

Second Supplementary Report on the Rights of the Palestinian Child in Lebanon

The Coordination Forum of NGOs working in the Palestinian Community

May 2001

General Remarks

1. This supplementary report is based on the Arabic report published in October by the Higher Council for Children entitled *'The Situation of Children in Lebanon, 1993-1998: the national report of Lebanon on the implementation of the CRC.'* Members of the council informed us that it is largely similar to the document currently presented to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
2. The Lebanon State report mentions Palestinian children in response to the *Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Lebanon, 07/06/96, CRC/C/15/Add.54*. One of the Committee's recommendations suggests that Lebanon, in cooperation with UNRWA, should seek ways of addressing the socioeconomic problems of Palestinian refugees that affect children negatively (para. 40).
3. Two other observations by the Committee are indirectly relevant to Palestinian children: the recommendation that Lebanon should consider ratifying the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol (para. 41); the recommendation that relevant international agencies should cooperate with Lebanon in the reconstruction effort and give priority to displaced persons and refugees (para. 45).
4. The national report of Lebanon refers to Palestinian children in conjunction with the outstanding problems and obstacles hampering the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes social and economic policies, reconstruction priorities, the nationality law, the personal status code and 'the interconnection between the political and humanitarian dimensions of the presence of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the regional and international responsibility to provide the needed resources to improve their condition.'¹
5. We are pleased to inform you of the annulment, in January 1999, of Decree 478, mentioned in our previous report, and requiring an exit and entry visa from resident Palestinians. We commend the Lebanese government for this step that has facilitated the reunification of families and reinstated the freedom of travel for Palestinians. We also urge the government to repeal other laws and administrative decrees that are detrimental to Palestinians and their children, especially those that exacerbate the housing problems of the Palestinian community.
6. We appreciate the concrete steps taken by the Lebanese judiciary with the promulgation of a series of laws protecting the rights of children and women. This includes the law enacting compulsory elementary education, the prohibition of gender discrimination in the workplace, the reduction by half of entrance fees to tourist sites and museums for children and the disabled, and the protection of detained juvenile deviants.

I. Introduction

In this supplementary report on the situation of the Palestinian child in Lebanon, the second presented to the Committee on the Right of the Child by the Coordination Forum of NGOs working with the Palestinian Community in Lebanon, we will review the main obstacles still facing the implementation of the Convention

¹Higher Council for Children, Ministry of Social Affairs, Republic of Lebanon, *The Situation of Children in Lebanon, 1993-1998*, (in Arabic) Beirut , Oct. 1998, page XXXVII [Executive Summary]

with additional data on the situation of Palestinian children in Lebanon. This report will give particular emphasis to the legal framework governing the status of Palestinian refugee children both in international law and in the domestic laws of Lebanon with the aim of exploring the most effective and practicable means of instituting mechanisms that will afford Palestinian refugee children in Lebanon (and elsewhere) the opportunity for maximum benefit from the convention without undue delay.

In the period between our first and second report, 24 147 Palestinian children in Lebanon reached adulthood without enjoying their fundamental rights because of the absence of any concrete measures to implement the Convention's articles. In parallel with the preparation for this report, the NGO Forum held a series of workshops with Palestinian children of different age groups. Most of the children approached us with the question: 'are there signs that things will improve soon?'² We cannot but urge all concerned to seriously consider immediate measures to break the existing stalemate. Despite the complexity of the Palestinian issue on the local Lebanese level as well as on the regional and international levels, we believe that solutions are possible and we hope to provide a modest contribution to the exploration of the appropriate venues without undermining the national interests of Lebanon nor the rights of children in Lebanon, including Palestinians.

In this report we will examine the legal status of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the available mechanisms for the implementation of the CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC). We will then present a brief summary of the situation of Palestinians in Lebanon, followed by a review of the assistance available to Palestinian children, and its scope. In the absence of an official report dealing systematically with the situation and rights of the Palestinian child, we have attempted to highlight the most salient problems in light of the limited information on children that is available to us. Considering these limitations, we are unable to present a comprehensive review. We also wish to emphasize that our contribution aims at assisting all concerned, including relevant international agencies and instruments, in finding appropriate solutions.

II. Legal Instruments: applicability and implementing authority

As mentioned in the reporting guidelines, the Committee on the Rights of the Child requests information on the applicable international and domestic laws in relation to refugee children (Article 22). Accordingly we present below what we perceive are the main legal issues that affect the status of Palestinian refugees in international law and in domestic Lebanese law.

A. International Law

1. Legal Status & Collective Rights

Palestinian refugees are statutory refugees, whose plight emerged as a result of the decision of the United Nations to Partition Palestine (UNGA 181) then under British Mandate and which led to the creation of the State of Israel and the eviction of the native Arab population from their homeland. As such, the international community has assumed responsibility for the Palestine refugee question since its inception in 1948.

Over a period spanning more than fifty years, the United Nations enacted a body of resolutions addressing the collective humanitarian needs, national and political rights of Palestinians. These include resolutions on the appropriate negotiating framework for resolving the Palestine question under the aegis of the United Nations. The earliest decision on Palestinian refugees deals with the right of return (UNGA 194) to their homes and lands in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related Geneva Conventions and the right to compensation for losses and damage incurred. UNGA 194 differs from international refugee conventions in that:

²For the views of Palestinian children see Annex 2

Contrary to the thrust of refugee law, which deals with compensation and resettlement, the emphasis in the Palestinian case is on repatriation to their country of origin. The main wish of Palestinian refugees is to be allowed to return to their homeland.³

In addition, the United Nations provided refugees with humanitarian assistance, 'without prejudice to the right of return,' through a special agency, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), created in 1949 (UNGA Res. 302 - IV) and whose mandate is linked to the implementation of UNGA 194.

Palestinian refugees are also vested with a broader set of inalienable national rights since they constitute part of the Palestinian national entity and enjoy the right to self-determination without external interference as well as the right of return (UNGA 3236, 1974). With time, UNRWA has become the guarantor of Palestinian national rights since Palestinians retain their registration with UNRWA as refugees even if they have acquired another nationality.

UNRWA's mandate is principally to provide relief to Palestinian refugees. 'It is an operational agency performing specific tasks of a *governmental character*.'⁴ Its operations are based on two premises 1) the consent of the state which is host to the refugees 2) to perform a range of tasks on behalf of the international community with respect to Palestine refugees. UNRWA underlines the importance of both functions since 'UNRWA cannot function in the territory of the state (or in territory controlled by a state) without its consent. Equally, as an established UN Body, *UNRWA has the duty to safeguard the interests of the United Nations* and adhere to the terms of its mandate.'⁵

2. Legal Status & Individual Rights

Most Palestinian refugees are also stateless and are explicitly excluded from the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention on Stateless persons as long as they receive assistance from UNRWA. On the same basis, they are also explicitly excluded from protection by UNHCR. As shown above, UNRWA's mandate does not empower it to ensure protection for Palestinian refugees nor does it have a clear statute describing its functions like UNHCR. UNRWA's functions have evolved according to the changing political situation in the region sometimes including protectionary measures but only under situations of conflict and occupation, such as the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Lacking access to international protection mechanisms, Palestinian refugees are especially vulnerable since their ability to enjoy individual rights appears to contradict and annul their collective national rights, which have been recognized on the international level *but have yet to be realized*. This contradiction reflects itself in many arenas including their legal status in Lebanon where access to civil and social rights is denied and perceived as an act of de facto forced resettlement upon Lebanon.

The single instrument available to Palestinian refugees that confers them with civil rights is the Casablanca Protocol which was decreed by the Arab League of States in 1965 and which gives them the right to equal treatment with nationals in the Arab host countries except for citizenship. Lebanon has ratified the Casablanca Protocol with reservations and amendments but has never fully implemented it.

B. Domestic Legislation and Procedures relating to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

In 1959, Lebanon created the Directorate of the Affairs of Palestinian refugees (Decree 42) under the Ministry of the Interior and defined its functions (Decree 927) which includes among others:

³ Zureik, Elia; Palestinian Refugees and the Peace Process; Institute for Palestine Studies, Washington DC, 1996, p.8

⁴ UNRWA, A Brief History 1950-1982, v.83-63833, UNRWA Headquarters, Vienna, p.30

⁵ Ibid, p.25

1. coordination with UNRWA on relief, shelter, education and health and social questions
2. provision of travel documents
3. registration of personal status including birth marriage, divorce, marriage annulments, death, change of residence, confession or religion
4. Determining the location of refugee camps

Lebanon also established the High Committee for Palestinian Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Decree 3909, 1960) which had the function of overseeing political issues relating to the Palestinian issue and the Arab Israeli conflict.

As mentioned above, the Casablanca protocol of 1965 formulated recommendations on the treatment of Palestinian residents by the member states of the Arab League. The recommendations are not comprehensive but, while pledging to preserve the national identity of Palestinians, they call for the provision of work permits, employment, freedom of mobility, and residency rights. “The protocol was never harmonized with the immigration and citizenship laws of the host state, let alone the international conventions pertaining to refugees. Whenever conflict arose between national legislation and implementation of the Casablanca Protocol, national legislation prevailed.”⁶

That is why, in Lebanon, Palestinians do not have a clearly defined legal identity within the Lebanese legislative system. Palestinian refugees can register with the Directorate of Palestinian Affairs only if they are registered with UNRWA but UNRWA is not allowed to register Palestinian refugees who entered Lebanon after 1956. Registered refugees are classified as foreigners and thus their basic civil, social and economic rights are implicitly denied under Lebanese law. They are given exceptional treatment in that they are issued identity and travel documents by the Lebanese authorities, through the Directorate of Palestinian Affairs. As other foreigners, Palestinian residents secure employment in Lebanon on the basis of a work permit and are restricted from the practice of most liberal profession. Unlike other foreign wage-earners a Palestinian cannot benefit from end-of-service compensation and social security although these are deducted from their salaries. Lebanese labor law is based on reciprocity of treatment of Lebanese citizens by the country from which the foreign worker originates. Thus being stateless, Palestinians are accorded fewer privileges than other foreign workers in Lebanon.

C. Concluding remarks & Recommendations:

1. Despite their obvious and separate limitations, there are two authorities entrusted with jurisdiction over Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Their civil rights being the prime responsibility of the Lebanese government, while their basic right to health, education and relief is the primary responsibility of the United Nations as embodied by UNRWA. There are many overlapping areas and coordination mechanisms exist in Lebanese legislation and in the agreements between Lebanon and UNRWA.

