



## National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon by 2016



Republic of Lebanon

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## Foreword by President of the Republic



Lebanon, which has taken part in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and which is committed to its philosophy and approach alike, is proud to have ratified the international and Arab agreements pertaining to childhood, especially those related to the “abolishment of child labour”.

How is it possible to reconcile commitment to the Human Rights Charter with Child Dignity, under working conditions that undermine human values and the foundations of human societies, since child labour is not merely confined to developing countries, but has rather become, at the onset of this millennium, a global problem that has crossed the borders of the countries?

The harshest thing about child labour is that it steals childhood innocence and deprives those who were forced by life’s circumstances to embrace it from the simplest and most basic rights, such as to grow in the warmth of a family; as it exposes them to health and psychological risks, turning them into a direct and easy target for new kinds of perversions.

Lebanon has taken advanced steps in fighting child labour. What is required today, is to move on towards adopting a comprehensive national strategy, specific for children, with a double-objective, namely to preserve their rights while ensuring their protection. Complementarity and partnership between our national institutions and the civil society organizations are still required in this direction, provided that they will strive with similar efforts to combat poverty and need, the direct causes of child labour.

Lebanon has experienced the horrors of continuous wars for decades, for which citizens have paid a high price. Moreover, it realizes that the ugliest violations of children’s rights can be committed by involving them in armed conflicts and political quarrels, whereas they become, unwillingly, a malleable tool in the hand of terrorism, which takes away from them any human sense.

Today, as we launch the national action plan to “abolish the worst forms of child labour by the year 2016”, I am very confident that we are moving forward, with great determination, towards achieving important goals, in view of safeguarding our nation’s future by protecting its children who are Lebanon’s “tomorrow” and its path towards Life.

All my appreciation, support and gratitude go to all those who are entrusted with the implementation of this plan, for their devotion, loyalty and faithfulness to the life of Lebanon and the dignity of the Lebanese.

**Michel Sleiman**  
President of the Lebanese Republic



## Foreword by Ministry of Labour



Attention and care given to labour issues, workers and relevant legislations should not be limited to adult workers or to mediation in disputes between employers and workers or regulating of the migrant labour force. It should rather be much more comprehensive and wider in scope as these issues involve further elements, details and approaches.

Social Justice cannot be reached by only ensuring decent work for male and female workers, or by promoting and implementing the fundamental principles and rights at work such as discrimination in employment and occupation, acknowledging the rights of collective bargaining and freedom of association, and or eliminating forced labour, unless another more noble goal is achieved which is the elimination of child labour in all its forms namely its worst forms. How can social justice be achieved in a society where children are living in very dreadful conditions in the society, pushed to work in a labour market full of dangers and malpractices that destroy their bodies, degrade their morals, shatter their hopes, destroy their future, and or even deprives them their lives?

When Lebanon ratified international and Arab conventions related to children, namely for “Combating Child Labour”, it wasn’t a coincidence but a commitment to the respect of human rights based on Lebanon’s extensive culture of such rights.

However, Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour cannot be achieved through legislations alone but it certainly cannot be achieved without them.

Ever since its establishment, the Ministry gave this issue special attention based on the fact that each child or youth committing an act detrimental to his/her upbringing and morals is a disgrace for whoever is in charge of providing decent work conditions. How can a work be decent if the worker is a child or youth exploited at so many levels? How can we reconcile between the requirements of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the dignity and rights of working youth or children namely in light of the harsh working conditions that affect the core of human values and children’s rights for a healthy upbringing?

We followed this path and launched the slogan: “Together towards a society free from the Worst Forms of Child Labour”.

Our children are the center of our attention in our daily work emanating from the fact that the child of today is the youth of tomorrow and the man or woman of the future, and the path of life starts with the respect of his/her age, privacy, fragility and feelings.

The Ministry of Labour has strived and is still striving to give this issue the priority it deserves, based on the provisions of two international labour conventions, Convention No 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and Convention No 182 on the Worst Form of Child Labour.

Committed to applying these conventions, the Ministry of Labour, and with remarkable encouragement of H.E. President of the Republic of Lebanon, General Michel Suleiman and a rapid response from H.E. Prime Minister and their Excellencies the Ministers, issued decree No 8987 dated on 29/12/2012 prohibiting the employment of children under the age of 18 in jobs that are likely to harm their health, safety or morals.

However, the pressing economic and social situation that Lebanon is currently witnessing has had a negative impact on the behavior of Lebanese children, and non-Lebanese displaced or refugees' children. This is not to mention the exploitation that these children are being subjected to in their daily lives. Thousands are living under very harsh conditions stealing away their childhood and health. This situation led and obliges some of them to use weapons and even participate in riots and acts of violence, which is a dangerous perversion in the behavior of children and juveniles totally disregarded by adults and encouraged by them.

Nonetheless, it is worth mentioning that the slogan did not remain “a slogan”. It was translated into action. A specialized national committee was established of representatives from relevant Public Administrations and Ministries, civil society as well as representatives of international organizations. This Committee was in charge of combating and confronting this phenomenon. And as the elimination of child labour is a national responsibility, it was necessary to activate the role of this National Steering Committee Against Child Labour in the Ministry of Labour with the continuous cooperation and collaboration of the ILO Regional Office for the Arab States. We would like, here, to express our thanks and appreciation for all their programs that helped the Committee to raise awareness and engage all concerned parties such as the media which helped in communicating with the various segments of society, especially in raising their awareness on the risks and dangers of this phenomenon, those that affect the very existence of children's lives.

Among the Ministry's concrete achievements demonstrating that the project is not just ink on paper, and that decrees are not mere theoretical texts, the Ministry of Labour took the initiative of holding regular and systematic meetings for the National Steering Committee Against Child Labour, and provided a platform for working children in the ministry, where children and youth can come, on their own and by their own initiative, accompanied by whoever is adopting their case and witnessing the cruelty of their work, to express their agony, pain and sorrow in a place where they can be heard, and where fact finding can be initiated by the labour inspection department in order to take appropriate measures and protect the child or youth from further exploitation or abuse.

These concrete achievements also include the establishment of an interactive website to raise awareness and report cases of exploitation. Thus, the ministry does not remain secluded from the child or the youth working in harsh conditions, violating regulations, and through this doesn't drift away from its mission of preserving the dignity of the Lebanese regardless of their age.

In addition, the Ministry with the support of the International Labour Organization and in collaboration with the American University of Beirut, prepared an easy to use guide to be made available to all employers, workers and citizens of all segments of the society, especially those who care for children and their childhood youth, just like a father who watches over his children. Moreover, the Ministry, with the National Steering Committee Against Child Labour and in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, also developed a national awareness strategy to combat the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon. This strategy aims at gradually raising awareness over a period of 3 years in order to achieve the desired goal which complies with Lebanon's international obligations; to eliminate the worst forms of child labour for children under the age of eighteen in Lebanon.

This national plan entitled “Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon by year 2016” was adopted by the National Steering Committee Against Child Labour in collaboration with the International Labour Organization. This plan seeks to accomplish realistic and achievable goals provided that all concerned parties join efforts.

**Salim Jreissati**  
Minister of Labour  
Republic of Lebanon

## Foreword by ILO



Combatting child labour has been at the core of the International Labour Organization's mandate since its inception.

In 1919, the ILO pioneered the Minimum Age Convention (No. 5) which, alongside subsequent international standards, has defined and shaped our collective understanding of children's appropriate place in the world of work.

With these international norms firmly in place, the ILO moved into technical cooperation to assist states in achieving their standards.

Since 1992, the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour has taken action against the suffering of children across the world alongside governments, workers and employers.

But the world still counts 168 million child labourers, some as young as 5 years old, more than 85 million of whom face harsh conditions and the prospect of a stolen future.

What's more, child labour in its worst forms – such as hazardous work, prostitution, debt bondage, and illicit activities that harm the health, safety and morals of children – causes irreparable damage to the social fabric as well as to individual children and their families.

We also know what child labour leads to when children become adults: a lifetime of low earnings, social exclusion and unrealized potential.

In 2000, Lebanon partnered with the ILO to join in the global battle against this scourge.

Since then, Lebanon has ratified core international conventions, enacted pro-child legislation, conducted assessments and launched national strategies.

Lebanese law now protects children from the worst forms of child labour and policymakers have recognized the fight against child labour as a national priority.

More importantly, thousands of at-risk and working children have received direct assistance to break the cycle of working poverty.

The National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon by 2016 seeks to put Lebanon's international commitments into practice on a national scale by reaching out to everyone who has a stake in a fairer society: workers, employers, and local communities.

Most critically, it puts in place a process through which Lebanon's most vulnerable have a chance at reclaiming their right to be children.

**Nada al-Nashif**

Assistant Director - General  
and Regional Director for the Arab States  
International Labour Organization



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## Abbreviations

CLU	Child Labour Unit
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
MEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOI	Ministry of Information
MOIM	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOL	Ministry of Labour
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
NEA	National Employment Agency
NSC	National Steering Committee against Child Labour
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
CAS	Central Administration of Statistics
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
SCREAM	Support Children's Rights through Education, Arts and the Media
UN	United Nations Organization
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour

## CONTEXT

### *International commitment*

The worst forms of child labour, as defined by the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), of the ILO are considered as gross violations of child rights and a flagrant breach of the inherent dignity of the human being. With the continuing support of the ILO and its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), the member States of the ILO reconfirmed their commitment at The Hague Global Child Labour Conference held in 2010 to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016. More than 500 delegates from 97 countries, who participated in the Hague Conference, agreed on a Roadmap aimed at «substantially increasing» global efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016. The Roadmap affirms also that child labour is an impediment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and that eliminating child labour yields high social and economic returns and contributes to households breaking out of the cycle of poverty. This commitment was strongly inspired and backed up by the principles and provisions of the ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age of employment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the 2000 Palermo Protocol on human trafficking.

### *Commitment of the Government of Lebanon*

The Government of Lebanon ratified the CRC in 1991, and has been reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child since that time. Article 32 of the CRC which refers to child labour has always been at the heart of the CRC reports that Lebanon has been submitting. In addition, the Government of Lebanon has committed itself officially and in particular to combat child labour in Lebanon since the year 2000. This commitment materialized through a number of memoranda of understanding that have been signed since 2000 between the ILO and the Government of Lebanon, represented by the Ministry of Labour. As a result of that collaboration, the Government has been taking measures towards combating child labour in Lebanon, especially the worst forms of child labour. Significant measures taken by the Government of Lebanon are represented by the preparation of a National Policy and Programme Framework, referred to as the National Strategy against child labour in 2004, the establishment of a Child Labour Unit at the Ministry of Labour and a National Steering Committee Against Child Labour in 2001, in addition to initiating a database on child labour at the Child Labour Unit. The National Steering Committee was strengthened through another decree in 2005, and then amended by Decree No. 5137 in 2010 making it a Higher Committee by the Council of Ministers. Another measure taken by the Government of Lebanon was the adoption of Decree No. 8987 in the 2012, related to the definition of the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon. In the same year, the Government prepared, in close cooperation with and support from the ILO, this National Action Plan (NAP) to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon.

### *Preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP)*

The preparation of the NAP started on the directive of the Lebanese Minister of Labour, President of the National Steering Committee Against Child Labour. The process was driven by strong commitment from the members of the National Steering Committee, including workers' associations, represented by the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers; and employers, represented by the Association of Lebanese Industrialists. In addition, several officials from ministries and civil society organizations participated in the preparation and validation of the NAP, enriching the debate and contributing to the adoption of a more realistic approach. The views of working children and their parents were also taken into account during the preparation of the NAP.

