



Annual Report

National Council for Family Affairs

2008



المجلس الوطني لتتؤون الأسرة
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS



Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah
President

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Preface

During the last decade, Jordan made great strides in all the economic, social, political and other fields, while issues related to the Jordanian family gained new focus in the policies and priorities of decision-makers. Since assuming his constitutional powers, His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein has been devoting his utmost attention to the Jordanian family. In 2001, a Royal Decree established the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) and appointed Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah as its president. NCFA was mandated with the task of improving the living standard of the Jordanian family, creating a favorable legislative environment through consistent revisions of family-related legislation, and initiating mechanisms for coordination and partnership with the actors involved in the well-being of the family and its members.

Since its establishment, NCFA has been able to attain many achievements that harmonize with Their Majesties' vision of promoting the family's role in creating positive change in the society. In 2005, the National Strategy for the Jordanian Family, drafted by NCFA in cooperation with many of its partners, was proclaimed as an NCFA milestone achievement, whose contents corresponded to the spirit of the age and covered all aspects of the Jordanian family's life. In view of His Majesty's concern for the elderly, NCFA collaborated with its partners in 2008 on developing the National Strategy for the Elderly — the first-ever national document concerned with drawing elderly-oriented policies for decision- and policy-makers, as well as program originators, with the aim of identifying gaps and inadequacies in programs catering to this category.

Because the family is the first and foremost institution for preparing the child for future life, King Abdullah and Queen Rania launched the National Plan of Action for Childhood (2004–2013), which addresses many major themes, including ensuring that the child enjoys the highest attainable standards of health, life security, developed capacities and protection. In 2005, NCFA and its partners submitted to the Geneva-based Child Rights Commission Jordan's Third Child Rights Report, which covered all the arrangements adopted by the Government to protect children. In cooperation with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), NCFA also compiled the Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan, launched by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah in 2008. This report discusses the conditions, under which Jordanian children live, such as the environment, housing, governance, the economy, culture, as well as social and health factors, and highlights many achievements, realized in this area by NCFA and its partners.

In view of Their Majesties' concern over family violence issues, NCFA developed the National Strategic Plan for Family Protection against Family Violence (2005–2009), as well as the National Framework for Family Protection (2007), each depicting NCFA response to the Royal directives that all forms of child abuse and violence against women are “not permissible” and that respect of all human rights, especially those of children and women, constitutes a responsibility to be borne by one and all.



In 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO), recognizing Jordan's efforts in the area of family protection and His Majesty's endeavor to establish Jordan as an oasis of security and stability, approved NCFA as a "WHO Collaborating Center for Protection against Family Violence" — the first-ever in the East Mediterranean region. This empowers NCFA to work on developing, implementing and evaluating regional policies and strategies on protection against family violence.

NCFA also collaborated with the Ministry of Social Development on following up closely the different stages that led to the enactment of the Law on Protection Against Family Violence, which was passed by both houses of Parliament in 2008. Most of the amendments proposed by NCFA and the Ministry of Social Development were adopted by Parliament.

At the beginning of 2008, NCFA established the Technical Support Bureau to communicate with the House of Deputies and the Senate on enhancing the role of parliamentarians in discussing and analyzing family-related public policies. The Senate, in turn, launched its groundbreaking initiative of establishing a family ad hoc committee, which was mandated to cooperate and communicate with the NCFA Technical Support Bureau on examining family-related laws, proposals, treaties and agreements.

Publication of this annual report, which monitors the main NCFA achievements during 2008, coincides with celebrations in Jordan marking the 10th Anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne — an occasion that prompts us all to exert increased efforts towards realizing the well-being of the Jordanian family, so that Jordan will continue to be a model to be emulated regionally and internationally.

Finally, the National Council for Family Affairs, in presenting this brief account of its achievements, is keen on expressing its thanks and appreciation to its Board of Trustees, headed by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, for their continuous support of NCFA efforts to implement its many activities and programs successfully. Furthermore, NCFA would like to submit its thanks and appreciation to all its partners, representing the various governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, involved in family and childhood affairs, for their cooperation in drafting and implementing NCFA family-related plans, policies and programs that embody the spirit of team work in the service of happy childhood, promising youth and secure old-age.

