



المجلس الوطني لشؤون الأسرة
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS

CHILD BUDGET ANALYSIS

Ministry of Public Works and Housing
and Higher Council for Youth

2015





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"Policy Brief"
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Moreover, the MoPWH provides adequate funding to support the projects of the National Building Council (NBC), as the NBC is mandated with the development and endorsement of rules and principles related to the national building codes aimed at the provision of public safety in buildings, roads and bridges making sure that they comply with international standards. This in effect serves all users of such facilities particularly persons and children with disabilities. The total amount of financial support provided by the Ministry reached around (0.4) million JOD and the child share of this amount reached (0.2) million JOD.

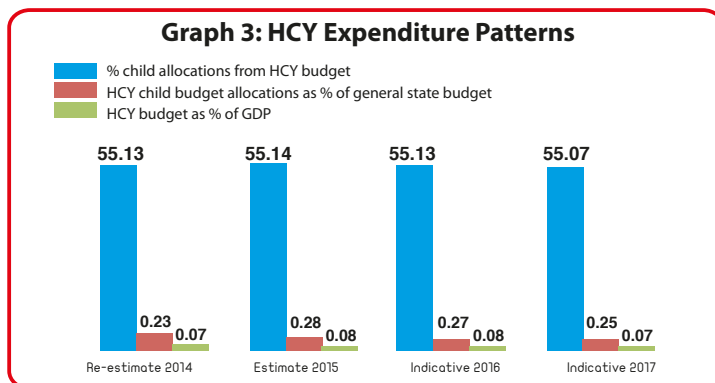
Major CBA findings for the Higher Council for Youth (HCY)

The HCY budget is considered a modest budget, it amounted to (18.2) million JOD in the year 2014, against (15.8) million JOD in 2013. The Council's budget constituting 0.23% of the total state budget and 0.07% of Jordan's GDP.

As per the economic classification of the Council's budget, the item "Employees compensations and social security" has taken the biggest share of the Council's budget with a percentage of 46%, whereas the "Operating and maintenance Expenses" and "Fixed assets" items have constituted a percentage of 31% of the Council's budget. Current expenses registered around 60% of the Council's budget in average over the period (2014-2017) as compared to the capital expenses which were 40%.

HCY works to meet the rights and needs of the child including cultural, recreational and physical. It also offers several activities that target children with disabilities in order to integrate them into society and harness their full potential. To achieve this, the HCY, through its youth centers, camps and sports facilities, and carries out several activities and events that are conducive to the creation of a child-friendly learning environment without discrimination, as child refugee enjoy the same services.

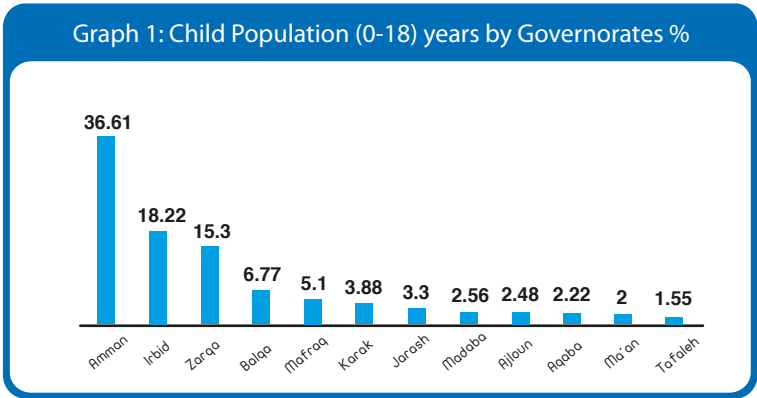
Child allocations within the HCY budget were estimated around 55.1% distributed across the three key programs implemented by the Council which are: Administration and Support Services, Youth Development and sports Development. Graph (3) demonstrates the child-related expenditure patterns within the HCY's budget and HCY Budget as per cent of the total State Budget and GDP within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).



A child budget is a governmental fiscal tool that assigns sufficient financial allocations for the benefit of the child to realize his/her social and economic rights, including health, education, welfare; protect him/her against all kinds of violence and exploitation; and provide him/her with due care and safety. The aim of a Child Budget Analysis (CBA) is to analyze policies, plans and budgets which are associated with child rights to stand on the facts of a country children situation which may then be used to advocate for the fulfilment of these rights. Child's welfare and rights can be achieved through effective and efficient spending, ensuring the use of available state resources without risking the achievement of other national policies and goals.

By the end of 2014, the number of children⁽¹⁾ in Jordan reached around 3,076,369 male and female, constituting 46.1% of the total population in the Kingdom. While the number of adolescents⁽²⁾ within the age group of (12-18) reached 1,049,507 male and female, making up around 34.1% of the total child population in Jordan.

