those did not necessarily have presentations, but had actively participated in online workshops and provide feedback.

The programmes were selected on the basis that they: (1) dealt with historically challenging forms of child labour, including children engaged in street-based, domestic, and agricultural work, or armed conflict, or in labour caused by conflict; (2) coordinated multi-layered efforts by government agencies, national nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations and the private sector; (3) provided humanitarian aid and services in the immediate aftermath of conflict; or (4) provided safeguards ensuring these efforts were sustainable and replicable by other partners or neighbouring countries.

The document identifies awareness-raising tools, particularly applicable to COVID-19 response, as well as follow-up recommendations for stakeholders. Government agencies, NGOs, international organisations, and workers' and employers' organisations should:

1. Continue to conduct webinars on child labour;
2. Organise in-depth regional webinars on issues including street-based child labour, institutionalisation of child labour, child labour in domestic and agricultural work, and children affected by armed conflict;
3. Continue consultation with countries seeking support on child labour elimination (e.g., Algeria, Libya, Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory), and provide them with advice and need-based training;

1 Implemented by the ILO and funded by USDOL.

2 Between the first and last weeks of November 2020. Please see Appendix III.

3 December 14, 2020. Please see Appendix IV.

4 Hazardous child labour is work that, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. Guidance for governments on hazardous work activities that should be prohibited is cited in Article 3 of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 (No. 190).

5 Nearly 150 participants from governmental and non-governmental organizations from MENA region.

4. Conduct webinars tailored to individual countries;
5. Organise regional webinars for policymakers and international organisations to ensure that experiences are exchanged and coordination is synergistic;
6. Conduct national and regional webinars for employers and NGOs working on child labour elimination within specific sectors;
7. Provide web-based advisory services for planned projects, and projects affected by COVID-19;
8. Mobilise resources to facilitate knowledge sharing of good practices and lessons learned.

Last, but not least, all emerging practices developed amid the COVID-19 crisis should be assessed regionally in terms of opportunities, and challenges. Assessment of challenges should lead the way to new modes and approaches to elimination and prevention of child labour regionally. These could include accessible and quality education,[6] effective social protection floors for all, and occupational safety and health (including hygiene practices), as well as new areas of consumption, employment and other economic opportunities.[7]

6 Examples: (i) Education during COVID-19 and beyond (policy brief) United Nations, (ii) 4 ways COVID-19 could change how we educate future generations, World Economic Forum (WEF).

7 Examples: (i) COVID-19 impact on child labour and forced labour: The response of the IPEC+ Flagship Programme, the ILO, (ii) A new normal: UN lays out roadmap to lift economies and save jobs after COVID-19, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), (iii) 4 ways COVID-19 could change how we educate future generations, World Economic Forum (WEF).

1. Background

1.1 Regional context: Middle East and North Africa

Immense political and socio-economic turmoil in the MENA region over the past few decades have resulted in considerable forced migration, with the region now hosting more than half of the world's refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).[8] Lebanon, Jordan and, to a certain extent, Egypt[9] and Tunisia[10] have absorbed millions of refugees. Conflict in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen has led to multitudes of displaced families. Relative to their population size, Jordan and Lebanon have taken the brunt of refugee influx from Syria. Still, governments and aid agencies have been overburdened as refugees also fled from Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, and Sudan.[11]

Most of the countries observed in this report have either been directly or indirectly impacted by one or more of these protracted crises. Behind the scenes of obvious economic tumult, families have sometimes resorted to engaging their children in child labour simply in order to survive. The report also examines these impacts on children.

1.2 Child labour amid crises and humanitarian settings

According to the ILO report, Global Estimates of Child Labour,[12] the Arab region has one of the highest rates of child employment,[13] with several observable tendencies. Child employment rates are generally higher in rural than in urban areas. It increases with age, with higher employment rates in the 15-17 age group than the 5-14 age group. Boys are found to be more highly involved in child labour than girls.[14] These estimates, however, might fail to capture hidden forms of child labour among girls, such as domestic work and unpaid household services. Moreover, the line between legitimate employment and work outside the legal guidelines for children can be quickly crossed, as very hazardous forms of child labour are prevalent among children begging, labouring in informal industries, and engaged (or trafficked) in commercial sex work and other illicit activities.

The main characteristics of child employment in the Arab region can be summarised as follows:

- Nearly 150 participants from governmental and non-governmental organizations from MENA region.
- Unpaid family work is most common among children aged 5 to 14 years old, girls, and in rural areas, while paid non-family work is more common among children aged 15 to 17, among boys, and in urban areas.
- Boys aged 15-17 years tend to work longer hours than girls and younger children. On the other hand, working children attending school tend to work less than those who do not go to school.

8 These countries are home to the highest proportion of refugees in the world, World Economic Forum (WEF).

9 Refugees in Egypt include over 5 million people from East Asia and Africa. The number of refugees has increased particularly after civil wars and political disturbances in these areas in the past ten years. Refugees in Egypt come from Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Palestine. See: How Egypt makes millions of refugees feel at home, Egypt Today.

10 Mainly from Libya. See: The impact of Libyan middle-class refugees in Tunisia, the Brookings Institution.

11 https://carnegieendowment.org/2017/03/29/refugees-and-displacement-in-middle-east-pub-68479

12 Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and trends, 2012-2016, the ILO.

13 Child employment is a broader term that comprises child labour and permitted forms of employment, involving children of legal working age. The ILO Convention No. 138 (1973) sets the minimum age for children to work generally at 15 years of age. It specifies 18 years as the minimum age for assignment to hazardous work, as described in ILO Convention No. 182 (1999).

14 Child Labour in the Arab Region: A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, League of Arab States, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Arab Labour Organization and Arab Council for Childhood and Development.

- Children in urban areas tend to work longer hours than rural children. Agricultural work is highly labour-intensive, and seasonal.[15]

1.2.1 Children affected by or used in armed conflicts

In addition to being impacted by poverty, children in many countries have often been the primary victims of armed conflict and subsequent population displacement in the region. Child labour is on the rise among refugees and IDPs, as well as in host communities. In Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria, refugee and displaced children can be found working in a number of activities, with a notable rise in street work, bonded labour, early marriage, and commercial sexual exploitation. Child labour among refugees and IDPs is typically a financial coping mechanism for families who face extreme poverty and food insecurity, or where adults are unemployed. Compared to local children, refugee and displaced children work for longer hours and lower pay, and their need for basic survival is exploited.

Affected by the inherent insecurities related to displacement – extreme poverty, health risks and interruption of education – refugee and displaced children are often forced into activities associated with armed conflict. Such activities include smuggling goods across borders or between conflict zones, waste oil collection, performing funerary work such as collecting body parts for burial,[16] household work, and fetching water or collecting food from fields and landfills, which are even more dangerous in conflict situations. The UN Secretary General has reported another major trend in the past decade: the use of children from both local and refugee populations by armed groups. Boys have often been used in conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, but there is an emerging tendency to recruit more girls below the age of 15.[17]

These children's access to education and participation can help reduce hours of work, but only if alternative income sources are provided, such as cash transfers or employment for older siblings and adults in the same family.

1.2.2 The additional burden of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased threats to public health, the economy, education and social cohesion. All forms of child labour have worsened in the region, not only as a result of conflict, but also due to the absence of adequate social protection, and the prevalence of a large informal sector with very poor law enforcement and a lack of universal access to education.

Already dire, especially for children, the economic antecedents of child labour have been exacerbated by the global pandemic, which hit the Arab region hard. The strained economies could not cope with the high demand for medical intervention and hospitalisation, and failed to provide adequate educational alternatives under emergency protocols and lockdown.

Children, particularly girls, have been burdened by increased domestic chores and caring responsibilities as populations remained at home.[18] Vulnerable children – those from marginalised minority groups, single or child-headed households, conflict- or disaster-hit areas, or migrant, displaced or refugee children – have been placed at even greater risk under COVID-19.

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15 Child Labour in the Arab Region: A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, League of Arab States, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Arab Labour Organization and Arab Council for Childhood and Development.

16 As seen in Iraq. Child Labour in the Arab Region: A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, League of Arab States, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Arab Labour Organization and Arab Council for Childhood and Development.

17 Ibid from United Nations, General Assembly/Security Council, Report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict, A/836/70–S/20 (360/2016 April 2016). And United Nations, General Assembly, Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, A/2 (276/72 August 2017).

18 How will COVID-19 affect girls and young women? Plan International development and humanitarian organisation.

In some cases, the pandemic has made families and children vulnerable to unscrupulous lenders, who have imposed exorbitant conditions, including subjecting displaced and/or trafficked children to debt bondage.[19] Though many countries imposed strict confinement measures and movement control, children's adherence to these was often subjected to less scrutiny compared to adults. Individuals and groups exploited this factor to engage children in the illicit trade of goods, commodities and drugs in certain places. Commercial sexual exploitation has increased in households and online.[20]

In the early stages of COVID-19 outbreak, many children were pressed into labour on the false belief that they could not contract the virus. Later, as economic conditions worsened for many families, still more children were pushed into work, largely in remote areas, informal settlements or refugee camps, where enforcement of quarantine measures as well as child protection and labour laws often have been poor, or even absent.

19 Modern Day Slavery Speeds up under Cover of COVID-19. Gospel for Asia (GFA) international mission organisation.

20 Pandemic lockdowns fuelling rise of sexual extortion crimes in Lebanon. Arab News.

▶ 2. Country and regional responses

Prior to the aforementioned crises, countries in the region had made significant strides in the fight against child labour through policy and legislative reform and direct field-level interventions. However, as political and security priorities superseded almost all other considerations, many of these efforts had come to a standstill by the time COVID-19 emerged.

Nevertheless, examples of good practice remain; some countries have continued to develop innovative and relatively effective responses. This chapter reviews some of these responses and assesses their progress and achievements.

2.1 Jordan

Efforts to combat child labour commenced in Jordan in 2000, with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) that was emerging in the region at the time. They started first within the Ministry of Labour (MoL) and its Child Labour Unit, and then extended nationwide, through concerted activities with the tripartite partners (government, employer, and worker representatives) and other stakeholders. In 2011, Jordan endorsed the National Framework to Combat Child Labour (NFCCL), which was developed by the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) through a consultative process, including all relevant ministries and NGOs, in addition to workers' and employers' organisations. The framework was supported by the Prime Ministry to ensure collaboration of all stakeholders. The placement of child labour high on the Prime Ministry's agenda was significant and unique for an Arab state as, at the time, the term child labour was not well known and projects to address the problem were rare.

The NFCCL was a key policy tool to strengthen the management of identified child labour cases through the collection of data on children's working conditions, and socio-economic and educational circumstances as well as electronic storage of data. Moreover, the framework provided a comprehensive approach to child labour; the need for which was growing due to the Syrian refugee crisis that increased the number of child workers.

The initiative, a component of the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) of the ILO that is funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL),[21] also engaged other ministries, such as the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), in the development of a child labour database – the first in the MENA region.[22] Under this framework, community-based organisations (CBOs) and NGOs, were trained and empowered to identify Jordanian and Syrian refugee child workers, efficiently assess child labour cases, connect to needed governmental services and provide services through community centres. In some cases, these CBOs and NGOs were also supported or initiated by private sector entities, such as the Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya non-profit community development organisation, which has a comprehensive and interrelated approach to child labour.[23] With support from consecutive ILO projects, Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya offers a set of good practices for other NGOs to emulate in Jordan and across the region.

