



REPORT

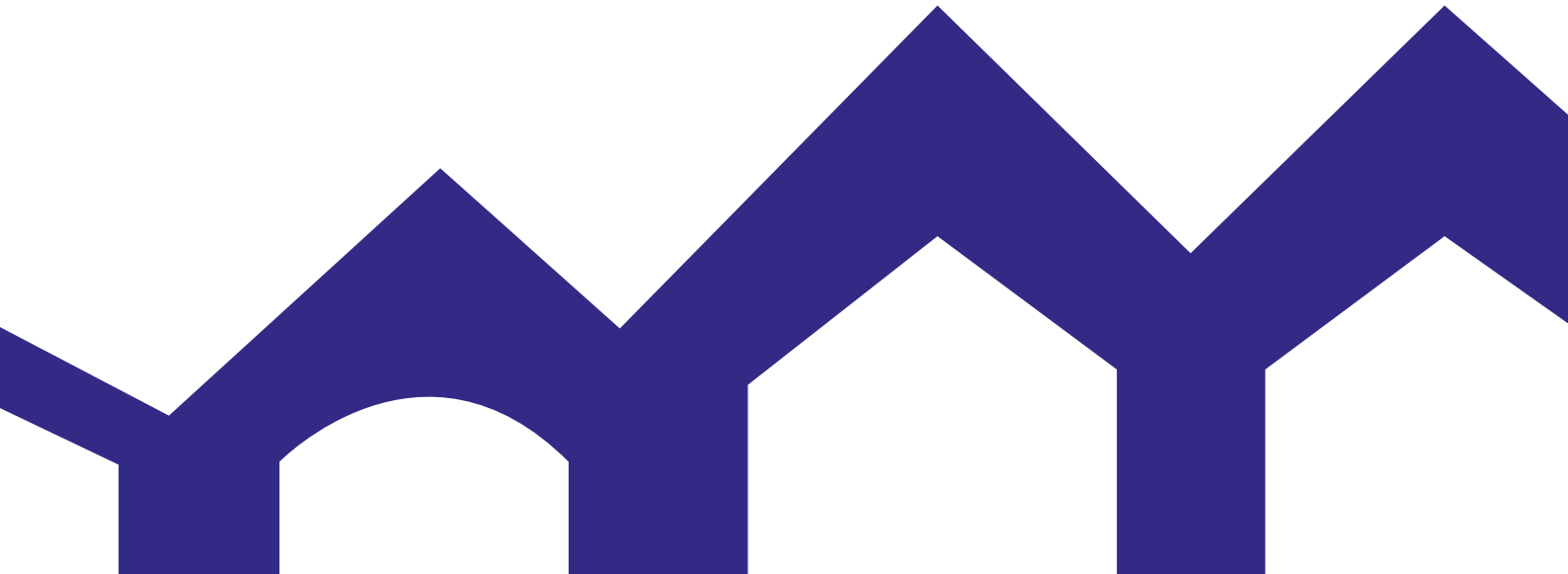
SOCIAL SAFETY NET FIRST CONFERENCE

Children And Youth Protection: “A Future Strategy”

MENA CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVE

Tripoli - Lebanon

April 19, 2010



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Excerpts from the words in the Conference on “Children and Youth Protection: A Future Strategy”

His Excellency the Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Salim Sayegh

The Arab Urban Development Institute represents Arab support of our work on more than one level in order to fight poverty and promote the Child-Friendly Cities draft project. It is a reliable scientific body to which we are thankful for its willingness to develop the capacity of the ministry to conduct the projects and programs carried out not only in Lebanon, but also in Arab countries.

Press Conference on 10-6-2010

Speech of His Excellency the Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Salim Sayegh

This initiative by the Arab Urban Development Institute in partnership with the World Bank aiming to establish a mechanism ensuring participation and partnership is an important step, especially as it is based on scientific and methodological grounds in a timely manner and in the right place. Indeed, the city of Tripoli is sinking under dire economic and social conditions.

This network will act as a practical body that will oversee the implementation of programs benefiting children and marginalized youth (helping school dropouts go back to school, establishing programs to facilitate access to employment, and preparing young people to integrate the labor market while offering them employment services).

We at the Ministry of Social Affairs are concerned with keeping pace with such initiatives and supporting them, as we endeavor to combat poverty and empower people to build institutional and human capacities. We consider ourselves to be responsible, and will not shy away from this role. For these reasons, we will soon complete the preparation of a comprehensive social development plan that focuses on decentralization and represents a general framework that renews priorities for all stakeholders, on both the centralized and decentralized level.

*Conference on the children and youth protection - a future strategy
19-4-2010*

Speech of Mr. Ahmed Al-Salloum, Director General of the Arab Urban Development Institute

The Arab Urban Development Institute, the scientific and technical body for the Arab Towns Organization, has always sought to contribute to the

development and growth of Arab cities. Based on its conviction of the importance of the human element in achieving this, the Institute was keen to develop and activate all the humanitarian aspects relevant to the development of cities along with its other concerns.

