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للمساعدة القانونية وحقوق الانسان
For legal aid and human rights

Child begging in Jordan

A position paper issued by Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights 2022

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Introduction

Begging is a widespread social phenomenon in all countries of the world for those who are sometimes unable to meet their needs and sometimes as a result of a social culture that stimulates begging. Many social, economic, and political conditions, as well as the absence of social protection umbrellas and the lack of human rights and cultural awareness, have led to the spread and escalation of this phenomenon, especially after the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economic and social levels.

Begging is defined as "the solicitation (asking) or request for charity carried out by a juvenile, whether it is for themselves or for others, whether or not he or she wanders or sits in a public place, invoking his or her wounds or impairment or resorting to any other means to that end." Begging is a dangerous social phenomenon that negatively affects individuals and society, whereby child beggars acquire bad habits such as smoking and drug use or handling and selling, and are deprived a child of fundamental rights such as education, health and safety, as well as a healthy childhood, which cause the child to mature from a young age, as well as exposes him/her to many violations such as harassment and physical abuse. Begging has many negative impacts on society, among them the low productivity of those which practice begging, because they become unable or unwilling to act or take responsibility over time, as well as high rates of theft, crime and organized crime.

On the other hand, begging is considered a form of exploitation constituting the crime of human trafficking, as stipulated in the Amendment to the Human Trafficking Offences Act of 2021. Jordan ratified the International Labour Convention No. 2000. (182) of 1999 on "Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour", which urged the immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour and stressed the importance of free basic education and the rehabilitation and social reintegration of child workers while taking care of the needs of their families.

In view of the seriousness of the begging phenomenon, Tamkeen decided to issue this paper, which aims to highlight the reasons behind the spread of the begging phenomenon in Jordan.

Begging Motives in Jordan

1.Economic causes:

1.1Widespread Unemployment

Unemployment is one of Jordan's most significant economic problems. Statistics show that by the end of June 2022, the youth unemployment rate reached 22.6%, whereby the age group (15-24) accounted for 46.1%.[1]

The government's inability to provide citizens with adequate employment opportunities contributed to the scarcity of jobs in the private sector, as well as the high employment in unregulated sectors with a lack of job stability, stable income, or social protection. The Covid-19 pandemic also exacerbated the problem of unemployment as many individuals, especially in the private sector, have been laid off from their jobs. Furthermore, daily workers were disrupted from their work, especially during the lockdowns, which caused income cuts for many households for significant periods

These conditions caused many families to lose their basic source of income, which were already inadequate to live a dignified life. Consequently, this phenomenon and its repercussions on the precarious labour market have contributed to an increase in the number of working children. More children began to gravitate towards the worst forms of child labour, such as work in hazardous sectors and begging. This began as a temporary solution for many families to cover household expenditures, but continued to become an alternative solution in view of the uselessness of the education system in the eyes of parents and children.

Jordan was one of the few States in the region to have an unemployment insurance system based on social security contributions.[2] However, despite their expansion, these programmes do not extend to many groups in society, thus depriving them of social protection umbrellas in cases of unemployment, and leading them to take measures such as sending their children to beg as a solution to their economic problem.

1 https://bit.ly/3XokaFa
2 https://bit.ly/2VtRZZ1

1.2The Transition to Work in Unregulated Sectors

Due to several factors, such as the spread of unemployment, the shortcomings of the government sector, and the private sector's failure to provide enough jobs, many individuals have moved to work in unregulated sectors. A high number of graduates with higher degrees (Bachelor's degree and above) have been unable to get jobs due to the conditions that dominate the labour market. Many individuals are heading to work in unregulated sectors such as daily labour, construction, agriculture, as well as

working in e-commerce and small household projects, which have become more popular after the Covid-19 pandemic. This is due to the fact that many individuals needed to fulfil their needs online during the pandemic, which urged many stores to turn into online stores or dual-system by creating a website or an electronic marketing page alongside the physical store.

However, although this is a solution, it is often an unsustainable one to the problem of unemployment. Many small household enterprises and e-commerce pages are not fixed sources of income and they operate according to the seasons and demands of the market. Additionally, they often lack regulation and licensing, meaning that workers in these jobs do not receive sustained and regular income.