## PROBLEM AND RESPONSE

### *Magnitude of the problem*

Exact numbers of children working in the worst forms of labour do not exist in Lebanon. However, a number of studies have been conducted which show that the problem is increasing due to several factors, including the lack of appropriate response mechanisms in the country, and especially the lack of adequate prevention programmes. In addition, poverty contributes to the seriousness of the child labour problem in general. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) National Development Report for Lebanon (2008–2009), poverty is a serious problem in Lebanon, with almost 300,000 individuals unable to meet their food and non-food basic needs. The number of people living below the poverty line has increased in the past decade. According to the Lebanon Millennium Development Goal Report 2008, 28.5 per cent of the population is living below the upper poverty line (with an estimated income below \$4 per capita per day), and 8 per cent of them are extremely poor and live below the lower poverty line (with an estimated income below \$2.4 per capita per day), and cannot meet their basic needs. A large number of children are found to work in sectors and occupations such as auto repair (eg. mechanical work, car painting etc.), construction, metal working including aluminium and forged iron, and sanitary installations. In general, child workers are mainly employed in industrial sites and places that lack adequate infrastructure and they work with obsolete technology and unsafe machinery and tools. Most of these enterprises use inflammable, explosive, harmful or hazardous materials and substances. Within these environments there is a low level of awareness of the health and safety considerations that should govern basic working conditions.

Children work in such establishments for long hours and at low rates of pay in jobs that are not suitable for their physical and mental development or skill levels. Most of these workplaces are not legally registered or covered by formal regulation or inspection. Poor sanitary conditions and dangerous machinery contribute to the hazards faced by children at work. There are also industry-specific hazards in the form of exposure to toxic materials and by-products.

In addition, there are many children working in the agricultural sector in Akkar, Hermel and Baalbek districts. In most families, every child has to pitch in and work along with his or her family, especially during harvesting and when preparing the ground for planting, because every small amount saved on hired hands is more income for the family. Dangers arise from use of plant pesticides and fertilizers that contain elevated levels of toxic chemicals, with possible risk to children's health. Moreover, often no safety precautions are taken, such as use of protective masks, gloves and hats. Agricultural work is seasonal and can result in long absenteeism from school, affecting children's academic achievements and possibly leading to them falling behind their peers academically and eventually dropping out of school.

However, the National Steering Committee Against Child Labour will be using more recent data, figures and information to be provided by a national survey on child labour to be implemented in 2013/2014 by the Central Administration of Statistics in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and the ILO in order to monitor, follow up and evaluate the NAP.

## ***Principles and approaches of the National Action Plan (NAP)***

In line with the ILO Draft Guide for Preparing National Child Labour Policies and Plans of Action; the formulation of this NAP has been guided by a set of overarching principles, which have been drawn from:

- the country's fundamental statements as part of the Constitution, national legislation, long-term vision statement, medium-term development plans and National Child Development Policy;
- the international instruments, including the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and Convention No. 182 and respective Recommendations, international human rights covenants, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and regional agreements to which the country.

In this context, this NAP has been based on the general principles of child rights, adopted by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, in particular Articles 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the CRC, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1989. The four general principles of the Convention are:

- non-discrimination;
- best interests of the child;
- survival and development; and
- participation.

In addition to the rights-based approach, the NAP adopts a results-based approach, of which all objectives are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound. The strategic interventions of the NAP go beyond the elimination of the worst forms of child labour to ensuring the well-being of rescued children through appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration programmes on one hand, and through the establishment of a prevention system on the other hand.

### ***Wide Consultation Process***

Extensive consultations for information, opinions and validation took place with a wide variety of Stakeholders who are crucial to the process of drafting the NAP as well as for success in its implementation. These included but were not limited to the following; Advisor for Social and Human Rights Affairs to the President of the Republic, Focal Point for Social Policies at Council of Ministers, Legal Advisor to Minister of Social Affairs, General Director of Ministry of Education in addition to Minister of Labour and Head of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists and General Confederation of Lebanese Workers and other members of National Steering Committee such as representatives of Ministries of Justice, Interior and Municipalities, Agriculture in addition to those mentioned above as well as NGO's and UNICEF and UNESCO.

### ***Strategic interventions***

The NAP revolves around eleven strategic areas, which together, when implemented fully, can lead to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon by 2016. The strategic areas are:

1. Legislation and law enforcement;
2. Free and compulsory education;
3. Integration in the educational system;
4. Economic opportunities for parents and youth of working age;
5. Capacity building and development;
6. Development services centres;
7. Local authorities;
8. Local community and community leaders;
9. Prevention;
10. Withdrawal; and
11. Rehabilitation.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### ***Costing and funding***

The NAP has been prepared in a very practical and realistic way. The cost has been estimated in the same way by calculating each activity separately. Potential sources of funding for the NAP are as follows:

- contribution of the Government of Lebanon;
- ILO contribution;
- contribution of donor countries;
- contribution of Lebanese commercial companies and the international commercial companies working in Lebanon, based on their corporate social responsibility policy.

The estimated total cost for the implementation of the NAP is USD 23,735,000 , over and beyond the resources already in place and/or mobilized by Lebanese institutions and society .

### ***Monitoring and evaluation***

Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment are three essential principles for ensuring the success of the NAP. The monitoring process for the NAP entails the continuing and systematic gathering and analysis of all information related to its implementation. The evaluation is essential for assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the implementation process and formulating recommendations for its improvement, as needed. The NAP also relies on an impact assessment mechanism, where results are measured according to the real and positive change in the lives of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour, or in the lives of working children in general.

Based on the above, the NAP contains in the attached Logical Framework measurable indicators for each Expected Outcome corresponding to the results obtained for each of the eleven strategic areas covered by the NAP.

The National Steering Committee Against Child Labour, in coordination with the Child Labour Unit at the Ministry of Labour, will be using these indicators to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the NAP.

### ***Political commitment***

The Government of Lebanon, represented mainly by the Ministry of Labour, is committed to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, in a child rights-based programmatic approach. The same commitment is explicitly expressed by the workers' associations and employers, in addition to NGOs working in the field of child rights.

The adoption of the NAP by the Council of Ministers and its launch from the Presidential Palace undoubtedly constitute clear proof of the firm commitment of the Government of Lebanon to eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 CHILD LABOUR IN LEBANON

Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989) states “States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development». It is noteworthy that the Lebanese legislation recognizes a child as a human being below the age of 18 years, which is in line with the first Article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The questionnaire of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey that was implemented in Lebanon in 2009 asked a number of questions relating to child labour, mainly to working children aged 5–14 years. The results of the survey showed that the proportion of working children in that age group was 1.9 per cent (2.7 per cent for boys and 0.9 per cent for girls). This percentage was greater among children aged 12–14 years (2.8 per cent) than among children aged 5–11 years (1.4 per cent).

The results also showed differences between regions, with North Lebanon having the highest percentage of working children (3.5 per cent in Akkar, Minye and Dhanniye districts, and 3.7 per cent in other districts in the north). The figure for the Governorate of South Lebanon was also 3.7 per cent. As for the enrolment of these children in school, 1.4 per cent of enrolled children were involved in child labour while 27.9 per cent of non-enrolled were working children.

The proportion of working children was found to be influenced by the educational level of their mothers. The proportion of child labour increased as the educational level of the mother decreased, reaching 3.5 per cent for illiterate mothers, compared to 0.4 per cent for mothers holding a university degree.

While the International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), advocates the progressive elimination of child labour, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), refers to the immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Lebanon has ratified both conventions; the former in 2003 and the latter in 2001 .

Although reliable statistics on child labour are not available, there are reports that Lebanon may have one of the highest proportions of working children aged 10 to 17 in the world, with over 100,000 children in the country who are victims of child labour and trafficking. Working children are concentrated in the North of Lebanon and Mount Lebanon. The literature suggests that children from neighbouring countries such as Syrian refugee children, Palestinian children, migrant children, street children and children from low-income families are particularly vulnerable to exploitative labour practices . In a 2009 assessment of camps in South Lebanon, Palestinian children were found to be exposed to exploitative employers, very poor wages, lack of training and physically inappropriate demand, and higher risk of physical punishment and sexual abuse. A number of studies have been conducted which show that the problem is increasing, especially as the country lacks appropriate response mechanisms and, particularly, adequate prevention programmes. Poverty is also contributing to the seriousness of the child labour problem. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) National Development Report for Lebanon (2008–2009) identifies poverty as a serious problem in Lebanon, with almost 300,000 individuals in Lebanon unable to meet their food and non-food basic needs. The number of people living below the poverty line has increased in the past decade. According to the Lebanon Millennium Development Goal Report 2008, 28.5 per cent of the population is living below the upper poverty line (estimated at \$4 per capita per day), and 8 per cent of them are extremely poor and live below the lower poverty line, estimated at \$2.4 per capita per day, and cannot meet their basic needs.

The problem of child labour has probably been aggravated recently in Lebanon due to the influx of Syrian refugees into the country to escape the hostilities in their home country.

## **1.2 WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN LEBANON**

There are no specific data for Lebanon on children in the worst forms of child labour. For that reason, the National Steering Committee against Child Labour will be using data, figures and information that will be provided by a national survey to be implemented in 2013 by the Central Administration of Statistics in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and the ILO in order to monitor, follow up and evaluate the National Action Plan (NAP) to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon.

A study conducted by the Ministry of Labour and the American University of Beirut with the support of the ILO developed a list of the most hazardous types of work. This list was formally adopted by the Lebanese Council of Ministers on 29 September 2012, in a Decree No. 8987, titled the Worst Forms of Child Labour. It includes such job sectors as auto mechanics, carpentry, welding and filling cylinders with gas. The study also cited child labour in the streets as the most dangerous work. The Minister of Labour in Lebanon considers child labour in the streets as a growing and tragic problem that not only affects children but also constitutes a security problem. This also applies to all jobs that have been considered as worst forms of child labour.

A large number of children work in the following sectors: auto repair (eg. Mechanical work, car painting), construction and metalworking including aluminium and forged iron and sanitary installations. Child workers are mainly employed in industrial sites that lack adequate infrastructure and they work with obsolete technology and unsafe machinery and tools. Most of these enterprises use inflammable, explosive, harmful or hazardous materials and substances. Within these environments there is a low level of awareness of the health and safety considerations that should govern basic working conditions.

Children work in such establishments for long hours and at low rates of pay in jobs that are not suitable for their physical and mental development or skill levels. Most of these workplaces are not legally registered or covered by formal regulation or inspection. Poor sanitary conditions and dangerous machinery contribute to the hazards faced by children at work. There are also industry-specific hazards in the form of exposure to toxic materials and by-products.

In addition, there are many children working in the agricultural sector in Akkar, Hermel and Baalbek districts. In most families, every child has to pitch in and work along with their family, especially during harvesting and preparing the ground for planting, because every small amount saved on hired hands is more income for the family. Dangers arise from use of plant pesticides and fertilizers that contain elevated levels of toxic chemicals, with possible risk to children's health. Moreover, no safety measures are taken, such as use of protective masks, gloves and hats. Agricultural work is seasonal and can result in long absenteeism from school, affecting children's academic achievements and possibly leading to them falling behind their peers academically and eventually dropping out of school.



## 1.3 NATIONAL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

A number of national stakeholders have contributed to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

### *Ministry of Labour*

The efforts to combat the worst forms of child labour are mainly undertaken by the Child Labour Unit at the Ministry of Labour, which has achieved many successes since its establishment in 2001. The most important contribution was to review the legislative framework to identify the gaps in relation to the international labour Conventions, particularly Conventions No 182 and No. 138, and to introduce a comprehensive Labour Law to harmonize national legislation on working conditions and the legal age for work with these Conventions. In addition, a database was initiated on the problem of child labour.