2.1.1 Digital child labour database (CLDB)

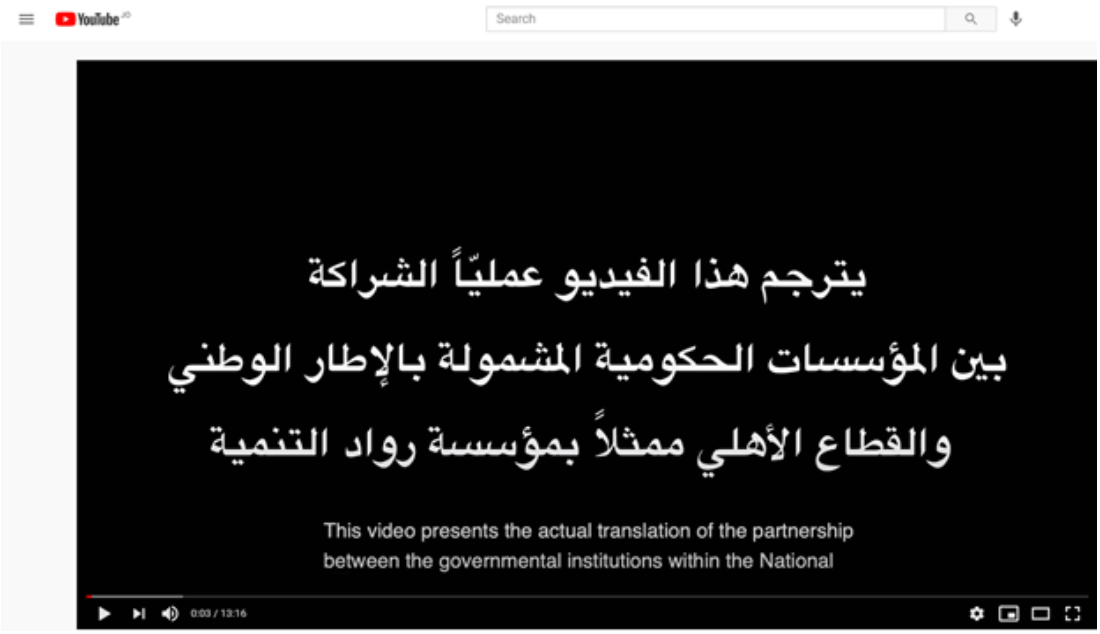
With support from the ILO under the NFCCL, the MoL initiated the development of a digital child labour database (CLDB) as part of a child labour monitoring system (CLMS) framework and referral pathway. The main national partners were the MoSD, MoE and Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya. The MoL dealt with socio-economic and family situations of identified children as well as the identification of street-based children

21 The databased included a 2016 National Child Labour Survey.

22 Child labour monitoring (CLM), the ILO.

23 Ruwwad: Supporting youth and communities.

▶ **Figure 1: Jordan National Framework to Combat Child Labour**



Source: www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_KoaAE04tE.

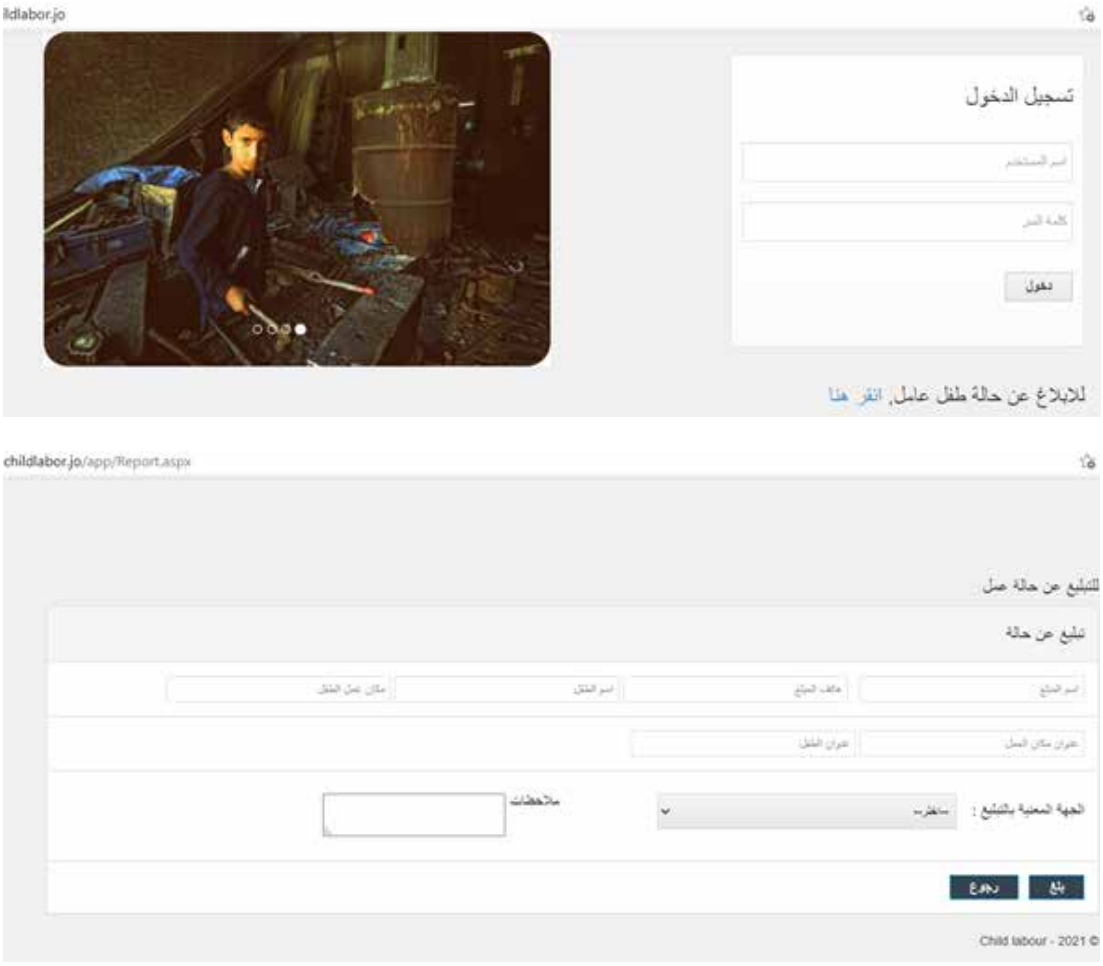
and/or children exploited in illicit activities. The MoE identified and followed up on truant children and children who had completely dropped out of school. Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya played an important field-level role, coordinating efforts exerted by these organisations, vocational training centres, private sector enterprises, and employers of children. It also organised intensive work with the children and their families. The MoL, MoE and MoSD were also partners in the CLDB at governorate level in Amman, Aqaba, Irbid, Karak, Mafraq and Zarqa. The system was piloted in all 12 governorates, and was improved through several iterations to address system bugs, gaps and other challenges.

The CLDB enables the ministries to document and include information on identified children in the system, refer the data to appropriate services, and track case management. The database collects information about:

1. children registered in school but absent for a long time;
2. school dropouts;
3. street-based children;
4. children engaged in hazardous working conditions; and
5. child workers under 16 years of age.

The CLDB identifies child labourers as uniquely at risk and exploited -- separate from children dealt with by other child protection systems, and the juvenile justice system, which handles a different spectrum of children with needs for other types of interventions and legal solutions. The CLDB protects child workers from criminalisation as juvenile delinquents, whose cases are subsequently referred to the highly complicated juvenile justice system.

▶ **Figure 2: The Child Labour Database (CLDB) website**



How does the CLDB operate?

The MoL has developed a CLDB website, with technical and financial support from the ILO.[24] Authorised users can access the system and review information on identified child workers.

The MoSD and MoE built two additional CLDB websites (see figure 2) with information on identified child workers. Authorised users can follow up on existing cases and measures to address these cases, in coordination with Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya at field level.[25]

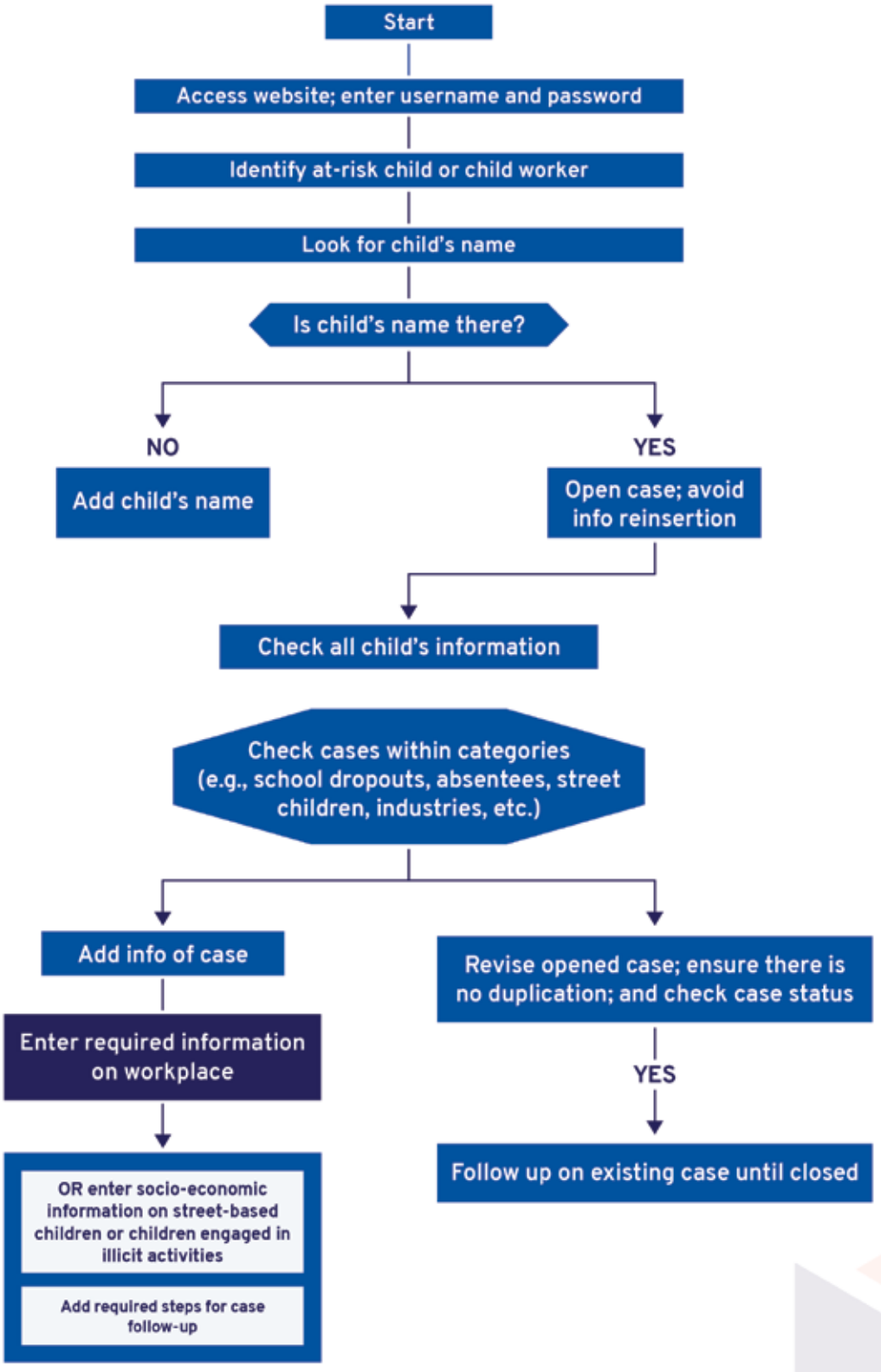
This database is fully owned and maintained by the MoL, which has invested human and financial resources to its continued improvement over the past two years.[26]

24 USDOL-supported project, "Moving Towards a Child labour Free Jordan", initiated in 2011.

25 The MoL, MoSD and MoE made requests to build the CLDB as part of NFCCL, adopted by the Government of Jordan in 2011.

26 With financial and technical support from the USDOL through the Moving Towards a Child Labour Free Jordan (2011) project and the MAP16 Global Project (2017).

