

Protection of Marginalized Children in Palestine

**“Urban Children and Youth in the MENA Region”
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Palestinian National Authority

Ministry of Planning

The Secretariat for the National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children

National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children 2004-2010

- Spearheaded by NPA Secretariat, a unit of the Ministry of Planning
- Drafted with the participation of 112 governmental, non-governmental and international institutions working in the field of children's rights and programming
- Based on World Fit for Children, Arab Plan of Action, the CRC & national childhood strategies

Disabled Children

Background

- Lack of sufficient data & definition
- 1.7% children 0-14 are disabled

Programs

- Education for All (MoE)
- Integration in Schools (UNRWA)
- Social Assistance (MoSA)

Outcomes

- 0.6% of all students are disabled
- Low percentage of reintegration into schools

NPA Strategic Goal: To guarantee the right of disabled children to integrate into society equally and ensure their access to services including health, education and social resources.

- Awareness raising on disabled children's right to education
- Implementing law on the rights of the disabled

Children under Israeli Detention

Background

- ? 3,000 since September 2000; Currently 304
- More than half from poor families

Programs

- Rehabilitation & Reintegration (MoD)

Outcomes

- Lack of data
- Most enter vocational training
- Some dropout completely

NPA Strategic Goal: To work on protecting children from health, psychological and economic problems resulting from occupation

- Awareness-raising on prevention
- School reintegration
- Counselling & Rehabilitation

Children in Conflict with the Law

Background

- 766 formally in conflict with the law in 2004

Programs

- 3 rehabilitation institutions (MoSA)

Outcomes

- Less than 10% of children who enter the system receive any sort of service

NPA Strategic Goal: Protection of juveniles socially & legally from delinquency

- Awareness-raising in communities & organizations on causes & protection mechanisms
- Protection of at-risk children from delinquency

Child Laborers

Background

- 22,570 (1.7%) aged 5-17
- 25.01% of male dropouts left school to join the labor force
- 24.3% of child laborers not attending school

Programs

- No comprehensive program
- Short-term Child Labor Reintegration program (NPA Secretariat, MoL, MoSA, UNRWA)

Outcomes

- Percentage of dropouts who left school to join the labor force has increased

NPA Strategic Goal: End illegal employment of children & to protect children who are legally working

- Monitor workplaces
- Reintegrating children into school

Children Victims of Abuse

Background

- Insufficient research & data
- Psychosocial survey 2004 children 5-17: Exposure to violence by place: 69% at home; 46% at school; 30% on the street

Programs

- Child Protection Social Work (MoSA)
- Counselling (MoSA & MoE)

Outcomes

- Cases assisted by MoSA in 2004
 - 165 Physical Abuse, 182 Mental Abuse, 18 Sexual Abuse

NPA Strategic Goal: Protection of children victims of emotional, sexual, physical abuse

- Implementing the Child Law
- Improve family intervention programs

Children Victims of Poverty

Background

- 60.6% households under poverty line (77.3% Gaza)
- 16% of pop. (25% Gaza) under subsistence poverty line

Programs

- Special Hardship Case Program (MoSA & World Bank)

Outcomes

- 135,000 people assisted by MoSA in 2004

NPA Strategic Goal: Reducing the number of children living in extreme poverty

- Improving the income of poor households
- Develop life-skills of marginalized children

Children Victims of Israeli Occupation

Background

- 700 children killed between Sept. 2000- April 2005
- 68% killed during assassination attempts, random Israeli fire, home demolitions, as a result of closure or from unexploded ordinances
- 77.6% basic & secondary school students absent from school due to closure in 2004

Programs

- Support after home demolitions (MoSA)
- Various assistance programs by NGOs
- Advocacy efforts
- Accessing Schools Program (MoE)

Outcomes

- Ongoing violations

NPA Strategic Goal: To work on protecting children from health, psychological and economic problems resulting from occupation

- International advocacy

Challenges & Steps

Challenges	Steps to Overcome Challenges
Lack of cross-sectoral coordination	Building national child protection system
Lack of international pressure for ending occupation	International Advocacy
Inappropriate donor policies	Advocacy & Funding from national budget
Lack of PNA prioritization of children's rights	Lobbying PNA
Lack of Community Awareness on Child Protection	Awareness campaigns

Challenges & Steps

Challenges	Steps to Overcome Challenges
Lack of Research & Monitoring	Establishing a national monitoring system
Lack of prevention	Change priorities from intervention to prevention
Weak legal framework	Amend laws to be in accordance with CRC
Lack of professional standards	Setting of standards & capacity-building
Adopting a rights-based approach	Change priorities from needs to rights

Thank You