The Child Labour Unit also contributed in the preparation of Ministerial Decree No. 5173, issued on 10 January 2010, which amended Decree No. 15959 issued by the Council of Ministers on 19 December 2005, regarding the formation of a National Steering Committee Against Child Labour. According to the decree, the tasks of the Steering Committee lie in the preparation, follow-up and implementation of programmes, plans and projects aimed at eliminating child labour, in coordination and cooperation with other Government Ministries, workers' and employers' organizations and civil society.. The Steering Committee includes representatives from the ministries concerned with child labour in Lebanon (eg. Ministries of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Ministry of Agriculture), as well as representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, the National Social Security Fund and National Employment Agency, civil society, and United Nations agencies, such as the ILO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Child Labour Unit at the Ministry of Labour has worked on the following projects:

- The establishment of a recruitment, referral and rehabilitation centre for working children in Nabattiyeh through a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education) and the ILO Regional Office for the Arab States in Beirut.
- A cooperation programme between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the forum of associations of Sin el Fil and Nabaa on eliminating the worst forms of child labour in order to provide health, educational, nutritional and social services for children.
- An area action plan for the implementation of Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour in the deprived regions of Tripoli (for example Bab el-Tibbani and Bab el-Raml) through a specialized committee (Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities in coordination with and under the supervision of the Mayor of the Governorate of North Lebanon). This included the establishment of a child labour monitoring system.
- Increasing the capabilities of employers (represented by the Association of Lebanese Industrialists) in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.
- Increasing the capacity of workers through a cooperation agreement with the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers on the establishment of a specialized unit to combat child labour, equipped with technological and human resources, and the establishment of a central committee in the governorates, comprising representatives from all the districts, responsible for inspection of firms and companies to ensure they are not using child labour.

- A project with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to strengthen the capacity of the ministry to eliminate the work of children on the streets through the establishment of a specialized unit at the ministry, and training officers in the Internal Security Forces on how to identify the street children refer them to the concerned authorities, in addition to establishing a committee in each governorate under the supervision of the respective governors and in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and IPEC.

It is noteworthy that the issuance of Decree No. 8987 in 2012, related to the definition of the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon is clear evidence of the eagerness of the Lebanese Government, the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers (representing the workers) and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (representing the employers), as well as civil society, to combat and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, which represent a significant violation of child rights and human rights, in addition to the associated security, economic and social risks.

### ***Ministry of Social Affairs***

The Ministry of Social Affairs has played a major role in the prevention of child labour and this has been through several means. Of the most prominent has been the role of the Development Services Centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs of which the numbers of social workers working within them have not only been increased in numbers but also well trained. They have been capacitated to better understand international conventions related to child rights and child labour in addition to learning about the best means for intervention with working children. The Development Services centres have also been empowered to be better equipped with the necessary and specialized social services for at risk and working children. These services include the following: i) accelerated vocational training ii) literacy and academic support programmes iii) school financial support programmes in addition to iv) economic support programmes for marginalized families and children

The Ministry of Social Affairs and its Higher Council for Childhood has developed a draft strategy for dealing with issue of street children in 2010 in a participatory approach with other relevant stakeholders. However, it still needs further practical steps for implementation.

The issue of working street children has been a major concern for Ministry of Social Affairs with challenging experiences in this regards. The Ministry had initiated several efforts to withdraw children from the streets based on the principle of best interest of the child along with the Ministries of Interior and Municipalities and that of Labour and tried to refer them to appropriate services. However, further collaborative efforts are required in this regards with relevant national partners especially with Ministries of Justice, of Education and relevant NGO's in addition to the Ministries of Interior and Municipalities and Labour and the already existing Development Services Centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

### ***Ministry of Education and Higher Education***

The efforts of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education are based on Article 1 of Law No. 150 of 17 August 2011, which modified Article 49 of Legislative Decree No. 134 of 6th December 1959. The modification stated that: "Education is compulsory in the primary education stage, and is available for free at public schools, and a right to every Lebanese of school age that will be determined through a decree issued by the Council of Ministers detailing the conditions and the organization of this free education."

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education is currently preparing a draft of a decree to determine and regulate the conditions of free and compulsory education to an extent beyond that defined in Decree No. 10227 of 8 May 1997 and its subsequent, supplementary and amended regulations. Through the draft decree, free and compulsory education would cover all the period of basic education. Primary education must provide educational services and support services during the school year starting from grade 1 until grade 9, with the condition that the child's age in the last class of primary school does not exceed 18 years, or 21 in the cases provided for in Law No. 220/2000 targeting persons with disabilities.

The draft decree stipulates that every child in Lebanon, including children whose nationalities or identity documents are under consideration is obliged to be enrolled in school. This is from the first day of the school year in which they reach the age of 6 until the end of the school year in which they reach the age of 16, when they obtain the official certificate of basic education. Parents should take the necessary measures and procedures for registration and should ensure constant attendance of their children in school.

The draft decree also includes a provision to form a committee with members from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Educational Centre for Research and Development and the Ministry of Public Health with a role to develop the programmes and procedures necessary to ensure proper education for all children who are receiving long-term or permanent treatments that prevent them, due to health problems, from going to school on a regular basis.

In order to ensure adherence to the conditions for compulsory education, the draft decree will also specify that the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Educational Centre for Research and Development shall submit to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, during the month of July each year, a list of children who have reached the age of 6 and are therefore subject to compulsory education, in addition to their parents' addresses, in order to verify their school enrolment.

A social committee is to be organized in every governorate, headed by a governor and comprising representatives of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health, the municipalities and civil society associations, to oversee the proper application of free and compulsory education. The committee may take the necessary measures to overcome any obstacles to that aim. The social committee follows up any social issues concerning students who drop out of school. They offer social assistance by visiting the child's family to find out the reasons for his or her absence from school and to remind the parents of the need to keep encouraging their children to go to school, under penalty of referring the situation to the courts in accordance with procedures specified by the draft decree.

The draft decree also ensures that the educational curriculum fulfils the requirements of people with disabilities, including their participation in the official exams.

Regarding provision of educational support for child students, the General Directorate for Education of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in collaboration with the Educational Centre for Research and Development, shall prepare intensive educational programmes, especially for the first classes of basic education, targeting students at risk of school drop-out. This is to ensure they follow up their studies and succeed in their exams. This provision also targets students who drop out of education to ensure that they re-join the educational system, and aims at enrolling children who have never attended school within the formal educational system. This would then be followed up on, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, by conducting a diagnostic test to determine the child's ability in literacy and numeracy or other capabilities, in order to determine the level of formal education appropriate for the child during reintegration into the educational system and to equip him or her with special programmes suited to their ability and age group.

The General Directorate of Education also provides support for regular students who suffer from learning disabilities. This is mainly through holding courses outside normal school time and during weekends and holidays in order to raise the standards of those children in areas where they are weak, thus ensuring their continued enrolment in regular classes and completion of their formal education.

### *General Confederation of Lebanese Workers*

The General Confederation of Lebanese Workers is one of the main partners, along with the Ministry of Labour, aiming to combat and eliminate the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon. Accordingly, the Confederation has formed a central unit and sub-units in the governorates and districts in all parts of Lebanon to combat child labour, with 450 volunteers mobilized so far. In addition, the Confederation has issued brochures and posters and carried out 33 awareness-raising sessions for parents. Meetings were also held with the heads of the parliamentary committees concerned with education and with human rights, including child rights. The General Confederation of Lebanese Workers has also helped children by providing them with stationery and schoolbooks, especially in the Governorate of the South, in coordination with Noor Health and the Social Care Association.

In cooperation with the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers, the municipalities and unions of municipalities have-

- Funded a children's movement or lobbying amongst Parliamentarians to enact the compulsory education law;
- Contributed to the issuance of the law exempting students from school fees in formal schools; Implemented awareness programmes for students in many public and private schools in the Governorates of North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and Beirut;
- Contributed in amending the occupational risks decree in relation to the worst forms of child labour leading to Decree 8987; and
- Supported Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (SCREAM project) developed in coordination with and supported by the ILO, including planning and implementation in the Governorate of North Lebanon.

### *Association of Lebanese Industrialists*

The Association of Lebanese Industrialists has been working on raising the awareness on the hazards and dangers which could face children in different types of occupations since the year 2000 at the inception stage of IPEC in Lebanon. Several guides have been developed by the Association in this regards and distributed to employers in the formal sector, especially the factories and industrial sites. However, the Association also produced further guides which attend to work of children in the informal sector where most children are found working in Lebanon. At present, efforts of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists are also improvising their efforts with the ILO in promoting the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility in the field of child rights and child labour especially in encouraging direct interventions by corporations; financially, technically or through in kind contributions.

## 1.4 NATIONAL EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN LEBANON

The problem of poverty is a critical topic in Lebanon. While the information on poverty in Lebanon is still not sufficiently accurate in most cases, it has been estimated that 8 per cent of the population is living in extreme poverty (with an average income of less than \$2.4 per capita per day), while 28.5 per cent live below the upper poverty line (with an average income of less than \$4 per capita per day).

The available studies indicate considerable variation in the geographical distribution of poverty, with the largest numbers of poor and marginalized people concentrated in some areas that have been historically associated with high rates of poverty and deprivation, including Hermel, Baalbek and Akkar. There is also the growing phenomenon of urban poverty, especially in the big cities, including the suburbs of Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon. Negative consequences of poverty include high school drop-out rates, child labour, increasing drug abuse, domestic violence, crowding and deteriorating environmental conditions.

An analysis of Lebanese society shows a concentration of poverty in the following categories:

- Large families, which are characterized by a high proportion of school drop-outs and child labour. The number of disadvantaged households exceeding seven members in 2004 (the average Lebanese household contains 4.3 members) was estimated at 26,000, of which 6,500 were suffering from severe deprivation.
- Female-headed households, most of which are headed by older women, often widowed and living alone or within a family, having surpassed the age of work and without permanent resources for subsistence. The number of very poor households headed by women was estimated at 3,500 in 2004.
- Families with disabled members. Previous studies have shown that the rate of poverty among people with disability is three times the poverty rate at the national level. Disabled people are considered a priority in the application of Law No. 220, including through the provision of free health care, supported by the issuance of disability cards; proactive efforts to provide opportunities for productive work for those with disabilities; and development of supportive programmes of services and social benefits. In 2005, about 55,000 disabled persons held cards issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Elderly people who do not live with their families, working children (and their families) and families of prisoners.
- Illiterate individuals or those with low educational levels (including as a result of early school drop-out) and those who do not receive health and social coverage, including pregnant women, children and the elderly.

Hence, in light of the decline in social indicators and the associated high expense of providing remedial measures, the Government decided to develop a comprehensive social strategy forming a first step in the process of improving the social indicators, especially for social problems requiring medium and long-term interventions. The Government is therefore beginning to take measures that will have a direct impact on the most vulnerable segments of the population and enable them to cope with the chronic consequences of the economic, social and natural crises they face, and provide them with opportunities to increase their income or gain employment, giving them greater security and ability to manage crises in the future. These measures also contribute to promoting the Government's reformist agenda, and include (a) strengthening the existing social safety floors; (b) designing new social safety floors; and (c) reconsidering the current allocation of resources in order to improve services.

For a more effective achievement of these aims, the Government needs to refer to the statistical information that forms the backbone of any future planning. It has therefore put in place a statistical instructive plan aimed at providing a steady, long-term stream of statistical data. This scheme will be a first step towards improving the statistical database as a whole and the social database in particular, and aims to embrace all aspects related to the production and distribution of statistical data.

Given the need for social safety floors and the lack of relevant information, the efforts of voluntary initiatives need to be acknowledged. Civil society organizations are working effectively to complement the actions of governmental institutions and help overcome the lack of planning and information, through relief work to improve social conditions in times of crisis and through activities and developmental projects in the subsequent periods. The effectiveness of this relationship between Government and civil society has varied over time, producing integrated and cooperative actions at various stages, often supported by donors. In some occasions the interventions seemed duplicable, and at other times have appeared uncoordinated and unrealistic.

The Government has also started implementation of the National Programme to Target the Poorest Families. It is acknowledged that there is an immediate need to start assessment of the mechanisms applied in current programmes and to evaluate their effectiveness, and use that information to improve the programmes and put in place new systems geared towards achieving the desired end results.

The National Programme to Target the Poorest Families aims at providing social assistance to the poorest families in Lebanon to help them face their difficult living conditions. This is to be based on transparent criteria that determine the eligibility of those families to benefit from assistance within the limits of public resources available for the purpose, taking into account that the resources provided might create overdependence on assistance and a disincentive to work. This programme gives every Lebanese family the right to ask for help from the Government, according to the following principles: equality, justice, helping families in need, objectivity and transparency. As for the proposed basket of grants and donations to families, it contains a number of possible elements, including cash or material support, for example in the areas of health and education, as approved by the Council of Ministers on the basis of the suggestions of the concerned ministries.

