

6. Jordan

Ms. Rima Madanat

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

**The Ministry of Social Development
and its Role in Providing
Special Services to the Disabled**

Country Report

**Prepared by:
Rima Madanat, Director of
Al Manar Center for Intellectual Development - Zarka**

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The Ministry of Social Development and its Role in Providing Special Services to the Disabled

I.

Historical Background

Social work in Jordan began during the 1920s through individual efforts and non-governmental philanthropic organizations whose role was limited to providing cash and in-kind assistance to the poor and the needy and health services at later stages.

In 1950, and in the aftermath of the first Arab Israeli War, the first Department of Social Affairs was established within the Ministry of Health. The new department became responsible for administering the social welfare services in the Kingdom and supervising and coordinating the various activities of the country's philanthropic societies.

In 1953 the " Social Services Tax Law " was issued. The Juvenile Reform Law and the Ordinance Regulating Assistance to the poor and the needy followed in 1954 . Thus the State assumed direct responsibility for organizing and administering social work in the kingdom.

In 1956 The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor was established with the objective of providing comprehensive social security, enhancing the population's productive proficiency, supervising the labor force and caring for workers.

In 1979 this Ministry was re-named the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) with the specific mandate of developing the local communities both economically and socially.

In 1986, Law No 36 was issued establishing the National Aid Fund (NAF), and a special mechanism was set up with the view to combating poverty.

The NAF provides recurrent cash assistance to families living below the object poverty line. This category includes those with monthly income of less than JD 60 whose members are unable to work and any member of a poor family subsisting below the absolute poverty line whose monthly

income is less than JD 119 . Those who are able to work are rehabilitated through productive, income-generating projects.

Before the establishment of the NAF, the MoSD used to administer such assistance through the application of the Rehabilitation and Assistance Ordinance No. 102 for the year 1972.

II.

Objectives of MoSD

- Developing local communities and exploiting to the full all the available capabilities;
- Organizing voluntary social work through enhancing the role of non-government organizations as partners in addressing the communities' needs of social services;
- Maintaining family cohesion by protecting the family against breaking and disorganization and providing institutionalized services to the needy among the family members;
- Participating in efforts aiming at curbing crime and delinquency and addressing the social problems arising therefrom; and finding out solutions to put an end to such finominals .
- Providing the necessary services and working towards rehabilitating and integrating them into the society.

III.

MoSD Tasks

The main goal of the Ministry of Social Development is to draw social policies for the country with a view to developing and organizing citizens efforts, raising their awareness, exploiting their potentials to secure their social well-being, providing them with social services at the various stages of their lives and protecting the community against social problems.

These tasks, which are carried out in coordination with the active partners in the social field, are achieved through the following activities:

- Co-ordination of social services rendered by governmental organizations and their non-governmental partners with a view to achieving the objectives of integrated social development in the Kingdom;
- Providing all types of social welfare services to the less privileged groups of the population;
- Enhancing the role of local communities in the poor areas in developing and upgrading the quality of social life , through inciting them to organize themselves into social organizations and associations;
- Raising public awareness through family guidance and education programs with a view to maintaining the cohesion of the family and providing the up-coming generations with sound socialization;
- Protecting society against the dangers of crime and delinquency;
- Providing the necessary welfare and protection to the aged who are not supported by a breadwinner.

IV.

Administrative Units

The MoSD Headquarters includes the following central directorates:

- 1) Directorate of Local Community Development .
- 2) Directorate of Family and Childhood.
- 3) Directorate of Social Defense.
- 4) Directorate of Planning and Monitoring .
- 5) Directorate of Information and Social Education.
- 6) Directorate of Financial Affairs .
- 7) Directorate of Administrative Affairs.
- 8) Directorate of Internal Control and Inspection.

9) Directorate of Legal Affairs.

10) Directorate of Special Education

V.

MoSD and Services to the Disabled in Jordan

The philosophy of the Ministry of Social Development, the official agency in charge of caring for the disabled people, is based on providing the basic needed services (such as primary education, rehabilitation, training and integration programs) to all different ages and types of disabilities . In addition , the Ministry carries out public awareness programs through specialized staff of social workers and through various media programs directed to the family. Recently , the Ministry started programs for early detection of disability among children in public and private centers throughout the country.

