## Background

### 1. Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?
- UNFPA
- UNESCO
- UNICEF
- UN Women

### 2. Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?

#### On promoting media and information literacy:
- Minister of State for Media Affairs
- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Jordan Media Institute

#### On the Youth, Peace and Security Coalition (UNSCR 2250):
- Ministry of Youth: Dr. Thabet Nabulsi, 0797779990, Thabet.AINabulsi@moy.gov.jo
- Crown Prince Foundation: Mais Daoud, 0799551003, MDAOUD@cpf.jo

They were both consulted directly regarding the case study and are well informed since they are part of the Coalition, MoY as the umbrella and CPF as the Co-chair of the Coalition Secretariat together with UNFPA.

#### On addressing Violence Against Children:
- National Council for Family Affairs: Mohammed Meqdadi, National Council for Family Affairs: meqdady@ncfa.org.jo
- Ministry of Education: Dr. Zeinab Shawabkeh; zainabsh_3@hotmail.com
- Ministry of Social Development: Dr. Ahmad Abu-Haidar; aabuhaidar@hotmail.com

#### On the Jordanian National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security
- Jordanian National Commission for Women
- National Coalition for UNSCR 1325
- Higher Steering Committee for JONAP (Jordanian National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325)

### 3. Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?

- [ ] Adapting SDG 16
- [ ] Implementing SDG 16
- [ ] Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
- [ ] National level
- [ ] Regional level
- [ ] Local level

## Case Study

### OPTION 1 (pre-structured)

### 4. Country context for the achievement of SDG 16
SDG 16 in Jordan was approached through the key targets of 16.1, 16.2, 16.7, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a. When it comes to implementing Agenda 2030 and achieving SDG 16, Jordan is still in a precarious situation as regards reducing all forms of violence and addressing inequalities and access to justice and information.

Jordan is a country that has been surrounded by conflict over the years, welcoming large refugee populations at a high-cost, while it struggles with persistent gender inequalities, high levels of unemployment, especially among the youth, security concerns, and a shrinking space for civil society. Compounding these multiple overlapping vulnerabilities are also a rapidly growing population; gaps in the quality of basic education; prevalence of violence against women and children; and, weak citizen participation in governance and politics.

As a country with two major conflicts on its borders, a large refugee population, increasing concerns related to violent extremism, low participation of women in the security sector, and limited policy dialogue on security issues, the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda is a key policy framework for addressing Jordan’s security and stability issues.

In addition to the above mentioned, unemployment and challenges facing the youth in Jordan is a growing concern: approximately 70% of the population are below the age of 30, and yet Jordan has one of the highest unemployment rates in the MENA region with almost one third of the youth unemployed, while informal and unpaid family work is pervasive. Despite an increase in access to education, it has not translated into higher employment opportunities. In contrast, labor market participation among high-skilled youth is particularly low and gender disparities are persistent where young women are especially vulnerable to unemployment (more than 2/3 outside the labor market).

Violence against women and children are closely associated with female empowerment and inequitable power dynamics within the family and society. Thus, economic empowerment of women is needed, running in parallel with violence prevention as well as behavioral change programmes that challenge gender roles and cultural norms, as gender inequality is linked to the acceptance of violence against women and girls.

Finally, inequalities also persist on political participation for the youth in Jordan more than for any other citizens. The emergence of the internet and social media platforms have fundamentally altered the way Jordanians consume and produce media and information as it has provided them with greater access to information, access to platforms where they can express their views but also has considerably increased polarization and divisions among Jordanians.

While a number of reforms and policies have been adopted, much remains to be done in strengthening and enabling institutions on following up regarding implementation and holding them accountable, on ensuring public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, and promoting non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development when it comes to youth and gender in particular.
5. Efforts to achieve SDG 16

Boosting the momentum of Jordan’s significant global leadership on the UNSCR 2250 process, a Coalition of youth and peace-oriented organizations in Jordan was launched on 9 December 2017 to publicly commemorate the 2-year anniversary and reaffirm commitment to effective implementation of the resolution in Jordan, under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hussein, and the Youth Minister.