Conference on the children and youth protection - a future strategy
19-4-2010

Speech of Mr. George Chahine, Advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs

The institutionalization of local partnerships is a practical objective that deserves attention and congratulations. The work of the Arab Urban Development Institute's Director and staff deserves to be appreciated at its true value. We are ready to ensure continued cooperation with them for the good interest of the children and youth. We also express to the Union of Municipalities of Fayhaa, which is entrusted with the supervision and support, the readiness of the Ministry's units for cooperation and coordination. We pay homage to the YMCA for its vital role as a basic civil society partner with the state on all central and local levels, and we promise our people in Tripoli that we will remain committed to achieving social justice and balanced development away from any discrimination until we attain the social safety, welfare, and progress of all Lebanese individuals.

Conference on the children and youth protection - a future strategy
19-4-2010

Speech of Mr. Rashid Al-Jamali, President of the Municipality of Tripoli

The social safety network is a pioneer project that was originally based on the partnership between the Municipality of Tripoli and the Arab Urban Development Institute then was expanded to include civil society organizations working in the fields of childhood and youth, at the forefront of which is YMCA, which has become a strategic partner in this project.

I would like to extend my thanks to the World Bank and the Arab Urban Development Institute – and the Mena Child Protection Initiative – and the YMCA in Lebanon, for their contribution for a better future for the Tripoli youth and for the protection of children in Fayhaa.

Conference on the children and youth protection - a future strategy
19-4-2010

Speech of Mr. Joseph Awad, Director of the YMCA

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the Arab Urban Development Institute headed by Mr. Ahmed Al-Salloum for its keenness to provide the best Arab experiences through the Mena Child Protection Initiative, under the Executive Director of Mena CPI of Dr. Ibrahim Al-Turki, and we thank the World Bank for its support and the Municipality of Tripoli for hosting the network.

Conference on the children and youth protection - a future strategy
19-4-2010

1 Introduction

Since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2000, the Arab region achieved high progress in several fields such as health and education. Yet, and despite the efforts exerted by the Arab countries, there is very limited achievements in the less developed ones, to the extent that it will be difficult for them to achieve most of the intended goals by the year 2015. Moreover, the rate of poverty in the Arab countries is still high (reaching 40%). This means nearly 140 million persons in the Arab World live below the poverty line. Also unemployment rate (especially among youth) in the Arab countries reached very high levels; being the highest in the world. This is a major cause of poverty.

Countries of the MENA region are experiencing high level of urbanization. More and more people are living in urban centers, and with these urban settlements come problems of unemployment and poverty. There is a lot that need to be done at the local urban level in these countries.

Most of the efforts to tackle issues of poverty, employment opportunities, schooling...etc are made at the national level by mainly the central governments, or by dedicated governmental organizations or agencies. There is an immense need for the Arab Countries to use a more bottom up approach to deal with issues, problems, and even opportunities that exist at the local level in order to complement (not substitute) the national level efforts. In fact, this could be one of the best approaches given the experience of other countries and the need for innovative ways to deal with these issues.

The Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI)/ MENA Child Protection Initiative (MENA CPI), being the technical and scientific arm of the Arab Towns Organization, with more than 450 cities as members has a unique role to play in this respect. AUDI works mainly at the local and city level and therefore promote the local involvement through its activities. Based on a local and participatory approach, AUDI/MENA CPI organized this conference on "Children and Youth Protection: A Future Strategy" in Tripoli, Lebanon aiming to develop a framework for an integrated executive plan at the Tripoli City level, that includes applicable initiatives, development projects and recommendations that can help design appropriate programs for children, youth employment and poverty alleviation in the city. This is hoped to be achieved through enhancement of education, health, and social and economic conditions, and via active partnership between public and private sectors, and the civil community. The ultimate goal is for all stakeholders to play a developmental role and become real partners to achieve the intended objectives through setting executive development plans.

The participation of other cities' officials, city council members, and mayors of different Lebanese and regional cities is going to raise the level of awareness of all participants of their roles, capabilities, and responsibilities for children and youth issues and the complementary role they may pay to national authorities.

2 Main Objective

The conference aimed to launch the social safety net in the Union of Fayhaa Municipalities and to focus on the goals, aspirations and methods of work, and to encourage associations working in the sector of children and young people to join this network and coordinate in all fields.

On the other hand, the conference addressed the major problems facing children and youth, such as school dropout, child labor, youth employment, urban poverty, and the negative impacts at city level.

The conference was an important occasion for the concerned associations by presenting their experiences and studies and proposing solutions and future plans.

3 Specific Objectives

1. Define the status of youth employment through a study conducted in five cities, among them Tripoli, and other studies on 'the vision of the officials and city mayors on opportunities to youth employment.
2. Encourage participating agencies to create constant communication networks, expertise exchange, coordination of efforts for interventions in issues of children and youth in all fields to achieve activation, cooperation and roles integration.
3. To foster awareness on the importance of issues of children and youth and poverty, being one of the priorities of these responsible through the governors and members of administrative departments at Lebanese cities.
4. To conduct a capacity building program in partnership with the International Youth Foundation (IYF) and Young Men Christian Association (YMCA).

4 Activities

- Present studies and create areas for discussion and exchange of ideas.
- Organize specialized workshops on themes of the conference to exchange expertise on problem analysis and suggest solutions for:
 - Youth employment
 - Child labor and school dropout reintegration
 - Poverty reduction through improving social status
 - Poverty reduction through improving health status
- Present local, regional and national, successful experiences on conference themes, to enable exchange of expertise and find out possibilities of creating the 'experience model' for solving problem through examination of lessons learned from others experiences.
- Side Events
 - Training workshops on Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, Youth Friendly Services and Youth Participation/Civic Engagement
 - Delivery of Certificates.