The National Programme is implemented through the network of Development Services Centres affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs, which are being equipped with the working staff to perform the required tasks. The Ministry of Social Affairs will thus be able to play a pivotal role in local development, especially through closer collaboration with NGOs and municipalities. At the national level, the implementation of the programme requires cooperation between all concerned ministries as part of a comprehensive effort to benefit from the related national plans and strategies.

In this context, and in order to enhance the coherence and comprehensiveness of its economic and social approach, the Government, through the National Programme to Target the Poorest Families, is striving to promote the development of local communities in order to reduce disparities between different parts of the country. These efforts include investment in job creation, with the involvement of the private sector, with the aim of raising the living standard of the families in the targeted areas and helping them escape the situation of poverty in which they are living. This will be achieved through:

- supporting local initiatives aimed at providing opportunities and proper infrastructure for marginalized and disadvantaged groups to access social and economic services, including educational, health and environmental services;
- improving the economic situation of low-income families and groups by stimulating productivity and increasing income, including through training in basic skills and developing the capacities of institutions and individuals to access resources that decrease the rate of unemployment and provide opportunities to increase income;
- benefiting from the lessons and experiences arising from the implementation of the project in order to develop, in coordination with the concerned ministries, a long-term human development strategy contributing to the success of other development projects aimed at alleviating social and regional inequalities.

## **1.5 FROM THE NATIONAL STRATEGY IN 2005 TO THE NAP IN 2012**

The efforts to combat child labour began officially at the national level in Lebanon in 2000, when the Lebanese Government (represented by the Ministry of Labour) signed the first cooperation agreement with the ILO. There is no doubt that the National Strategy to Combat Child Labour, adopted by the Lebanese Government in 2005, provided a good basis for reducing child labour and raising the level of awareness among the various professional segments on the need to combat child labour. But the strategy was not accompanied by significant tangible results in the field as it could have if followed closely. However, it had some significant impacts on the national policy level and to a lesser extent on the grass root levels. In light of this effort, the Social Action Plan (a National Reform Plan), designed and submitted by the Government of Lebanon to the 2007 Paris III International Conference for the Economic Support of Lebanon, clearly defined child labour as an important component for attention and reform. It even identified specific areas for action as highlighted in the previous National Strategy Against Child labour. All this combined to make the issue of marginalized children, and more specifically children working on the streets, a critical target for government intervention in the 2009 Ministerial Declaration which was echoed in pronouncements made by consecutive administrations. This came in addition to “providing quality and affordable education for all”, which was also reflected in the Social Action Plan. As a consequence, a National Education Strategy was completed in 2010 to that effect. This was followed in 2011 by a specific strategy for children working or living on the streets, produced by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

These are only some of the most important government efforts to tackle the issue of child labour. On another and equally important level, at the Grass root level, an Education and Child labour project was introduced and implemented over almost two consecutive years . However, the very tangible achievements did not move far beyond those made during the implementation of the first phase of cooperation between the Lebanese Government and IPEC. In addition, the issue of the immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour was not initially given the required attention. Therefore, the National Action Plan (NAP) to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon was prepared in order to give the issue the priority it merited. Efforts made since 2000 have led to the mobilization of several initiatives, particularly by civil society organizations, which have contributed to encouraging economic stability and balanced growth, besides improving the prevailing fragile security situation in the country since 2005.

## 1.6 PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP)

Preparation of the National Action Plan commenced according to the directives of the Lebanese Minister of Labour, President of the National Steering Committee against Child Labour. Five days of national workshops were held to discuss the NAP, attended by the members of the National Steering Committee and other officials, including officials from ministries and civil society associations, who enriched the debate and contributed to a more realistic approach to the NAP. It is noteworthy that Workers' associations and Employers are represented and are active members of the NSC. Meetings were also held with the working children themselves, and with their parents, who gave several reasons for the children's presence in the labour market, including:

- the poor economic conditions of the family;
- loss of the job of the parents, especially the father, thus causing a lack of income in the family;
- inability to pay for school supplies and needs (including books, stationery, transportation);
- the inability of the educational system to accommodate children who have learning disabilities;
- lack of availability of school enrolment programmes that allow children who have dropped out to return to the educational system.

The NAP is characterized by the following:

- active participation by members of the National Steering Committee against Child Labour and their consensus on all the issues and points suggested in the NAP;
- the valuable contribution of the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers, and of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists;
- incorporation of the basic principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- adoption of a results-based planning approach in the design of the NAP;
- ensuring participation of decision-makers and influential officials by consulting them on the provisions of the NAP; and
- active support by the ILO.

The preparation of the NAP is characterized also by a wide consultation process where extensive consultations for information, opinions and validation took place with a wide variety and levels of Social Partners who are crucial to the process of drafting the NAP as well as for the success in its implementation. These included but were not limited to the following; Advisor for Social and Human Rights Affairs to the President of the Republic, Focal Point for Social Policies at Council of Ministers, Legal Advisor to Minister of Social Affairs, General Director of Ministry of Education in addition to Minister of Labour and Heads of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists and General Confederation of Lebanese Workers and other members of National Steering Committee which includes representatives of Ministries of Justice, Interior, Agriculture in addition to those mentioned above as well as NGO's and UNICEF and UNESCO.



## 2. Goal and principles

### 2.1 GOAL OF THE NAP

The overall objective of the National Action Plan (NAP) is the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon by the end of year 2016, in line with the global goal launched by the ILO with the commitment of the international community and the Global Action Plan of IPEC for 2016. Undoubtedly, the efforts that are going to be made to eliminate the worst forms of child labour will inevitably lead to a greater awareness of the problem of child labour in general and to a decrease in the number of working children in Lebanon, consistent with the principles of ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182.

### 2.2 PRINCIPLES OF THE NAP

In line with the ILO Guide for Preparing National Action Plans on Child Labour (2012), the formulation of this NAP has been guided by a set of overarching principles, which have been drawn from:

- the country's fundamental statements as part of the Constitution, national legislation, long-term vision statement, medium-term development plans and National Child Development Policy;
- the international instruments to which the country subscribes, including the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and Convention No. 182 and respective Recommendations, international human rights covenants, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and regional agreements to which the country is adheres to.

In this context, this NAP has been based on the general principles of child rights, in particular Articles 2, 3, 6 and 12, adopted by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, through the Convention on the Rights of the Child which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1989. The four general principles of the Convention are:

- The principle of non-discrimination, in accordance with which this NAP aims to withdraw all children from the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon, without any discrimination based on nationality, colour, religion or race or any other ground that may constitute a reason for discrimination.
- The principle of the best interests of the child, so that all legal and social interventions will aim at achieving the child's best interests and giving him or her a better life.
- The principle of the right of the child to survival and development, embodied in the NAP through the focus on prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation.
- The principle of the rights of the child to participate in all matters and issues and interventions affecting his or her interests, particularly in the area of eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

More specifically Article 32 of the Convention directly relates to child labour.

## 3. Enabling factors in society

The main factor which helped to develop this NAP and could have potential significant impact on its implementation is the coordination amongst the main relevant stakeholders; this would take place especially through the National Steering Committee in addition to any other regional or municipal platforms for child protection in general or child labour in specific which provide space and mechanisms for coordination.

Moreover, this NAP has received considerable interest from the Council of Ministers as well as from the President of the Republic which represent significant political as well as executive form of commitment. This is in addition to the ILO Tri-Partite constituents' interest and involvement let alone other concerned ministries and NGO's. However, in addition to this broad alliance of national stakeholders, there are other important enabling factors in Lebanese society which could play a pivotal role in this NAP.

### 3.1 SOCIAL NORMS

Lebanese society is characterized by the support provided by parents to their children and the efforts made to keep them protected. Families maintain family bonds, enforcing the right of children to be protected and providing them with the best conditions for their proper growth and development, physically and mentally.

### 3.2 ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Lebanese society has always given attention to the educational and cultural aspects of community life, even before the formalization of education. This focus on education has resulted in a certain degree of openness to the outside world and has contributed to the cultural and religious diversity of Lebanese society. While schools are to be found nationwide, even in small villages, it should be noted that the availability of educational services in all areas of Lebanon does not mean that they enjoy the same quality of education.

### 3.3 ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES AND QUALITY OF SERVICES

Recent statistics show that there are more than 6,000 NGOs in Lebanon providing all kinds of social services, including child protection, and helping to ensure the provision of rights and community participation. These associations played a positive and active role during the Lebanese Civil War, especially in light of the Government's reduced role during the war, and helped to provide protection for children, which in return enhanced the partnership with the public sector, despite the lack of coordination and planning between them on occasion.

The social services sector suffers from a serious shortage of resources to meet the basic needs of child welfare, and NGOs can play an important role covering part of this shortfall. Despite the continuous and appreciated efforts made by the civil society sector, there is sometimes an incompatibility of plans and programmes with the most urgent priorities and needs, requiring an approach that involves adequate planning and practical solutions.

### **3.4 CULTURAL PRACTICES**

There is no doubt that Lebanese society suffers from some cultural practices that are inconsistent with the principles of child rights and protection from exploitation. Among these practices is the discrimination that may occur between males and females, which may lead in some cases to females dropping out of school and becoming engaged in the labour market, for example in domestic services, or embarking on early marriage, while boys are given priority in education and encouraged to remain at school.

Another factor found in some areas is a preference for increasing the number of children within the family in order to work in the agricultural sector and increase economic returns, which in turn increases the rate of school drop-outs and child labour.

### **3.5 ROLE OF VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteering is a feature rooted in the history and psychology of the Lebanese citizen, both within the community and the family. However, this activity has started to decline due to the lack of encouraging economic conditions and other incentives, which has led young people to neglect volunteering, despite the fundamental role they could play in filling the gaps and ensuring the needs of the community, including those of children.

### **3.6 ROLE OF COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Lebanon is fortunate in having community leaders with rich experience in the field of child protection, especially during times when adverse political factors can distract leaders from the values for which they work. The existence of a NAP aiming at eliminating the worst forms of child labour can be considered as locust point/call encouraging leaders to play an active and influential role in a key issue.

## 4. Strategic interventions to eliminate the worst forms of child labour

### 4.1 LEGISLATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### *Specific Objective*

By the end of 2015, all Lebanese legislations are compatible with the international Conventions and Protocols regarding child rights and ready to be implemented.

#### *Expected Outcome*

All existing legislation concerning child labour is reviewed, new laws are formulated and prepared, and mechanisms are established for their application, ensuring addition of a provision related to mandatory implementation.

#### *Activities*

1. Issue regulatory decrees for all laws related to child rights, especially Law No. 150 of 17 August 2011 regarding Article 49 on compulsory education in the primary stage.
2. Pass the draft law regarding the modification of the minimum age for employment and amend the Labour Law in respect of the chapter targeting children, in addition to releasing its corresponding regulatory decrees.
3. Issue amendments related to Law No.422 regarding children in conflict with the Law, which is currently being studied by the Ministry of Justice.
4. Work with the Ministry of Justice to increase the penalty for employers who use child labour or parents who encourage their children to beg or work on the streets, especially for repeated offences.
5. Compile information on a computer database about children working, including to help establish a database on children found working and who have worked before. Such information gathering could be undertaken with the collaboration of the Internal Security Forces.
6. Amend Article 617 of the Penal Code, which states that parents or care givers of children below the age of 15 shall be punished by imprisonment from one to six months and shall pay a penalty between 20,000 and 100,000 Lebanese pounds if they had the capacity yet did not take action to ensure that their children were not left homeless. This requires modifying this article so that the specified age is 18 rather than 15, the condition regarding parental lack of capacity is cancelled, and the maximum penalty is increased from 100,000 to 500,000 Lebanese pounds.
7. Amend Article 618 of the Penal Code, which states that all those who let children under the age of 18 beg for personal benefit shall be punished by imprisonment from six months to two years and shall pay a penalty between 20,000 and 200,000 Lebanese pounds. There is a need to expand the circle of criminality so that it includes everyone who pushes an underage child into a job that is likely to lead, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, to adverse effects on the child's health, safety or moral behaviour. In addition, the maximum penalty should be increased from 200,000 to 1 million Lebanese pounds.
8. Undertake training sessions for judges and police officers on how to deal with children and on understanding that children under 18 in the Worst Forms of Child Labour are victims in need of assistance, and that the exploiters should be punished.
9. Develop a law that requires municipalities to give attention to the issue of combating the worst forms of child labour, and enforcement of its corresponding regulatory decree.

