



Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah  
President



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# Foreword

The National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) is pleased to present its fourth annual report, highlighting its accomplishments and activities during 2007. It was a year rich with progress in all fields in service of our Jordanian Families, supported by the effort of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah the President of the Council, the members of the Council's Board of Trustees and all of the Council's staff, as well as the Council's partners among the family focused governmental and non-governmental institutions.

The NCFA has drafted with its partners a National Strategy for Senior Citizens in record time and effort. It is considered a major national accomplishment that will serve the senior citizens by shedding light on them to create the appropriate policies for them. In order to raise the awareness of the youth who are planning marriage on their rights and duties, the Council issued a Marriage Guide for the Christian Sects. This is the second edition of guide which follows the success achieved by the Marriage Guide for Muslims.

In the area of family protection, the year 2007 saw many accomplishments. The UN Secretary General Study on Violence Against Children was launched, as was the partnership project

between the Council and the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Development Institute and the Family Health Care Institute aimed to eliminating violence against women. This project is funded by the Private Sector Project for Women's Health (PSP), in order to institutionalize work on eliminating violence against women within the relevant institutions.

As children are always a focus, this year the NCFA, in cooperation with UNICEF, Columbia University and experts in the area of early childhood, reviewed and completed and the Development Criteria and Indicators for Jordanian Children. This was based on the results of the validity of the criteria prepared by the National Center for the Development of Human Resources. The Development Criteria and Indicators were adopted at a national workshop held during December of 2007.

The Council was also able to complete the National Information System for Family Affairs, which will provide researchers, decision makers and individuals working in the area of family with information and data on Jordanian families. The system consists of a group of elements related to family affairs, including legislation, international conventions, statistical indicators, human resources, social work institutions and reports of some elements of the system. The system information and data were classified into main topics, and each was divided into several sub-topics.

It is our aspiration to benefit everyone with this report, and we stress our gratitude and appreciation to all our family focused government and non-government institution partners, the private sector and the international entities, without whose efforts the Council who not have been to accomplish all this.

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



## National Council for Family Affairs

The National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) was established in accordance with law no 27 of 2001, headed by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. It is a support umbrella to coordinate and facilitate the work of family focused partners, including governmental and non-governmental institutions, international organizations and the private sector.

### Our Message

Enhance the status of the Jordanian family and increase its role in society to enable it to contribute to preserving the value and civilization heritage according to the social and cultural changes in the Kingdom.

### 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.

### Our Strategic Goals

- National Policy Think-Tank
- Coordinating and Monitoring Body
- Advocacy Body for Family Issues

## NCFA Organizational Structure

According to the NCFA Law No. 27 (2001), the organizational structure of the Council includes the following:

**1. The Board of Trustees:** The Board's Members represent the line ministries, governmental and non-governmental institutions and agencies that are concerned with family affairs, interested and experienced in this field, as well as private sector representatives and experts.

#### Members of the Board of Trustees

(at the time of the present report):

1. Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah – President
2. HE Dr. Munther Al Masri – Vice President
3. HE Dr. Tayseer Al Nuaimi – Minister of Education
4. HE Mrs. Suhair Al Ali – Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
5. HE Dr. Abdul Fattah Salah – Minister of Islamic Affairs
6. HE Dr. Salah Al Mawajdeh – Minister of Health
7. HE Mrs. Hala Lattouf – Minister of Social Development
8. HE Senator Dr. Rajai Al Muasher – Chairman of the Board of Directors, Al Ahli Bank
9. HE Senator Mrs. Laila Sharaf



10. HE Mrs. Asma Khader – Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs
11. HE General Mazin Al Qadi – Director General, Public Security Department
12. HE Dr. Ghazi Shbeikat Al Daajah – Director General, Department of Statistics
13. HE Dr. Ibrahim Badran – Philadelphia University
14. HE Senator Dr. Nawal Al Faouri
15. HE Mrs. Samar Al Haj Hassan
16. HE Mrs. Dima Bibi – Executive Director, INJAZ
17. HE Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh – NCFA Secretary General

**1. Executive Committee:** Formed from among members of the Board of Trustees and includes:

1. HE Dr. Munther Al Masri – Vice President of the Board of Trustees
2. HE Senator Dr. Rajai Al Muasher – Chairman of the Board of Directors, Al Ahli Bank
3. HE Senator Mrs. Laila Sharaf
4. HE Mrs. Asma Khader – Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs
5. HE Senator Dr. Nawal Al Faouri
6. HE Dr. Ibrahim Badran – Philadelphia University
7. HE Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh – NCFA Secretary General

**1. The General Secretariat:** The General Secretariat is NCFA's executive body and operational arm. It is headed by the Secretary General and it works through the following technical units:

