



English

STRENGTHENING THE CHILD PROTECTION NATIONAL SYSTEM in the State of PALESTINE: MOSD, UNICEF & TDH LAUNCH THE TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR CASE MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT CHILDREN

Ramallah, April, 2023 – His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Majdalani, the Minister of Social Development, (MoSD), Ms. Lucia Elmi UNICEF Special Representative in the State of Palestine and Ms. Elizabeth Cossor, the Regional Representative of Terre des Hommes (TdH) in Jordan and Palestine have launched the "Technical Guidelines for Case Management for Child Protection " and reviewed the updated "National Referral System to protect Children Victims of Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation " in the State of Palestine that is now expected to be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval and endorsement.

His Excellency Minister of Social Development, Dr. Majdalani *expressed his gratitude for the technical support provided by partners: "The Ministry is keen to develop a real partnership with all stakeholders to enhance protection and care services for children, driven by a deep commitment to the welfare of children and a sense of national, social, and moral responsibility."*

The updated National Referral System for Child Protection aims to strengthen the Palestinian Child Protection System, making comprehensive services more accessible for child victims of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Elisabeth Cossor, the Regional Representative of Terre des Hommes, expressed satisfaction with the development of the manual and national referral system, highlighting *"these initiatives strengthen the child protection system while also investing*



in services and capabilities that prioritize the best interests of the child and provide protection and care."

The original system was developed in 2017 but remained pending approval by the Council of Ministers. The review process involved extensive consultations with various stakeholders, including government institutions such as the Attorney General Office, the Supreme Judge Department/ Sharia Courts, the Ministries of Education and Health, the Family and Juvenile Protection Police Department, the Ministry of Labor, as well as UNRWA and several non-governmental and international organizations.

Ms. Lucia Elmi UNICEF Special Representative said "We are very proud of the finalization of these two documents which will serve as a national reference for the response and intervention mechanisms in cases of child victims of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and maltreatment. They will ensure that vulnerable children are identified, assessed, and receive cross-sectoral support."

Finally, these achievements, supported by Sawasya Joint Programme, reflect the collective vision and efforts of MoSD, UNICEF, Terre des Hommes, and various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in fulfilling their obligations towards the right to protection of the children in the State of Palestine and upholding international agreements.

End-

For more information please contact:

Sawasya II Joint Programme - Communications Coordinator:

Fida Maaytah | Mobile: +972 59 3020717 | Email: fida.maaytah@undp.org