▶ Figure 3: CLDB website workflow



▶ Box 1. Child labour database in Jordan

- CLDB is led by the ministry responsible for labour law enforcement and is therefore able to deal with employers and the demand side of child labour.
- Most small industries and worksites, in which most child labour occurs, have been formalised in Jordan and therefore are subject to inspection.[27]
- MoL efforts are not solely focused on penalising employers as the ministry wants to ensure that children and their families have access to social and educational alternatives.
- CLDB reinforces data sharing and information transparency among primary and coordinating ministries as well as local NGOs, supporting field-level follow-ups on identified cases of child labour.
- The system now has a mobile application facilitating the work of government inspectors as well as observers from NGOs for case registration and follow-up.
- The system is being modified to give access to juvenile police[28] enabling them to deal with street-based children as victims rather than offenders.[29] This will help limit the improper referral of child workers to the system of courts, particularly if these children have not committed major offenses.[30]

Follow-up action is needed to ensure that:

1. effective and well-trained teams of NGOs continue to play a central role in the CLDB, which forms part of a broader CLMS at governorate and field levels;
2. cases of street-based children are referred to the system by Ministry of Interior (MoI) police, alongside the MoSD; and
3. proper training is provided in selected governorates for relevant employers' organisations on the CLDB and CLMS.[31]

2.1.2 Ruwwad Al- Tanmeya: A model for identification, withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration of children

Operating in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine, the coordinating and organisational role of Ruwwad Al-Tanmeya ensures that government and other services are available and accessible.[32] A field-based organisation, Ruwwad is positioned to identify children either directly or via the CLDB, and assess the needs of each case before it is referred to the appropriate service provider. This model leverages strong links to a network of private sector entities.[33]

27 This formalisation helps the CLDB cover additional employers and sectors, where child labour occurs.

28 Through a proposed law endorsement mechanism, which was delayed due to COVID-19.

29 In some cases, and in MENA countries, child beggars or street-based children are perceived and treated as offenders, particularly when these children are employed by adults. This becomes organised street work and sometimes children can be lured into illicit activities.

30 Major offenses can vary from country to country, but certainly include, for example, acts causing death to a person.

31 In practice, the CLM involves identification, referral, and protection of child labourers as well as prevention producers through the development of a coordinated multi-sector monitoring and referral process covering all children in a certain geographical area. See: Child labour monitoring (ILO).

32 Ruwwad: Supporting youth and communities.

33 World Day Against Child Labour, the MoL.

2.1.3 Development of Arabic language child labour tools

Jordan has accumulation of institutional knowledge in child labour, developing good tools within relevant ministries and other governmental organisations. Comprehensive, field-tested and originally developed in the Arabic language, these tools could be useful for other MENA countries.

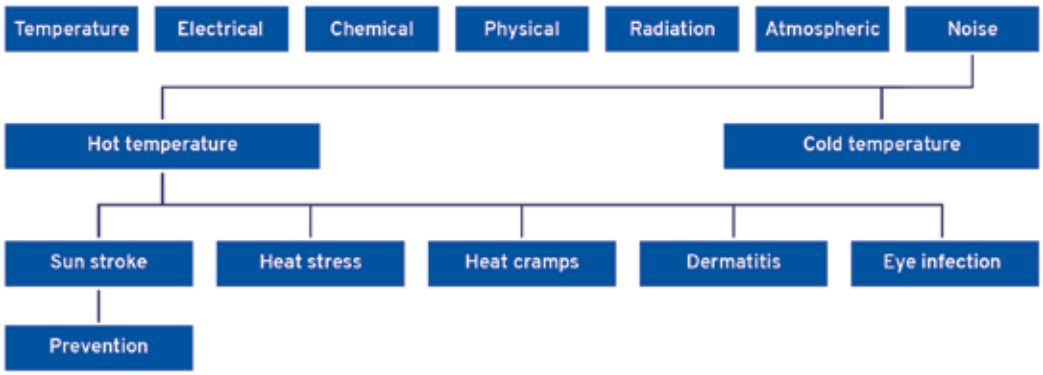
Occupational safety and health and child labour

A manual was specifically developed in 2018 to address child labour safety and health risks. The manual details physical, chemical, radiation, electrical, temperature, atmospheric pressure, and noise hazards (see figure 4).

The diagram shows an example of common types of hazards. The manual, however, elaborates on each type of hazard, potential health impacts, and means of prevention. It specifies the types of street-based work, in which children are typically engaged, and the disproportionate health effects of these types of work on children.

The comprehensive manual addresses occupational safety and health (OSH) impacts of the most prevalent forms of child labour in the region. It could be updated to include information on COVID-19 prevention and remerging diseases (e.g., cholera), using infographics/illustrations.

▶ **Figure 4: Seven types of occupational safety and health hazards**



Guide to rehabilitation and reintegration of child workers

Jordan developed a second tool for practitioners, especially social workers, providing instruction and guidance on how best to deal with child labour within different social segments (i.e., family and community), working environments and institutions (government, CBOs/NGOs) and academia. Moreover, this guide orients practitioners to the different ways of approaching intervention and what can be done to prevent, withdraw, rehabilitate and re-integrate at risk and working children. This, for example, includes guidance on how to mobilise a coordinated response among practitioners to monitor child labour, raise awareness on the associated risks and hazards and limit the demand and supply side of child labour.

This guide helps practitioners look at child labour in a relatively comprehensive manner, rather than dealing with it as solely a child protection issue, a legal offence, a problem in education or even an economic issue. It reflects on the multi-faceted nature, causes and consequences of child labour and the different means of approaching the problem. Developed in Arabic, the guide could be adapted and used by other MENA countries.

Training manual on prevention of school dropout and child labour

Developed in 2007 and updated in 2016, this manual defines child labour within the context of education and the educational system. It explains potential reasons for dropping out of school, and related consequences, as well as potential means for prevention of early dropout, and the cycle of poverty and child labour. The updated version of the manual[34] provides detailed steps and training means for school counsellors, teachers and school administrators. It offers advice on how to determine, carry out and follow up on every step within the educational cycle, specifically for at-risk children. Moreover, the manual integrated the ILO Supporting Child Rights through Education, Arts and the Media (SCREAM) programme within the manual as well as within the normal educational curriculum. This means extensive spread of knowledge about child labour to students, school staff and the surrounding community through artistic performances, exhibitions and competitions.

▶ Box 2. Training manual on prevention of school dropout and child labour

- Developed by a MoE team, the step-by-step training manual includes a variety of tools to train school personnel; the activities and exercises can be carried out during training sessions to maximise knowledge retention.
- The team is knowledgeable in factors disrupting the educational cycle of marginalised children.
- The manual covers problems faced by children outside school, (i) assessing educational opportunities for children within and beyond school environment as well as children's educational capabilities and limitations on an individual basis; and (ii) identifying potential means to retain children in the educational system through the provision of necessary services on a case-by-case base, and the dropout cycle, with potential related consequences at each stage of the cycle.
- It is a comprehensive training guide to the educational cycle, noting where school dropout is likely to occur and how to prevent it.
- The ILO SCREAM modules are an integral part of the guide and not an addition.
- This tool could be adapted for use in other MENA countries, relevant to their policies and legislation, while content and method of training apply.

34 Supported by USDOL in 2016.

2.2 Lebanon

Since 2005, Lebanon has taken a multi-sectoral approach to child labour, as represented by a National Steering Committee Against Child Labour, which tried to combat the worst forms of child labour through the 2012 development of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016. The plan, which emphasised street-based child labour, and in child labour in agriculture and small industries, was launched by the Lebanese president in 2013.

In the past decade, Lebanon has experienced a volatile political and economic environment and has absorbed the highest proportion of Syrian refugee influx in comparison to the resident population in the world; Syria's refugees exceed a third of Lebanon's population.[35]

In response, the National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (NAP) was followed up by consecutive legislative and policy changes to accommodate to the emergent refugee crisis and its impact on the host community.

Other responses included an updated list of hazardous work, the implementation of surveys, and the development of guides, specialised training and interventions. These are described below.

2.2.1 Updated lost of hazardous work in Decree No. 8987 of 2012

The MoL, along with employers' and workers' organisations and other national stakeholders, updated the list of hazardous and prohibited forms of work to cover emerging forms of child labour and activities with physical, psychological or moral hazard for children, including those which impede their education. Examples of recently recognised forms of child labour include the use of children in political protest and armed conflict. In addition, a number of hazardous agricultural activities were prohibited for minors. This update represented a major breakthrough in strengthening legislation in Lebanon, as agriculture had been routinely ignored in terms of inspection and regulation.[36]

▶ **Figure 5: Guide on Decree No. 8987 on Worst Forms of Child Labour**

Note: The guide is avaialable at: www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_443273.pdf. The guide is published in English and Arabic.

35 These countries are home to the highest proportion of refugees in the world, the World Economic Forum (WEF).

36 This applies to child labour in agriculture in many MENA countries.

▶ **Figure 6: The guide describes articles of Decree No. 8987**

ARTICLE 1

Minors under the age of 18 shall not be employed in *TOTALLY PROHIBITED WORKS AND ACTIVITIES* which, by their nature harm the health, safety or morals of children, limit their education and constitute one of the worst forms of child labour included in Annex No. (1) hereto attached.

Clarification of Article 1

This article states that it is absolutely and unquestionably forbidden to employ children below the age of 18 years in certain types of jobs and work related activities which are referred to as "TOTALLY PROHIBITED WORKS AND ACTIVITIES", listed in Annex No. (1) of Article 1 (see Annex No. (1), page X). This is because of the harmful nature of these types of jobs and activities, making them among the worst forms of child labour. According to the nature of harm that can result from these jobs and activities, they are classified under 4 categories of hazard (potential for harm):

1. Activities involving physical hazards
2. Activities involving psychological hazards
3. Activities involving moral hazards
4. Activities limiting pursuit of education

Clarification of Annex No. (1)

Annex No. (1) is an attachment to Article 1, and is presented in this section with examples. It is a list of the "TOTALLY PROHIBITED WORKS AND ACTIVITIES", which are considered among the worst forms of child labour. It is unquestionably forbidden to employ children below the age of 18 years in all these types of jobs and work-related activities. As stated above, these are grouped into 4 categories of hazard.

1. Activities with physical hazards:

• Activities that require dealing with or possessing or handling explosives or weapons, or being part of fighting or war, or carrying out regular daily activities in or near war zones (clearing, cooking, keeping watch)

Note that these activities also include psychological hazards.

Handling weapons

• Activities in open or underground mines, caves, and quarries

Working in mines/quarries

• Activities that require the use of personal protective equipment to prevent immediate and direct danger.

These dangers include

- Danger to the eyes or vision, such as welding and glassblowing

Welding requires special protection for the eyes

▶ Box 3. Creating a user-friendly guide to hazardous and prohibited forms of child labour

- Lists of hazardous work types are usually specified in national laws or special decrees drafted in traditional and difficult-to-read/understand forms.
- People need to visually comprehend these hazards, their possible effects and the reason they are prohibited, especially as main users are not occupational safety and health specialists.
- Better understanding of these hazards can lead to better protection or elimination policies.
- Dissemination of the decree through a colourful and visual tool to governmental and non-governmental institutions increases chances for implementation, compared to a traditional document that usually is not well read or comprehended.
- The introduction of agriculture and armed conflicts in hazardous work in 2012 is of significance.

▶ **Figure 7: The guide describes hazards in different sectors and reasons for prohibition**

2.2.2 Lebanese General Security memorandum prohibiting child labour in a culture for children aged under 16 years

Because of the increase in trafficking and the use of *shawishes* (contractors working as intermediaries)[37] to enter children into bonded labour,[38] especially in agriculture, labour inspectors have had insufficient capacity to deal with the problem. Consequently, following close coordination between the MoL and the MoI, the use of children under the age of 16 years for agricultural work was prohibited in a memorandum issued in 2016 by Lebanese General Security.[39]

Following Decree 8987 and the 2016 memorandum, the farmers' union played a prominent role in preventing big landowners and large farming contractors from using children under 16 years, while local NGOs, such as the BEYOND Association, played an important role in raising awareness of the issue among at risk and working children, their parents and communities. Awareness-raising activities took place at child labour centres, established within the Syrian informal tented settlements and amid vast agricultural areas where children worked relentlessly. Special community awareness-raising tools using ILO's SCREAM programme, especially the module on "Child Labour in Agriculture", in addition to a package of socio-economic and educational services were provided through NGOs and local networks (with other relevant governmental bodies).

▶ Figure 8: Raising awareness about child labour in agriculture at the BEYOND Association

37 Mostly Syrians who guard camps and have long-time networks in Lebanon (Habib RR, Ziadee M, Abi Younes E, et al. Displacement, deprivation and hard work among Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, BMJ Global Health 2019; 4: e001122).

