

Children's Parliament Alternative Reports
About The Situation Of Children Rights In Yemen
2006-2012



First Report
By the
Children's Parliament
On
The Conditions of Children in Yemen
2008

Introduction:

Yemen ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in May 1991. Since that time, three government reports have been issued coinciding with three shadow reports produced by civil society organizations under the umbrella of the coordinating agency for Yemeni non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with the care of child rights. This year, Yemen is striving to present its first report on the measures and procedures taken to implement the Optional Protocol (OP) to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, which was formulated to help towards achieving CRC purposes, particularly articles 1, 11, 21, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36. Yemen joined this OP per Law No. 20 dated 24 August 2004 in concurrence with the fourth report on actions taken to implement the CRC and comments provided by the International Human Rights Commission in Geneva concerning the previous reports.

Reporting Agency:

The Children's Parliament accepted the responsibility to prepare this report. The Children's Parliament was established in 2000 and is one of the primary projects run by the Democracy School. The Democracy School is based on the principle of continuous cooperation among government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and international organizations. In view of the growing awareness of the importance of children's participation in discussing and formulating laws and strategies laid down by the government and monitoring their implementation especially in relation to child rights, as well as being in a country such as Yemen where the total population of about 21 million consists of more than 50% children, it has become imperative to create mechanisms for activating the role of this segment of society. From this sprang the idea of establishing a children's parliament which has so far been very successful.

This year, the Children's Parliament has striven, in cooperation with Save the Children, to present this report as the first shadow report in Yemen prepared by children. In it they have detailed their observations and testimonies concerning measures taken to implement portions of the CRC and the OP on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography and activating the CRC's principles, particularly:

- Non-discrimination (Article 2),
- Best interests of the child (Article 3),
- Child's right to survival and growth (Article 6),
- Child's right to participation (Article 12).

Through this report, the Children's Parliament attempts to convey Yemeni children's voices to the International Child Rights Commission in Geneva, although without meaning to ignore the important role other government agencies and NGOs play in presenting their reports, which without doubt are more skilled and professional. The final outcome of all of this is community mobilization towards improving child rights in Yemen and the necessity of legal and practical commitments to such.

Issues Included in the Report:

The primary issues that the Children's Parliament viewed as important to include in its report included:

- Child smuggling,
- Child labor,
- Children in child care institutions,
- Birth registration,
- Conditions of Somali refugees in Yemen.

Report Preparation Methodology

The preparation of this report went through the following phases:

- Selection of subjects through discussions at Children's Parliament sessions.
- Determining groups or agencies to visit and setting up appointments, choosing information collection methods such as interviews, observation, and questionnaires, selecting documentation methods such as using still cameras or video cameras, as well as making the decision to utilize these visits for awareness-raising and distributing posters related to child rights and the subjects under study.
- Selection of field observation groups and coordination with the Democracy School and its coordinators in the governorates and some government agencies.
- Training of observation groups in report- writing.
- Execution of field visits.
- Conduct interviews with government officials and specialists in light of results of the visits and generate recommendations.

Difficulties faced in preparing the report:

The main difficulties and obstacles faced in preparing this report include:

- Lack of statistics and comprehensive studies concerning these phenomena in the past, since most of them are recent. This made it difficult to obtain a detailed assessment of the issues and information on the extent of prevalence.
- Absence of an independent information center specializing in children's issues. Such a center would conduct studies on the conditions of children in Yemen which would facilitate access to accurate, clear, and reliable information. Also, the existence of conflicting data and statistics presented by various government agencies and NGOs presented another obstacle.
- Poor cooperation by some agencies, officials, and specialists with the young researchers involved in field visits, as well as during the interviews with the House of Representatives.
- Difficulty in communicating with Democracy School coordinators and House representatives in some governorates for various reasons, which led to delays in the field visits or lack of results from them.

Course of Field Visits

I. Child Smuggling

The problem of smuggling Yemeni children across borders which exposes them to various dangers has lately become a prominent issue that has provoked much controversy and justifiable concerns. There is conflicting information regarding this issue. Some government estimates announced in various media outlets¹ indicated that the number of Yemeni children smuggled to Saudi Arabia in 2006 amounted to only 900 cases and that the prevalence was constantly decreasing. Also, a representative of the Ministry of the Interior announced at a session of the Children's Parliament on 28 Nov 2007 that 74 cases of child smuggling had been thwarted during the first half of the year and that the number of children smuggled per governorate was as follows: Hajjah 146, al-Hudaydah 107, Sa'ada 29, al-Mahweet 23, Taiz 13, Ibb 13, Sana'a 11, Dhamar 12, Raymah 7, al-Baydha' 3, Amran 2, Hadhramawt 2; while the number of smugglers per governorate was: Hajjah 4, Ma'rib 2, al-Baydha' 2, Aden 1, al-Hudaydah 1, and Ibb 1.

On the other hand, we find that reports from international and local NGOs provide different numbers. If we simply take the data issued by UNICEF, since it is the organization that is closest to the issue and plays the role of intermediary between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in efforts to solve the problem, we find that the number of children returned to Yemen through the Haradh border crossing amounted to 9,765 in the year 2006 of which 96% were boys and 4% girls. UNICEF estimates that the annual rate of increase in the number of children trafficked is 4.1%.

The Yemeni-Saudi coordination and UNICEF's support on this issue should be noted here. The two sides agreed upon conducting joint social research studies on child exploitation and child smuggling in order to apply the executive mechanism of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006 between the two countries during Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council meetings held in Mukalla, Hadhramawt and approved in 2007.

Furthermore, in spite of the formation of a joint Yemeni-Saudi committee and a national committee for combating child smuggling composed of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood and various government agencies, the national committee's

¹ This refers to statements made by the Yemeni ambassador to Saudi Arabia to the Yemeni Saba News Agency on 10 January 2007 following agreement made on the executive mechanism for the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries signed in 2006 during Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council meetings in the city of Mukalla, Hadhramawt.

actions were limited to training and qualifying border workers at the Yemeni-Saudi border and the joint committee was not activated at all.

Regardless of the numbers or information, the Children's Parliament felt it was necessary to directly observe this phenomenon in the regions where it occurs. Its mere existence indicates a flaw in society's humanitarian, religious, ethical, and legal values, as well as deficiencies in the application of Yemen's commitment to the CRC, most notably Article 11 which calls for combating the transport of children to and from their home countries in illegal manners. It also shows a deficiency in compliance with articles in the CRC's optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, particularly articles 1, 11, 21, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

Field Visit Dates:

27-30 October 2007

Field Visit Participants:

The coordinators and supervisors in each governorate participated in the field visits along with members of the Children's Parliament (8 participants of which were 4 boys and 4 girls).

Field Visit Regions:

Two governorates of al-Hudaydah and Hajjah covering the districts of Haradh, Abs, Bayt-al-Faqih, and al-Marawa'ah.

Target Institutions:

Schools; center for protection of smuggled children in Haradh.

Field Visit Objectives:

The goal of these visits was to:

- Observe the phenomenon close up and learn about the experiences of children who had been smuggled.
- Educate children on the dangers of being smuggled.
- Educate school directors and teachers within target schools on the risks of smuggling.
- Distribute printed materials including papers, stickers, and brochures in the target regions.

- Involve members of the Children's Parliament and a number of volunteers in educating others on the dangers of child smuggling.
- Bring attention to efforts taken to reduce the phenomenon of child smuggling.

Target Population:

8 schools; 5,360 students, both boys and girls.

Supporting Agency:

UNICEF

Observations:

The Children's Parliament team headed for the districts listed above since they are the most prominent border regions from which most infiltration operations and child smuggling take place, particularly of children from these same regions. The team aimed to raise awareness in as many children as possible on the risks involved in child smuggling and to convey the personal experiences of those who were victims of it. Coordination for the visits was done through members of local councils, district security directors, and school directors. The visits also included a trip to the Social Protection Center for Children which temporarily receives children returned by the Saudi border authorities. The most important observations that resulted from these visits are as follows:

1. The most prominent reasons for the prevalence of child smuggling are poverty, the inability of citizens to benefit from basic services such as education and health, the exploitation of smuggled persons due to their dire need and poverty, and poor awareness- raising through media on the dangers and illegality of child smuggling. This leads some parents to entrust their children to the hands of smugglers in return for material returns. There are also some children who, under pressure of poverty and deprivation, either in the desire to help their parents and return (from working in Saudi Arabia) with great sums of money (as they assume) or as a result of the disintegration of the family unit, try to cross the border on their own or by way of known smugglers without comprehending the dangers to which they will be exposed.
2. There are cases of children being kidnapped by gangs specializing in stealing children in various regions of the country. Some of these gangs succeed in smuggling children across borders which highlights the weak role played by defense and security forces.
3. Some border guards collaborate with smugglers and facilitate their crimes in return for bribes.
4. Smuggled children are exposed to harsh and difficult conditions during the smuggling process across the border. Some are beaten, humiliated, deprived from food and

drink, and even exposed to immoral practices against them by the smugglers. They also have to cross on foot through difficult terrain that exposes them to poisonous insects and snakes, or puts them at risk of arrest by the Saudi border guards who place them in jails mixed with criminals.

5. Some children are exposed to great dangers once across the border such as being sold to other people, used in illegal businesses, begging, smuggling qat and fireworks, or being forced into immoral sexual acts.
6. These children also lack access to follow-up care.
7. Some smuggled children have not been returned to their country and their parents do not know what has happened to them.

