

**Draft Final Report**

**Rapid Assessment (RA) on Child Labour  
Agricultural Sector in Jordan / Mafraq & Jordan Valley (Ghor)**

**Jordanians and Syrian Working Children**

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ILO Jordan

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## 1. Acronyms and Definitions

### Acronyms

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CLS	Child Labour Survey
CL	Child Labour
DOS	Department of Statistics in Jordan
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GOJ	Government of Jordan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labour Organization of the United Nations
IPEC	International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOL	Ministry of Labour
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOPIC	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
NCFA	National Council for Family Affairs
RA	Rapid Assessment
SG	Secretary General
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations

## Definitions

1. Child: The CRC, 1989 spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere should have and defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years<sup>1</sup>. The CRC includes the right to protection from economic exploitation (Article 32) and the right to education (Article 28) as well as key rights children should enjoy. The CRC is the most endorsed human rights treaty in the world and sets the base line for all age definition for other treaties such as the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
2. Child labour: ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999) are the two main Conventions that specifically focus on child labour and set the minimum age for admission to employment and define the worst forms of child labour. The ILO defines child labour as work that children should not be carrying out because they are too young, or – if they have reached the minimum age – because it is dangerous or otherwise unsuitable for them<sup>2</sup>. IPEC defines child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development
3. Worst forms of child labour: ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999 covers boys and girls under the age of 18 years, as defined by the CRC. The ILO Convention calls for “immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.” The Convention defines these worst forms, to be prohibited to all persons under 18 years, as:
  - All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
  - The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or pornographic performances.
  - The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.
  - Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/childlabour/intlconvs.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/childlabour/intlconvs.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> 5 *ibid.* p. 19

4. **Abject Poverty<sup>4</sup>**: Defined by the DOS as the food poverty line, based on severe deprivation of basic human needs and inability to attain the level of spending necessary for an individual to meet the basic food that provides calories necessary to practice normal daily and stay alive.
5. **Absolute Poverty<sup>5</sup>**: Defined by the DOS as a condition characterised by deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and necessary items to stay alive and to live in a dignified manner enabling Jordanians to fulfil their daily activities in line with the social patterns determined by local customs and traditions.
6. **The Jordan Valley**: The low-lying strip which cleaves down Jordan's western border. It is part of the Great Rift Valley, which extends southwards into East Africa. The Jordan Valley is divided into several distinct geographic sub-regions. Its northern section is known locally as the Ghor, and is divided into North Ghor in the Irbid governorate, Middle Ghor in the Balqa governorate and South Ghor in the Karak governorate.
7. **First-degree relatives**: A close blood relative, including the individual's parents, full siblings, or children.
8. **Second-degree relatives**: A blood relative, including the individual's grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces or half-siblings<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Based on the Department of Statistics definition outlined in the 2010 Poverty study

<sup>5</sup> Based on the Department of Statistics definition outlined in the 2010 Poverty study

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.bcbst.com/mpmanual/First\\_and\\_Second\\_Degree\\_Relative.htm](http://www.bcbst.com/mpmanual/First_and_Second_Degree_Relative.htm)



## 2. Executive Summary / Key Findings

The key objective of this study is to conduct a Rapid Assessment on child labour for Jordanian and Syrian children in the agricultural sector in Mafrq governorate and the Jordan Valley, which includes the governorates of Irbid, Balqa and Karak. The RA set out to determine the nature, pattern, distribution, dynamics and causes of child labour in agriculture for Jordanian and Syrian refugees, in addition to learning more about the socio-economic characteristics of the working children and their families; health, safety, education and rights of the working children, as well as suggesting possible policy options, legislation and other protective measures to address the issue of child labour in Jordan's agricultural sector.

The instrument of data collection included literature reviews, household surveys, structured and semi-structured interviews, FGDs, and key informants. Purposive and snowball sampling methods were used, while interacting with working children and their families, government officials, farmers, informal worker agents, union representatives, key informants and local community leaders.

A total of 215 households were surveyed, of which 48.8 percent were Jordanians and 51.2 percent Syrians. A total of 538 parents and children were surveyed, including 368 children and 215 parents. Of these 368 children, 170 were Jordanian and 198 Syrian, with a larger representation of working boys and their fathers at 86 percent than working girls and their mothers at 14 percent.

The RA showed only 112 children, or 30.4 percent, attended school. The percentage of working Syrian children was more than double that of Jordanian children at 51 percent and 18 percent respectively. The highest percentage of working children was for those between the ages 12 and 17 years at 82 percent, and split almost equal between both nationalities. The percentage of working children under the age of 12 years was high at 17.9 percent; with Syrians almost double the percentage of Jordanians at 11.1 percent compared to 6.8 percent for Syrian working children, and Mafrq Governorate higher than the Jordan Valley area at 10.3 percent versus 7.6 percent. In addition, research found that out of the 112 children who attended school, 42 of them lived in Mafrq and 70 in the Jordan Valley.

Furthermore, the percentage of working girls going to school out of the total number of girls surveyed (27 girls out of 110) amounts to 25 percent. This is slightly lower than that of boys, which was 33 percent (85 boys out of 258).

In addition, based on the RA interviews, FGDs and meetings, the field work did not find clear evidence of the worst form of child labour in the agriculture sector in Jordan. However, some of the participants in the FGDs in the Jordan Valley mentioned that some children could be exposed to pesticides or other hazardous

chemicals. Other participants dismissed this possibility, arguing that chemical fertilizers are generally too expensive for farmers to give to children to work with. More in-depth investigations are needed to substantiate this.

The RA also identified some major common characteristics between working children in Mafraq and the Jordan Valley.

Working children are more likely to have less educated parents. More than a third of parents are illiterate; with Syrian percentage double that of Jordanians. Parents with “basic education and less” constitute the majority of parents (77.3 percent, 66 percent of which were Jordanian and 88 percent Syrians)

The chance for working children to attend school is less than that of other children. If they do attend school, they mostly just receive a basic education. Most of the Jordanian working children - 72 percent (122 out of 170) - reported that they had a basic education, and only 22 percent (38 out of 170) reached grades 11 and 12, compared to 64 percent of Syrian working children (126 out of 198) who have basic education and only 9 percent (17 out of 198) who have high school.

If you are a working child, you are more likely to feel exhausted, tired and be exposed to more health risks and injuries. More than half of the working children stated that they are highly exhausted by work at 55.2 percent, versus only 5 percent who stated that work does not affect them<sup>7</sup>. It is noted that the percentages of the 368 working children who reported being exhausted in Mafraq (61 percent) are much higher than those in the Jordan Valley (23 percent).

As for injuries, about 22 percent of children from the total number of children surveyed reported that they were injured during their work. More injuries were reported in Mafraq than in the Jordan Valley (13.5 percent compared to 8.7 percent respectively), and Syrian children reporting more injuries than the Jordanians. About 38.1 percent of these injuries did not need immediate medical attention, while 36.9 percent needed medical treatment but were released immediately, and 4.8 percent reported that they cannot work as a result of their injuries.

The RA found a strong relationship between child labour and poverty. Parents reported that having enough income was a key factor for their children to stop working. This is supported by fact that when comparing the level of reported income by the surveyed household to the poverty line<sup>8</sup>, almost 70 percent (142 families out

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<sup>7</sup> The AR did not investigate the working children health claims with local health facilities, refer to limitations section

<sup>8</sup> Poverty line is calculated based on expenditures, while this is based on income, so the comparison is indicative. The DOS “Poverty Study for the year 2010” based on the “Income and Household Survey in 2010 Study” published in 2012.

of 206 who reported their income) live under the poverty line<sup>9</sup>. All the families live above the abject poverty line, except one that lives on the boundaries of the abject poverty line.

Key recommendations of the report include the need for a greater focus on child labour in Jordan and more programs to tackle the pressing issue, especially in light of the added challenges facing Syrian refugee children. It is recommended that addressing child labour should be a key component of services provided by international and local NGOs to families and children in need, and to focus on providing working children with access to learning (both formal and informal), psychosocial support and strengthening social cohesion. The MOL should be supported to enable it to deal with this added burden; support should include both human and financial resources with a focus on field support and inspection. In addition, further legislation is needed to protect working children by issuing the needed agriculture sector by laws.

It is recommended that the MOE redefine its classification of school drop-outs or students who play truant for extended periods. School dropouts are currently defined by the MOE as “any student who leaves school in one academic year and does not enrol in the subsequent academic year”<sup>10</sup>. Therefore, if a child only attends school for a few weeks a year, they may still be classified as an “enrolled student” even if they fail school (currently students from grades 1 to 6 can move up to the subsequent grade up to three times, even if they fail their exams)<sup>11</sup>. Moreover, more training programs are needed for informal education and technical skills especially in the sectors children are working in, such as agricultural related skills to enable them to better combine their work with their studies and to have a chance to advance in their careers later in life.

While the National Framework for Child Labour<sup>12</sup> provides an integrated approach, in reality there are not any comprehensive plans to deal with the root causes of child labour. More work needs to be done with the private sector, especially farmers and trade unions, to engage them more in combating child labour and obtain their input to draw practical steps for an efficient and effective system. Fieldwork found that advocacy efforts against child labour are almost non-existence. More attention should be devoted to remedying this through greater use of the media and community outreach programs, as well as fostering a more integrated approach amongst NGO towards eliminating child labour.

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<sup>9</sup> It is noted that if working children stop working, and no additional income was gained by the families, the percentage of families who fall under the poverty line will increase.

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Education

<sup>11</sup> Compulsory passing

<sup>12</sup> The National Framework for Child Labour was prepared by NCFA and MOL in 2011, it was endorsed by the GOJ Cabinet of Ministers on 23/8/2011

### 3. Introduction

Jordan has a population of approximately 6.5 million<sup>13</sup>, half of whom live in the capital Amman. More than 70 percent of Jordanians are under 30 years of age, which gives the country the opportunity for accelerated growth at the same time as placing pressure on its limited natural resources and ability to generate enough jobs for its youth (22 percent of Jordanians are between the age of 15 and 24<sup>14</sup>).

In addition, Jordan has limited agricultural land and is classified as the world's fourth poorest country in terms of water resources. Its main export commodities are potash and phosphate. The service sector accounts for 70 percent of Jordan GDP and provides more than 75 percent of jobs<sup>15</sup>. Jordan's unemployment rate in Jordan has been hovered around the 13 percent mark for several years in the last few years<sup>16</sup>.

Jordan ratified UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC in 1991 as well as ILO Convention No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment in 1997, and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Year 2000<sup>17</sup>. Since ratification, Jordan's government has worked hard to activate these agreements and implement programs. In 2007, Jordan's first child labour survey took place<sup>18</sup>. It covered 76,046 individuals, including 24,319 children between the ages of 5 to 17 from 14,091 households. The survey estimated there were 33,190 working children at national level. Of the 1,785,596 Jordanians aged 5 to 17, 1.9 percent were employed, which is a relatively low percentage. However, recent reports<sup>19</sup> note that child labour in Jordan has become more visible over the past decade.

Given the big challenges now facing Jordan, including the arrival of Syrian refugees and increased economic uncertainty, more and more families feel the need to send their children to work<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Demographic Profile for Jordan <http://www.escwa.un.org/popin/members/Jordan.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> UNDP Youth Employment Project Document

[http://www.undp.org/content/dam/jordan/docs/Poverty/Prodoc-youthpov\\_jordan.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/jordan/docs/Poverty/Prodoc-youthpov_jordan.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> UNDP website <http://www.undp.org/content/jordan/en/home/countryinfo/>

<sup>16</sup> Unemployment rates average 12.7 percent From 2007 until 2013

<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/jordan/unemployment-rate>

<sup>17</sup> National Framework for Combating Child Labor, Jordan, ٢٠١١

<sup>18</sup> The "Working Children in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Results of the 2007 Child Labour Survey (CLS)" DOS in collaboration with ILO-IPEC, 2007

<sup>19</sup> Country Assessment Jordan- United Nations, 2011

<sup>20</sup> This was mentioned by families of working children in individual meetings and FGDs in both the Jordan Valley and Mafrq

## Recent Developments

Jordan has been heavily affected by an influx of Syrian refugees. To date, approximately one-third of an estimated two million<sup>21</sup> Syrian refugees have fled to Jordan. As of the end of November 2013, over 560,000 Syrian refugees<sup>22</sup> were registered by the UNHCR in Jordan, representing almost 10 percent of the country's total population. The UNHCR estimates Jordan will host 800,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2014. Of these, 600,000 refugees will live in urban areas, with the rest living in designated camps<sup>23</sup>.

By the end of 2014, the UNHCR expects the number of refugee Syrian refugee children to reach 428,200 (of which 26.3 percent will be girls and 27.2 percent boys<sup>24</sup>). Syrian refugees live within Jordanian communities both in urban and rural areas, mainly in four governorates<sup>25</sup>: Amman: 25 percent, Irbid: 23 percent, Mafrq: 32 percent, and Zarqa: 9 percent. This has led to enormous pressure being exerted on the limited and scarce resources, especially in the northern governorates. Furthermore, to keep living costs to a minimum, most Syrian refugees choose to reside in particularly disadvantaged parts of the country that are already grappling with high unemployment and poverty, placing further pressure on basic social services and subsidized basic commodities. A recent study by Mercy Corp<sup>26</sup> found that living costs for many Jordanians were rising as job opportunities were falling. This further complicates matters and increases the risk of child labour spreading further amongst Jordanian and Syrian children.

Moreover, the issue of child labour was already prevalent in Syria before the conflict began there. An ILO/UNICEF study<sup>27</sup> in 2012 estimated 621,000 Syrian children between the ages of 10 and 17 were employed. Main causes cited by the study were poverty, dropping out of school and harsh economic circumstances.

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<sup>21</sup> 2014 SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/> 2014

<sup>22</sup> UNHCR REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN (JAN-DEC 2013), Preliminary Year-End Report (as of 30 November 2013)

<sup>23</sup> UNHCR REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/docs/syria-rrp6-jordan-response-plan.pdf#A>

<sup>24</sup> UNHCR Regional Response Plan, 2014, <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/docs/syria-rrp6-jordan-response-plan.pdf#A>

<sup>25</sup> UNHCR website - <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107> as of December 10, 2013

<sup>26</sup> Mapping of Host Community-Refugee Tensions in Mafrq and Ramtha, JORDAN, May 2013

The mapping was based on an 8-week community mapping exercise in Mafrq and Ramtha which indicated some of the key issues that cause most tension between Jordanians and Syrian refugees

<sup>27</sup> National Study on Worst Forms of Child Labour in Syria, ILO Regional Office for Arab States and UNICEF (Syria), March 2012 – page 62.

#### 4. Objective of the Assessment

The ILO commissioned the RA of child labour in Jordan's agriculture sector in order to generate detailed information on the dynamics and characteristics of child labour for both Jordanian and Syrian Children in the agricultural sector in the Jordan Valley, which includes the governorates of Irbid, Karak and Balqa.<sup>28</sup> Mafraq Governorate was later added to the designated area for conducting the RA. Findings aim to support relevant policy on both national and humanitarian responses, as well as the design of effective and sustainable interventions to address causes and consequences of child labour.

The assessment objective was broken down to the following sub-objectives:

- i. Determine the nature, magnitude, pattern, distribution, dynamics and causes of child labour in agriculture for both Jordanian and Syrian refugees in relation to the study areas.
- ii. Establish the socio-economic characteristics of the working children and their families.
- iii. Investigate the effects of child labour on the health, safety, education and rights of the working children.
- iv. Investigate specific hazards faced by children engaged in various activities related to work in agriculture.
- v. Identify the gender differentials of child labour in agriculture.
- vi. Identify existing initiatives and strategies being undertaken by various organisations aimed at combating child labour in agriculture, as well as policies, legislation and other protective measures addressing child labour, and to make relevant recommendations for addressing child labour in this sector.

#### 5. Limitations

The research was faced with several limitations which include the following:

1. Rapid assessment on child labour in the agricultural sector warranted working in isolated, sparsely populated rural environments which witness high mobility, especially amongst Syrian refugees. To deal with this limitation, the RA was expanded to include more locations around the country.
2. The RA was based on conducting a survey for households with working children; therefore, the research was not able to provide estimates that

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<sup>28</sup> Scope of work pertaining to areas to conduct the study had to be changed two times, due to delays in approval process of the RA.

properly reflect the incidence of child labour in the agricultural sector in Jordan.