UNFPA Jordan supported a coordination workshop with the coalition members and youth from all over Jordan to determine the Coalition structure and means of collaborative work on the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) portfolio. The Coalition under the umbrella of Jordanian Ministry of Youth (MoY) elected UNFPA and Crown Prince Foundation as the secretariat for the Coalition. Members of the Coalition include local and international NGOs, and UN agencies including UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, UN Women, I – Dare, Mercy Corps, WANA institute, JOHUD, British Council, the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), Generations for Peace, and Search for Common Ground.

In line with 2250 and 2419 approach and methodology, and specifically under the resolution section ‘Partnerships’, the Jordan YPS 2250 Coalition helps facilitate partnerships between all relevant stakeholders and is key to activate the work on Jordan national priorities working with and on youth issues.

Another key platform was the Jordanian National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (JONAP), which was developed by Government of Jordan, supported with technical expertise by UN Women, and with full participation of representatives from civil society, media, government and security and justice sector. The JONAP reflects the Government’s commitment to recognize the needs of women and girls during insecurity and conflict. The strong national commitment to the JONAP was evidenced by the implementation of institution-specific action plans. As an example, the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) has developed an internal plan for implementation of their JONAP commitments, noting that the JONAP process supported them in establishing a coherent institutional understanding of the concept of ‘gender’ across the security sector.

To address violence against children, the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) launched a multi-sectoral national strategy and action plans to end Violence against Children (2019-2021) endorsed by MoSD, MoE, MoH, FPD, NCFA and ZAIN with the support of UNICEF. The plan aimed at improving response services to the survivors of violence with a robust component to change social norms and acceptance of parents, communities and policy makers to violence as means of discipline. Thus, the plan of action adopted a holistic and multifaceted response targeting the legal and policy framework, social norms, local systems, parents and teachers’ capacity. It scaled-up of prevention and response services while having a strong communication for development component as a central element to promote positive behaviours and social change. UNICEF supported NCFA and Ministry of Social Development in the amendment and endorsement of the Domestic Violence Law and Penal Code. Currently, advocacy efforts are focusing on the endorsement of the newly developed Childhood and the Juvenile Laws with Cabinet and Parliament.
Finally, the efforts to promote media and information literacy commenced with raising awareness around these concepts through organizing public debates, focus groups discussions, and workshops with professors and policy makers, countrywide celebrations of the Media and Information Literacy Global Week. New modules were tested to reach out to young generations in schools by piloting extracurricular activities for schools students and workshops for universities students. Gradually and incrementally, these efforts expanded to empower civil society organizations to increase their awareness so that they could in return reach out and promote media and information literacy within their respective communities.

A truth-telling e-platform to identify inaccurate news that are propagated online and to alert the public about news deemed to be false, has been launched recently by the government. To facilitate the citizens’ right to access information, the national-level-online platform ‘Haggak Ta’raf’, or, ‘Your Right to Know’, aims at refuting rumours by providing accurate information and news with full objectivity and transparency. Through the platform, public is effectively and actively participating in the Open Government-OG initiatives and seeing themselves as part of these initiatives.

Within the government, the collective efforts of both by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of State Ministry for Media Affairs have been instrumental in expanding and piloting media and information literacy. The Ministry of Education adopted a national action plan to integrate media and information literacy as extracurricular activity for school students at grades 4 to 10. A new EU-funded project implemented by UNESCO encompasses schools, radios and CSO’s in four governorates.