Child population varies widely across the 12 Jordanian governorates, Amman (the capital) is the most densely populated with 36.6% of total children, followed by Irbid and Zarqa with 18.2% and 15.3% respectively. Child population is generally low in rural areas, particularly in Ma'an and Tafaleh with 2.0% and 1.5% respectively. This phenomenon could be explained by families' immigrants from rural to urban areas, seeking better job opportunities and getting good quality of services. Graph (1) below demonstrates the distribution of children among governorates.



This policy brief summarizes key findings and recommendations of Jordan's Study conducted in 2015⁽³⁾ on Child Budget Analysis within the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH) and the Higher Council of Youth (HCY). Jordan is a small country with limited resources, its general budget suffers from continuous structural deficit.

⁽¹⁾ Male and female children from the age group (0-18) years.
⁽²⁾ The major age group targeted by the Higher Council of Youth.
⁽³⁾ The main source of CBA study of 2015 was the Jordanian budget law of 2015, the analysis methodology used was based on the re-estimated child budgeting of 2014 and child population at the end of 2014.

The total estimated public expenditures for the fiscal year 2015 reached (7.9) billion JOD; thus the current expenditures constitute 85% of the total expenditures against 15% for the capital expenditures. On the other hand, the total estimated public revenues amounted to (7.4) billion JOD, consequently the budget deficit registered about 468 million JOD. The 2014 gross domestic product at market prices reached 35.8 billion US dollars with an estimated growth of 2.4% in 2015⁽⁴⁾ against 3.1% in 2014. In this context, it should be noted that the Syrian refugee influx to Jordan since 2011 has placed growing pressures on the Jordanian economy and has severely depleted its natural and financial resources.



Major CBA findings for the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH)

The MoPWH budget for the year 2014 amounted to (189.5) million JOD, against (197.7) million JOD in 2013, it's about the fourth largest budget in the Kingdom after the Defense, Education and Health budgets. MoPWH budget constitutes 2.77% of the total state budget and 0.85% of Jordan's GDP.

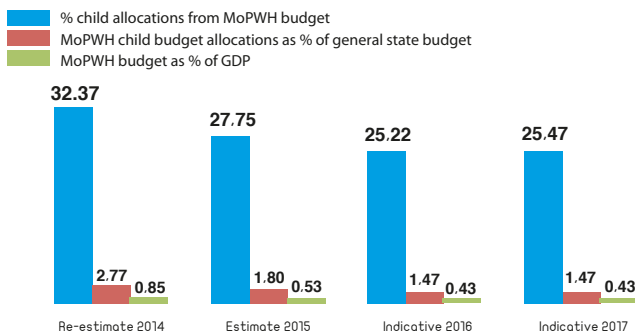
The Ministry is entrusted with maintaining the road network with regard to execution, rehabilitation, maintenance, provision of road safety standards to curb road-related accidents, supervision on the execution and maintenance of government buildings, regulation of the construction sector and development of national building codes and safety standards for all types of buildings.

As per the economic classification of the Ministry's budget, the item "buildings and constructions" has taken the biggest share of the capital expenditure of the Ministry's budget with a percentage of 50%. This is probably attributed to the nature of the Ministry's tasks. On the other hand, the "Employee compensations and social security contributions" (under current and capital expenses) stood at around 30%; hence, the salaries of engineering and technical jobs constitute the highest percentage of the employees' compensation appropriations. Current expenses registered around 29.5% in average over the period (2014-2017) as compared to capital expenses which were at 70.5% of the Ministry budget.

Child allocations were estimated around 32.4% of the Ministry's budget distributed across four key programs undertaken by the MoPWH which are: Administration and Support Services, Road Maintenance, Establishing Road, and Buildings. Graph (2) demonstrates the child-directed expenditure patterns within the budget of the MoPWH and Ministry's Budget as per cent of the total State Budget and Jordan's GDP within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

⁽⁴⁾ World Bank Data, Jordanian Dinar to US Dollar foreign exchange rates (Dollar/Dinar)= 1.41

Graph 2: MoPWH Expenditure Patterns



Traffic Safety on Roads Project

MoPWH undertakes the responsibility of the provision of traffic safety standards on roads with a view to curb road accidents. The project's budget was around 3.3 million JOD constituting 2.3% of the budgets of the Roads Establishment and Roads Maintenance Programs. The child share of this project was estimated around (1.5) million JOD. Based on Department of Statistics' data, child road fatalities of both sexes registered 29.8% of the total deaths, whereas child injuries were 27.2% of the total number of injuries on roads⁽⁵⁾. Also observed is the fact that child deaths were more evident among the age group between (0-2) years and stood at 70% for males and 30% for females.

In this context, it's clear that such low proportion of project's allocations will not able the Ministry to meet the requirements of child safety on roads. On the other hand, study findings have shown the lack of a national action plan for traffic safety on the roads which weakens the coordinating roles of the relevant official entities in their attempt to curb road accidents.