3. During the fieldwork, some families appeared to respond to questionnaire questions they perceived would get them more assistance or funding. For example, one family stopped responding when they learnt they would not directly benefit from the exercise.
4. The RA obtained input only from working children and their parents, to investigate the magnitude of the health risks, dangers and injuries the working children were exposed to. There is a need to investigate the accuracy of the related findings by checking medical records and children's visits to health related centers and hospitals.
5. The number of girls surveyed was substantially lower than the number of boys, which created difficulties when attempting to compare child labour in gender terms.
6. Most of the children had their parents present when being interviewed, which may have inhibited them from responding freely. Triangulation<sup>29</sup> of relevant questions was therefore very beneficial.
7. The timing of the RA was a limiting factor as due to various delays in contract timing, the agricultural season shifted, thus causing delays and changes of plans pertaining to the areas to be covered by the RA.

## 6. Overview of the Agricultural Sector in Jordan

Jordan is one of the world's water-poorest countries. It also has limited natural resources and only around 5 percent of its land mass is arable<sup>30</sup>. There are three major agricultural regions in Jordan, the Jordan Valley, the highlands like Ajloun and Irbid, and the Eastern Desert (Mafrq)<sup>31</sup>. New agricultural investments increased the size of irrigated agricultural land from 800,000 acres in 2005 to 870,000 acres in 2007. The agricultural sector has not grown as fast as other sectors of the economy down the years, but its contribution to GDP has still risen steadily from 2.7 percent in 1996 to 3.1 percent in 2012<sup>32</sup>. Moreover, farming production grew in absolute terms over this period and it continues to play an important role in the

<sup>29</sup> Triangulation is a method used by qualitative researchers to check and establish validity in studies by analyzing a research question from multiple perspectives, "Triangulation: Establishing the Validity of Qualitative Studies" by Lisa A. Guion, David C. Diehl, and Debra McDonald

<sup>30</sup> MOPIC Agriculture Sector Overview

[http://www.mop.gov.jo/arabic/pages.php?menu\\_id=200&local\\_type=0&local\\_id=0&local\\_details=0&local\\_details1=0](http://www.mop.gov.jo/arabic/pages.php?menu_id=200&local_type=0&local_id=0&local_details=0&local_details1=0)

<sup>31</sup> FAO [http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries\\_regions/jordan/print1.stm](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries_regions/jordan/print1.stm)

<sup>32</sup> Agriculture Executive Plan (2013- 2016), Ministry of Agriculture website, 2013

socioeconomic fabric of the country, providing employment for about 5.6 percent of the labour force<sup>33</sup>.

Initial meetings with key stakeholders highlighted the importance of conducting the RA in the Mafrq governorate, where there are large Jordanian farms and the highest concentration of Syrian refugees with approximately 32 percent of all Syrian Refugees in Jordan<sup>34</sup> - 180,666 refugees – residing there. In addition, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture supported extending the scope of work from the Jordan Valley to include Mafrq governorates. This was also supported by an FAO report<sup>35</sup> which stated that “olive picking is an example of agricultural activity now dominated by Syrian migrant labourers and refugees in the Syrian border areas of Jordan”. Interviews with large farmers<sup>36</sup> who employ daily workers mentioned that most, if not all, of the agricultural workers were very mobile and move across governorates based on the changing seasons and demand for agricultural work.

In light of these trends, the research adopted a flexible approach to be responsive to the mobility of Syrian workers in the targeted areas. The RA started in Mafrq governorate to coincide with the olive picking season, then in December moved towards the Irbid and Balqa governorates in the Jordan Valley for the start of the agricultural season there.

## 7. Overview of Child Labour in the Jordanian Labour Legislations

Jordan joined the International Labour Organization in 1956 and signed the CRC in 1990 and ratified it by Royal Decree in 1999, placing reservations on three articles, 14, 20 and 21. A law was issued for the endorsement of the CRC and was published in the Official Gazette<sup>37</sup> on 16 October 2006. In addition, Jordan ratified 24 of the ILO’s conventions, including seven that represent the basic standards for human rights in work such as ILO Convention No. 138, which specifies the “Minimum Age for Admission to Employment” and No. 182 covering the “Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour” and the CRC Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

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<sup>33</sup> MOPIC Agriculture Sector Overview

[http://www.mop.gov.jo/arabic/pages.php?menu\\_id=200&local\\_type=0&local\\_id=0&local\\_details=0&local\\_details1=0](http://www.mop.gov.jo/arabic/pages.php?menu_id=200&local_type=0&local_id=0&local_details=0&local_details1=0)

<sup>34</sup> <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107> as of 2013-12-10

<sup>35</sup> FAO Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security Impact Assessment and Response Plan for the Syria Crisis in the Neighbouring Countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey March, 2013

<sup>36</sup> This was supported by interview with Abdullah Al Zabin one of the well-established farmers in Mafrq.

<sup>37</sup> Official Gazette issue no. 4787



### 7.1. Labour Law No. 21 of 1960

Labour Law no. 21 of 1960 represents the first integrated legislation passed in Jordan to tackle child labour. However, this was not applied in a comprehensive manner. The law remained in force up until 1996 when it was replaced by Law no. 8 for the year 1996.

### 7.2. Labour Law No. 8 of 1996 and its amendments

Law no. 8 presented in general a more comprehensive overview than Law no. 21. It included new provisions pertaining to child labour such as the age of a "juvenile", was raised from 13 years to 17 years. The Law sets the minimum age for work at 16 years, Article (73). However, it did not include any exceptions both in terms of the type of work or environment as stipulated by the International Convention No. 138 on specified conditions and duration of work. In addition, article 74 of the Labour Law prohibits the work of a child that did not complete 17 years in hazardous or burdensome or harmful to health as determined by special regulations to be issued by Minister of Labour. Special regulations were issued in 1997 as set by the ILO Convention no. 138.

### 7.3. Provisional Labour Law No. 51 of 2002<sup>38</sup>, (approved to become Law No. 11 of 2004)

The Law raised the age for work for children working in hazardous jobs from 17 to 18 years, as per the International Convention no. 38. However, it did not include jobs that are considered harmful to the conduct and ethical wellbeing of children. Another major change was the amendments to Article III of the previous law that added categories of agricultural workers to be subject to regulation issued by the Cabinet. This was issued under Regulation no. 4 for the year 2003 – which included under it the following categories: agronomists, veterinarians, technical workers on agricultural machinery, day labourers in agriculture, workers in government institutions and workers in nurseries, hatcheries and fish farming and beekeeping. However, this regulation excluded a large number of working children from the safeguards provided by the law, which are regulated by specific regulations to be issued by the Cabinet. It is recommended that Regulation No. 4 be amended to include children working in the agriculture sector to ensure that they have adequate legal protection.

The following are other legislations that indirectly relate to child labour:

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<sup>38</sup> Published in the Official Gazette no. 4561 issued on 28-8-2002

1. Abolition of Slavery Act Jordanian, NO. 110, 1929
2. Education Law NO. 3 for 1994.
3. Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law NO. 11, 1988.
4. Juvenile law NO. 52 for 2002 (Provisional Law).
5. Penal Code Law NO. 12 for 2010.
6. Personal Status Law. No. 36 for 2010.
7. Social Security Law NO.7 for 2010.

## 8. Institutional Set-up

The Ministry of Labour has the overall responsibility for child labour issues. The Ministry's Child Labour Unit, which was established in 2001 in cooperation with the ILO, has inspectors who conduct routine rounds to various establishments throughout Jordan. Inspectors also conduct direct observations or gather data that may indicate or inform them about cases of child labour as illustrated by the number of cases shown in Table (1) below.

Table (1): Details on Labour Inspection

Description	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013 (Jan-Nov)
Number of establishments visited	1916	907	512	679
Number of child cases detected*	2249	1054	633	788
Actions taken by MOL Pertaining to Child Labour Cases**				
Number of cases whereby mentoring and guidance was provided <sup>39</sup>	1568	682	380	220
Number of cases whereby a formal warning <sup>40</sup> was provided	279	292	187	306
Number of cases where a penalty (violation documented <sup>41</sup> ) by MOL inspectors	317	67	66	266
Total***	2164	1041	633	792

\*Children include Jordanian and non-Jordanian

\*\* Inspectors may first provide counselling or guidance for business pertaining to child labour, or a formal warning or a violation depending on each case.

<sup>39</sup> Mentoring and guidance

<sup>40</sup> Warning

<sup>41</sup> Violation

\*\*\* Totals do not add up as there may be more than one violation / warning / counselling per one institution<sup>42</sup>.

However, as noted in Table (2) below, there has been a steady increase in the number of non-Jordanian child labour cases reported. Ministry Inspectors said this increase is a reflection of the increase of Syrian child labour.

Table (2): Breakdown of Child Labour Nationality as Per MOL Inspection

Number of Working Children detected	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013 (Jan-Nov)
Jordanian	2230	941	527	406
Non- Jordanian	19	31	89	377
Vocational Training <sup>43</sup>	NA*	82	17	5

\*NA data was not gathered prior to 2011

There are 190 MOL inspectors in Jordan who cover child labour issues. They work in cooperation with twenty Child Labour Liaison Offices within labour inspection sections at labour districts throughout Jordan, and are mandated to inspect institutions for child labour. The liaison officer takes the legal measures to transfer the working child to the Social Support Centre<sup>44</sup> in Marka to undergo a special support program that includes non-formal education. In some cases<sup>45</sup>, inspectors mentioned they might transfer the working children to one of the non-governmental organizations working in combating child labour.

## 9. Brief on Sites Selected

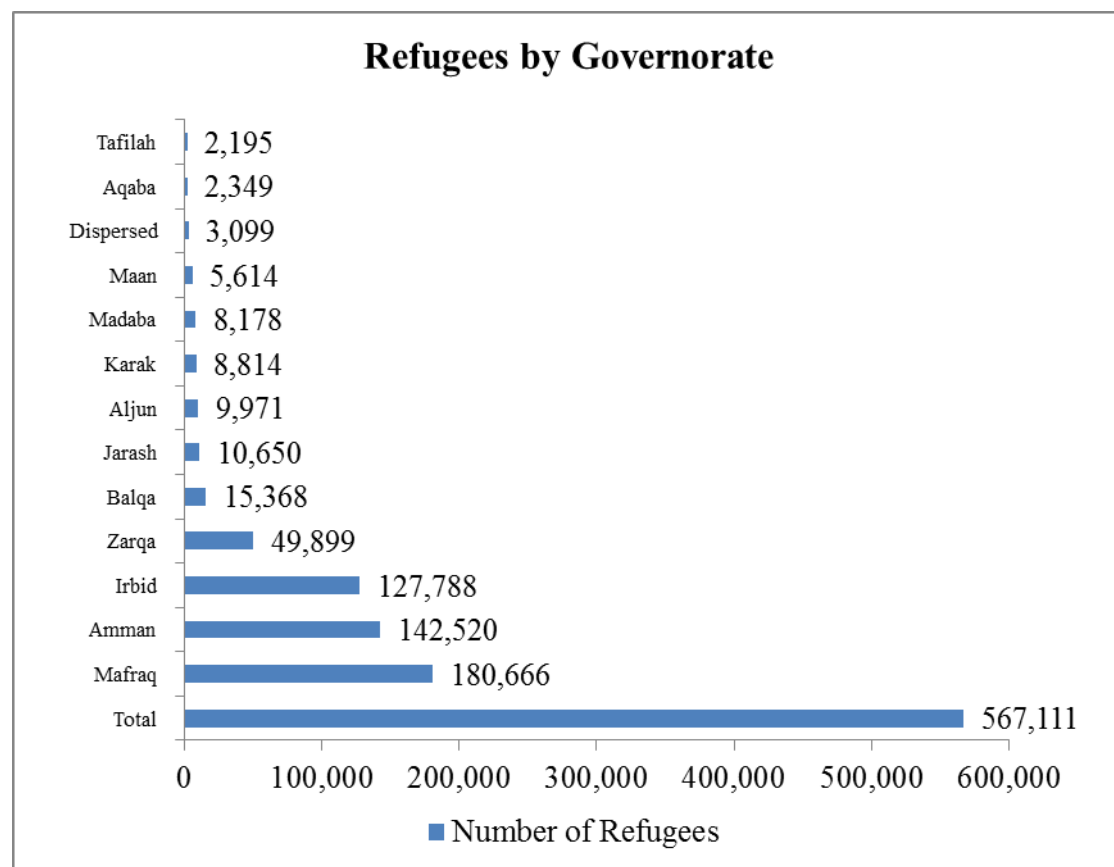
The RA included Mafrq governorate and the Jordan Valley, which extends over the three governorates Irbid, Balqa and Karak. The RA covered key governorates with substantive number of Jordanians. As for Syrian refugees, Figure no (1) below illustrates the number of Syrian refugees by governorate as per UNHCR figures, with Mafrq hosting approximately 32 percent (180,666 out of 567,111).

<sup>42</sup> As noted by Abdullah Al Khatib, MOL – Child Labour Unit

<sup>43</sup> Working children cases detected in vocational training institutes, according to Abdullah Al Khatib of the MOL's Child Labour Unit its mainly trainees (under 18) working at night in restaurants and hotels.

<sup>44</sup> Social Support Center operated by the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) as per the MOU signed with the MOL.

<sup>45</sup> This was mentioned by Mr. Abdullah Al Khatib, MOL – Child Labour Unit, no specific NGOs were named.

Figure (1): Number of Syrian Refugees by Governorates<sup>46</sup>

While there are slightly more female Syrian refugees in Jordan, the percentage is very close, especially for children aged 5 to 17, of whom 18.32 percent are male and 16.9 percent are female<sup>47</sup>.

### 9.1. Mafraq Governorate

Mafraq is the second largest governorate in Jordan, but it only has a population of 300,000, or 4.7 percent of Jordan's total population. The average family size in Mafraq is 6.1, which is larger than the national average in Jordan at 5.4<sup>48</sup>. Moreover, the Income and household Survey, 2010 showed that Mafraq governorate has a high poverty rate at 19.2 percent<sup>49</sup>, which is higher than the national average of 14.4 percent, and significantly higher poverty line (abject poverty) at 18.4 percent. The

<sup>46</sup> UNHCR website - <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107> as of December 10, 2013

<sup>47</sup> UNHCR website - <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107> as of December 10, 2013

<sup>48</sup> Department of Statistics, web site statistics

<sup>49</sup> Department of Statistics, Poverty Study, 2010

demographic dependency ratio is also very high at 77.7 percent, which is higher than the national average of 69.4 percent. Illiteracy is almost double that of the national average at 13.3 percent.

In 2013, the unemployment rate was 14.5 percent in Mafrq, which is again substantially higher than the national average of 12.6 percent. Female unemployment stood at 22.2 percent<sup>50</sup>. The yearly annual income in Mafrq is JD 7,276, which is significantly lower than the national average of JD 8,823<sup>51</sup>.

Mafrq governorate might have an arid climate, but it has a strong farming sector due to the areas large groundwater stores. Agriculture plays an important role in the economy, as 19 percent of cultivated land in Jordan is located in Mafrq, with 17 percent of all planted fruit trees. However, only 3.7 percent of the Jordanian labour force works in agriculture, with the remainder being foreign migrants.

The agriculture sector in Mafrq is mostly based around large farms owned and managed by well established corporations rather than families. Children in Mafrq work alongside their families on farms picking crops and weeding. All other farming duties are carried out by non-Jordanians, such as Egyptians and Syrians. Farming seasons in Mafrq last for around eight months<sup>52</sup>.

The largest percentage of Syrian refugees currently resides in the Mafrq governorate, representing approximately 32 percent<sup>53</sup> of all Syrian refugees. Syrians working in the agriculture sector in Mafrq constitutes a sizeable portion of agricultural labourers, a trend which dates back to even before the current conflict in Syria<sup>54</sup>. This is largely due to geographical proximity and ease of mobility. It was noted that some Syrian families had mixed marriages with the local community and have settled in Mafrq, yet some of them actually registered as refugees with UNHCR to receive benefits and because they cannot go back to Syrian as they usually do at the end of the working season.

## 9.2. Jordan Valley

The Jordan Valley is considered the country's breadbasket. It has excellent growing conditions, from fertile land to year-round warm temperatures. All three of the valley's governorates were included in the study.

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<sup>50</sup> Department of Statistics, tables/ website

<sup>51</sup> Department of Statistics, Poverty Report, 2010

<sup>52</sup> Interview with Mr. Abdullah Al Zabin, owner of Al Zabin farms in Mafrq

<sup>53</sup> UNHCR website - <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107> as of December 10, 2013

<sup>54</sup> Interviews with large farmers in Mafrq such as Mr. Abdullah Al Zabin, Mr. Khalil Sarhan, in addition to workers' agents for Syrian agricultural labour and some of the Syrian families surveyed.