It is God, Who gives success

Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh
Secretary General,
National Council for Family Affairs

Chronology

- 2001:** NCFA established by Royal Decree
- 2001:** Five-year Early Childhood Development Plan of Action (2003–2008) developed.
- 2002:** NCFA assumes coordinating role of national effort to develop Interactive Kindergarten Curricula, finalized and provided to government-run kindergartens during the second term of 2003/2004.
- 2002:** Analysis of Family-Related Legislation project developed after a series of specialized panels (2003–2004) to discuss many family-related laws. Project finalized in 2005.
- 2004:** National Plan of Action for Childhood launched.
- 2004:** Arab Regional Meeting to Celebrate 10th Anniversary of International Year of the Family convened.
- 2005:** National Strategy for the Jordanian Family launched.
- 2005:** Jordan's Third Child Rights Report launched.
- 2005:** First Regional Conference for Family Protection convened.
- 2005:** NCFA Website launched to promote NCFA activities and programs and elucidate its mission, goals, role and organizational structure.
- 2005:** Monitoring and Evaluation system prepared to enable NCFA to act as a national policy think-tank and evaluate the performance of all programs, projects and activities.
- 2005:** National Strategic Plan for Family Protection against Family Violence (2005–2009) drafted.
- 2006:** Legal Guide to Marriage for Muslims launched.
- 2006:** Global Women's Action Network for Children Conference convened.
- 2006:** World Family Summit +2 held.
- 2007:** Marriage Guide for Christian Sects launched.
- 2007:** National Framework for Family Protection launched.
- 2008:** Guide to Family-Related Legislation launched.
- 2008:** National Information System for Family Affairs launched.
- 2008:** National Jordanian Strategy for the Elderly drafted.
- 2008:** *Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan* report launched.
- 2008:** Technical Support Bureau to communicate with the House of Deputies and the Senate established to enhance the role of parliamentarians in discussing and analyzing family-related public policies.



Main Jordanian Family Indicators

Indicator	Year	
Population	2007	5.7 million
Number of families	2007	1,059,800 families
Average family size	2007	5.4 members
Percentage of female-headed families	2006	10.5%
Raw rate of marriage (per 1,000 citizens)	2007	10.6
Average age on first marriage		
Males	2007	29.5
Females		26.4
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	2007	19
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	2007	20
Raw divorce rate (per 1,000 population)	2007	2.1
Percentage of people aged 65+ years	2007	3.3%
Illiteracy rate for people aged 15+ years	2007	7.9%
Unemployment rate	2007	13.1

Source: Jordan in Figures 2007, www.dos.gov.jo/jorfig/2007/jo_f_e.htm

National Council for Family Affairs

Introduction:

In recognition of its leading role in preparing upcoming generations, the family is the Society's mainstay for providing care and securing the requirements for social and cultural upbringing. Irrespective of the type of their own family, the majority of people have an ideal image, drawn in their minds, of what the family should be like. The family's form and pattern in any society is based on the society's predominant culture, while the roles of family members entail commitments and expectations that differ according to sex and age. Consequently, achieving these commitments contributes to the family's functions of economic support, childcare and the provision of emotional security.

The National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) was established against the backdrop of a general environment favoring the family, as well as national attitudes and programs of actions created by the different sectors. NCFA was mandated to address family-related issues at the strategic planning level; laying down policies and programs to meet certain social, economic and quality criteria that describe and investigate the status of women in Jordan; and amending family-related plans, programs, policies and legislation in accordance with a deeper understanding of family issues, taking into consideration that the needs of families differ with the circumstances of these families.

NCFA was established in 2001 by Royal Decree, with Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah as its president. It acts as a supportive umbrella for coordinating and facilitating the work of its partners — namely, national governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as international organizations involved in family-related action — in order to achieve a better future for the Jordanian family.



Our Message

To enhance the status of the Jordanian family and maximize its role within the society to enable it to contribute towards safeguarding our values and civilizational legacy in a manner that keeps abreast of social and cultural changes in the Kingdom.

Our Mission

To contribute to ensuring a better quality of life for Jordanian families through a national vision that supports the country's development policies and enables all Jordanian families to attain their ambitions.

Our Strategic Roles

- A think-tank for national policies;
- A coordinating and monitoring body;
- An advocacy body for family issues.