1. Educational, Cultural and Health Programs Unit
2. Social, Economic and Environmental Programs Unit
3. Family Protection and Enablement Programs Unit
4. Legislation Unit
5. Information Unit
6. Communication and Partnership Unit
7. Follow-up and Evaluation Unit
8. Financial and Administrative Affairs Unit

## First: Strategies and plans

### 1. National Jordanian Strategy for Senior Citizens

In cooperation with the ministries of Health and Social Development, the Jordanian Nursing Council, the World Health Organization, and specialists from Jordanian universities and non-governmental organizations, the NCFA developed a comprehensive national strategy in 2007 for senior citizens. It is considered the first document focused on drafting policies especially for senior citizens, to be provided for decision makers and policy and program makers. It aims to uncover the problems and shortcomings in the programs offered for this group. The strategy has six pillars, each of which includes an aspect of the lives of senior citizens. Each pillar addresses the priorities that require intervention to improve the quality of life of senior citizens, facilitate their lives to enable them to live independently, provide the best possible health and social care, respond to the opportunities and overcome the challenges of old age in Jordan, and support a solidarity structure for all ages. These issues constitute the main starting point of the National Jordanian Strategy for Senior Citizens.



## Second: Legislation and policies

### 1. Christian Sects Marriage Guide

The Legal Marriage Guide for Muslims was published in 2006, and was aimed at introducing individuals preparing for marriage to their rights and duties that result from marriage, based on the Islamic Sharia and the law. The Council's next step was to issue a Marriage Guide for Christian Sects, through a grant offered by the Rule of Law Project funded by USAID. The guide, which is the first of its kind in Jordan, includes the general provisions on marriage according to each sect, to introduce the youth planning on marriage from these sects to the rights and obligations that result from entering into the marriage contract. It introduces the phase of engagement, the cases when a contract may be revoked, and cases where separation takes place. It also includes matters related to financial arrangements among couples and the alimony resulting from cases of separation. The guide was launched at an official ceremony that included some heads of the Christian sects, ambassadors and institutions with a focus on the family. Five thousand copies of the guide were printed, and a plan was drafted to disseminate the guide to the target groups.

### 2. Guide to Family-Related Legislation in Jordan

The NCFA issued the Guide to Family-Related Legislation, which lists all legislation applied in the Kingdom, including laws, regulations and instructions, relevant to the family and its affairs. The two-part guide aims to provide decision makers and professionals working in the courts, such as lawyers and judges, as well as researchers, with the legislation applied in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Listing all legislation with a focus on family affairs in one reference has a practical value in terms of facilitating and expediting referrals to any cases or affairs relevant to the family to read all about it without the need to refer to several volumes, books and references that refer to this legislation. Additionally, placing all the legislation in one reference benefits researchers and professionals in terms of learning about the other latest developments for which there has been no legislation, so that new legislation may be proposed or amendments may be made according to the real developments in the lives of families these days.

The Council will work to publish a third edition of this guide, as well as updating this guide in the future to include the international conventions and decisions with a focus on family affairs to ensure maximum benefit.

### 3. Early Childhood Development Standards and Criteria

The NCFA, in cooperation with UNICEF, Columbia University and experts in early childhood, reviewed and finalized the Early Childhood Development Standards and Criteria, on the basis of results of the criteria validity study, conducted by the National Center for Human Resources Development. The ECD standards and criteria were adopted at a national workshop held in December 2007. The criteria aim to provide parents, teachers and other care providers with knowledge on the expectations of child development to enable them to conduct proper evaluation processes for all ECD aspects.

### 4. Kindergarten Regulations

During 2007, the Council worked on reviewing and finalizing a set of regulations governing the establishment and licensing of kindergartens. The document, entitled "Kindergarten Regulations," is based on a field study conducted in 2006 with a view to evaluating the achievability of the instructions in reality. The document was reviewed by a team representing the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Public Security Directorate, Greater Amman Municipality, ERFKE Support Project, private sector kindergartens and experts in early childhood. These were sent to the Ministry of Education for approval and publication through the official channels.



## 5. Draft Instructions for the Establishment and Licensing of Daycare Centers

The NCFA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, updated the draft instructions for the establishment and licensing of daycare centers based on the analytical comparison between the criteria for the establishment and licensing of kindergartens updated in 2006 and international and regional criteria. The Council and the Ministry of Social Development will complete the instructions document after completing the field study on the achievability of the instructions in the field.