2. The sensitive political climate surrounding the issue of Palestinian presence, and the limited rights conferred by Lebanon to Palestinian refugees, indicate that progress towards the full implementation of the CRC will be very slow. While the Forum realizes its responsibility to advocate changes in the attitudes prevailing in Lebanon, by the public and by the authorities, these efforts will necessarily also require time. In this context, we are pleased to point out that the Coalition of Lebanese NGOs on the Rights of the Child has adopted a recommendation to integrate the situation of the Palestinian child in their future reports. The forum welcomes this decision and will cooperate fully in the writing of succeeding NGO reports.

⁶ Zureik, Elia; Palestinian Refugees and the Peace Process; Institute for Palestine Studies, Washington DC, 1996

Recommendation 1

In view of the above, and despite the holistic nature of the CRC, we propose that UNRWA assume the position of implementing agency for the CRC in those areas which fall under its mandate while coordinating with the Lebanese government in those areas that fall under its responsibility.

Recommendation 2

The responsibility of the United Nations towards Palestinian refugees implies a responsibility to harmonize the principles of its Conventions with all its UN organs. We therefore encourage the Committee on the Rights of the Child to explore with UNRWA the appropriate mechanisms that will harmonize its policies with the Convention. We believe that once this will occur, the existing cooperation mechanisms between UNRWA, its donor agencies, the host governments and other UN bodies will lead to progress in the implementation of the CRC with regard to Palestinian refugee children.

Specifically, we recommend that the CRC, as a United Nations convention, should constitute a frame of reference for UNRWA's actions with Palestinian children and that it should be explicitly incorporated as a guiding principle for its general policies, in line with the measures adopted by UNHCR⁷. As such UNRWA's policy decisions and its budgetary allocations should give primary consideration to the best interests of the Palestinian child falling under its jurisdiction, and should develop and strengthen the appropriate participation mechanisms for Palestinian children in UNRWA's programs, particularly in the area of education.

III. Characteristics of the Palestinian Population in Lebanon:

Population Size & Distribution

As of 31 December 2000, there was a total of 380,072 Palestinians registered with UNRWA in the Lebanon field. They constitute 10% of the total number of registered refugees with UNRWA and 11.1% of the estimated population of Lebanon⁸.

More than half of the registered Palestinian population (198,369) currently lives in 12 camps administered by UNRWA (see attached Annex 1, Table 2) which are overcrowded and with inadequate basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation. The camps are subject to strict restrictions on construction. These restrictions are implemented by army roadblocks, positioned at the entrances of the camps. In Tyre, the freedom of movement of the camp population is closely regulated (see Annex 2, page 3 for the views of children).

UNRWA has surveyed 14,615 unregistered persons living within the boundaries of its camps. Fourteen other locations, with an estimated population of 32,000, constitute informal camps that are not served by UNRWA and suffer from substandard environmental conditions.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact geographic distribution of the Palestinian population, although most live within the camps or their vicinity. UNRWA figures on camp dwellers (see Table 2) show that they are distributed as follows: Beirut & the Greater Beirut Area 21.6 %, Sidon (Saida) 25.75 %, Tyre 24.16%, Tripoli 19.98%, Beqaa 3.38%.

Poverty Levels:

Since 1992, UNRWA has estimated that 60% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon live below the poverty line. Data compiled in 1996 suggest that proportions may be as high as 80%⁹. Special hardship cases in Lebanon, receiving exceptional assistance from UNRWA, constitute 10.76% of the population (nearly 10,363 families

⁷UNHCR, *Refugee Children: Guidelines on Protection and Care*, Geneva, 1994

⁸Public Information Office, *UNRWA in Figures*, UNRWA Headquarters (Gaza), Aug. 2000

⁹Refugee Study Program, *A Review of Palestinian Women's Situation in Lebanon*, Journal of Refugee Studies, Vo I. 10, Nol 3, Oxford University Press, September 1997

which would encompass some 20,000 children) as compared to 5.54% of the total SHCs served by UNRWA in all fields of operation. This category includes 3688 widows, many of whom are heads of households.

Work and Income Levels

It is estimated that only 5% of the Palestinian work force in Lebanon are regularly employed of whom only 0.16% have work permits. The remainder are employed by UNRWA, NGOs or work regularly in sectors not requiring work authorization such as agriculture, animal husbandry or small enterprises in the camps (Shaaban, 1996). All other working Palestinians are under employed casual laborers working in the agriculture and construction sectors. They average 15 working days per month and earn incomes ranging from \$44 to \$58 per month. It is estimated that 2.4% of Palestinian children aged 7-14 years are working as compared to 1.6% among their Lebanese counterparts. Women form the bulk of the unemployed Palestinian work force, encompassing 80% to 92% of adult women according to UNRWA statistics, bearing in mind that UNRWA uses a broad definition of employment which includes seasonal wage labor. A third of working women are heads of households and secure very low incomes with 69% of female headed households earning below minimum wages as compared to 26% of the average Palestinian household which usually relies on several income earners¹⁰.

The most recent study on Palestinians in Lebanon was conducted in the spring of 1999 by FAFO, the Norwegian Institute for Applied Sciences¹¹. Its initial findings on employment and income levels corroborate the data collected in earlier surveys. The levels of poverty are confirmed as being high since seven in ten Palestinian households fall in the two lowest income brackets as compared to two in ten among Lebanese. None of the Palestinian households surveyed in the FAFO study belonged to the two uppermost income brackets. In addition, income diversification is low and the contribution of transfers from relatives working abroad is slight with one-half of Palestinian households depending on one source of income. On employment, it concludes that there is low labor force participation (42%) mainly due to low female participation (17%). Most important, educational levels do not affect unemployment averages.

IV Special Protection Measures: Refugee Children (Article 22)

Children constitute 35.5% (134,945) of the Palestinian population registered with UNRWA in the Lebanon field (see attached Annex 1, Table 1). It should be noted that UNRWA's registration figures include those refugees who are temporarily residing outside Lebanon, for work or study or even emigration purposes but who have elected to remain registered with the Agency and to retain their refugee status. It is estimated that this category encompasses 60,000 to 100,000 refugees. This migrant group consists mainly of adults rather than families. Enrollment figures in Elementary and Preparatory Schools (see attached Annex 1, Table 4), along with school drop-out rates and estimated non-enrollment, indicate that around 15% of registered children could be currently living outside Lebanon.

While Palestinian children have access to Lebanese public schools, vacancies are understandably limited. However, as mentioned previously, Palestinians in Lebanon cannot benefit from public health services and from social security.

In addition, unregistered refugees whose exact numbers are unknown but are estimated at 50,000 are not eligible for UNRWA services.

Along with UNRWA which is the main service provider, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (a PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION (PLO) institution) offers medical care and hospitalization, and at least 29 NGOs provide a variety of services, educational and development activities targeting children, youth and women.

¹⁰ Tabari, Samia & Zakharia, Leila; Palestinian Women in Lebanon: Health, Work Opportunities and Attitudes; Centre for Lebanese Studies, Oxford; August 1996, p. 26 & 29

¹¹ FAFO, Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon, Lipril Study, initial findings, February 2000

Beyond these limited venues, Palestinian children are unable to enjoy the full scope of rights as set forth by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A. Protection and Humanitarian Assistance

As requested in the report guidelines concerning Article 22, we provide below a description of the services available to Palestinian refugees, the number of children benefiting from these services and the number of staff involved in their delivery

1. Services Provided by UNRWA: ¹²

The Right to Life, Survival and Development (Article 6)

Palestinian refugees and their children are highly vulnerable because they are excluded from all international protection. However, there is no question that UNRWA's services have provided the Palestinian child with the ability of enjoying many of the rights set forth by the Convention, especially the right to education and to health.

The major problem facing UNRWA is a chronic funding shortage that has undermined its regular program in recent years (see Table 5 for a comparison between budgeted and actual expenditures). UNRWA was forced to adopt austerity measures that have been detrimental to the Palestinian population at large and to Palestinian children in particular since basic education is its biggest program and constitutes 52% of its budget. Austerity measures have included restrictions on hiring teachers and doctors that have led to sharp rises in class attendance and patient staff ratios. UNRWA has also reduced hospitalization allocations and frozen university scholarships as well as shelter rehabilitation for the displaced. The impact of these cutbacks on Palestinian children is described under the relevant articles below. However, the situation as it stands seriously threatens the scope and quality of all UNRWA services and the ability of Palestinian children to enjoy the limited rights within their reach.

Recommendation 1: We urge the Secretary General of the United Nations to undertake an immediate and special effort at solving the structural crisis of UNRWA's budget, in order to stop the deterioration of education, health, and welfare services for Palestinian refugees until a just and durable political settlement is reached in accordance with UN Resolution 194.¹³

Recommendation 2: We urge UNRWA to highlight the best interests of the child and the child's right to life, survival and development especially in its fund-raising campaigns with international donors and in its reports to the General Assembly.

a. UNRWA Health Services

UNRWA's medical care services consist of primary health (25 centers), maternal and child health, immunization programs and school health as well as in-patient hospital care partially covered by UNRWA. The average daily consultation per medical officer at UNRWA is 91 patients.

During 1999-00, UNRWA provided the following health services for children: (disaggregated data on children is not available in primary health care and hospital care):

Child health care

Infants under age 1 newly registered	4,579
Children age 0-3 under supervision	13,257

¹²For UNRWA's budgets 1997 through 2000 see Table 5

¹³ from an open letter on International Protection and Implementation of the Right of Return of Palestinian Refugees, issued by Palestinian Refugee Organizations and National Institutions on the Occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, May 2001.

Expanded immunization for infants

From 4, 140 to 4,418 children

School Health

School entrants examined	4,010	
Booster vaccinations		15,474

Recommendation: We urge UNRWA to provide disaggregated data on all health services delivered to Palestinian children spanning the ages 0 - 18, including hospital care.

b. UNRWA Education Program

UNRWA has provided an invaluable contribution to the education of Palestinian refugees, who have enjoyed higher educational standards than prevalent in most Arab countries. This is illustrated by falling illiteracy rates among women. In Lebanon the incidence of illiteracy and semi-literacy has dropped from 78% among Palestinian women aged 45 to 60 years to 13% among younger women aged 15 to 19 years¹⁴.

