

# International Alternative Care Conference

Geneva, 3 to October 2016



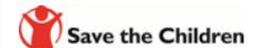
## The Cultural Influence on Care Leaving: Jordan

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### Hosts



### Partners



## Key Messages

- Transitioning through and post-care does not take place in a socio-cultural vacuum
- Research argues for a cultural dimension to be included to understanding leaving care
- Key influencing domains: Socio-economic, care and cultural contexts

# Methodology

Qualitative study examining what Jordanian care leavers face in Jordanian context, and longer term developments

- W1 (2007) : 42 (50% female) aged 17 -28 (1m – 10ypc)
  - In care: 14 (3-21)
  - 25 (60%) no qualifications
- Follow-up study (in progress) (ages 26 – 37) (7 – 16ypc)

# Care & Socio Economic Contexts

## Care Context

Residential care main form

800 – 1200 in 32 homes

Predetermined number of of placement changes (2-3)

No minimum care standards,  
SW nascent stage

## Socio-economic Context

74% under age 30

High poverty 13% < PL (504  
Euros, annually)

High youth unemployment of  
13% unemployed, 51% 15-24  
years

# Cultural Context: Patriarchal, Patrilineal, Collectivist

Intrinsic value of individuals part of 'kin-group'

Families are primary safety nets for members; interdependence and reliance throughout the life course

Conditional transitions; for positive reasons and with continuous social capital

High expectations of members; accomplishments and transgressions reflect on whole family; honorable, generous and celibate

Repercussions for 'dishonorable': Concealment, 'honor' crimes, abandoning babies, institutional separation of babies (no family names).

# Cultural Implications for Care Leavers

## Challenges

Continuous challenge of enforced individuality in a collectivist culture

Deprived of family and of entitlements of kin-group memberships

Stigmatized and linked to height of immorality (children of sin)

## Benefits \*

Supporting those without natural network (orphans)

Assisted in life domains

Overcoming challenges, promoting resilience

# Manifestations of Benefits & Challenges

## Life Domain

## Challenges

## Benefits

## Sources of Benefits

### Accommodation

- Denied access
- Lack of trust
- Security concerns

- Taken-in (5 years)
- Discounted rent
- Setting-up home

- Peers
- Previous carers

### Finances

- Exploited

- Sponsoring life domains
- Emergencies

- Families of school peers
- Employers

### Relationships

- Stigmatized
- Rejected
- Sexually exploited

- Mentoring
- Part of family

- Landlords
- Neighbours

### Employment

- Stigmatized
- Poor expectations

- High expectations
- Tolerance and encouragement

# Manifestations of Benefits & Challenges

Life Domain	Challenges	Benefits (HOW)	Sources of Benefits
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of trust</li> <li>Security concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taken-in (5 - 13 years)</li> <li>Setting-up and buying homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peers</li> <li>Previous carers</li> <li>Families of school peers</li> <li>Employers</li> <li>Landlords</li> <li>Neighbours</li> <li>36 (97.8% (4 formal support only))</li> </ul>
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsoring life domains</li> <li>Emergencies</li> </ul>	
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stigmatized</li> <li>Rejected</li> <li>Sexually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentoring</li> <li>Part of family</li> </ul>	

# Manifestations of Benefits & Challenges

Life Domain	Challenges	Benefits (HOW)	Sources of Benefits
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denied access</li> <li>• Lack of trust</li> <li>• Security concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taken-in (5 years)</li> <li>• Discounted rent</li> <li>• Setting-up home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peers</li> <li>• Previous carers</li> <li>• Families of school peers</li> <li>• Employers</li> <li>• Landlords</li> <li>• Neighbours</li> <li>• 36 (97.8% (4 formal support only))</li> </ul>
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsoring life domains</li> <li>• Emergencies</li> </ul>	
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rejected</li> <li>• Sexually exploited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring</li> <li>• Part of family</li> </ul>	
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stigmatized</li> <li>• Poor expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High expectations</li> <li>• Tolerance and encouragement (14 years)</li> </ul>	

## How & Promising Practices

- **Deinstitutionalizing children** (FC, Article VII.2. 118 – 122)
- **Supporting Care Leavers** (GOVT, NGOs Article VII.E. 131 -136)
- **Combating Discrimination & Strengthening Support System**  
CSO and advocacy campaign
- **Persistent challenge: Addressing root causes of relinquishment and separation** (Article IV.A. 32 & 340)  
Research on unwed teens

## Final Note

... Alongside improving practice and developing services

- Cultural assumptions based on gender, religion, socio-economic status and historical moment shape transitioning (in and out)
- We must identify socio-cultural influences
  - Capitalise on the positive
  - Mitigate and eliminate the negative