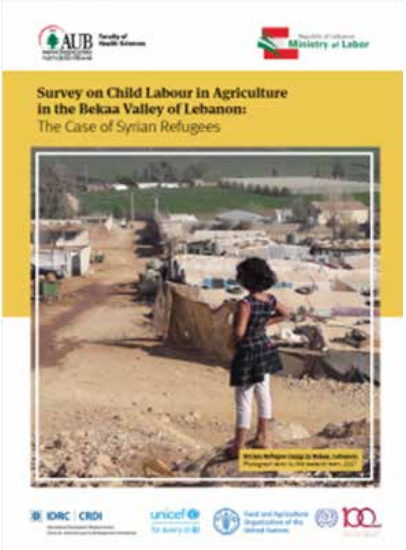
38 According to ILO Convention No. 182 (1999), bonded labour is a state in which a child's services are paid for in advance by the family and the child works tirelessly to repay this debt. Serfdom is where a child works for minimum wage or nothing in return for his employer's provision of land on which to shelter his/her family.

39 The BEYOND Association had child labour centres within the agricultural fields in Beqaa, and would witness *shawishes* and had been trying to negotiate with them to stop their recruitment of children.

2.2.3 Studies on Syrian refugee child labour in Beqaa Valley agriculture

As child labour in agriculture was increasingly seen to be exploitative, the Lebanese government, represented by the MoL and its child labour unit, requested a detailed survey on the issue in the Beqaa Valley, where the problem was known to be widespread. The Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut conducted the survey in 2018, with the support of ILO, UNICEF and FAO.[40] This survey was comprehensive,[41] in terms of the scope of the quantitative sample (12,708 refugees in 1,902 informal tented settlements), as well as the quality of the outcome. Complementing the 2015 Child Labour Survey in Lebanon,[42] the 2018 survey provided robust evidence for future programmes within the sector, and elsewhere in the region.

▶ **Figure 9: Survey on Child Labour in the Beqaa Valley of Lebanon: The Case of Syrian Refugees**



▶ **Figure 10: Child Labour in Agriculture: The Demand Side**

The surveys followed the observation that policymakers were powerless to address child labour in absence of further evidence-based research on the demand side. Research is key to understanding the rationale behind farmers' and contractors' hiring of children as well as their employment arrangements.

These studies would help combat the exploitation of children in agricultural work, if their outcomes are addressed in a coordinated manner (among relevant ministries as well as landowners, farmers and agricultural unions). This of course would not be possible without providing direct support for child workers and their families (see 2.2.4 Intensive field training on the effects of child labour in agriculture).

40 Survey on Child Labour in Agriculture in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon: The Case of Syrian Refugees.

41 Child labour in agriculture and amongst refugees in informal tented settlements.

42 Child Labour Survey in Lebanon - 2015. Financially supported by USDOL.

2.2.4 Intensive field training on the effects of child labour in agriculture

Training for all partners and stakeholders initially took place at a training site of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences of the American University of Beirut in the Beqaa Valley. Participants observed the direct impacts of engaging children in agricultural labour, including:

1. effects of pesticides and other chemicals;
2. the potentially fatal risks to children handling different types of machinery;
3. environmental factors, such as extreme temperature; and
4. occupational safety and health conditions.

This became a regional training shared with Jordan, which was also developing projects addressing the use of child labour in agriculture.

2.2.5 Guide for practitioners in child labour in agriculture[43]

This training course, guided by the Turin International Course on Child Labour in Agriculture, eventually became a regional course following the development of a bilingual guide (Arabic and English)[44] for practitioners. The guide emphasised:

1. legislative and policy measures;
2. preventative farm management to reduce the risk of physical, chemical, environmental and mechanical hazards;
3. health effects of agricultural occupational hazards on boys and girls; and
4. more detailed hazards within different forms of agricultural work in which children are engaged.
5. Local agricultural engineers, farm managers, lawyers, agricultural extension workers, farmers' union members, health specialists and local specialised NGOs were integral the development of the guide.

43 Child labour in agriculture in Lebanon: A guide for practitioners, FAO, ILO.

44 UN agencies ILO and FAO launch first Arabic-language guide for practitioners attending to child labour in agriculture, ILO.

▶ **Figure 11: Child labour in agriculture in Lebanon: Guide for practitioners**

Note: The guide is available in English and Arabic and can be used by multiple stakeholders, including government inspectors, social workers, agricultural unions, and employers.

2.2.6 Effects of holistic response

Due to the quick and holistic response in Lebanon to one of the most prevalent and exploitative forms of child labour during the Syrian refugee crisis, Lebanon offered an example of global good practices, alongside Haiti, on the 2017 World Day Against Child Labour, themed, "in conflicts and disasters, protect children from child labour". This recognition emanated from Lebanon's comprehensive and multi-agency approach to child labour, especially among Syrian refugees, in agriculture.

▶ **Figure 12: World Day against Child Labour: In conflicts and disasters, protect children from child labour**

Source: Available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uP1g5zT4Xc4.

To support the successful implementation of new policy and regulations, stakeholders needed capacity building. Training was provided for MoL inspectors, MoI police,[45] and members of the farmers' union[46] in five Lebanese governorates (Akkar, Baalbeck-Hirmil, Beqaa, North Lebanon, South Lebanon). This led to a relatively good result within a pilot project developed for potato growing and production.

▶ Box 4. Growing potatoes for the potato chips market

- A result of these coordinated and multi-layered efforts was reflected in the planting and harvesting of potatoes by landowners and farmers, who were members of the farmers' union, for a Lebanese chip company in 2017. For the first time that year, 40,000 tonnes of potatoes were harvested in the Beqaa Valley and packed without the use of child labour.[49]
- "New work permits did not allow children under the age of 16 years to accompany adults to the fields. Better understanding of supply and demand aspects as well as providing child labour prevention guidelines and services paved the way for this result."[50]

Nevertheless, challenges to combatting child labour in Lebanon remain and continue to be aggravated by the country's volatile political situation, the severe depreciation of the local currency, COVID-19 impacts, and the recent wave of internal displacement following the August 2020 explosions that devastated the Beirut Port along with schools, homes and businesses. The concurrent crises have led to a gradual increase in the number of Lebanese children dropping out of schools, often to work alongside Syrian and other refugee children.

Therefore, these several layered interventions (sector specific evidence, tools, guides, legislative reform and direct intervention) offer good learning opportunities. They can be utilised for further implementation in Lebanon and within other MENA countries.

2.3 Egypt

Child labour in Egypt has been common over the years, especially street-based child workers.[49] However, during the country's 2011 political upheaval, vulnerable children were exploited for use in political protests and in the vandalism of government properties. Their vulnerabilities emanated from dire socio-economic circumstances, including poverty and domestic violence, that had forced children to migrate and led for their exploitation. These children also had a negative image of the police, so were easily recruited to attack police stations. Gangs and groups also engaged these vulnerable children in illicit activities, such as trafficking of drugs or organ transplantation.[50] In response, two initiatives emerged: the multi-layered Children without Shelter Programme, and Chorale Misr, a national choir led by renowned international Maestro Seleem Sehaab.

In addition to these very important and effective programmes for street-based children, Egypt's "Education for All" has included all school dropouts, present or ex-child labourers, Egyptians and refugees alike, through "Community Schools", supported by the MoE and implemented in close coordination with and support from local NGOs and the private sector.

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45 General Security forces trained on Combating Child Labour in Agriculture, ILO.

46 As part of the European Regional Development and Protection Programme for Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

47 Potatoes were on the export blacklist because they were produced with hazardous child labour (Bureau of International Affairs, Child Labour Reports, 2019).

48 Interview with Bahjat Harati, head of the Farmers' Union in Lebanon (2016-2020).

49 Study: 3 million children living on Egypt's streets - Egypt Independent.

50 Human organ traffickers should get death penalty: MP - Egypt Today.

2.3.1 Children without Shelter programme

Financed and led by the national initiative, Tahya Misr Fund, Children without Shelter was a unique programme[51] implemented by the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS)[52] in close coordination with specialised NGOs such as the Hope Village Society (HVS),[53] and the Banati Foundation (BF), which works with abused girls.[54]

Children without Shelter included the provision of training for personnel in governmental and non-governmental organisations in the planning, implementation and monitoring of specialised programmes. Practitioners (including social workers and police) were trained on how to manage and deal with street-based boys and girls, especially those who had been sexually exploited and/or had borne a child as a result of sexual exploitation.[55] The programmes proved effective over time, as they employed innovative methods of building trust through activities that changed the attitudes of both police and street-based children towards each other.

The objective of the Children without Shelter was focused on the withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration of street children into their families and communities. The programme utilised 17 mobile units – charter buses equipped with material and staff – to reach street children in the areas where they tend to congregate (tourist sites, city centres, etc). The mobile units were deployed to major Egyptian cities and provided psychosocial and nutritional support for children while working to reintegrate them into their families and communities. A second component of the programme upgraded government-run shelters providing similar services for children who were unable to return to their families and communities.

▶ **Figure 13: Children without Shelter video**

Source: Available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KwejrnFEYc.

51 See the Tahya Misr Fund and Egypt plans to protect and educate its street children, Afrika News.

52 Generation homeless: trying to help Egypt's street kids, Egypt Independent.

53 The State of the World's Children, UNICEF.

54 Hanna Aboulghar: Banati Provides a Haven for Girls at Risk in Cairo, Cairo West Magazine.

55 Generation homeless: trying to help Egypt's street kids, Egypt Independent.

a) Mobile units in Cairo

The programme attends to all street children in Egypt on an equal basis, including refugees and migrants, providing governmental and non-governmental services. Moreover, the programme was able to adapt quickly to address the increasing number of street-based children as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.[56] The mobile units are run by the MoSS in partnership with NGOs.

▶ **Figure 14: A mobile unit of the Children without Shelter programme**

▶ **Figure 15: Mobile units continued to work under COVID-19, addressing the increased presence of street-based children**

56 Egypt homeless, street children hit hard by COVID-19 pandemic scourge, Gulf News.

▶ Box 5. Impact of the 2017-2020 Children without Shelter programme

- Increased public awareness of street-based children (due to extensive programmes and encouragement of small public contributions).
- The removal of 14,975 children from street-based work, along with 5,121 families with new-born street children (referred to as second generation street-based children), and the provision of appropriate educational and socio-economic services through the MoSS, local community schools, and NGOs.
- The return of 578 children to their families directly through the work of mobile unit teams.
- The provision of transitional shelter for 1,710 abandoned children, of whom 1,199 have been reconnected and reintegrated into their families, with ongoing efforts to achieve stable and safe outcomes for other children.
- Of those in transitional shelters, 868 children were returned to formal or non-formal education, while 758 were enrolled in vocational training programmes.
- Special programmes were created for both girls and boys, whether in mobile units or in transitional institutions (governmental and non-governmental).

This programme has valuable experience and knowledge to share with countries of the MENA region, where the number of working street-based children is increasing. In particular, this programme has extensive experience with children who have been separated from their families, trafficked and/or exploited by gangs engaged in criminal activity -- some of the most difficult forms of child exploitation to deal with.

The challenges are many and include (i) a very mobile phenomenon amid a continuously growing population; (ii) COVID-19 direct and indirect impacts on the phenomenon; (iii) difficulties in dealing with abandoned children; and (iv) dealing with and prosecuting gangs that use children in illicit activities.

2.3.2 Chorale Misr: The national choir for street-based children

Another unique response and initiative for the MENA region was the establishment of Chorale Misr, a national choir comprised of street-based children. Chorale Misr was initially established by the renowned Lebanese-Egyptian Maestro Seleem Sehaab, and quickly secured the financial and administrative support of the MoSS and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS). Participating children were selected from NGO beneficiaries or rehabilitation centres of the Children without Shelters programme.

