Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah
President – National Council for Family Affairs
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The National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) is proud to present its accomplishments for 2005 and 2006, and wishes to reiterate its commitment to placing family issues at the top of its agenda. Guided by the directives of its President, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, NCFA strives to afford care and protection to the family to remain the solid foundation of a safe and stable society.

The National Strategy for the Jordanian Family, launched in 2005, is a major milestone in NCFA’s work. Since its establishment in 2001, NCFA has taken upon itself to formulate a national strategy for the Jordanian family that caters to all aspects in family life and corresponds with the spirit of the age.

In order to raise awareness of legal spousal rights inherent in a contract of marriage as stipulated by the Jordanian Personal Status Law 61/1976, NCFA worked with the Supreme Judge Department, through an advisory committee, to develop a legal guide to marriage, used for the first time in Jordan and designed for people in the age of marriage. 5,000 copies of the guide NCFA printed; 2,500 of which were distributed throughout the Kingdom's governorates through an awareness campaign to promote the guide.

Since the family is the first institution that prepares children to play their future role as citizens and active members of society, NCFA constantly strives to ensure a safe family environment for children. In 2005, NCFA and partner stakeholders presented Jordan's third report on Child Rights to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. The report included all the measures the Kingdom has taken to safeguard children's rights; their best interest; and their right to survival, development, participation and protection. In addition, NCFA developed, in cooperation with UNICEF, the Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan 2006, which identifies challenges and gaps that need to be addressed more effectively to improve the quality of life for children in Jordan.

In recognition of its efforts in the protection of the family, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently designated NCFA as a Collaboration Center for Family Violence Prevention. This center is the first of its kind at the level of the East Mediterranean Basin, and aspires to be a model for other countries, urging them to espouse family issues. In the same context, NCFA developed the National Framework for Family Protection Against Violence, in cooperation with members of the National Family Protection Team. The Framework is designed to delineate the roles and responsibilities of experts and professionals working in the field of violence prevention. NCFA also developed protocols, measures and training manuals for institutionalizing efforts in addressing domestic violence, in cooperation with the Judiciary Council and Ministries of Justice, Social Development, Education and Health.
In 2005 and 2006, NCFA held regional and international conventions to mobilize a large number of institutions, agencies, experts and individuals working in the field of childhood and family at the local, regional and international levels. In 2005, NCFA held the Arab Regional Conference on Family Protection with a wide participation from Arab countries. The Conference addressed the issue of violence, which has become a priority issue in these countries. In 2006, NCFA held two consecutive conferences: the Global Women’s Action Network for Children Conference and the World Family Summit +2. In both events, NCFA stressed Jordan’s pioneering role in family issues and improving the standard of life for all family members.

Finally, while presenting a brief summary of its achievements, NCFA wishes to thank its Board, chaired by HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, for their ongoing support to NCFA’s numerous activities and programs. NCFA also wishes to extend its gratitude to its partners, including government, non-government and private sector organizations working in the field of childhood, for their cooperation in developing and implementing family-oriented plans, policies and programs to ensure a happy childhood, a promising youth and safe old age.

Dr. Jamil Smadi
Secretary General
National Council for Family Affairs
The family is the cornerstone of society. It plays a crucial role in shaping the individual through the care and requirements for social and cultural formation it provides. Irrespective of its type, the majority of people have an ideal image of what a family should be; and the pattern and type of family in any given society are rooted in its basic culture. The different roles of family members translate into different obligations and expectations that vary with age and gender. Fulfilling those obligations contributes to achieving the family’s various functions, including economic and emotional support and childcare.

The need to establish the National Council for Family Affairs stemmed from the environment surrounding the family, the national trends reality on the ground dictates, and the programs of action designed by different sectors. NCFA is responsible for addressing family issues at the level of strategic planning; developing policies and programs based on qualitative and socio-economic criteria that define and explore the conditions of families in Jordan; and modifying plans, programs, policies, legislations and procedures according to a more profound understanding of family issues, and the fact that different conditions mean different needs.

NCFA was founded by a Royal Decree in 2001 under the direct leadership of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah. NCFA operates as an umbrella organization that coordinates and facilitates the efforts of its partners in government, non-government, private and international institutions working in the field of childhood in order to ensure a better future for Jordanian families.

