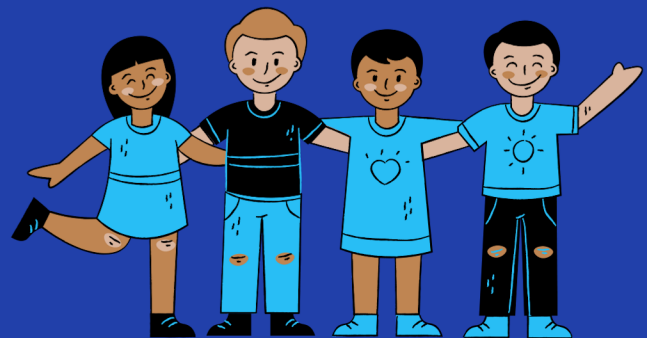




Quarter Three Narrative Progress Report

July-September - 2022



ENHANCE JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN SERVICES AND SYSTEM
IN DUHOK AND ERBIL KR-IRAQ

01 CAPACITY BUILDINGS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

The total number of beneficiaries were 40 individuals
20 (1 female and 19 male) Duhok
20 male in Erbil

One of the main objectives of the training was to enhance the capacity of police officers for communicating with children, trust building, and assuring that the children will have a less traumatic experience while interring the justice system.



Taking into consideration the sensitivity of their age with all other psychological changes during adolescent age, the investigation experience might be very traumatic for the child, especially when passing by multiple investigators who may use physical or psychological and emotional violence while investigating the case.

During the three days of training, multiple subjects were discussed through different sessions focused on the law and legislation of Iraq, KRI, international conventions, and also the psychological aspects.

Police officers are in need of routine psychological training as they face challenging situations in their daily work, yet the job environment put a huge barrier in front of them to ask for psychological help.

Even though they were trained on how to investigate children without using violence, almost all participants believe that using little threatening is not abusive behavior and it's legally accepted. They had different definitions for violence, according to participants using little violence will encourage the child to admit what they did, and abuse and violence were defined as using a massive amount of violence against the children.

At the end of the training certificate of participation were distributed to all participants



02 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The total number of participants were 62 individuals
40 (32 male and 8 female) Duhok
22 (17 male 5 female) Erbil

The overall objective of this round table discussion is to propose a coherent and sustainable roadmap for the development of the children's justice system in Iraq in general and in Iraqi Kurdistan in particular, to enable the restoration of the restorative justice system (diversion and alternatives to detention) as an alternative to the criminal justice system.

Presenting a set of recommendations aimed at achieving the following:

First: Developing the system and mechanisms for undertaking children in the various stages of research, investigation, trial, and implementation

Second: Strengthening the capacities of the effective stakeholders in children's justice

Third: Securing coordination, follow-up, and evaluation mechanisms and improving relations with the media and the public.

The following challenges were highlighted by the participants:

- 1- Sometimes confusing a delinquent child with a homeless or neglected child, or in cases of beggary in the street, and he is a harmed child who may not be arrested by the juvenile police and subjected to the consideration of the investigating judge and the juvenile court. (Articles 23 to 26 of Juvenile Welfare act No. (76) of 1983).
- 2- The lack of specialized juvenile police to investigate childhood affairs;
- 3- The lack of competence and adequate training of juvenile police officers in charge of hearing a child suspected of committing a crime;
- 4- Children's specialists not participating in the preliminary investigation procedures, which do not provide adequate treatment and do not guarantee the effectiveness of diversion procedures and alternatives to detention since the commission of the crime;



5. The lack of programs to support the role of the family and ensure its participation in the after-care system;

6. Lack of social and psychological care programs inside and outside juvenile reform centers, especially concerning the role of the psychologist in helping juveniles with adaptive difficulties.

7. The situation of overcrowding in juvenile reform institutions and centers may prevent the provision of specialized care for each of these children;

8. Inadequate activities and interventions for children deprived of their liberty that promote their progress towards less restrictive systems, and prepare them for their release and reintegration into society;

Referring to the above-mentioned challenges, the participant submitted the following recommendations:

- Prevention of child crimes, through programs including support for families, especially those in vulnerable situations or where violence occurs;
- Provide support to children at risk, especially children who drop out of school early for some reason;
- Eliminate the confusion in Articles 23 to 26 of Juvenile Welfare act No. (76) of 1983 between a delinquent or delinquent child and a homeless or neglected child.
- Expand the jurisdiction of the family and personal status judge and make him the primary judicial reference in the field of deciding the various social protection measures for the endangered child.
- Take all appropriate measures and create the necessary conditions that enable the juvenile court judge to directly carry out investigations into the crimes suspected of being committed by children.
- Considering the possibility of involving specialists in childhood and youth affairs in the initial research stages to ensure an informed treatment.
- Providing automatic legal assistance to the child or other appropriate assistance immediately upon his arrest, and ensuring the automatic presence of the lawyer in all stages of the initial investigation into juvenile-related crimes, whether through the assignment mechanism or by proxy by family members.