5 Methodology

This conference bring together concerned stakeholders involved in children and youth issues, in a policy dialogue, to share knowledge, and exchange experiences that will help in designing initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions, the active participation and social integration of children and youth.

The Conference counted on the methods and participatory approaches through workshops that contributed to demonstrate the various aspects of all the problems and proposed solutions, and also contributed to the activation of communication between the associations working in the same field.

6 Participants

- The conference was attended by 130 participants representing:
- Public Sector (Ministries and Public institutions)
 - Private Sector (Chamber of Commerce, syndicates, ...)
 - Union of Fayha'a Municipalities
 - Lebanese and Syrian Municipalities

- World Bank
- UN agencies
- 20 International Organizations
- 110 national NGO's
- AUDI / MENA Child Protection Initiative (CPI)
- International Youth Foundation (IYF)
- Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)
- Higher Council for Childhood
- Experts and activists in the civil society



7 Recommendations

The participants were divided into workshops around the following themes:

- Youth Employment
- Child labor and school dropout reintegration
- Poverty reduction through improving social status
- Poverty reduction through improving health status

The recommendations of the above workshops were announced in a press conference on Tuesday June, 2010 in the presence of HE Dr. Salim Sayegh, the Minister of Social Affairs.



First Axis: Poverty reduction through improving social status

General Recommendations

The importance of putting forth solutions in the context of available resources and opportunities:

- 1 - Targeting all intervention levels (individuals - family - community - society in general - public policies).
- 2 - Including life skills and self-development in vocational training courses.
- 3 - Empowering individuals, especially youth and women, at all levels.
- 4 - Developing an operational plan of the overall strategy which has been prepared for the Union of Fayha'a Municipalities.

Specific Recommendations

- 1 - Creating a rehabilitation center within the region to receive and rehabilitate drug addicts, then emulate the experience.
- 2 - Establishing a reception center within the region to take care of abused girls.
- 3 - Launching a training project for teaching women healthy cooking, production, and marketing.
- 4 - Developing a life skills training program for children and youth: conflict resolution – communication – decision-making.
- 5 - Launching a project on reproductive health, which includes awareness campaigns on early marriage and family planning.
- 6 - Launching the project of the relevance of education and vocational training according to the needs of employment and work.

Stakeholders Involved

- 1 - Children and youth
- 2 - Women
- 3 - **Ministries:** Ministry of Social Affairs - Ministry of Education - Ministry of Labor - Ministry of Youth and Sports
- 4 - Donors
- 5 - International Organizations
- 6 - Social Affairs Centers in the areas
- 7 - Municipality and Union of Fayha'a Municipalities
- 8 - NGOs
- 9 - Private sector and businessmen

Second Axis: Poverty reduction through improving health status

Recommendations

- 1 - Building a wide network of young volunteers who work according to an organized safety network.
- 2 - Activating the role of youth volunteers and the youth targeted by the network's discussion of needs and formulation of decisions pertaining to their cases.
- 3 - Activating the role of the central dispensaries of the Ministry of Health, increasing their operational capacity, and lobbying for the application of the health card system and other related projects.
- 4 - Training a group of youths from associations and the local community and enabling them to disseminate the concepts of health and environment, particularly primary health care and nutrition.
- 5 - Standardizing, documenting, and disseminating information about the physical and mental health.

- 6 - Reducing the health risks of work for the children of the safety net in Lebanon
- 7 - Activating the health and children-related laws, especially those pertaining to fighting child labor and protecting children from exploitation.
- 8 - Activating the role of control over dispensaries and private clinics.
- 9 - Activating the role of the clergy in the dissemination of health education and the preparation of additional topics on the curriculum of religious education.
- 10 - Based on a comprehensive health concept, encouraging the visits to the public parks established by the Municipality of Tripoli, through the initiative of civil society for the support of art production, sports, and drama in view of preventing risky behavior.
- 11 - Committing to the school health project, while ensuring that it is not limited to inspection and diagnosis, but also includes follow-up, treatment, and solutions for children.
- 12 - Considering the municipality to be the local elected administration that sponsors this network and its health activities, coordinates the relationship with the parties concerned, and follows up and evaluates the work achieved.
- 13 - Developing a plan on health education.

Stakeholders Involved

- 1 - Components of the family, school, children, youth, and environment.
- 2 - At the level of the health control: Ministries: health, economy, municipalities, and environment.
- 3 - At the level of school health: Ministries: Ministry of Education and the municipality, the Medical Association.
- 4 - Building awareness and health education: Ministries: Media and Health - civil society - the development services centers (Ministry of Social Affairs) – clerics.
- 5 - At the level of disease: central clinics of the Ministry of Health - private clinics.
- 6 - Governmental hospitals.
- 7 - Trade unions and associations.

Third Axis: Youth Employment & Employability

Recommendations

- 1 - Conducting a study on the unemployment of the uneducated and allocating accelerated vocational training programs that allow them to enter the labor market.