UNRWA's education program follows the same structure and curriculum as government schools and would therefore benefit from all improvements and revisions in the school curricula of Lebanese schools pertaining to the principles and values of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. (CRC/C/15/Add. 54, para. 33¹⁵)

UNRWA's education program includes general education, teacher education and technical education.

General education

The basic education program consists of a six-year elementary cycle (36 schools), a three-year preparatory cycle (35 schools) and a two-year secondary cycle (3 schools). The latter is an exceptional service offered only in Lebanon field due to the high cost of private secondary schools.

During the 1997-98 school year, the rates of enrollment for registered Palestinian children were 62.7% at the elementary level, 74.9% at the preparatory level and 21.8% at the secondary level (Table 4). As the main provider of education for Palestinian children in Lebanon, UNRWA schools accounted for 78% of all enrolled Palestinian students while 3% were attending Lebanese government schools and 9% were in private schools. In the 1960s, UNRWA became one of the first school systems in the Middle East to achieve equitable enrollment for boys and girls. Enrolled female students in Lebanon constituted more than half of the student force (50.9%) in June 2000¹⁶.

The total enrollment during the academic year 1999/00 consisted of 41,153 children with a staff of 1,353.5 teachers.

Teacher education

UNRWA offers a pre-service training program consisting of a two-year post secondary course leading to a two-year teaching diploma. In the 1999/00 academic year 105 teachers (75 women, 30 men) were enrolled in this course.

UNRWA also provides in-service teacher training courses that included 49 participants in the 1999/00 academic year.

¹⁴ Refugee Study Program, A Review of Palestinian Women's Situation in Lebanon, Journal of Refugee Studies, Vol. 10, No1 3, Oxford University Press, September 1997

¹⁵ from the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Lebanon 07/06/96, pertaining to the incorporation of the principles and values contained in article 29 (1) (d).

¹⁶Public Information Office, UNRWA in Figures, UNRWA Headquarters (Gaza), Aug. 2000

Technical education

This consists of the Sibling Training Center which offers two year post preparatory courses in various vocations. 494 boys and 125 girls were enrolled in the 1999/00 academic year

c. Social Services

UNRWA offers an assistance program for families in the Special Hardship Category who do not have an able-bodied adult male and recently for those families who have no income. The program services 8,261 families which, because of congested living conditions, are a mix of nuclear and extended families and can, according to UNRWA, include up to four generations. Among them 1524 families encompass 4006 widows, and 108 families encompass 276 orphans.

UNRWA also runs support programs for the disabled but does not specify the number of children who fall under this program

Recommendation: We call on UNRWA to provide data on the number of children aged 0-18 years who are included in the Special Hardship Category, and in the programs for the disabled this will help to provide more focused information on the situation of children in the least favorable conditions.

2. Services Provided by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS)

PRCS delivers health services through nine hospitals and 15 clinics with a total capacity of 200 beds. Their staff consists of 200 doctors and 250 nurses. UNRWA contracts 38% of PRCS bed capacity.

PRCS offers primary health care for children from 0 to 18 and receives referrals from UNRWA of children aged 0-14 suffering from seasonal illnesses. PRCS has to struggle to maintain average standards of treatment due to fund reductions by the PLO, very low salaries (ranging from \$200 to 300/Mo. for medical staff) and equipment shortages. Although equipped with incubators, PRCS hospitals cannot provide intensive care or emergency treatment and therefore have to refer their patients to hospitals in their vicinity. They also lack advanced equipment for the detection of chest and lung infections although these are the most common diseases among their patients.

During 2000, PRCS admitted 18,714 patients into its hospitals and conducted 6,055 surgical operations. No separate data is available as to the number of children within these categories.

3. NGOs working with Palestinian refugees

There are 29 principal NGOs working with the Palestinian community¹⁷, covering all the camps as well as many informal squatter areas. They employ 900 men and women on a full-time basis and 633 part timers. Funding for projects with children, particularly pre-school, has been falling in recent years. Most NGOs reported a drop of 25% in the grants provided by international donor agencies. The main NGO programs targeting children are as follows:

Pre-school Education

80 Kindergartens and two nurseries
10000 children

Technical and Vocational Training

31 centers offering mainly short-term training
6400 young trainees

¹⁷Welfare Association and Norwegian People's Aid, Guide to Non-Governmental Organizations Active in Palestinian Camps in Lebanon, Beirut, June 2000

Cultural/Recreational Activities and Programs

at least 2000 youths

Health services and services for the disabled

8 health care centers and 5 dental clinics

4 physiotherapy centers

7 centers for disabled children (approximately 400 children annually)

The Health Fund - surgery assistance for 50 children annually

B. The Right to Health and Welfare (Article 24)

1. Salient Health Problems among Children

Acute poverty levels, unhealthy living conditions and limited resources for Palestinians in Lebanon, has led to limited services for disabled children, high incidence of communicable disease and relatively high rates of malnutrition.

Situation of the mentally and physically disabled child

Disability affects 2888 Palestinians in Lebanon. The main causes of disability are congenital (39.4%) and disease (35.4%). War related causes are linked to 16.3% of disabilities. One fifth (578) of the disabled are children aged 0-14 in addition to an additional 8% aged 15 - 19 years. It can therefore be assumed that at least 25% of the disabled are aged 0-18 years. The majority of children suffer from disabilities due to congenital causes (nearly 75%) and disease (nearly 17%). The preponderance of congenital disabilities indicates serious problems at the level of pre-natal, neo-natal and post-natal care. More than 50% of the disabled aged 10 to 18 years of age are illiterate, in line with the aggregate illiteracy rates of all the disabled (53.8%). No separate data is available on mental disability and educational levels. Medical services catering for the disabled are few and substandard. Training and educational opportunities are also limited (only 0.6% of all the disabled have attended some form of vocational training although 22% are working, of whom 3% hold work permits). Gender variances are not available.¹⁸

Child Morbidity

For environmental reasons the incidence of communicable diseases is high among Palestinian children in Lebanon (as is the case for all Palestinian refugees in the region). This includes morbidity linked to acute respiratory infections because of overcrowded and poorly ventilated housing with 44% of children under five suffering from either cough or cold or both with around a quarter suffering from fever or breathing difficulties. Diarrhea disease with complications was found to affect 87% of cases surveyed in a 1996 study.¹⁹

PRCS indicates that the most prominent illnesses among children are pneumonia, bronchitis and influenza. There is a high incidence of rheumatism amongst children from the poorest families due to humid and poorly ventilated housing.

Malnutrition and Under nourishment

According to the initial findings of the FAFO survey, 5% of Palestinian children aged 1 to 3 years old are malnourished compared to less than 1% in the camps of Jordan with another 4% falling in the group of

¹⁸Coordination Forum for NGOs working in the Disability Field, Results of the Palestinian Disability Card Survey, Beirut, April 2000

¹⁹UNICEF, the Situation of Palestinian Children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon: an assessment based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Jordan 2000, p. 30-31

vulnerable children as compared to 2% in Jordan²⁰ UNICEF also indicates that there are high rates of hidden hunger or micro-nutrient deficiency at 30% of registered Palestinian children.²¹

Recommendations: 1) We repeat our call for the provision of work permits to Palestinians in Lebanon, in line with other foreign workers, in order to improve the community's economic situation. 2) We also urge the Lebanese government to facilitate programs that aim to upgrade environmental conditions in UNRWA camps. 3) We urge UNRWA to raise its health budget taking into consideration the best interests of the child. 4) We urge all concerned organizations including PRCS and NGOs to provide disaggregated data on children. This is particularly important in relation to monitoring the health situation of children (especially hospitalization, surgery and the causes thereof).

2. Standard of Living (Article 27, paras 1-3)

As mentioned above, UNRWA camps have become highly congested since they were first established in the 1950s. Only 58% of households have access to sewerage facilities and most families live under highly cramped conditions. The construction of housing within UNRWA camps in Lebanon is restricted although the population has grown threefold since its arrival in Lebanon and, in the interim, has lost one fifth of official refugee camp areas. As a result, the three camps that were destroyed during the war in Lebanon (Tel El Zaatar, Jisr El Basha, Nabatiyeh) have not been reconstructed nor replaced. In 1995, plans by the Lebanese authorities and UNRWA to erect a replacement camp generated widespread political controversy and were quickly shelved.

The housing crisis is further complicated by Lebanon's post-war reconstruction plans. UNRWA has been notified that hundreds of houses within the limits of many camps will be demolished for that purpose. The most recent notification concerns the Al Buss camp in Tyre where over 250 houses will soon be razed to build a highway on the outskirts of the camp.

A recent survey sponsored by UNICEF indicates that more than 79% of Palestinian children (inside and outside UNRWA camps) belong to large households consisting of 6 persons or more, although the average size of a Palestinian family is 4.8 persons. With only a few exceptions, these large families live in shelters consisting of two or three rooms (see Annex 1, Table No. 3), at an average size of 13.5 square meters per room²². Furthermore, around 8.3 % of families consisting of 6 to 11 members reside in one room.

It is for this reason that respiratory infections are the third leading cause (16%)²³ for infant mortality among registered Palestinian refugee children, without accounting for unregistered refugees who generally live in substandard squatter areas, that are poorly ventilated and lack water or sewerage connections. The impact of housing conditions on children's health appears in a 1996 survey of refugee camps and squatter areas. It found that 44 percent of under-fives suffered either a cough (9%), cold (10%) or both cold and cough at the time of the survey of whom around one-quarter also suffered from either fever or breathing difficulties²⁴.

Recommendation: In the best interest of the child, we urge the Lebanese government to review its restrictions on construction within all Palestinian camps and to coordinate with UNRWA in this regard. We also urge the Lebanese government to annul housing demolition, to address the housing crisis faced by Palestinians in a humane manner and to assist UNRWA in improving the standard of living of Palestinian children.