### 9.3. Irbid Governorate

Irbid governorate only covers 1.8 percent of Jordan, yet it has a population of 1,107,200. The average family size is 5.5, which is slightly higher than the national average of 5.4<sup>55</sup>. The 2010 Income and Household Survey estimated the poverty rate in Irbid was 15 percent, just above the national average of 14.4 percent. The demographic dependency ratio in Irbid was found to be 69.9 percent, which is close to the national average of 69.4 percent. The annual family income in Irbid is JD 7,877.2, which is lower than the national average of JD 8,823.9<sup>56</sup>.

Irbid's geographical location provides it with an added importance. It has border crossing with Syria and above average access to water and agricultural land. The northern Jordan Valley<sup>57</sup> produces citrus fruits, olives and grain, as well as honey and livestock. Irbid has several tourism sites and several large universities.

Most Jordanians living in Irbid – 34.4 percent - are employed in the public sector, the armed forces and security services. Moreover, a fairly large percentage of Syrian Refugees currently reside in the Irbid governorate representing approximately 22.3 percent<sup>58</sup> of all Syrian refugees, placing it at third place after the Mafraq and Amman governorates.

### 9.4. Balqa Governorate

Balqa has a population of 428,000, which represent 3.7 percent of all Jordanians. As for size, it represents 1.3 percent of the size of the country. It has a similar family size to Irbid at 5.5, only slightly higher than the national average of 5.4. The 2010 Income and Household Survey estimates the poverty rate in Balqa is 20.9 percent, significantly higher than the national average of 14.4 percent. The demographic dependency ratio is also very high at 70.2 percent, which is slightly higher than the national average of 69.4 percent. The annual family income in Balqa is JD 8,140.8, which is lower than the national average of JD 8,823.9<sup>59</sup>. Manpower is concentrated in the civil service and military, estimated at 47.1 percent of the workforce. The unemployment rate in the governorate is relatively high at 14.4 percent, compared to the national average of 12.6 percent (12.9 percent males and 20.4 percent for females).

The governorate is divided into uplands and south Jordan Valley areas, which provides it with a unique diversity in its climate and terrain. The Jordan Valley area

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<sup>55</sup> Department of Statistics, web site statistics

<sup>56</sup> MOPIC, Governorate Overviews

<sup>57</sup> The Ghor area is divided into North Ghor in Irbid, Middle Ghor in Balqa and South Ghor in Karak

<sup>58</sup> UNHCR website - <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107> as of December 10, 2013

<sup>59</sup> MOPIC, Governorates brief.

dips 224 meters below sea level, while the mountains and highlands rise to 1,130 meters above sea level. Balqa is rich with sites of interest including Bethany Beyond the Jordan, as well as several other holy shrines and tombs.<sup>60</sup> It is also rich in terms of agriculture, with its farms growing a significant amount of vegetables and fruits.

A relatively small percentage of Syrian refugees – 3 percent - currently live in the Balqa governorate. It is important to note that most Syrians who work in the middle section of the Jordan Valley reside for most of the time in Mafraq or Irbid and move to there only for the duration of holding temporary work<sup>61</sup>.

### 9.5.Karak

The Karak governorate covers 3.9 percent of Jordan. It has a population of 249,100, which is 3.9 percent of the total Jordanian population. The family average size is 5.6 compared to 5.4 the national average. The 2010 Income and Household survey estimates the poverty rate in Karak at 13.4 percent, lower than the national average of 14.4 percent with 3.6 percent of the poor living in Karak<sup>62</sup>.

The demographic dependency ratio is also very high at 68.2 percent, which is slightly higher than the national average of 69.4 percent. The annual family income in Karak was JD 8,968.1, which is higher than the national average of JD 8,823.9. Manpower is concentrated in civil service and military jobs. The unemployment rate in the governorate is relatively high at 15.8 percent, reaching 14.1 percent for males and 19.1 percent for females.

## 10. Coverage and Methodology of Data Collection

The sample population of the study was 215 households. Qualitative research, included working with five FGDs, over 20 interviews and meetings with government officials, labour inspectors, farmers, informal agricultural workers agents and key community figures as illustrated in Table (3) below:

Table (3): RA, Interviews and FGDs by Governorate, District and Area

RAPID ASSESSMENT – Survey		
Area	Governorate	District / Area
Northern Badia	Mafraq	1.North Badia
Middle Ghor	Balqa	2.Dair Alla 3.South Shuneh

<sup>60</sup> أضرحة الصحابة

<sup>61</sup> Based on interview with farmers and Syrian work agents

<sup>62</sup> Department of Statistics, Poverty Study, 2010

South Ghor	Karak	4.South Ghor 5.“Ghor Sawalhah” area 6.Abu Obeidah
Interviews		
Mafrq	Mafrq	1.North Badia
North Ghor	Irbid	2.North Ghor 3.King Hussein Bridge 4.Kraymeh
South Ghor	Karak	5.Ghor AL Safi
FGDs		
Northern Badia	Mafrq 1. FGDs with working Syrian children and their parents. 2. FGDs with working Jordanian children 3. FGDs with Syrian families	1.North Badia
North Ghor	Irbid 4. FGDs with Jordanians: small farmers and farm workers.	2.Bani Kinanah 3.Amman
Other	Amman 5. FGDs with Labour inspectors and Union Representatives	

### 10.1. Assessment Methodology

The RA methodology was designed to gather sufficient information on the dynamics and characteristics of child labour in the agricultural sector in Jordan to support relevant policy both at the national and the humanitarian response, as well as the design and implementation of effective and sustainable interventions to address causes and consequences of child labour at national and local levels.

A purposive sampling technique was employed, supported by the snowball method. These data collection instruments included literature review, household RA, structured and semi-structured interviews and FGDs. The research team made contact with farmers, informal workers agents, key informants and individuals in the local community in designated areas in order to locate working children's households.

### 10.2. Data Collection Instruments and Methods

The study was conducted using two complementary approaches - a desk review and a RA that included both a questionnaire and a qualitative assessment using



interviews and FGDs. The combination of both methods provided a more comprehensive analysis of the complex issues related to child labour and refugees. Furthermore, this mixed method data collection was used as a data triangulation tool as a way to validate key findings.

#### 10.2.1. Desk Review

The study team carried out identification and analysis of available studies regarding child labour, such as legal assessments, economic and statistical studies, as well as social research, surveys and reports. Statistical data was collected from different sources and references with the purpose of analysing child labour amongst Jordanian Syrian communities, with a particular focus on the agricultural sector.

#### 10.2.2. Field assessment / RA

The RA gathered relevant information from the targeted communities (Jordanian and Syrian Refugees in the agricultural sector) and provided a source of reliable data that helps shed light upon the dynamics and characteristics of child labour in the agricultural sector in Jordan. Please refer to Annex 2 for the questionnaires, FGDs format, interviews guiding questions and to Annex 3 for list of persons and institutions met. The following tools were used in the RA:

- i. **Key Informants:** A standard key informant interview guide was designed with the aim of gathering information on the dynamics and characteristics of child labour in the agricultural sector. Key informants were selected based on their work with children and knowledge of the targeted communities.
- ii. **Interviews:** Structured and semi-structured interviews were organized with MOL officials and field directors, MOA officials and field directors, farmers both large and small, field labour inspectors, labour agents, and host communities in the designated geographical areas. Interviews and discussions were also organised with UN agencies and international NGOs in order to receive other perspectives and learn from their practical experiences.

Table (4): List of Meetings / FGDs by Area

21 Key officials and informants interviews were conducted	
Description	Details

10 government officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 MOL (3 in Salt/ Balqa) officials</li> <li>• 6 MOA (3 in Karak)</li> </ul>
4 large farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 in Mafraq and 1 in Ghor</li> </ul>
3 workers' informal agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Mafraq</li> <li>• 1 in Ghor</li> </ul>
1 informant / private business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balqa Governorate</li> </ul>
3 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Jordanian</li> <li>• 2 Syrians in Mafraq</li> </ul>

- iii. FGDs: Five FGDs were conducted with children and their parents, farmers and officials from the Jordan Farmers' Union; workers' organisations, relevant government directorates including MOL official and labour inspectors, and relevant departments MOA; and host communities in the geographical areas where the Syrian refugees are concentrated. FGDs were held with groups of 6 to 12 individuals and were conducted mainly in farms and local community gatherings.
- iv. Household RA: Quantitative and qualitative data collection was based on conducting a RA household's survey of 215 households in the identified geographical areas, and divided between Jordanian and Syrian households. Households with working children were specifically selected to provide more data and in-depth knowledge about working children. The research used purposely designed FGDs and interviews questions as well as specifically tailored model questionnaire<sup>63</sup> provided by ILO, which was adapted for the Jordanian context.

## 11. Results of the Survey Analysis

### 11.1. General Characteristics for Sample Surveyed

#### a) Sample Size and Composition

The RA reached 198 Syrian children (132 boys, and 66 girls), and 110 parents (96 fathers, and 14 mothers). The total number of the Syrians surveyed (including the total of the family size) was 308 compared to 275 Jordanian.

<sup>63</sup> ILO model RA Questionnaire for Uganda was used as a basis for adaptation to local context and conditions

Table (5): Sample Size by Nationality; Jordanians and Syrians

Sample Category	Syrians	Jordanians	Total
Fathers	96	89	185
Mothers	14	16	30
Boys	132	126	258
Girls	66	44	110
Total	308	275	583

The RA selected households with working children under 18-years-old; hence all of them reported that they have working children under 18. A total of 215 households were surveyed of which 48.8 percent were Jordanians and 51.2 percent were Syrians, with 368 children and 215 parents which brings the total sample to 583 total individuals directly surveyed. Moreover, of these 368 children (170 Jordanians, 198 Syrians), 86 percent were fathers and working boys, with only 14 percent mothers and working girls, almost equally divided between Mafraq and the Jordan Valley areas<sup>64</sup> as illustrated in Table (6) below.

Table (6): Main Characteristics of Sample Surveyed

Category	Total Sample Children & Parents		Children		Households / Parents	
	Count	Percent*	Count	Percent*	Count	Percent*
Jordanian	277	47.5%	170	46.2%	105	48.8%
Syrian	306	52.5%	198	53.8%	110	51.2%
Total	583	100%	368	100%	215	100%
No. of boys & their fathers surveyed	443	76%	258	70.1%	185	86%
No. of Girls & their mothers surveyed	140	24 %	110	29.9%	30	14 %
Total	583	100%	368	100%	215	100%
Mafraq	294	50.4%	188	51.1%	106	49.3%
Jordan Valley	289	49.6%	180	48.9%	109	50.7%
Total	583	100%	368	100%	215	100%

\* Percent is calculated based on the total sample size

### 11.1.1.General Characteristics of Surveyed Children

Families with one or two children constituted the majority of all cases at 87.2 percent, with somewhat similar patterns in Mafraq and the Jordan Valley, and amongst Syrians and Jordanians. About 68.7 percent of the parents reported that

<sup>64</sup> Details on areas covered under the RA as detailed in the first part of report

they are currently working, while 26.4 percent were unemployed. Only 3.5 percent reported they were retired or could not work. Table (7) below presents a summary of key indicators and also demonstrates the following:

1. Age of working children:

- The percent of working children under the age of 12 was high at 17.9 percent; with Syrians almost double the percentage of Jordanians at 11.1 percent. Mafraq was higher at 10.3 percent compared to 7.6 percent in the Jordan Valley.
- 82 percent of the working children were between the ages 12 and 17 years, with the percentages almost equal between both nationalities.
- Girls and boys had almost equal percentages for the age for starting work 7-12 years, with 18 percent for girls (20 girls from a total number of girls 110) and 18 percent for boys (46 from 258). However, when compared to the total number of the sample, the percentage was 5 percent for girls and 13 percent for boys under the age of 12.

2. Percent of working children attending school:

- Only a third of total working children go to school.
- Percentages for Syrian children working were more than double of Jordanians (51 percent and 18 percent respectively).

Table (7): General Characteristics of Surveyed Children

		Nationality				Gender				Area				Total	
		Jordanian		Syrian		Boys		Girls		Mafraq		Ghor			
		C*	%**	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%
Age	7-12 Years	25	7%	41	11%	46	13%	20	5%	38	10%	28	8%	66	18%
	13-17 Years	145	39%	157	43%	212	58%	90	25%	150	41%	152	41%	302	82%
	Total	170	46%	198	54%	258	70%	110	30%	188	51%	180	49%	368	100%
Go to School	Yes	103	28%	9	2%	85	23%	27	7%	42	11%	70	19%	112	30%
	No	67	18%	189	51%	173	47%	83	23%	146	40%	110	30%	256	70%
	Total	170	46%	198	54%	258	70%	110	30%	188	51%	180	49%	368	100%
Education	Illiterate	2	1%	35	10%	23	6%	14	4%	13	4%	24	7%	37	10%
	Literate not in school	8	2%	19	5%	19	5%	8	2%	1	0%	26	7%	27	7%
	Basic Education (1-10)	122	33%	126	34%	171	47%	77	21%	160	44%	88	24%	248	68%
	High School	38	10%	17	5%	44	12%	11	3%	13	4%	42	11%	55	15%

		Nationality				Gender				Area				Total	
		Jordanian		Syrian		Boys		Girls		Mafraq		Ghor			
		C*	%**	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%
	(11-12)														
	Total	170	46%	197	54%	257	70%	110	30%	187	51%	180	49%	367	100%
Work / Main Activity <sup>65</sup>	Working	74	43.5 %	196	53 %	150	79.8 %	120	33%	181	49%	89	24%	270	73%
	Seasonal work	3	1.8%	1	0.51 %	0	0%	4	1%	4	1%	0	0%	4	1%
	Other	3	1.8%	0	0%	1	0.5%	2	1%	3	1%	0	0%	3	1%
	Student & working	90	52.9 %	1	0.51 %	37	19.7 %	54	15%	70	19%	21	6%	91	25%
	Total	170	46%	198	54 %	188	51%	180	49%	258	70%	110	30%	368	100%

\*C: number of the cases

\*\* Percentage is calculated, based on the total number of responses

When investigating the reason for having less working girls, respondents<sup>66</sup> in both Mafraq and the Jordan Valley stated that parents would first send out the boys to work and then if needed they would send out their daughters to work. Another reason for this difference is that parents send girls to work at an older age to protect them, and when girls work they usually work alongside their mothers or another family member. Families who do not have boys send the girls to work at an earlier age.

This is also supported by responses obtained from parents of working children during FGDs, whereby parents mentioned that working girls were usually accompanied by a family member, usually the mother. They also mentioned that girls usually help in the house and in taking care of siblings. Sometimes when asked if their daughter is working, they would respond that she is not working, but is only accompanying her mother, when in reality she would be working.

### 11.1.2. General Characteristics of Parents Surveyed

As noted earlier, only households with working children were selected, whereby all of the parents surveyed were asked to report the number of their working children. Close to half of the families reported they have one working child and about 40 percent of them had two working children, while only 1 percent and 2 percent reported they had three and four working children respectively.

<sup>66</sup> Respondents from FGDs participants as well as parents of working children

More than a third of parents were illiterate; with the Syrian percentage double that of Jordanians. Parents with “basic education and less” constituted the majority of parents with 77.3 percent (Jordanians 66 percent compared to 88 percent for Syrians), and fathers were in general more educated than mothers.

As for work, almost 69 percent of the parents were employed, 26.4 percent unemployed, 3.5 percent retired or unable to work and 1 percent had seasonal work. There was a slightly higher percentage of parents working in the Jordan Valley than Mafraq, as well as higher percentage of people in Mafraq who said they were retired or unable to work. Table (8) below summarizes the general characteristics of the parents surveyed and number of working children per household.