**Our Mission**

Contribute to ensuring a better quality of life for Jordanian families through a national vision that supports the country’s development policies and enables the family to attain its optimal aspirations. NCFA works towards maintaining the family’s entity, stability and self-sufficiency through providing the supportive economic, social, and legislative environment.

**Our Aim**

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 achieve their aspirations.

**Our Strategic Roles**

- A national policy think-tank
- A coordinating and monitoring body
- Advocacy body for family issues
Organizational Structure

According to the Law for the National Council for Family Affairs No. 27/2001, NCFA’s organizational structure consists of:

1- The Board

With representation from different relevant ministries and government and non-government organizations, in addition to representatives from the private sector and experts. NCFA’s Board at the time of preparing the report:

1. HM Queen Rania Abdullah, Chairperson
2. HE Dr. Khaled Touqan, Minister of Education
3. HE Dr. Sa’ad Kharabsheh, Minister of Health
4. HE Ms. Suhair Al-Ali, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
5. HE Dr. Abdel Fattah Salah, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs
6. HE Dr. Sulaiman Tarawneh, Minister of Social Development
7. HE Dr. Munther Al-Masri, Deputy Chairman
8. HE Dr. Raja’ee Al-Muasher, Chairman of Jordan Ahli Bank
9. HE Senator Laila Sharaf
10. HE Ms. Asma Khader, Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women
11. Lieutenant General Mohammad Majed Eitan, Director of Public Security
12. HE Dr. Ghazi Shubeikat Da’jeh, Director of the Public Statistics Department
13. HE Dr. Ibrahim Badran, University of Philadelphia
14. HE Senator Dr. Nawal Fa’ouri
15. Ms. Samar Al-Haj Hassan
16. Ms. Deema Bibi, Executive Director of INJAZ
17. Dr. Jamil Smadi, Secretary General of NCFA

2- The Executive Committee

Consists seven members and is formed from members of the Board:
1. HE Dr. Munther Al-Masri, Head of Executive Committee
2. HE Dr. Raja’ee Al-Muasher, Chairman of Jordan Ahli Bank
3. HE Senator Laila Sharaf
4. HE Mrs. Asma Khader, Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women
5. HE Senator Dr. Nawal Fa’ouri
6. HE Dr. Ibrahim Badran, University of Philadelphia
7. Dr. Jamil Smadi, Secretary General of NCFA

3- The General Secretariat

NCFA’s executive body and operational arm. It is headed by the Secretary-General and operates through the following technical units:
- Policy and Planning Unit
- Childhood Unit
- Family Protection Unit
- Technology and Data Resource Unit
- Communication and Partnership Unit
- Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
- Administrative and Financial Affairs Unit
I. Accomplished Strategies and Plans

1. The National Strategy for the Jordanian Family
   2005

The National Strategy for the Jordanian Family was the fruit of a group effort of a number of community members, including experts, researchers and officials, under NCFA’s supervision and in constant consultation with ministries, government and non-government organizations and families from all governorates. The Strategy is guided by the Millennium Development Goals, and addresses the different aspects that shape and impact the life of Jordanian families.

The Jordanian family faces social, economic and health challenges that keep it from effectively performing its functions, threaten its integrity and make it prey to disintegration. In response, the Strategy identified eight objectives, each of which addresses one aspect in the life of the Jordanian family, including: enhancing the family structure and entity; empowering the family to efficiently carry out its responsibilities; enhancing the cultural role of the family and its ability to engrain ethics and national identity in its members; protecting the right of the family to education, work, therapeutic and preventive healthcare services; and mitigating the family’s affliction caused by environmental hazards, chronic diseases, armed conflicts and natural disasters.

The Executive Plan for the National Strategy for the Jordanian Family (2006-2010) was developed under the direct supervision of and in cooperation with relevant government and non-government organizations in the Kingdom’s three regions. Workshops were held in Amman, Irbid, Karak and Aqaba to discuss and amend the details of the executive plan in preparation for implementing the activities and assessing their impact on the Jordanian family.