10. Organize advocacy campaigns to gain the support of the concerned parliamentary committees and raise their awareness on the need to amend the laws related to underage children, and raise community awareness of child-related issues through the publication of advertisements in visual, written and audio media.
11. Organize a committee including representatives of the concerned authorities to monitor and follow up the enforcement of laws relating to child labour in Lebanon.
12. Engage children by taking their suggestions on how to modify and develop laws, taking into account their personal experiences.

## **4.2 FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION**

### *Specific Objective*

By the end of 2016, all children of the age of primary education benefit from their right to have free and compulsory education as per the National Education Strategy developed in 2010.

### *Expected Outcome 1*

By the end of 2013, the regulatory decrees for free and compulsory education are endorsed.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 1*

1. Ensure each ministry or administration issues the internal regulations applying the content of the regulatory decrees.
2. Advocate for disseminating the importance of free and compulsory education in the Lebanese society.

### *Expected Outcome 2*

By the end of 2014, the school support programme is being designed and sanctioned in accordance with legal requirements.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 2*

1. Identify those categories of action (such as increasing enrolment of children in school, and dealing with children who have recently dropped out or who have never attended school, or who have learning difficulties) that will be targeted by the programme.
2. Design educational programme suited to each category.
3. Orient and train the individuals concerned in implementing the programme.

### *Expected Outcome 3*

By the end of 2015, the quality of the services provided by schools improved.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 3*

1. Train teachers on the problem of school drop-out, its causes and how to deal with it.
2. Train teachers on modern teaching methods.
3. Promote the concept of extracurricular activities that encourage children to stay in the school system and reduce the rate of school drop-out.

## 4.3 INTEGRATION INTO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

### *Specific Objective*

By the end of 2015, all children who are withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour are reintegrated into the educational system.

### *Expected Outcome 1*

Schooling support is provided to all children in need by the mid of 2015.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 1*

1. Conduct surveys for selected children and schools (those that are facing high drop-out or failure rates) and conduct studies on the curriculum and the administrative working processes; follow up by encouraging and implementing school and educational support programmes.
2. To benefit from the surveys conducted by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and develop them further.
3. Provide suitable conditions and circumstances in schools for support of targeted children.
4. Train the educational personnel, social workers and specialists on the educational rights of working children and the technicalities of catch up programmes and reintegration into education.
5. Raise awareness of parents, employers, workers' associations and the community at large, and activate the role of parents' councils through training programmes.
6. Develop educational programmes devoted to all aspects of the child's welfare.
7. Provide incentives to encourage use of school support programmes.
8. Work on stopping violence in schools, especially that the Government of Lebanon has officially adopted a National Strategy on Violence against Children, prepared by the Higher Council of Childhood - Ministry of Social Affairs.

### *Expected Outcome 2*

School reintegration is provided for all children who have dropped out of school, by the end of 2015.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 2*

1. Conduct surveys and analysis on children who dropped out of school and analyse their distribution and causal factors for dropout.
2. Conduct studies on the educational programme provided for the reintegration process and identify appropriate programmes, taking advantage of external experiences in order to create newly developed programmes.
3. Develop legislation for homeless children in order to bring them back into the education system.
4. Provide a suitable school environment.

### ***Expected Outcome 3***

Accelerated vocational training and formal education is provided for all interested children by the end of 2015.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 3***

1. Conduct a labour market survey.
2. Conduct a survey of the number of students, programmes and professional trainings available on the market.
3. Develop vocational curricula that match with the labour market.
4. Raise awareness of the importance of vocational training and conduct studies about the needs of the market.
5. Develop partnerships in order to access the necessary experiences.
6. Raise the awareness of parents, employers and the community.
7. Provide incentive activities and implement the vocational training programmes.
8. Provide Post Vocational Training Support as linkages to appropriate employers and financial institutions for loans and grants to establish small businesses.

## **4.4 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH OF WORKING AGE**

### ***Specific Objective***

Parents of children withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour and youth of working age obtain adequate jobs that enable them to improve their economic and social conditions.

### ***Expected Outcome***

The economic conditions of the families whose children have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour are improved.

#### ***Activities***

1. Conduct rapid assessment studies in areas with high proportions of child labour to identify the circumstances of parents whose children are withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour.
2. Encourage institutions and concerned administrations to work on helping families of withdrawn children, according to their specializations and capacities, in such areas as accelerated vocational training, providing suitable job opportunities, providing soft loans and training in the management of small-scale enterprises.
3. Encourage municipalities to provide jobs within the municipalities and its affiliated institutions, and in private institutions, for parents whose children are withdrawn, including through coordination with village mayors, labour unions, development services centres and non-profit organizations. Grants and exemptions can be provided by the municipality to ease the parents' economic situation, for example by establishing a special fund to grant interest-free loans.
4. Develop recruitment offices affiliated to the National Employment Agency, especially in the worst-affected sub-regions, in order to help parents find work or provide accelerated vocational training, for example in managing small-scale enterprises or in marketing.
5. Enable Development Services Centres under the Ministry of Social Affairs to play a role in helping the parents of vulnerable children by providing them with small loans and in giving substantive assistance to people with disabilities through the provision of relevant facilities.

## 4.5 CAPACITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

### *Specific Objective*

By the end of 2015, society is aware of, accepts responsibility for, and contributes to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.

### *Expected Outcome 1*

By the end of 2013, studies have been conducted and documentation compiled for determining the roles of the actors involved in eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 1*

1. Establish the roles and mandates of each of the concerned sectors.
2. Conduct a survey on the number of working children and the sectors in which they are currently working.
3. Consider the efficacy and current effectiveness of legislation, projects and previously implemented plans.

### *Expected Outcome 2*

By the end of 2014, approximately 5,000 individuals have been trained from the governmental and non-governmental sectors, private institutions and from civil society at large in 28 districts.

1. Train mayors on their role in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.
2. Train 240 representatives and social workers of development services centres in all Lebanese regions on means of intervention with at risk and working children.
3. Train 200 journalists on the importance of their role in bringing the issue of working children to national attention.
4. Train 600 activists from civil society organizations on the protection of children from the worst forms of child labour and how to intervene and conduct advocacy programmes.
5. Train 56 children ( at least 2 from each Governorate every year) over the years of the plan who will constitute a parliament of working children.
6. Train at least one delegate from each municipality and relevant social partners (governmental and non-governmental) in Lebanon on combating child labour.
7. Train 500 officials from the Internal Security Forces to assist in withdrawing children from the worst forms of child labour.



### ***Expected Outcome 3***

By the end of 2014, the capacity of all stakeholders has been built in social safety floors, networking, coordination and advocacy.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 3***

1. Form committees in all municipalities that will be concerned with activating the issue of child labour.
2. Conduct a series of training workshops on Child Labour and Social Safety floors.
3. Form social safety floors in 28 districts of the six governorates.
4. Create a forum of working children from all regions and sectors.
5. Organize “talk show” meetings with the media to launch a campaign and follow up during the early stages.
6. Train 600 activists from civil society on advocacy campaigns and techniques.
7. Hold dialogue sessions with parliamentarians involved in the issue.
8. Communicate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants about inviting donors to contribute to the financing of the proposed projects in order to obtain the intended results.
9. Prepare brochures, posters and training manuals on the issue.

## **4.6 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CENTRES**

### ***Specific Objective***

By the end of year 2016, the worst forms of child labour in the geographical areas of each development services centres are being eliminated.

### ***Expected Outcome 1***

Raise awareness of the staff in the Development Services Centres of the problem of child labour during 2013, and raise awareness of beneficiary and non-beneficiary parents of the services provided by the centres and the seriousness of the problem of child labour.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 1***

1. Train and raise awareness of employees working in the Development Services Centres on the characteristics and standards of school support programmes and identify the mechanisms to take advantage of them and of the programmes for supporting and withdrawing child workers.
2. Train and raise awareness of employees in the Development Services Centres on the characteristics of the problem of child labour and provide them with access to resources related to the issue, such as booklets and brochures.
3. Implement workshops and discussion sessions in schools and religious centres and various gathering places on the issue of child labour.

### ***Expected Outcome 2***

Mechanisms are developed, within a strong network between the Development Services Centres and the Civil Society Organizations located in the geographical area of each centre, to guide the working children towards school support programmes in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and guide their parents towards the support programmes for parents of working children.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 2***

1. Build relationships with all institutions and civil society associations located in the geographical areas of each centre and recognize their activities, following relevant assessments of their needs.
2. Collect information about working children from all institutions and civil society associations and municipalities.

## **4.7 LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

### ***Specific Objective***

By the end of 2016, local authorities are conscious and aware of and participating in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

### ***Expected Outcome 1***

Governors and mayors are more aware of and are playing an active role in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 1***

1. Raise the awareness of governors and mayors of the problem of child labour and the necessity for them to be engaged in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.
2. Carry out a brief assessment of the challenges and successes of already established Governors Committees against Child Labour.
3. Accordingly revive the committees in the governorates to combat the worst forms of child labour, based on lessons learnt from previous experience, and establish new committees wherever needed.
4. Create networks involving these committees and the developmental services centres in the regions.
5. Organize awareness sessions for mayors and governors and municipalities on the problem of the worst forms of child labour.
6. Issue a memorandum to encourage mayors and governors to release statements for any child exposed to the worst forms of child labour and for school drop-outs.

### ***Expected Outcome 2***

Heads of municipalities and unions of municipalities and Mayors are more aware of and are playing an active role in combating the worst forms of child labour.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 2***

1. Create jobs for the parents of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour.
2. Encourage municipalities and unions of municipalities to organize multi-disciplinary local committees and to train them to deal with the child labour issue in coordination with the Development Services Centres, and strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors for the purpose of developing specialized prevention and withdrawal programmes for working children.
3. Ensure enrolment and registration of children in school and their integration into the educational system.
4. Set up child labour monitoring mechanisms in areas and sectors where labour inspectorates are weak, especially in informal activities and sectors.
5. Raise mayors' awareness of child rights and the dangers of the worst forms of child labour.
6. Develop a reporting mechanism among mayors and concerned authorities for cases of child labour (for example by setting up child labour monitoring systems).

## **4.8 LOCAL COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS**

### ***Specific Objective***

By the end of 2016, NGOs and local communities become aware of and are effective in eliminating the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.

### ***Expected Outcome 1***

Task forces, including members of civil society associations, Workers' Associations and Employers, university students and professors of schools and technical institutes, are trained in all Lebanese regions.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 1***

1. Setting the criteria by the National Steering Committee Against Child Labour for selecting the task forces on different child labour related issues.
2. Ensure the task forces attract a number of volunteers for training on carrying out awareness-raising campaigns.
3. Ensure cooperation and coordination between the task forces and volunteers on the one hand and local community institutions on the other hand.
4. Form a funding committee within the task forces to provide financial aid for campaigns.
5. Follow up the task force plans within a time-bound schedule and evaluate the achieved results.
6. Communicate and coordinate with the administrations of universities, schools and technical institutes, and unions and student bodies, with the aim of implementing awareness campaign on the worst forms of child labour.

### ***Expected Outcome 2***

Awareness is raised through commercial and recreational centres and public places and through social communication means.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 2***

1. Put up posters and distribute pamphlets in major malls and within entertainment centres.
2. Present documentary films related to the subject on giant screens, especially on the occasion of International Children's Day.
3. Highlight the issue through television programmes, SMS, Internet and visual media.

### ***Expected Outcome 3***

Awareness campaigns are carried out through employers and labour unions and offices of the National Social Security Fund.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 3***

1. Create special units specialized in the issue at employers' associations and the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers.
2. Encourage the labour unions to take action in instances where children are found working in a way that is not consistent with legal provisions.
3. Communicate with the general manager of the National Social Security Fund as a first step to putting up posters in the 37 offices covering all Lebanese districts.