## Third: Studies and Reports

### 1. Guide to Family-Related Studies and Research in Jordan (First Volume)

The guide gives researchers and specialists in social studies, as well as specialists in humanitarian and scientific areas in general, the studies and research with a focus on Jordanian families, conducted in Jordan within the universities, governmental institutions and non-governmental institutions, which were divided into special sectors and fields. The studies include those from the years 2000 to 2005. The guide also offers information on the family, which reflect the priorities, gaps and areas of interest, and taking procedures aimed at improving the quality of life, in cooperation with partner institutions and organizations. The council will issue a studies and research guide on Jordanian families on a periodic basis.

### 2. Summary of Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan (2006–2007)

The NCFA, in cooperation with UNICEF, prepared a summary of the report, entitled “Situation Analysis of Children in Jordan (2006–2007)”, which includes information and statistics on the health of children and women, development, education, participation, and children in need of protection. The summary covers main themes of the report, with each theme including a study on the main its elements, followed by the main challenges and the proposed recommendations for improvement and development.

### 3. Study on Field-Testing Instructions for the Establishment and Licensing of Daycare Centers

The Council prepared a study to test the instructions for establishing and licensing daycare centers in the field by measuring the applicability of the updated instructions proposed in the daycare centers by the private daycare centers and the daycares of the Ministry of Education. The study sample included 48 daycare centers, 33 of which were private and 15 were public. Focus groups were formed of specialists and specialists in early childcare in the three regions: north, center and south, in order to take their opinions on the new instructions and measure the agreement of their opinions with what is on the ground. Currently, work is being done to analyze the results of the test for the daycare licensing instructions on the field in order to issue them in their final form and complete the document on Instructions for the Establishment and Licensing of Daycare Centers based on the results.



#### **4. Report Analyzing the Supervisory System for Daycare Centers at the Ministry of Social Development**

The Council conducted a field study aimed at analyzing the mechanism of supervising the role of daycare centers, which targeted a number of daycare centers as well as some of the staff of the daycare sector in the relevant ministries. An analysis was conducted on the mechanism of licensing daycare centers that is currently applied, through interviewing a number of the staff of these daycare centers at the Ministry of Social Development. Based on this analytical study, the Council developed a proposal for the licensing and supervision procedures for daycare centers.

#### **5. Report on Jordan's Efforts to Implement International Family Year Goals and the Arab Declaration of Family Rights:**

In its final reports on its meeting held in Abu Dhabi during the period 12–13 September 2006, the Arab Family Committee (second session) recommended calling on the Arab States to submit to the Technical Secretariat their reports on the latest developments relevant to the implementation of the 1994 Arab Declaration of Family Rights and the goals of International Family Year, as well as pilot and model projects and programs they have implemented with a focus on families, so that the Technical Secretariat may issue the "Arab Report on the Status of the Arab Family". Accordingly, the NCFCA prepared the Jordanian Report on the Kingdom's accomplishments in implementing the 2004 International Family Year Goals and situation analysis of Arab family rights during the period 2004–2007). The Jordanian report highlights the efforts and accomplishments of governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the area of family affairs in Jordan, as well as the follow-up and documentation of developments in the Jordanian legislature relevant to family affairs.

#### **6. National Family Affairs Information System**

This huge national effort, which adopts a participatory approach with several governmental and non-governmental organizations, specialists and experts in the area of the family affairs, includes several sections on laws, regulations, studies, international conventions and statistics on Jordanian families. This is in addition to information on the institutions and experts working in the area of the family, classified into several main sectors. The National Information System for Family Affairs is considered an important reference for everything related to the Jordanian family. It contributes to providing decision makers, planners, researchers and institutions involved in family-related issues with data and information to help them in making the appropriate decisions and recommendations to improve the quality of life for Jordanian families, from the economic, social, legal and cultural standpoints.

## **Fourth: Forums and Workshops**

### **1. Workshop on Jordan's Accomplishments in Family and Child Protection**

The NCFCA convened this workshop under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah and in cooperation with UNICEF to determine the reality of family and child protection from violence in Jordan, according to the recommendations of the UN Secretary General recommendations to come up with national priorities in this area. A detailed report was drafted on the workshop's recommendations based on the recommendations of each pillar of the five study pillars. The report also identified the entities in charge of follow-up. The NCFCA will work in cooperation with the partner institutions on preparing a periodic report for the Arab League on Jordan's Accomplishments in the area of family and child protection. This is part of its implementation of recommendation 6 of the Arab Childhood Committee (Riyadh 2007) on following-up the efforts of the Arab countries in their implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary General's study on violence against children.