The Ministry stresses the importance of rendering the instructional training and rehabilitation services in addition to accommodation and medical care for the disabled persons. This is achieved through 47 institutions distributed as follows:-

Special Education Institutions in Jordan

Institution	No. of Institutions	No. of Beneficiaries	Cost of Beneficiaries (JD/Month)
Audio Disability Schools	8	674	85
Classes for Audio-Disabled Persons	8	76	30
Visual Disability Schools	1	96	125
Mental Retardation Schools	9	463	80
Classes for Mentally-Retarded Persons	14	106	30
Centers for Physically-Disabled Persons and Cerebral Palsy Cases	1	36	127
Centers for Caring, Rehabilitation and Accommodation	4	216	200
Centers for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment	2	202	120
Total	47	1869	

The Ministry is also responsible for licensing and supervising 69 private and voluntary sector institutions serving a total capacity of 5000 disabled persons.

Such services are offered through special education schools and rehabilitation centers that operate in major towns and cities. In smaller rural areas, the Ministry of Social Development established hearing and mental primary classes for disabled children (first and second primary grades) . The philosophy of such classes is based on the cooperation with certain local NGOs which offer the class room while the Ministry provides the staff, the needed furniture and supplies, technical support, educational planning and monitoring. When the child finishes the second grade, he/she will be transferred to a special education school or vocational rehabilitation center in order to continue his/her education, and then be integrated in society as a productive person.

The physically disabled can also benefit from the government's tax and duty exemption on their imported cars, artificial body parts, hearing parts and other supplies. For travel, the government also offers special fare tickets for disabled persons in order to encourage them to enjoy their life, continue their education or receive treatment in other countries. All these subsidized services are offered on the basis of well established cooperation between the Ministry of Social Development and the related Government agencies.

Besides the above programs, the Ministry of Social Development, through the National Aid Fund offers the following types of financial and material assistance to the disabled persons :-

- Hearing aid instruments for the deaf.
- Artificial body parts.
- Physical rehabilitation instruments.
- Financial assistance to the partially disabled who are capable and willing to establish small business or income-generating projects.

On the public level , the Ministry of Social Development aiming first at avoiding the known causes for disability among new born babies , as well as dealing with the disabled persons through the implementation of specialized programs in this regard. Such

awareness programs are managed by professionals in special education and public media..

VI.

MoSD and Other Government Agencies

The Ministry of Social Development is not the only party offering the above services for the disabled . Private and voluntary NGOs also play an important complementary role.

These sectors offer some services for the disabled which are not offered by the Ministry of Social Development . Therefore, the voluntary agencies in their efforts and activities provide substantial services for the disabled.

On the academic level , the Ministry of Social Development established the Princess Rahma College for Social Work in 1962. The College issues Diploma degrees in Special Education and in Social Work. The College also runs on-the-job training programs and workshops for people working in the field of special education in the public, private, and voluntary sectors.

The University of Jordan also issues High Diploma and M.A. degrees in special education besides counseling services and public awareness programs through its extension services and programs.

Furthermore, and in accordance with article (4) of Law No. (12), for the year 1993 for the Welfare of Disabled persons, the Ministry, in cooperation with the other Ministries, Government and all parties concerned, shall work towards the provision by these parties of their services and programs for the welfare of disabled persons. These include the following agencies:

1. **The Ministry of Social Development** shall provide the social assessment required for the determination of the nature and degree of the disability.

The Ministry shall provide to those with multiple and severe disabilities the special services for the disabled persons in the fields of welfare, care, relief and training, as well as the family and information services.

The Ministry shall supervise and license all institutions and centers in the public and private sectors concerned with the rehabilitation, welfare and relief of disabled persons.

2. **The Ministry of Education** shall provide primary and all forms of secondary education for disabled persons as commensurate with their capabilities.

Every educational establishment in the public and private sectors concerned with the education and teaching of disabled persons, shall be considered a school, to be licensed and supervised by the Ministry of Education.

3. **The Ministry of Higher Education and the governmental and non-governmental Institutes for Higher Education** shall provide opportunities for disabled persons to exercise their rights to such education as commensurate with their capabilities and potential.

The Ministry of Higher Education shall work towards the training of qualified technical staff to work with the various categories of disabled persons.