2. The National Framework for Family Protection Against Violence 2005

The National Framework for Family Protection is a scientific and practical national document that delineates roles, responsibilities, jurisdictions and participatory relationships. It was formulated in cooperation with members of the National Family Protection Team.

The Framework Document is designed to define the roles and responsibilities of experts and professionals working in the field of violence prevention. NCFA also developed protocols, measures and training manuals for institutionalizing efforts in addressing domestic violence in cooperation with the Judiciary Council and Ministries of Justice, Social Development, Education and Health. The Framework aims at providing organizations working in family protection with a flexible guide to ensure timely response to victims needs, developing various programs for prevention of violence in the family, and designing standards to coordinate the work of all partners to enable integrated and comprehensive service provision, which requires measures to clearly define roles and responsibilities to avoid duplication and fill any gaps. The Framework details the different stages of family protection, which begin with prevention and end in assessing the response and services of organizations in order to derive lessons and improve and upgrade services.

3. The National Strategic Plan for Family Protection against Family Violence 2005

The Strategic Plan stems from the National Framework for Family Protection and aims at enhancing partnership and coordination between government and non-government organizations working in the field of family and addressing gaps in existing programs. The Strategic Plan adopts a multi-disciplinary approach based on prevention and protection and targets victims and perpetrators of violence alike, in addition to communities, through education and awareness. Moreover, the Strategic Plan strives to influence patterns in family relationships that are based on violence and aggression through family counseling program.

The Strategic Plan, prepared with members of the National Family Protection Team, aims at creating a general trend for operational plans, programs and policies for family protection for the next five years; raising awareness (spreading the culture of protection) about family violence and its economic, health and psychological ramifications and its effect on family integrity.
II. Accomplished Policies and Legislations

1. Draft Ordinance of Family Counseling Offices in Shari’a Courts 2005

The draft ordinance for family counseling offices was formulated in cooperation with the Supreme Judge Department, Ministry of Justice and Judiciary Council. These offices are mandated to resolve conflicts, reduce the number of divorce cases, attempt to reconcile spouses before their cases and differences reach the court, alleviate the suffering of women in particular and protect children from the ordeal of having to go to court.

The draft ordinance for family counseling offices aims at safeguarding and protecting the family and ensuring its stability in accordance with Islamic law, which has preserved and regulated the institution of marriage in a spirit of peace, compassion and love. This accords with the Jordanian constitution as Shari’a courts base their rulings on the dictates of Islam. The draft ordinance for family counseling offices is yet to be endorsed by the Cabinet, provided the Parliament endorses the draft amendment on article 3 in Islamic courts law 3/959 and its amendments, according to which the draft ordinance for family counseling offices was developed. NCFA had approached the Supreme Judge Department as it is the responsible implementing party in order to present the draft ordinance to the Cabinet.

2. The Legal Guide to Marriage 2006

In order to safeguard family integrity and stability, and contribute to reducing divorce rates, that are a result of lack of awareness of spousal rights and responsibilities as stipulated by law, NCFA, in cooperation with the Supreme Judge Department and an advisory committee including government and non-government organizations working in the field of family issues, prepared a legal guide on marriage. The components of the guide were classified according to the spousal rights in the Personal Status Law 611976/ and its amendments. These include rights related to the marriage contract, dowry and alimony and rights related to divorce, separation and the period of waiting, in addition to conditions that have to be met before marriage.

NCFA signed a cooperation agreement with USAID, as part of the Rule of Law Project (MASAQ), by which USAID funds the “Know Your Rights in Marriage” Project. The Project consists of a comprehensive awareness campaign in all the Kingdom’s governorates to promote the Legal Guide to Marriage in order to improve knowledge of the couple’s legal rights inherent in a marriage and as stipulated by the Jordanian Personal Status Law. 5,000 copies of the guide NCFA printed; 2,500 of which were distributed throughout the Kingdom’s governorates through awareness sessions held in different governorates for target groups and among university students, who are in a marrying age.