6. Results so far and Way Forward

a. The recognition of media and information literacy as one of the key national priority, confirmed by its inclusion in the national strategy is the most critical result achieved, as it reflects an elevated inter-ministerial approach to media and information literacy in Jordan. The government calls stakeholders to scale-up the initiatives piloted so far. Therefore, further initiatives on media and information literacy shall be in line and supporting the successful implementation of the above.

b. The establishment of the national YPS 2250 Coalition is considered as the stepping stone towards an effective role in building and amplifying the momentum generated by Jordan’s past and present leadership in actualizing the 2250 agenda. For 2019, the Coalition members will develop a collective road map to ensure coordination among members on YPS intervention and organizing a national communication campaign that challenge the negative image on Jordanian youth and promotes an alternative narrative.

c. Jordan’s national action plan on implementing resolution 1325 on women, peace and security is comprehensive, strategic and grounded in Jordan’s reality, and developed with meaningful participation from all key stakeholders. Ground-breaking in many ways, including its focus on preventing violent extremism, the plan is also notably the first NAP on WPS globally to have successfully established a pooled fund mechanism bringing in five international partners and is managed by UN Women in partnership with the government. The current financial commitments have secured its implementation, which will be a key part in ensuring its sustainability. The key to the next phase of translating the plan into results over next four years will be ensuring that the inclusive and collaborative spirit that went into its drafting is sustained into the implementation phase.
d. Legislative framework covering child rights law and juvenile law has been revised for Parliament approval in 2019. The draft Childhood law will be a landmark event for children’s rights as it aims to institute the key rights that all children should enjoy in Jordan and principles that Government of Jordan and practitioners should adhere to ensure the best interest of the child is of paramount importance in all decisions and actions. Also, the Juvenile law amendments, based on the Juvenile Justice Situation Analysis recommendations, are expected to increase the number of children diverted from the formal justice system and strengthen community-based approaches.

e. The cumulative results of the Ma’An programme over the last five years is evident. The percentage of children who experience verbal or physical violence has shown steady and considerable decrease, from 44.8 per cent (verbal) in 2009 to 17.66 per cent in the scholastic year 2018-2019 and from 40.3 per cent (physical) to 12.76 per cent for the same period. However, boys continue to experience rates of violence high above the rate of girls, a factor which contributes to the drop out of adolescent boys.

7. Lessons Learned

National commitment is key to the success of this process. The YPS 2250 Coalition launching process witnessed three different Youth Ministers in one year, with each having a different approach and hence very poor policy coherence. Consequently, the need to engage at all levels, high and middle management especially, is essential to maintain the momentum and build on the progress made.

The sense of ownership and commitment across all stakeholders has made this process a pioneering model to follow. The inclusive consultation process as well as its participatory nature created a positive rapport and mutual understanding of the roles, responsibilities and challenges between the government, civil society and security sector representatives. It also accelerated the drafting, political buy in, and adoption of the JONAP.

Violence continue to be an epidemic in the Jordanian society not limited to schools. Thus, UNICEF is expanding its focus to include violence in all settings and will be utilising all media channels to reach families and communities.

Media literacy and digital literacy are increasingly relevant, not least for critical thinking as it empowers individuals to use media effectively, which strengthens their ability to actively participate in the media. It is also increasingly important as the cybercrime law, which according to right activists is criminalizing hate speech using too broad a definition of the offense and introducing tougher penalties such as longer prison terms for online crimes.

More investment in local capacities among NGO’s should be made. The engagement of media organizations and platforms is important to provide expertise, quality mentorship and support to educators, CSO’s and public authorities.

There is a need to set up a coordination mechanism among well-established organizations and experts, grassroots initiatives and organizations who are interested in carrying out media and information literacy programs and activities with a growing awareness of the legal environment in which this is taking place.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

- Crown Prince Foundation as the Co-chair of the Jordan YPS 2250 National Coalition Secretariat, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Youth
- Jordanian National Commission for Women
- National Coalition for UNSCR 1325
- Higher Steering Committee for JONAP (Jordanian National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325)
- Minister of Education and Higher Education and the ministry’s staff
- Minister of State for Media Affairs
- Jordan Media Institute
- National Council for Family Affairs
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Health