²⁰FAFO, Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon, Lipril Study, initial findings, February 2000

²¹Op. cit, p. 33

²²Palestinian Social Research Committee, Education of the Palestinian Camp Population in Lebanon: overall conditions and problems, 1996-1997, (in Arabic), p. 8

²³UNRWA, Annual Report of the Department of Health 1999, Amman, p. 43

²⁴UNICEF, the Situation of Palestinian Children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon: an assessment based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Jordan 2000, p. 30

C. The Right to Education (art. 29)

Drop out and non-enrollment rates

The most recent overview of the educational situation of Palestinians in Lebanon (living inside and outside the camps) confirms many previous surveys indicating that educational levels are declining, especially among women and the young. There is significant non-enrollment (21%) among children aged 7 to 18 years. Enrollment begins to decline rapidly from age 11, particularly among boys. The enrollment rate of children 5 to 9 years old is similar to Lebanese rates for the same age group, but drops to half the Lebanese rate for the 15 - 24 age group. Most students quit for economic reasons or de-motivation. One fourth of early school dropouts is caused by de-motivation, lack of interest and repeated failure. Economic reasons for dropping out of school increase in importance with increasing educational level.²⁵

Literacy Rates

There are no reliable statistics on illiteracy and semi-literacy rates among children, although NGOs are detecting a rising trend in this area. Illiteracy estimates for children range from 17.2%²⁶ to 7.7% (F5.2 - M8.9)²⁷.

School congestion

Class overcrowding is severe in UNRWA schools and certainly has an impact on the quality of teaching and on teacher student relations. The average occupancy rate of classrooms in UNRWA schools in Lebanon was 39.5 students in 1999-2000, but 18.1% of class sections contain more than 48 students²⁸. The congestion of classrooms seems to be increasing rapidly when compared to occupancy rates during the 1994-95 and the 1997-98 academic years (Table 6) when the maximum rates did not exceed 44.7 and 46.3 respectively. This situation is connected both to UNRWA's financial crisis and the restrictions on construction imposed by the Lebanese authorities, including prohibiting the construction of UNRWA schools outside the limits of the camps, even when funds are available. This situation affects the right of the child to development (Article 6.2 and 29 1.a) and depends on changes in the policy of the Lebanese government to restrict construction and housing for its Palestinian residents (we have tackled this issue in several recommendations).

Demoralization, arising from the increasingly difficult living conditions, rising restrictions, overcrowded school facilities, reduced UNRWA services and an uncertain future, is reflected in surveys of the attitudes of students, teaching staff and parents.

School Discipline and the Quality of Education

In a recent study sponsored by UNICEF it was revealed that the majority of children who drop out of school leave because of school connected reasons. Failure in school, de-motivation and harsh treatment are quoted by 67.5% of boys and 57.6% of girls, with economic reasons affecting another 19.6% of boys and 16.6% of girls.²⁹ Verbal abuse and harsh treatment by teaching staff are reported frequently and appear to

²⁵FAFO, Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon, Lipril Study, initial findings, February 2000

²⁶Palestinian Social Research Committee, Education of the Palestinian Camp Population in Lebanon: overall conditions and problems, 1996-1997, (Abstract and Main Findings), p.4

²⁷PCBS, Working Children and the Social Conditions in the Palestinian Refugee Camps and Gatherings, December 2000 (in Arabic), p.37

²⁸United Nations, Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1 July 1999-30 June 2000, General Assembly, Official records, Fifty--fifth session, Supplement No. 13 (A/55/13), p.52

²⁹PCBS, Working Children and the Social Conditions in the Palestinian Refugee Camps and Gatherings, December 2000 (in Arabic), p.38

be practiced on a wide scale³⁰, although parents and children are loath to take action. UNRWA prohibits corporal punishment and verbal abuse but found it necessary to issue recently detailed instructions on school discipline.

In our opinion these measures are insufficient and require an in-depth approach that incorporates training and awareness raising of teaching staff on building a respectful relationship with students (in accordance with **Article 28.2** on the child's right to be treated and disciplined in a manner consistent with human dignity).

Recommendation 1: We strongly urge UNRWA to introduce the CRC as a standard of practice for all its staff, particularly those dealing directly with children and more specifically its teaching body. We further recommend the immediate incorporation of the CRC in all UNRWA's pre-service and in-service training programs for UNRWA teachers, in addition to special training for all teaching personnel. Priority should be given to the Lebanon field office in view of recurring reports on the mistreatment of students. We also recommend the establishment of monitoring and complaint mechanisms that are accessible to all children and their parents.

Recommendation 2: We also strongly recommend that UNICEF provide more widespread assistance in disseminating the Convention within the Palestinian community and among NGOs. This will allow NGOs to widen their awareness raising activities concerning the CRC. It is highly important that NGOs assume a leading role in improving the relations between UNRWA teachers and their students, as well as in working with parents specifically on the issue of discipline and punishment whether at school or at home. NGOs should also assist students in presenting complaints on bad treatment with the aim of promoting harmonious rather than conflictual relations in order to encourage children to pursue their education.

UNRWA Schools, Teachers and Parents: The need to upgrade the quality of education & reinforce Parental Involvement in the school system

Another recent study, conducted in 1996, provides insight on the UNRWA educational system from the perspective of parents, students and teachers in the Palestinian camps of Lebanon³¹. Parental attitudes towards the education of their children were generally positive and highly supportive, reflecting a good understanding of educational concepts and values. The majority of parents opposed corporal punishment in school (70%) and desired their children to pursue either academic (68%) or technical (30%) education. However, the parents' relationship with the school system was either erratic or non-existent. Nearly a quarter initiated contact with the school on a regular basis and 40% did so irregularly. On the other hand, 11% of parents declared that UNRWA schools initiated periodic contact with them while 30% mentioned that the schools contacted them irregularly or occasionally.³² The majority of UNRWA teachers corroborated in their responses that parent-school relations were either weak or non-existent.

In addition to student demotivation and class overcrowding, problems identified by UNRWA teachers covered a wide-range of issues that have direct impact on the quality of education, of which the most salient are excessive work load, weak internal monitoring systems and the limited scope of in-service teacher training.

V Civil Rights and Freedoms

Name & Nationality (Article 7)

As mentioned in our previous report, there is an undetermined population of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon who are unregistered with UNRWA because they entered Lebanon after 1956, and are ineligible to

³⁰UNICEF, the Situation of Palestinian Children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon: an assessment based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Jordan 2000, p. 47

³¹Palestinian Social Research Committee, Education of the Palestinian Camp Population in Lebanon: overall conditions and problems, 1996-1997, (in Arabic)

³²Ibid, p. 78-79

a residency permit. Their children are extremely vulnerable since they cannot register as Palestinian refugees with the Bureau of Palestinian Affairs, do not possess any birth certification and proof of Palestinian nationality and cannot benefit officially from UNRWA services.

Recommendation 1: We urge the Lebanese government to adopt special measures that will allow these children to be treated at least on par with UNRWA registered Palestinian children, especially in terms of birth certification and access to UNRWA services. We also urge Lebanon to raise the issue with the Arab League in order to find an appropriate solution for this category of Palestinians, under the Casablanca Protocol and other pertinent agreements.

Recommendation 2: We urge UNRWA to raise the question of unregistered Palestinian children with the Lebanese government to find the appropriate measures to resolve their anomalous civil situation

VI. General Principles

A. Non-discrimination (Article no. 2)

A recent property law (Decree 296) promulgated on May 3, 2001, prohibits any person without a 'recognized nationality' from the ownership of property or any person whose act of ownership will contradict the Lebanese constitution in its opposition to 'forced resettlement' [of Palestinian refugees]. This measure constitutes a severe blow to those Palestinian families who do not reside in camps and those who have invested their savings towards purchasing apartments to solve the severe housing shortage inside UNRWA camps (see above, standard of living). Those Palestinians who have already purchased apartments will not be able to transfer their deeds to their children and will be forced to sell them to Lebanese or to any nationality other than Palestinian. Those Palestinians who are in the process of paying mortgage will have no way of recuperating the installments they have paid.

Recommendation: We urge the Lebanese government to annul this discriminatory law, which also violates the Casablanca Protocol as ratified by Lebanon and which, in its opening text, recognizes the existence of the Palestinian nationality. This law will deprive generations of Palestinian children from adequate housing especially in view of the construction restrictions imposed on the Palestinian camps and of the very high rental rates outside the camps.

B. Views of the child

The Palestinian community in Lebanon is highly marginalised and has little control over the decisions that determine its present and its future, whether these decisions are local, regional or international. Under these stagnant circumstances, the views of the Palestinian child are rarely accounted for in the personal space, at school and in the communal space. Several NGOs have been organizing for many years workshops and activities to disseminate the CRC among children. This has raised awareness about children's rights but has underlined their inaccessibility as well, and with it NGOs are worried about generating false hopes and/or demoralisation in children. Our exploration of children's views concerning their rights is attached in Annex II. They reveal comprehensive concerns about their personal and collective fate, their limited opportunities and their current situation.

C. Right to Life (Article 6)

Under the CRC it is necessary to ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child. This is closely connected to, among others, the right to health and the right to adequate housing.

Infant Mortality Rate and Under Five Mortality Rate

The leading causes of infant mortality among registered refugees are premature birth and low birth weight (22%) followed by respiratory infections (16%) as mentioned earlier. In addition, infant and under-five mortality rates are significantly higher in informal camps (45 and 52 per 1000 live births respectively) when compared to registered refugees (35 and 37 respectively). Both rates are higher than those of Palestinian

children in Jordan (32 and 35), and in the occupied Palestinian territories (27 and 33)³³ as well as children in Lebanon (26 and 33)³⁴.

UNRWA will target a 10% decrease in the 2000-2001 biennium by upgrading the quality of ante-natal care, ensuring proper birth spacing, early detection and systematic gynecological follow-up.³⁵ It should be noted here that while mean marital age among Palestinian in Lebanon is 19.6, short birth intervals are still very common among 35% of women, although the mean interval is 36.7 months³⁶

Hospitalization

As mentioned above, Palestinians do not have access to public health service in Lebanon and few can afford health insurance. When hospitalization is required, they are dependent on the hospital services subsidized by UNRWA through contractual agreements with 13 private hospitals, including PRCS. Unfortunately, patients must make co-payments for specialized life-saving treatment, that is, when the costs are exorbitant. Infants and children needing treatment such as open-heart surgery, have to wait for weeks until the fees are collected from various sources (UNRWA, NGOs, charities) before they can be admitted to hospitals. Private hospitals require pre-payment from Palestinians no matter how serious their condition. Through UNRWA 14,501 patients were admitted to hospital in 1999-2000. There is no information on the proportion of children involved or the nature of the treatment.