Urban Villages Project: The project focuses on providing cultural and recreational services and sports activities to governorates' population including children. As such, MoPWH provides full funding to the establishment of such villages to be operated later by the respective municipality. Currently, there are (5) villages under construction and/or partially operational in the governorates of Aqaba, Madaba, Irbid, Ajloun and Jerash. Their allocations within the MoPWH budget reached (2) million JOD and the corresponding child share was estimated around (0.9) million JOD. The experience of the urban village in the Governorate of Zarqa, established upon a royal donation, has shown remarkable participation by governorate population especially children and has provided suitable getaway places for people to go to during their leisure time. The Zarqa's urban village includes a traffic park, playgrounds, computer rooms, library hall for adolescents, children's playroom, activities hall and cafeteria.

⁽⁵⁾ Although the provision of road traffic safety standards falls under the mandate of the MoPWH, the system pertaining to this matter is observed and dealt with by other government and private entities too including Municipalities, Greater Amman Municipality, Public Security Directorate/drivers and vehicle licensing department, Community members (Drivers, pedestrians)

Adolescents: Adolescents are the major target group within Higher Council for Youth's mandate, where the HCY implements the policies and measures to develop and strengthen the intellectual and physical capabilities of this group as well as enhancing its national sentiments at this critical age. In this context, it's worth mentioning that the number of adolescents benefiting from youth center services in the Kingdom registered (155423) male and female participants in the year 2014, this reflect an actual participation rate of (14.8%) only of the targeted age group. This low participation rate refers to weakness of media campaigns and outreach as well as poor transportation between adolescents residence and youth centers or camps; thus such shortcomings came as result of lack financial allocations.

Share of Allocation/ Child: Child's share from Council's total expenditures at the national level registered (1.74), (3.78) and (2.05) JOD/Year within the three programs: Administration and Support Services, Youth Development and Sports Development respectively. Such limited allocations will remain handicapped to meet child rights within the HCY national mission. Also it's worth mentioning in this regard, that HCY activities are supported by funded grants received from (11) national and international NGOs, such funds usually are out of the scope of the general budget.

Child Share/ Governorate: Child allocation varies widely across the governorates. Child population in each governorate has a significant bearing on determining the amount of the child's share of allocations, also of influence on a child's share of allocations is the implementation of capital projects during the timeframe of the study in specific governorates other than others.

The table (No. 1) below shows the highest and lowest child share from HCY budget across governorates as well as the average share for all governorates in 2014.

Table 1:
Per child allocation across governorates
from HCY programs in JOD/year (2014)

	Youth Development	Sport Development
	Share of Allocation /Per Child (Dinar/Year)	Share of Allocation /Per Child (Dinar/Year)
Highest value	Ma'an: 14.16	Aqaba: 8.96
Average	3.80	2.06
Lowest value	Zarqa: 1.52	Balqa: 0.79
Amman (The Capital)	2.85	1.80

On the other hand, the data of the Ministry of Planning and International Affairs (MoPIC) showed that HCY received through 2014 about (1.7) million JOD from the Governorates Infrastructure Program which is funded by MoPIC.



Major Study Recommendations

Ministry of Public Works and Housing: Child budgeting within the MoPWH became crucial issue to stand on expenditure patterns that feed into the best interests of the child which reflect a child friendly budget either through Traffic Safety on roads, establishing Urban Villages or developing general codes and standards to maintain safety in buildings and on roads.

Despite the fact that estimated child budget within the Ministry takes up an approximate quarter of the Ministry's budget within the MTEF, still much more institutional efforts needed to hinder child fatalities and injuries on roads. On the other hand, and at governorate level, there is still massive need to establish more Urban Villages in order to meet child rights and needs across governorates. As a major recommendation, more financial resources are needed to meet child rights within the mandate of the MoPWH.

Higher Council for Youth:

Lack of financial allocations is the major obstacle that face the HCY. The limited budget curb the Council to meet either child needs (beneficiaries group) or employees satisfaction and their needs (service providers group).

More funds needed to raise child share and eliminate differential gaps across governorates children. Holding capacity building programs is another crucial area for HCY staff to fully meet child rights.

Child budget which registered about 55% of the Council budget within the MTEF makes about (11) million JOD only, such amount will remain handicapped to meet the numerous child rights that are under the mandate of the Council, more financial support and allocations should be provided to foster children participation in the activities and events held by the Council, which will subsequently maximize the Council's ability to fulfill multi nationalities child rights in Jordan. Support from donors and international agencies is highly needed in this respect.

Child Budget Engagement Strategy: In light of the CBA findings, it is anticipated that the MoPWH and HCY will implement the child-budget methodology in line with the Child Budget Engagement Strategy and hence reflect it onto the General Budget Law for the year 2017. In this regard, measurable and meaningful performance indicators that are linked to child-related programs/ projects /activities should be developed so as to enable an effective and efficient follow-up and attainment of envisaged child-oriented goals.