### ***Expected Outcome 4***

Awareness is raised on child labour and its worst forms among and through religious leaders.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 4***

1. Incorporate the issue of the worst forms of child labour into religious speeches.
2. Develop and disseminate manuals showing the opinions of religions regarding the worst forms of child labour.

## 4.9 PREVENTION

### *Specific Objective*

By the end of 2015, Lebanese society acquires solid and coherent protection mechanisms that are able to prevent children from engaging in the worst forms of child labour.

### *Expected Outcome 1*

A specialized juvenile police unit is formed within the Internal Security Forces to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 1*

1. Issue a decree for establishing a specialized juvenile police which contributes to the prevention of recruitment of children in the worst forms of child labour.
2. Establish a central office for the unit in Beirut and provide it with the necessary facilities.
3. Empower all agents of the specialized police unit with the needed understanding and apply the mechanisms and methods of work based on child rights and human rights conventions.
4. Develop an action plan for the intervention of the police unit in the areas witnessing prevalence of children in the worst forms of child labour.

### *Expected Outcome 2*

The capacity of schools is increased within their three main elements (students, teaching staff and school administration, including parents' committees) on preventing children from being drawn into the worst forms of labour.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 2*

1. Assign at least one social worker to every school.
2. Activate the role of parents' committees in addressing the worst forms of child labour.
3. Inform children about their rights, especially their right to education and their right to be protected from the worst forms of child labour.

### *Expected Outcome 3*

The capacities of the concerned NGOs are strengthened in protecting children from the worst forms of child labour.

### *Activities for Expected Outcome 3*

1. Raise awareness of the concerned associations about child rights.
2. Train associations to prepare rehabilitation programmes for children that enable them to attain certain skills that prevent them from being drawn into the worst forms of child labour.
3. Build the capacities of social workers on how to combat the worst forms of child labour and raise their awareness of their roles in this regard.
4. Conduct field visits to monitor the problems and to provide appropriate services for each case on the basis of the appropriate information.

### ***Expected Outcome 4***

The capacity and role of labour inspection authorities and of the National Employment Agency is activated and its capacity strengthened in the area of preventing the worst forms of child labour.

#### ***Activity for Expected Outcome 4***

1. Train labour inspectors and provide them with skills to carry out their role in monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Lebanese Labour Law, especially Decree No. 8987, which prohibits using children in the worst forms of child labour and hazardous work.
2. Issue decrees that cover the full mandate of inspection on child labour and provide inspectors with special tools to implement their mandate.
3. Empower the National Employment Agency to provide employment opportunities and conduct training for parents of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour.

## **4.10 WITHDRAWAL**

### ***Specific Objective***

By the end of 2016, all children exposed to the worst forms of child labour have been withdrawn.

### ***Expected Outcome 1***

The geographical localities that include the largest numbers of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour are determined.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 1***

1. Compile data on the characteristics of children in Lebanon, such as their age distribution, nationality, and educational and social levels.
2. Transfer children exposed to the worst forms of child labour to specialized rehabilitation centres.
3. Create rehabilitation centres that meet the needs of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour.

### ***Expected Outcome 2***

The future aspirations of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour are acknowledged.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 2***

1. Communicate with parents, labour inspectors and the Internal Security Forces on the withdrawal process.
2. Develop specific recommendations for the establishment of rehabilitation centres based on the identified needs and demands of the children.
3. Devise questionnaires to find out the future aspirations of children.
4. Establish a specialized police unit within the Internal Security Forces to work on withdrawing children from the worst forms of child labour.

### ***Expected Outcome 3***

Committees are established to aid coordination between the workers associations, employers' organizations, civil society, municipalities and unions of municipalities, the Internal Security Forces and inspectors from the Ministry of Labour.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 3***

1. Enable coordination committees to take charge of investigating the locations of child workers.
2. Ensure committees play a role in raising awareness within the internal bodies of municipalities, civil society organizations and others.
3. Raise the profile of the role of committees through mobilizing public opinion to draw attention to the issue.

## **4.11 REHABILITATION**

### ***Specific Objective***

By the end of 2016, all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon have been rehabilitated in professional rehabilitation centres established in various Lebanese regions, by the mid-2014, to provide psychological, health and social services to all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour.

### ***Expected Outcome 1***

Social rehabilitation of all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour has been achieved.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 1***

1. Develop the mechanism by which the Ministry of Social Affairs shall set up rehabilitation centres.
2. Develop an action plan for rehabilitating children who have been exposed to the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.
3. Conduct a rapid assessment survey to identify the categories of children most exposed to the worst forms of child labour.
4. Devise a logistical programme for organizing a number of specialists trained in psychological and social support.
5. Communicate with the concerned centres regarding their integration into the educational programme.
6. Communicate with the parents of working children for the purpose of studying the socio-economic conditions of the families to which children belong and bringing the attention of the parents to the necessity of rehabilitating their children.
7. Set up a monitoring and evaluation committee to follow up the rehabilitation process.

### ***Expected Outcome 2***

Medical rehabilitation of all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour has been achieved.

#### ***Activities for Expected Outcome 2***

1. Form a committee of doctors to follow up the medical rehabilitation process.
2. Coordinate with the Ministry of Public Health in order to provide health coverage.

### ***Expected Outcome 3***

Psychological rehabilitation of all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour has been achieved.

#### ***Activity for Expected Outcome 3***

1. Form a committee including psychologists and social workers to follow up the psychological rehabilitation process.



## 5. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment are three essential principles for ensuring the success of any NAP. With regard to NAPs related to children's rights, evaluation is based on two elements: results-based planning, and human rights-based planning.

The monitoring process for this NAP entails the continuing and systematic gathering and analysis of all information related to its implementation. The evaluation is essential for assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the implementation process and formulating recommendations for its improvement, as needed.

This NAP also relies on an impact assessment mechanism, where results are measured according to the real and positive change in the lives of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour, or in the lives of working children in general.

The authorities responsible for implementing the NAP have agreed to take into account children's opinions in all the activities related to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the NAP. It should be also noted that the National Steering Committee Against Child Labour is the main concerned authority in the monitoring and evaluation process of the NAP in coordination with the Child labour Unit at the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Labour will lead the implementation of this NAP. In addition to monitoring the implementation of the NAP persistently, the National Steering Committee in coordination with the Child Labour Unit will also conduct internal and independent evaluations periodically.

It is noteworthy that the indicators that will be used for the monitoring and evaluation process during the implementation of the NAP are indicated in the attached NAP Logical Framework.

## 6. Costing and funding of the NAP

In preparing this NAP a very practical and realistic approach has been adopted. The costs have been estimated in the same way, with each activity assessed separately.

The NAP may be financed by the following sources of funding:

- Contribution of the Government of Lebanon;
- ILO contribution;
- Contributions of donor countries;
- A contribution, based on the principle of corporate social responsibility, of Lebanese commercial companies and international commercial companies working in Lebanon.

The estimated cost for the implementation of the NAP is itemized in Table 6.1.

N.B This estimated cost is over and beyond the resources already in place and/or mobilized by Lebanese institutions and society.

**TABLE 6.1 ITEMIZED COSTING OF NAP**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Estimated cost (US\$)</b>
Legislation and Law Enforcement	1	125,000
Free and compulsory education	1	0
	2	120,000
	3	100,000
Integration into the educational system	1	1,000,000
	2	50,000
	3	1,500,000
Economic opportunities for parents	1	15,000,000
Capacity building and development	1	300,000
	2	400,000
	3	300,000
Development services centres	1	1,250,000
	2	1,250,000
Local authorities	1	100,000
	2	100,000
Local community and community leaders	1	100,000
	2	140,000
	3	180,000
	4	100,000
Prevention	1	50,000
	2	50,000
	3	100,000
	4	80,000
Withdrawal	1	50,000
	2	20,000
	3	20,000
Rehabilitation	1–3	1,000,000
Follow-up and evaluation		250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,735,000</b>

### **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN LEBANON 2013-2016**

#### *Specific Objectives:*

- I. All Lebanese legislations are compatible with the international Conventions and Protocols regarding child rights and ready to be implemented.
- II. All children of the age of primary education benefit from their right to have free and compulsory education.
- III. All children who are withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour are reintegrated into the educational system.
- IV. Families of children withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour and youth of working age obtain adequate jobs that enable them to improve their economic and social conditions.
- V. Society is aware of, accepts responsibility for, and contributes to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.
- VI. Worst forms of child labour in the geographical area of each Development Services Centre are being eliminated.
- VII. Local authorities are conscious and aware of and participating in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.
- VIII. NGOs and local communities become aware of and are effective in eliminating the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.
- IX. Lebanese society acquires solid and coherent protection mechanisms that are able to prevent children from engaging in the worst forms of child labour.
- X. All children exposed to the worst forms of child labour have been withdrawn.
- XI. All children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon have been rehabilitated in professional rehabilitation centres.

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016					
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.1</b>	Legislation and Law Enforcement					
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2015, all Lebanese legislations are compatible with the international Conventions and Protocols regarding child rights and ready to be implemented.					
<b>Expected outcome</b>	All existing legislation concerning child labour is reviewed, new laws are formulated and prepared, and mechanisms are established for their application, ensuring addition of a provision related to mandatory implementation.					
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Issue regulatory decrees for all laws related to child rights, especially for Law No. 150 of 17 August 2011 regarding Article 49 on compulsory education in the primary stage.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		
2	Pass the draft law regarding the modification of the minimum age for employment and amend the Labour Law in respect of the chapter targeting children, in addition to releasing its corresponding regulatory decrees.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		
3	Issue amendments related to Law No. 422 regarding children in conflict with the Law, which is currently being studied by the Ministry of Justice.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of formulated laws</li> <li>• Number of modified laws</li> </ul>
4	Work with the Ministry of Justice to increase the penalty for employers who use child labour or parents who encourage their children to beg or work in the streets, especially for repeated offences.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of developed laws</li> <li>• Number of approved laws</li> </ul>
5	Compile information on a computer database about children working, including to help establish if children found working have worked before. Such information gathering could be undertaken with the collaboration of the Internal Security Forces.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		
6	Amend Article 617 of the Penal Code, which states that parents or care givers of children below the age of 15 shall be punished by imprisonment from one to six months and shall pay a penalty between 20,000 and 100,000 Lebanese pounds if they had the capacity yet did not take action to ensure that their children were not left homeless.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		

#	Activities	Timeline	Responsible institutions	Supporting institutions	Indicators
	This requires modifying this article so that the specified age is 18 rather than 15, the condition regarding parental lack of capacity is cancelled, and the maximum penalty is increased from 100,000 to 500,000 Lebanese pounds.				
7	Amend Article 618 of the Penal Code, which states that all those who let children under the age of 18 beg for personal benefit shall be punished by imprisonment from six months to two years and shall pay a penalty between 20,000 and 200,000 Lebanese pounds. There is a need to expand the circle of criminality so that it includes everyone who pushes an underage child into a job that is likely to lead, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, to adverse effects on the child's health, safety or moral behaviour. In addition, the maximum penalty should be increased from 200,000 to 1 million Lebanese pounds.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of regulatory decrees</li> <li>• Number of ministerial announcements recognizing child labour</li> <li>• Number of recommendations issued by the Council of Ministers</li> <li>• Number of issued resolutions</li> </ul>
8	Undertake training sessions for judges and officers on how to deal with children in general and those in conflict with the law due to their work in specific and how to enforce the law strictly.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
9	Develop a law that requires municipalities to give attention to the issue of combating the worst forms of child labour, and enforcement of its corresponding regulatory decree.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
10	Organize advocacy campaigns to gain the support of the concerned parliamentary committees and raise their awareness of the need to amend the laws related to underage children, and raise community awareness of child-related issues through the publication of advertisements in visual, written and audio media.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
11	Organize a committee including representatives of the concerned authorities to monitor and follow up the enforcement of laws relating to child labour in Lebanon.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
12	Engage children by taking their suggestions on how to modify and develop laws, taking account of their personal experiences.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIMM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016				
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.2</b>	Free and compulsory education				
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2016, all children of the age of primary education benefit from their right to have free and compulsory education as part of the National Education Strategy developed in 2010.				
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	The regulatory decrees for free and compulsory education are endorsed.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Ensure each ministry or administration issues the internal regulations applying the regulatory decrees.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
2	Advocate for disseminating the importance of free and compulsory education for Lebanese society.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>	The school support programme is being designed and sanctioned in accordance with legal requirements.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Identify those categories of action (such as increasing enrolment of children in school, and dealing with children who have recently dropped out of or who have never attended school, or who have learning difficulties) that will be targeted by the programme (2013).	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOJ	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
2	Design educational programme suited to each category.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOJ	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existence of a well-organized school support system</li> </ul>
3	Orient and train the individuals concerned in implementing the programme.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOJ	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	