Recommendation 1: Because of the adverse health effects of substandard housing and based on the child's right to life and survival, we reiterate our appeal to the Lebanese government to lift all forms of housing restrictions imposed on Palestinian refugees, including resolving the question of displaced refugees, unregistered refugees and the prohibition on property ownership

Recommendation 2: We commend UNRWA on its continuing fund raising efforts to secure extra-budgetary funding for hospitalization, its plan to establish a health information system and to strengthen its preventive health services. We recommend that the best interest of the child be taken into consideration as well as the child's right to survival and development.

VII Conclusion

The exclusion of Palestinian children from the full enjoyment of their basic rights stems from the fact that they are both refugees and stateless. As the children mention in Annex 2, page 9, they need 'the right to a homeland in order to practice their rights.'

1. Best Interests of the Child, The Right to Survival & Development

The best interests of the Palestinian refugee child are addressed through UNRWA's programmatic priorities focusing on education and health. NGOs in Lebanon have assumed an important complementary role, despite many limitations, with pre-school programs reaching nearly three quarters of Palestinian children, and programs for disabled children. However, UNRWA urgently needs to reflect the best interests of the child in its general policies, operating standards and educational regulations.

³³UNICEF, the Situation of Palestinian Children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon: an assessment based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Jordan 2000, p. 29 - 30

³⁴Central Census Bureau of Lebanon, Study on the Situation of Children in Lebanon, initial findings, press conference, March 2, 2001

³⁵UNRWA, Annual Report of the Department of Health 1999.

³⁶United Nations, Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1 July 1999-30 June 2000, General Assembly, Official records, Fifty--fifth session, Supplement No. 13 (A/55/13),p.55

At the level of the Lebanese government, there is an urgent need to revise policies that are highly detrimental to the best interests of Palestinian children, particularly the severe limitations on construction affecting both the general population and UNRWA facilities.

At the level of international cooperation, the erosion of funding for UNRWA (and for NGOs working with Palestinian refugee children) requires vigorous intervention by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Secretary General of the United Nations. As recently as March 2001, the UN Commission on Human Rights Commission of Inquiry had noted in its report (E/CN.4/2001/121) that “no other refugee community in the world is so excluded.” It is time to redress this preposterous situation. Consideration for the best interests of the Palestinian child would be one, if tiny, step forward.

2. Non-discrimination

All children in Lebanon, girls and boys, Palestinian and Lebanese, need to be protected from discrimination by the enactment of explicit non-discrimination laws, and through public consciousness raising campaigns bridging the gaps between communities.

On the international level, Palestinian refugee children need mechanisms that can lead to the implementation of their rights as children, as refugees and as Palestinians through a just and lasting peace settlement based on UN resolutions, international law and the United Nations Charter of Human Rights.

Second Supplementary Report on the Rights of the Palestinian Child in Lebanon

ANNEX 1 - Tables

Table 1. Number of Registered Palestinian Children in Lebanon as of 31 December 2000³⁷

Age	Male	Female	Total
0	1769	1722	3491
1	2807	2605	5412
2	3203	2952	6155
3	3284	3208	6492
4	3443	3345	6788
5	3736	3539	7275
6	3845	3634	7479
7	4059	3859	7918
8	4206	4081	8287
9	4173	3985	8158
10	4364	4054	8418
11	4206	3932	8138
12	3947	3858	7805
13	3767	3588	7355
14	3730	3528	7258
15	3682	3489	7171
16	3740	3515	7255
17	3415	3305	6720
18	3765	3605	7370
Total Children from 0-18	69141	65804	134945
Total registered population	193181	186891	380072
% of Children	35.79	35.20	35.50

³⁷Department of Relief & Social Services, Registration Statistical Bulletin for the Fourth Quarter 2000(4/2000); UNRWA - HQ Amman, p.19

Table 2 . Total Registered Camp Population (31.12.2000)³⁸

Region	Camp	Official Registered			Unofficial	Total
		Families	Persons	Babies	Registered	
					Persons	Persons
Beirut	Mar Elias	174	617	4	793	1410
	Total Beirut	174	617	4	793	1410
Mountain	Burj Barajneh	3398	14596	121	4327	18923
	Dikwaneh	2049	8970	36	0	8970
	Dbayeh	1063	3989	11	236	4225
	Chatila	1779	7727	74	4750	12477
	Total Mountain	8289	35282	242	9313	44595
Saida (south Lebanon)	Ein El Hilweh	9,587	42,096	564	1,150	43,246
	Nabatiyeh ³⁹	1,479	6,725	72	0	6,725
	Mia Mia	1,031	4,239	47	650	4,889
	Total Saida	12,097	53,060	683	1,800	54,860
Tyre (south Lebanon)	Buss	2,001	8,651	94	972	9,623
	Rashidieh	5,204	23,688	291	383	24,071
	Burj Shamali	3,829	17,308	198	470	17,778
	Total Tyre	11,034	49,647	583	1,825	51,472
Tripoli (north Lebanon)	Nahr El Bared	5,627	27,220	395	132	27,352
	Bedawwi	3,191	14,578	153	637	15,215
	Total Tripoli	8,818	41,798	548	769	42,567
Beqaa valley	Wavel	1,572	7,088	70	115	7,203
	Total Beqaa	1,572	7,088	70	115	7,203
UNRWA employees and refugee women married to non-registered husbands		2,462	10,877	94	0	10877
Lebanon Field Total		44,446	198,369	2,224	14,615	212,984

³⁸Ibid, p. 14³⁹Nabatiyeh camp is one of the three destroyed camps that have never been reconstructed. Its population is displaced and listed under the name of the former location.

Table 3. Proportions of Occupancy in Palestinian Households According to Family size and Size of Shelter⁴⁰

Family Size	No. of Rooms in Household						Total (%)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
2 & below	45.2	38.1	16.7	-	-	-	100
3 - 5	13.0	48.5	31.1	4.7	2.4	0.3	100
6 - 8	8.3	47.8	32.9	8.0	1.5	0.5	100
9 - 11	8.4	38.9	37.3	9.8	3.9	1.7	100
12 (+)	-	46.8	28.8	22.3	2.1	-	100
Total (%)	9.2	46.2	33.1	8.2	2.7	0.6	
Total (no. of children)	550	2774	1984	491	163	38	6000

Table 4. Refugee Pupil Enrollment in Lebanon Distributed by level of education and School Authority⁴¹ - 1997-1998

Education Level	School Authority ⁴²	No. of Enrolled Students	No. of Registered Palestinians/relevant age group	Enrollment percentage
Elementary	UNRWA schools	25932		
	Government schools	692		
	Private schools	2629		
	Total	29253	46627	62.7
Preparatory	UNRWA schools	12544		
	Government schools	461		
	Private schools	2812		
	Total	15817	21121	74.9
Secondary	UNRWA schools	649		
	Government schools	506		
	Private schools	3665		
	Total	4820	22061	21.8

⁴⁰PCBS, Working Children and the Social Conditions in the Palestinian Refugee Camps and Gatherings, December 2000 (in Arabic), p.17. Note: this study is based on a sample of 6000 children aged 7-17 years belonging to 2350 Palestinian families. Only percentages are provided in this table and it is important to note that 79% of families surveyed consist of 6 persons or more.

⁴¹UNRWA, Department of Education, Statistical Yearbook 1997-1998, No. 34, April 1999, Amman, p.26

⁴²Enrolment figures in government and private schools are viewed as incomplete by UNRWA since not all attendance in these schools is reported to UNRWA.

Table 5. UNRWA's Regular Budget 1997 to 2000 - Lebanon Field⁴³
(millions of United States dollars)

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Lebanon	All Fields	Lebanon	All Fields	Lebanon	All Fields	Lebanon	All Fields
Education	17.2	167.1	19.5	160.3	19.8	164.9	23.0	161.7
Health	8.7	61.3	12.0	62.6	12.5	63.9	9.0 ⁴⁴	53.3
Relief and social services	7.1	38.0	7.6	42.6	7.8	43.6	5.9	31.1
Operational services	3.1	25.2	3.1	22.7	3.2	22.9	2.4	15.3
Common services	3.0	47.5	3.1	42.6	3.3	45.5	3.2	39.5
Termination Indemnities				12.1		12.0		
Total Budget	39.2	351.8	45.3	342.9	46.6	352.8	43.5	300.9
Actual Expenditure	-	270.7	-	254.0	-	273.2	-	-
RR Population	359,005	3,417,688	364,551	3,521,130	370,144	3,625,592	376,472	3,737,494
% Increase in RR Population	1.8	3.3	1.5	3	1.5	2.9	1.7	3.08

Table 6 - Occupancy of Class Sections in UNRWA Schools - Lebanon Field from 1994-95 to 1997-98⁴⁵

Class Sections	UNRWA Property		Rented Premises		Donated Premises		Grand Total	
	94-95	97-98	94-95	97-98	94-95	97-98	94-95	97-98
1st Elementary	44.7	44.5	30.9	34.6	33.1	34.2	38.5	40.6
2nd Elementary	42.1	45.8	32.0	36.0	32.9	32.8	37.5	41.8
3rd Elementary	43.5	45.3	32.1	33.6	32.2	29.6	38.0	40.2
4th Elementary	43.5	46.3	31.6	34.3	27.7	29.9	40.2	40.8
5th Elementary	42.2	42.4	32.0	33.9	31.2	40.0	36.8	39.1
6th Elementary	41.5	40.8	30.2	32.3	30.5	33.8	35.4	37.2
Total Elementary Cycle	43.0	44.2	31.5	34.1	31.1	33.0	37.2	40.0
I Preparatory	40.0	44.3	34.2	38.7	26.6	29.4	36.5	41.5
II Preparatory	37.6	42.8	33.8	34.7	27.8	32.3	35.3	39.1
III Preparatory	36.8	40.7	31.7	35.4	27.6	31.7	33.9	38.3
IV Preparatory	36.6	37.0	29.1	33.8	25.3	26.0	32.4	35.3
Total Preparatory Cycle	38.0	41.6	32.6	35.8	26.9	29.9	34.9	38.8

⁴³United Nations, Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1 July 1997-30 June 1998 to 1 July 1999-30 June 2000, General Assembly, Official records, Fifty-third to fifty-fifth session, Supplements No. 13 (A/53/13 to A/55/13)

⁴⁴Health allocations in 2000 were reduced because UNRWA's hospitalization scheme will be henceforth covered by an extrabudgetary contribution of US\$ 4.4 million/year from Norway, Canada and World Vision.

