



Project Summary

The **general objective** of the project is to strengthen children's access to justice and the capacity of juvenile justice professionals to enhance diversion, alternatives measures to detention, restorative justice and justice child friendly procedures.

The project is based on a **three-pronged approach: juvenile justice system strengthening** through the elaboration and compilation of specialized SOPs, the first e-justice system specialized in justice for children and the coordination between formal and customary justice actors, **direct service provision to children** focused on effectively implement alternative measures to detention (including vocation training and life skills activities), PSS and legal aid, and enhancement of **child participation** within the juvenile justice system in Palestine.

General Information

Project title: Justice for Children (J4C)

Donor: UNICEF, UNDP, Terre des Hommes Foundation

Location: West Bank (Bethlehem and Hebron governorates) and Gaza Strip, Palestine

Duration: August 2016 – July 2017 (12 months)

Partners: Community based organizations (CBOs) – Shorouk in the West Bank, Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR) in Gaza.

Total budget: 301'500 CHF

Key Data and needs to address

- A new juvenile law enter into force in March 2016 in line with regional and international standards and the involvement of different stakeholders (governmental, customary justice actors and civil organisations). It is only applicable in the West Bank while in Gaza "de facto" authorities continue to apply the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance enacted in 1937. The full implementation of the law requires a set of solid interventions, among other their procedural development through bylaws or SOPs for the actors in charge of its implementation, as well as a specialized information management system for statistic and analysis.
- There are limited trained justice professionals as well as gaps in the coordination among JJ formal actors and customary actors. There is a strong need and willingness to enhance to cooperation and exchange through the mechanism of restorative justice.

- Children in conflict with the law are not adequately accessing alternatives to detention adapted to their specific needs and safe wellbeing. There is a lack of specialised PSS and legal aid services for children since they are arrested and all the way through the justice procedures they deal with, including during their placement in detention centres (few of them are juvenile centres). Moreover, girls are hardly provided with gender sensitive services.
- Boys and girls at risk or in conflict with the law are not expressing their views and needs in regards to the justice procedures they are going through. However, justice actors have also expressed their agreement to effectively setting up process to ensure taking into account children's views.

Outcome 1

Key justice actors are increasingly able to reach children in conflict with the law

- 276 **formal and customary juvenile justice actors** have been **specifically trained on restorative mechanisms for children**, creating legal bridges between both justice systems (i.e Case Conference practice, mediation).
- The **first juvenile justice information management system** have been created and activated (MIZAN for Children).
- The **first JJ SOPs** have been coordinated, compiled and roll out in Gaza Strip.

Outcome 2

Rights of children in conflict with the law, especially girls, are increasingly respected

- 250 **children** are provided with **specialized PSS and life skills support** as well as **legal aid services** (22 % girls)
- 54 **children** have accessed **alternatives to detention measures** (21 % girls). The first 11 children in the Gaza Strip placed in vocational training courses and summer camps. 60 **children** are provided with **specialized PSS and life skills support** as well as **legal aid services** (22 % girls)
- Alternatives to detention for children have been enhanced through the creation of a **specialized network** and the compilation of a **field guide-report for juvenile justice practitioners**.

Outcome 3

Children and parents actively participate in decisions that affect them and in long-term efforts to reforming access to justice for children

- 40 **children** (41% girls) are forming part of **child participation groups** in which they have been empowered to **express their views** and developed their skills through **child-led media products** on radio and online.
- 55 **families and caregivers** are provided with specialized support and actively **participating with their children in decision making process** related to their conflict situation with the law.

Target groups

- Total number of **direct beneficiaries:** 586
- **Children at risk and in conflict with the law, boys and girls**, aged between 7 and 17 years of age; **parents and caregivers, CBOs staff and child services providers; JJ stakeholders formal actors** (child protection counsellors, prosecutors, police judges,) and **customary justice actors**.

Location

- **Gaza Strip.** Al-Rabee Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. 5 governorates: North Gaza, Gaza Governorates, Deir Al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah)
- **West Bank.** Hebron and Bethlehem governorates. There is not any juvenile centre in those governorates. Activities have been

conducted with the support of child services providers
included in the Alternative to Detention network,

accredited by the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development.

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