Children's Parliament interview of specialists following the field visits:

Based on prior field visits and the resulting observations, the Children's Parliament held its sixth session from 24-28 November 2007 entitled "Child Smuggling is a Crime Punishable by Law".

The organizations that were questioned and debated include: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of the Interior, Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, UNICEF, members of the House of Representatives, and other agencies that attended the discussions (see attached session reports).

These sessions resulted in the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. The crime of child smuggling and other crimes that result from it should be regarded as felonies that deserve harsh, deterrent penalties to be dealt to anyone who participates in any stage of the act based on the amount of harm caused to the child.
2. Increase continuous awareness-raising campaigns targeting as large a population as possible of families, both at the national and local levels and especially at border regions. Provide the necessary funds and materials along with access to a variety of official and unofficial audio, visual, and printed media outlets focusing on variety (stickers, documentary films and cartoons, theatrical plays, school curricula, lectures in mosques, seminars, etc.). Programs should involve children who have been victims of the dangers of smuggling and other concerned children in awareness-raising, observation, and follow-up programs so that the message could be delivered much more effectively.
3. Strengthen security cooperation and coordination between both sides of the border to ensure that children are treated humanely and considered victims of smuggling, not partners in a crime, and to create more effective control at the borders.
4. Strive to implement the comprehensive strategy for poverty reduction, focusing on improving the conditions of children in Yemen by increasing public budget allocations related to services for children such as education and health; expand the social security network to encourage poor families, especially in border regions, to establish small businesses that contribute to raising their income level and reducing child smuggling.
5. Select qualified and trained border control staff to specialize in dealing with children.
6. Form committees in schools to combat violence against children and set up a hotline for immediate reporting of abuses; make this hotline available in all governorates.

7. Ensure placement of social workers and psychologists at centers working with smuggled children. Prepare these specialists both socially and emotionally. Establish more care and rehabilitation centers for children.
8. Activate the role of the national committee for combating child smuggling; coordinate among its members according to a comprehensive plan to eliminate this phenomenon. Its tasks should include establishing a unified database covering the issue.
9. The Ministry of Islamic Endowments should include awareness-raising on the dangers of child smuggling in its work plans and distribute this to all imams of mosques in all governorates.

II. Children Working in the Streets

In recent years, two dangerous trends have spread on a national scale; the first is child labor and the second is street children. These two trends are greatly interlinked as we find that many working children also live in the streets or work there. Conversely, street children depend on work to obtain their minimum needs for livelihood. Added to this is that the causes and dangers of the two trends on the child, family, and community are very similar. From this standpoint, our concern was to directly observe the phenomenon and search for solutions. This situation clearly conflicts with the most basic child rights protected by divine laws and international and local laws. Such rights include the child's inalienable right to life, education, health, a suitable standard of living, and protection from abuse, neglect, and all forms of economical or sexual exploitation, drug abuse or drug trafficking and any other forms of exploitation.

A by-law was issued to this effect which defined illegal occupations for working children under 18 years of age under ministerial decree No. 56/2004.

Field Visit Dates:

Members of the Children's Parliament conducted field visits to observe the conditions of working children in the streets coinciding with visits made by some children's institutions. This was done in two phases, the first being on 27 January 2007 in the Capitol Secretariat (city of Sana'a), and the second from 21-26 July 2007 encompassing almost all governorates.

Field Visit Participants:

Children's Parliament members in all governorates.

Field Visit Locations:

First phase in Sana'a and second phase in almost all governorates, with the exception of Sa'adah due to its security situation, and Hadhramawt due to the summer vacation and the inability to communicate with members of the Children's Parliament in Hadhramawt.

Target Locations:

Certain streets where large numbers of working children are found, as well as cities and public markets in all governorates.

Field Visit Objective:

To learn of the conditions of working children in the streets and the dangers they face.

Supporting Agencies:

First phase coordinated by the Democracy School (CP's general secretariat); second phase supported by UNICEF.

Observations:

The field visits resulted in the following observations:

1. Poverty is the primary reason for the spread of the phenomenon of child labor in the streets. It causes families to force their children to search for work or children themselves go out in search of work due to an early sense of responsibility. This leads them to drop out of school and increases the rate of internal migration from rural areas to cities.
2. There is a high ratio of street children who have escaped family problems such as divorce or the death of one or more parents. This is exacerbated by the weak or non-existent alternative care services for children, which leads to homeless children in the streets.
3. The phenomenon of child labor is common in all cities across the country. The ages of working children in the streets range from 6 to 18 years. This is in violation of the CRC, particularly Articles 1, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, and the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography Article 3, paragraph 1 (a). It is also in violation of the Yemeni Child Rights Law which designates the minimum age for a working child to be 14 and forbids employment of a child under that age. It also forbids employment of a child under 15 to work in heavy industries. The Yemeni Labor

Law also states that children under 18 may only work in specific occupations as stated in ministerial decree No. 56, Article 45 of the General Labor Law of 1995. Work hours for these occupations may not exceed seven hours per day or 42 hours per week and no child may be forced to work more than 4 hours at a time without a break. Since most street children do not work for specific or known employers, their situation is much more dangerous than other child laborers. They have no access to even the least legal protection such as limited work hours; some of them may actually work up to 17 hours a day.

4. Children work in arduous and dangerous jobs that are unsuitable for their age and physical abilities such as carrying stone blocks, ironwork, carpentry, vehicle body repair work, or work at bus stations. Another common job is selling simple goods at street intersections, which puts them in danger of passing cars. Bad habits that are acquired in the streets include addiction to smoking and qat. They may also be exploited by gangs or individuals to engage in illegal acts such as selling and consuming alcohol and drugs and performing sexual acts that conflict with public decency. Working street children also face much verbal and physical abuse and are vulnerable to kidnapping, smuggling, and sexual harassment while they work.

Children's Parliament interview of specialists following the field visits:

Based on the prior field visits and resulting observations, the Children's Parliament held its fifth session entitled "Child Labor- a phenomenon that needs a solution" from 6-8 August 2007. The various relevant organizations discussed the issue of child labor and the conditions of street children. These agencies included: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Ministry of the Interior, Capitol Secretariat, the international program for combating child labor under the International Labor Organization (IPEC?), and the rehabilitation center for child laborers.

Following the session, the Children's Parliament produced the following recommendations:

1. Call for the implementation of the comprehensive strategy for poverty reduction, focusing on improving the conditions of children in Yemen by increasing public budget allocations related to services for children such as education and health and allocations for organizations working with children; expand the social security network to encourage poor families to establish small businesses that contribute to raising their income level and reduce the need to have their children work.
2. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns through audio, visual, and written media, as well as within schools to inform people on the dangers that street children and working children face. Focus on communicating to children themselves and informing

them of the special hotline through which they may report any abuses that happen to them.

3. All concerned agencies should work to activate execution of child labor laws, strengthen monitoring of places where children work, and enforce penalties on them for any violations.
4. Relevant agencies should assist street children to locate appropriate shelters, provide alternative care for them with a focus on health, emotional, and social rehabilitation, and help them to complete their schooling or vocational education.
5. Relevant agencies should train and qualify their staff working with children in proper approaches for working with children and prepare corresponding training guides for each agency.
6. Establish centers for qualifying and educating working children in all governorates.
7. Educate on the harms to children of smoking and chewing qat through the media, especially visual media; enact laws to prohibit their use by children under 18 wherein anyone who urges or facilitates a child use of such will be penalized.
8. Establish development projects in rural areas.

III. Children in Institutions

Members of the Children's Parliament conducted field visits to observe the conditions of children in institutions working with children such as those that keep them in custody or provide care. The locations visited included: temporary jails, central prisons (juvenile and women's wards), orphanages, police stations, juvenile care homes, and some government-run hospitals. The visits were performed in two phases; phase one from 30 January to 6 February 2007 in the Capitol Secretariat, and phase two from 21-26 July 2007 in almost all governorates which was done in coordination with visits to observe the conditions of working street children as noted above.

Field Visit Participants:

The first phase was implemented by Children's Parliament members in the city of Sana'a while the second phase was implemented by CP members in the governorates.

Field Visit Locations:

The first phase location was in the Capitol Secretariat while the second phase took place in almost all governorates with the exception of Sa'adah due to its security situation and Hadhramawt due to the summer vacation and the inability to make contact with members of the CP there.

Target Institutions:

During the first phase, the CP visited the central prison, 5 temporary jails, 3 public hospitals, one public orphanage, the Center for Safe Childhood, Social Guidance Home for Juveniles, and conducted interviews with government officials including the former Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Justice, and the Secretary General of the Higher Council of Motherhood and Childhood. The second phase was more extensive and included visits to fifteen hospitals, five orphanages in various governorates, five children's care homes, five juvenile care homes, nine temporary jails, and eight central prisons with facilities for juveniles.

Field Visit Objective:

The visits aimed to involve the Children's Parliament in learning close up of the conditions of children in various institutions working with children.

Supporting Agencies:

The first phase was coordinated with the Democracy School (CP's general secretariat) and the second phase was supported by UNICEF.

Observations:**1. Children in Conflict with the Law**

According to the Ministry of the Interior, the number of juvenile delinquents cases recorded for the period of 2003-2007 reached 1,057. "Juvenile delinquent" refers to a child who has committed an act prohibited by law. The CRC has given much attention to this category of children as shown in Article 40 that delineates their rights and legal assurances of such. Article 37 also criminalizes inhumane treatment, the use of torture on juveniles, and dealing them harsh sentences such as capital punishment or long prison terms.