⁴⁵UNRWA, Department of Education, Statistical Yearbooks 1994-1995 and 1997-1998, Amman, Jordan

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ANNEX 2 - Workshops on Children's Rights

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7KHIZIRUMKRSVIDORVHUYHGDM UJKWITVVKHIO KWITVVKHLEXUHQVHDOMV
DISDMRUP QIQZIKFKIEKIGUHQYRIFHGIVKHLXW RVVROFHUQMDQGISURSRVHG
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CHILDREN'S CONCERNS

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7KH QVDMZH \Z RXGONHVVKHHDGGUVMHGIIQVVKH85 QHSRUW UREOP VS
VSLFVVKH \EDP HIRXVVKHIZIHIDMIRORZ VIQRUGHURISURUW

Category 1

? Basic rights, noting the deprivation of their basic rights and the decline of UNRWA services. They mainly stressed the right to Education, followed by the right to proper Healthcare.

Category 2

? RIQE UJKVIZIRUNEM RI3DMMQDQIEYIQQ KW D 3URMFMARQ
DJDLQVEXVHIRI F 3DMMQDQIEKIGUHQIQVVKHIRFFXSILHGVMUVRUHV
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⁴⁶ except for one boy who is 6 years old

Category 3

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CHILDREN'S REPORTS

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DQGL [K] [D] [M] [Z] [Y] [M] [S] [U] [R] [S] [H] [U] [P] [H] [G] [L] [Q] [H] [I] [R] [U] [□] [S] [U] [R] [Y] [L] [G] [M] [I] [X] [D] [D] [W] [□] [K] [H] [D] [O] [K] [F] [D] [U] [H] [V] [H] [U] [Y] [F] [H] [V]
+R [V] [S] [L] [V] [D] [□] [7] [K] [H] [I] [S] [U] [R] [Y] [M] [R] [Q] [R] [I] [□] [H] [D] [O] [K] [V] [H] [U] [Y] [F] [H] [V] [K] [R] [X] [G] [E] [H] [E] [□] [S] [D] [Q] [G] [H] [G] [S] [D] [M] [H] [Q] [W]
[V] [K] [R] [X] [G] [E] [H] [P] [S] [V] [D] [Q] [M] [Q] [D] [Q] [M] [I] [R] [P] [□] [X] [U] [H] [U] [□] [H] [M] [E] [H] [F] [D] [X] [V] [H] [I] [S] [D] [M] [H] [Q] [M] [G] [H] [I] [D] [M] [H] [□]
[H] [Q] [M] [D] [Q] [F] [H] [I] [R] [I] [V] [K] [H] [I] [K] [R] [V] [S] [L] [V] [D] [□] [K] [H] [□] [G] [R] [Q] [R] [S] [□]

: HIKDYHIKHDK [E] [H] [Q] [M] [U] [I] [Q] [B] [D] [Q] [M] [Q] [D] [Q] [E] [D] [P] [S] [V] [E] [X] [V] [K] [H] [□] [D] [U] [H] [I] [Q] [P] [□] [V] [H] [U] [D] [E] [O] [□]
[7] [K] [H] [□] [D] [U] [H] [I] [Q] [R] [W] [Z] [P] [D] [Q] [H] [□] [F] [R] [Q] [L] [W] [R] [Q] [M] [E] [H] [F] [D] [X] [V] [H] [I] [R] [I] [V] [K] [H] [I] [S] [H] [R] [S] [O] [H] [V] [K] [D] [W] [K] [Q] [V] [K] [H] [P]
, [Q] [I] [D] [G] [G] [L] [W] [R] [Q] [V] [K] [H] [□] [I] [R] [U] [M] [K] [H] [□] [G] [R] [Q] [R] [W] [Y] [H] [V] [K] [H] [I] [S] [U] [R] [S] [H] [U] [P] [H] [G] [L] [Q] [H] [V] [K] [S] [D] [M] [H] [Q] [W]
[R] [U] [D] [O] [E] [R] [P] [S] [O] [L] [Q] [E] [R] [X] [V] [K] [H] [I] [S] [D] [M] [H] [Q] [M] [I] [Q] [M] [D] [G] [R] [I] [S] [U] [R] [Y] [L] [G] [Q] [□] [V] [K] [H] [I] [S] [D] [M] [H] [Q] [M] [Z] [I] [V] [K] [E]
[V] [X] [S] [S] [R] [U] [V] [E] [H] [G] [H] [G] [V] [K] [G] [H] [F] [U] [D] [V] [K] [H] [U] [X] [I] [H] [U] [Q]

KR [V] [S] [L] [V] [D] [□] [F] [N] [I] [K] [J] [L] [H] [Q] [H] [D] [Q] [□] [7] [K] [H] [U] [H] [I] [S] [D] [Q] [R] [W] [K] [H] [U] [E] [S] [R] [U] [D] [Q] [M] [Z] [D] [M] [U]
[G] [H] [O] [R] [S] [P] [H] [Q] [W]

We demand to have:

- SURSHUKHDOMFDUH
- Z HQTIXLSSHGIRSHUDMQJ QURRP VIDQGIQQQFV
- VSHFDQJHGGFRFARU
- IJHHKRVSLMDQJ DMRQ
- FCLQFVDMFKRRVITQIEDMHIDEKIGIKDMDQIDFFLGHQW
- VXTLFLHQXP EHURTIKRVSLMDQVIDQGIQQQFV
- DEEDQIEQYLROQ HQW

+HIZIDM \ HDURGIER \ QHQQ - D \$ VWRU VRCGIE \ ROHRI VKHISDUWFS DOW
 WKH \ HVEI RVKHUEDUJHGKIP \ VADIBDOMMQDQIEQQFQQ VXTIHULQ QURP QDIERG
 \$ QJ KMHIEKIGIERXG \ +HIZIDMEI DP LQHGDQGIYHQI HGLFDMRQ FDP S
 +LV \ +LVKH DUMMEHDMQJ QIDVQGIKIVKDQGMZIHUHWHP EQJ QRWZYH
 7KHIGRFARU DGIKMDMHI HGLFQH P RVHUMRNKIP \ VADQRW HUGRFARU
 WKH \ QDYHIKIP QZ DMGDQJ HURXVIDQGIKMDMMDXQ QLYHQVRCGISHRSQ
 7KIMEKIGIEI \ QRXQJ EURWJU ZKR VXTIHULRP QKJ KIEORGISUHWXU

2) Article 32 (Child labor)

: HZHHEI DQ \ EKLGUHQZIRUNQJ \ RQVXHWVHMZSHFDQ \ VHQJ \ QVWU \
 DQGEIH \ RQVXHWVHMZ \ KLGUHQJ \ DYHVKRRO \ LQWDTIF \ HZ \ HQIEDU \
 : RUNQJ \ QISDLQMQ \ XLQVUHIDGYHUVQ \ DTHFVWKH \ RUGUM \ VXUYH
 : HZH \ HVMITQ \ RXU : HQJQJ \ Z \ HDNHQV \ HUE \ HMJ KW \ VQJQJ \ VFKLGUHQ
 FDP SV

DJHQUXSEI HQMRQHGVMVDUMFEI - RQJQVXHWVHMZ

5HXJHHQJ KW \$ UMFQ

7KH \ 7KHIEDP SVITQVXWKZIHEDQRQJUHIXQGHUMHI HIE \ VKHIZHEDQMHDUP \
 %LUM \ DUP \ \SUHYHQVWKHIEQMA \ RIERQVWKFRQI \ DMUDQVXWKHIEDP SV
 7KHIEI RVMZ \ VXTIHULRP \ P DQ \ \SUREOP \ VPHUKVQ \ QVUDQKHIEDP S \
 GLP DQMQJ \ RIVKHIEDP S \ QIRUGU \ HQFAMFW \ Z DMU \ SURP LQHQQH
 0 RVMZ SVITQVXWKHIEQMA \ VXTIHULRP \ Z DMU \ VRIERQVWKFRQI \ HV
 SROVRO

815: \$ \VKRXG \ HFRQVWKFRQV \ HIKRXVMDQGIEXLQGISURSHUHZ DJ HZ \ VMP V
 0 DQ \ EKLGUHQVXTIHULRP \ MYHUCQ \ DMVMEHFDXVHRI \ VLV

,QZHEDQRQZIH \ \$ QDP SVDFNVSDFHIZIKHUHIZIHEDQISQ \ QDQGIKDYHIXQ
 : HIGHP DQGIKHISURVWFRQIRI \ RXUEKLGUHQJURP \ KDYHIQRISURVWFRQ
 EHFRP LQ \ KRP HQMIDQGIQVQJ \ VHP VHYH

Note: the above also applies to Articles 31 (leisure) & 27 (adequate standard of living)

: DU \$ UMF0□

,QZHEDQRQZ DQ □ 7KLMVQRWZSOP HQMGIQZHE DQRQDQG3D0MMQH
,Q3D0MMQH VFKRRQZGHQWIDUHIZRXQGHGIRP □ VUDHODJ UHMRQ
VIDU KWDUHIDEVHQWFDXVHWKH,VUDHONLONIGQDS DQGVUMUH □ FKLUHQ
VIDU KVMQWTERQMGHUMRQFKLUHQBRQGDQ □ EDMVZILMRXWNLQ □ FKLUHQ

DJHURXSIB HQMRQHGVMVDUFGI - RQQVMHI1RVM

' LVFUP LQDMRQ \$ UMF0□

,QZHEDQRQZIHITQGDQWITGLVUP LQDMRQGXHWLVKHSUHMQHRIIB DQ □
DJDLQWMMQLDQMDQGZHE DQMHZKHUHIVGLVUP LQDMRQEHVZ HHQ3DO VFW
SURHMLRQM □ 3D0MMQLDQMDUHQRVQRZ HGVKISUDFWFH □ □ 3D0MMQLDQV
3D0MMQLDQMDUHQRVQRZ HGVK □ LQFOGLQ □DZ □P HGLFQHIDQGE DQ □P RUH
\$ QXURSHDQMDQGE\$UDEVIKDYHVKHIDU KVMRZ QHVKIS RZQISURSHUW
H[FHSWMMQLDQV

In court, the judge discriminates against Palestinians and sides with the Lebanese.