Such individuals working in unregulated sectors are also not included in social protection platforms such as health insurance and social security. This means that they are faster affected than others by economic and social disruptions and are more susceptible to a loss of income. This collapse often leads to children withdrawing from education to help their families with their own projects as they rush to the labour market to fill the family's material needs gap.

2.Academic Causes

2.1The decline in the level and effectiveness of the education system

Jordan's school education system consists of three stages. The first stage constitutes the preparation for studies and consists of two basic pre-school classes (aged 4-5 years). This stage is optional. The second stage constitutes of two sub-stages: the primary stage from 1st grade to 6th grade, as well as the preparatory stage, from 7th grade to 10th grade. These two sub-stages are mandatory. Finally, the third stage constitutes of secondary school for the 11th grades and the 12th grade, for ages 16-17 years old.

Education in government schools is compulsory and free of charge for the basic stage. A student cannot be dismissed from education before the age of 16, except in the case of a special health condition and on the basis of a report issued by the competent medical committee.[3] As for education, it consists of two paths, one academic and the other applied based on preparation and vocational training. The applied vocational track includes the Home Economics Branch, the Agricultural Branch, the Hotel Branch, and the Industrial Branch.

However, the feasibility of education among children and their families has been reduced by the high number of children in class and the low quality of education. These factors, following the Covid-19 pandemic, have negatively affected children and their educational attainment, causing many children to turn to the labour market to solve the economic problems faced by their families. Many children also lacked access to electronic devices that were needed to access classes with the shift to online education[4].

After the impact of the pandemic on the Jordanian labour market deteriorated, parents' and children's attitudes towards returning to school remained unchanged. Children saw no point in returning to education, and instead continued to urge their parents to work and learn vocational skills from a young age in order to avoid unemployment.

3 https://moe.gov.jo/node/15782

4 المعلومات عن ارتباط جائحة كورونا بعمل الطفل بامكانك الاطلاع على ورقة الموقف الصادرة عن تمكين.

When comparing education to begging, one child stated that

"studying does not bring money, in the end we will return to begging, so we might as well go there from the beginning."

Begging workers receive large sums of money easily compared to those in low and middle-income jobs and businesses. Furthermore, some beggars remain in school and continue to attend classes regularly, but only intermittently due to their frequent arrests and sheltering. This causes them to miss important exams and potentially repeat the school year.

Although the percentage of children attending primary school in Jordan is 97%, schools still need development and rehabilitation to meet the needs of students, such as those with disabilities, refugees, and working children, as such children are more likely to drop out of school. They are also more likely to be subjected to violence and bullying within the school environment from students or teachers[5], which further prompts them to withdraw from school.

With regard to educational outcomes or results, Jordan's educational outcomes are particularly weak at the basic and secondary levels of education, as 70% of students in the second and third grades read without understanding. Students get very poor results in international standard tests, including mathematics and science[6]. For that reason, the Ministry of Education provides remedial classes to help students of low education attainment reach the intended grades.[7]

Through interviews conducted by Tamkeen with beneficiaries in the Al Dhleil and Madaba centers for beggars, it was found that the idea of the failure and ineffectiveness of the education system is more entrenched in males than females. In their view, begging is a safe and abundant source of livelihood for them, especially as they find they're unable to study, and do not believe in the importance of education. Beneficiaries also reported that there were more males dropping out of school than males still in school, which further encourages them to drop out.