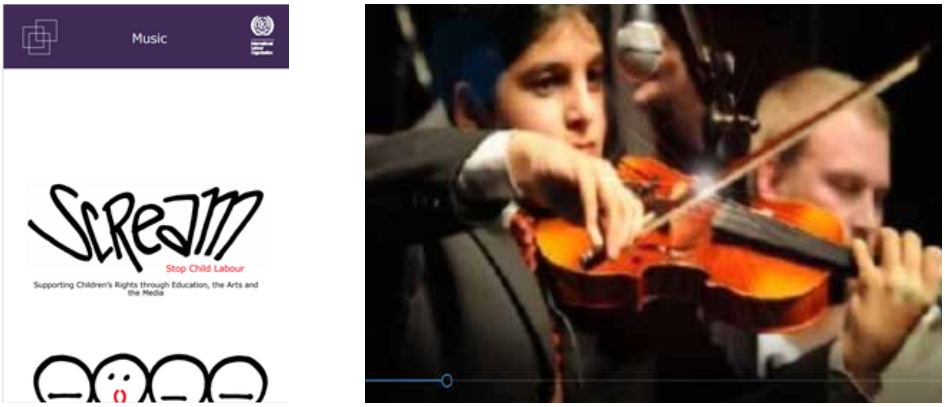
The project is said to have given children a "dream" and a feeling of "hope and psychosocial empowerment" through their musical training and performances.[57] The initiative assisted the rehabilitation of child victims of family and community violence and helped alleviate children's trauma and ill feelings towards their communities, as well as their country. In addition, Chorale Misr performances raised public awareness about street-based children. To date, the children have performed publicly at more than 50 events at major venues, such as the University of Cairo, the Egyptian Opera House, open-air theatres in monument sites and public schools.

To bring more attention to street based-children and to their talents, top Arab singers joined these children in public events over the years (figure 16). The initiative, its beneficiaries and Maestro Sehaab have been recognised twice by ILO Cairo; on the 2017 World Day Against Child Labour[58] and on the occasion of ILO Centenary, which was aired live from Cairo.

57 ILO marks the World Day against Child Labour 2017 with songs, ILO.

58 ILO marks the World Day against Child Labour 2017 with songs, ILO.

▶ **Figure 16: The SCREAM module on music and the Chorale Misr**



Sources: SCREAM Music Module, ILO. Chorale Misr video available at: https://bbemaildelivery.com/bbext/?p=video_land&id=fa8abaea-afb9-4dde-ba53-6d98f402d6ae.

The activities of Chorale Misr were extended to Lebanon, where ILO, MoL and the Lebanese Higher National Conservatory mobilised a Choir Against Child Labour, implemented by three NGOs.[59] This initiative has similar potential for other countries in the region, depending on local contexts and situations.

2.3.3 Community Schools Programme for school dropouts and ex-child labourers

This is another unique initiative in the MENA region. The programme has been established and certified by the MoE, but is managed at field level by active community groups or NGOs and often is supported by the private sector.[60] This programme was initiated in Egypt in 1992 by MoE in partnership with UNICEF and with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through 300 schools in Upper Egypt. When most of the children of the four pilot schools passed their exams, government officials were convinced of the effectiveness of model and developed a plan to build 3,000 community schools in rural villages. Backed by UNICEF, USAID, EU through World Food Programme (WFP) and other international agencies, the community school model spread quickly throughout Egypt; there are today 4,972 community schools in the country.

These schools are designed to serve school dropouts (up to 14 years of age), including ex-child labourers, with a focus on girls. They are established based on the following: (i) the nearest public or Al-Azhar school is located more than 2 kilometres away from children's location; (ii) there are at least 20 school dropouts in the identified vicinity; (iii) school space should not be less than 45 square meters with separate restrooms for boys and girls; and (iv) classrooms must be of sufficient space to allow a 1.5-meter distance between children in a single classroom. The curriculum is adapted to the children's lifestyle and everyday language to make it relevant and useful.[61] Moreover, schools are accessible, especially for girls residing in conservative communities.[62] Misr El Kheir Foundation, which takes care of more than 20 per cent of all community schools in Egypt, received the 2018 UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education for its support for 1,008 schools serving 14,140 boys and 21,199 girls with educational, social protection, health and economic services from 2010 to 2020.

59 Organised by the BEYOND Association and coordinated with Union of Palestinian Women and Home of Hope NGO.

60 Misr Al-Kheir Takes a Further Step in Supporting Community Education in Upper Egypt through a New Partnership with ABC Bank, Bank ABC.

61 Community schools in Egypt: lessons on what works, and what doesn't, Child in the City foundation.

62 Meet Eida, The Girl Who Fought for Her Right To Education And Misr El Kheir Helped Her Win, Scoop Empire.

▶ Box 6. Chorale Misr is important for street-based children

- Music is a powerful tool in psychosocial healing and self-empowerment.
- The musical talents of children are detected, nurtured and invested in, with some becoming professional, offering solo performances as well as performances with the choir.
- A renown maestro and/or conductor is important for raising the profile of the problem.
- Academically accomplished beneficiaries also receive support through private sponsorships and government scholarships.
- Financial sponsorship of events covers a certain amount of funds, which are placed in savings for each participating child.
- Project sustainability comes from support from the aforementioned ministries, as well as the private sector, such as banks, industries and local and international companies.

▶ Figure 17: Misr El Kheir supports girls' education in rural areas

Sources: Video available at: www.facebook.com/MisrElKheir.Org/videos/2115206818495200/.

Community schools provide free-of-charge services and enrol refugee and migrant children.[63] The enrolment of refugee and migrant children in school entitles their families to residence permits in Egypt, which help them access many public services in the country, especially health services. Establishing and sponsoring community schools is a very good practice to spread and utilise in conflict zones, areas affected by conflicts, or rural/deserted areas.

63 In areas where they prevail, such as in Cairo and 10th of Ramadan City.

▶ Box 7. Community Schools Programme

- Certification and supervision by the MoE.
- Official certification can lead to reintegration into formal education and vocational training programmes within governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- Provides accessible, flexible, affordable and relevant education, especially for at-risk children and ex-child labourers, including girls.
- NGO support provides additional needed socio-economic and health services, preventing children from returning to child labour.
- Community ownership and management of schools, alongside the MoE and NGOs, ensure maintenance and sustainability.
- Delivery of certified, relatively good quality education to rural, remote and hard-to-reach areas is possible.
- Community schools can help spread awareness of issues such as early marriage, child labour, COVID-19, general hygiene, nutrition and prevailing environmental issues.

2.4 Morocco

In Morocco, it has long been common for girls under the age of 16 years to perform domestic work for their families, or for others.[64] As in many countries in the region, the core factors include absence of legislation and enforcement, as well as poverty, and poor access to education, electricity and water, especially in rural areas. The rural population is particularly susceptible to child labour. It relies on agriculture, sporadic rain patterns, and migration to urban areas, with children's tendency to drop out of school.[65]

2.4.1 Long-term multi-sectoral response to girl child labour in domestic work

Morocco's response to girl child labour in domestic work is considered a good practice for several reasons: (i) the country endorsed legislation addressing domestic child labour after a decade of consistent national advocacy efforts lobbying policymakers and communities to raise understanding of the potential dangers of such work; (ii) extensive national programmes were efficiently implemented to improve infrastructure in rural areas (water, electricity, roads); (iii) the Tayseer national programme incentivising school enrolment made cash transfers to poor families conditional on school enrolment, with a priority for girls, in addition to support from the One Million School Bags initiative, launched in 2008 and renewed annually.

a) Law 19-12 on regulation of domestic work including child labour

Advocacy against child labour in domestic work started in Morocco officially in 2006 with consistent efforts to change attitudes towards girl child labour, extensive and harmful domestic work, and the

64 Child Labour in the Arab Region: A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, League of Arab States, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Arab Labour Organization and Arab Council for Childhood and Development.

65 10 facts about child labour in Morocco, the Borgen Project organisation.

potential social, psychological and health effects on girls.[66] In 2016, the country endorsed Law 19-12 on domestic work in general and child domestic work in specific, developing special executive measures by 2018 to ensure implementation of the new law. Efforts to regulate the domestic work sector and combat child labour in domestic work (CLDW) have been supported by the ILO, most recently by the organisation's MAP16 Project.

The new law requires written contracts and establishes 18 as the minimum age for domestic workers, with a phase-in period of five years, during which girls between 16 and 18 are allowed to work. It limits working hours for 16- and 17-year-olds to 40 hours a week, and for adults to 48 hours a week (though Morocco's labour law for other sectors sets the limit at 44 hours). It guarantees 24 continuous hours of weekly rest, and a minimum wage equal to 60 per cent of the minimum wage for jobs covered under the country's labour law. The law also imposes financial penalties on employers who violate the law.[67]

▶ Figure 18: Guide to implementation of Law 19-12 on domestic work in Morocco

▶ Figure 19: Protection of domestic child workers in Morocco video (Law 19-12)

Sources: Video available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuHWWiz5ZMk.

66 Boys can be engaged in domestic work too, but girl child labour in domestic work is more prevalent globally.

67 Morocco: New Law Advances Domestic Workers' Rights, Migalhas International.

b) An enabling environment: National infrastructure and educational support services

Legislative effectiveness on its own is insufficient to control such a deeply rooted problem as child labour, especially in the case of female domestic workers. The Moroccan case highlights the importance of blending together legislation with adequate social protection and educational support, showing that improvements to infrastructure can mitigate poverty in areas where child labour is prevalent.

Morocco launched the Taysir Programme in 2008, with the aim of increasing rural primary and secondary school participation and completion rates for girls. A cash transfer programme ensures that very marginalised families have access to funds, conditional on enrolling their children in school.[68]

In 2008, the country launched the One Million School Bags programme, funded by the National Social Fund, reaching more than four million children in 2019.[69] This programme ensures that children in need are enrolled in primary and secondary school, and has supported at-risk and child workers, especially girls. Since inception, some 4.46 million children have benefitted, 63 per cent of whom live in rural areas.

As part of the Vision 2015-2030 Education Reform and 2011-2019 National Nutrition Strategy, a national school feeding programme provides nutritious meals for food-insecure populations in rural areas. This programme complements Morocco's comprehensive social safety net programme, the National Initiative for the Support of Human Development (INDH).

These measures, including advocacy messages, have helped families with children at risk and lowered the prevalence of child labour, particularly for girls in domestic child work. The new Law 19-12 is expected to lead to further progress if implemented appropriately.

c) CLDW and the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic created new risks for child labourers, especially girls. Although the workload of many girls decreased as families were reluctant to bring in an outsider to work for them due to concerns that this increased the risk of infection in the household. However, deteriorating economic conditions generally raised the risk that girls would return to work after the confinement. In parallel, the workload of girls at home increased due to the dependence on women and girls to provide caring services for all family members during the confinement.

▶ Figure 20: Announcement about COVID-19 awareness-raising activities

68 Four times of absence a month for primary students and 6 times a month for secondary students.

69 Over 4 Million Children to Benefit from Royal Initiative '1 Million School Bags', Morocco World News.

The MAP16 Project actively engaged in capacitating local communities and families of at-risk children within targeted areas of the project with the aim of ensuring their safety, protection and continuing of education. However, this was also designed to ensure that children were not also exploited within their homes or in outside work following the lockdown. The MAP16 project, in close coordination with its partners (the Organisation of Moroccan Scouts of Mehemmedia - OSMM in Kenitra and Al-Karam in Marrakesh), revised its original project to include the use of remote tools for implementation of some activities and integration of COVID-19 response in the awareness program.

d) Organisation of Moroccan Scouts of Mehemmedia in Kenitra

The Organisation of Moroccan Scouts of Mohemmedia (OSMM) is the main partner of the MAP16 Project in Kenitra. The project was revised to adapt to the country's COVID-19 response, including a shutdown that necessitated a transition to online schooling, for which most schools were not well prepared and which was made more challenging by inconsistent internet access, availability and reliability. Accordingly, the project strived to sensitise local authorities and municipalities to the risks to children, including school dropout and possible entry into child labour, especially in domestic work. The project also trained OSMM members on how to develop online awareness-raising and educational support programmes through remote learning.

▶ **Figure 21: Announcement about projects supporting beneficiaries and local authorities**

OSMM created WhatsApp groups for beneficiaries and provided support for internet re-charge to share appropriate educational and awareness-raising materials. One of the most important outcomes of project implementation was children's sharing of lockdown experiences and feelings among each other as well as with project supervisors.