Our Strategic Objectives

Policy Formulation and Reform:

As the country's think-tank for national policies, NCFA undertakes to draft, review, and amend family-related policies, legislation, and measures and does so through directing and promoting research and scientific programs towards addressing national priorities.

Managing Research and Data Resources:

NCFA is committed to providing credible information on all family-related matters. Hence, it manages all the data at its disposal with a view to enabling those concerned to take informed decisions, based on scientific principles and capable of sustaining the continuous progress and higher standing of the Jordanian family.

Advocacy:

NCFA focuses on mobilizing national support for family policies and programs, as well as promoting the rights of all family members, in order to establish a wide base of decision-makers, who possess wide knowledge and awareness of the most important family issues. Securing financial support also falls within NCFA efforts to advocate the sustainability of family programs.



Coordination and Follow-Up:

Facilitating, coordinating and monitoring the development, application and implementation of family-related policies and strategies falls within the very core of NCFA work, thus achieving harmony between NCFA plans and programs and those of its partners.

Institutional Development:

NCFA aims to develop and support its ability to respond — technically, administratively and financially — to its role and responsibilities, as stipulated in Jordanian laws.

NCFA Organizational Structure

According to NCFA Law No. 27 (2001), NCFA Organizational Structure includes the following:

1. Board of Trustees: Members of the Board of Trustees represent the different ministries and governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in family-related issues, as well as private-sector representatives and experts.

During the period covered by the present report, the NCFA Board of Trustees consisted of the following:

- Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah (President)
- H.E Dr. Munther Al-Masri (Vice President)
- H.E. Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
- H.E. Minister of Health
- H.E. Minister of Social Development
- H.E. Minister of Education
- H.E Senator Dr. Rajae Al-Muasher
- H.E Senator Leila Sharaf
- H.E. Director of Public Security
- H.E Senator Haifa Abu Ghazaleh (NCFA Secretary General)
- H.E Dr. Janette Mirza
- H.E Mrs. Hala Zureiqat
- H.E Mrs. Dima Bibi
- H.E Judge Malak Ghazal
- H.E Judge Muhammad Al-Tarawneh
- H.E Dr. Amal Kharouf



2. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee consists of the following Board of Trustees members:

- H.E Dr. Munther Al-Masri, Deputy Board of Trustees President
- H.E Senator Rajae Al-Muasher
- H.E Senator Leila Sharaf
- H.E Senator Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, NCFA Secretary General
- H.E Mrs. Hala Zureiqat
- H.E Judge Malak Ghazal
- H.E Judge Muhammad Al-Tarawneh

3.General Secretariat

The General Secretariat functions as the NCFA executive body and operational arm. During 2008, the General Secretariat was restructured and the new structure was adopted by the Board of Trustees (Resolution No. 2/3/2008) on 22 October 2008.

The new General Secretariat includes the following directorates:

- Technical Bureau for Communication with the Parliament
- WHO Collaborating Center for Protection against Family Violence
- Kindergarten Accreditation Center
- Family Programs Directorate, which includes the following programs:
 - Socioeconomic Program
 - Educational Program
 - Environmental Health Program
 - Family Protection Program
 - Family Policies and Legislation Program
- Technical Support Directorate, consisting of the following:
 - Projects Monitoring, Evaluation and Management
 - Communication and Advocacy
- Financial Affairs Directorate

First: Achievements of the Family Programs Directorate

1. Socioeconomic Program

The Socioeconomic Program monitors socio-economic developments, identifies their impact on the Jordanian family, explores and proposes solutions for challenges and issues producing adverse effects, and adopts priority initiatives and projects addressing these challenges and issues. It carries out its task in coordination and partnership with governmental, non-governmental and civil society organizations. It also strives to provide decision makers with vital indicators on the social, economic and environmental situation in order to inform their decisions aiming at improving the Jordanian family's social and economic quality of life.

During 2008, the Socioeconomic Program followed up the publication of the National Strategy for the Elderly and its action plan, which was approved by the Prime Minister's office. Drafted by NCFA in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, the Greater Amman Municipality, the World Health Organization and the Jordanian Nursing Board, this strategy seeks to provide the elderly with the best possible health and social care and address the challenges and problems impacting old-age issues in Jordan. In the same manner of producing the elderly strategy, the program decided to issue awareness booklets about how to deal with the elderly.