## 2. Workshop on Capacity Building in the Arab Region: “Opportunities and Challenges of Integrating the Civic Society in Socio-Economic Policies”

The NCFA organized, in cooperation with the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, UNDP Jordan and Saraya Holding, a regional capacity building workshop for the Arab region on the “Opportunities and Challenges of Integrating the Civic Society in Socio-Economic Policies” in Amman. Over 60 representatives of 19 Arab countries attended, including ministers, officials, specialists in socio-economic planning and development, heads of civic society organizations, academics and media personnel. It aimed to exchange expertise and dialogue on the capacity building interventions to allow citizens to participate in socio-economic policymaking, enhance citizenship concepts from various countries of the work, and introduce participants to the success stories. The workshop resulted in recommendations and the Amman Declaration in which it was agreed to establish the Arab Network for Community Partnership.

## 3. Traffic Education Supported by Family Forum

The NCFA, in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Traffic Institute – Public Security Department convened a workshop on Traffic Education Supported by the Family. The NCFA’s participation in this forum drew from the importance of the role played by the family in educating children on good morals from a very young age so that they are entrenched in their minds and constitute a foundation for their behavior and actions in the future. Statistics from the Annual Report for Traffic Accidents in Jordan for 2006, issued by Public Security Directorate – Jordan Traffic Institute, indicate that 98055 traffic accidents caused 899 deaths and 18019 injuries, including minor and serious injuries. The statistics also indicated that the deaths among children under 5 years of age totaled 129, in addition to 1633 minor and serious injuries. The workshop concluded with recommendations, namely the creation of a comprehensive national traffic awareness plan to be implemented by all civic and official entities and encouraging the various media outlets to create specialized media programs targeting children on traffic education.

## Fifth: Project to Develop Procedures of Dealing with Victims of Domestic Violence.

This project was launched following the directions of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah during the meeting held under her patronage in June 2006. The meeting aimed to assess the accomplishments of the Family Protection Project in Jordan and the future steps to guarantee the sustainability of work within a participatory approach. It also aimed to consider family protection from violence a national interest governed by a comprehensive outlook focused on the importance of institutionalizing work in the field of family protection at the ministries of education, health, social development and justice, as well as the Judicial Council. Specialized units were established to deal with and follow-up cases of domestic violence, development reference institutional procedures for dealing with domestic violence, and training the staff within these entities on these procedures.

The accomplishments of this project were crowned with the establishment of the administrative units in the relevant institutions. A department for child protection from abuse was established at the Ministry of Justice a protection department was established at the Ministry of Social Development a protection from domestic violence department was established at the Ministry of Health and a Family Affairs Directorate was established at the Ministry of Justice. Procedures were also developed to deal with cases of domestic violence within those institutions that specify the institutional procedures for dealing with cases of violence, starting with discovery and



notification and ending with offering services. At the level of training, the NCFA convened a workshop on the procedures of dealing with victims of domestic violence for the staff of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Justice and the Judicial Council, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. The workshop aimed to introduce the participants to the mechanisms of working with cases of domestic violence according to the accredited national mechanisms in the area of protection from domestic violence. These mechanisms are represented by the National Framework for the Protection of Families from Violence, the general criteria for family affairs and procedures for dealing with cases of domestic violence within each ministry, which the NCFA drafted. The training aimed to provide them with the skills, methods and mechanisms of dealing with cases of domestic violence within their ministries, including the mechanisms of discovery, notification, referral and intervention. The training also included practical applications on the mechanisms of responding to cases of domestic violence at the internal level of the ministry and the participatory level with the other institutions.

## Sixth: Celebrations

### 1. International Family Day:

Celebrations of the International Family Day of 2007 were held under the slogan the Family and People with Special Needs, which targeted the family that takes care of people with special needs. The celebration was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, and was attended by many institutions focused on people with special needs and the family. Twelve families with people with special needs and special success stories were also honored.

## NCFA's Financial Resources

The financial resources of the Council, according to article 14 of the NCFA's Law no 27 of 2001, consist of:

- A. Proceeds from transferable and non-transferable funds owned by the NCFA.
- B. Returns of the funds, projects and programs managed by the NCFA.
- C. Grant by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan government.
- D. Donations and grants approved by the NCFA, provided the Council of Minister's approval is sought if they are from a non-Jordanian source.
- E. Any other sources approved by the NCFA.

## NCFA 2007 Donors

- Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Al Ahli Bank, represented by HE Senator Dr. Rajai Muasher
- Arab Gulf Program for the Support of UN development organizations
- UNICEF
- World Health Organization
- UN Department for Socio-Economic Affairs
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Private Sector Project for Women's Health

## Words of Gratitude

The NCFA would like to seize this opportunity to express its gratitude and appreciation to all entities and individuals who supported its plans, programs and activities, as well as its gratitude to its partners of governmental and non-governmental institutions, international organizations and the private sector at the local, regional and international levels.

