

## **Extended Abstract**

### **Quality Issues on Data on Urban Children in North Africa: Conceptual Framework for Data Collection, analysis and dissemination**

The objective of this paper is to conceptualize a framework to deal with data on urban children at the municipal level in the MENA Region, and to identify the best methods to collect, analyze, and disseminate such data. Furthermore, the paper is an attempt to identify the indicators that are most discriminate on the well being of urban children in the region.

Data on children in the MENA region is limited and aggregated at the country level and what is available at the lower levels is in most cases fragmented, disarrayed and foremost is defective and incomplete. According to the studies conducted by the MENA Child Protection Initiative (CPI) on the status of children in 12 MENA cities, the sources of data on children at the municipal level are weak; this hinders creation of databases and identification of the appropriate indicators. The situation becomes worse when talking about data on urban children.

Data on the groups of vulnerable and disadvantaged children is useful for planners to assess the current situation and to think of means by which they can improve the situation of children in these categories, and moreover to forecast the future and make precautions. Such information is also useful for monitoring the situation, programs monitoring, legislations & policies, and also for advocacy and resource mobilization purposes.

In fact if we are to evaluate and promote the status of children, it will be necessary to assess the need for data in relation to resources available. High priority should be given to:

- 1- Appraisal of the most **effective** methods of data collection, which provide the required accurate, and high quality data.
- 2- The **efficiency** of the method i.e. its ability to provide the required data while minimizing the associated time and cost.
- 3- The way in which the collected data is processed, analyzed and utilized to develop the optimum indicators, in order to improve the status of children.

### **What is missing?**

Urgent efforts are needed to fill the data gaps at city and municipal level; these efforts should concentrate on the following fields:

- A. Education:
- B. Health and Nutrition:
- C. Violence and discrimination:
- D. Street Children:
- E. Disadvantaged Children:

### **What Set of Indicators is required?**

Serious efforts of public awareness are needed for the municipalities to understand their role, and for citizens to cooperate; in collecting basic data on children at the city and municipality level, classified by age, sex, and residence (rural – urban). Moreover, sets of socio-economic, demographic, and environmental indicators should be identified at the same level.

This paper will propose the minimum required sets of these indicators. Another type of factors includes those relating to public and basic services particularly: Education, health, nutrition, social phenomena such as child labor, street children, and Juvenile delinquencies. The paper will develop an analytical framework to illustrate the types of data required

from household surveys & censuses at the municipality level to provide health & socio-economic indicators for children. The framework will consider the geographical context in which the household and the local communities are located. It is worth noting here that these indicators should be interpreted and placed within socio-economic, cultural and demographic context, before being implemented by policy-makers or program planners.

The paper will propose other efficient methods to collect basic data or to supplement with more detailed data; these methods could be resorted to, in order to minimize time and cost, keeping precision and accuracy