In cooperation with many relevant governmental and non-governmental parties, the program also developed a draft National Strategy for Family Guidance. This strategy depicts the most important issues and problems concerning family guidance and follows up on recent developments in this area. In view of the importance of raising awareness of family guidance, an NCFA-Higher Media Council workshop was convened with the objective of introducing the concept of "family guidance" to information and communication practitioners in the public and private sectors, as well as military institutions. The program also published Jordan's report on implementing the objectives of the International Year of the Family, as well as the Arab Declaration on Family Rights (2004–2007). It also published the Family Cohesion Study, presented at the Arab League's Family Cohesion Conference. The program also collaborated on publishing the first issue of the *Guide to Family-Related Research and Studies*, launched by Her Majesty Queen Rania.



Future Plans:

- “Improving Family Guidance Services” project.
- “Alleviating Child Labor” project.
- Drafting indicators of the quality of life of the Jordanian family.
- Drafting the “Situation of the Jordanian Family” report.
- Launching the “National Strategy for the Elderly,” under Royal Patronage.
- Publishing the second and third volumes of the “Guide to Family-Related Research and Studies” and a booklet, entitled “The Jordanian Family in Figures.”

2. Educational cultural Program

The Educational Program analyzes Jordan’s educational environment and system from the perspective that the family, with all its members, is the basic building block of the Society. The program seeks to identify, and tries to adopt priority initiatives and projects to address the challenges and problems confronting the family. It achieves this in partnership with educational, health and cultural institutions in the governmental, non-governmental and private sectors and through coordinating and contributing to laying down national plans and strategies, as well as coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the efforts of the institutions participating in the implementation of plans. Furthermore, the program provides support to such plans by ensuring the sustainability of a network of researchers, workers, and financial backers in this area. The program is also keen on providing decision-makers with vital recommendations and indicators of the level of educational, health and cultural services, which will help these decision-makers to take appropriate decisions to improve the level of these services.

During 2008, the program, in cooperation with UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund), launched the *Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan* report at an official ceremony, organized under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah. To coincide with the launch, the Educational Cultural Program convened a seminar during which a group of children had the privilege of meeting Her Majesty the Queen in the presence of a number of decision-makers in the various fields. Under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, the program also cooperated with the Greater Amman Municipality on celebrating World Child Day, during which a group of youth made presentations on the fundamental principles of children’s rights (survival, development, protection and participation). At the end of the celebration, appreciation rewards were presented to children who had won an artistic competition organized by the program in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in all the Kingdom’s schools.

Through the Infant Services Development Project (0–4 years), the Program formulated the Instructions for Establishing and Licensing Kindergartens in Jordan and conducted an evaluation study of monitoring and supervision in kindergartens with a view to developing the monitoring and supervisory systems applied in Ministry of Social Development



kindergartens and harmonizing these systems with the updated instructions. The findings of the study were used in drafting the Guide to Monitoring and Supervision of Kindergartens, which includes the principles, tools and means required to guarantee the health and safety of children in kindergartens through monitoring and evaluating whether the kindergartens comply with the licensing requirements and criteria. A tool was also designed to evaluate the kindergarten environment in order to help care-providers, owners, and supervisors of kindergartens in ensuring that their kindergartens provide a safe environment that provides integrative care to children. Within this project, the framework for the general and specific outcomes for the nurseries curriculum document was finalized on the basis of the developmental criteria for the Jordanian child. Furthermore, the Program drafted the First Phase of the Second Early Childhood Development Plan (2009–2013). The draft, based on the National Early Childhood Development Strategy, was compiled in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental institutions involved with childhood. Also, the Program cooperated with UNICEF on institutionalizing youth participation in NCF activities. Together with UNICEF, the Program drafted the Framework for Development Criteria for Early Childhood, which includes expectations related to the growth and development of Jordanian children, aged 0–9 years. Through the parenting awareness program, a total of 13,000 Jordanian families were reached in 2008.

Future Plans

- Establishing the Kindergarten Accreditation Center.
- Child-friendly budgets project.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child indicators
- Guide to Activities for Workers with Children aged less than 4 years.
- Completion of the second phase of the Early Childhood Plan of Action (2009–2013)
- Continuing the National Parenting Awareness Project.