- 2 - Conducting a study on the unemployment of the educated and the need to promote the idea of moving away from rigid specialization, and enabling them to adapt and move on to other appropriate specializations.
- 3 - Continuing education for university and institute graduates.
- 4 - A clear development policy in cooperation with the municipality defined by the competent Ministry to determine the identity of the city (tourism, trade, agriculture, services, production...) and link it to development plan for achieving this policy.
- 5 - Foreseeing the future labor market.
- 6 - Working on the relevance of education with the demands of work and employment.
- 7 - Encouraging companies and the private sector to employ young people.
- 8 - Activating the role of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- 9 - Finding funds and initiatives for the youth.
- 10 - Activating the role of the National Employment Office for advertising job opportunities in a more effective manner and in multiple locations.
- 11 - Activating the role of associations and institutions in the advertisement of vacancies over the internet.
- 12 - Adopting efficiency and capacity as the only criteria for employment, without taking into consideration political or sectarian affiliations.
- 13 - The need for a career guidance counselor in schools starting from the Elementary classes.
- 14 - Establishing the Ministry of Planning.
- 15 - Focusing on the quality of education and foreign languages.
- 16 - Implementing Law No. 220/2000 on disabilities regarding the employment of people with special needs, or payment of compensation.
- 17 - Establishing offices in the municipalities in order to facilitate the work of young people.
- 18 - Activating the role of education inspection in schools to monitor the quality of education.

Stakeholders involved

- 1 - Children
- 2 - Youth
- 3 - Municipal (Office of Youth / Community Development)
- 4 - Ministry of Education and Higher Education / Educational Inspection / local coordinators.
- 5 - Center of Research and Development.
- 6 - Ministry of Labor (National Employment Office).
- 7 - Banks - NGOs - International Institutions - Universities - Schools - Private Schools

Recommendations

- 1 - To select teachers according to educational standards that respect and take into account a child's development, growth and best interests, and to abide by these standards.
- 2 - To allocate budgets and give prerogatives to school directors.
- 3 - To prepare a multi-disciplinary team to work with children within the school and with the parents (psychologist, social worker, speech therapist ...).
- 4 - To work on the early detection of learning difficulties.
- 5 - To re-process and activate the role of teachers.
- 6 - To activate the role of municipalities to follow up on children's issues through development specialists and social workers.
- 7 - To support and train parent councils and help them carry out the tasks entrusted to them.
- 8 - Rehabilitation and construction of schools with fair distribution of locations and teachers to achieve equality and balanced development and provide a place for every child.
- 9 - To activate the Law on Prohibition of child labor (under 15 years of age).
- 10 - To offer continuous training for teachers and develop a plan and a mechanism of monitoring and evaluation.
- 11 - To strengthen the educational environment through the means, methods, and techniques of active learning, to equip playgrounds, workshops, and laboratories, and to turn schools into a comprehensive institution that witnesses the participation of children.
- 12 - To offer security protection for schools.
- 13 - To activate the extra-curricular and artistic activities in schools.
- 14 - To support and activate sports and cultural clubs in schools.
- 15 - To put an end to school violence.
- 16 - To work on the early detection of school drop-out causes.
- 17 - To create a local body of all stakeholders to coordinate and enrich educational interventions.

Stakeholders involved

- 1 - Youth and children
- 2 - Ministry of Social Affairs
- 3 - Ministry of Education
- 4 - Ministry of Labor
- 5 - Ministry of Interior
- 6 - Municipalities, village leaders
- 7 - Local & International NGOs

- 8 - The private sector and banks
- 9 - The competent parliamentary committees
- 10 - Surrounding Environment: parents
- 11 - The educational board
- 12 - Board of Administration
- 13 - Boards of parents
- 14 - Clerics
- 15 - Media and the Ministry of Culture
- 16 - Higher Council for Childhood (Lebanon)
- 17 - House of Representatives.

8 Annexes

8.1 Program

09.00 – 09.30	Reception and Registration
09.30 – 09.45	Social Safety Network for Children and Youth: Introduction and Objectives Mrs. Maria Assi, Director of programs at the YMCA-Lebanon
09.45 – 10.00	Youth Stocktaking Study and Mayor Perception Dr. Ibrahim Al-Turki, Executive Director of MENA Child Protection Initiative
10.00 – 10.15	Viewing indicative experience of the social safety net Ms. Janine Nawfal Director of vocational training program YMCA - Lebanon Ms. Salam Mawas, Director of the New Ahed School in AL-KOBAH Professor Michel Khoury, photography and photoshop trainer
10.15 – 10.30	Poverty Reduction Project Dr. Osman Nour, Coordinator of Urban Poverty project, AUDI
10.30 – 11.00	Ceremony of the distribution of certificates for vocational training courses
11.00 – 12.00	Speeches President of Tripoli Municipality, Mr. Rashid Jamali Director of the YMCA - Lebanon, Mr. Joseph Awad Director General of the Arab Urban Development Institute, Mr. Ahmed Al-Salloum HE Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Salim Sayegh
12.00 – 12.30	Break
12.30 – 01.45	Workshops Youth employment & Employability Child Labor & Reintegration of school drop outs Poverty reduction through improving social status Poverty reduction through improving health status
01.45 – 02.45	Lunch Break
02.45 – 03.30	Recommendations Dr. Elie Mekhael, Secretary General of the Higher Council for Childhood, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanon

8.2 View of the study of employability and youth employment:

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Turki Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Child Protection Initiative presented the findings of the study on youth employment and employability. Tripoli study is part of AUDI's project on youth employment in five Arab cities. This study aims to evaluate projects and programs for youth employment and to provide recommendations to support youth employment programs.