4. **The Ministry of Health and the Royal Medical Services**, each in their fields of specialization, shall provide the following:

- The special preventative, curative, physical and mental health services pertinent to disabled persons.
- The medical diagnosis and classification services required for determining the nature and degree of disability, in cooperation with the Ministry.
- Free of charge health insurance cards for needy disabled persons and their dependents who are not covered by any other health insurance scheme, according to regulations issued for this purpose.

5. **The Ministry of Information** shall, through its various organs, involve itself with disabled persons and emphasize the importance of integrating disabled persons into the society.

6. The Ministry of Labor and the Vocational Training Corporation shall provide :-

- The programs and plans and the evaluation services necessary to achieve the appropriate vocational training for disabled persons and the development of their capabilities and the creation of appropriate employment opportunities and the support for protected workshop project
- Public and private sector establishments and companies employing between 25 and 50 workers shall employ 1 (one) disabled person if the number of workers in any of these establishment exceeds 50. Disabled workers should account for 2% provided that the type of disability is not inconsistent with the nature of the work in the establishment

7. The Ministry of Youth shall provide for young disabled persons with opportunities for sports and recreation in playground and halls, as well as with the equipment, to satisfy their need and develop their capabilities.

VII

MoSD Special Educational Services

The services provided by The Ministry of Social Development in the field of special education can be summarized as follows:-

- 1) The Academic Education and Training Program provides the handicapped with modern curricula that suit the type of handicap. The number of institutions, centers and classes attached to the MoSD that provide these services stands at 41, with a total capacity for 2000 beneficiaries.
- 2) The Welfare and Rehabilitation Program seeks to provide shelter, rehabilitation and training services to the handicapped in order to enable them to serve themselves. There are four institutions that provide such service with a total capacity for 345 handicapped person.
- 3) The Vocational Training, Rehabilitation and Employment Program for the Handicapped (Mullet Group) aims to train and rehabilitate the handicapped of both sexes. There are two

centers that provide training in 17 vocations, with a total capacity for 220 handicapped person.

- 4) The Social Rehabilitation Program seeks to train the families of the handicapped in treating their sons and daughters and in providing educational and training services to the handicapped at home in cooperation with the school or the center.
- 5) Providing services and facilities to the handicapped such as recommending exemption from customs duties discounts on travel fares and securing apparatuses.
- 6) Licensing and supervising special education institutions of the voluntary and private sectors which number 69 institutions with a total capacity of 5000 handicapped persons.
- 7) Providing medical diagnostic and treatment services in cooperation with the competent authorities.

VIII.

Future Outlook

- 1) Promoting early detection of disability, and developing diagnostic and care programs by increasing the activities of the Jordanian
- 2) Disability Diagnostic Center and similar centers in the private and voluntary sectors.;
- 3) Updating the registration of disabled persons and keeping records of their numbers by type of disability.
- 4) Rehabilitating and training the disabled by expanding vocational training programs and providing facilities for the disabled in the workplace.

6. Participants are requested to outline the status of educational, welfare/social and medical systems and services, financial aids and voluntary activities for people with mental retardation in their own country.

The current situation and trends in rehabilitation services.

◦ ***The Welfare and Rehabilitation Programs:***

There are four institutions that provide this service with a total capacity of 345 handicapped persons.

◦ ***The Vocational Training Centers:-*** *There are two centers that provide training in 17 vocations with a total capacity of 220 handicapped persons.*

◦ ***The Academic Education and Training Programs:-***

There are 41 classes and institution that provides the handicapped with modern curricula that suit the type of handicap . These have a capacity of 2000 persons.

◦ ***Financial Aid :-***

The Ministry of Social Development through the National Aid fund offers financial and material assistance to :

- ***Hearing Aid Instruments for the Deaf.***
- ***Physical Rehabilitation Instruments.***
- ***Artificial Body Parts.***
- ***Financial Assistance for the Partially Disabled who are capable and willing to establish small business or project as a resource of income.***
- ***Medical Diagnosis Services to determine the nature and degree of disability .***

7. Participants are required to state their own philosophy on services for people with mental retardation and problems to solve when making the philosophy an actuality.

• I believe that the number of schools for mental retardation centers must be increased across the country while maintaining the appropriate balance in the distribution of these institutions to provide effective coverage of the services in areas where they are needed most.