Seven courts specializing in juvenile cases have been established in seven of the 21 governorates where children's cases are tried in regular courts, which leads to many violations of children's rights, a lack of concern for their best interests, and application of the Juvenile Law against them. The Ministry of Justice has been cooperating with UNICEF to form a panel of lawyers for juvenile delinquents in a number of governorates, although not all cases are covered in all governorates.

Current Yemeni laws in effect concerning juveniles suffer deficiencies and contradictions, whether among the laws themselves or in their compliance with the CRC. One of these

issues is defining the legal age for a juvenile from age seven to age fifteen, which means that the juvenile between the age of 15 and 18 is treated as if he was not a juvenile (i.e., as an adult). Furthermore, the younger end of the range, age 7, is too young for a child to be treated as a juvenile.

Newly proposed amendments took into consideration numerous remarks noting the necessity of complying with legislation that execute Yemen's international commitments.

A) Temporary Jails

- 1) There were many different kinds of juvenile cases in temporary jails observed during the field visits. These include offenses such as sodomy, theft, murder, attempted murder, fighting, disgracing one's honor, running away from home, rape, homelessness, possession of alcohol, and resisting authority.
- 2) In all temporary jails we observed deficiencies in performance, a lack of concern for juvenile rights during arrest such as the right to an attorney, in addition to poor health and environmental conditions and malnutrition, absence of hygiene, excessive use of violence such as beatings during questioning, and violations of all their legal rights by jail staff.
- 3) The field visit teams also noted that juvenile inmates were mixed with adults in temporary jails, which leads to juveniles acquiring bad behavior from adult inmates. Also, some children were used as pawns, i.e. placed in jail by government parties to apply pressure in feud cases, which was seen in Shabwah governorate.
- 4) Lack of qualified personnel for working with juveniles.
- 5) The teams discovered that some governorates and districts did not have temporary jails (Raymah, Abyan, Amran, Shabwah, Sa'adah, al-Hudaydah, Hajjah, Suqutra, al-Jawf, Ma'rib, al-Baydha').

B) Central Prisons (for Juveniles)

- 1) The children's field visit teams noticed an absence of prisons designated specially for juveniles in some governorates.
- 2) The field visit teams observed poor treatment of juveniles in the juvenile prisons, a lack of personnel qualified in social and psychological aspects needed to understand the juvenile's background, and a lack of sufficient action in improving their conditions and focusing on rehabilitation.
- 3) The special wards designated for juveniles in central prisons suffer poor health and environmental conditions and a lack of food and water.

- 4) Violence, specifically beating, is practiced by staff responsible for the care of juveniles within prisons and temporary jails.
- 5) Juveniles themselves commented on the absence of lawyers during questioning and court proceedings to defend them. There are also some murder cases postponed by the public prosecutor and courts which causes extended detention of juveniles in the prisons. These cases are not resolved quickly, in spite of the fact that juvenile cases must be resolved quickly according to the law.
- 6) There are children living with their mothers in women's central prisons due to lack of care services for them outside the prison.
- 7) There are a number of private prisons run by tribal shaykhs where children are sometimes held as pawns until their accused adult family members are arrested; those escaping the shaykh's authority are also held.

C) Juvenile Guidance Homes

- 1) The field visit team observed poor conditions in most juvenile guidance homes in addition to a lack of attention to juveniles' health, insufficient food or lack of concern for the quality of the food, whether in prisons or welfare homes. Also, there were no programs for their rehabilitation and a lack of qualified and trained staff working with them. The team found that some of the juvenile guidance homes housed non-delinquent children. These were placed in the homes for various reasons: family problems or, due to lack of temporary jails, receiving cases transferred to public prosecutors who in turn hand them over to the homes. The juveniles noted that they had been exposed to violence in temporary jails prior to their arrival in the homes.
- 2) Poor role of the public prosecutor in following up juvenile cases starting from police stations and continuing all the way to the courts.
- 3) Absence of juvenile care homes in Ma'rib, Lahj, Dhamar, Abyan, Raymah, Amran, al-Jawf, Shabwah, al-Dhali', and Suqutra.

2. Health Situation (Hospitals)

It is every person's right to enjoy good health and good health services since good health provides important guarantees for the inherent right to life. The CRC, Articles 24 and 25, has dealt with this child right, including the health of children in special welfare homes or prisons.

The children paid a visit to a number of public hospitals in various governorates to see up close the standards of services provided. The following is their findings:

- 1) Most child patients are being treated for: anemia, diarrhea, malnutrition, burns, and injuries due to fireworks/firecrackers. Malnutrition is one of the primary problems suffered by children in Yemen and a cause of stunting.
- 2) The conditions in most hospitals are unsatisfactory with regards to all health and environmental aspects. Child patients and relatives complain of under-qualified doctors and their failure to properly diagnose diseases and a lack of concern for and follow-up of the patient's case. Other problems include technical obstacles faced by hospitals such as electrical power outages for long periods, especially in Shabwah and al-Mahrah governorates, in addition to deficiencies in basic medical equipment and supplies, the use of qat in hospitals, and smoking in patients' rooms.
- 3) Weak doctors' knowledge in how to deal with children's cases that expose cases of abuse such as sexual exploitation and violence, specifically in how to report them.
- 4) There is only one hospital in al-Hazm/al-Jawf and it is inoperative.

CP interviews with specialists following field visits:

The results of the visits detailed above were presented to and discussed with relevant agencies. The conditions of children in detention institutions and guidance homes were discussed as well as these institutions' competence in fulfilling their required roles. These discussions took place during the Children's Parliament sessions from 12-14 March 2007 under the slogan "Empty prisons and detention centers of children". The agencies questioned during the sessions were the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, members of the network for children in conflict with the law, Capitol Secretariat officials, public prosecutor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, UNICEF, Ministry of Human Rights, in addition to other parties who attended and participated in the discussions (See attached sessions reports).

As for the issue of conditions at hospitals, a representative of the Ministry of Health was interviewed at the session held on 27 February 2008, wherein the representative was informed of the results of the hospital visits followed by a group discussion.

The sessions produced the following recommendations:

1. Establish special departments for juveniles at police stations and establish guidance homes/ detention centers, public prosecution offices, and courts especially for juveniles in all governorates.
2. Work to speed up conclusion of juvenile cases by not postponing them in court proceedings since they are considered urgent cases according to the law.

3. Provide follow-up care services for juveniles by establishing welfare homes in every governorate, ensuring that they are trained and qualified health-wise and socio-psychologically, and assisting them in completing their school and vocational education.
4. Deal with cases of children held in prisons without legal cause and have them released quickly. Also, have children (ages 15-18) held with adults moved to juvenile guidance homes after reviewing their sentences and dealing with them as children.
5. Strengthen monitoring of police stations, temporary jails, central prisons, and juvenile guidance homes, in addition to any institution where children reside or that work with children, and prosecute any person working in these institutions who is proven to have committed violations of child rights.
6. Necessity of training and qualification of legal physicians in all governorates.
7. Designate an agency to care for children living with their mothers in prisons and issue birth certificates for them.
8. Necessity of establishing orphanages in each governorate to prevent them from resorting to begging or being exploited.
9. The Ministry of Health and Population should monitor the conditions of children in emergency rooms and pediatric wards and provide all necessary medical supplies and specialized cadre in pediatrics for all health centers in governorates and districts.
10. Should not provide medicine to children without a physician's prescription.
11. Work to combat qat and smoking among children and youth.
12. Prosecute any doctor who examines a child victim of physical or sexual assault and does not report it.
13. Give attention to the health and environmental concerns of institutions working with children.
14. Activate the role of the network for children in conflict with the law and the network for combating violence against children.
15. Relevant agencies should train and qualify workers in these institutions in methods for dealing with children and prepare training guides for each institution to achieve this purpose.
16. Establish a 24-hour hotline for reporting cases of violence against children.
17. Make cases of abuse against children felonies to be referred to special courts and formulate laws for this purpose.
18. Issue a law to criminalize the sale of tobacco to children less than 18 years of age.

IV. Birth Registration

In 2007, the government of Yemen issued a public announcement concerning obtaining a birth certificate for free. The reason was citizens' reluctance to register their newborns at fees they could not afford. The announcement was tied to school registration season and aimed to facilitate issuance of birth certificates for children immediately following birth. According to the CRC, Articles 1, 7, and 8, a child is defined as any person under the age of 18; this child has a right from birth to a name, citizenship, parental care, and preservation of such. The Yemeni Child Rights Law affirmed this in Law No. 45/2002.

Other reasons include the importance of defining one's age to be able to gain all of a child's legal rights, the many problems facing children who have no certificates to prove their true age, and the lack of qualified legal doctors who sometimes cannot determine the exact age of a juvenile, especially in criminal cases involving children which could make them vulnerable to harsh punishments, possibly reaching the death penalty.

To promote the idea of free birth certificates the government, represented by the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the Civil Status Authority in cooperation with Save the Children, organized a workshop targeting various related government and non-government sectors which was the basis of the Children's Parliament's evaluation of progress on the public announcement.

Field Visit Dates:

The field visits coincided with the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

Field Visit Participants:

The Democracy School team represented by member(s) of the Children's Parliament in each governorate and Democracy School coordinators in the governorates participated in completing the DS questionnaire with the consultation of Save the Children.