There is discrimination between Palestinian boys and girls. Boys are allowed many things but girls aren't (discrimination within the society and the family). Educational opportunities should be provided to boys and girls equally.

The teacher discriminates between the students.

6H[XDQISQVMMRQ \$ UMF0□

No one cares for the status of children. There is no law that secures proper living conditions for children, so how will there be a law that protects them from sexual exploitation?

DJHURXSIB HQMRQHGVMVDUFGI - RQQVMHI1RVM

(GXFDMRQ \$ UMF0□

The main reasons leading to dropping out from school are:

- maltreatment of students by teachers
- overcrowded classrooms (50 students) and so most students do not understand the given lessons
- the difficulty of the new school curriculum and the fact that the teachers are not trained enough on dealing with this curriculum
- the difficult economic situation that forces children to leave school in order to work and secure their daily livelihood
- schools are small, not well maintained nor equipped, and lack the resources that are needed for student's comfort, and so they are discouraged from learning

- children are discouraged for even if they study they cannot secure work in the future (right to work is denied in Lebanon)
- houses are overcrowded and do not provide a studying environment

These problems should be handled. They seriously affect the students' education. The curriculum should be improved. Resources and basic needs that cater for the student's general interest should be available.

It is noteworthy to mention that ten out of twelve children, aged 16-18, are school dropouts. Most have sought vocational training as an alternative. In addition, two boys, aged 15, are also enrolled in vocational training programs, and two girls, aged 13, have dropped out of school (they stay at home).

3URMFARQ\$VWVWQFH \$UMFO□

,I\KHWDFKHU]DOWDMDIEKLG\KHEKLG\KIDM\KHOU K\K\HNDMLWQFH□
 7KHIDGP LQLVMDMRQ\KRXG\KIDYH\KHOU K\K\ IURP □K\H\KRRRQGP LQLVMDMRQ
 VFKRRQ\I\K\H\WDFKHU□□RZHYHU\Q\K\HEDP SV VR\U\SUP DQG\K\DMDFKHU
 6\K\GHQW\KRXG□ K\K\H\WDFKHUKLWMD\W\GHQW\HIDGP LQLVMDMRQ\K\GHMZILW
 EHIDDR\SURMFWMG\IURP □EHLQ □DJ J U\H\WGIE\ \R\K\H\U\W\GHQW

' HSULYHGRI\IDP LQ □HQYLURQP HQW \$UMFO□

&K\OUHQZIKR\DUHG\SULYHGRI\K\H\U\DP LQ\H\KDYH\K\H\OU K\K\VS\FIDQ□
 : H\H\H\PI DQ\ □FK\OUHQZIKR\GR\QRW\DYH\DISQ\FH\K\ □ KRXVLQJ □DQG\I\H\GRP
 7KHV\HEKLG\UHQ\DUHYXQ\H\DEQ□ □YH\IQ\IDQG\ZIKR\□DFN\PI HDQVRI\DM\W\WQFH
 VR\IGHYLDQFH\K\H\ □P \J K\W\MD\OU\K\H\G\K\J V

6HSDUDMRQ\IURP □SDUHQW \$UMFO□

7KH\ZHEDQ\MH\IRYHUQ HQ\GRHMQRW\IDQ\W\O\MMQ\DO\W\K\U\HP D\Q\I\Q□
 ,VR\H\MQRW\U\H\TRU\K\H\3D\MMQ\DO\SI\RSQ\IQRUGRHM\I\W\DMURU□ /HEDQRQ
 ,Q\PI DQ\ □Q\W\Q\FH\W\H\ISDUHQ\MDUH□□ V\SDUDMRQ\IURP □SDUHQW\XFK\EDM\H□
 V\Q\K\K\EDM\H\H\ID\K\HU V\SDUDMGR\U\K\H\ID\K\HU\PI \V\MQ □RUGH\FH\DM\G
 IDP LQ □GRHMQRW\K\Z □K\HEKLG\UHQ\K\W\Q\YH\ZILK\K\H\U\PI R\K\H\U\VS\FIDQ □I□
 7KH\ \R\IMQ\I\RU\ELG\K\H□ W\H\PI R\K\H\U\HP DU\H\BRUDY\H\MZILK\K\H\SDUHQW
 FK\OUHQ\IURP □Y\VMQ □K\H\U\PI R\K\HU

\$ □L\W\DG□

“I wish that they would let the children visit their mothers even if they were remarried, it is their right to remarry. Why does the father's family forbid children from sleeping over at their mother's even if once or twice a week?!”

5JK\K\I\O\H \$UMFO□

7KHIP DJ HMZIHVHHRQZ9 □ 7KHIDHDAV□MIDQERQMDGLFMRQZILMVKLMDUMFOH
LQ@URYHMMKIVIRUEYHU □GD\ □Z HVMHIEKLGUHQE XUGHUGDQGLEVMKHUHG□
Z LMVKHIZIKRΘIZIRUGIZI DMKIQ □BDΘMMQH

' LVDEΘGIEKLGUHQ \$ UAFΘ□

WQRXJ KEHQMU□MFKUHIDUHQ ' LVDEΘGIEKLGUHQDUHQVZHΘDMUHGIURU
7KHIVRFHM□YIHZ V□ ΘGIEKLGUHQMDRYLGHIEGXFDMRQDQGVN□VIRUGIMDE
7KH\VKRXGIEHVMHQDM□ GLVDEΘGITQGLYLGXDVIDMZIHNDQGITQFDSDEΘ
' LVDEΘGIEKLGUHQVKRXGIEHQVH□ HTXDVMITQIRUGHUQRVITGLVFRXUDJ HVMHP
7KHUHVKRXG□ H\FQGHGIRP □SDUMFLSDMQ □IQDFVMVMZILMVKHUEKLGUHQ
EHIDFVMVMMEUQ□ □VRJ HMKHUGLVEΘGIEKLGUHQZILMVKHUEKLGUHQ
\$YDLΘEΘIEHQMUVRUMHIGLVEΘGIDFNIP□ DQ\ □VKIQ VMDVHCHHTXILUGIRU□
VHFULQ □VHIEDMFIQHGMVITGLVDEΘGISHSΘ

GQRVRRVH□MKH\ □GL H LMVKLMDUMFOHIZIDVDMV□ QHGMVIRQHITURXSIRIEKLGUHQ□ 1RVM
IQIRUGHUM□IDQDQ□M□ KVMKHIEKUHQMVMRQRI □GLVDEΘGIEKLGUHQ W

DGHTXDMVMWQGDUGIRITOMIQ \$ UAFΘ□

- 8 QKHDM\ □KRXVQ □FRQGLMRQV
- : HIKDYHVMHIDU KVMKIDYHITRRGITRRG

SHIXJHHIDU KW - DUMFO □ WQGDUGIRITOMIQ □Z DVIDOR□QRMGIDQSRIM□ 1RVM

UJKVMITQDMRQDVA \$ UAFΘ□

(YHU □BDΘMMQDQVKRXGIEKIDYHIDQIGHQMV□FDUGITNHIRMKHUEM□HQVITQVMH□
: HIKDYHVMHIDU KVMKIDYHIDQIGHQMV□FDUGITNHSUHMUYHIRXUKRQRU□ ZRUG
HIZIQRSHX□ □HMLUQVIRXU□ DQGITJ QV□ITQIRQVITRVMHUSHSΘ
KRP HDQGE□BDΘMMQ□HDQGIEKIDYHIDQIGHQMV□FDUGITNVMZIHIDUHSURXGIRITQ□
IURQVMHHSHSΘIRITVMHIZIRUG

P HQMRQHGLVKLMDUMFOH RQQ □FKLGUHQIEHRS □1RVM

15) Article 31 (leisure)

VIRXUDU KVMKIDYHISDA J URXQGMEDXEVIDQGDIP XVP HQWQMUVMVIRIQNR\ □ 9W
-XVMHIZIHQHGIRRGIZI HIDDOR□HGVMISDA □IQIRUGHUM□ RXUMHOHV
7KMHISDFMDUH□ : HISDA □IQIEDP SIDDVA V GHYHRSIRXUP□IQGMIDQGIERGLV
7KLVPE DNMVMITD 7KHUHIDUHIDMDQGVHZ DJ H FURZ GHG

YHIDV DUGIDQGITDUGHQZIKHUHIZIHIEDQISDA □DQG□: HIKDYHVMHIDU KVMKID
KDYHIXQ

', □KDYHVMHIDU KVMISDA □Z LMITUHQGMITQIDEXE 32 QHER\ □VDLG

5HXJHH□KW - DUEG□ □LXUHZIDVDRQRMGIQSRQV□ 1RM

6□352 32 6\$/6□(0\$1' 6 &+,'/ 5(1

7KHIEK□G□H□Z□IH□DM□HG□M□RU□D□J□H□M□HP□V□HY□M□□M□R□G□I□H□H□Q□M□P□P□L□M□M□□
⁴⁷M□D□M□R□X□G□I□R□U□Z□D□G□I□S□R□M□E□□I□V□R□X□M□R□Q□M□M□H□L□X□U□L□Q□□M□X□H□V

A. Committee for protecting children from sexual exploitation

1. 2 UJ DQJHIEGXFDMRQD□P LQDUVDM□KRRQV□D□G□I□H□Q□M□U
2. H□M□K□M□I□□F□M□H□G□D□J□H□U□D□F□Q□□R□X□□ U□D□M□Q□□□F□M□H□2 UJ DQJHIDZ DUHQHW VRFHW
3. \$ M□P□S□M□I□□P□M□H□R□F□F□X□U□H□Q□H□R□I□M□H□X□D□□S□□L□M□R□Q□Z□I□M□S□R□□F□H□□
D□M□L□W□D□□F□H□S□X□X□H□M□H□E□K□S□U□M□D□G□□H□□L□□D□M□I□D□Z□□K□D□M□E□Y□H□U□□□
S□X□L□V□K□H□M□R□V□H□Z□I□K□R□I□E□R□P□P□M□H□M□I□D□F□W
4. 5 D□L□H□M□H□D□Z□D□U□H□M□R□I□□R□X□U□□R□Q□□H□U□M□E□□Q□□V□I□H□□D□M□Y□H□M□Q□H□J□K□E□R□U□I□D□Q□□□
D□□M□R□V□H□□M□Q□□□□□I□R□X□U□E□R□P□P□X□Q□W