Table (8): General Characteristics of Surveyed Parents, and Number of Working Children per Household

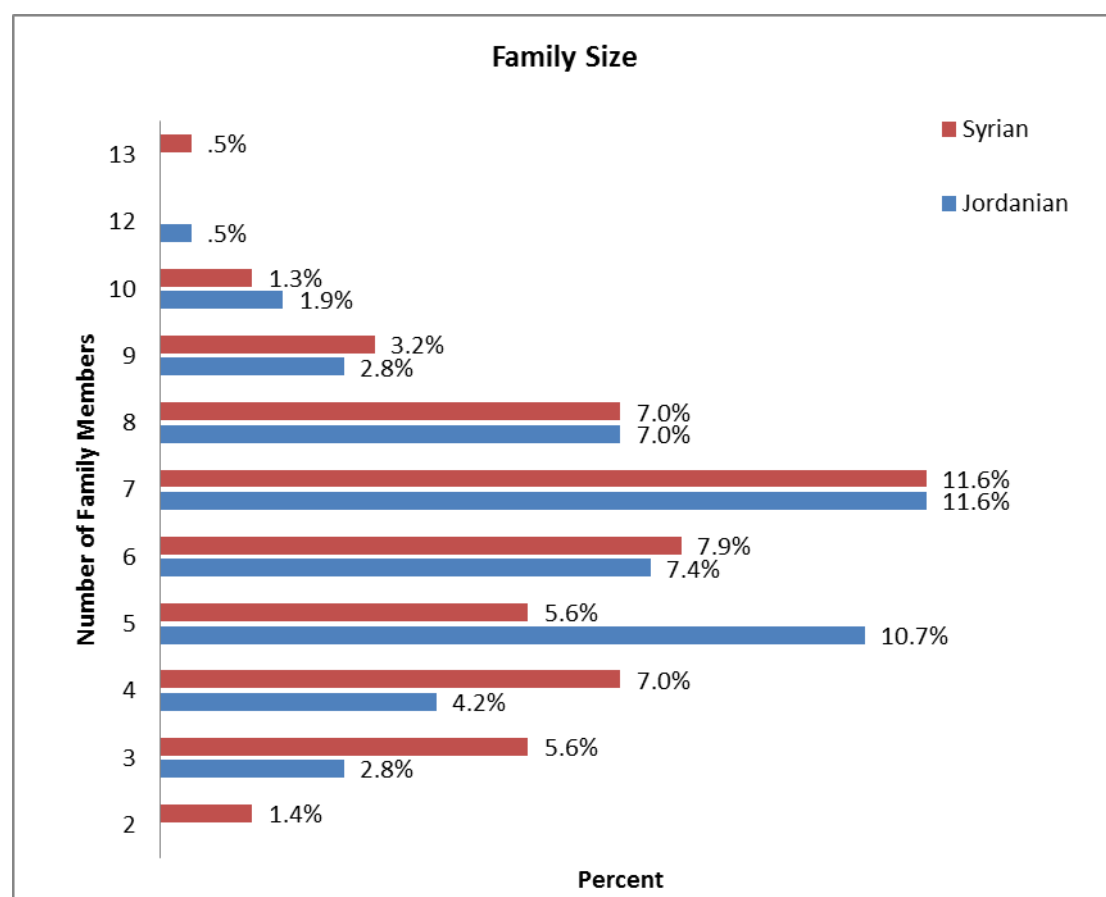
		Nationality				Gender				Area				Total	
		Jordanian		Syrian		Males		Females		Mafraq		Ghor			
		C*	%**	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%
No. of Working Children	1 child	58	27%	42	20%	49	23%	51	24%	84	39%	16	8%	100	47%
	2 children	33	15%	53	25%	40	19%	46	22%	77	36%	9	4%	86	40%
	3 children	11	5%	11	5%	15	7%	7	3%	17	8%	5	2%	22	10%
	4 children	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	2	1%	2	1%	0	0%	2	1%
	5 children	1	1%	3	1%	2	1%	2	1%	4	2%	0	0%	4	2%
	Total	104	49%	110	51%	106	50%	108	50%	184	86%	30	14%	214	100%
Level of Education	Illiterate	22	10%	46	22%	55	26%	13	6%	33	16%	35	17%	68	32%
	Can read & write, but not in school	10	5%	13	6%	22	10%	1	1%	3	1%	20	9%	23	11%
	Basic Education (1-10)	36	17%	37	18%	63	30%	10	5%	45	21%	28	13%	73	34%
	High School (11-12)	21	10%	8	4%	23	11%	6	3%	15	7%	14	7%	29	14%
	Passed Tawjihi* exam	4	2%	2	1%	6	3%	0	0%	3	1%	3	1%	6	3%
	Technical/Vocational Education	4	2%	0	0%	4	2%	0	0%	0	0%	4	2%	4	2%
	Other degrees including University	6	3%	3	1%	9	4%	0	0%	7	3%	2	1%	9	4%
	Total	103	49%	109	51%	182	86%	30	14%	106	50%	106	50%	212	100%
Main Activity <sup>67</sup>	Working	72	36%	66	33%	120	60%	18	9.0%	62	30.8%	76	37.8%	138	68.7%
	Not Working	15	8%	38	19%	43	21%	10	5.0%	29	14.4%	24	12.0%	53	26.4%
	Work at Home	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
	Retired, unable to work	7	4%	0	0%	7	4%	0	0%	5	2.5%	2	1.0%	7	3.5%
	Seasonal Work	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%	0	0%	1	0.5%	1	1.0%	2	1.0%

		Nationality				Gender				Area				Total	
		Jordanian		Syrian		Males		Females		Mafrq		Ghor			
		C*	%**	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%
	Total	96	48%	105	52%	172	86%	29	14%	98	49%	103	51%	201	100%

### 11.2. Family Size

Family size varied between Jordanians and Syrians. More than half of the families surveyed - 52.6 percent - had six members or less. However, 23.3 percent of the families had seven members, and only one Jordanian family had 12 members and one Syrian family had 13 members. In addition 89.8 percent of households had eight members or less. Over half of the households surveyed (52.6 percent), had six members, which is above the average size of the family in Jordan estimated at 5.4<sup>68</sup> as per Figure (2) below.

Figure (2): Number of Household Members by Nationality



### 11.3 Services Provided

<sup>68</sup> DOS statistics website ([www.dos.gov.jo](http://www.dos.gov.jo))

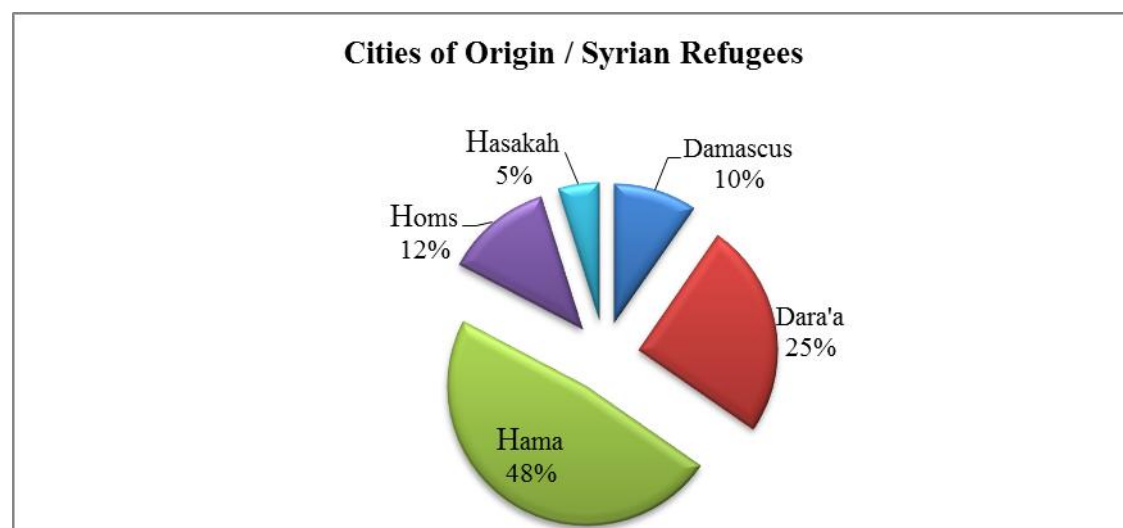
Some Syrian refugee households in Mafraq during the interviews said that at the beginning they were afraid to register because they did not want to stay in refugee camps and were afraid that they will not be able to go back to Syria, while others simply did not know how to register. They also stated that recently all refugees were registering with the UNHCR because they realized that registration does not entail forcing them to stay in refugee camps nor affect their ability to return to Syria. Respondents also stated there is now increased awareness and refugees are registering immediately after they arrive in Jordan to become eligible to receive UNHCR benefits.

Syrian refugees also stated that food was the item they received most as In-kind donation from the UNHCR, representing 70.7 percent of services and donations provided. Free education was the least service provided at 1 percent, while only 9.1 percent of the families received monthly cash payments.

#### a) Cities of origin in Syria

The Syrian refugees surveyed came from cities in Syria as shown in Figure (3) below; 25 percent from Dara'a, 48 percent from Hama, 12 percent from Homs, 10 percent from Damascus and 5 percent from Hasakah. Only four families were from Dara'a who shared living space with relatives whether they are first or second degree relatives. While 10 families from Hama shared their living space with relatives and other families, and one from Homs shared with other relatives. It is noted that 97 Syrian families (88.9 percent of the total Syrians) lived in tents.

Figure (3): Cities of Origin for Syrian Refugees

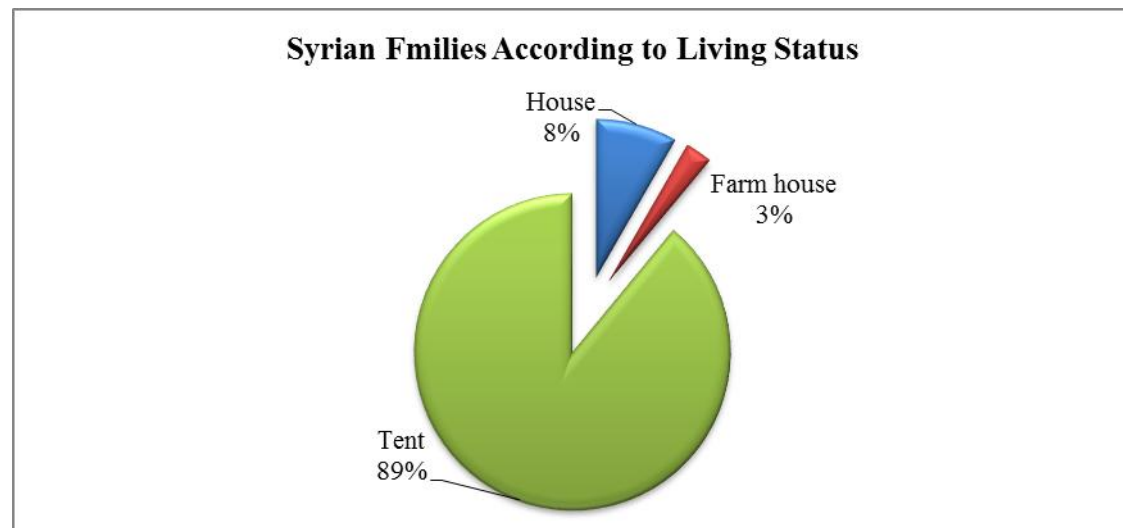


#### b) Housing



Figure (4) below illustrates that 97 Syrian families live in tents compared to 15 Jordanian families, or 7 percent. One Syrian family reported they paid about JD 50 for the rental of a house. Eighteen families who live in tents pay rent for the land where they occupy. This ranges between JD 10 and JD 65<sup>69</sup>.

Figure (4): Syrian Families According to Living Status (House, Farm House, Tent)



#### c) Services provided

About 17.3 percent of Syrian households reported they did not pay for water, compared to 4.2 percent of Jordanian households. In addition, 25.7 percent of Syrian households reported they did not pay for electricity, compared to 7.3 percent of Jordanian households.

As for health care, 61.6 percent of Jordanian families receive services from government centres and hospitals, compared to 16.1 percent of Syrian families. About 17.5 percent of Syrian families receive services from NGOs and international organizations, of which 11 families receive help from the UNHCR, compared to only three Jordanian families that receive their health care from international organizations. Regarding the health services, 17.5 percent of Syrian households reported they received free health care from NGOs and international organizations, compared to only 3.5 percent of Jordanian households. Note that this percentage is equal to 51 percent of the total Syrians, which is only 49 Syrian households that receive health services.

<sup>69</sup> Cost of rent, may include land and tents for more than one family, as in this case.

Table (9): Health Services Providers to Families by Nationality

Source of Health Services	Jordanian		Syrians		Total	
	C	%	C	%	C	%
Gov. health centres	65	45.5%	17	11.9%	82	57%
Gov. Hospitals	23	16.1%	6	4.2%	29	20%
Private centres / hospitals	1	0.7%	1	0.7%	2	1%
NGOs	2	1.4%	7	4.9%	9	6%
Int'l Organizations	3	2.1%	18	12.6%	21	15%
Total	94	65.8%	49	34.3%	143	100%

### 11.4 Education

#### a) Level of education

Figures (5) and (6) illustrate the educational level for Jordanian working children and Syrian working children. It is noted that illiteracy constitutes a much higher percentage of total sample amongst Syrian working children at 18 percent compared to only 1 percent for Jordanian working children.

Figure (5): Jordanian Working Children Level of Education (Percentages are Calculated Based on Total No. of Jordanian Working Children)

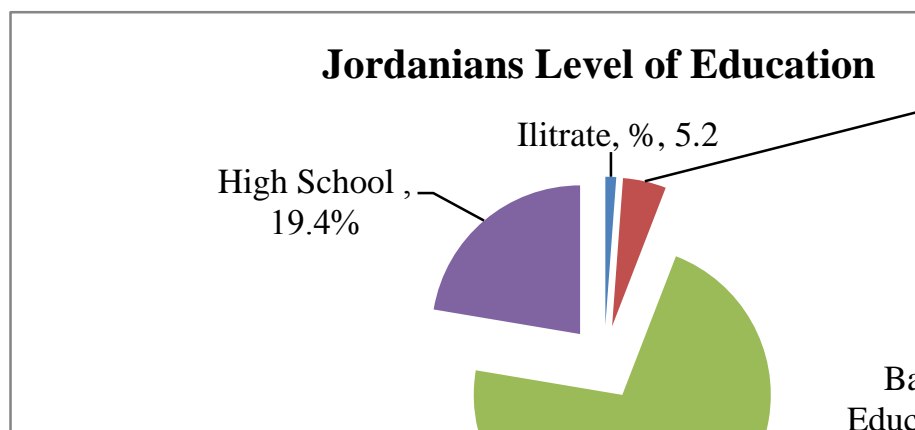
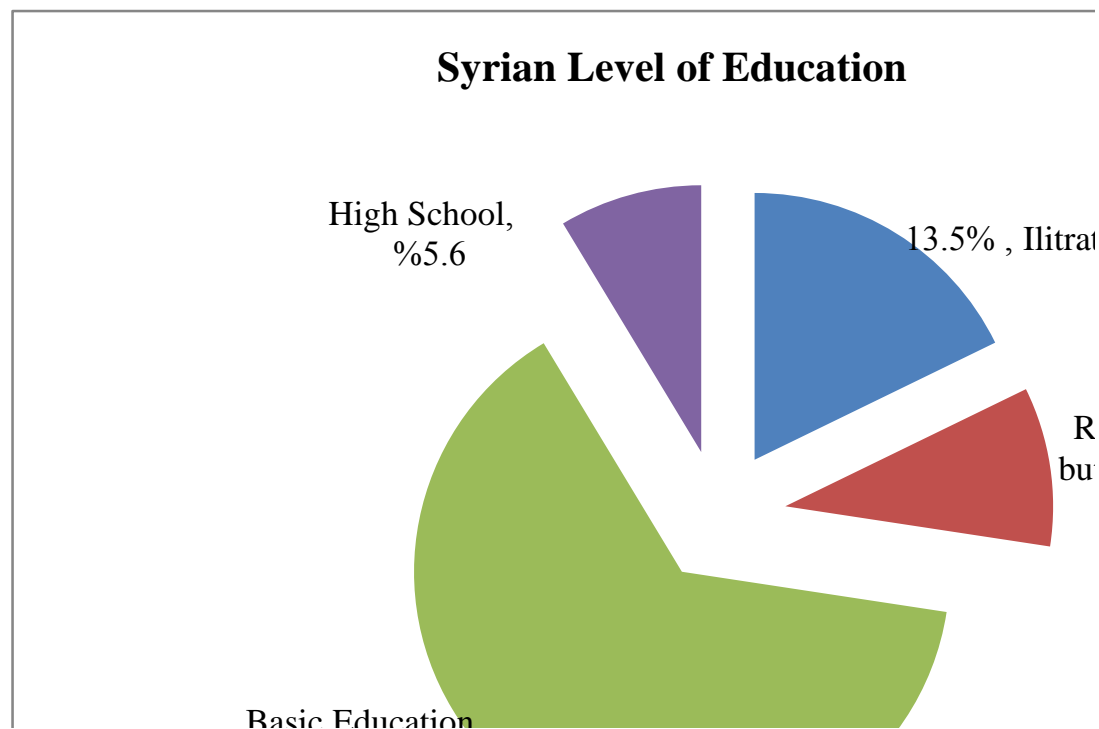


Figure (6): Syrian Working Children Level of Education (Percentages are Calculated Based on Total No. of Syrian Working Children)



When comparing the level of education of the parents with their working children, results show that the percentage of the illiterate parents is higher than the illiterate children (32.1 percent compared to 10.1 percent respectively). Furthermore, the percentage of the working children who have basic education is higher than those for their parents (67.6 percent compared to 34.4 percent respectively), which means that the working children in general are more educated than their parents.

