

Addressing Worst forms of Child Labour in Jordan's Agricultural Sector

June, 2019

Introduction:

The agricultural sector in Jordan provides a critical source of sustenance and income, particularly for the poorest segments of society. Yet, in Jordan, provisions under the Labour Law do not largely apply to agriculture workers- a large number of whom are migrant workers and Syrian refugees.

A key area of concern is child labour, where 82 per cent of farmers surveyed by the ILO in 2018 indicated that children under the age of 15 were working in their operation. More than half of surveyed agriculture workers report a lack of accessible schooling options for their children and a lack of suitable childcare arrangements. As a result, families may bring children to work for lack of a better option.

Syrian refugee children in Jordan often start working before the age of 12, becoming increasingly involved in occupations that are hazardous.

The ILO is implementing a project in agriculture, funded by the Government of Norway, which aims to reduce incidence of child labour in the sector, taking into consideration children and their families' vulnerability.

Through the project's activities, the ILO has carried out an assessment to identify and evaluate local services that are available to children under the age of 15 and those between the ages of 16-18, with a view to improve and unify their efforts to support children and their families. This includes looking into schooling options, childcare, extracurricular activities and health services that are available at the community level.

As part of these efforts, a survey was conducted to provide a better insight into the needs of vulnerable children and their families. The survey, which was conducted in Irbid, Ramtha, Zarqa, Mafraq and Northern Jordan Valley, focused on tent settlements where most vulnerable agricultural workers are based. It targeted 89 households including 152 working children.

INFORMATION

89 Households Were Surveyed In Ramtha, Zarqa, Mafraq and Northern Jordan Valley

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

90.8% Of working children surveyed Not Enrolled



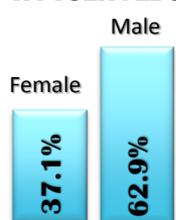
The most common reason (according to 59 respondents) given for not attending school is that they are the sole **breadwinners of their families**, (42.4 per cent of whom are female).

64.5 per cent of working children who left school expressed the desire to return to school - with the majority (59.7 per cent of whom are female child labourers) saying they wish to return back to school out of desire for learning. On the other hand, 35.5 per cent of working children said they did not wish to return to school.

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

98.9% Surveyed are Syrian



CHILD LABOUR

152 OUT OF 188 Surveyed CHILDREN **ENGAGED IN CHILD Labour**

CHILD LABOUR INFORMATION



49.3% of surveyed children are Female

Working children by age groups - out of the 152 working children, 46.1 per cent are over the age of 16. A total of 42.8 percent are between the ages of 12-16, with 11.2 per cent under the age of 12.

Working age of females

37.1 per cent of those over the age of 16 are female; 60 per cent of working children between the ages of 12-16 are female; while females constitute 58.8 per cent of children under the age of 12.

Payment

70.1% PAID PER HOUR



29.9% PAID PER DAY

Payment per hour for all working children surveyed

- 57.1 per cent of children working in agriculture are paid less than Jordanian Dinar (JOD) 1 per hour; while,
- 42.2 per cent of working children in agriculture are paid between JOD 1-2 per hour.
- 0.7 per cent are paid more than JOD 4 an hour (which consists of one female child labourer).

Working Children

42.2% WORK 5-6 days a week **46.8% are female**



- Out of the 152 working children, 147 are working in agriculture -
- 72 of whom are female.
- 92.5 per cent of children working in agriculture work alongside family members.



Payment per hour for female working children surveyed

- 46.4 per cent of child labourers who are paid less than JOD 1 are females; and
- 51.6 per cent of child labourers who are paid between JOD 1-2 are females.

OSH EQUIPEMENTS



81% Say are Not PROVIDED

- 88.9 per cent of the females compared to
- 73.3 per cent of the males.

PERSONAL NEEDS

81.6% Would Not be PROVIDED WITH THEIR BASIC PERSONAL NEEDS



- if they returned back to schools;
- 80.6 per cent of females compared to
- 82.7 per cent of the males.