Note: this committee only includes children aged 16-18

B. Anti-Discrimination Committee

1. ' HP R□Q□M□D□M□I□□D□Q□M□E□F□M□U□D□Q□L□P
2. 7KHUH□M□R□X□G□E□H□□H□Q□G□H□E□I□X□D□W
3. &D□□□D□Q□M□H□G□L□V□F□U□P□L□Q□M□R□Q
4. N□I□R□U□M□H□□□□K□M□I□R□Z□Q□H□U□K□I□S□□D□Q□G□I□□D□□D□Q□M□H□G□L□V□F□U□P□L□Q□M□R□Q□E□H□M□H□Q□□ \$ V
M□H□G□I□H□H□Q□□M□R□Q□D□M□H□V
5. G□L□V□F□U□P□L□Q□M□R□Q□E□L□D□M□Q□□□S□U□R□J□U□D□P□□M□D□S□I□R□P□R□M□M□D□Q□M□2 I□H□U□D□D□Z□D□U□H□Q□H□W
U□H□M□R□X□M□R□Q□D□Q□G□L□V□F□X□W□M□S□U□R□S□H□U□E□R□Q□□F□W
6. * I□L□M□K□R□X□G□I□R□W□D□U□□□M□I□R□X□Q□□□D□□H
7. * I□L□M□K□R□X□G□I□R□M□I□V□K□R□R□O
8. +D□Y□H□I□D□E□X□E□□I□R□U□I□U□Y
9. %R□V□I□D□Q□□□I□L□M□K□R□X□G□I□K□D□H□I□K□R□X□V□H□K□R□G□E□K□R□U□M□I□Q□R□I□G□H□U□I□R□U□I□U□M□K□I□D□Y□H□□
M□P□H□M□R□M□G□

C. Educational Committee

1. 7UD□L□M□H□M□D□F□K□H□R□Q□M□H□Q□Z□□F□X□U□F□X□□P
2. F□R□Q□G□F□W□X□S□M□F□K□R□R□□□□F□M□R□Q□V□-1 * 2 V□I□D□Q□G□I□R□U□D□Q□J□D□M□R□Q□M□D□H□M□I□R□□Z
3. H□F□X□H□I□H□H□E□G□X□F□D□M□R□Q□D□M□E□K□R□R□□ 6
4. (□T□X□I□S□□D□Q□G□I□G□H□Y□H□□S□□M□F□K□R□R□□□□E□R□U□D□M□R□U□H□V

⁴⁷ The older children were more articulate and elaborate in their proposals.

7. D K R P H O Q G I Q R U G H U M I S U D F W F H R X U O O K W 5 U J K W O
8. 5 U J K W I K I D Y H I R R G I K R X M Q J
9. 5 U J K W I K I H I D Q G I S U R W F W R Q
10. 5 U J K W I K I H D O M F D U H

Note: this committee only includes children above 12

F. Committee for solving children's problems

1. & R O F W W W W F V R Q W H Q X P E H U R I Z I R U N I Q J O F K I G U H Q W H I R E V W H \ O U H O
G R L Q J O V H I I I V K H M H I R E V I D U H K D U P I X O O G I I V K H \ O U H I E R P S D M E O H Z I V K O
W H L U S K \ V F D O Q G I P I H Q M O D S D F W W V
2. 7 D N H I S K R W R V R I I V K H M H I E K I G U H Q I D Q G I V K R Z O W H P O W I E R Q F H U Q H G I S D U W M I Q O
R Q V W X D M M H I K R S H R I I P S U R Y I Q J O W H I E K I G U H Q
3. * L Y H I X I G D Q F H I W I E K I G U H Q
4. 9 L W K I G U H Q I D M P H I Q R U G H U M I N Q R Z O D E R X W H L W R F D O R Q G W R Q V
5. Y X Q G U D L M Q J O F D P S D J Q W I K I H S O W H M H I E K I G U H Q
6. Y R O Q W H U M I R I I H U O J H 3 U R Y L G H I P I R U D O X S S R U W I W H M H I E K I G U H Q O
V F K R O W M F W R U D O V

Note: this committee only includes children aged 16-18

G. Nationality Committee

- , W I R X U O O K W I K I D Y H I D Q I G H Q M W O F D U G
- 3 D O W M Q D Q 7 K H I E K I G I K I D V K H I O O K W I K I D Y H I D Q I G H Q M W O F D U G O

Note: this committee only includes children below 16

CHILDREN'S THOUGHTS

-ORIQFOXGHGUFUHDWRQDQWYVWVXFKIDMGLDZ IQJ IURØ 7KHIZIRUMKRSVID
7KHISDUMFSDQMZIHUHDVNHGVRIZI UVIDM SØ\ LQJ IGDQFLOJ IDQGVLQJ LQJ
7KHIEKIGUHQZMVGKHC Z HDMVGLDZ IVRP HMKIQ IVDQWVUEHVMKHP
SURGXFHGIB DMUDORUQMRGXFIQJ IHDFAIRVKHU

0 RVMDZ LQJ VICHOFMVGKHLUBRYHTRUBDØMMQHDQGGIUDP IRIIHMUQ
\$TVDIEI RVTXHDQGGIDI-7KH\IGUHZ IWKHBDØMMQDQIIOJ IP DSIRIIBDØMMQHSIO
6RP HDGGHG KHDUMIMIKHLUQDP HDIQHEIQGIDQGGIBDØMMQHDMZHRMKHU
DQGIIVUQVIBDØMMQHP \ IZ IVKIVVIRIIP WAMP HQMICH IWKHLUGDZ LQJ V
2 VHUIGDZ LQJ VUHYDØGIVKHLU IZ HZILØRSHIXØ IIMUQVIBDØMMQH³
GUHZ IØRZ HVIIDUGHQVVKHVD ØYHTRUQDMUHVVKHVDIDQGRISHQVSDFI
HM

,QIHQUDØRVRKIGUHQZVWVXMGVHLUQDP HDI HISØFHRIIHMIGHQFH
2 VHMZIHUIPI RUHEDERUDMILQVHLUZILMQL V DQGVFKRROHYHØUMDLQJ

? , ØYHIQDE I HURIGIILURP I DKUØØUHGEDP SIZ URM - 8 ØDI
\$ ØNDVIRSHIRUIMVIMUQVIB \ I FRXQW IZ KIFKIVQRVZIQH
IØIMLQ IIZHEDQRQ , IZ IVKIRUQRZ IZ K KRP HDQGGIDQGIIMINQRZ IIV
VIRIDYHVRP HIRIPI \ IØHP DQGVDMZIHØVIRVHIRIRVKHUEKIGUHQIQ
, IZ IVKIRØYHVFUHQ IUIHQ IZ IVRXVIDU H IØHØNHIPI HØDQJHG
' DQ IHWIDQGGIDI IVMRQ

? , ØYHIZIIM I ØDXQVVKHIDGGHG RØIILØYHMIQIGDEUD -\HDU %ØDQ
0 \ ØDXQVIDQXUHDMDLID 0 \ IUDQGP RVKHUIMØ DQGIILUDQGP RVKHU
GØNHVIRØDUQIERP SXMLQ I QMLP HGLM⁶ , IVMGHGIXQVVKH I KRVSLMO
' VILØ

? HØFVILVWIRP I6IEØRIGIER\ IØDVIDGSRP DIQDKVR -\HDU : DQG
+HØ+VISOØFHIRIRUJ IQIVSIFUH QMVMYRFDMRQDØDLQJ IIB15: \$Ø
P HP ØHUMP I ØDMKHUQGGIKIV P \ IDP IQ IVERQMMVMGRIØDGGHG
, IXXIHUIRP IJ IØV ERVIDQGI : HDUHQ Z IHIPI \ IYHIMEØJVIDQGI
' ØFNIRIIZ RUN

? , IVMG IØFRXQMQ IØXVIMV \ HDUMRIG P IØ \ IØDP HIV6DUD,³
, IØNHVZ IP P IQ IYRFDMRQDØDLQJ IØQMMVMØ DQDJ HP HQV,6
0 \ IØSHFDØXØDØV, IØDYHIIIHQGMIRP IØIITHQVHIIRXSV UFDGQ
' ,IQDGGIMRQ, IØP IØXVM IVMØYØRYHIDQGIKHS IØHRSØ

8.)DMQ
9. =DKUD
10. -LKDQ
11. \$ P DO
12. 0 RKDP P HG
13. /LQD
14. 8 @ μ
15. +DQLQH
16. 8 @ μ
17. 0 RKDP P HG
18. =HLQDE
19. \$KP DG
20.)LUDV
21. ,EUDKP
22. 0 D\ DGD
23. 1RXUHGLQH
24. ,EUDKP

? : RUNVKRS□

' DM	0 D\ □
9HQXH	+HQHKE*KDWDQ□DQDIDQ&XOMUD)BXQGDMRQ(CIQ(CO VRXMKIZHEDQRQ FDP S[IGRQ□
)DFLODMRU	0 D\ □-DGGDG
\$WVWDMQ□	Sahar Al-Khatib, Hiba Shartih, Fatmeh Al-Asadi, Haitham Al-
IDFDMRU	Hussein, Fatmeh Saleh, Lama Lamis, & Zaher Sayyah
3KRVRJUDSK\	Lama Lamis
5HSRUVHU	6DP LDZIDEDUL

+HQ HKEIDP S-\$ @HUHUHP □(LQ(CO RQHIEKIGUHQISDUMFLSDMG-7ZHQW

1. 0 DKP XG
2. \$ VUD
3. \$ @
4. 0 DUZ D
5. 6DHHG
6. 2 P DU□
7. \$EGX@K□
8. \$ \D
9. 6DND
10. 0 LUQD
11. <DVP LQH
12. +DMDQ
13. 6DUD
14. \$KP DG
15. D ¶ X
16. 5LKDP
17. \$KP DG

18. 0 RKDP P HG
19. +LED
20. 0 RKDP P HG
21. 6DKDU