OSMM's modified intervention was successful; the organisation exceeded its original target beneficiary groups by 50 per cent.

e) Al-Karam in Marrakesh

Similar programmes were implemented by MAP16 in Marrakesh for beneficiaries of the Al-Karam Project. The project was implemented through 10 schools in areas of Marrakech and surrounding regions affected by a high dropout rate. School directors and teachers were tasked with identifying students most at risk of dropping out within their schools. A total of 200 students and their families were organised into WhatsApp groups by teachers to ensure that both parents and students received needed information and support.

A database was developed for each child with all relevant information needed for educational and socio-economic follow up. Students attended classes online and those in need of extra support benefited from tutoring in the afternoons. Moreover, the amended programme included twice-weekly awareness-raising sessions on the importance of children continuing their studies, the causes and consequences of school dropout, the dangers associated with CLDW, COVID-19 prevention and protection. The awareness tools utilised included debate, photography, film production, storytelling, free drawing, and competitions, with communication conducted via the WhatsApp groups.

Moreover, awareness-raising sessions on very relevant issue took place twice per week, covering: (i) importance of uninterrupted school learning; (ii) causes and consequences of school dropout; (iii) dangers associated with CLDW and hygiene rules; and (iv) how children should protect themselves against COVID-19. The awareness tools were debate, photography, film production storytelling, free drawing, and competitions, where communication was carried out in different forms via WhatsApp groups.

▶ Figure 22: Children's drawings shared on WhatsApp groups of Al-Karam Project

▶ Figure 23: Screenshots of educational and awareness-raising communication

Screenshots of educational and awareness-raising communication shared on WhatsApp groups of Al-Karam Project.

f) Collaboration with non-governmental organisations

Due to the health crisis, the original programme, which had aimed to prepare at-risk students for their exams, needed to be revised after the cancellation of exams. The revised programme was implemented by two NGOs – Arij and Ajial (Sidi BouOthmane and Chichaoua) – and included the sensitisation of 360 families with children, and the enrolment of 180 female students in the first year of middle school. Local authorities were involved in door-to-door awareness-raising sessions, and most at-risk children were identified for support during the programme.

▶ **Figure 24: Training of campaign managers and awareness-raising door-to-door visits**

Training of campaign managers and awareness-raising door-to-door visits to 360 families, communities and children. At-risk girls were identified and supported (Arij and Ajial, Morocco).

The beneficiaries, all girls, were identified during family awareness-raising visits, where outreach teams discussed the cyclical nature of the public health emergency and the need for extra efforts to succeed at school, avoid school dropout, and prevent COVID-19 infection.

▶ **Figure 25: Members of outreach team counselled parents and students on the need**

Members of outreach team counselled parents and students on the need for intensified efforts to succeed in school, avoid school dropout, and prevent COVID-19 infection (Arij and Ajial, Morocco, 2020).

▶ Box 8. The Moroccan case

- Child labour, especially in domestic work, can be reduced via multiple and parallel interventions, including development of legislation; community / stakeholder advocacy and sensitisation; development of infrastructure (building / renovation of schools); and improvement of roads, ensuring access to water and electricity and provision of school needs.
- Dealing with difficult forms of child labour – such as domestic work which is largely invisible and removes children from the oversight of their families – requires persistence and dedication.
- Young girls need to be specifically covered by in programmes that acknowledges their unique social and cultural challenges.
- Special attention needs to be given to at-risk children, especially girls, during COVID-19, whether through online communication, education, or direct community-based work and home visits to beneficiaries.

Due to the extensive need, the programme was extended to 12 districts of Sidi Bou-Othmane and 8 villages in the districts of Jbilates, reaching another 500 households, with enrolment of 130 children (80 per cent girls) in schools.

Although Morocco has made progress in dealing with child labour, especially domestic work, implementing Law 19-12 remains a challenge; it must be implemented in complementarity between the relevant governmental authorities along with local NGOs, through joint monitoring and provision of appropriate services.

2.5 Syria

Children have been one of the most vulnerable groups impacted the Syrian conflict over the past 10 years. An ILO-WFP brief[70] estimated that 1.75 million children aged 5-7 years in 2015-2016 were out of school and a further 1.35 million were at risk of dropping out. Displaced communities experience even higher levels of dropping out of school. More than 750,000 children live in hard-to-reach areas and about 127,000 are located within UN-declared besieged areas. Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and other parties continue to use education to indoctrinate children.

With estimated 69 per cent of the Syrian population now living in extreme poverty, child labour has become a coping mechanism, in addition to other strategies – reducing food consumption, spending savings and accumulating debt.[71] Children in most household work, and nearly half of them are joint or sole breadwinners.[72]

In the absence of any contemporary child labour surveys, the current rate of child labour in Syria cannot be accurately estimated. However, 82 per cent of surveyed communities report the occurrence of child labour and hazardous work, such as begging and scavenging for scrap metal.[73] Children also have been observed engaged in agriculture, street vending, car washing, metal work, carpentry, smuggling goods, waste oil collection, household work, garbage collection and funerary work.[74] Children were also reported to have been enlisted in armed groups and engaged in combat or war-related services.

70 From internal background information in a joint MoU between ILO and WFP.

71 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic, UN OCHA.

72 UNICEF; Save the Children. 2015.

73 UN OCHA. 2017.

74 Because We Struggle to Survive: Child labour among refugees of the Syrian conflict, Terre des Hommes.

Another major concern has been the vulnerability of girls to early marriage, especially unaccompanied adolescent girls, reportedly to protect them and reduce the financial burden on the household.

The ILO, in coordination with other agencies, focused on (i) children associated with armed groups/forces and their families; (ii) children associated with beggars and their families; and (iii) children engaged in hazardous forms of work, including small industries.

2.5.1 A multi-agency response to child labour

In this very complex situation, with such intense, extensive and overlapping needs, a multi-agency approach to child labour was paramount. Moreover, in spite of the government's reduced capacity, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the MoL provided critical support as did several NGOs (e.g., Namaa in Aleppo, Child Care in Homs, Al Nada in Damascus), the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), and Damascus Chamber of Industry (DCI) in Damascus.

The close collaboration among the ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR, and the WFP is an example of good practice. One of the effects of this inter-agency synergy was a higher-than-expected number of beneficiaries of an ILO project in Damascus, Greater Damascus, and Aleppo (an industrial area with a high prevalence of child labour, especially during war), and Homs (an area with a high number of IDPs, especially in Hissieh). Although the target group was 250 children, the actual number reached with rehabilitation and reintegration services increased to more than 650.[75]

The project benefitted from the presence of WFP's Interim Country Strategic Plan in Syria, providing support for more than 1,000,000 children in public schools, across more than 10 governorates, through the school feeding programme in cooperation with and support from the MoE. Initiated in 2014, this programme aimed at increasing enrolment, regulating attendance and enhancing children's cognition, learning and nutrition intake. This was made through the provision of food vouchers for out-of-school children, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Curriculum B Programme[76] in areas where the dropout rate was high. The programme backed the child labour programme by providing food security for at-risk and children and child workers, serving as an entry point for ILO into WFP-supported schools, enabling the two organisations to implement joint sensitisation activities for school principals, teachers and children. Moreover, the programme provided ILO with data on school dropouts and retention rates, following ILO child labour interventions.

UNHCR is a key stakeholder in strengthening child protection in the country especially through its network of community and satellite centres. UNHCR supports more than 100 centres in Syria, where children and their families receive integrated protection services, including prevention and response services.

The UNHCR and ILO provide an integrated approach in four selected Community Service Centres (CSC) in four governorates: Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Homs. Four hundred children (girls and boys) were supported through these centres. This was facilitated by integrating messaging on the risks of child labour into existing psychosocial support services, with the goal of discouraging children from entering hazardous forms of child labour, while ameliorating the effects of such labour on those receiving rehabilitation services.

The rehabilitation process was partly carried out through different ILO SCREAM activities especially tailored for boys and girls. The inclusion of gendered needs in programme design allowed for higher participation rates and more effective rehabilitation results. Poetry, songs and traditional dance along with other forms of arts were used to alleviate children's stress and encourage them to team up with others in similar circumstances. This taught children how to think and express themselves as part of a team, lessening their sense of isolation.

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75 ILO Child Labour National Manager in Syria, Leena Rammah.

76 Educate A Child and UNICEF help children in Hama catch up on learning through 'Curriculum B', UNICEF.

▶ Figure 26: Raising awareness about child labour by the ILO SCREAM programme within UNHCR's CSCs

With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, children's links to the programme and to each other were maintained through ILO awareness-raising programme conducted via WhatsApp (Syria, 2020).

The UNHCR and ILO jointly trained CSC staff and ensured monitoring and follow-up on rehabilitated cases through established UNHCR logistics and services. Moreover, they ensured that COVID-19 messages are implemented.

Moreover, ILO and UNHCR carried out a joint training programme for 100 at risk and working adolescents within selected CSCs in the aforementioned governorates. This entailed ILO's revision of UNHCR's technical and vocational education and training manuals, ensuring decent work and necessary occupational safety and health (OSH) standards, and upgrading of the curriculum as needed. Moreover, with UNHCR's employment and livelihood programme and UNICEF's skills assessment initiative, 200 parents, at-risk children and children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour were sensitised to the necessary employment skills within designated CSCs vicinities and areas.

Identification of and attention to child labour was integrated in CSC standard operating procedures (SOPs) used by CSC staff. This included integrating questions about child labour within assessments, as well as during the provision of services, while ensuring appropriate referral services for at-risk and working children.

Under the COVID-19 pandemic, coordinated inter-agency work continued on awareness-raising within the CSCs, workplaces and educational centres. One of the outcomes of this coordination was a detailed guide, jointly produced by the ILO, UNHCR and UNICEF, on child labour and the response to COVID-19.

▶ **Box 9. Success story: Coordinated services support teenager to become a skilled tailor**

Ayham, 16, suffered a long-time war and struggled with his family to make ends meet while his father was ill. He had to leave school early in his hometown in order to support his family, including three younger siblings, during his father's illness. Ayham faced internal displacement with his family of father, mother and 3 other children. He tried to go back to school in his new city of displacement but fell ill and was admitted to hospital during COVID-19. As he began to recover, he started working in a small supermarket where he was continuously bullied and abused by clients; one broke Ayham's arm because he didn't want to pay for his cigarettes. Ayham stopped working and then found the Al-Nabaa' NGO vocational training programme supported by the ILO and its partners. After three months of comprehensive training, he became a skilled and well-established tailor and feels very content about it today. This was due to a well-coordinated programme between international and national agencies.

2.5.2 Encouraging stronger national support

It is important to note here, that a well thought out integrated and complementary approach among UN agencies towards combating child labour encourages national organisations to support and benefit from this coordinated approach. A lack of coordination creates confusion among national organisations and communities. It can also lead to abuse of agency systems and services by local communities, and consequently minimise the impacts of agency programmes.

In crises, and as a matter of fact at all times, international organisations do not have the luxury to provide their services in remoteness of each other. There are at least two reasons against vertical agency practices: (i) combined activities are for the best interest of children as they receive unified packages of services that truly impacts their lives; and (ii) seeking the multiplier and synergistic effect of already constrained budgets and resources. Moreover, the image of coordinating international bodies creates more trust in the eyes of local communities and recipients.

2.6 Yemen

Since 2015, Yemen has been severely impacted by war. It faces a dire economic situation with the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.[77] The UNHCR reports that the Yemeni people are impacted by damaged infrastructure and limited or no access to food, basic goods, healthcare and education. Of the country's population of 27.4 million, more than 100,000 people have died in combat, 3.6 million have been internally displaced, more 20 million are food insecure, and 5.5 million children remain out of school.[78]

More than half of the schools in Yemen have been damaged, used as either fighting positions, detention centres or arms depots.[79] Teachers have not received their pay, leading them to strike,[80] and small businesses have lost income, pushing families to send their children to work. Girls are being forced into early marriage due to extreme poverty and internal displacement.[81]

There has been a fivefold increase in the recruitment of children by armed groups, and some UN officials believe that armed groups started recruiting thousands of boys aged 12-17 as early as 2011, coinciding with the beginning of "the Arab Spring".[82] Child recruitment in Yemen is driven not only by local tribal culture, but also by economic need. Both child and adult soldiers are paid the equivalent of the official minimum wage. Although the pay is low, it provides stable income and a firearm – viewed as an important asset that might later be sold to fund a marriage or buy and operate a taxi-motorbike.[83]

In 2013, the government at the time adopted an action plan to end child recruitment and to release children from armed groups, with the hope/perception that there would be peace at the time. The plan faced many challenges, including conflict continued and lack of funding. In spite of these very difficult circumstances at all levels, a pilot project for prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation of children from armed conflicts was implemented in Hajah, Sanaa and Lahj governorates – areas where child labour has been prevalent.[84] The project led by ILO and funded by the US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour sought to develop the capacity of Yemeni partners to educate, inform, and change attitudes and behaviours towards the use of children in armed conflict. It additionally sought to strengthen existing resources supporting the social and economic reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) and children at risk of recruitment, and to prevent armed actors' use of children.

