

Child Labour Rapid Assessment

Dohuk, July 2015.

Summary

Following an observed increase of child labour cases by child protection (CP) partners in Dohuk Governorate, Unicef jointly with DoLSA formed a Child Labour Task Force (CLTF) to address this phenomenon. In one of the first meeting of the CLTF it was decided to conduct a rapid assessment at the level of Dohuk Governorate to assess the scope and forms of child labour.

In July 2015, DoLSA together with Save the Children International (SCI), International Rescue Committee (IRC) and local NGO Harikar conducted a one-day rapid assessment in the following districts of Dohuk Governorate: Duhok, Zakho and Sumel. These three districts were selected due to its economic prosperity, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees residing in these areas and the number of street involved children.

In total, 1890 (G: 67 and B: 1823) children were interviewed and identified as working children. They were identified in the locations where working children are usually seen, such as marketplaces, traffic lights, restaurants, vegetable wholesale markets and factories. The assessment findings indicated that the majority of the working children (63%) were from the host community, followed by IDPs (23%) and refugees (16%).

As per the location, the majority of working children was identified in Dohuk (1196), followed by Zakho (383) and Sumel (311). For the host community working children, the majority was identified in Dohuk (768), followed by Sumel (216) and Zakho (155). For the IDPs, the majority of working children was identified in Zakho (179), followed by Dohuk (177) and Sumel (85); and for refugees the majority of identified working children was in Dohuk (251), followed by Zakho (49) and Sumel (10).

Out of 1890 children, 1370 children were between 8 – 15 years old. For the boys, the predominant age group was from 8 – 15, while for the girls the predominant age group was from 8 – 12 years old. The highest number of identified children (48%) worked as street peddlers, followed by daily workers in shops, teashops, grocery shops, restaurants, etc. (35%), car wash, car services and agriculture (9%), construction works (3%) and beginning (1%).

Based on the findings of the rapid assessment it was recommended to:

- Enforce the implementation of the Labour Law and to hold parents/care givers responsible for sending their children to work;
- Increase awareness raising activities targeting general audience on risks related to child labour;

- Enhance cooperation among and within relevant governmental structures and CP actors;
- Form intervention teams composed of juvenile police and social workers to identify and respond to child labour cases;

Legislative Framework

As stipulated by the Iraqi Labour Law, Article 91, (adopted in 1978), the minimum working age is set at 15 years. According to this Law, children are allowed to work under parental or family supervision and cannot be involved in work that may lead to occupational or contagious disease or to serious contamination or work which, because of 'its nature, the procedures used or the circumstances under which it is carried out, presents a danger to the life, morality or health of the person engaging it'¹. Moreover, the children below 18 can be involved in daily work only up to maximum 7 hours per day.

However, this law encompasses only children who work in official businesses and not those children who are involved in activities such as begging, shoe polishing and selling items on the streets.

Background

In 2007, DoLSA jointly with Kurdistan Save the Children and Zewa Centre for Child Protection conducted a first assessment of child labour in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Back then, in total 2565 host community working children were identified and an action plan² was agreed by the partners to address this problem. As a follow up on the 2007 Child Labour assessment and actions taken, in 2010 a second assessment was carried out by the same actors supervised by the Dohuk General Directorate of Social Care. The second assessment showed that the child labor had decreased by 47% in Duhok city.

With the Syrian conflict and outbreak of internal conflicts inside Iraq, poverty, economic insecurity and vulnerability of many people, particularly children have significantly increased. This has had a significant effect on Dohuk Governorate where the highest number of IDPs and refugees fled to.

Throughout 2015, the CP actors noticed a significant increase of child labour cases that has been discussed at the Child Protection Sub Cluster Working Group Meetings. Due to the magnitude of the phenomenon, it was decided to form a Task Force on Child Labour to address the phenomenon. The CLTF, composed of the representatives of DoLSA, UNICEF, Save the Children International (SCI), International Rescue Committee (IRC), local NGO Harikar and UNHCR, in its first meeting decided to conduct a one-day rapid assessment to get a better overview over the child labor phenomenon in view of the current situation and demographic changes in the Governorate. One of the aims was to obtaining preliminary data

¹ 90. Labor Code

² No further data was provided by DoLSA on previous labour assessments and action points.

on number, gender and community group (refugee, IDP, host community) of the working children that would serve as a first step in developing a prevention and response mechanism.