#### b) School Attendance

Table (7) illustrates that one-third of working children go to school - 112 children, or 30.4 percent, compared to 256 children or 69.6 percent who do not attend school. Most of the working children who go to school are Jordanians at 28 percent compared to 2.4 percent of Syrians, with 25 percent of working girls go to school compared to 33 percent of working boys go to school. Out of the 112 who attend school, 42 children, or 41 percent, are in Mafraq and 70 children or 68 percent are in the Jordan Valley.

When we measure the percentage of girls going to school from the total number of girls surveyed, which is 27 girls out of 110, the percentage is 25 percent, which is slightly lower than boys at 33 percent (85 boys from 258). Of the Jordanian children

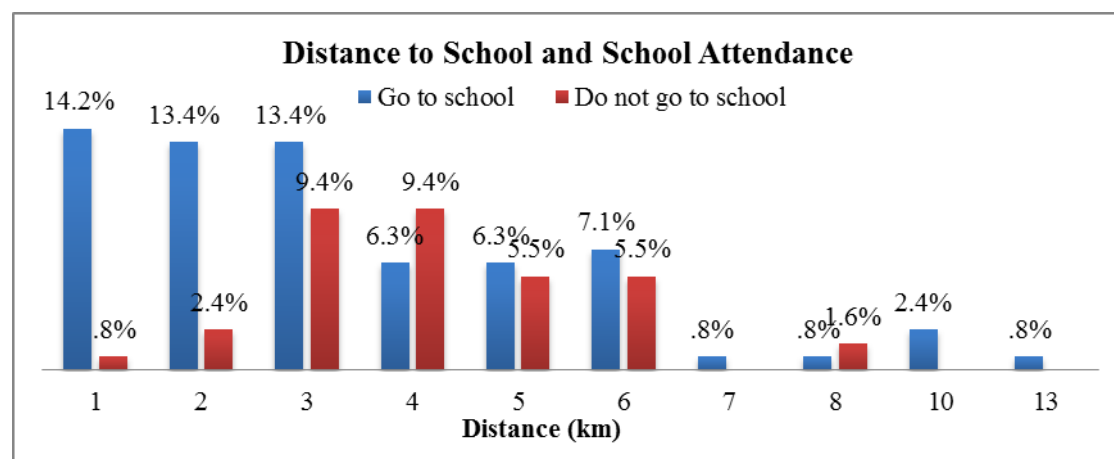
who attend school, the percentage of boys going to school was more than triple of that for the girls (78 boys compared to 25 girls, bearing in mind that more working boys were found than girls). The age of the children who attend school ranges between eight years and 17 years; 21.7 percent of them are between the ages of 14 and 17.

During FGDs conducted in the northern Jordan Valley, some farmers mentioned that during harvest season, the schools are almost all closed with a very low attendance rate. This is due to the fact that harsh economic conditions prevail in these areas; therefore small farm owners have their children help them in the farms for free, as well as work in other farms for a fee.

### c) Distance to School

Long travel distance was examined as a possible reason for working children not going to school. As shown in Figure (7) below, 92 Jordanian children, or 54.3 percent, reported the distance to their schools ranged from 1km to 4km whereas 17.3 percent reported the distance ranged from 5 km to 10 km. About 15 percent of the Syrian children who responded to this question reported that the distance ranged from 1km to 4 km, and 12.6 percent reported that the distance was from 5km to 10km. Syrian children who attend school reported that the distance ranged from 2km to 8km.

Figure (7): Distance to School by School Attendance

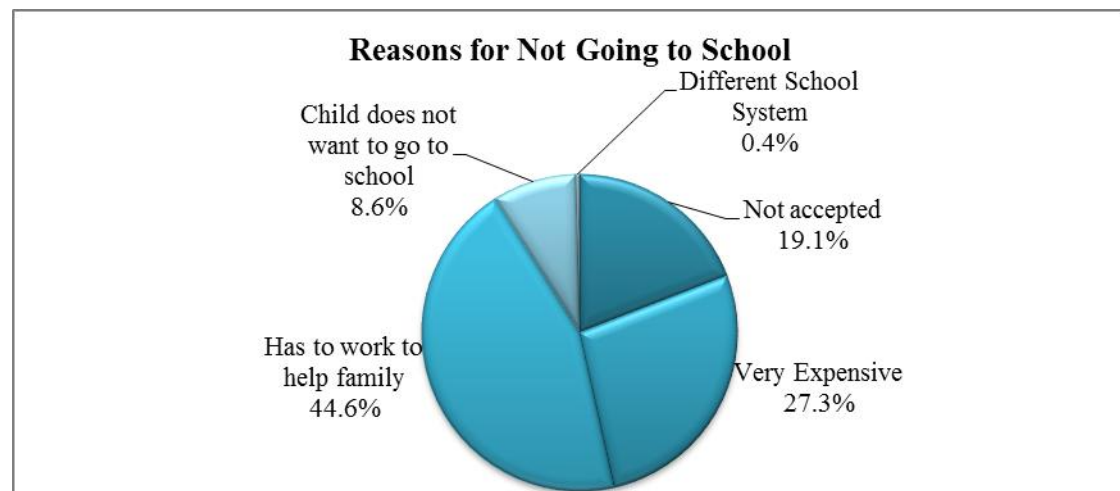


### d) Reasons for Not Attending School

From all working children, 44.5 percent mentioned they needed to work to help their families. While 27.3 percent mentioned that going to school was expensive, while

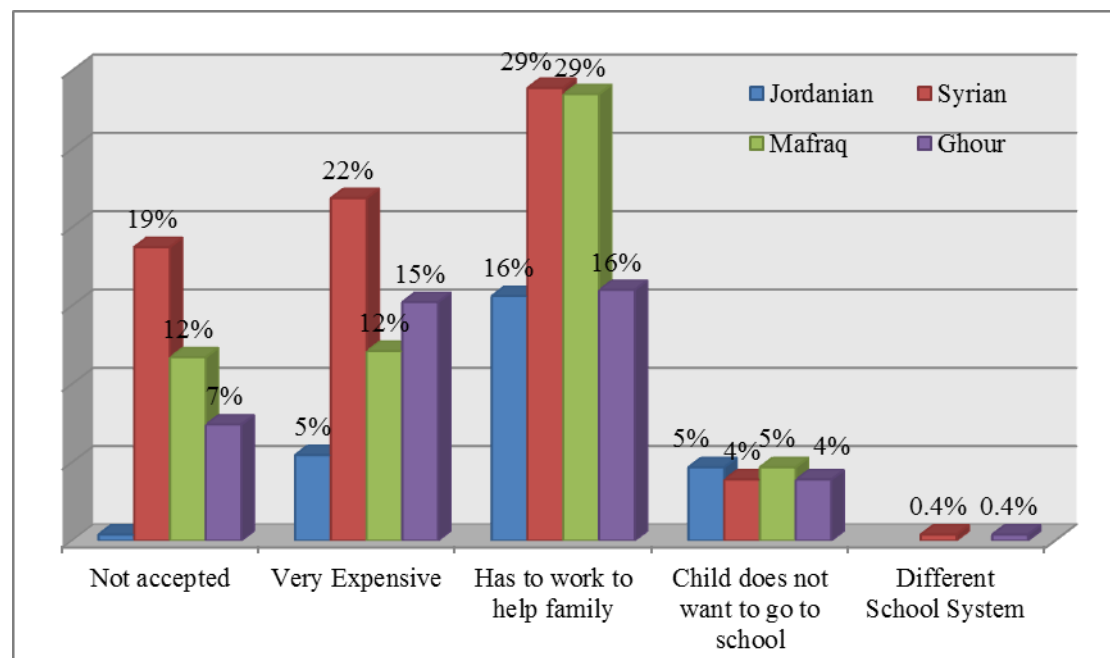
19.1 percent mentioned they were not accepted in school and almost 9 percent it was the child's decision not to go to school, as illustrated below in Figure (8).

Figure (8): Reasons for Not Going to School



When analysing the reason for not going to school by nationality and area, Figure (9) below shows that more Syrians than Jordanians reported they were not accepted in schools (19 percent and 12 percent respectively), and more than half of Syrian children said did not attend school out of economic necessity, such as needing to contribute financially to their households.

Figure (9): Reasons for Not Going to School by Nationality and Area

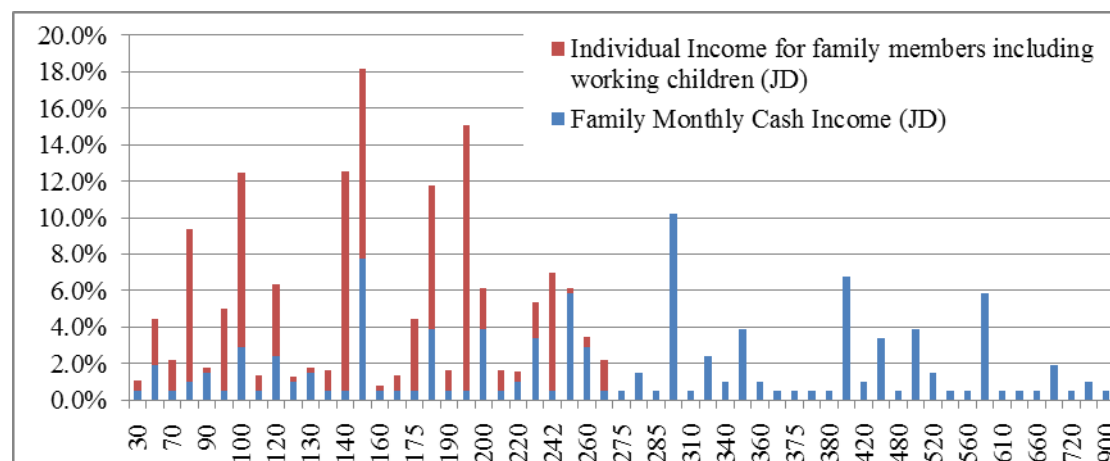


## 11.5. Income, Assets, and Services Provided

### a) Income

The analysis showed that the minimum monthly income earned by families surveyed was JD 30 for Syrian families and JD 90 for Jordanian families for families living in Mafrq, whereas the maximum earned by Syrian families was JD 600 and JD 900 by Jordanian families for families living in the Jordan Valley. Figure (10) below shows the percentage of families' earnings by nationality compared to the working child's income by nationality. It is clearly noted from the figure that the income of working children constitutes a significant percentage of the total family's income.

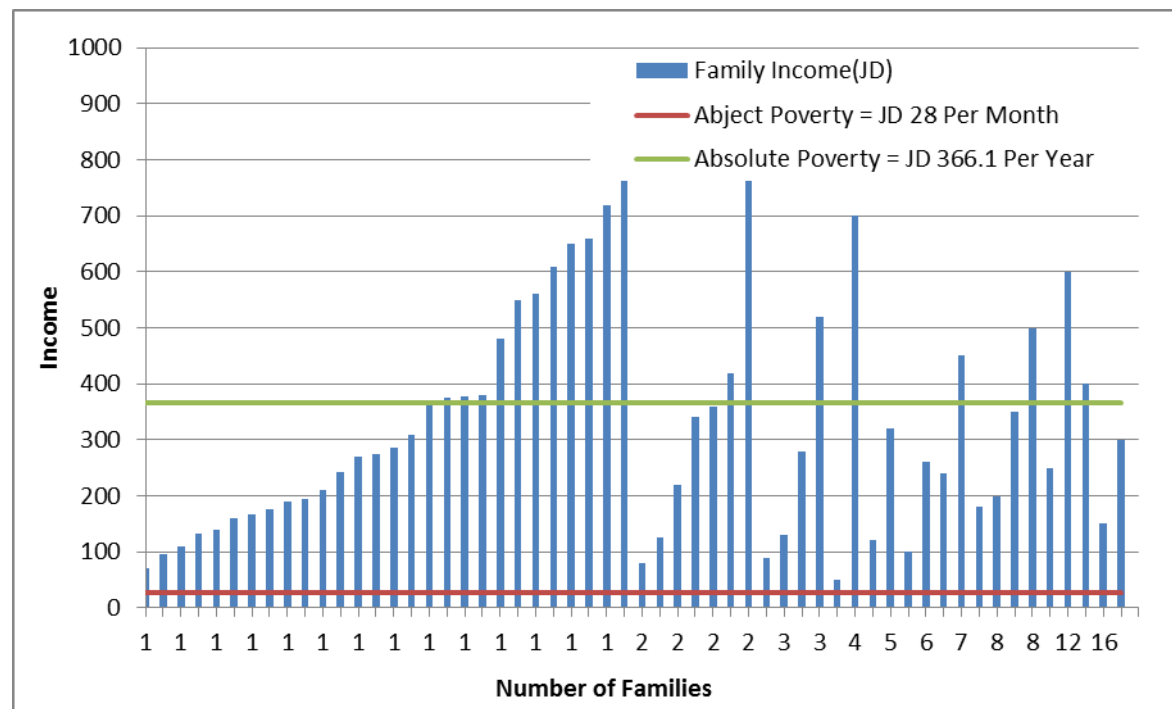
Figure (10): Percent of Families' Earn Particular Income Compared to Working Child's Income



Furthermore, as illustrated in Figure (11), when comparing the income earned by the households with the absolute poverty line and abject poverty line, we find that all households live above the abject poverty line, except one household who lives on the boundaries of the abject poverty line. Moreover, 142 households out of 206 households who reported their income, live under the absolute poverty line as illustrated in Figure (11).

It is worth noting that some Farmers during FGDs mentioned that legalisation alone will not eliminate child labour, and it is equally important to improve the social and economic conditions of working children's families. Others noted that when a boy reached the age of 14, he should start working to support his family. Some respondents even said the agriculture sector was a much safer place for children to work than a construction site or auto repair shop. They also added there was little to entertain the children at home, so they might as well work on a farm to keep them occupied.

Figure (11): Families Cash Income Compared with Poverty Line and Abject Poverty Line



According to the working children's responses, individual cash income, including working children income, ranged from JD 5 to JD 200, whereas the family cash income, as reported by parents, ranged from JD 30 to JD 900 monthly. Moreover, as illustrated in Figure (12) and Table (10) below, respondents mentioned that in addition to the cash income, some households receive in-kind assistance through the parents or the children's work. It was noted the children received in-kind donations such as free crops or income more than their parents. Syrians, both the children and the parents, received more in-kind support than the Jordanians. Furthermore, about 81.2 percent of the children and 83.8 percent of the parents receive other forms of benefits in addition to the free crops such as free transportation, free living space, and free water and electricity.