3. Family Protection Program

The Family Protection Program is based on coordination and partnership with national institutions involved in protecting the family against violence through the enhancement of a multi-disciplinary approach and monitoring and evaluating programs implemented by partner institutions. The Program also monitors the implementation of the National Framework for Family Protection and solicits funding for the implementing agencies. It also works on developing guides and procedures for institutions involved in family protection and on training the staffs of relevant institutions on dealing with family violence cases.



During 2008, and in order to identify the size of the violence-against-women issue in Jordan, the Program conducted and disseminated a situation analysis of violence in Jordan. This study was conducted by the Advocacy for Combating Violence against Women project — a partnership between NCF and the USAID-funded Private Sector Project for Women's Health. The study sought to come out with national indicators about the situation of violence against women, identify the national institutions involved in this area, and assess the tools used in addressing the issue. The Program also published the *Siyasat* Newsletter and the *Violence Against Women in Jordan: Fact Sheet*. Both publications target decision makers and focus on indicators, gaps and national priorities, which should be worked on in order to confront violence against women. The Program also conducted a training course on advocacy mechanisms to rally support for combating violence against women. The training targeted workers at national institutions involved in family violence issues.

To support the institutional capacities of national bodies dealing with violence against women, the Program drafted a study to identify the needs of Dar Al-Wifaq Al-Usari (Family Reconciliation House), run by the Ministry of Social Development, so that its priorities are met within the project. A training course was also conducted for health workers on procedures for dealing with family violence cases in health establishments. Finally, within the framework of the Evaluation of Jordan's Response in Addressing Family Violence Issues project, the Program, supported by WHO and UNICEF, prepared the first part of the study on violence against women that identified gaps and mechanisms for dealing with the issue.

Future Plans:

- Implementing a project for setting accreditation criteria for institutions involved in providing services in the area of family violence.
- Convening the Second Arab Conference for Family Protection from Family Violence.
- Laying down a plan of action for the Arab Network for Protecting the Family Against Violence.
- Convening the Training Conference on Violence Against Children.
- Developing a training mechanism for media people, as well as male and female preachers, on family violence issues. The training will be conducted within the framework of the Advocacy for Combating Violence against Women project. Also, developing a plan for mobilizing the support of decision makers and meeting the priority needs of Dar Al-Wifaq Al-Usari.
- Completing the second part of the Evaluation of Jordan's Response in Addressing Family Violence Cases, in relation to violence against children, and publishing both parts of the study in their final form.
- Updating the National Strategic Plan for Family Protection against Family Violence on the basis of the findings of the Evaluation of Jordan's Response in Addressing Family Violence Cases.



4. Family Policies and Legislation Program

The Family Policies and Legislation Program analyzes and identifies the impact of family-related legislation and proposes any required amendments, changes or abolitions in the interest of the Jordanian family, its members and the society at large. In addition, the Program in partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations and pressure groups, solicits support and disseminates awareness among society members, decision makers and stakeholders. It builds alliances with legislative and executive bodies in order to secure the success of these initiatives. The program aims to improve the national legislative and legal system in the context of religious, historic, social, and cultural dimensions, thus leading to improvements in family and individual relations in the Jordanian society and culminating in the cohesion and protection of the family and the society at large.

Since the beginning of 2008, the Program launched an initiative to establish the Technical Bureau for Communication with the Parliament with the view of enhancing the role of parliamentarians in discussing and analyzing family-related public policies. The Senate responded by forming an ad hoc committee charged with cooperating and communicating with the NCFCA Technical Bureau and examining family-related laws, proposals, treaties and conventions. Under the auspices of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, the Program also launched the Index to Family-related Legislation. The three-volume Index contains all the Kingdom's valid laws, byelaws, and instructions related to family affairs.

The Program, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, also followed up closely on the different stages of enacting the Protection Against Family Violence Law, passed by the House of Deputies and the Senate in 2008. The Program submitted a number of remarks on the draft law and the National Assembly adopted most of the amendments proposed by NCFCA and the Ministry of Social Development. The Program also cooperated with the Ministry of Social Development on compiling a situation analysis report about children of obscure birth, as well as a strategy and plan of action for dealing with this issue. Furthermore, the Program prepared a paper analyzing family-related legal texts included in the Kingdom's Penal Code and comparing these texts with judicial stipulations. It also prepared a document on agreements related to family affairs, as well as a document of amended legislation listed in the Arab League's Women in Arab Legislation Encyclopedia. In a study, entitled Women's Rights in Labor Legislation, the Program analyzed the women-related provisions in the Jordanian Labor Law. The Program also published the first in a series of legal education pamphlets, entitled "Beating Children," as well as the second in the Family Legal Education series, entitled "Inheritance Provisions Guide.