5 https://moe.gov.jo/node/5274
6 https://www.unicef.org/jordan/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85
7 https://bit.ly/3IGZfsO

2.2The ineffectiveness of the System for Capturing and Monitoring School Dropouts

It is the responsibility of schools to follow up on student absences and hand over the lists of dropout names received by the Directorate of Education to the Administrative Governor of the region, as parents should be informed of their children's dropout, as well as urged to return the child to school. However, the Law has no consequences for parents who withdraw their children from school. Consequently, the Administrative Governor cannot take action against parents who refuse to return the child to school.[8]

Despite the Ministry of Education's efforts to provide alternative solutions to school dropouts through informal home-based programs and non-formal education to support the strengthening of students, some families still do not enrol their children in school, while others register their children but do not actually send them to school or send them for a few days only. While these children are known to be absentees, they are not considered dropouts on the ground, as the student should be absent from school for more than one year in order to be considered a dropout.[9]

In the interviews conducted by Tamkeen with workers at the Dhleil and Madaba rehabilitation centers for child beggars, it was found that the centres recommend for child beggars to be returned to their parents as soon as possible, especially if it did not pose a risk to the child and if he/she held a seat at school. This is to prioritize reducing the number of children dropping out, especially in the absence of an adequate alternative education system for schooling in the beggars' rehabilitation centres. In fact, workers at the rehabilitation centers have stated that the lack of proper educational programs at the shelters creates an obstacle for the advancement and return of child beggars to school, as activities are limited to basic literacy and non-systematic activities.

Furthermore, it has been found that many children go to school intermittently in order to avoid being enrolled as dropouts. This applies to both working children and begging children, and is especially so in the success stages, meaning that some children remain enrolled as students while spending the majority of their time begging or working.

8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.

3.Social Causes:

3.1Social encouragement for beggars

Many individuals give beggars money out of pity or compassion, or because of religious conscience in their desire to be honest. However, this phenomenon exacerbates and increases the number of beggars, as begging becomes an easy way to make large amounts of money without any effort.

In order to solve this phenomenon, awareness must be raised in Jordanian society around the dangers of the phenomenon of begging, as well as the forms of child exploitation that take place by exploiters and family relatives.

3.2Begging as a profession

For a number of families in Jordan, begging is a profession that is inherited and passed on between generations. Such families do not adopt disguised begging or regular begging as a method of economic adjustment, nor as solutions to the problem of unemployment. Rather, begging is a way of life for them, and both rehabilitation and reintegration will not provide the needed results that will alter their practices and prevent them from practicing begging.

In the interviews conducted by Tamkeen with children in the Dhleil and Madaba centres, when asked about the reason behind begging, one of the children stated that it is his family's work and thus he will continue working in it. He stated:

"this is my job and my family's job. We will not change it."

The directors of Al-Dhleil and Madaba centres, Mr. Hamed and Ms. Nadia, reported that professional families rarely stop begging, despite repeated seizures from the Ministry of Social Development.

Furthermore, they reported that these families were re-sending children back to the streets to beg again after they had been handed over to the family by the rehabilitation centers. As Mr. Hamed stated, "some families make begging a profession in Jordan, a way of life. What we try to do is rehabilitate the children and teach them life skills, in addition to raising their awareness of the disadvantages and risks of begging. But the children appear to be resistant to rehabilitation."

He added, “I was interviewing a juvenile and asking him what his future would look like if he continued to beg, and I told him that he would find difficulties in continuing his life and finding work. He answered me by saying that he is from a family of beggars. His father and mother are beggars. He would only marry a beggar and he will only work in begging. The juvenile added, saying, ‘this is our life, and this is how we live, we are beggars’.”

For that reason, government agencies face difficulty in limiting the practice of begging for families who beg and can take no action other than seizing and handing over beggars to the judiciary, where they spend their sentences in children’s rehabilitation homes until they are released to re-beg again.

4.The Reality of Begging in Jordan

4.1Places where child beggars live

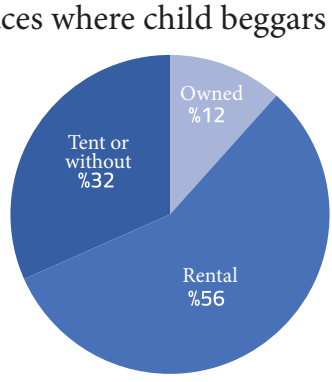

Figure 1: illustrates places where child beggars live in Jordan

According to a study conducted by Lubna Al-Adailah and Rowan Al-Muzarah in 2019, 11.7% of child beggars live in homes owned by their families, whereas 56.7% live in rented homes, and 31.7% live in tents or without homes. Children are motivated to beg for several reasons associated with the child themselves, including buying certain things they want, getting more money, not receiving enough money from parents, parents not responding to the child’s recreational desires, and parents not objecting to begging. One of the girls at the Dhleil shelter told Tamkeen: “My father knows that I am begging, and when I reach home, he asks me how much money I collected, and how many guys touched me.” Additionally, children beg for other reasons, such as having the needed skills; considering begging a comfortable profession; disliking school or failing at it; being the eldest child in the family; needing a better place to care for the child; or having chronic illnesses, disabilities, or losses within the family.