Dr. Ibrahim described the nature of each of these programs and the target age group and the quality of the activities of those programs, knowledge, challenges and possibilities for youth employment and positive interventions to improve young people's access to jobs, the collection of materials from researches and scientific studies related to local and national levels with special emphasis on marginalized youth at-risk. Monitoring and identification of non-governmental organizations and government agencies related to issues of youth employment, study regulations, policies and legislation that may enhance or hinder the employment opportunities for youth at the local and national levels and specify its characters with analysis and recommendations.

And he added that the city of Tripoli is the administrative capital of North Lebanon, It constitutes seven districts, including Tripoli, with a population of about 233.040 people, where the population density is about 111 persons per sq km.

As for urban development: (shelter and social services in the city of Tripoli), more than 50% of the families of Tripoli live in poverty. The World Bank study shows that 64.5% of families with more than five members in the old city (historical) receive a monthly income in the range of 500.000 L.L. (or 330 dollars). Social services including education and health facilities are quite low.

The city suffers of economic stagnation, except in the section of services sector, where there's lack of factories and laboratories and commercial complexes.

As for the development of education, the number of schools in Tripoli is 147, including 80 public schools and 67 private schools, covering different educational stages and located in Tripoli. There's one official vocational

school and 16 private vocational schools and branches of the Lebanese University and private universities and institutes.

Dr. Turki mentioned the following obstacles to the learning process:

- Lack of teaching staff.
- Lack of opportunities to use various of educational methods and modern educational methodologies.
- Lack of appropriate distribution of schools in some areas.
- Automatic promotion of students, especially in public schools, for students to reach the second stage. In spite of the efforts to improve the educational system yet illiteracy is still high.
- Proportion of school drop-out is high (about 35% of the total number of students who dropped- out of school in Lebanon).
- The illiteracy rate in the province of Tripoli and North Lebanon is relatively high (about 21%). It is (about 9%) between the ages of 10 and 19 years.(the highest rate among all the provinces of Lebanon).

As for the civil society and social services:

The number of active associations in Tripoli is about 136 associations of different activities: educational, cultural, professional, trade, development, environmental, health and women's. Tripoli Municipality has cooperation agreements with 55 active social work foundations. The cultural activities in the city are very scarce and limited except seminars held at the Nawfal Palace Municipal Complex and the Cultural League, as well as there are few recreational activities which are considered attractive for young people, and there is a common complaint from members of the community that a few of the associations addressed their projects to the young, who make up the majority of the community.

It's clear from the study that the community of Tripoli is young. The percentage of people under the age of thirty years is (about 64%) of the total population.

Lack of entertainment venues and cultural development, there are limited areas to study, especially in the Lebanese University, which graduates a large number of students every year. A lot of young people in Tripoli prefer (public sector) jobs because they are stable and guarantee for their future.

With regard to the labor market Dr. Turki indicates that: "Economic activity in Tripoli is based on trade and services sector more than industry and agriculture, it mainly depends on small and micro businesses, and many of them are based on an individual doing all the work and this would threaten the continuation of those professions. The number of women working in Tripoli is about 13153 constituting about 20% of the workforce and more than one third of them operate in the field of education, and more in health and other services.

As for the needs of the labor market the craftsmen have expressed their needs to buy machinery and modern equipment to facilitate work and there is a particular need to devise new required designs by the market, especially for export and there are some challenges facing the labor market, such as non modernize production tools and methods and the lack of innovation, lack of material resources, the absence of social security and health coverage for workers, diminution of movement of tourists and visitors from overseas, leading to weak demand for locally manufactured products, the clear decline in the purchasing power of local customers in the city, unequal competition with lower-cost foreign productions especially Chinese products.

The Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs are responsible for the establishment of vocational training centers, individually or in collaboration with individuals or institutions, national or foreign. In fact, the role of the Ministries in the city of Tripoli is limited, where most of the initiatives are in the hands of humanitarian development institutions, which often take a political character, and there is also the initiative taken by the municipality for vocational training and employment in the construction industry.

The followings are the main recommendations of the study:

- It is important to have a general and comprehensive plan for the economic development of the city and coordination is needed between the various relevant agencies, according to the main objectives of Tripoli social safety network.
- More focus is needed on the role of small enterprises in the activation of economic activity and this needs training in the management of small projects, feasibility studies and modern ways of selling and marketing. But it must be done in the framework of a clear strategy at the city level, involving partners from several associations and institutions working in the city.
- The Municipality of Tripoli must be a primary axis in the implementation of these projects in coordination and cooperation with other actors of civil society organizations and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Agriculture in Tripoli and the relevant ministries such as Social Affairs, Culture, Tourism and others.
- To emphasize the importance of young people and their participation in social work and volunteerism through the activities of the municipal council, associations and other institutions in society.
- Cooperation is needed between the Municipal Council, NGO's and private sector in the implementation of environmental projects and employ many unemployed young people for the implementation of parks and green spaces and raising community awareness of environmental issues.
- Focus is needed to encourage the establishment of youth organization especially the disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- With regard to the initiatives, Tripoli's Municipal Council can play the

role of the Coordinator-General or the intermediary among societies, institutions and the organizations, and make sure there is a clear strategy with regard to the training and rehabilitation of youth in particular, in other words, the municipality does not originally play an executive role, but can hand coordination, supervision and guidance in the best interests of the city.