<b>Expected outcome # 3</b>		The quality of the services of schools improved			
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Train teachers on the problem of school drop-out, its causes and how to deal with it.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOJ	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
2	Train teachers on modern teaching methods.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOJ	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
3	Promote the concept of extracurricular activities that encourage children to stay in the school system and reduce the rate of school drop-out.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOJ	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	



<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016						
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.3</b>	Integration into the educational system						
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2015, all children who are withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour are reintegrated into the educational system.						
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	Schooling support is provided to all children in need by the mid of 2014.						
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>		
1	Conduct surveys for selected children and schools (those that are facing high drop-out or failure rates) and conduct studies on the curriculum and the administrative working processes; follow up by encouraging and implementing school and educational support programmes.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
2	To benefit from the surveys conducted by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and further develop them.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
3	Provide suitable conditions and circumstances in schools for support of targeted children.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
4	Train the educational personnel, social workers and specialists on the educational rights of working children and the technicalities of catch up programmes and reintegration into education.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
5	Raise awareness of parents, employers, workers' associations and the community, and activate the role of parents' councils through training programmes.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
6	Develop educational programmes devoted to all aspects of the child's welfare.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
7	Provide incentives to encourage use of school support programmes.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
8	Work on stopping violence in schools, especially that the Government of Lebanon has officially adopted a National Strategy on Violence against Children, prepared by the Higher Council of Childhood - Ministry of Social Affairs.	By the mid of 2015	MOL, MEHE, and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of schools that have launched a school support programme</li> </ul>	

<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>		School reintegration is provided for all children who have dropped out of school, by the end of 2015.			
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Conduct surveys and analysis on children who dropped out of school and analyse their distribution and causal factors for dropout.	By the end of 2015	MEHE, MOL and MOSA, MOIM (Head of Municipalities)	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of students who have benefited from the school support programme</li> </ul>
2	Conduct studies on the educational programme provided for the reintegration process and identify appropriate programmes, taking advantage of external experiences in order to create newly developed programmes.	By the end of 2015	MEHE, MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
3	Develop legislation for homeless children in order to bring them back into the education system.	By the end of 2015	MEHE, MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
4	Provide a suitable school environment.	By the end of 2015	MEHE, MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	

<b>Expected outcome # 3</b>		Accelerated vocational training and formal education is provided for all interested children by the end of 2015.					
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>		
1	Conduct a labour market survey	By the end of 2014	MOL, MEHE, MOSA, NEA and Ministry of Commerce	ILO – IPEC	• Number of market surveys conducted		
2	Conduct a survey of the number of students, programmes and professional trainings available on the market.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of working children who have benefited from the systematic vocational training</li> </ul>		
3	Develop vocational curricula that match with the labour market.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
4	Raise awareness of the importance of vocational training and conduct studies about the needs of the market.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
5	Develop partnerships in order to access the necessary experiences.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
6	Raise the awareness of parents, employers and the community.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
7	Provide incentive activities and implement the vocational training programmes	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			
8	Provide Post Vocational Training Support as linkages to appropriate employers and financial institutions for loans and grants to establish small businesses	By the end of 2015	MOL, MEHE, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF			

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016				
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.4</b>	Economic opportunities for parents and youth of working age				
<b>Specific Objective</b>	Parents of children withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour and youth of working age obtain adequate jobs that enable them to improve their economic and social conditions.				
<b>Expected outcome</b>	The economic conditions of the families whose children have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour are improved.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Conduct rapid assessment studies in areas with high proportions of child labour to identify the circumstances of parents whose children are withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2016	MOL, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of families whose economic situations has been improved, by being able to meet the basic needs, through the provision of economic opportunities</li> </ul>
2	Encourage institutions and concerned administrations to work on helping families of withdrawn children, according to their specializations and capacities, in such areas as accelerated vocational training, providing suitable job opportunities, providing soft loans and training in the management of small-scale enterprises.	By the end of 2016	MOL, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC	
3	Encourage municipalities to provide jobs within the municipalities and its affiliated institutions, and in private institutions, for parents whose children are withdrawn, including through coordination with village mayors, labour unions, development services centres and non-profit organizations. Grants and exemptions can be provided by the municipality to ease the parents' economic situation, for example by establishing a special fund to grant interest-free loans.	By the end of 2016	MOL, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC	
4	Develop recruitment offices affiliated to the National Employment Agency, especially in the worst-affected sub-regions, in order to help parents find work or provide accelerated vocational training, for example in managing small-scale enterprises or in marketing.	By the end of 2016	MOL, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC	
5	Enable development services centres under the Ministry of Social Affairs to play a role in helping the parents of vulnerable children by providing them with small loans and in giving substantive assistance to people with disabilities through the provision of relevant facilities.	By the end of 2016	MOL, MOSA and NEA	ILO – IPEC	

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016				
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.5</b>	Capacity building and development				
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2015, society is aware of, accepts responsibility for, and contributes to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.				
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	By the end of 2013, studies have been conducted and documentation compiled for determining the roles of the actors involved in eliminating the worst forms of child labour.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Establish the roles and mandates of each of the concerned sectors.	By the end of 2013	MOL, MOSA and CAS	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study conducted to identify the roles of all actors engaged in eliminating the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Increase in the number of actors involved in eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2015</li> </ul>
2	Conduct a survey on the number of working children and the sectors in which they are currently working.	By the end of 2013	MOL, MOSA and CAS	ILO – IPEC	
3	Consider the efficacy and current effectiveness of legislation, projects and previously implemented plans.	By the end of 2013	MOL, MOSA and CAS	ILO – IPEC	
<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>	By the end of 2014, approximately 5,000 individuals have been trained from the governmental and non-governmental sectors, private institutions and from civil society at large in 28 districts.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Train mayors on their role in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of trainees in the public and private and civil society sectors by the year 2014 in the 28 districts</li> </ul>
2	Train 240 representatives and social workers of development services centres in all Lebanese regions on means of intervention with at risk and working children.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC	
3	Train 200 journalists on the importance of their role in bringing the issue of working children to national attention.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC	

#	Activities	Timeline	Responsible institutions	Supporting institutions	Indicators
4	Train 600 activists from civil society organizations on the protection of children from the worst forms of child labour and how to intervene and conduct advocacy programmes.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of trainees in the public and private and civil society sectors by the year 2014 in the 28 districts</li> </ul>
5	Train 56 children over four years who will later constitute a parliament of working children.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC	
6	Train at least one delegate from each municipality and relevant social partners (governmental and non-governmental) in Lebanon on combating child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC	
7	Train 500 officials from the Internal Security Forces to intervene in withdrawing children from the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, MOIM and MOJ	ILO – IPEC	
<b>Expected outcome # 3</b>		By the end of 2014, the capacity of all stakeholders has been built in social safety nets, networking, coordination and advocacy.			
#	Activities	Timeline	Responsible institutions	Supporting institutions	Indicators
1	Form committees in all municipalities that will be concerned with activating the issue of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of governorates and districts that have established social safety nets</li> <li>Number of active participants in the social safety nets</li> </ul>
2	Conduct a series of training workshops on Child Labour and Social Safety Nets.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
3	Form social safety nets in the six governorates.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
4	Create a forum of working children from all regions and sectors.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
5	Organize “talk show” meetings with the media to launch a campaign and follow up during the early stages.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE, and MOI	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
6	Train 600 activists from civil society on advocacy campaigns and techniques.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	

#	Activities	Timeline	Responsible institutions	Supporting institutions	Indicators
7	Hold dialogue sessions with parliamentarians involved in the issue.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of governorates and districts that have established social safety nets</li> </ul>
8	Communicate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants about inviting donors to contribute to the financing of the proposed projects in order to obtain the intended results.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOFA	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of active participants in the social safety nets</li> </ul>
9	Prepare brochures, posters and training manuals on the issue.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA, MEHE and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016					
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.6</b>	Development Services Centres					
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of year 2016, the worst forms of child labour in the selected geographical area of each development services centre are being eliminated.					
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	Raise awareness of the staff in the Development Services Centres of the problem of child labour during 2013, and raise awareness of beneficiary and non-beneficiary parents of the services provided by the centres and the seriousness of the problem of child labour.					
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Train and raise awareness of employees working in the Development Services Centres on the characteristics and standards of school support programmes and identify the mechanisms to take advantage of them and of the programmes for supporting and withdrawing child workers.	By the end of 2013	MOSA and MOL	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Development Services Centres that have networked with civil society associations and activists located in the geographical area of each centre in year 2013</li> </ul>	
2	Train and raise awareness of employees in the Development Services Centres on the characteristics of the problem of child labour and provide them with access to resources related to the issue, such as booklets and brochures.	By the end of 2013	MOSA and MOL	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of associations that have networked with each development services centre</li> </ul>	
3	Implement workshops and discussion sessions in schools and religious centres and various gathering places on the issue of child labour.	By the end of 2013	MOSA and MOL	ILO – IPEC		



<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>		Mechanisms are developed, within a strong network between the Development Services Centres and the Civil Society Organizations located in the geographical area of each centre, to guide the working children towards school support programmes in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and guide their parents towards the support programmes for parents of working children.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Build relationships with all institutions and civil society associations located in the geographical areas of each centre and recognize their activities, following relevant assessments of their needs.	By the end of 2014	MOSA and MOL	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of mechanisms that have been developed in centres to guide the working children towards school support programmes in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the concerned associations and guide their parents towards support programmes for parents of working children in partnership with the concerned associations in 2013</li> <li>Number of working children and parents who have been directed to the support programmes in 2013</li> <li>Number of workers whose awareness has been raised of the problem of child labour in 2013</li> <li>Number of beneficiary and non-beneficiary parents from the Development Services Centres whose awareness has been raised of the seriousness of the child labour issue.</li> </ul>	
2	Collect information about working children from all institutions and civil society associations and municipalities.	By the end of 2014	MOSA and MOL	ILO – IPEC		

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016					
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.7</b>	Local authorities					
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2016, local authorities are conscious and aware of and participating in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.					
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	Governors and mayors are more aware of and are playing an active role in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.					
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Raise the awareness of governors and mayors of the problem of child labour and the necessity for them to be engaged in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOIM	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of governors and mayors who have been covered by the awareness-raising activities</li> <li>Number of governors and mayors who have taken positive attitudes and positions towards the elimination of the worst forms of child labour</li> </ul>	
2	Carry out a brief assessment of the challenges and successes of already established Governors Committees against Child Labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOIM	ILO – IPEC		
3	Accordingly revive the committees in the governorates to combat the worst forms of child labour, based on lessons learnt from previous experience, and establish new committees wherever needed.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOIM	ILO – IPEC		
4	Create networks involving these committees and the developmental services centres in the regions.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOIM	ILO – IPEC		
5	Organize awareness sessions for mayors and governors and municipalities on the problem of the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOIM	ILO – IPEC		
6	Issue a memorandum to encourage mayors and governors to release statements for any child exposed to the worst forms of child labour and for school drop-outs.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOIM	ILO – IPEC		