As for the causes of begging associated with the child's family, they include being unable to respond to the child's needs; having to provide daily needs for the family; having no source of income of any kind; having a large-sized family; receiving parental rewards; inheriting begging from parents; and begging to buy medication for a family member with illness or parental illness. One child stated:

"my father has an eyesight problem, and I am his eldest daughter, god curse the need that made me become a beggar"

Another child stated:

"my mother is dead, and we live with my stepmother, so I am begging and helping her".

Other reasons include the frequent parental conflicts, the absence of shelter, or the death of a parent:

"my father is dead, and my mother is married, and we live with my brother's wife, so I beg to cover my expenses and theirs".

Lastly, children sometimes beg as a result of fearing abuse and humiliation from parents, of being deprived of sleeping and eating inside the home, or of being evicted from the home.

As for the causes associated with society that lead the child to beg, they include leaving the rehabilitation center with little financial guarantee; the lack of harsh punishments for the practice of begging; rising prices; the lack of effective care programs; the lack of programs that help the child stop begging; the absence of rehabilitation programs; the sympathy of citizens to help child beggars as a religious duty; the lack of support from relevant associations to help child beggars and their families; the absence of any endeavors to provide employment for the child beggars' families; the difficulty of creating adequate job opportunities; the acceptance of child beggars as vulnerable members of society; the encouragement provided to beggars by friends or relatives.

Many members of the community tend to give child beggars money and feel sympathy towards them, which reinforces this phenomenon and allows children to continue to beg. Additionally, child beggars use religious language and facial expressions in such a way to get the attention of passers-by and to urge them to give money. Some individuals, however, remain adamant not to give money to beggars and view begging as a negative phenomenon that should be minimized.

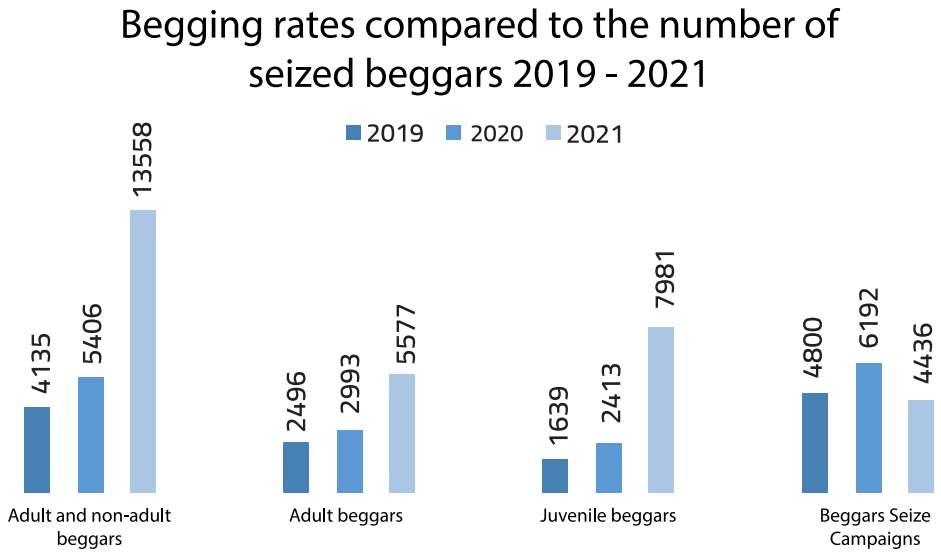

Figure 2: begging rates compared to the numbers of seized beggars for ages 2019 – 2021 according to the Ministry of Social Development