- It could also coordinate with other actors by supporting other initiatives for women and youth, focusing on large investment projects that can provide a large number of job opportunities.

8.3 View of the social safety net: Definition and Objectives

Mrs. Maria Assi, Program Director at YMCA-Lebanon, stated in her speech the different objectives of the “Social Safety Net for Children and Young People in the Union of Fayhaa Municipalities”, pointing out that the founding body is composed of the Municipality of Tripoli, the Arab Urban Development Institute, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tripoli and the YMCA-Lebanon.



The objectives of the network are as follows:

- Study and monitor the situation of marginalized children and youth at risk in areas within the Union of Fayhaa Municipalities.
- Provide mechanisms of support and rehabilitation to children and youth at risk, to engage in the wheel of socio-economic development in the region.
- Administrative capacity-building of partner and/or member organizations.
- Establish remedial programs and opportunities for drop out children to go back to school.
- Establish special programs that facilitate access to employment for young people.
- Contribute to the alleviation of ill-treatment of children and young people through direct interventions in the cities of Union of Fayhaa Municipalities.
- Provide educational, vocational, and administrative support to protect children and young people.
- Enhance the protection environment of all children and young workers without discrimination, promoting transparency and participation,

through permanent networking with relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.

- Raise awareness on child labor laws in Lebanon with regards to vocational training practices in non-governmental organizations.

Mrs. Assi also noted that the “Social Safety Net” will develop a framework of coordination between all stakeholders and concerned parties to strengthen linkages and networking strategies in public or operational projects, in order to avoid duplication in certain places or the absence of activities in other places. She assured that this is a pioneer experience which might be adopted later in other areas of Lebanon or in other Arab countries.

She also appreciated the Arab Urban Development Institute's initiative of partnership with civil society and municipal partners.

The contributing sectors are the following:

- Public Sector
- Civil Society
- Private sector
- General Society

The network will be open to Lebanese organizations includes institutions that participated in the founding and Lebanese institutions working in the humanitarian, educational, social, and environmental health of children and young people, wishing to join the network.

Organizations wishing to become members in the “Social Safety Net” should meet the following eligibility conditions:

1. To be an authorized institution.
2. Have specific social and humanitarian objectives (not-for-profit).
3. To have a supervisory body whose members do not intend self interest.
4. Have well equipped centers to perform and achieve services that suit the requirements of work.
5. To have a director responsible for the management and implementation of programs and activities.
6. To have an administrative, technical and pastoral work appropriate and qualified to perform services and implementation of programs.
7. To issue the data of performed activities and an annual certified budget.
8. Its activities primary beneficiaries are children and young people.
9. Committed to participate in the activities of the “Social Safety Net”.
10. To abide by networking with institutions and participate in the successes and the exchange of experiences.

This network must achieve its goals within the Union of Municipalities of Fayhaa in order to strengthen social protection and human solidarity, and it should take on the initiative in emergency situations to promote these concepts and provide assistance where necessary and needed.

The "Social Safety Net" management is carried on by a general board consisting of representatives of member organizations. The board can choose an administrative body that determines the number of its members, its terms of reference and the duration of the rules of procedure.

The general assembly is all member organizations, who must, each, nominate a genuine representative with a substitute for three years.

8.4 View of the indicative experience of the social safety net

Ms. Janine Nawfal Director of the accelerated vocational training program presented YMCA experiments in protection and reintegration of children dropping out of school, as well as facilitating access to employment and rehabilitation for young people at risk:

The first project: protection and reintegration of children who drop out of school

Project Objectives:

- Reintegrating children who drop out of school.
- Improving teachers' tools and methods to strengthen active ways in education.
- Motivating students to study through non-descriptive activities within the academic program.
- Raising the rate of students as well as the success rate in school.
- Helping parents follow up on their children in schools.

Project duration: Two months (summer 2009)

Activities:

- Training course for teachers on active educational tools and methods. 15 teachers attended for a period of 4 days.
- Training Course on the content of educational programs. 15 teachers attended for two days.
- Remedial classes (160 students), equivalent to 540 hours of teaching in each school.
- Art activities: Drawing, chorus and poetry, equivalent to 280 hours of work.
- Workshops to educate parents: 6 meetings in each school.

The second project: Facilitating access to employment and rehabilitation for young people at risk.

Project Objectives:

- Providing unemployed or young people who dropped out of school with technologies and expertise necessary in certain occupations as well as refinement of individual and managerial skills in order to qualify them to be ready to join the labor market.
- Promoting opportunities for the targeted segment of the community to find jobs through networking and communicating with stakeholders.
- Strengthening the work of the child protection network in Tripoli through the project's activities.

The targeted group:

- Children and young people (age 14 to 25 years old, male and female) who dropped out of schools (having no chance of reintegration), unemployed youth or youth who have been working and wish to expand their knowledge and enhance their opportunities.