The project developed some useful guides and implemented helpful activities, which could support prevention as well as withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration of children affected by or used in armed conflicts. These included:

i. a special training guide to the "socio-economic reintegration of children associated with armed groups and the prevention of the use of children by armed forces and armed groups in Yemen";

ii. the creation of safe and child-friendly spaces for at-risk children or children who were associated with armed groups, that provide these children with integrated social and educational services, as well as preparation for appropriate vocational training;

iii. provision of vocational training leading to suitable employment opportunities, based on a labour market needs assessment;

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77 Humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains the worst in the world, warns UN, UN News; Yemen: Humanitarian Response Snapshot (October 2020), UN OCHA.

78 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan Extension, UN OCHA.

79 United Nations, Human Rights Council. 2017. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014, A/HRC/36/33 (5 September 2017).

80 United Nations, Human Rights Council. 2017. Idem; Key informant interview with Ali Dehaq, National Coordinator, ILO Office in Yemen, 12 October 2017.

81 Stories about UNICEF's work for children around the world, UNICEF in Action.

82 A controversial term referring to a series of uprisings in various countries in North Africa and the Middle East, beginning in Tunisia in December 2010.

83 Key informant interview with Ali Dehaq, National Coordinator, ILO Office in Yemen, 12 October 2017.

84 ILO National Programme Officer, ILO Office in Yemen, January 2020.

iv. a special sensitisation and awareness-raising project aimed at prevention as well as psychosocial rehabilitation using a relevant SCREAM programme module. Implementation of activities under this programme has been challenging due to security risks and humanitarian crises associated with this conflict. However, within the context of this paper, the author looks further into development of the guide and the SCREAM sensitisation programme.

2.6.1 Training guide: "Socio-economic reintegration of children associated with armed groups and the prevention of the use of children by armed forces and armed groups"

A special training guide was developed to provide comprehensive technical guidance for local actors on the spectrum of activities related to the prevention, release and reintegration processes for CAAFAG, ensuring linkages with the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.[85]

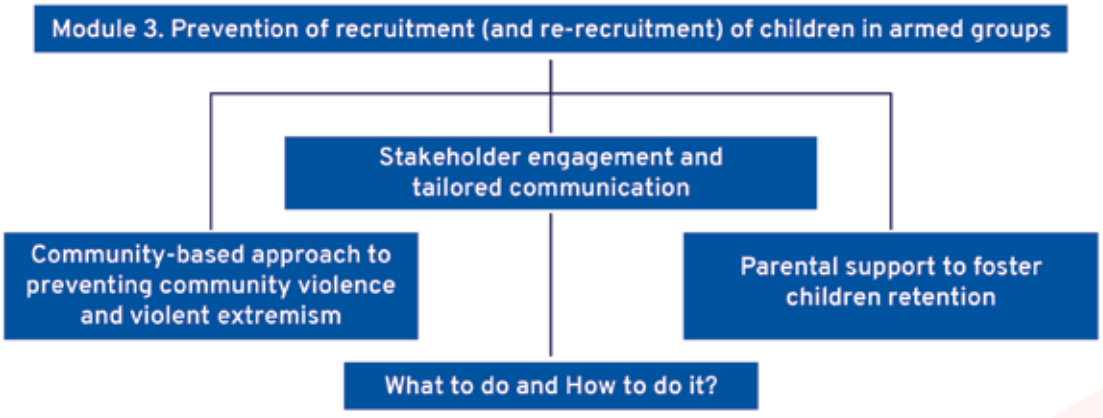
This guide directs practitioners through practical steps that could be taken for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration purposes. It covers: (i) means of prevention of recruitment of children; (ii) preparedness and response; (iii) negotiation of release/disengagement; (iv) interim/transitory care; (v) identification/verification; (vi) family tracing and reunification; (vii) social and economic reintegration which is required for sustainability of results; (viii) monitoring of recruitment and re-recruitment; and (ix) follow-up and advocacy against the practice of CAAFAG.

Moreover, the guide details: (i) the potential ways in which children try to leave armed forces and armed groups; (ii) how to include children affected by armed conflict in programming at the community level; (iii) the potential processes which facilitate return of children to family and community; (iv) the special challenges facing girls; and (v) psychosocial concerns, disability and developmental problems stemming from CAAFAG.

In addition, and very importantly, the guide portrays challenges facing children born to girls in armed forces and armed groups, prosecution and detention of CAAFAG usually by official state actors, and finally relations with the media.

Each of the categories mentioned above are further sub-divided and detailed within the guide, in accordance with the contextual situation of Yemen, and in light of internationally approved standards and means. An example of further classifications and related tools are described below.

▶ **Figure 27: Tool from SCREAM Module 3: Child-Sensitive Communication Strategy Component**



85 Guidelines: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict, UNICEF.

▶ Box 10. Tool 2. Child-Sensitive Communication Strategy Component

What to do	How to do it
Tailored messaging	▶ Involve children in airing their concerns and needs and allow adults to listen to them. ▶ Invest in sustained, rather than sporadic, campaigns. ▶ Produce emotive content, rather than focusing exclusively on evidence, particularly where it makes the child appear as a criminal.
Counter-narrative messaging	▶ Support the government to create the necessary communication skills, resources and structures to indirectly challenge the narrative of armed groups and violent extremists, and continuously correct misinformation. ▶ Support alternative narratives through testimonies (by children themselves), while emphasizing community and social values such as tolerance. ▶ Engage religious leaders to diffuse direct counter-narratives to discredit, deconstruct and challenge the content of messages diffused by armed groups and other extremist violent groups, including the violation of Sharia law by involving children in armed conflict.
Online messaging	▶ The internet is in high demand from youth and often the sole source of information in violent conflict environments. While ensuring the rights of everyone on freedom of expression, an effective communication strategy could create useful cooperation with media platforms and online service providers, so that individuals who may be seeking violent narratives are re-directed towards media that provide messages countering the propaganda of armed groups and other violent extremist groups.
Gender-sensitive	▶ Ensure that all messaging is gender-sensitive, including disaggregated figures by sex, and understand the different needs of girls and boys. ▶ Messaging should specifically target girls and young women associated with armed and/or conflict-affected groups to encourage their participation in the reintegration process. ▶ Include female community leaders and women's organisations in awareness-raising meetings and other means of communication and outreach.

Source: Operational Guide to IDDRS, UN Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Centre.

The training guide offers tools to train relevant ministries and government officials, a wide variety of youth groups, community leaders, as well as community-based service providers, NGOs and law enforcement agencies.

The guide was developed as a living document that can be continuously adapted to the evolving complexities of the conflict in Yemen, including post-conflict era as it emerges. Adaptability is necessary as intense, long-lasting and evolving conflicts defy standardized solutions to cope with CAFAAG. However, Yemen can benefit from knowledge and experience elsewhere in the MENA region, in addition to the local and international policies and legislative base. Therefore, this in-depth, comprehensive guide is adaptable to other contexts in the MENA region and can be translated into the Arabic language to be directly used by local actors and not only international trainers and agencies.

2.6.2 Use of SCREAM in psychosocial rehabilitation during crisis

The project was able to establish three child-friendly safe spaces which acted as "community facilities and mechanisms for reintegration of children and youths into society". These community centres were established in central locations to mobilise communities around the protection and well-being of children while providing recreational, psychosocial and life-skill educational support. Contextually, three youth clubs were created to engage target children in recreational activities using the ILO-IPEC SCREAM methodology to sensitize young people to child labour and armed conflict. As a result, 24 youth centre facilitators, who work directly with children, were capacitated to use this programme with special emphasis on girls as well as boys, and the effects of armed conflicts on children. More than 250 children at risk or formerly engaged in armed conflict benefitted from this programme.[86]

▶ **Figure 28: Introduction of SCREAM in family centres and child safe spaces in Yemen**

86 Lara Elqershi, ILO responsible officer for implementation of child labour programme in Yemen.

▶ Figure 29: A sports team created under the SCREAM programme

Sports are crucial in physical and psychological release of frustration, self-empowerment, and peaceful and cooperative teamwork (Hajah Family Centre).

Self-promotion through sports and other innovative and peaceful means, instead of self-destruction (physically and psychologically) and involvement in war/social conflicts.

▶ Figure 30: Development of social, emotional and communication skills through drawing and painting

Children (left) paint tires, which have become a symbol of Yemen's conflict due to their use as barricades at checkpoints. The painting exercise is meant to reclaim or transform the connotation of this simple object.

▶ Figure 31: Special SCREAM training for girls

Girls reflected on their artistic talents and in a special SCREAM training just for them. The purpose of the training was to create an environment of normalcy through the provision of an art class; most of these girls no longer attend school regularly as their schools have been destroyed or repurposed in the conflict.

▶ Figure 32: Relaying child labour messages to children

Relaying child labour messages to at-risk children or children who have been involved in armed conflict helping them become aware of risks and dangers.

▶ Figure 33: Psychosocial rehabilitation through sports

The images show another safe space for at-risk children or children formerly engaged in armed conflict (Lahj Family Centre).

▶ Figure 34: Communal and parental engagement in children's activities

Sensitising the participants to children's needs for physical activity and creative expression through sports, drawing, painting and other activities. Activities serve to relay direct and indirect messages on the harms and dangers of child labour and the importance of education (Sanaa Family Centre).

▶ Box 11. Psychosocial programmes

- CAAFAG is one of the most difficult forms of child labour to address.
- Even in the most intense conflict situations, safe spaces for children can be established in coordination with locally active, credible and accepted organizations.
- Attending to CAFAAG needs to be politically sensitive and most importantly take children's best interest into account.
- The SCREAM programme has a special module for child labour and armed conflict which was reflected upon indirectly to avoid stigmatizing children involved in the programme and offending local communities and relevant political groups.
- These safe spaces are the only channels through which to provide awareness-raising and rehabilitative services for at-risk and exploited children in Yemen.
- These safe spaces and their respective activities are significant channels for the sensitisation and mobilization of influential community members who can prevent children's engagement in armed groups or secure their release from such groups.
- Gender-sensitive programming is of critical importance; girls are often forgotten or overlooked in CAFAAG programmes, due to the assumption that only boys are involved directly or indirectly.

3. Recommendations

Many MENA countries are attempting to address child labour in the context of challenging political and socio-economic conditions. During initial consultations, it was evident that some states face additional obstacles. For example, in Iraq and Yemen, security restrictions on internal movement make it difficult to reach children. Almost all countries, including those which are more secure and politically stable, have imposed restrictions on movement and travel and on congregating in response to COVID-19. Therefore, the following recommendations have been considered.

To prevent further school dropouts and early child labour, it is recommended that governmental organisations, NGOs, international agencies, employers' organizations and workers' unions should:

1. Continue to conduct webinars on child labour and improve their content and organising.
2. Organise a set of regional webinars on specific topics in depth, focusing on, for example, street-based children and community schools in Egypt, child labour in domestic work in Morocco, child labour in agriculture in Lebanon, the impact of armed conflict on child labour in the region, the development and institutionalisation of a child labour database in Jordan.[87]
3. Conduct surveys to assess specific country requirements for addressing child labour and hold consultations with countries that participated in the December 2020 webinar. Potential participants also could include Algeria, Libya, Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and others that currently lack child labour projects, yet appear receptive and in need.[88]
4. Conduct webinars on topics tailored to the needs of individual countries. Examples could include:
    a. how the UN and other international actors coordinate efforts to act against child labour, highlighting their mandates and capacities;
    b. how to address the issue of child soldiers;
    c. how stakeholders address child labour in domestic work;
    d. the different scopes and steps in the establishment and management of child labour monitoring systems.
5. Organise dedicated webinars for regional policymakers and international organisations to discuss their views on child labour and related policies, legislation and budgets.
6. Conduct national and regional webinars for relevant employers and NGOs working on child labour within specific sectors. There are many good practices in this regard across the region.
7. Devise web-based advisory services for specific planned projects or projects with needs for support in areas particularly affected by COVID-19.
8. Mobilise resources to carry out the aforementioned, and prioritise inter-country knowledge transfer of good practices to capitalise on lessons learned, and share what has already been developed.