Figure (12): In-Kind Income for Working Children and Their Parents by Nationality

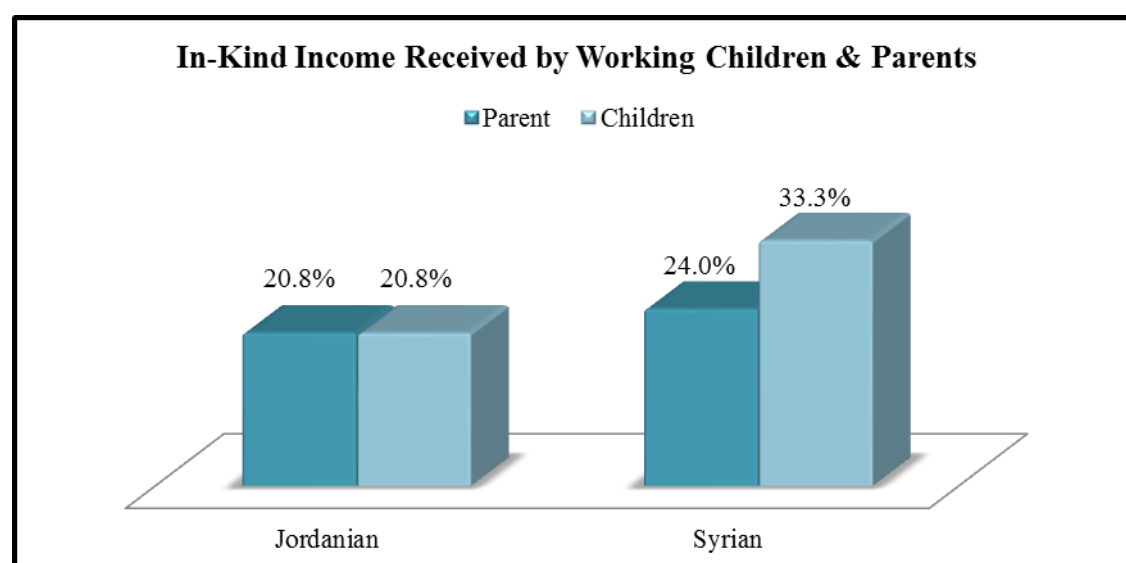


Table (10): Free or In-Kind Benefits Received by Working Children

In-Kind Benefits	Jordanian	Syrian	Total Count	Total Percent
Free Crops	10.4%	8.4%	38	18.8%
Free Transportation	19.8%	8.4%	57	28.2%
Free Living Space	3.0%	9.4%	25	12.4%
Free Electricity and Water	.5%	12.9%	27	13.4%
More than one benefit	5.9%	21.3%	55	27.2%
Total	39.6%	60.4%	202	100%

## b) Land and Assets Ownership

Farms in the Jordan Valley tend to be small and family-run<sup>70</sup>. As per Table (11) below, it is noted that from the household RA conducted, 10 percent of Jordanians have roughly 3 to 5 dunums of land that they can farm. This was reiterated in the FGDs with farmers and MOA field representatives.

Table (11): Land Ownership by Nationality

Ownership Status	Jordanian	Syrian	Total
Does not own any land	22.6%	50.0%	154

<sup>70</sup> Interview with MOA officials



Owens less than 1 dunum	8.5%	0.5%	19
Owens 2-3 dunums	8.5%	0.5%	19
Owens 3-4 dunums	3.3%	0.4%	8
Owens more than 5 dunums	5.7%	0. %	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>51.4%</b>	<b>212</b>

Over half of the families owned a combination of assets, with mostly livestock / chicken and Turkey. 11% owned their own cars.

Table (12): Ownership of Assets by Nationality

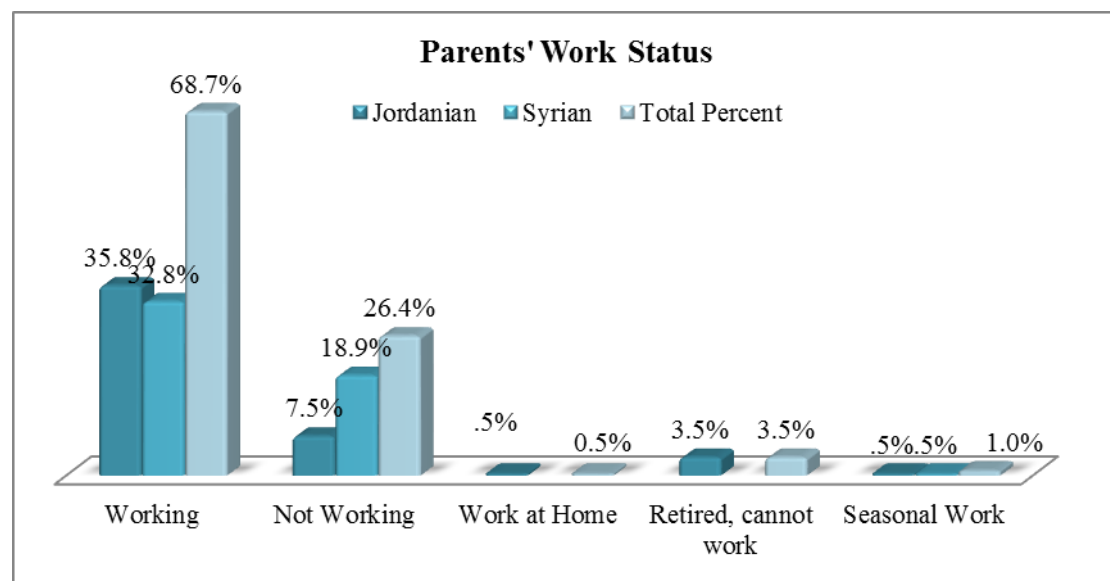
Ownership Status	Total	Percentage
Goats	10	16%
Horse/Donkey	2	3%
Chicken/Turkey	10	16%
Car	7	11%
Combination of Assets	33	53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 11.6. Work and Child Labour

### a) Parents' Work Status

When parents were asked about their own working status, only 70.1 percent reported they were currently working, while 26.4 percent were unemployed. Only seven Jordanian parents (1.9 percent) reported they were unable to work or were retired.

Figure (13): Parents' Work Status



#### b) Reasons for Children's Work

Working children were asked about the reasons why they worked. About 81.8 percent of the children said their family needed an income; followed by 8.3 percent who said they could not afford school. About 1 percent of the Jordanian responses reported that they did not own enough land to farm. From their perspective, the only way to earn a living is through owning land and work in it to have their income. Figure (14) summarizes the percentages of the children's reasons for work.

Figure (14): Children Responses for Reasons for Work

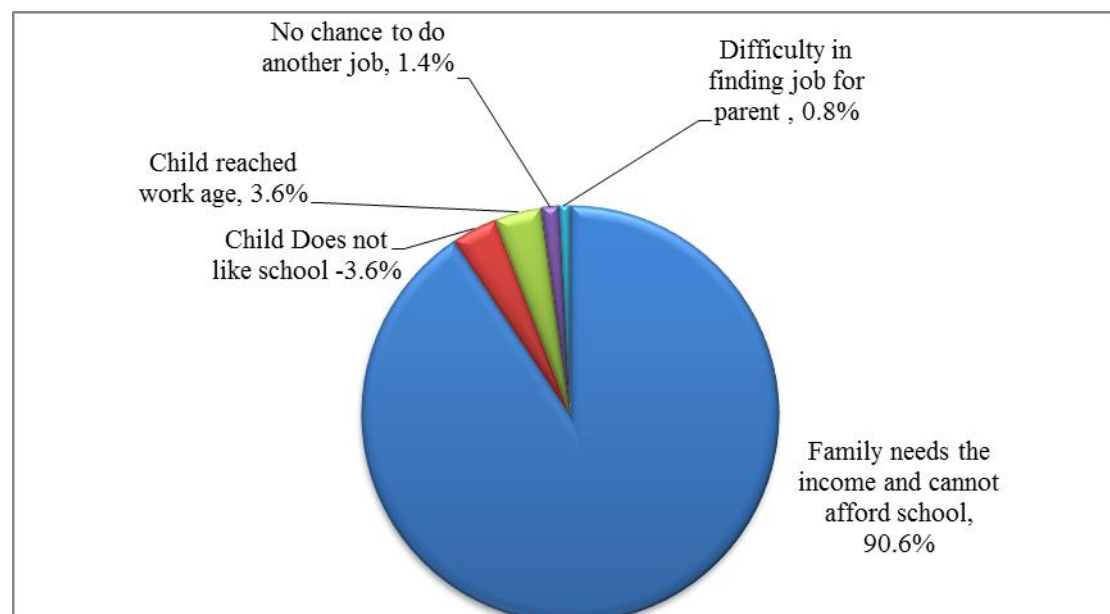


Table (13) below summarizes the reasons by nationality and area. It is noted that a higher percentage of Syrian children justified their work as to meet the family needs, whereas Jordanians added a reason which was that they could not afford to go to school, which as per their definition in FGDs, and meetings<sup>71</sup>, included out of money expenses. About 3.6 percent of the total responses stated that the child reached the age of work; this response was almost equal among Jordanians and Syrians.

Table (13): Children's Reasons for Work by Nationality and Area

Main Reasons	Jordanian		Syrian		Mafraq		Ghor		Total	
	C	%	C	%	C	%	%	C	%	C
Family needs income /cannot afford school	147	40.6%	181	50.0%	183	50.6%	145	40.1%	328	90.6%
Child does not like school	8	2.2%	5	1.4%	2	0.6%	11	3.0%	13	3.6%
Child reached work age	7	1.9%	6	1.7%	0	0%	13	3.6%	13	3.6%
Difficulty in finding job for parent	2	0.6%	3	0.8%	0	0%	5	1.4%	5	1.4%
Not enough land owned / no other source of income	3	0.8%	0	0.0%	3	0.8%	0	0%	3	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>100%</b>

### c) Age of Working Children

Further analysis was conducted to investigate the age children actually started work compared to their actual age. However the percentage is almost equal at the age of 12 years, at 7.6 percent, with a lower percentage of Syrian children starting work at the age of 13. The percentage of Jordanian children who started working between the ages 12 and 15 is almost steady compared to that for Syrian children.

Furthermore, when comparing the ages of the children currently working to their age when they first started working, it was evident the percentage of working children who reported they started working at a younger age is higher than the

<sup>71</sup> As explained by working children in FGDs with Jordanian working children in Mafraq as well as Jordanian workers' agent in Mafraq

percentage of children currently working. For example, 0.8 percent of the working children are at the age of seven, while 2.8 percent of the current working children stated they started working at the age of seven. This point will require further in-depth analysis as it may indicate that parents are now more aware of the disadvantage of sending their children at such a young age or farmers are not accepting very young children to work on their farms.

Figure (15): Working Children Current Age According to Gender

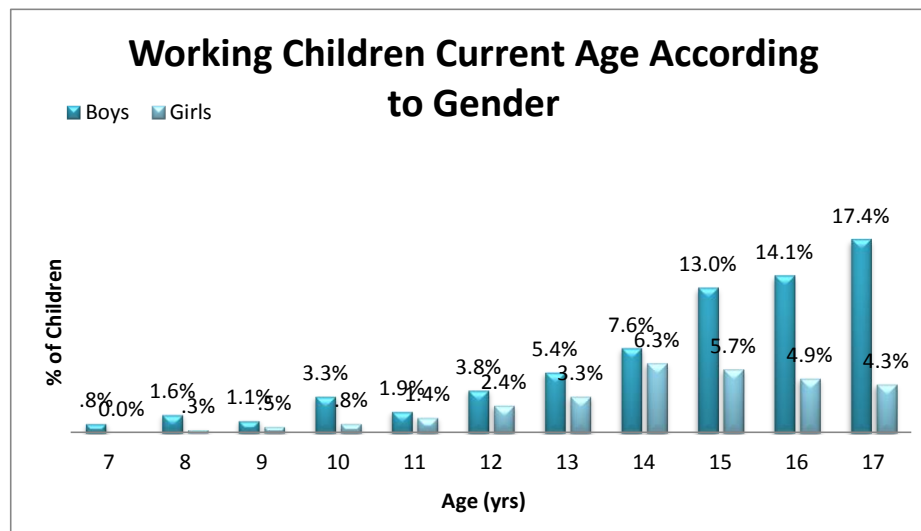


Figure (15) above demonstrates that, in general, working boys are older than working girls. Furthermore, boys reported they started working at an earlier age than girls. It was also noted the percentage of working boys was 70.1 percent (258 boys), which was higher than the total number of the working girls 29.9 percent (110 girls). This result is consistent with the finding of the qualitative work where parents were more hesitant to send their daughters at a very young age. This was supported by the meeting with Jordanian worker agent and FGDs<sup>72</sup>, whereby it was mentioned that families are hesitant to send their younger girls to work outside the house at a very young age, and wait until they are a bit older to work outside the house.

#### d) Type of Work

In addition to the working age, the RA also assessed the type of work and time spent working. About 94 percent of the working children stated they work in the

<sup>72</sup> FGDs with Syrian families conducted in Mafraq and FGDs with Jordanian small farmers in North Ghor.

agriculture sector, whereas 4.8 percent work in general works that may or may not include agriculture. There were two Syrian boys and one girl who stated they worked herding livestock. Moreover, Mafrq had a higher percentage and number of working children in agriculture than the Jordan Valley, with 52 percent compared to 42 percent, and there were more Syrian children working in agriculture than Jordanians.

Table (14): Type of Work the Working Children do, by Nationality and Gender

Type of Work	Jordanians		Syrians		Mafrq		Ghor		Boys		Girls		Total	
	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%
Agriculture	152	43%	178	51%	184	52%	146	42%	231	66%	99	28%	330	94%
Herdsman	0	0%	3	0.9%	3	0.9%	0	0%	2	0.6%	1	0.3%	3	0.9%
General	6	2%	11	3%	0	0.0%	17	5%	13	4%	4	1%	17	4.8%
Mechanic assistant	1	0.3%	0	0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0%	1	0.3%
Total	159	45%	192	55%	188	53%	163	47%	247	71%	104	29%	351	100%

It was also mentioned during FGDs with labour inspectors and trade representatives in the Jordan Valley, the agricultural sector was the main sector for female child labour, and that there were risks involved especially with foreign labour present in this sector. They also mentioned that child labour starts between the ages of 8 and 14, and there was no difference in terms of the difficulty of working hours in the harvest season between boys and girls. Respondents also added that some children work in hard conditions and are exposed to high temperatures in summer and cold weather in winter. There were also risks associated with their work such as being forced to use modes of transport that were not suitable for passengers such as the back of pickup trucks. They also mentioned the children worked hard and are exposed to diseases especially working with farms that have animals.

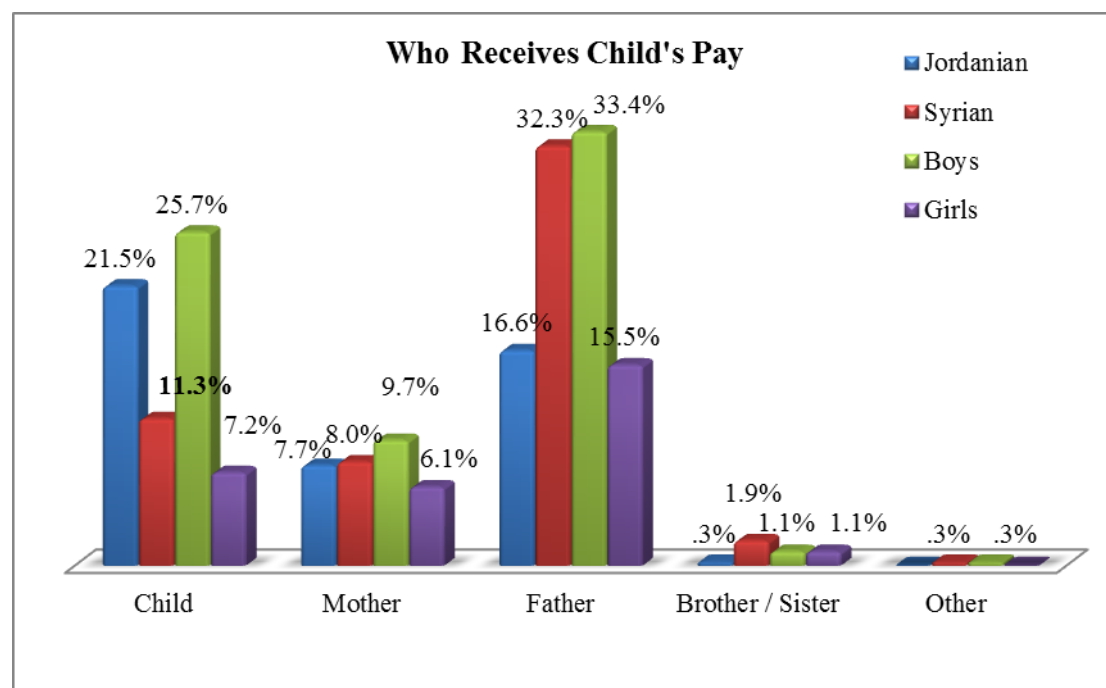
As indicated in Table (15) below, when children were asked about who in their family was the decision maker pertaining to their work, 29.8 percent mentioned that it was the father, 14.9 percent reported the decision was the mother's, 35.1 percent said it was the joint decision of the parents. Only 19.6 percent of children stated it was their own decision. Of the total Jordanian working children, 12.7 percent mentioned that they take their decision to work, compared to 6.9 percent of the total Syrian working children. Furthermore, boys had more have more say than girls as to whether they worked or not (13.8 percent and 5.8 percent respectively).