Field Visit Regions:

Governorates to which field visits were conducted included: Capitol Secretariat, Sana'a, Raymah, Hajjah, Taiz, al-Mahrah, Abyan, Shabwah, Amran, Lahj, al-Jawf, al-Mahweet, al-Hudaydah, al-Baydha', al-Dhali', Dhamar, Ibb. Governorates that were not visited include: Sa'adah due to its security situation, Hadhramawt due to the inability to communicate with its two CP members, and Ma'rib due to the lack of a CP member there.

Field Visit Objectives:

1. Investigate the level of government implementation of its 2007 announcement for issuance of birth certificates for free.
2. Determine guardians/parents' turnout to obtain birth certificates.
3. Determine the level of awareness/knowledge of those publicizing the announcement.

Preparation of Target Population:

The number of questionnaires distributed during the field visits was 1000 in all target governorates, but the total number of questionnaires that were returned was 900.

Supporting Agencies:

Save the Children

Observations:

It became clear from the field visits and data from the questionnaires that 60% of the study subjects did not know of the public announcement for free birth certificates. This indicates limitations in the government's role in making this decree known. There were a great number of beneficiaries who felt that the certificate fee was too high. Also, the cost of a birth certificate varied from one governorate to another, ranging from YR 2,000 to YR 2,500, and more than 36% of fees are paid without being issued an official receipt. A large proportion of the survey group, nearly 27%, did not seek birth certificates for their children because they did not believe it was necessary. The reason is that they mentally connect birth certificates with enrolling in school, so since they do not intend to enroll their children –either due to poor financial situation or need to involve their young children in farming- they do not see the importance of birth registration. This indicates a lack of awareness on the importance of birth registration which facilitates ensuring the child's full educational, health, and legal rights, etc.

CP interviews with specialists:

In the session dated 25 February 2008, the results of the above visits were presented to relevant parties at the Ministry of the Interior. The CP discussed the issue of the decree for free birth registration with the MOI representative and how to activate it. The session resulted in the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. Necessity of awareness-raising through various media on the importance of obtaining a birth certificate and that it is free.
2. Monitor implementation of the public announcement to issue birth certificates for free in all governorates, penalize any violations, and set appropriate punishments.
3. Distribute birth certificate forms to all districts to facilitate obtaining them.
4. Provide up-to-date equipment for determining a child's age and train legal doctors in their use.
5. Unify procedures for obtaining a birth certificate at hospitals or police stations.

V. Conditions of Somali Refugees in Yemen

The Kharaz Refugee Camp for Somalis in Yemen operates under the umbrella of a number of international organizations and the United Nations, Save the Children, and ADRA. Based on an agreement between the Democracy School and Save the Children, a visit to the camp was arranged to observe conditions there. The impetus for this is Article 22 of the CRC which clarifies the responsibility of the state and UN organizations in protecting refugee children and providing the necessary humanitarian assistance.

Field Visit Dates:

Thursday, 9 August 2007.

Field Visit Participants:

A number of CP members and Democracy School representatives along with activists in child rights and Save the Children.

Field Visit Regions:

Somali refugee camp located in Kharaz region between Aden and Lahj governorates.

Field Visit Objectives:

To learn about the camp, the refugees' lives, and the conditions they live in.

Target Population:

The number of Somali refugees living in Kharaz camp is 6000 of whom 2700 are children.

Supporting Agency:

Save the Children

Observations:

Upon arrival at the camp, it was clear to the participants that conditions at the camp were very bad and resources appeared to be minimal. This is in spite of the fact that the camp is assisted by a number of international organizations, the UN, Save the Children, and ADRA. Among the most important observations are:

1. Homes in the camp are built from straw.
2. Refugees suffer from scarcity of water, especially since the camp is located in a semi-desert region.
3. There are no mid-level or high schools in the camp although there is one elementary school which consists of only one classroom. It contains no resources, not even teachers. Only students who have graduated from high school teach there. It receives no material support aside from books supplied by the Ministry of Education which are insufficient to cover needs.
4. There is no service for birth registration in the camp. This makes it more difficult for them to send their children to outside schools.
5. There is no attention given to environmental, social, and religious issues at the camp.
6. Poor control mechanism for monitoring the comings and goings of refugees in the camp.
7. Lack of regular visits to observe and record the refugees' conditions and problems and consider their suggestions for solving their problems.
8. Absence of effective mechanisms for cooperation between the government, civil society organizations, and international organizations.
9. Poor material support for refugees.

Recommendations:

1. Move camp to another location due to its distance from public life.
2. Expand health services in the camp.
3. International organizations and the government should coordinate among them to provide services.
4. Provide basic services at the camp such as education, health, and environment.
5. Provide the equipment and materials that help them and facilitate living in the camp, such as drinking water, food, and electricity.
6. Organize trips and field visits to the camp to contribute to raising morale of the camp population.
7. Strive to register births in the camp to solve the problem of not being able to enroll in schools and facilitate their obtaining identity papers.
8. Activate the role of monitoring of refugee and displaced persons camps.

Conclusion

This is the first experiment of its kind in which the children in Yemen present a shadow report on the conditions of children in Yemen to the Commission on Child Rights in Geneva. We have recognized our duties towards ourselves and our country and believe that we should participate in the discourse concerning ourselves and our situation. This has become clear to us through some of the issues that affect our lives and our most basic right to live in security and dignity with our families and in our land.

We are not here to try anyone or retort, but we just wanted to say one thing to everyone: We are your children, yes... but we are also your partners. We own half of the present and all of the future. It is our right to be given your attention.

In the name of all children of Yemen, we would like to thank those who helped us produce this report, including all individuals, local and international NGOs, and government agencies.

To conclude this report, it is necessary that we present some final, general recommendations concerning our rights. We hope that they would be taken into consideration and be acted upon from the first moment that our feet touch the ground in our country.

The most important points we would like to recommend are:

1. The government should prepare national plans to combat negative phenomena related to children and include such in the National Strategy for Children and Youth which represented a major positive step towards improving the conditions of children in general. Thus, we must strive to implement it and all other strategies, ensuring the participation of all and making allocations available to strengthen their effectiveness.
2. Lately the government has made efforts to legislate laws that comply with Yemen's commitments to various international treaties, exemplified in its draft law amendments with regards to children. These amendments include: removing any discrepancies among the various laws in effect concerning the legal age of a child and age of criminal responsibility and the CRC; recognizing the dangerous nature of child smuggling and formulation of laws to control it; proposed legislation concerning the sexual exploitation of children, begging, and trafficking in body parts. Nevertheless, these proposed legislations still suffer deficiencies such as: defining the legal age at which a child is treated as a juvenile at age 7, which is too young; the proposed penalties against those who engage in child smuggling and exploitation are not tough enough to be deterrents and do not emphasize the real danger of these crimes. Therefore, we call on the government to increase its efforts in formulating and

enforcing laws since they are the most important mechanisms for protecting child rights. There are other points that have not been considered in these draft amendments, in spite of the International Commission's recommendations. These include the prohibition of children chewing qat, which we here reaffirm this request, and the necessity of formulating a law to prohibit the use of qat and tobacco by children by criminalizing the incitement of children to do so or selling these items to them.

3. Formulate laws to criminalize abuse against children, such as prohibiting FGM/C (female circumcision) which is common in some governorates, as well as early marriage.
4. Strive constantly to improve the living conditions of Yemeni citizens since poverty is the main cause of all negative phenomena faced by the society as a whole and children in particular.
5. Strive to activate the child protection networks and ensure their continuance, such as the network for children in conflict with the law, the network for combating violence against children, and the technical committee for combating child smuggling which is the government agency among the above-mentioned organizations.
6. Continuous awareness-raising in child rights through all media outlets and educational and training institutions to ensure that these rights become common national knowledge in all sectors and segments of society.
7. Establish an independent children information center with a sufficient budget to ensure compilation of a database covering everything related to children. This would help everyone to evaluate the situation of children in Yemen without being affected by misinformation or exaggerations.
8. Establish an independent agency for child protection whose tasks would be to receive complaints and provide guidance for dealing with various cases with consideration to the child's best interests.

We decided to place the above recommendations here to stress their importance. As for the specific recommendations stated within the report under each specific subject, we hope we have succeeded in presenting them fully and clearly.

Our wishes for success to all and to the children for security, happiness, progress, and prosperity for Yemen...

The report was approved at the joint session for the Children's Parliament 2004-2006, and the CP session 2006-2008 held from 16-20 August 2008.

The report was prepared by members of the Children's Parliament 2004-2006.