4.2Widespread areas of beggars in Jordan and the mechanism for the distribution of children working in begging

Beggars are spread in many areas such as public transport complexes, near mosques, traffic light signals, universities, and commercial markets. Beggars choose places that safe for them, as well as places where a large number of people gather, in order to be able to collect the largest possible sum of money. Some areas are in fact monopolized by particular beggars. The largest number of beggars are spread in the governorate of Amman, where they come for the sole purpose of begging, despite it not being the area in which they live. This is particularly the case for the Western regions of Amman, where beggars receive the largest amounts of money in comparison with other governorates.

On the other hand, beggars who practice disguised begging are distributed to different points by their exploiters. Products are distributed to them in the morning for the purpose of concealing begging. The beggar is then ordered to sell the product at the best price, or to get money without selling the product itself, thus allowing the beggar to hide the actual act of begging behind the act of selling the product. This type of begging is prevalent for both boys and girls from all age groups.

It was noted that large groups of children under 11 years old practice direct begging from both genders, yet many children try to deny begging and escape during their seizure. In villages, it is especially difficult to find beggars, except if they are involved in disguised begging by requesting food or pretending to be sick. Stakeholders, however, do not focus on disguised begging during their inspection campaigns, as the presence of beggars is scarce.

On the other hand, employees of the Ministry of Social Development are allocated to committees that are distributed to the regions on an ongoing basis, and the committees are distributed to target a particular district. Workers tend to seize the largest numbers of child beggars during the summer season and school holiday seasons, as children tend to be out on the streets most. The seizing committee has found it easier to find female beggars in the evening hours, as it is the most common time for girls to beg, especially during the holidays and in places near traffic lights, mosques, and cemeteries. Boys, on the other hand, are deployed to beg at various times of the day after 12:30 p.m., and mostly on Thursdays and Fridays. They tend to be easier to find as they are spread out in the .governorate of Amman

What is important to note is that child beggars often change their patterns of begging in order to adapt to the movement of seizure committees. Some beggars try to hide the practice of begging through selling specific products or change their timings to ensure they do not overlap with the timings of the seizure committees. They are aware of the consequences that await them after being caught begging – namely being taken to the rehabilitation shelters in Dhleil and Madaba – which in their view prevents them from practicing begging for a period that may exceed .one month, especially for repeat beggars

4.3Seizure and accommodation in the centers of beggars in Al Dhleil and Madaba

The seizure and accommodation of beggars in the shelters is carried at many stages. First, the beggars are collected by inspection patrols from the Ministry of Social Development and taken to the shelters, where their money and belongings are confiscated. Then, they are given clothes, allowed to shower, and fed a meal.

As for the accommodation and services provided to boys and girls at the shelters, they are provided after determining the general needs of the child based on a needs assessment. The services vary from child to child depending on their specific situation, the severity of the violations the child was exposed to, the child's living conditions, as well as some indicators visible on the children. As such, services for the child's psychological support are defined. As for food, drinking and clothing, all children are treated equally. Males are distributed to dormitories by age group, placing males under the age of 14 in one place, males over the age of 14 elsewhere; in the case of brothers of the same age group, they are placed in the same area.

Penalties vary from 1 month to 1 year between frequent beggars and first-time beggars, with the possibility of bail in many cases, thus rendering the punishment null for beggars, their exploiters, and their parents. The penalty system for beggars, men and women, and their exploiters has been amended to include 3 months imprisonment for first-time beggars, 6 months to 1 year imprisonment for frequent offenders, and 1 to 3 years for exploiters, without the possibility of bail.

Children's reaction to their first seizure varies. Some girls described that they started crying, felt fearful, and tried to escape the Ministry of Social Development bus, as well as the rehabilitation shelters (without success). The boys reported that they also felt fearful seeing the Ministry of Social Development bus, not knowing if they were being kidnapped. "The first time I was caught, I thought the Ministry of Social Development is a gang trying to kidnap me. I screamed and cried. I tried to run away from the Ministry of Social Development bus, but I couldn't. I was weak, and they were many. I tried to escape from the center, but the supervisors caught me". This shows the control of fear from boys and girls when they got seized for the first time. The following times, however, they were able to identify the Ministry of Social Development bus and developed strategies to avoid it, such as trying to hide or escape from it so that they are not sent to the rehabilitation shelters.