Methodology

The one-day rapid assessment was conducted in the following districts of Dohuk Governorate: Duhok, Zakho and Sumel. These three districts were selected due to its economic prosperity, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees residing in these areas and the number of street involved children.

Three assessment teams were formed in the following order:

- I team composed of DoLSA and SCI representatives, covering Dohuk;
- II team composed of DoLSA and IRC representatives, covering Sumel;
- III team composed of NGO Harikar representatives, covering Zakho;

In all these districts, a random rapid assessment was carried out in the locations where working children are usually seen, such as marketplaces, traffic lights, restaurants, vegetable wholesale markets and factories. The template below was used by enumerators to collect data on the interviewed working children.

Name الاسم :

Form Number رقم الاستمارة :

NO الرقم	Population الفئة المجتمعية نازح - لاجئ - مجتمع مستضيف	Location الموقع	Girl انثى	Boy ذكر	Age العمر	Type of work نوع العمل	Reason of work سبب العمل	Remark الملاحظات
1								
2								

Main Findings

Number of identified children

In total, 1890 (G: 67 and B: 1823) children were interviewed and identified as working children. The majority of the identified working children (63%) were from the host community, followed by IDPs (23%) and refugees (17%).

The highest number of identified working children (1196) was in Dohuk, followed by Zakho (383) and Sumel (311).

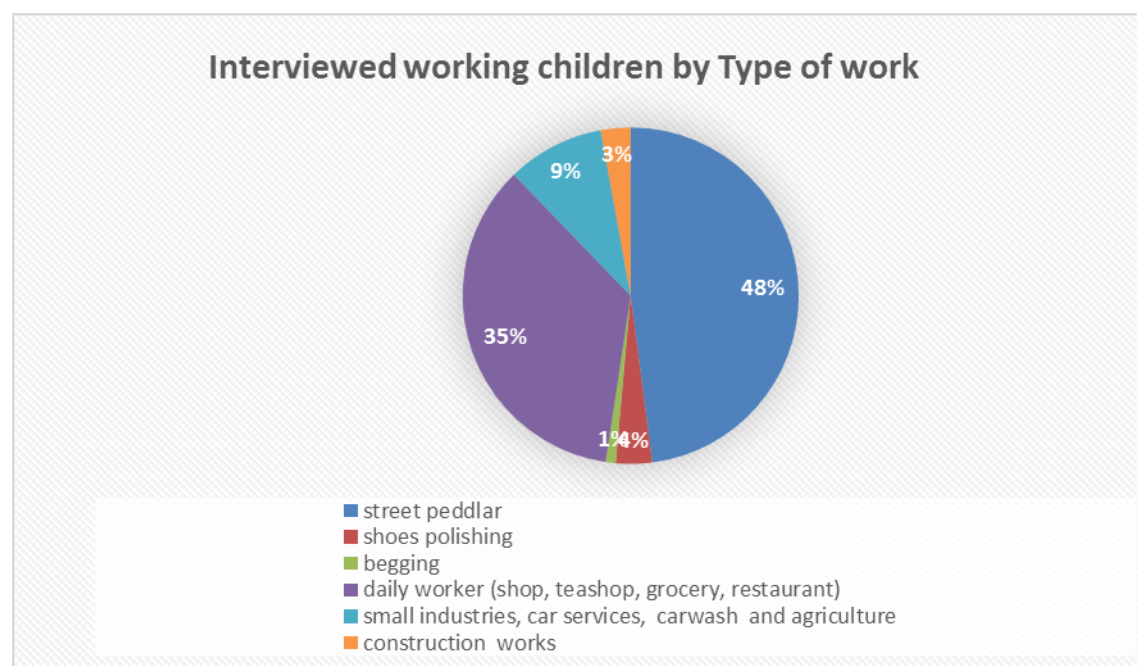
The following chart gives an overview over the identified working children per location and community group:

District	TF Member	Refugee	Host Community	IDPs-	Total-
Duhok	DOLSA-SCI	251	768	177	1196
Sumel	DOLSA-IRC	10	216	85	311
Zakho	HARIKAR	49	155	179	383
Total		310	1139	441	1890
Grand Total		1890			

Types of Work

When it comes to the types of work, the highest number of identified children (48%) worked as street peddlers, followed by daily workers in shops, teashops, grocery shops, restaurants, etc. (35%), car wash, car services and agriculture (9%), construction works (3%) and beginning (1%).