Review and editing: Na'ila al-Atwani

Supervision of report preparation:

Umm Kulthum al-Shami, Children's Parliament Coordinator at the Democracy School

Ilham al-Kibsi, Program and Activity Director at the Democracy School

And God is the Giver of Success

Alternative Report
**On The Impact of 2011 Civil Unrest on Children Education, Health,
and Protection**
And
**The Situation of Displaced Children during the Armed Conflict in
Sada'a (2004-2010)**
Submitted to the UN Child Rights Committee

Prepared by: The Children Parliament Members (Democracy School) - Yemen

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Prepared by: The Children Parliament Members

Introduction:

The Children Parliament was established in 2000 and in 2002 it became one of the primary projects run by Democracy school.² The Children Parliament consists of 50 members from all governorates which guarantee a full representation of children from all parts of Yemen. In each term, two years, the children are engaged in many local activities and some regional and international activities as well. Those activities include but not limited to, holding regular hearing sessions where children are given the opportunity to express their views, discuss and draw the attention of high officials and ministers who attend those sessions to several issues related to their rights. Examples of Issues that have been discussed include: children in dispute with the law, child trafficking; child labor, child rights in national legislations, compulsory education, fighting against violent punishments in schools, early marriage, corruption and its impact on children, the status of displaced children; children soldiers and children involvement in armed conflicts, child health and nutrition, the rights of children with special needs, and the urgency of increasing children share of the state general budget. Also, in the 3 days session, children receive several trainings to build their capacity in different skills such as leadership skills, participation skills, and also raise their awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the child (CRC). Alongside with the Parliament sessions, children members conduct field visits, surveys, and studies on children

² Democracy School is a non-governmental non-profit organization based in Sana'a-Yemen. It promotes children rights, human rights, and democratic rights. It was established in 2002 under license no. 199 issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

situation in Yemen. In 2008, the children Parliament prepared the first Shadow Report written by children in Yemen and it was submitted to the Child Rights Committee. In the Children Parliament two years term, Democracy School aims at qualifying those children to play a positive role in their communities and schools and become an active member in the society. So far, the Children Parliament has witnessed six rounds of elections from 2000 until the last elections in April 2012.

Executive Summary

This report will focus on two issues: 1) the impact of 2011 civil unrest on children education, health, and protection, 2) The situation of the displaced children during the armed conflict in Sada'a (2004 – 2010). The facts that will be presented in this report are based on the analysis of the two surveys findings that the Children Parliament has conducted. The first survey on the impact of 2011 civil Unrest on children education, health, and protection in March 2012, and the second survey on the situation of the displaced children during armed conflict in Sada'a was conducted between Oct.2010 and Jan.2011.

1- The Impact of 2011 Civil Unrest on Children Education, Health, and Protection.

Introduction:

One year has already passed since the massive protests against the government began in February 2011 in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Abyan and other main cities in Yemen. In some demonstrations and marches the army dealt violently with protesters and many of them were killed and injured. In March 18, violence escalated in the Change Square, the protesters location, in Sana'a and led to the killing of 53 persons and hundreds of injuries. In 29 May, a similar violent escalation took place in Taiz at the Freedom Square, the protesters location, when the government security forces attacked the square and burnt tents and many people were killed. During the unrest, the area where the protesters are staying and sleeping was surrounded with army soldiers and snipers and many children who were staying with their families either in the Change Square in Sana'a or in the Freedom Square in Taiz were exposed to a life threatening situation and were denied many of their rights. In both incidents some children had lost their life and others were seriously injured. Other children who lived far from the conflict area were not able to go to school due to blocking roads either by protesters or by security forces. According to the Report of the High Commissioner on OHCHR's visit to Yemen in July 2011³, the Ministry of Education buildings in some cities such as Aden, Taiz, and Abyan were attacked and staff who work there were threatened and treated badly. In Aden some schools have become a shelter for those who fled their homes from Abyan which made it impossible for teachers and students to conduct classes. In the same report, it says that some children had been subjected to torture, arbitrary detention, and recruitment by security forces and that at least 63 children were reported killed during the unrest. Additionally, the marginalized community in Taiz becomes a target of the protesters who believe that marginalized are in support of the government. Three children and two men of the marginalized were allegedly attacked and severely beaten and

³ The report could be found at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/YE/YemenAssessmentMissionReport.pdf>

tortured with electric. Although the civil unrest stopped after signing of the GCC⁴ initiative, children are still living the consequences of the 2011 unrest. In late February 2012, two displaced siblings, a five-year old boy and a nine year old girl went back with their family to their home in Bani Jarmouz after months of displacement. While playing outside the house they both got severely injured after their feet touched a shell that had not previously exploded. Another 10 year old boy was a victim of mine that exploded in the Ministry of Industry in Alhasabah area in Sana'a.

Survey General Findings:

This survey was sponsored by Save the Children and was conducted by only 39 members of the Children Parliament (13 girls and 26 boys). The questionnaire contained 2 questions. In question one the children are required to describe education, health, and protection situation of children in Yemen during 2011 civil unrest. In question 2, children are required to write their recommendations to improve the children situation in Yemen. Each of the Children Parliament members is required to answer the two questions and to also distribute the same questionnaire among other 4 children, two boys and two girls. Those four children are divided into two different categories, 2 children who go to school and two children who do not go school. The survey covered 142 children (52 girls and 90 boys) including the Children Parliament members. From 52 girls, 36 go to school and 16 do not go to school. From the 90 boys, 63 go to school and 27 do not go to school.

Education:

Only 5 respondents of the 142 respondents believe that the 2011 civil unrest had no affect on education while 137 of the children believe that education had deteriorated during the 2011 unrest. They said that the lack of security, shelling, crossfire, and blocked roads, led to closing down many schools especially in Sana'a, Taiz, Abyan, Lajaj, Arahab, and Nahim and many of those schools became a post for security forces. In schools that remained opened, violence against schoolchildren increased either by teachers or other schoolchildren who hold

⁴ Gulf Cooperation Council

different political support or views. Some children were also forced out of their schools especially those who lived in Alhasabah area in Sana'a and Abyan governorate. Many teachers were either on strikes or joined the protests. Some children especially displaced children who lived in Alhasabah area in Sana'a and Abyan were forced out of schools to join demonstrations. In addition, regular power cutoff worsened the situation of schoolchildren educational achievement.

Health:

Only 5 respondents of the 142 respondents believe that the 2011 civil unrest had no affect on education while 137 of the children believe that health had deteriorated during the 2011 unrest. They all agreed that the regular power cutoff and lack of fuel that powered generators led to the death of many people and children in hospitals especially kidney patients and newborns who need incubators. In addition, doctors' strikes, sanitation workers strikes, lack of medical supplies, increase of medications prices, and insufficient number of doctors highly affected the health services quality and efficiency and increased the number of children who suffer from malnutrition. Some hospitals were bombed and others had to close down due to crossfire, shelling, and blocked roads. Children emotional and psychological well-being was most affected by the shocking pictures and documentaries which were aired on all TV channels as well as by being a direct witness of violence scenes or being a victim of violence, mine, or a shell.

Protection:

Only 5 respondents of the 142 respondents believe that the 2011 civil unrest had no affect on education while 137 of the children believe that protection had deteriorated during the 2011 unrest. During demonstrations, many children have been seriously injured or killed by bullets, physical violence, gas suffocation, and snipers. Most killed or injured children were from Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Abyan, Arhab, and Lahaj. Some Children were abducted and others disappeared. The widespread of weapons, shelling, and crossfire created a life threatening situation for all children. Also many children were recruited by security forces and armed

groups and some of them are serving at check points until now. The psychological well-being of many children has been also affected by the shocking pictures and documentaries which media is repeatedly showing on all local channels.

Children of Parliament Recommendations:

- All schools should be reconstructed as a priority
- Stop recruiting children in armed conflicts and security check points.
- Provide a prompt psychological help for traumatic children who were a victim or a direct witness of violence and clashes between armed groups and security forces.
- NGOs should work closely with the Children Parliament members to monitor and document all violations against children during and after the civil unrest.

2- The Situation of Displaced Children during The Armed Conflict in Sada'a

Introduction:

In June 2004 an armed conflict in Sada'a (northern Yemen) began between a group of young Zaydi⁵ men who later in the war were called "Houthis"⁶ and the government. The war forced thousands of people to flee their homes in order to protect themselves and their children from the armed conflict. According to Human Rights Watch Report "Invisible Civilians"⁷ in 2008, around 130,000 people were displaced outside Sada'a. The response to this internal displacement was inadequately addressed especially that NGOs had a limited access to camps due to the ongoing war and to the government restrictions. During the displacement some children were separated from their families and some children were trafficked. Most of the displaced people and children in camps lacked basic services such as electricity and water, education, and health care. Many children in particular girls could not go to school because of the long distance between the camps and the schools. Moreover, some children especially girls were sexually abused and are suffering from a serious trauma. In addition, Health services were not adequately provided and some children died from cold and from other diseases that spread in the camps such as Tetanus and Measles. Although the number of displaced people has decreased and many of them have returned to their homes since the war stopped in 2010, a considerable number of displaced children with their families remained in the camps and they were also affected by the 2011 civil unrest.

⁵ The "Zaydi" is a person who follows the Zaydism Islamic school of thought which exist in most northern parts in Yemen.

⁶ Al-Houthi is the family surname of Hussien Al-Houthi who was killed in the first war and in later wars his followers were called Houthis.

⁷ The report could be found at:

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/yemen1108webwcover.pdf>

General Survey Findings:

This survey was conducted by 15 members of the Children Parliament and it was supported by UNICEF and in partnership with Save the Children. The questionnaire contained 5 questions: 1) Personal information including the reason of displacement and the kinds of problems they have faced during displacement, and whether some children have lost his parents or any member of his family and how he felt about losing him/her. 2) Quality and availability of health services. 3) Children Protection Situation and Exposure to Violence. 4) The Quality of Provided Services. 5) The Availability and Situation of Education in the Camps

The survey used a questionnaire method that was distributed among 241 displaced children. The questionnaire was filled by the Children Parliament members as many displaced children couldn't write or read. The survey covered 241 children (between 9-18 age) in 21 different camps and centers: **Amaran**: 80 children in 8 camps and centers, **Haradh**: 87 children in 4 camps and centers, and **Sada'a**: 74 children in 9 camps and centers.