Project duration:

Five months from October 2009 to February 2010

Project activities:**The first activity:** Training of trainers:

- Through the implementation of training sessions to prepare trainers, these sessions aimed at trainers and coordinators of the local community who took the technical and vocational training, 10 trainers and coordinators joined the sessions.

The second activity: training of youth

- Through the implementation of 8 vocational training courses (males and females) in the following specialties:
 - Secretarial and principles of management: three sessions
 - Photography: one session
 - Gardening and flower arrangement: one session
 - Jewelry industry and accessories: two sessions
 - Business Administration: one session

Then Mrs. Salam Mawas, director of the New Ahed School in Tripoli talked about her first experience in the protection and reintegration of children who dropped out of school:

Activities:

- Training teachers on active educational methods, and the content of educational programs.
- Remedial classes for students at the New Ahed School, Victory School (Mina)

Total female: 104, or 65% of the total number of beneficiaries.

Total male: 56, or 35% of the total number of beneficiaries.

540 hours of teaching in each school.

- Art activities and drawing at the New Ahed School (72 hours).
- Chorus in Victory School 180 hours of training

Workshops and guidance for parents:

- 6 workshops (3 with parents of New Ahed School and 3 with parents of Victory School)
- Topics focused on the role of the family and parents in reducing school drop-out, educational methods and positive learning, collective responsibility (school, parents and the surrounding area) to provide the best conditions for the continuity of learning and progress.

Features of the project:

At the level of teachers: their full attendance on all training days and the good response of children.

At the level of parents: attending all workshops and their awareness of the importance of remedial classes and its positive impact on the behavior of their children and their desire to learn.

At the level of school management: full response from all school departments and the expression of students' enthusiasm in daily attendance to school.

At the level of students: attending all remedial classes and their commitment to all sessions and activities that exceeded the number of scheduled hours, expressing their gratitude for the new learning methods and activities.

The outlook for the beneficiaries:

- The necessity of continuing the project in schools that have already been committed to it.
- The need to expand this experience to other schools and on a large scale.
- Adoption of approaches and active methods in education.
- To intensify the technical and expressive activities in schools.
- Strengthening relationships between parents and school administrations.
- Organization of awareness seminars for parents.
- The need for the involvement of associations in future projects to ensure the dissemination of the experience.

Then Mr. Michel Khoury, photography and Photoshop trainer introduced his experience in the pilot project for the program to facilitate access to employment and rehabilitation for young people at risk:

The vocational training courses were a short training period of three months.

The program included theoretical and practical training at the center and outside, life skills training and management skills, enabling trainees to develop their life skills, technical and administrative skills, and communication with the labor market.

Many courses were held in AL Kobe, Mina and Badawi on the subject of secretarial and principles of computer, the duration of each session: 3 sessions, 57 trainees.

And one session was on the topic of Business Administration held for the graduates of vocational training courses undertaken by the Municipality of Tripoli for 3 months in Kabara Center in Tripoli and attended by 18 trainees from Tripoli, Mina and Al Baddawi.

Two sessions of jewelry industry in Mina and Beddawi (duration of each session 3 months) and 42 trainees attended.

Session of arranging flowers in the Orphan Child Relief Society, two-month with 21 trainers and trainees.

Photography session at the Nawfal Palace of 3 months, 17 trainers and trainees joined the session.

In the end, the results were presented:

The numerical results are as follows:

- o training of 10 trainers and supervisors for vocational training
- o training of 155 direct beneficiaries (unemployed youth)
- o 8 vocational training courses.

The main qualitative results are:

- o Standardization of vocational training for trainers.
- o Improving employment opportunities for 155 beneficiaries.
- o 155 prospective trainees ready to enter the labor market.

8.5 View of the Urban Poverty Reduction project

Dr. Osman Nour, Project Coordinator of urban poverty reduction (the Arab Urban Development Institute) presented the AUDI's activities of the project on the alleviation urban poverty project to reduce urban poverty in some cities in the Middle East and North Africa.

Nour pointed out that "The increasing flow of currents migration of rural residents to cities and major urban centers has led to increased rates of urban growth significantly. This high rate of growth is not matched by expansion and development in social, economic sectors and in health services, which led to the emergence of the phenomenon of urban poverty in many cities of the Middle East and North Africa.



Due to the increase of this phenomenon and its negative effects on the population, the Arab Urban Development Institute shows interest in this

phenomenon and developed a project on urban poverty reduction in some Arab cities adopting a model that can be applied to the rest of the other cities.

AUDI's Urban Poverty project has several components, including research activities, evaluating of past poverty reduction experiences and programs. The following are examples for some studies prepared by commissioned researchers:

- The poverty of women in Arab cities
- The situation of children and adolescents and urban poverty.
- Interrelationships between population dynamics and poverty in the Arab cities with rapid growth.
- The issue of education for girls.
- Health and development rights for youth and adolescents.
- The role of mothers in improving the productive capacity of the families of children and youth poverty.

Based on these studies AUDI developed a project to alleviate urban poverty in Khartoum (Sudan), Sana'a (Yemen) and Nakchoot (Mauritania).