Female workers in the Dhleil center for female beggars reported the changing behavior of women beggars after being seized multiple times. Their attitude of fear changed to one of acting aggressively and trying to deceive the center workers by concealing their identity and changing their name, thus providing them fake names for the purposes of mitigating their sentence. According to staff at the Madaba center for male beggars, repeated seizures caused the male beggars to become more hostile too, and disguised themselves in unclean, ripped clothes. “There are girls who, from their experience, have come up many ways to hide their identity. They pass on the names of their sisters in order to ease their sentence, they learn wrong behaviors, such as bullying and assaulting girls who are younger than them. Most of the girls smoke. Some of them who did not smoke when caught for the first time learn to smoke from the street and from other girls who are with them in the center.”

5.Causes of danger on beggars while begging

Child beggars constitute the main source of income for their families. The child's actions and attitudes are inseparable from the desires of the parents. The parents of child beggars push them to beg in order to achieve financial gains effortlessly, thus placing them at imminent risk from human traffickers, gangs, and drug dealers. This exposes children to physical, psychological, sexual, and verbal violence.

Begging children are also subjected to numerous violations during begging, from exploiters, passersby, and the surrounding environment. They are easily exposed to fractures and bruises as a result of being run over or escaping from the Ministry of Development buses. Sunstrokes may also occur to them as a result of direct exposure to sunlight, as well as diseases as a result of cold temperatures in winter. Beggars are subjected to verbal insults from people, as one worker affirmed: "we hear many abuses and insults."

Girls in particular suffer sexual harassment and abuse as a result of the practice of begging. One girl stated that some men tell her to go with her for 5JDs: "that is what guys tell me, what do they want? Something dirty, of course." Another stated: "once a guy followed me, and I was screaming for people to help me, but he ran away." Furthermore, one also reported that men ask her if she is interested in such things: "It is the word I hear the most. The guy's intention is that I will go out with him, and that he will take from me what he wants." These are in addition to the quarrels that occur between beggars themselves. Children beggars are exposed to violations and violence in all its forms by beggars and exploiters, especially if they are older than them, as many children between 16-17 years old force younger children to practice begging and exploit them in all forms. Some beggars also steal from shops and people, which puts them at risk of being arrested by the police.

Many begging girls reported that they feel humiliated and insulted when dealing with passers-by who direct offensive words at them, in addition to being subjected to verbal and sexual harassment, and the risk of being kidnapped for stealing the sums of money they had collected. One reported: "once two young men kidnapped me in a car and they tried to smother me. I had 25 dinars with me, and they took them from me." Whereas begging males pointed out that they were also offended as some people spat in their face, beat them, and kidnapped them.

Children who practice begging as a profession are more exposed to these violations than others, as they live the pattern of begging permanently. Moreover, child begging professionals are encouraged to beg by their families or other begging exploiters, meaning they are forced to stay on the street and beg. Even if they are returned to the custody of their families, they return to the very exploiters themselves. Consequently, they are vulnerable to being victims of human trafficking for multiple purposes, such as sexual exploitation, organ trafficking, drug smuggling, joining criminal groups, carrying out organized crime, and encouraging others to beg.

6.Social protection for child beggars

Jordan has numerous social protection programs for families in material need, which include monthly financial aid programs, unified cash support programs, emergency financial aid programs, physical rehabilitation aid, vocational training programs for beneficiary families' children, employment support programs for beneficiary families' children, as well as other support programs.

However, many families suffer from inadequate social protection and a lack of coverage. Many families apply to the National Aid Fund to obtain cash assistance to meet basic family needs, but only Jordanians can benefit from the National Aid Fund's programs. The programs exclude all refugees and migrants, as well as children of Jordanian women, as only Jordanian women receive support from the National Aid Fund, but not their children.