3. Resource Paper for a Legal System or Legislative Reform related to Reproductive Health 2006

Through an extended committee that included several relevant experts and institutions, NCFA developed a Resource Paper for a Legal System or Legislative Reform related to Reproductive Health in order to support efforts to reduce maternal, neonatal and infant morbidity and mortality rates; and achieve a common understanding and better cooperation between the public and private sectors in terms of the national goals and aspirations in reproductive health, particularly family planning. NCFA was commissioned to develop the resource paper based on the National Plan of Action on Reproductive Health, which is part of the National Population Strategy.
4. Early Childhood Development Standards 2006

In 2003, NCFA started developing, in cooperation with UNICEF, the Early Childhood Development (ECD) standards, which cover the early childhood stage (0-<9 year), based on the ECD Strategy. Under the support of Columbia University/ New York, Jordan was selected as one of six countries around the world to participate in a project to develop international ECD standards aimed at providing parents, teachers and other caregivers with good knowledge about expectations regarding child development and growth to enable them to properly assess all developmental aspects in their children’s lives.


NCFA worked to institutionalize procedures for dealing with cases of domestic violence following the measures and protocols to determine roles and responsibilities for all workers in this field to enable them to deal with cases of violence at all levels, including detection, reporting and service provision, in a way that ensures comprehensive care for victims of violence. The process included the Judiciary Council and the Ministries of Justice, Social Development, Health and Education. This step was based on the National Framework for Family Protection Against Violence, the National Strategic Plan for Family Protection against Family Violence and the general criteria for managing family issues, which set out the acceptable level of performance by all stakeholders and ensure quality service provision in dealing with cases of violence in accordance with the participatory approach adopted by all parties working in family protection.
III. Accomplished Studies and Reports


The report was presented to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on 12 September 2005. It was prepared and finalized by NCFA, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF. The report includes information about all measures and steps Jordan has taken to protect child rights, including changes in national legislations and new policies, programs and strategies developed to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The aim is to achieve children’s best interest and ensure their right to survival, development, protection and participation.

From 5-7 March 2006, NCFA, with the support of Save the Children, held a workshop to build the capacity of non-government organizations in preparing and following up reports on child rights, create a national coalition of non-government organizations to draft a report that supports the official one, to be presented to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. In cooperation with the National Center for Human Rights and Jordan River Foundation and on behalf of civil society organizations, NCFA prepared and finalized the report, stressing its commitment to improving the quality of life for children in Jordan and creating a Jordan fit for children.

2. The Study of Domestic Violence in Jordan: Knowledge, Attitudes and Status 2005

The Study is a first national attempt to explore the ethical and cultural aspects and specific practices related to domestic violence in the Jordanian society. The study used a baseline community survey and focus group discussions, and covered 1,500 men and women above 18 (with even gender disaggregation).

The Study aimed at exploring the Jordanian society’s concept and awareness of domestic violence, in addition to identifying prevalent levels and types of domestic violence. The Study’s main recommendations included conducting a national awareness campaign using Mass Media, mainly through TV but also using newspapers, SMS and the internet (for the short term phase); and providing information on domestic violence in general, with a focus on concepts; extent; types; causes; and health, psychological and social impact on families and individuals; in addition to providing information about the available support services and programs.

3. Health and Violence in Jordan Report 2005

The report was developed in response to the World Health Organization’s call in its World Report on Health and Violence 2002 for an assessment of violence at national, regional and global levels, in addition to formulating appropriate strategies to counter violence and address its social and health impact. The report, which was a joint exercise by NCFA and WHO, is a serious attempt to create a scientific resource material to be added to other studies and research designed to explore violence in Jordan and its forms, causes and impacts.

In recognition of its distinguished and constructive efforts in developing family protection and domestic violence prevention policies, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently accredited NCFA as regional center for cooperation against domestic violence. The center is the first of its kind at the level of the East Mediterranean Basin. NCFA, in cooperation with WHO, will work through the East Mediterranean Regional Office to develop, implement and evaluate regional policies and strategies to prevent domestic violence; study new developments; and propose strategies to address domestic violence.
4. Including a Chapter on Family in the Civil Education Subject for Students in Jordanian Public and Private Universities 2006

The chapter aims at providing undergraduates in public and private universities with scientific knowledge about the Jordanian family: its functions, its types, its members, the problems and challenges facing the Jordanian family and the policies designed to address those problems and challenges. In addition, the chapter aims at providing students with information about social upbringing and the forms it takes in a person’s lifecycle.