87 There were several requests from participants on this issue; organising a specific webinar on each topic.

88 The author had learned about such needs from the abovementioned countries during her coordination of a regional child labour survey report (Child Labour in the Arab Region: A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, League of Arab States, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Arab Labour Organization and Arab Council for Childhood and Development). While holding bi-annual meetings with all member states for the report, there were consistent requests for child labour projects in these countries, particularly for sectors like small industries, as well as for street children and at-risk children or children used in combat.

Post-pandemic

Given that child labour has the potential to worsen under COVID-19, it will be important to share experiences and evaluate efforts once the crisis has passed. As such, it will be relevant to organise face-to-face regional meetings to assess the challenges ahead, as well as the opportunities that have arisen to fight child labour in the MENA region.

Appendixes

Appendix I: Resources for practitioners

Examples of good practices within the MENA region

Some good practices have been shared between countries in the MENA region through regional workshops, webinars and site visits to projects. While regional workshops are routine, practical and hands-on field-level training is not common. There was a belief in the region that policymakers and practitioners need to see, experience and feel the good practices in other countries in order to better understand them in realistic and pragmatic terms, rather than in theory. Therefore, efforts were made in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon to share their good programmes through regional projects, such as the European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), which involved Jordan and Lebanon. Another belief was that, despite knowing about good practices (e.g., dealing with street-based children outside the MENA region), priority was given to those within the region for several reasons, including:

1. Cultural proximity would facilitate the ability to implement interventions;
2. Regional exchange was more cost-effective as it entailed fewer travel expenses;
3. Common language (Arabic) enhanced direct understanding and easier communication; by obviating the need for interpretation, it also kept costs lower.

Two examples of such training were a visit to Egypt's Children without Shelter programme, and a visit to Lebanon's child labour in agriculture field training in Beqaa Valley in 2016.

Figure 35: Regional Workshop in Egypt, "Child Labour in the Streets: Challenges and Opportunities"

Video available at: https://youtu.be/Tz2waWqBrnA?t=141.

Participants from Jordan and Lebanon visit Egypt's Children without Shelter programme

This training was attended by participants from the ministries of labour, social affairs, education, and interior from the three countries. In addition, it was attended by representatives of local NGOs specialised in combating child labour, especially street-based work.

Participants from Jordan learn from Lebanon's good practice on child labour in agriculture

In response to the increasing prevalence of child labour in the agriculture sector in both Lebanon and Jordan, the ILO initiated a regional workshop and experience exchange meeting in Beqaa Valley, at a farm for the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut. The location was important as it allowed participants to observe first-hand occupational hazards to which children working in agriculture are exposed.

The training was based on material developed by the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin, Italy), which provided theoretical and practical instruction on strategies, policies and programmes to combat child labour in agriculture. However, as a result of the workshop and exchange of experiences, the material was developed further and contextualised to Lebanon and the Arab region, creating the first Arabic-language guide to child labour in agriculture, produced in close collaboration with FAO (see: Section 2.2.5).

▶ **Figure 36: ILO training workshop tackles child labour in agriculture in Lebanon**

Video available at: www.ilo.org/ipec/news/WCMS_416391/lang--en/index.htm.

Regional webinar on emerging good practices in the elimination of child labour in the MENA region

The MAP16 Project, more specifically its Jordan component, organised the first regional webinar on child labour in December 2020. The regional webinar engages policymakers, governmental and non-governmental responsible persons and international agencies' staff in the MENA region in the discussion of good practices of the past ten years (2010-2020). During this time, the region experienced multiple crises resulting in complex humanitarian settings, within countries directly and indirectly affected.

These crises had direct and indirect consequences on child labour and school dropout in the MENA region; these have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, further complicating states' ability to deal with child labour.

Therefore, this regional webinar, held nearly one year into the pandemic, included both Middle East and North Africa sub-regions and was probably the first on child labour since COVID-19 outbreak. It was clear from consultations that took place before the webinar, presentations during its deliberations, as well as questions and suggestions received afterwards, that there is much need for information on actual programmes, existing tools, guides and resources, expertise on child labour. Participants expressed a desire to know more about how projects presented during the webinar were established, operationalised and funded. Participants also benefitted from the good practices presented, especially with respect to their own efforts to adapt their programming to the COVID-19 context.

Appendix II: Additional resources

This section includes several useful and relatively effective awareness-raising and sensitisation tools on child labour in general, developed and used in the MENA region, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Egypt: Child labour and COVID-19

Egypt managed to develop several good sensitisation and awareness-raising tools on COVID-19 and work in general which includes working children of legal working and vocational training age. This was under its 2019 "Accelerating Action Against for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains (ACCEL) in Egypt" Project.[89] All produced tools were developed in Arabic language and can be used by countries in the MENA region. The film below addresses risks faced and measures that can be taken for both adult and child workers during Covid-19.

▶ **Figure 37: Video on mitigation of COVID-19 and protection of children in the workplace**

Video available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=swXD0g4qwaA&list=PL8itJ-8CfpcwtkDYf9s8fS-O9Q4Fb7vri&index=3.

The ACCEL project also produced a comprehensive guide to work-related aspects of COVID-19. The content displays in a simple and clear manner the difference between symptoms of COVID-19 and normal flu symptoms; it discusses logistical aspects of preventing infection on the job, including while traveling to and from work; it highlights the nature of work places and how they relate to adults and children of legal working and vocational training age; and it provides guidance to workers on what to do in case of an infection.

89 Part of a regional project that includes six countries in Africa.

▶ **Figure 38: Guide to COVID-19 prevention for all workers**

Publication available in Arabic at: www.ilo.org/africa/countries-covered/egypt/WCMS_754768/lang--ar/index.htm.

In addition to material produced on child labour and COVID-19, useful sensitisation products were also developed on basic child labour concepts.[90] An example is the short film below on child labour and education.

▶ **Figure 39: Child labour and education**

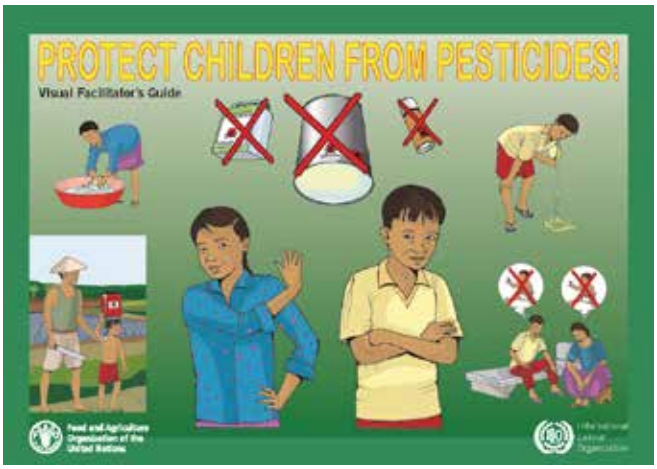
Video available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMa2psacOlk.

90 COVID-19: Protect children, now more than ever, ILO.

Lebanon: Guide to the effects of pesticides on children working in agriculture

The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) (Lebanon and Rome Headquarters) and ILO (Geneva) produced the guide "Protect children from pesticides: Visual facilitator's guide", a very useful easy-to-read visual guide to the use of pesticides by children. The Guide clearly explains: (i) how these children are exposed to harmful pesticides; (ii) the health effects of pesticides on children working in agriculture; and (iii) means to reduce these effects.

▶ **Figure 40: Protect children from pesticides: Visual facilitator's guide**



Publication available at: www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/fr/c/1260531/.
Published in several languages, including English and Arabic.

Tunisia: Facebook and COVID-19

The PROTECTE: Together Against Child Labour in Tunisia[91] project has maintained a Facebook page for several years. The page has proved to be a simple, cost-effective tool for the dissemination of information on child labour in general and the PROTECTE project in particular. In addition, it is highly effective, user friendly and interactive in nature, and does not need a web designer or IT specialist to manage.

PROTECTE posts all relevant awareness-raising tools on its Facebook page where one can also find a short but comprehensive documentary on COVID-19 and its possible effects on child labour, globally and in Tunisia. It is one of a few tools which summarize the global and local developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its direct health, economic, educational and social consequences on families and their children. It also presents the different abuses of children that have increased with the pandemic, including early child marriage and child labour

91 Initiated in 2016 with support from the US Department of Labour (US DOL) also financially supported the implementation of the National Child Labour Survey in Tunisia, published in 2017.

▶ Figure 41: PROTECTE - Together Against Child Labour in Tunisia

PROTECTE Facebook page available at: www.facebook.com/protecteensemblecontreletravaildesenfants/.

▶ Figure 42: Together Against COVID-19 and Child Labour in Tunisia

Video available at: www.facebook.com/watch/?v=861151168038559.

Appendix III: Consultation meetings

Country	Name	Organization	Title
Egypt	Mr Hosny Youssef	MoSS	Head of Children Without Shelter
	Mr Mustafa Ghareeb	MoSS	Social worker, Children Without Shelter
	Mr Adel Shaker	MoSS	Social worker, Children Without Shelter
	Mr Hazem Mallah	MoSS	Media Responsible of Programme
	Dr Saber Hassan	Misr El Kheir	Head of Community Schools Programme
	Ms Rowida El-Deeb	Misr El Kheir	Senior officer, International Grants - Education Sector
	Ms Marwa Salah Abdou	ILO	National Child Labour Project Manager (ACCEL Africa)
	Ms Karima Noureldine	ILO	National Programme Officer (ACCEL Africa)
Iraq	Dr Maha Kattaa	ILO	Country Coordinator, Regional Resilience and Crisis Response Specialist
	Mr Lawen Hawezy	ILO	Chief Technical Advisor, Programme Coordination Office
Jordan	Nihayat Dabdoub	ILO	National Child Labour Project Manager (MAP16)
Lebanon	Ms Nazha Shalita	MoL	Head of Child Labour Unit
Morocco	Dr Melek Benchekroun	ILO	National Project Manager (MAP16)
Syria	Ms Leenah Rammah	ILO	National Child Labour Project Manager
Tunisia	Mr Boua-Bi Semien Honore	ILO	Chief Technical Adviser, PROTECTE
Yemen	Mr Ali Dehaq	ILO	National Programme Coordinator
Yemen	Ms Lara El Qershi	ILO	National Officer, Child Labour Project

Appendix IV: Regional webinar presentations

Country	Participant	Presentation	Organization	Title
Egypt	Mr Hosny Youssef	Children without Shelter	MoSS	Head of Children Without Shelter Programme
	Dr Hasan Saber	Community Schools	Misr El Kheir	Head of Community Schools Programme
Jordan	Ms Haifa Darwish, Mr Kamal Deeb	NFCCL/ CLDB	MoL / NFCCL	Child Labour unit and Labour Inspection
	Mr Tarek Al Fakih	Complementary Services Model	Ruwaad	Director
Lebanon	Ms Nazha Shalita	Child Labour in Agriculture	MoL	Head of Child Labour Unit
Morocco	Ms Salima Admi	Child Labour in Domestic work (legislative revisions)	MoL	Director of Labour Department
	Mr Mohammed Tabyaoui	Child Labour in Domestic Work (direct work with children)	OSMM	President
Syria	Ms Leenah Rammah	International Agencies' Synergetic Response to Child Labour	ILO	National Child Labour Programme Manager
Switzerland	Ms Laurence Dubois	MAP16 global / concluding remarks	ILO Headquarters, Geneva	Project Coordinator and Partnerships Manager

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