Future Plans:

- › Preparing an analytical study of legislation related to women's work, as well as another study addressing women's rights and raising the awareness of decision-makers regarding legislation governing women's work.
- › Preparing reference papers on new issues in the framework of the activities of the Technical Bureau for Communication with Parliament and advocating these papers with decision makers.



- Preparing an analytical study of legislation governing child labor and summarizing recommendations on these laws.
- Contributing to the promulgation of the Child Rights Law in its final form.
- Establishing family reconciliation offices in *Shari'ah* courts.
- Adopting the Children of Obscure Birth document and its plan of action.

Second: Achievements of Technical Support Directorate

1. Communication and Advocacy

The Communication and Advocacy Department seeks to raise awareness of policies and programs addressing family-related issues, as well as the individual's fundamental rights. The Unit aims to advocate issues related to the Jordanian family, enhance the family's well-being through awareness campaigns, utilize national efforts to create a favorable environment for achieving the NCFA strategic vision, and raise awareness of NCFA's programs and services in support of the well-being of members of the Jordanian family.

During 2008, the Communication and Advocacy Department re-designed the NCFA Website and provided communication support to NCFA's various programs. It also monitored coverage of NCFA news and activities in the electronic and printed media, produced a special program on the occasion of the International Day of the Jordanian Family, as well as an NCFA song, entitled *Usratuna* (Our Family), with lyrics by poet Haidar Mahmoud and music by composer Wa'el Sharqawi. The Unit also laid down the foundation for coordination and participation through an agreement with Jordan Radio and Television to broadcast spot announcements on Jordan TV main channel. The Unit followed up on accession to some Arab bodies, e.g., membership in the Arab Family Organization, and on establishing partnerships with the different media.

Future Plans:

- Updating the NCFA Website.
- Expanding partnerships with the different media.
- Securing accreditation from the Economic and Social Council.
- Compiling an electronic newsletter dealing with those family issues on which NCFA is working.
- Preparing a Power Point presentation in both Arabic and English to introduce NCFA and its work.



2. Monitoring and Evaluation

This Department is concerned with monitoring and evaluating the National Plan of Action for Childhood, so that decision-makers, researchers and those concerned with family affairs are provided with data on the development of national efforts in implementing the National Plan of Action for Childhood. The Department also provides data on the development of work in NCFA plans and programs implemented by the various NCFA programs.

During 2008, the Monitoring and Evaluation Department worked on enhancing the monitoring and evaluation system, adopted by NCFA as a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the National Plan of Action for Childhood and other NCFA plans, prepared in partnership with national governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in family affairs. For this purpose, NCFA, in cooperation with Save the Children (Denmark), prepared a computerized system for monitoring and evaluation. This system is based on the principle of optimum planning and identification of project outputs by specifying performance outputs. The aim is to enable national partners to enter their projects, listed in the National Plan of Action for Childhood, together with the projects' outputs and progress of work, into the computerized system from their offices or places of work through an electronic network (www.ncfa.me.org), designed to gather data and inputs from all partners with minimum effort. Details would be accessible to the NCFA officer in charge of the monitoring system, on the one hand, and decision makers, researchers and scholars concerned with monitoring national achievements, on the other. Also, NCFA will be able to monitor the system's inputs and study its data in a manner that harmonizes with the understanding of partner institutions. The Department also conducted training courses for liaison officers, designated by national partner institutions, during which the officers were acquainted with the paper, and subsequently computerized monitoring and evaluation system. The training aimed at building their capacities in monitoring and evaluating their own projects, in general, and those projects linked to national plans, in particular. Also, the Monitoring and Evaluation Department trained NCFA staff members on utilizing the computerized system to submit their monitoring and evaluation reports. Also, during 2008, the Department, in cooperation with the NCFA Education Program and in partnership with UNICEF, created a task force of youth, representing their generation at the national level, and trained them on child rights addressed in international and national human rights instruments. The youth were also trained on the NCFA Monitoring and Evaluation System with the objective of involving the upcoming generation in the process of planning and evaluating national projects concerned with youth affairs. In order to enhance the national partnership principle, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the King Abdullah the Second Center of Excellence stipulating the exchange of knowledge on the basis of performance reports, submitted by national partners and evaluating performance against the criteria of leadership and commitment to national initiatives. At the regional level, NCFA participated with the Ministry of Social Development in preparing Jordan's follow-up report on implementing the Arab Family Strategy.