Kinds of problems they have faced during displacement

About 33% of displaced children lost some members of their family during the armed conflict. 38% of children and their families faced problems during displacement. Some children got separated from their families and 62% of them suffered from hunger, thirst and had no access to any kind of transportation and others could not afford to pay for transportation and had to walk hundreds of kilometers until they found a camp. Almost half of the respondents said that they got adapted to camp life while the other half said they couldn't adapt to camp life. 47.3% of the children suffered from financial problems and some children had to beg for money.

Quality and Availability of Health Services

52.7% of the respondents believe that health services were available while 46% believe it is available to some extent. However the personal observation of the Children Parliament members suggested otherwise. They noticed that there was no health care especially in Hurf Sufian Camp. Some serious diseases such as measles, flu, Tetanus, malaria, and Cholera have spread in all camps and four children died from cold.

Children Protection Situation and Exposure to Violence:

33.5% of children are suffering from harsh treatment by their families. They referred their bad treatment to pressure because of financial problems, fear, and bad displacement conditions. 22.3% had been pressured to participate in the war and 21% of children thought to participate in the war. 52.3% were a direct witness of violence scenes and children being killed. The traumatic children suffer from sleeping problems. In the interviews some displaced adults said that they have been subjected to violence, beatings and humiliation by Saudi troops. 64.5% of the children were subjected to sexual harassment and 55.5% said that violence and sexual harassment cases are being reported. 81.6% of the children have no information on mines while 31.3% know about it. Some children complained from being called a "Nazah" ,which is a term for displaced person, instead of their names and others were called "Haotha" (Houthi followers) and were not allowed to enter some schools.

The Quality of Provided Services:

39.8% of the respondents said that most of the IDPs have no electricity or water and most of people believe that available water is unsafe. There was not enough toilets for people and some of those who have toilets have to pay to receive this service and others had to build their own toilets. The Children Parliament noticed that some toilets were placed in a bad location such as in Camp 1 in Hardh and other camps lacked any water, electricity, and toilets such as in all Amran Camps.

The Availability and Situation of Education in the Camps.

73.8% of the children are studying in primary schools and 28.5% are not studying due to the long distance between the camp and the schools. Girls in particular are the most affected children by the long distance as their parents would fear to send them alone to schools and can't walk them every day to schools.

Other children are being discriminated and not allowed to enter the school because they are "Haotha" (Houthi followers).

Children of Parliament Recommendations:

- All sides involved in the armed conflict should immediately stop recruiting children.
- Provide displaced children and children who remained in the conflict areas with a prompt emotional and psychological trauma therapy.
- Trafficking children should be investigated by the government and the government should work closely with local and international NGOs as well as the Saudi government and take all necessary measurement to immediately stop children trafficking and adopt new legislations to protect children from trafficking and from all other forms of exploitations.
- All humanitarian NGOs should have an access to all remaining Camps.
- Secure the return of all remaining displaced children with their families to their original homes.

1- The Impact of 2011 Civil Unrest on Children Education, Health, and Protection.

Findings Analysis by governorates:

This survey was sponsored by Save the Children and was conducted by only 39 members of the Children Parliament (13 girls and 26 boys). The questionnaire contained 2 questions. In question one the children are required to describe education, health, and protection situation of children in Yemen during 2011 civil unrest. In question 2, children are required to write their recommendations to improve the children situation in Yemen. Each of the Children Parliament members is required to answer the two questions and to also distribute the same questionnaire among other 4 children, two boys and two girls. Those four children are divided into two different categories, 2 children who go to school and 2 children who do not go school. It is important to mention that the intention of choosing children who go to school and children who do not go to school was to investigate the different impact of 2011 civil unrest on those two different categories however almost all the answers in the questionnaire adopted similar opinions. The survey covered 142 (52 girls and 90 boys) children including the Children Parliament members. From 52 girls, 36 go to school and 16 do not go to school. From the 90 boys, 63 go to school and 27 do not go to school. The following findings will be analyzed governorate by governorate starting with the most affected ones by the civil unrest:

Sana'a Secretariat

Thirty five children have answered the questionnaire including eleven Children Parliament members. Only 31 children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** schools either have closed down or have become posts for security forces. In schools that remained opened there was a shortage in books and teachers as many teachers joined the demonstrations and others were not able to go outside due to crossfire and the absence of security in most parts of the city. Also, parents did not allow

their children to go to school for the same reason. **Health:** some hospitals and health medical centers have closed down and in those which remained opened there was a big shortage in staff and medical supplies. In addition, regular power cutoff led to the death of so many patients especially kidney patients and newborns who needed incubators. Only one respondent who doesn't go to school believes that health services weren't affected and two other respondents who also do not go to school said they don't know. The high prices increased malnutrition among children as many displaced families and those who remain in conflict areas could not afford buying enough food and medications. **Protection:** some children were displaced with their families and there were some abduction cases in Hamadan district and there is a chance they were also trafficked. Many children were caught in the crossfire or were injured in demonstrations and others were a direct witness of some shocking scenes that affected their psychological well-being. Two female respondents said children protection situation was fine during the unrest and one boy said he doesn't know.

Sana'a Governorate:

Six children have answered the questionnaire including two Children Parliament members. All six children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** Many schools have closed down for security reasons and other schools that remained opened suffered from staff shortage and the absence of many children. Some of those teachers and children joined protests and others couldn't go to schools due to closed roads and lack of fuel. Many parents preferred for their children to stay home to ensure their security. In addition, regular power cutoff worsened the situation of schoolchildren educational achievement. Many displaced children were forced out of their school especially those who lived in Alhasabah area and other areas where conflict took place. **Health:** power and water cutoff as well as shelling, crossfire, snipers on buildings, led to closing down many hospitals and the few hospitals that remained opened suffered from staff and medical supplies shortage. **Protection:** many children were killed from shelling, crossfire or by snipers. Children who lived in Alhasabah area were displaced and were also a direct witness to many horrific incidents and shocking scenes. They lived under

crossfire for many days before they could run away and many of them were killed and injured. Other children who lived in other parts of Sana'a watched the same shocking scenes on all local TV channels and some suffered the loss of one of his/her family or friends. This traumatic experience will affect their emotional and psychological well-being in the short and long term.

Taiz:

Seven children have answered the questionnaire including three Children Parliament members. All seven children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** some schoolchildren couldn't go to school because the roads were closed and also some schools closed down and some of the schoolchildren who could go to school were forced out to join demonstrations. **Health:** Some children are suffering from sleeping problems due to the shocking pictures they have watched on TV and other children have been direct witnesses of scenes of violence which affected their psychological well-being. **Protection:** Some children who were involved in the protests were severely injured or caught in the crossfire.

Hodiadia:

Ten children have answered the questionnaire including two Children Parliament members. Only six children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** violence led to closing down many schools. **Health:** many hospitals had to close down due to violence and crossfire. **Protection:** some children have been killed during the civil unrest and others suffered from serious injuries or left with some kind of disability. Also, children were not provided with any kind of protection during the unrest.

Raimah:

Five children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. All five children agreed that 2011 unrest had a great impact on the education, health, and protection of children. **Education:** schools had to close down because the teachers couldn't attend due to closed roads and lack of fuel as

well as their fear to walk in the streets. **Health:** Respondents also said that the regular power cutoff and lack of fuel led to the death of many people and children in hospitals and for the same reasons some children were not given the necessary vaccines on time. **Protection:** children lived in a life threatening situation due to widespread of weapons everywhere and crossfire and some children were abducted from streets. Psychological well-being of many children has been also affected by the shocking pictures and documentaries which media repeatedly showed on all local channels.

Abyan:

Eight children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. All eight children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. They briefly described the situation of education, health, and protection that it got worse after the civil unrest started. **Education:** they said most of children in Abyan didn't complete the school year. **Health:** some hospitals have closed down and some were bombed. Also, there was a shortage in doctors and lack of Medication. **Protection:** children lived a life threatening situation under crossfire and felt unsafe all the time.

Lahaj:

Five children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. All five children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. They briefly said that all services including health, education, and protection is unavailable and people got much poorer and cannot even buy medication.

Aden:

Eleven children have answered the questionnaire including two Children Parliament members. All eleven children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** in some schools, to be able to finish the school year, there was a great pressure on students to finish the curriculum and exams as soon as possible. Other children did not finish the school year either because the schools had closed down or because

their Parents did not allow them to go to school for security reasons. In addition, schoolchildren who were displaced from Abyan and had to stay in Aden did not finish the school year too. **Health:** Some hospitals were bombed and others have become inaccessible because they were near the conflict areas. Even the hospitals that remained opened lacked staff and medical supplies. The increase in the prices of medication and the strike of sanitation workers worsened the health situation of people and children. **Protection:** Some children were killed in Aden and Abyan during demonstrations and others were injured. Moreover, some children were abducted and abused.

Hadramout:

Five children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. All five children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** They said that some schools had to close down and schools that remained opened couldn't provide the minimum services for children. Children had to use dirty toilets without doors and ate unclean food at the school canteen and most of the children didn't receive the books for that school year. Respondents noticed that violence increased among schoolchildren and severe corporal punishment was practiced against schoolchildren especially against those who support different political views from teachers. In addition, some children used to leave schools to join demonstrations. **Health:** respondents indicates a number of factors that affect children health like doctors strikes, sanitation workers strikes, lack of power resources such as power and fuel, and the increase of medications prices. **Protection:** Some children have been killed or seriously injured during demonstrations by bullets, physical violence, or gas suffocation. One child respondent listed two names of children who have been killed and one child who was seriously injured during demonstration.