Project Objectives:

- Assist cities and local administrations in developing and implementing programs and projects for poverty alleviation.
- Prepare and qualify the cadres working in the preparation, implementation and oversight of these programs.
- Strengthening the capacity of municipal workers and local authorities to integrate issues of population and urban poverty reduction policies within the city development strategies.
- Assist city administrations with regard to strengthening the role of the private sector and civil society organizations and regional and international organizations in poverty alleviation.
- Raise awareness and dialogue among the people in urban centers on the policies, programs and projects that help to alleviate urban poverty.
- Assess the experiences and examine best practices related to projects combating urban poverty in some Arab cities.

AUDI's projects activities to reduce urban poverty:

1 - PRA workshop on poverty (Khartoum – Sudan):

Regional Training Workshop held in Khartoum from 13 to 17 July 2008 under the auspices of the Minister of Social Affairs in Khartoum, Dr. / Samia Habbani. Some of the participants from Sudan, Egypt and Yemen in local administrations and councils of family, women and children participated in the workshop. Somali delegation was not able to attend the for security reasons. Although the project was aimed at twenty trainees, but those who have been trained were 77 trainees.

The training program consists of development and design of programs to alleviate urban poverty. The participants were trained on the methodology of Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) with the practical application in the poor areas of the peripheral regions of the city of Greater Khartoum (which included the areas of research Dar e Salaam, Haj Yousif and Keriats).

Search has been prepared for the reality of poor families in the peripheral neighborhoods of the city of Khartoum (Dar Salaam, Hajj Yusuf, Alkriab) by facilitators, teachers and social workers.

The study entitled “efforts of local governments to reduce urban poverty in Sudan”

consisted of the following topics:

- Theoretical framework of the study and points of the Sudanese experience to combat poverty.
- Islamic perspective on the phenomenon of poverty and ways to remedy them.
- International efforts to fight poverty and its impact on programs of care for the poor in Sudan.
- Strategies and policies to fight poverty in Sudan.
- Models of the activities of some organizations and institutions and their efforts to alleviate poverty in Khartoum state.

2- Technical and advisory support:

One hundred and three employees in some local administrations were trained to develop and design projects, small-scale production and to build capacities, consulting services were also provided to local administrations in the development of partnership between civil society organizations and the private sector and municipalities to alleviate urban poverty, one hundred and three employees in the departments of local communities have been trained on how to collect data on urban poverty.

He said: The Institute held an educational workshop in Tripoli from 14/ 12/ 2009 to 23/ 12/ 2009 aimed to:

- Training and qualify of staff in the preparation and implementation of programs and projects to reduce poverty
- Training of personnel on a quick search partnership
- The preparation of projects and the search for financial resources from donors to implement programs
- To provide programs to build staff capacity in the municipality of Tripoli to reduce poverty
- Increasing awareness and dialogue about the programs to ease urban poverty and strengthen the role of private sector in this area.

8.6 Delivery of Certificates

After the opening ceremony, there was the graduation of students who have completed accelerated vocational courses:

1 - Course of Photography and Photoshop:

The course was held at the Nawfal Palace from 15-11-2009 to 25 February 2010.

The session involved 17 participants: 9 girls and 8 young people and of the participants were of special needs. This session provided an opportunity to learn a useful technique.

2 - Gardening and Flower Arrangement:

Session was held in Shaarany Orphanage from 4/12/2009 to 3/10/2010.

The session involved 21 girls and a young man where it was highly demanded.

3 - Jewelry and Accessories:

The course was held at the training center of the Sommoud House of Children in Beddawi.

The session involved 24 women and girls from the camp population, and work is underway to facilitate the marketing by the national institution.

4 - Jewelry and Accessories:

The course was held at the Training Centre of the Forum of the Handicapped in the enamel

Session brought together 18 people - 13 girls and 5 young people from the area of Mina. This session has set up a model of social integration.

5 - Secretarial course and Principles of Management:

The course was held at the center of the House of Children in Beddawi from 5-11- 2009 to 25-2- 2010

25 trainees 19 girls and 6 youth

The training focused on the acquisition of management skills and information on accounting and archiving with the proper use of the computer.

6 - Secretarial course and Principles of Management:

The course was held at the Training Centre Forum of the Handicapped in North Lebanon in Mina from 1/12/2009 to 25/02/2010

19 persons joined the session 13 women and 6 young men.

The training focused on the acquisition of management skills and



information on accounting and archiving with the proper use of computers, this course was suitable for social integration.

7 - Secretarial course and Principles of Management:

This course was held at Wave Center in Kobe from 5-11-2009 to 25-2-2010. 13 trainees, 11 girls and two teenagers, joined the session.

8 - Business Administration:

This course was held at Kabara Center in Tripoli from 5-11-2009 to 5-2-2010. 18 trainees, 4 girls and 14 men, attended this session.

The project partners:

- Union of Municipalities of Fayhaa
- Forum of the Handicapped in North Lebanon - Mina
- Islamic Women's Association
- Shaarany Orphanage
- (NISCVT)
- Islamic Orphan House
- Society Against Violence Against Women
- Assembly and Yves
- Kabbara Association
- Girls Assembly Wathba
- Tripoli Employees Office
- Association of Al Gamrawi
- Green Hand
- Saint Maron Parish



During the conference some graduates presented their products.