Future Plans:

- › Testing the efficiency of the computerized system in examining the development of work implemented by NCFAN national partners.
- › Issuing evaluation reports monitoring the achievements of the National Plan of Action for Childhood.
- › Universalizing the system to cover other national plans during the coming years.
- › Preparing a monitoring system for cases of family violence.

Reviewing and Developing National Strategies, Policies and Plans of Action

- Finalizing 1st stage of 2nd early childhood development plan of action (2009–2013)
- Drafting instructions for establishing and licensing nurseries in Jordan
- Drafting development criteria and indicators for early childhood
- Drafting general and special outcomes document on the basis of developmental criteria for the Jordanian child.
- Drafting executive plan for the National Jordanian Strategy for the elderly.
- Drafting Family Guidance document.
- Drafting fact sheet and Siyasat Newsletter on important violence-against-women issues.
- Drafting situation analysis report on children of obscure birth and recommendations for dealing with the issue.
- Drafting paper analyzing family-related legal texts in the Penal Code and comparing them with judicial provisions.
- Publishing 1st issue of legal education series, addressing beating children.
- Publishing 2nd issue of legal education series on inheritance guide.



Advocacy

- Celebrating International Child Day
- Establishing Technical Support Bureau for Communication with the Parliament
- Making preparations for the Second Arab Conference for Family Protection from Family Violence.
- Launching 1st edition of Guide to Family-Related Research and Studies under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.
- Launching Guide to Family-Related Legislation under the auspices of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.
- Launching Situation Analysis Report on Children in Jordan under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.
- Drafting analytical study of women-related stipulations in the Jordanian Labor Law.
- Drafting a document of family-related laws suggested for amendment.
- Expanding the Parenting Awareness project.
- Training workers at the concerned national institutions on advocacy for combating violence against women.
- Training health workers on procedures for dealing with cases of family violence in health establishments.
- Establishing partnerships with the different media.
- Subscribing to membership

Research and Management of Information Sources

- Drafting concept paper on the family's quality of life.
- Drafting analytical study of the situation of violence against women.
- Drafting analytical study of the needs of Dar Al-Wifaq Al-Usari.
- Publishing report on Jordan's efforts in implementing the objectives of the International Year of the Family and the Arab Declaration of Family Rights (2004–2007)
- Launching the 1st issue of the Guide to Family-Related Research and Studies.
- Drafting Jordanian Family in Figures booklet.
- Drafting second and third volumes of the "Guide to Family-Related Research and Studies."
- Updating National Information System for Family Affairs in both Arabic and English.



Coordination and Monitoring

- Adopting first part of Jordan's Response in Addressing Family Violence Cases, in relation to violence against women.
- Computerizing Monitoring and Evaluation System.

Institutional Development

- Drafting NCFA's organizational structure and job descriptions.
- Developing the NCFA Website

NCFA Financial Resources

According to Article 14 of the National Council for Family Affairs Law No 27 for the Year 2001, NCFA financial resources consist of the following:

1. Revenue of NCFA movable and immovable assets.
2. Returns from funds, projects and programs administered by NCFA.
3. Grant of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
4. Donations and gifts approved by NCFA, provided approval by the Council of Ministers approval is secured if the source is not Jordanian.
5. Any other resources approved by NCFA.

Supporters of NCFA work during 2008:

- Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- Al-Ahli Bank, represented by His Excellency Senator Rajae Al-Muasher
- Greater Amman Municipality
- Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Organizations
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Save the Children (Denmark)
- Department for International Development (UK)
- Private Sector Project for Women's Health, funded by USAID
- Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates
- Royal Netherlands Embassy
- Jordan Telecom
- Cooperative Housing Foundation and United States Department of Labor
- Freedom House
- Foundation for the Future
- Umnia
- Middle East Partnership Initiative