Table (15): Decision Maker in the Family Pertaining to the Child's Work

Decision Maker Pertaining to the Child's Work	Nationality		Gender		Total
	Jordanian	Syrian	Male	Female	
	Percentage				Count
Father	10.5%	19.3%	21.3%	8.6%	108
Mother	6.6%	8.3%	8.8%	6.1%	54
Parents	15.7%	19.3%	25.7%	9.4%	127
Working child's decision	12.7%	6.9%	13.8%	5.8%	71
Joint decision	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	2
Total	46.1%	53.9%	70.2%	29.8%	362

Over a third of Syrian working children (32.3 percent) said their fathers received their wage, compared to only 16.6 percent for Jordanian working children. Both nationalities had close percentages for pay received by the mother. Moreover, more Jordanian children received the pay directly (21.5 percent) compared to only 11.3 percent of Syrian children. Figure (16) provides more details on this.

Figure (16): Member of the Family Who Receive the Child's Pay, By Gender and Nationality



#### e) Children's Working hours

Of all the working children, two Syrian children in Mafraq stated that they worked up to 70 hours a week, while the maximum hours that the Jordanian children working in

Mafrq stated they worked in a week was 56. The minimum hours they work in a week were 3 hours, as stated by two Jordanians and one Syrian. The maximum percentage of the working children, 15.9 percent, work 20 hours a week, followed by 14.8 percent of the working children who said they worked 30 hours a week. Figures (17) and (18) summarize the percentage of the children's working hours per week by nationality and area.

Figure (17): Percent of Children Hours per Week, by Nationality

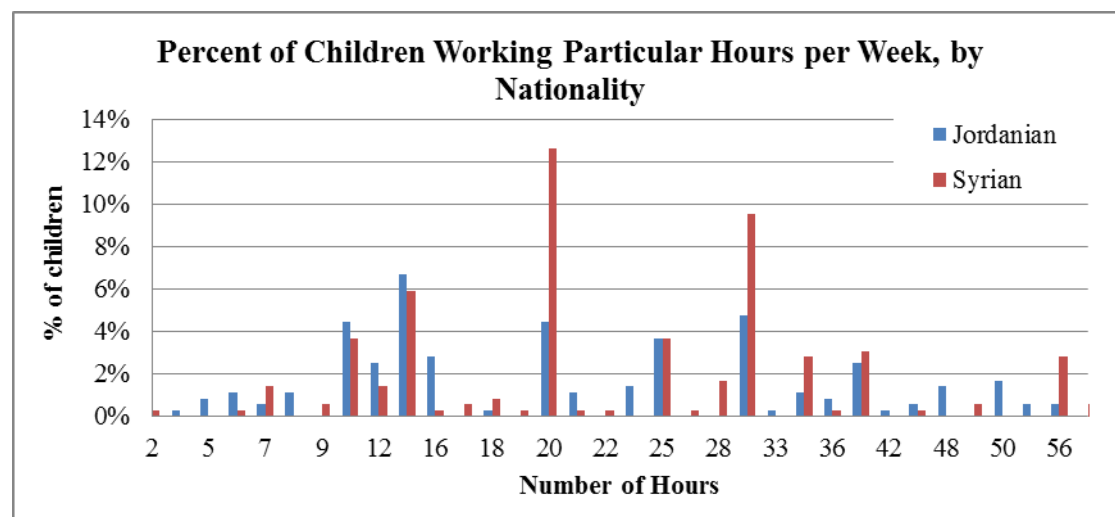
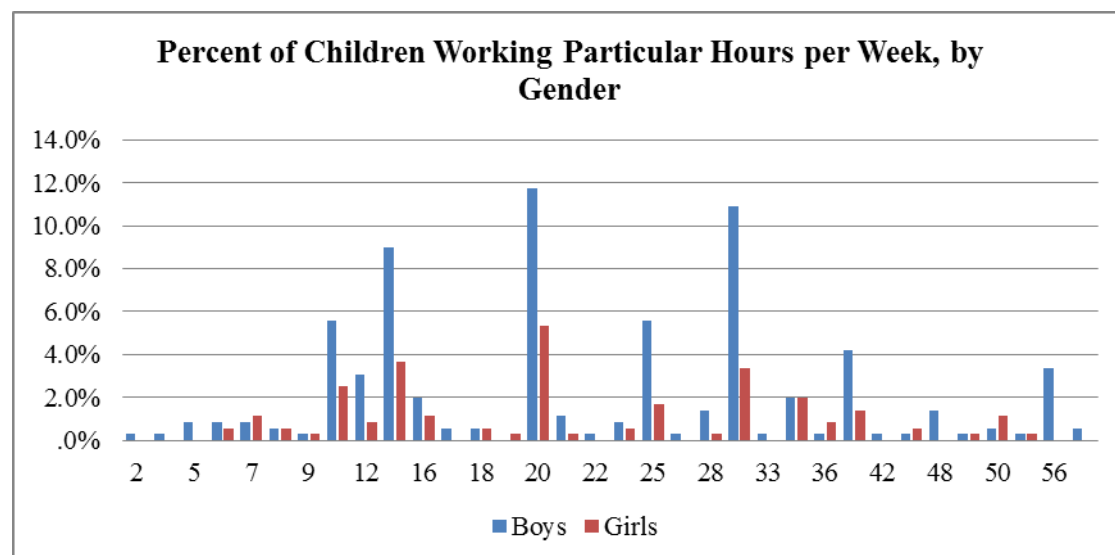


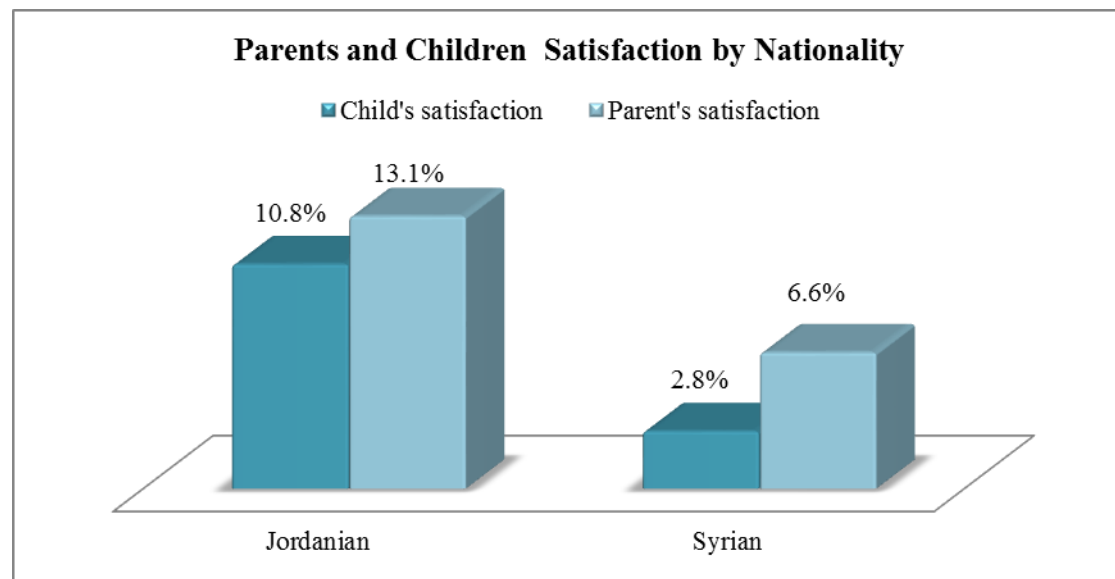
Figure (18): Percent of Children Working Particular Hours per Week, by Gender



#### f) Children's Work Satisfaction

About 19.7 percent of all parents of working children expressed approval or feeling satisfied<sup>73</sup> about their children's work, compared to 13.6 percent of the children who expressed the same sentiment. About 30 percent of the parents said they had no other option but to send their children to work.

Figure (19): Percentage of Parents and Children Who Expressed Satisfaction Related To Work by Nationality



About 67 percent of the parents who were not satisfied with their children's work stated they believed the work affects the children's health. This is close to the percent of children who stated they were against their work also because it affects their health (65.3 percent). Whereas 18.2 percent of the children stated they could not go to school because of work. One parent in the Jordan Valley stated they were against their child's working because the child will not have the opportunity to play in their free time with other children.

#### g) Factors that May Stop Children From Working

An adequate income was the most popular answer given by all the children (37.8 percent) when asked what could convince them to stop working. The next most popular answer was having enough money for the child's education (12.1 percent), followed by if the Syrian refugees go back to Syria (6.3 percent), which was selected

<sup>73</sup> The exact wording of the question was "are you happy that your child/ children work" or "هل أنت سعيد بطفلك/ أطفالك يعملون؟"



only by Syrians specifically in Mafraq. Table (16) summarizes these reasons by nationality and area.

Table (16): Factors that May Stop Children From Working, by Nationality and Area

Reason	Jordanian		Syrian		Mafraq		Ghor		Total	
	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%
Enough money for family including children's education	83	24.8%	82	24.48%	154	45.97%	11	3.28%	165	49.25%
Enough land to farm	4	1.2%	0	0%	3	0.90%	1	0.30%	4	1.19%
School closer to home	6	1.8%	2	0.6%	4	1.19%	4	1.19%	8	2.39%
Better schools	7	2.1%	1	0.3%	4	1.19%	4	1.19%	8	2.39%
Going back home / Syrian Refugees	0	0.0%	21	6.27%	21	6.27%	0	0	21	6.27%
Combination of the above reasons	58	17.3%	71	21.19%	3	0.90%	126	37.61%	129	38.51%
Total	158	47.2%	177	52.84%	189	56.42%	146	43.58%	335	100%

Farmers and small farm owners<sup>74</sup> in the northern Jordan Valley said there were not any clear laws to prevent parents from sending children to work in the farms (no law prohibits them from having their children assist them in their farms as legislation concentrate on violations by employers). Almost all participants showed a lack of awareness of Jordanian labour laws, especially in relation to child labour. A heated discussion took place amongst some participants pertaining to the right of a father to engage his own children in work in their farm or even at other farms, and that parents they have the right to engage their daughter to work in their farms. Furthermore, several participants pointed out that working at a young age will teach the children responsibility and good work ethics and values. This point was supported by an interview with a public sector employee in the southern Jordan Valley.

However, it was stated by some FGDs participants<sup>75</sup> that sometimes working children have to use unsafe transportation means, such as the back of pickup trucks, and children are injured as a result of accidents. Participants in FGDs<sup>76</sup> in the northern Jordan Valley said that children also risk of falling from the trees and exposed to

<sup>74</sup> FGDs were held in Bani Kinanah (Irbid, northern Jordan Valley) with farms and small farm owners

<sup>75</sup> MOA – Ghor Al Safi Directorate

<sup>76</sup> Farmers and small farm owners in the northern Jordan Valley

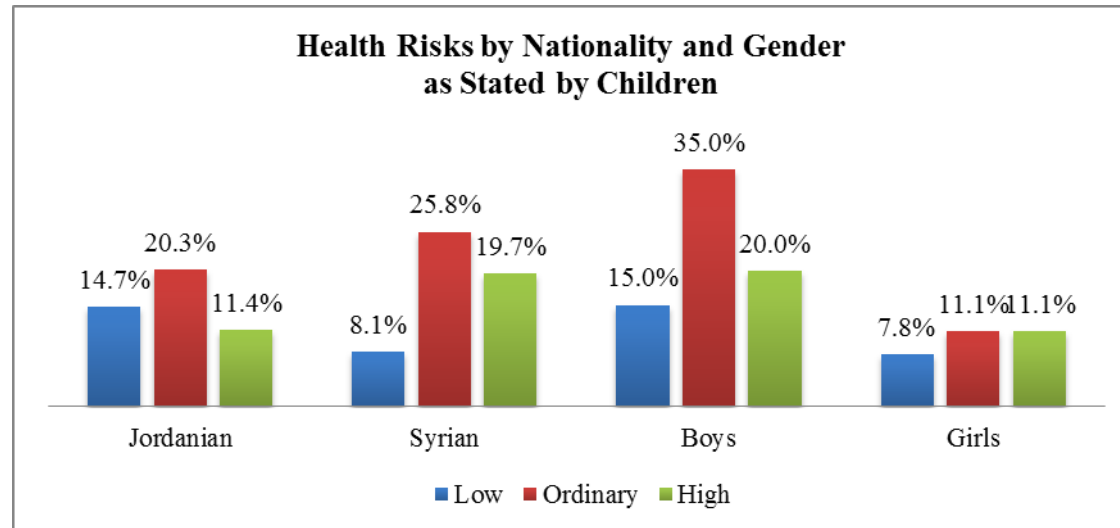
scorpions and snakes bites. They also added there was a higher risk of getting bitten during the olive harvesting season while the children are working in the field. If children are hurt, respondents stated that usually they take them to government health centre or use traditional<sup>77</sup> or folk medicine.

### 11.7. Children health and safety

#### a) Health risks

Considering the negative impact work might have on the working children, the RA investigated the magnitude of the health risks, dangers and injuries the working children are exposed to. Children were asked to scale the health risks they were exposed to on a scale from one to three, with low, ordinary and high. Close to half (46 percent) of children stated that the health risks are ordinary, followed by 31 percent of them stated that they were high. The RA did not investigate the accuracy of stated health risks by children by cross checking medical records or hold investigations in the health sector and medical service providers; it is recommended that more evidence based research is conducted on this point.

Figure (20): Health Risks as Stated By Children by Nationality and Gender



It should be noted that the Syrian children thought the health risks were higher than the Jordanian children (19.7 percent compared to 11.4 percent respectively), and these perceptions were higher in the Jordan Valley than Mafraq (18.3 percent compared to 12.8 percent respectively).

<sup>77</sup> Traditional or folk medicine الطب الشعبي

In addition to the health risks, children faced varying levels of tiredness and/or exhaustion. More than half of the children 55.2 percent stated that they were highly exhausted as a result of their work while only 5 percent of the working children stated that work did not affect them.

Figure (21): Extent Work Exhausts the Child

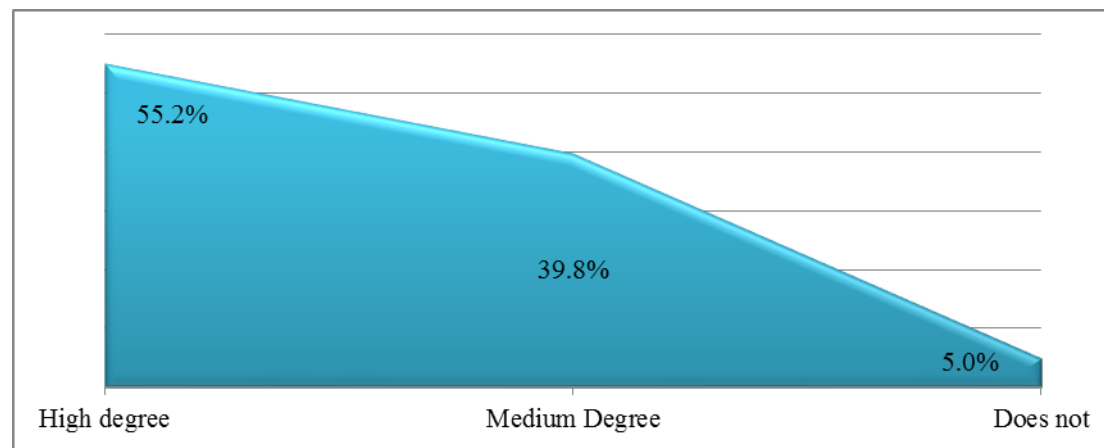


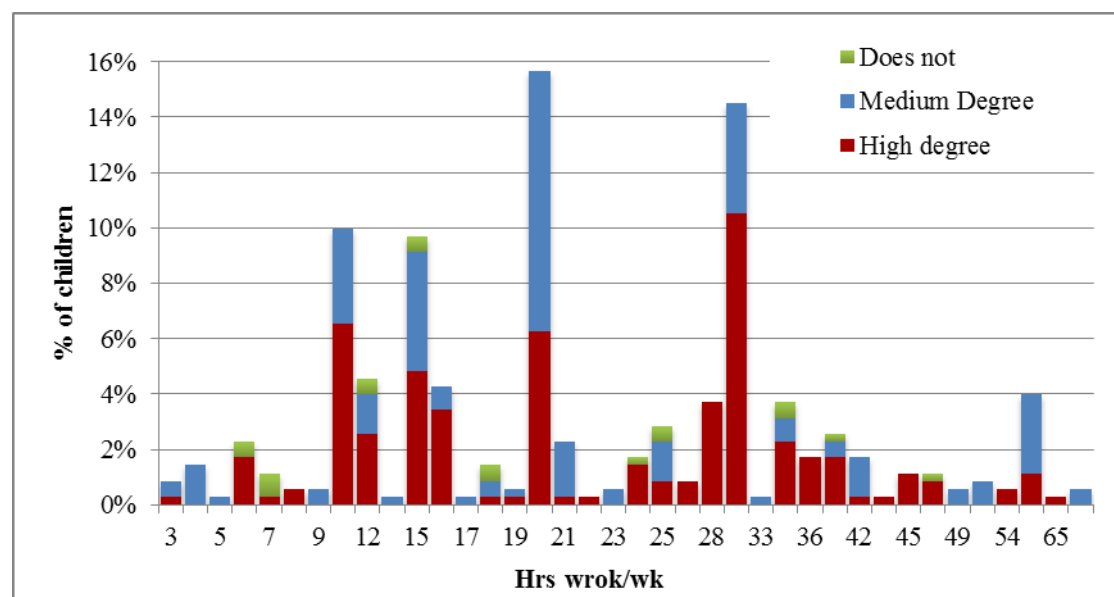
Table (17) summarizes the perception of the level of exhaustion reported by respondents caused by children working by nationality and area. From Table below it is noted that Jordanians reported a higher degree of exhaustion with 46 percent (77 out of 167) compared to 34 percent for Syrian, and with Mafrq higher than the Jordan Valley (61 percent compared to 23 percent).