<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>		Heads of municipalities and unions of municipalities and Mayors are more aware of and are playing an active role in combating the worst forms of child labour.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Create jobs for the parents of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, Municipalities and Mayors	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of heads and mayors of municipalities and union of municipalities who have been covered by the awareness-raising activities</li> <li>Number of heads and mayors of municipalities and unions of municipalities who have taken positive attitudes and positions towards the elimination of the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of mayors who have been covered by the awareness-raising activities</li> <li>Number of mayors who have taken positive attitudes and positions towards the elimination of the worst forms of child labour</li> </ul>	
2	Encourage municipalities and unions of municipalities to organize multi-disciplinary local committees to deal with the child labour issue in coordination with the Development Services Centres, and strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors for the purpose of developing specialized prevention and withdrawal programmes for working children.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, Municipalities and Mayors	ILO – IPEC		
3	Ensure enrolment and registration of children in school and their integration into the educational system.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, Municipalities and Mayors	ILO – IPEC		
4	Set up child labour monitoring mechanisms in areas and sectors where labour inspectorates are weak, especially in informal activities and sectors.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, Municipalities and Mayors	ILO – IPEC		
5	Raise mayors' awareness of child rights and the dangers of the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, Municipalities and Mayors	ILO – IPEC		
6	Develop a reporting mechanism among mayors and concerned authorities for cases of child labour (for example by setting up child labour monitoring systems).	By the end of 2015	MOL, MOSA, Municipalities and Mayors	ILO – IPEC		

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016					
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.8</b>	Local community and community leaders					
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2016, NGOs and local communities become aware of and are effective in eliminating the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.					
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	Task forces, including members of civil society associations, Workers' Associations and Employers, university students and professors of schools and technical institutes, are trained in all Lebanese regions.					
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Setting the criteria by the National Steering Committee against Child Labour for selecting the task forces on different child labour related issues.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC		
2	Ensure the task forces attract a number of volunteers for training on carrying out awareness-raising campaigns.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC		
3	Ensure cooperation and coordination between the task forces and volunteers on the one hand and local community institutions on the other hand.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC		
4	Form a funding committee within the task forces to provide financial aid for campaigns.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC		
5	Follow up the task force plans within a time-bound schedule and evaluate the achieved results.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC		
6	Communicate and coordinate with the administrations of universities, schools and technical institutes, and unions and student bodies, with the aim of implementing awareness campaign on the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of members of civil society associations, university students and professors of schools and technical institutes that have been trained in all Lebanese regions</li> </ul>

<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>		Awareness is raised through commercial and recreational centres and public places and through social communication means.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Put up posters and distribute pamphlets in major malls and within entertainment centres.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of awareness sessions that have been organized at universities, schools, technical schools, associations and clubs</li> <li>Number of trainees who participated in the awareness sessions that have been organized at universities, schools, technical schools, associations and clubs</li> </ul>	
2	Present documentary films related to the subject on giant screens, especially on the occasion of International Children's Day.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		
3	Highlight the issue through television programmes, SMS, Internet and visual media.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF		
<b>Expected outcome # 3</b>		Awareness campaigns are carried out through employers and labour unions and offices of the National Social Security Fund.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Create special units specialized in the issue at employers' associations and the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers.	By the end of 2014	MOL, NSSF	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of commercial and recreational centres and public places adopting the idea of awareness raising on the issue of the elimination of the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of syndicates and labour unions contributing to the awareness sessions on eliminating the worst forms of child labour.</li> <li>Number of offices of the National Social Security Fund adopting and implementing the awareness-raising tools.</li> </ul>	
2	Encourage the labour unions to take action in instances where children are found working in a way that is not consistent with legal provisions.	By the end of 2014	MOL, NSSF	ILO – IPEC		
3	Communicate with the general manager of the National Social Security Fund as a first step to putting up posters in the 37 offices covering all Lebanese districts.	By the end of 2014	MOL, NSSF	ILO – IPEC		

<b>Expected outcome # 4</b>		Awareness is raised of child labour and its worst forms among and through religious leaders.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Incorporate the issue of the worst forms of child labour into religious speeches.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of social communication means developed to address the issue of elimination of the worst forms of child labour.</li> </ul>	
2	Develop and disseminate manuals showing the opinions of religions regarding the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of clerics who incorporated into their religious speeches the issue of the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of materials developed to show the opinion of religions regarding the issue of eliminating the worst forms of child labour</li> </ul>	

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016				
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.9</b>	Prevention				
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2015, Lebanese society acquires solid and coherent protection mechanisms that are able to prevent children from engaging in the worst forms of child labour.				
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	A specialized juvenile police unit is formed within the Internal Security Forces to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Issue a decree for establishing a specialized juvenile police which contributes to the prevention of recruitment of children in the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOIM and MOL	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existence of a specialized police unit within the Internal Security Forces to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of labour</li> </ul>
2	Establish a central office for the unit in Beirut and provide it with the necessary facilities.	By the end of 2014	MOIM and MOL	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of security forces who have been entrusted with the task of eliminating the worst forms of child labour</li> </ul>
3	Empower all agents of the specialized police unit with the needed understanding and apply the mechanisms and methods of work based on child rights and human rights conventions.	By the end of 2014	MOIM and MOL	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
4	Develop an action plan for the intervention of the police unit in the areas witnessing prevalence of children in the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOIM and MOL	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	

<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>		The capacity of schools is increased within their three main elements (students, teaching staff and school administration, including parents' committees) on preventing children from being drawn into the worst forms of labour.			
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Assign at least one social worker to every school.	By the mid of 2015	MEHE, MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of schools with increased capacity within their three main elements (students, teaching staff and administration, including parents' committees) on preventing children from being drawn into the worst forms of child labour</li> </ul>
2	Activate the role of parents' committees in addressing the worst forms of child labour.	By the mid of 2015	MEHE, MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
3	Inform children about their rights, especially their right to education and their right to be protected from the worst forms of child labour.	By the mid of 2015	MEHE, MOL and MOSA	ILO–IPEC, UNESCO and UNICEF	
<b>Expected outcome # 3</b>		The capacities of the concerned NGOs are strengthened in protecting children from the worst forms of child labour.			
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Raise awareness of the concerned associations about child rights and child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of NGOs concerned with protecting children from the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of NGO trainees whose capacities have been increased</li> </ul>
2	Train associations to prepare rehabilitation programmes for children that enable them to attain certain skills that prevent them from being drawn into the worst forms of child labour.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
3	Build the capacities of social workers on how to combat the worst forms of child work and raise their awareness of their roles in this regard.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
4	Conduct field visits to monitor the problems and to provide appropriate services for each case on the basis of the appropriate information.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	



<b>Expected outcome # 4</b>		The capacity and role of labour inspection authorities and of the National Employment Agency is activated and its capacity strengthened in the area of preventing the worst forms of child labour.			
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Train labour inspectors and provide them with skills to carry out their role in monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Lebanese Labour Law, especially Decree No. 8987, which prohibits using children in the worst forms of child labour and hazardous work.	By the mid of 2015	MOL and NEA	ILO – IPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of employment opportunities that have been provided by the National Employment Agency to the parents of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of training sessions that have been organized for the parents of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of employers whose capabilities on providing employment opportunities for the parents of the children exposed to the worst forms of child labour have been raised</li> <li>Number of inspectors whose capacity to combat the worst forms of child labour has been strengthened</li> </ul>
2	Issue decrees that cover the full mandate of inspection on child labour and provide inspectors with special tools to implement their mandate.	By the mid of 2015	MOL and NEA	ILO – IPEC	
3	Empower the National Employment Agency to provide employment opportunities and conduct training for parents of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour.	By the mid of 2015	MOL and NEA	ILO – IPEC	

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016				
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.10</b>	Withdrawal				
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2016, all children exposed to the worst forms of child labour have been withdrawn.				
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	The geographical localities that include the largest numbers of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour are determined.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Compile data on the characteristics of children in Lebanon, such as their age distribution, nationality, and educational and social levels.	By the mid of 2014	MOL and CAS	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geographical localities that include the largest number of children exposed to the worst forms of child labour determined.</li> </ul>
2	Transfer children exposed to the worst forms of child labour to specialized rehabilitation centres.	By the mid of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
3	Create rehabilitation centres that meet the needs of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour.	By the mid of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>	The future aspirations of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour are acknowledged.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Communicate with parents, labour inspectors and the Internal Security Forces on the withdrawal process.	By the mid of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour who have had their views documented</li> </ul>
2	Develop specific recommendations for the establishment of rehabilitation centres based on the identified needs and demands of the children.	By the mid of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of questionnaires completed to determine the future aspirations of children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour</li> </ul>
3	Devise questionnaires to find out the future aspirations of children.	By the mid of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
4	Establish a specialized police unit within the Internal Security Forces to work on withdrawing children from the worst forms of child labour.	By the mid of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MEHE	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	

<b>Expected outcome # 3</b>		Committees are established to aid coordination between the labour associations, employers' organizations, civil society, municipalities and unions of municipalities, the Internal Security Forces and inspectors from the Ministry of Labour.			
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1	Enable coordination committees to take charge of investigating the locations of child workers.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of coordinating committees that have been established to aid coordination between the labour associations, employers' organizations, civil society, municipalities and unions of municipalities, the Internal Security Forces and inspectors from the Ministry of Labour.</li> </ul>
2	Ensure committees play a role in raising awareness within the internal bodies of municipalities, civil society organizations and others.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	
3	Raise the profile of the role of committees through mobilizing public opinion to draw attention to the issue.	By the end of 2014	MOL, MOSA and MOIM	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	

<b>Goal</b>	Eliminate the WFCL in Lebanon by 2016						
<b>Strategic Intervention 4.11</b>	Rehabilitation						
<b>Specific Objective</b>	By the end of 2016, all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon have been rehabilitated in professional rehabilitation centres established in various Leba-nese regions, by the mid-2014, to provide psychological, health and social services to all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour.						
<b>Expected outcome # 1</b>	Social rehabilitation of all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour has been achieved.						
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>		
1	Develop the mechanism by which the Ministry of Social Affairs shall set up rehabilitation centres.	By the end of 2013	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of professional rehabilitation centres that have been established that provide social rehabilitation services to children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of children who have benefited from the professional rehabilitation centres</li> </ul>		
2	Develop an action plan for rehabilitating children who have been exposed to the worst forms of child labour in Lebanon.	By the mid of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF			
3	Conduct a rapid assessment survey to identify the categories of children most exposed to the worst forms of child labour.	By the mid of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF			
4	Devise a logistical programme for organizing a number of specialists trained in psychological and social support.	By the mid of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF			
5	Communicate with the concerned centres regarding their integration into the educational programme.	By the mid of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF			
6	Communicate with the parents of working children for the purpose of studying the socio-economic conditions of the families to which children belong and bringing the attention of the parents to the necessity of rehabilitating their children.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF			
7	Set up a monitoring and evaluation committee to follow up the rehabilitation process.	By the end of 2014	MOL and MOSA	ILO – IPEC and UNICEF			

<b>Expected outcome # 2</b>		Medical rehabilitation of all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour has been achieved.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Form a committee of doctors to follow up the medical rehabilitation process.	By the mid of 2014	MOL, MOPH and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, WHO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of professional rehabilitation centres that have been established that provide health rehabilitation services to all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of children who have benefited from the professional rehabilitation centres</li> </ul>	
2	Coordinate with the Ministry of Public Health in order to provide health coverage.	By the mid of 2014	MOL, MOPH and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, WHO and UNICEF		
<b>Expected outcome # 3</b>		Psychological rehabilitation of all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour has been achieved.				
<b>#</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institutions</b>	<b>Supporting institutions</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	
1	Form a committee including psychologists and social workers to follow up the psychological rehabilitation process.	By the mid of 2014	MOL, MOPH and MOSA	ILO – IPEC, WHO and UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of professional rehabilitation centres that have been established that provide psychological services to all children who have been withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour</li> <li>Number of children who have benefited from the professional rehabilitation centres</li> </ul>	

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Ministry of Labor  
Chiyah Highway - Moucharafieh  
Baabda - Lebanon  
Hot Line: 1740  
Telephone: 01-556801 / 01-556803 / 01-556804  
Fax: 01-556808  
E-mail: [ministry@labor.gov.lb](mailto:ministry@labor.gov.lb)  
Website: [www.labor.gov.lb](http://www.labor.gov.lb)

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