03 PSS ACTIVITIES

The total number of participants were 22 (10 boys Erbil) (12 boys Duhok)

The Juvenile Justice Project focuses on children in general and children in conflict with the law in specific, providing necessary support for them and teaching them life skills that will help them be more effective and able to integrate into society after their release to be more flexible in managing their lives and dealing with challenges.

During the reporting period, the following themes were covered for 22 youth in Duhok and Erbil with the presence of a reformatory social worker.

First session: introductory workshop

Second session: theme1: communication, and Emotions

Third session: Theme 2: Interpersonal Relationships and Identity

Fourth session: Theme 3: Non-discrimination and equality and My Body Is Mine

Fifth session: Theme 4: Conflict Management and Decision making.



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The Youth Resilience Program is a program that Builds life skills linked to behavior and social interaction that are essential for sustaining the resilience, protection, and wellbeing of young individuals. The program consists of a series of 8-16 structured workshops conducted by the same facilitators once or twice a week, for the same group of youth.

04 MEDIA AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Too often children and their parents are unaware of what action needs to be taken when they are in contact with the law. This increases the risks of child rights violations and delays in the justice process. Moreover, there's a huge lack of knowledge regarding the juvenile welfare act by the community members and to some extent the stakeholders.

Media awareness activities were designed to increase public awareness about child rights in the justice system and break the stigma around delinquent children, in order to facilitate the child's reintegration into society and reduce the risks of delinquency.

Total media awareness activities were

- Recording 3 episodes of a TV program
- Recording 3 episodes of the radio program
- publishing 60 social media awareness posts
- Reaching 300,000 individuals with awareness messages of child justice



links for media activities

<https://www.facebook.com/waarmedianetwork/videos/452271366757090>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Du_t5df1Kpc

<https://www.facebook.com/Harikar2004/videos/1520268665073549>

https://fb.watch/eF_iWJxwhI/

<https://www.facebook.com/Harikar2004/videos/452486636783599>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GEdoNknedU>

05 REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES

As part of a partnership agreement with UNICEF under a project named “Enhance justice for children services and system in Duhok and Erbil KR-IRAQ”, Harikar NGO has been delegated to coordinate with Dohuk Reformatory staff to support juvenile delinquents who have been sentenced but recently released from the reformatory with income generation and livelihoods projects for helping them easily reintegrate with their respective family and community. The intervention timeline was planned for four months from May 2022 to the end of August 2022, during which Harikar NGO was able to reach out to eight juveniles and support them with different work opportunities and apprenticeships.

The work done by Harikar NGO might be considered as a pilot study where the work approach, steps, and tools could be regarded as a guideline and/or foundation to be used by reformatory staff across KRG for their future reintegration projects. Thus, this report has been developed to reflect the approaches, forms/tools, and steps undertaken by Harikar, as well as, achievements, challenges, and recommendations for future planning and programming.

Recommendations:

- The duration of the intervention is to be increased to up to a minimum of 8 months.
- The allocated budget is to be at least \$ 3000 per child/case.
- the negligent caregivers are to be referred to DOLSA and employment or any other relevant government office to be closely followed up by supported financially and psychologically.
- Juveniles are to be trained in their desired training which are matching with the new advancement in technology and communication. Educational and raising skills training on programming, computers, and the internet to be given to the child.
- DoE and other relevant entities are to be intervened in this case for finding the best solution for children who are not attending or dropped school.
- Reformatory staff, and DOLSA to work together for finding out the best solution mechanism for following up with the juveniles.
- Reformatory, DoLSa, employment office, and DVAW to form a committee or come up with a comprehensive mechanism with a clear ToR and mandate in order to figure out a solution regarding finding income generation and livelihood opportunities.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:
IN THE PILOT PHASE OF
THIS ACTIVITY, EIGHT
CASES HAVE BEEN
PROVIDED WITH
DIFFERENT WORK AND
INCOME GENERATION
OPPORTUNITIES
AN ARCHIVE DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN DEVELOPED
FOR THIS PURPOSE
WHERE PROGRESS,
CHALLENGES, ALLOCATED
BUDGET, AND FOLLOW-UP
NOTES HAVE BEEN
RECORDED.**