Ibb:

Nine children have answered the questionnaire including two Children Parliament members. All nine children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** teachers were either on strikes or joined the protests. Most of children couldn't go to school due to closed or unsafe roads which led to closing down many schools. Also, some schools have become posts for security forces. **Health:** they said that health care was not available during the unrest and said that some hospitals allowed only patients with similar political views or beliefs. **Protection:** families wouldn't allow their children out because of security issues and widespread of weapons and on the other hand, some families would take their children with them to the demonstrations where they could face a life threatening situations or get seriously injured.

Dhamar:

Six children have answered the questionnaire including two Children Parliament members. All six children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** lack of security and crossfire led to closing down many schools especially in Sada'a, Sana'a, Abyan, Taiz, Arahab, and Nahim. For the same security issue parents didn't allow their children to go to school and some teachers stopped going to school for the same reason while other teachers joined the protests. The different political views created a conflict between teachers and students on the one hand and among teachers themselves on the other hand. In addition to this negative and sometimes violent environment in schools, regular power cutoff for many hours and sometimes for days had a great impact on the students' educational achievement. **Health:** shortage in hospitals medical supplies and staff. The regular power cutoff led to the death of many patients and such as kidney patients and newborns who needed incubators. **Protection:** many children were caught in the crossfire and others were severely injured in demonstrations. Also, there was a widespread of weapons even among children themselves.

Yareem:

Six children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. All six children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** Many schools have closed down for security reasons and some schoolchildren who were studying in schools that remained opened were forced out to join demonstrations. Also, violence increased in schools as many schoolchildren were carrying knives. As a result, most parents did not allow their children to go to schools to ensure their security. Children were afraid to express any political views at schools so they don't get punished or harassed by other children or teachers. Some teachers also joined the protests and this creates staff shortage at some schools. In addition, regular power cutoff worsened the situation of schoolchildren educational achievement. **Health:** regular power cutoff did not help hospitals to maintain good health services. One respondent mentioned a name of one girl who died due to power cutoff at a hospital. Malnutrition among children increased due to the increase of food and medical prices. **Protection:** Only one respondent answered this part and she said that her uncle was killed during the civil unrest and this incident made her feel unsafe and worried all the time.

Sada'a:

Five children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. Two children believe that the 2011 events had no affect on education and health while 3 children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** many schools have closed down and as a result schoolchildren were not able to finish the school year. **Health:** Power cutoff had a great impact on the quality of health services provided for patients and many citizens were not able to buy medications due to the increase of prices. **Protection:** the situation of the remaining displaced children from previous war in Sada'a got worse as most humanitarian NGOs couldn't access camps due to blocked roads and security issues.

Almahweet:

Five children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. All five children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** many teachers and schoolchildren stopped going to schools due to the absence of security in streets. **Health:** Doctors' strikes and the increase of the prices have affected the quality of health services. **Protection:** widespread of weapons and many children were recruited by security forces.

Aldhale'a:

Only the Children Parliament representative of Aldhale'a has answered the questionnaire. **Education:** the civil unrest did not affect education in Al-dhale'a governorate as schools remained opened and schoolchildren were receiving a normal education. **Health:** civil unrest had also no affect on health services. **Protection:** widespread of carrying weapons especially among children.

Aljawf:

Only the Children Parliament representative of Aljawf has answered the questionnaire. **Education:** teachers' strikes and closing down some schools made it difficult for schoolchildren to finish the school year. **Health:** hospitals closed down and there was a shortage in medications. **Protection:** widespread of weapons even among children with the consent of their parents.

Mareb:

Only the Children Parliament representative of Mareb has answered the questionnaire. **Education:** most parents did not allow their children to go to school so many schools have closed down. **Health:** some medical centers, pharmacies, and hospitals have closed down and there was a great shortage in medications. In addition, the regular power cutoff affected many people and children patients. **Protection:** the widespread of weapons, gunfire, and shelling create a life threatening situation for people and children.

Albidha'a:

Four children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. Only one child believes on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during civil unrest while the other four children believe that the civil unrest had no affect on education, health, or protection. **Education:** Alqaeda presence in Albidha'a has increased during the civil unrest and this led to closing down many school and violence against children increased in schools that remained opened. **Health:** unavailable health services and the spread of garbage in streets increased some diseases such as Malaria and measles and some children have died. **Protection:** Protection of people and children almost did not exist before 2011 and it got worse during the civil unrest. Revenge incidents have considerably increased and police officers lost people's respect because they believe they are useless.

Shabwah:

Five children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. Only two children believe on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest while the other two children believe that the civil unrest had no affect on education, health, or protection. **Education:** The impact of the civil unrest on education didn't affect Shabwa and schoolchildren were able to finish the school year without any obstacles. **Health:** unlike education, health services were not well provided for people before 2011 and it got worse during the civil unrest. **Protection:** the civil unrest increased the number of children who carry weapons. One respondent said his friend's arm was amputated because of the misuse of weapons by children. One female respondent said that the civil unrest increased the number of child early marriage.

Almahrah:

Five children have answered the questionnaire including one Children Parliament member. All five children agreed on the deterioration of education, health, and protection of children during the 2011 civil unrest. **Education:** schoolchildren did not finish the whole curriculum for that school year due to teachers' strikes. **Health:** great shortage in medications due to blocking the roads and lack of enough doctors. **Protection:** some children were killed and injured and many houses were demolished.

Souqatra:

Only the Children Parliament representative of Souqatra has answered the questionnaire. **Education:** many teacher and schoolchildren joined the protests. Other schoolchildren's parents did not allow them to go to school. **Health:** hospitals lacks qualified doctors. **Protection:** widespread of carrying weapons among children.

Amran:

Only the Children Parliament representative of Amra'an has answered the questionnaire. **Education:** many schools have closed down due to absent teachers who joined the protests. **Health:** hospitals have closed down and there was a great shortage in medications and doctors. **Protection:** some children have been abducted and sexually abused. Also the widespread of weapons prevented children from practicing a normal life outside their houses.

General Analysis:**Education:**

Only 5 respondents of the 142 respondents believe that the 2011 civil unrest had no affect on education while 137 of the children believe that education had deteriorated during the 2011 unrest. They said that the lack of security, shelling, crossfire, and blocked roads, led to closing down many schools especially in Sana'a, Taiz, Abyan, Lajaj, Arahab, and Nahim and many of those schools became a post for security forces. In schools that remained opened, violence against schoolchildren increased either by teachers or other schoolchildren who hold different political support or views. Some children were also forced out of their schools especially those who lived in Alhasabah Street in Sana'a and Abyan governorate. Many teachers were either on strikes or joined the protests. Some children especially displaced children who lived in Alhasabah Street in Sana'a and Abyan were forced out of schools to join demonstrations. In addition, regular power cutoff worsened the situation of schoolchildren educational achievement.

Health:

Only 5 respondents of the 142 respondents believe that the 2011 civil unrest had no affect on education while 137 of the children believe that health had deteriorated during the 2011 unrest. They all agreed that the regular power cutoff and lack of fuel led to the death of many people and children in hospitals especially kidney patients and newborns who need incubators. In addition, doctors' strikes, sanitation workers strikes, lack of medical supplies, increase of medications prices, and insufficient number of doctors highly affected the health services quality and efficiency and increased the number of children who suffer from malnutrition. Some hospitals were bombed and others had to close down due to crossfire, shelling, and blocked roads. Children emotional and psychological well-being was most affected by the shocking pictures and documentaries which were aired on all TV channels as well as by being a direct witness of violence scenes or being a victim of violence, mine, or a shell.

Protection:

Only 5 respondents of the 142 respondents believe that the 2011 civil unrest had no affect on education while 137 of the children believe that protection had deteriorated during the 2011 unrest. During demonstrations, many children have

been seriously injured or killed by bullets, physical violence, gas suffocation, and building snipers. Most killed or injured children were from Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Abyan, Arhab, and Lahaj. Some Children were abducted and others disappeared. The widespread of weapons, shelling, and crossfire created a life threatening situation for all children. Also many children were recruited by security forces and some of them are serving at check points until now. The psychological well-being of many children has been also affected by the shocking pictures and documentaries which media is repeatedly shown on all local channels.

Children Parliament Recommendations:

- All parties involved in any kinds of violations against children during the civil unrest should respect the International law and all the articles in the Child Rights Convention which Yemen has ratified in 1991.
- All parties should respect the best interest of children during times of unrest and armed conflict.
- The government should reconstruct damaged schools as a priority.
- Ministry of Education to find an immediate solution for displaced schoolchildren who cannot go back to their schools and those who missed the 2011 school year due to the conflict.
- Evict security forces from schools that became a post for security forces.
- Security forces, Shaikhs, armed groups, Should immediately stop recruiting children in armed conflicts and/or at check points.
- Security forces, Shaikhs, armed groups, Houthis, should immediately release all recruited children.
- Ministry of Education to find an immediate solution addressing all teachers demands so they could go back to teach at their schools.
- Ministry of Defense should take all necessarily measurements and efforts to stop citizens from carrying weapons in public.
- Ministry of Health to find an immediate solution addressing all doctors demands.
- Ministry of Health and NGOs should work together to provide all children especially those who lived in Alhasabh, Taiz, Abyan, Sada'a, Arahab, and Nahim, with a prompt emotional and psychological trauma therapy.
- Ministry of Information and all media sectors should work together with NGOs and all other related government sectors to increase the public awareness on the danger of carrying weapons as well as the danger of involving children in demonstrations and protests.
- NGOs should work closely with the Children Parliament members to monitor and document all kinds of violations against children in all governorates.