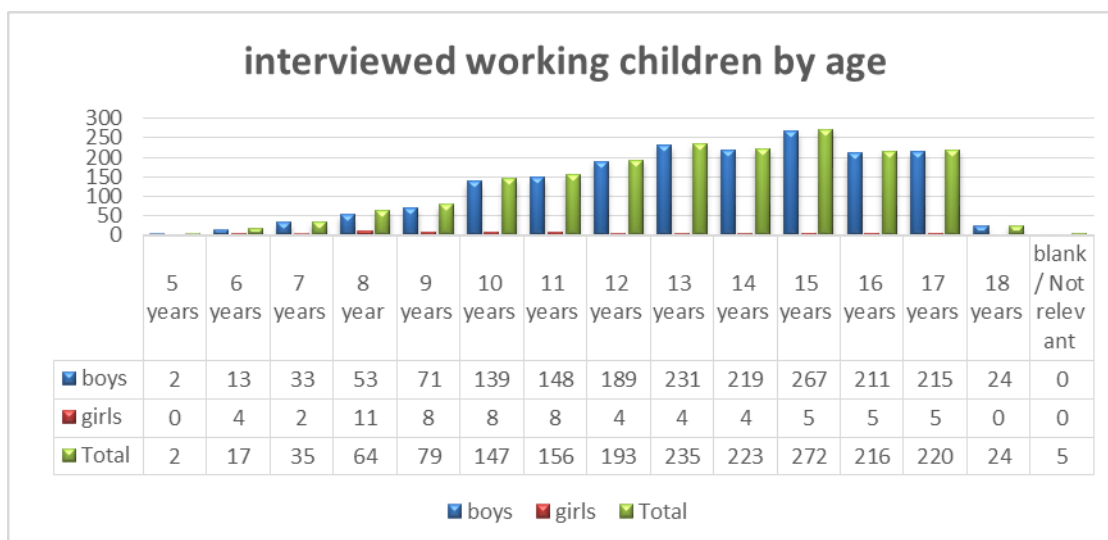
The following chart illustrates the findings:



Age and Gender

Out of 1890 identified working children, 1370 children were between 8 – 15 years old. For the boys, the predominant age group was from 8 – 15, while for the girls the predominant age group was from 8 – 12 years old.

The following chart illustrates the findings:



Reasons for Work

When it comes to main reasons for working, the majority of children stated were economically supporting their families. This was followed by poverty as the main reason and by end of school year where there were no other activities available to them. Other reasons were listed as forced by family, out of/drop out of schools, peer pressure and a few cases of orphans who had no adult support.

The following chart illustrates the findings:

Reason for Work نه گهری کاری	Number هه ژمار	Percentage % رێژه یا سهادی
Family Support پشته فانی خیزانی	1123	59.42
Poor فه قیر	271	14.34
School Holiday بهینه فهدانا هاقینی	223	11.80
Personal Desire حه زه که سایه تی	81	4.29
Forced By Family پالدای ژلایی خیزانی فه	75	3.97
Peer Influence کارتیکرنا هه فالان	47	2.49
School Drop-Out هیلانا قوتابخانی	45	2.38
Orphan نی تیم	25	1.32
Total کوی گشتی	1890	100

Conclusions

Having in mind that this was a one day rapid assessment only, the obtained data can only be used as a very first step in developing a comprehensive prevention and response mechanism to the issue of child labour at the KRI level. For that end, further surveys and/or studies might be needed. Also, challenges, such as cultural tolerance and attitude, including the feeling of empathy towards families need to be addressed, together with enforcement of the laws and developing clear roles and responsibilities of various governmental stakeholders in preventing and responding to this phenomenon.

For the purpose of this assessment, the following recommendations were agreed among the CLTF members:

- Enforce the implementation of the Labour Law and to hold parents/care givers responsible for sending their children to work;
- Increase awareness raising activities targeting general audience on risks related to child labour;
- Enhance cooperation among and within relevant governmental structures and CP actors;
- Form intervention teams composed of juvenile police and social workers to identify and respond to child labour cases;