In order to achieve its objectives, the chapter includes a definition of the concept, types and functions of the family and social upbringing and a discussion of some problems facing the Jordanian family, such as poverty, unemployment, divorce and domestic violence; and ends with the main policies designed to enable families to perform their function.

5. The Study of Socio-Economic Conditions of Female-Headed Households 2006

The National Strategy for the Jordanian Family shed light on female-headed households as an issue that needs further research and study. The significance of the Study of Socio-Economic Conditions of Female-Headed Households lies in the fact that it is a national descriptive study of some demographic and socio-economic characteristics of female-headed households. The starting point for this in-depth study was a Multi-Purpose Household Survey, conducted by the Department of Statistics. The study is also significant because there is a shortage of studies and research on this topic.

The Study aimed at quantifying the size of female-headed households in the Jordanian society and identifying their demographic and social (family size, marital status, place of residence, educational level, governorate and age), economic (work status, income and sources of income), and health (health insurance, disability and chronic diseases) characteristics in comparison with male-headed households. Study findings revealed that 14% of Jordanian households are female-headed, compared to 86% that are male-headed.

6. Disadvantaged Children Study Summary 2006

The report is based on the “National Study of Disadvantaged Children in Jordan” prepared by NCFA in 2002 with support from the World Bank. While the report is the summary of the original document, the information therein was updated in light of new national statistics. The report includes new information derived from a major new policy document, namely the National Plan of Action for Childhood (2004-2013), which was developed in 2004 and took into account the recommendations of disadvantaged children (component three, “Protecting Children in Difficult Circumstances”).

The report summarizes qualitative and quantitative information about disadvantaged children in Jordan and the policies and programs that target them in order to arrive at strategic recommendations to improve their living conditions. This group of children includes orphans (children deprived of family care), working children, street children, juveniles (children in conflict with the law), children with disabilities and children at-risk of abuse.
7. The Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan 2006

The Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan 2006, developed in cooperation between NCFA and UNICEF, presents an analysis of what shapes children’s lives and identifies some challenges and gaps that need to be addressed more effectively. The 2006 report was the first report to be developed through a participatory approach. Government and civil society organizations contributed to the formulation process, in cooperation with NCFA. The report included information and statistics on children and women’s health; development, education and participation, and children in need of special protection. The report adopted a rights-based approach because the Jordanian government and UNICEF are committed to honoring Jordan’s obligations resulting from its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which both include mechanisms to follow-up on changes introduced by state parties, in addition to reporting mechanisms to special UN committees with regard to achieved progress and developments.


The report stressed Jordan’s commitment and ongoing efforts to create a Jordan Fit for Children. It was based on the CRC, Millennium Declaration and World Fit for Children document. NCFA formed a committee, including all relevant government and non-government organizations, to identify major accomplishments and efforts to improve quality of life for children; and challenges to ensuring their best interest and right to survival, development, protection and participation. The report will be submitted to Jordan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in order for it to be included in the global report the UN Secretary General will present in the Preparatory Commemorative Meeting 2007.

9. Assessment Study of Regulations of Establishing and Licensing KGs 2006

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and with support from ERFKE Support Project (ESP), NCFA conducted an assessment study of Regulations of Establishing and Licensing KGs in Jordan. The study conducted an organizational analysis of the Ministry of Education to determine its ability to apply the regulations of establishing, licensing, and managing private and public KGs through reverting to an analysis of legislations in international, Arab and national conventions related to the regulations of establishing and licensing KGs. The study aimed at testing the Regulations of Establishing and Licensing KGs according to existing and proposed regulations, and conducting an organizational analysis of the Ministry of Education to assess the ability of the current organizational structure and human resources to implement the regulations of establishing and licensing KGs and provide administrative supervision for private and public KGs.
IV. Regional and International Conferences


Under the patronage of HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, the Arab Regional Conference on Family Protection was held in cooperation between NCFA, Public Security Directorate/Family Protection Department, and the Family Protection Project and with sponsorship from DFID, Swiss Agency for Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Denmark, UNICEF and WHO. The Conference aimed at identifying the extent, forms, causes and impacts of domestic violence at the regional level, in addition to presenting the National Framework for Family Protection.