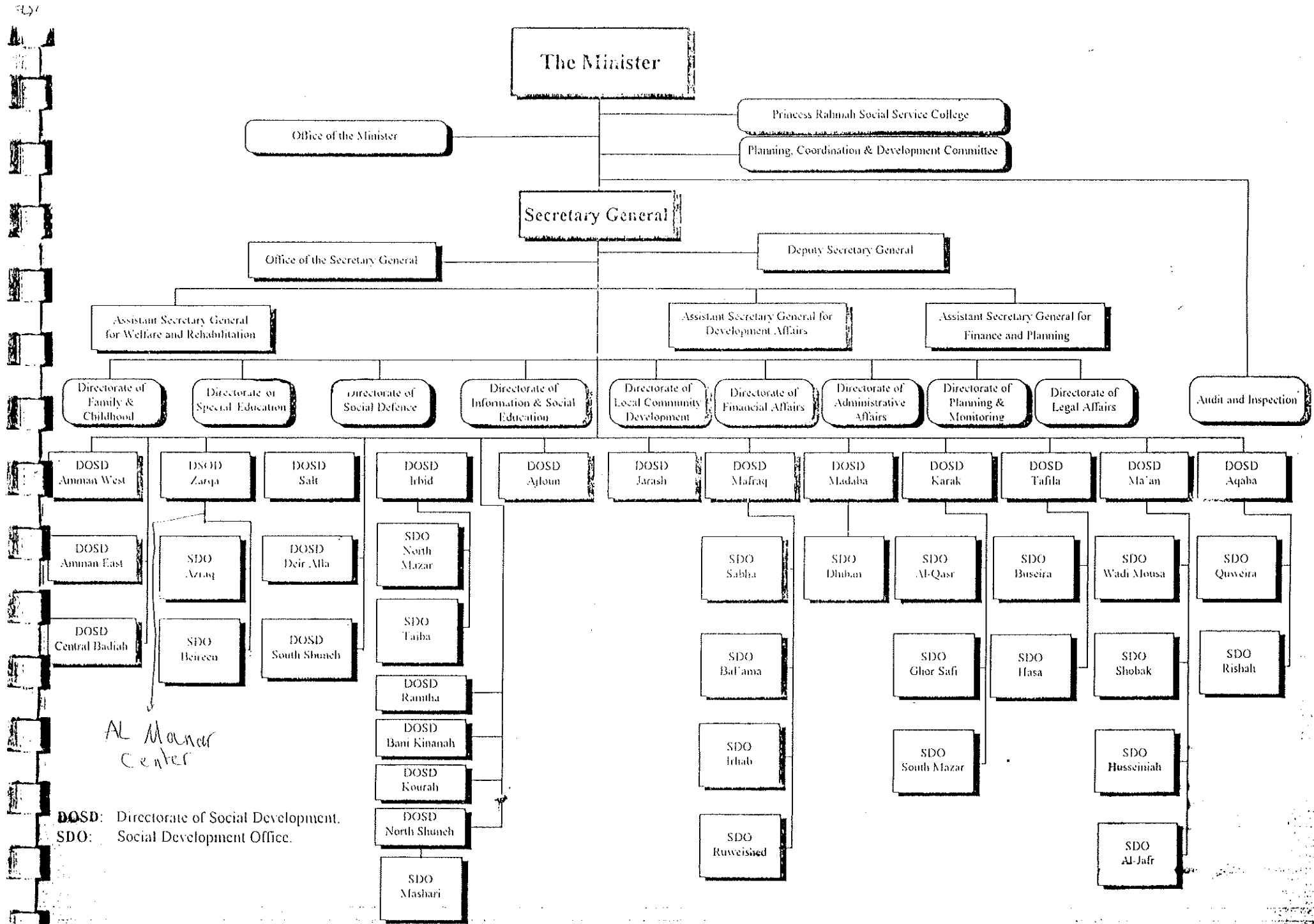
• We should also concentrate on avoiding the occurrence of more cases through awareness programs.

• Special programs must be designed and implemented to train members of the families to treat or provide care for the mentally retarded member at home if possible (according to the degree of retardation).

• Implementing such programs requires large budgets, especially that the cost of dealing with the beneficiaries is high.

8. Participants are requested to describe community-based rehabilitation programs provided for people with mental retardation in their countries, if any.

CBR programs have been initiated only recently as pilot projects all over the country. They are sponsored by several ministries and NGOs.



DOSD: Directorate of Social Development.
SDO: Social Development Office.

AL Mawar Center