Table (17): Level of Exhaustion from the Child's Work, as Stated by Working Children

Degree	Jordanian		% from Total JOR	Syrian		% from Total SYR	Mafrq		% from Total Mafr	Ghor		% from Total Ghor
	C	%		C	%		C	%		C	%	
High	77	21%	46%	121	34%	63%	115	32%	61%	83	23%	48%
Medium	83	23%	50%	60	17%	31%	67	19%	36%	76	21%	44%
Does not affect	7	2%	4%	11	3%	6%	5	1%	3%	13	4%	8%
Total	167	46%	100%	192	54%	100%	187	52%	100%	172	48%	100%

Further investigation was conducted to assess the relationship between the level of exhaustion and the number of hours worked per week. Close to quarter (24.2 percent) of the children who reported they were highly exhausted work between 20 to 30 hours a week. While the children who reported that work does not exhaust them are divided into three categories; out of these responses “does not affect” only 3.1 percent fall in the range of three to 19 hours per week, 0.9 percent fall in the range of 20 to 30 hours per week, and 1.1 percent fall in the range 33 to 70 hours per week.

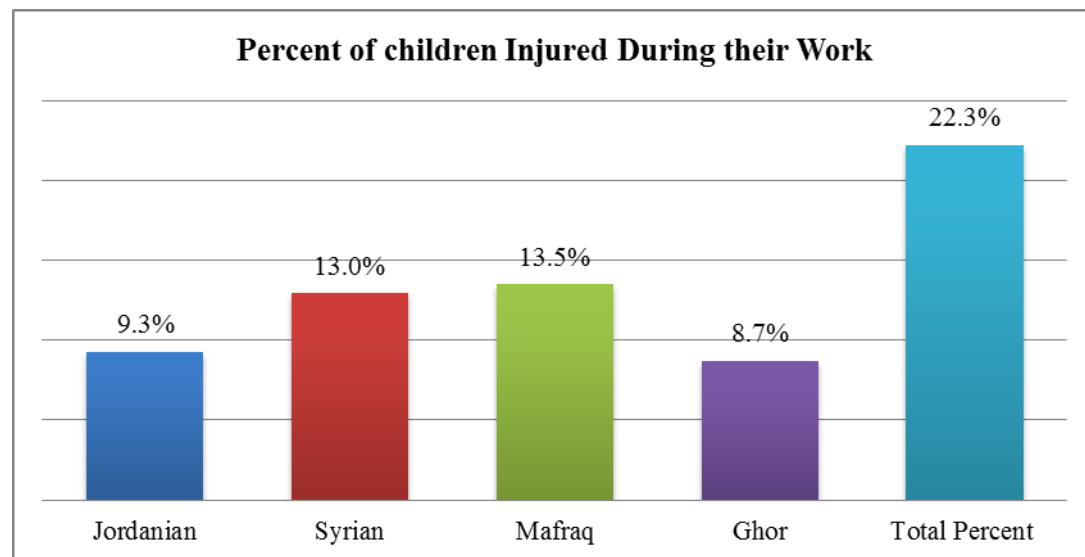
Figure (22): Percent of Children Working Hours per Week, by Level of Exhaustion



#### b) Safety

Of the total 368 working children, about 22.3 percent children from the total number of children reported they were injured during their work. Of these children 18 percent were boys, and 4.2 percent girls. More injuries happened in Mafrag than the Jordan Valley (13.5 percent compared to 8.7 percent respectively), while the Syrians reported more injuries than the Jordanians. About 38.1 percent of these injuries did not need immediate medical attention, while 36.9 percent needed medical treatment but were released immediately, and 4.8 percent reported that they were permanently unable to work as a result of the injury.

Figure (23): Details Pertaining to the Percentage of Working Children who Mentioned They Were Injured During Work by Nationality and Area\*



\*From the total no. of Working Children, only 22.3% mentioned that they were injured, which is represented above as "Total Percent"

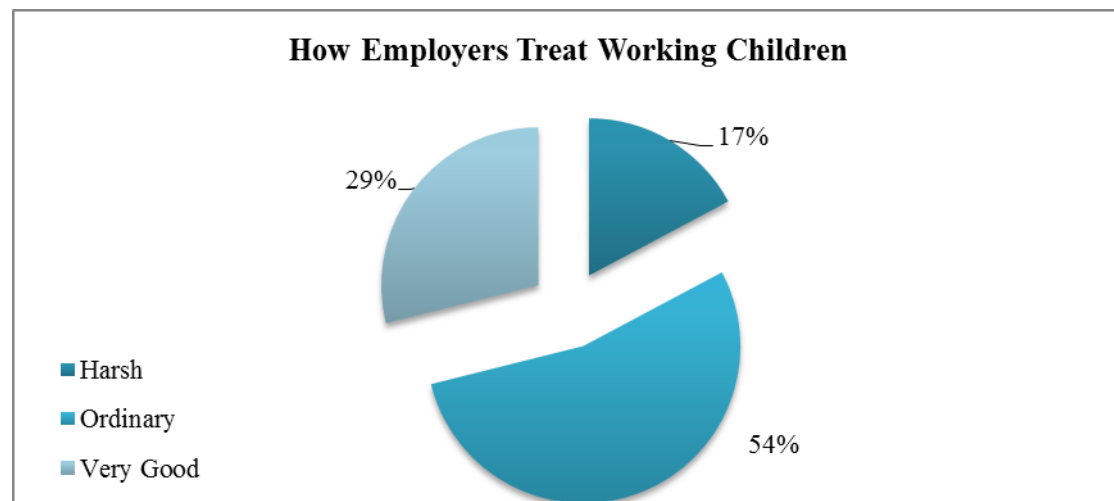
The injuries reported by children include eye, ear injuries, skin infection, breathing problems, tiredness and other injuries. Again these claims have to be independently investigated.

In addition to the exhaustion and injuries working children were exposed to, further investigation was made to identify other types of dangers. Almost half (49.4 percent) of the dangers mentioned by the children were a combination of the dangers included dust and pesticides, and dangers mentioned fall under the pesticides category at 23 percent. Only 0.9 percent of the children Jordanian girls reported they were exposed to the dangers related to working at night.

#### c) Treatment by Employer

Of the total working children, 92.7 percent described their employer treatment to them; of which 17.2 percent stated that it was harsh, while close to a third (28.9 percent) stated that it was very good, and more than half described the treatment as ordinary. The percentage of children who were treated harshly was almost equally divided among the Jordanians and Syrians (8.9 percent and 8.3 percent respectively), while there was big difference among boys and girls; with boys double that for girls.

Figure (24): Percentage of Working Children According to How They were Treated by their Employer



Mixed responses were received during interviews and FGDs pertaining to the way farmers treat children working in their farm. Large and well-established farmers<sup>78</sup> had systems to protect working children whom they stated were forced to hire as part of their daily workers. This was supported by two worker agents (Jordanian man and Syrian women<sup>79</sup>). However, participants in the FGDs, with labour inspectors, mentioned that, especially in smaller farms, the children were not always treated well. They also added that farmers do not have an active role in decreasing or eliminating child labour, in spite the fact that they play an important role. On the other hand, large farmers showed great interest in working with the MOL and MOA to decrease child labour, and that child labour is increasing with the influx of Syrian Refugees to the agriculture sector which is also impacting work patterns and lifestyles.

#### 11.8. Health Services

The sample of people surveyed in both Mafraq and the Jordan Valley did not all have health care cover. About two-thirds of parents (67.1 percent) said they received health care. Of these respondents, only 21.7 percent were Syrians, and it is almost an equal percentage in Mafraq and the Jordan Valley (32.4 percent and 34.8 percent respectively).

These services were received from different agencies such as government centres and hospitals, private centres and hospitals, NGOs, and international organizations

<sup>78</sup> A well established farmer mentioned that he had systems in place for the protection of child labour and not having them work as adults, this is due to the fact that he has to hire children as part of the daily labourers by the workers agents, or they will not provide his farm with workers.

<sup>79</sup> Both agents handle up to 400 workers a day, with 25 percent children.

(UNHCR and others). Tables below summarize the services provided by these agencies by nationality and area.

Table (18): Health Services Provided to Families by Nationality

Benefits from Health Services	Jordanian	Syrian	Total Count	Total Percent
Yes	45.45%	21.70%	139	67.15%
No	4.85%	28%	68	32.85%
Total	50.3%	49.7%	207	100%

Table (19): Health Services Received by Families, by Nationality and Area

Source of Health Services	Jordanian		Syrians		Mafraq		Ghor		Total	
	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%
Gov . Health Centres / Hospitals	88	61.54%	23	16.10%	51	35.66%	60	41.96%	111	77.6%
Private centres / hospitals	1	0.70%	1	0.70%	2	1.40%	0	0%	2	1.4%
NGOs	2	1.40%	7	4.90%	4	2.80%	5	3.50%	9	6.3%
Int'l Organizations	3	2.10%	18	12.60%	11	7.69%	10	6.99%	21	14.7%
Total	94	65.74%	49	34.30%	68	47.55%	75	52.45%	143	100%

From the table above, it can be concluded that only 49, or 44 percent, of the total Syrian families receive health services from the list above. Out of 103 Syrian respondents, about 56 percent are not covered by health services. This finding is supported by the Syrian children's responses regarding the type of injuries; about 73.7 percent of the families stated that they had to pay their own medical expenses to treat their children's injuries. Further Investigation is needed in this area.

## 12. Recommendations

To be able to have a meaningful and effective impact pertaining to child labour in Jordan, the implementation of an integrated approach is needed. This fact is made even more important with the additional complexities and challenges in dealing with refugee working children.

The following are the main recommendations:

### I. Policy level

In light of the substantive pressures on the GOJ resources, there is a need to safeguard the government's strong commitment to safeguarding and protecting children including child labour. Substantive work has already been done by the GOJ, most importantly the formulation and approval of the integrated approach to combating child labour the "National Framework for Child Labour."

It is recommended that more action is taken by the GOJ to end child labour, especially laying out a comprehensive program and work plan to be implemented according to the National Framework with clear milestones, deliverables and clarity of roles and responsibilities (as stipulated in the National Framework).

The MOL has the leading role in such a program supported by the NCFA, MOSD, MOH, MOA and other government entities. In addition, collective efforts and partnerships with civil society, private sector, trade unions and community leaders should be clearly outlined.

### II. Legislations and institutional measures

Jordanian legislation tackles child labour, however, there is a need to further strengthen the legislation and issue a new by-law regulating the work of children in the agricultural sector, thus protecting their rights. In addition, there is a need to have legislation in place to tackle the responsibility of parents to protect their children against exploitation including child labour, especially at a younger age and hold them accountable (to the extent possible) for protecting their children.

On an institutional level, the MOL is overburdened by the increasing responsibilities and complexions of the child labour situation in Jordan especially with the large number of Syrian Refugee working children. It is strongly recommended that the MOL is further supported by increasing the number of well-trained child labour inspectors to enable the MOL to effectively enforce the existing articles pertaining to child labour. In addition, it is recommended that based on the National Framework clear processes and standard operating



systems are set in place to ensure a fast and effective flow of information and ability to take action.

### III. Education

It is important to recognise that high quality education early in life is the right of every child. Parents, governments and the community at large including NGOs and private sector, all have to play an active role in ensuring that this basic right is fulfilled. The MOE plays a very important and active part in shaping the children's character, skills and moral values, hence, the Ministry's efforts in supporting and reintegrating working children should be supported<sup>80</sup>. There is a need to further investigate the dynamics of the relationship between "not going to school", "skipping classes" or "dropping out" with child labour. In addition, specific work needs to be conducted on the MOE definition of "school dropout", enabling the Ministry to better track the progress of students and attend to children who are at risk of dropping out and /or have very weak academic performance due to not attending school on a regular basis. Moreover, efforts should be made to reintegrate more working children back to school and to support the MOE in revising any related regulations on this issue. In parallel, linkages to reintegrating children back to schools, with technical and vocational training centers should be explored.

Special attention should be made to draw valuable lessons learnt and success stories from the pilot programs that are already being implemented by UNHCR and UNICEF to help bring children back to schools<sup>81</sup>.

### IV. Effective programs working with the family as a unit

It is recommended that special focus is targeted towards tackling the root causes leading to child labour by working with the family as a unit, providing support through the community to improve the quality of life and livelihoods of the families of working children. It is recommended that the GOJ and its development partners develop and implement creative programs for securing much needed income for the family to enable the children to reintegrate back to school. Focusing only on legislations and penalties for the employers will not have a great impact for the families of working children, as families may resort to

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<sup>80</sup> MOE figures for School dropout in Jordan are 0.31% which is around 5 -6 thousand students in Jordan per year.

<sup>81</sup> A pilot project is being implemented by UNHCR/ UNICEF to bring back 1700 child to school from labour market by providing cash support to the families of the dropped out students to return them to school.

sending their children to work in less formal work locations which may pose higher risks for the working children.

Work should also include raising the awareness of the parents of working children on the importance of their children's education and the negative impacts of child labour on their children and their future if they drop out of school.

**Syrian Families Specific Circumstances:** For Syrian refugee children who have been already traumatized by the violence and escalation of war in Syria, displacement, loss of community, family and friends in Syria, living in harsh and unfamiliar new environments, pose additional risks and threats to their mental health and welfare. Their situation is made more difficult due to the economic hardships and having to suffer from the added burden of helping out in securing their families with basic living needs as well as being deprived from a normal life. It is recommended that psychosocial support services are added for Syrian working children, as an integrated back-to-school package for children who need it. Services should be supported for proper assessment of the children, delivery of services as well as follow-up.

#### V. Comprehensive and Evidence based research

It is recommended that a new and comprehensive child labour survey is conducted in Jordan to determine the incidence and nature, pattern, distribution, dynamics and causes of child labour as well as shed light on the socio-economic characteristics of the working children and their families; health, safety, education.

Moreover, research should investigate different child labour patterns nation wise depending on different areas and sectors including investigating if worst forms of child labour exists in Jordan, its dynamics and ways to stop it. More research in cooperation with the MOH and health service providers on the effects of child labour on children's health.

#### VI. Building consensus and awareness and role of media

It is recommended that programs are implemented at both the national and local level to raise awareness on the fact that child labour exists in Jordan and that it is rising. Capacity building for all partners is needed to deal with and / or report cases for child labour, and engage local communities to play a more active role in combating child labour. Programs should also raise awareness on the basic

understanding of child labour<sup>82</sup>, and the consequences of working children on the children themselves and their future prospects. In addition, there is a need to use the media actively (including social media) to support dialogue regarding child protection issues including child labour.

It is also recommended that the first phase of work should concentrate on building awareness and consensus against child labour, together with enforcing the stated penalties in the legislations.

## VII. Build partnerships and strengthen accountability measures for all partners

Building on the National Framework for Child Labour, it is recommended to implement programs with strong partnerships with all key stakeholders including private sector, trade unions, municipalities, and local NGOs, and international development agencies and NGOs, with regard to child labour employment.

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<sup>82</sup> Several parents in the RA and during the FGDs mentioned that it is better for the child to work, this way they become more responsible and mature.

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