2- The Situation of Displaced Children during The Armed Conflict in Sada'a

Findings Analysis:

This survey was conducted by 15 members of the Children Parliament and it was supported by the UNICEF and in partnership with Save the Children. The questionnaire contained 5 questions: 1) Personal information including the reason of displacement and the kinds of problems they have faced during displacement, and whether some children have lost his parents or any member of his family and how he felt about losing him/her. 2) Quality and availability of health services. 3) Children Protection Situation and Exposure to Violence. 4) The Quality of Provided Services. 5) The Availability and Situation of Education in the Camps

The survey used a questionnaire method that was distributed among 241 displaced children. The questionnaire was filled by the Children Parliament members as many displaced children couldn't write or read. The survey covered 241 children (between 9-18 age) in 21 different camps and centers: **Amran**: 80 children in 8 camps and centers, **Haradh**: 87 children in 4 camps and centers, and **Sada'a**: 74 children in 9 camps and centers:

1- Reason of displacement, kinds of problems they have faced during displacement, adaption to displacement, and whether some children have lost one of his/her family and how he felt about losing him/her.

- 92.6% from children were displaced with their families.
- 62.1% from children didn't lose any member of his family while 33.2% lost some of his family during the armed conflict.
- 38% from children faced problems during displacement by different parties involved in the armed conflict.
- 48% from children adapted to camp life, 42.6% couldn't adapt to camp life, and 9.4% didn't answer.
- 47.3% from children are suffering from lack of financial resources, 32.8% said their financial situation is good, and 9% said their financial situation is acceptable.

- 52% of the children are financially supported by father, 45.3% of children are financially supported by NGOs especially the Imarets Red Crescent, 7% of the children are supported by mothers, big brothers, or by begging.

2- Quality and Availability of Health Services

- 52.7% believe that the health services is available, 46% believe it is available to some extent.
- 63.7% believe that doctors are available, 7.8% believe that doctors are not available at all, and 16% believe that doctors are less than the actual need. However, Children Parliament did not witness any sign of health services in "Harf Sufian".
- 84% said that a number of diseases such as measles, flu, diarrhea, and malaria are widespread in all camps and three children said that there are some cholera cases in Almazarak Camp.
- 53.9% believe that the health service is good, 20.3% consider it bad, and 11.7% believe it is acceptable. On the other hand, the Children Parliament personal observation confirmed the lack of good health services.

3- Children Protection Situation and Exposure to Violence:

- 14.8% of the children received good treatment by their families, 21% of the children receive usual treatment as before the war and the displacement, 49.1% of the children said that they are receiving a harsh treatment from their families.
- 64.8% were not exposed to any pressure to participate in the war while 22.3% had been pressured to participate in the war.
- 52.3% witnessed violence scenes, 37.9% did not witness any violence scenes.
46.5% of the children witnessed children being killed and 45.3% did not.
- 48% of the children witnessed children being exploited (beatings, work, smuggling Qat) and 52% did not witness any kind exploitation.
- 52.3% of the children are suffering from sleeping problems, 43.8% of the children are not suffering from any sleeping problems.

- 69.5% of the children do not want to participate in the war, 21% of children thought of participating in the armed conflict.
- 58.6% of the children ran away by foot while 41.4% of them used some means of transportation.
- 47.3% faced problems during the displacement, 45.7% did not face any problems, and 7% did not answer the question. 62% of them suffered hunger, thirst and had no access to any kind of transportation and other needs. In the interviews with displaced people they said that they have been subjected to violence, beatings and humiliation by Saudi troops and some of these people had been forced to walk from the Saudi border to the areas where Yemeni Armed Force is present.
- 77.7% of the children were not separated from their families while 27% of the children were separated from their families. From the 27% of the children who were separated from their families only 38.5% are still separated while 42.3% are no longer separated from their families.
- 64.5% of the children were subjected to sexual harassment while 15.6% were not.
- 55.5% said that violence and sexual harassment cases are being reported, 25.4% said such cases are not being reported, and 12.9% had no information if those cases were reported or not. In this matter, some children mentioned that complaints are being reported to either supervisors or families and in some cases the family responded to this by fighting with the abuser and some had reported that to the authorities who put the abuser in the prison. Those answers however were very few.
- 81.6% have information on mines while 31.3% have no information.

4- The Quality of Provided Services.

- 39.8% have no electricity.
- 39.8% talked about the failure to provide enough water and most of responses consider the available water is unsafe for drinking.
- 66% believe that the toilets are available, 19.5% said toilets are not available. Some of those who said toilets are available said also that they either pay to receive this service or build their own bathrooms. The

Children Parliament noticed the lack of water and toilets and as well as the bad location of some toilets especially at Camp 1 in Hard. The Children Parliament also noticed the absence of any toilets, water, and electricity in all Amaran Camps.

- Male Children wish to have some activities such as chess, and games based on thinking, while female children wish more to have some handicrafts work.

5- The Availability and Situation of Education in the Camps.

- 73.8% of the children are studying in primary schools and 28.5% are not studying. Through the Children Parliament observations, children in Khaiwan Camp, Alistqbal Camp, and Alkful Camp cannot go to school because of the long distance between the school and the Camp. In addition to the long distance, the children in Khaiwan Camp complained that they are being subject to discrimination and not allowed to enter the school because people there consider “Haotha” (Houthi followers).

- 46.9% of the children believe that the schools are good, 23.5% believe they are acceptable, and 12.5% consider them bad.

General Analysis:

- It was clear from all responses and from the personal observation of the Children Parliament that the assistance and services provided by NGOs and government for displaced children in most of the camps were not adequate. Some families especially those in the Shubail Camp had to pay around 100,000 Yemeni Rials to be able to get transportation while those who couldn't pay had to walk hundreds of kilometers.
- Families who made it to the Saudi borders received a humiliated treatment by the Saudi troops who didn't show any kind of consideration to the serious situation of those displaced children and families. In this process, some children were trafficked to Saudi and others lost their families.
- Those in charge of camps were not responsible of providing any financial assistance to the displaced people. However, the UAE Red

Crescent in Almzaraq 2 Camp was the only exception and the people who live in this Camp expressed their high appreciation to the UAE Red Crescent for their generous and kind assistance.

- Health services were very limited or do not exist.
- Bad location for toilets, water shortage, and lack of electricity.
- Diseases such as Cholera cases were reported especially in Almzarag 1 and 3 and also in what they call the “safe area in Amaran”. Tetanus and measles cases were also reported in Haradh and Almadab Camps. Additionally, displaced people in Hurf Sufian Camp complained from scorpion bites, diarrhea, flu, and measles and four children died from cold.
- Some children referred their parents’ harsh treatment to tension caused by war, financial problems, and displacement conditions.
- Some children are facing sleeping problems and they feel they are different when they are not called by their names and instead they are called “displaced/Nazah”. Other children are being discriminated because they are “Haotha” which means they are Houthi followers and some schools do not accept them for the same reason.
- Some children think to participate in the armed conflict but only as a self-defense and others are willing to participate to support one side against the other. However, most of them advised children who already involved in the armed conflict to quit fighting and return home.
- Most of the children complained from the long distance between the camps and the schools. Girls in particular are very affected by this as most parents wouldn’t allow them to go to school.
- Children received no information on mines and they have no idea how they look or how they should deal with them. Only those who had a personal experience with mine have some information on how to deal with them.
- Some children believe that the numbers of camps are not enough.
- During interviews, most children expressed their need to all kinds of protection and their desire for settlement and peace. The biggest wish for all of them was to return to their cities, rebuild their homes and get civilian jobs.

Children Parliament Recommendations:

The government, local organizations, and international organizations especially the UN agencies working in Yemen should increase their efforts in the Camps and secure the following services for displaced children and their families:

- Sides of the conflict must respect the international law, the constitution, and Yemeni laws, and should protect children from any kind of violation.
- The authorities must not consider or treat the children who participated in the war as criminals but rather as victims of conflict.
- Raise the children and adults awareness on how to deal with mines and how to avoid them.
- Search for more donors and financial resources.
- Verify the presence of some serious contagious diseases such as the cholera and form a national campaign team to raise people's awareness on the danger of these diseases and provide a prompt treatment to those carrying the virus.
- Undefined camps to be provided with all services needed.
- Secure clean water, toilets, and power.
- All children should be provided with a prompt psychological trauma therapy in order to rehabilitate them and their families.
- The conflict sides must secure safe passages for humanitarian assistance.
- Prohibit carrying arms in the camps.
- A prompt action need to be taken in Amarran and Hurff Sufian to improve the situation.
- Parties of the conflict must start demining so that the displaced children and families can go back to their homes and live safely.
- The private sector must participate in providing aid to the displaced children and families
- Distribute clothes with considerations to the climate in the camps.
- The government – represented by the ministry of defense – need to act seriously to prevent child trafficking.
- The government must reactivate the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund.
- Secure the return of displaced children and families to their original homes.