Such assistance is often insufficient to meet families' basic needs, ranging from 50 to 200 JD for monthly financial aid depending on the size of the family and depending on the economic and social conditions of the families.

According to the Social Security Foundation's annual report, 10.9% of total retirees cumulatively up to the end of 2020 were paid a pension not exceeding 200 dinars, and 56.5% of retirees were paid a pension between 200-400 dinars, and 24.1% of retirees cumulatively earn a pension between 400-1000 dinars, while 8.5% of retirees are paid a salary of more than 1000 dinars.

The number of Jordanian workers in the labor market decreased from 1.378 million in 2019 to 1.338 million in 2020 at rate of 2.9%. The figures released by the Social Security Foundation show that a large proportion of Jordanians earn wages that are insufficient to meet their daily needs, with high unemployment rates and large inflation reflected negatively on Jordanians. These contributed to the increase in child labor and begging.

As for the Anti-Begging Directorate, it is not responsible for rehabilitating child beggars or their families by providing vocational training or formal-informal education, as the case may be. It is only responsible to follow up on the child during his or her stay in the beggars' rehabilitation centers and to provide services during this period. This causes begging children to continue begging, be seized again, returned to the shelter, and thus enter the cycle of rehabilitation all over. This is because of a lack of an integrated system of aftercare that carries social protection grounds for begging children. In particular, the conditions for social protection programs provided by the Ministry of Social Development do not apply to child beggars and their families.

Child begging practitioners can only be provided with social protection by separating them from the exploiters who return them to the street to practice begging over and over again. Furthermore, deterrent penalties must be imposed on child begging exploiters, as well as a clear and detailed reintegration policy for each case depending on the child's needs and status, taking into consideration the individual encouraging them to beg.

Tamkeen's position

Tamkeen emphasizes the need to create a referral and follow-up system between government institutions and civil society institutions to work hand in hand to combat the phenomenon of begging and to find radical solutions for the families of child beggars and children in the worst forms of child labor. Additionally, a subsequent care system should be established for seized child beggars, whereby school programs are provided, and formal education given in shelters to ensure that children receive the best possible service during their stay in shelters.

There is also a need to change the attitudes of the rehabilitation centers towards actual rehabilitation, and not just shelter. This can be done by obliging families of begging children under 16 years old to complete compulsory education for their children while working on the vocational training of a family member to provide family income, and directing begging children over 16 years old to vocational training.

Tamkeen stresses the need to raise the Jordanian society's awareness of the danger of giving money to beggars, which causes many children to remain exploited by others. It also emphasizes the need to increase the penalties for child beggars as a type of human trafficking. Furthermore, one important aspect is raising the awareness of schoolteachers and students about the seriousness of dropping out and consequences of child begging. Children who work must know about their rights and who they can turn to for protection and complaints. Tamkeen stresses the importance of creating an effective follow-up system in schools based on attendance and absence, and the need to amend laws and make them stricter with parents who deny their children's access to compulsory education.

Tamkeen recommends that social protection umbrellas for child beggars and their families be expanded to include refugees and migrants, as the primary objective is to protect children from the risk of exploitation and to protect children from the risk of being victims of human trafficking. Lastly, there is an urgent need for a clear definition of organized begging to facilitate the adaptation of standard issues such as begging and children's use of begging as a form of human trafficking. This will contribute to reducing the phenomenon of begging in Jordan.

Recommendations

1. Create a unified database between the Ministry of Education for vocational training and public security centers and work in a systematic manner to combat child drop-outs.

2. Create a unified database among institutions working to combat child labor and begging, whether government institutions, civil society institutions or otherwise.

3. Provide education services in the shelters of beggars in Al-Dhleil and Madaba, as well as additional centers in other governorates to facilitate the seizure and accommodation of child beggars.

4. Expand the social protection umbrella to include vulnerable groups.
5. Raise the society's awareness of the seriousness of dropping out from school and the dangers of child labor and begging.

6. Mentor children who do not want to continue in academic education to be redirected towards a vocational and crafts-based education

7. Increase the penalties for child begging exploiters and child operators.

8. Create a clear definition of organized begging and forced child begging.

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