Participants agreed that violence has become a national priority issue in our societies, and that the responsibility of protection from and prevention of violence is an individual and institutional responsibility, including government and non-government organizations, which play integrated and interrelated roles. For instance, while law enforcement institutions are responsible for protecting the abused, educational institutions are responsible for early prevention through endowing individuals, from an early age, with the mechanisms to handle and detect violence. The same applies to other institutions, such as legislative, health and media institutions.

2. The Global Women’s Action Network for Children Conference (11-13 June 2006)

Under the patronage of HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, the Global Women’s Action Network for Children Conference was held with the participation of more than 150 prominent women leaders specialized in health and education from around the world. The Conference was organized by NCFA and Children’s Defense Fund (CDF)/ USA.

The Conference aimed at exploring ways to achieve the Millennium Development Goals related to girl education and maternal and neonatal mortality; building bridges between advocates and champions of children and women’s issues on the one hand and leaders in all relevant fields and institutions; and creating a strong and brave voice for women and children in all sectors in order to relay their concerns to those with the power to make a difference. The Conferences concluded with an emphasis on mobilizing the efforts of the Global Women’s Action Network to preserve maternal and child health, reduce mortality rates and guarantee girl education, all of which are priority concerns for governments, leaders, investors, decision-makers and politicians all over the world.

3. The World Family Summit +2 (5-7 December 2006)

The World Family Summit +2, held under the patronage of HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, represented a global forum for interaction, dialogue and partnership between stakeholders, local authorities, government and non-government organizations, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, academics, business sector, media, families, ministers and governors. It was held by NCFA, in cooperation between the World Family organization, Greater Amman Municipality and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs. The Summit aimed at placing family issues at the top of the international agenda and improving cooperation among different sectors, including local, national and international institutions concerned with family issues.

The Summit’s recommendations stressed the best interest of the family and all family members. With regard to family and education, the Summit emphasized the need to develop strategies to reach to dropouts and increase their enrolment in school through measures such as eliminating school fees and providing transport. The recommendations placed a responsibility on governments to support families to enable them to play their part early on (in the pre-school phase); provide parental education programs; and ensure equal access to education to poor and rich families through equal distribution of resources among schools and regions.
NCFA’s Financial Resources

According to article 14 in the NCFA Law 27/2001, NCFA’s financial resources consist of:

1. Revenue from NCFA’s movables and immovables;
2. Returns from NCFA-run funds, projects and programs;
3. Grant of the Government of Jordan;
4. Donations accepted by NCFA (donations from non-Jordanian sources require an approval from the Cabinet); and
5. Any other resources NCFA approves of.

NCFA Sponsors in 2005-2006

- The Government of Jordan
- The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
- Jordan Ahli Bank, represented by HE Senator Dr. Raja’ee Muasher
- The Greater Amman Municipality
- The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)
- UNICEF
- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as part of the Rule of Law Project (MASAQ)
- The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- The Department for International Development (DFID)/ British Council
- The United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA)
- The Children’s Defense Fund, USA
- The World Family Organization (WFO)
- The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Denmark/MoFA)
- Al-Baddad Group

Acknowledgment

NCFA would like to take this opportunity to express thanks and deep gratitude to all individuals who provided support for its plans, programs and activities. As well as a sincere thanks for NCFA partners from governmental and non-governmental institutions, international bodies, and the private sector at the local, regional or international level.
## Important Family Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value of Indicator</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>5.6 million</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of families</td>
<td>1,035,370</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average family size</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families with privately owned housing</td>
<td>66 %</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of female-headed households</td>
<td>10.5 %</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude marriage rate (per 1000)</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age at first marriage</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude divorce rate (per 1000)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of elderly 65+</td>
<td>3.3 %</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of illiteracy among 15+ population</td>
<td>8.9 &amp;</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of illiteracy among women</td>
<td>13 %</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of families with members with disability</td>
<td>5.5 %</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
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