



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Consideration of reports of States parties

List of issues in relation to the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Oman

Addendum

Replies of Oman to the list of issues*

[Date received: 2 December 2015]

Replies of the Sultanate of Oman to the list of issues in relation to the combined third and fourth periodic reports

Part I

Question 1, concerning the Children's Act, the Strategy for Childhood and budget allocations

1. The Children's Act was promulgated on 19 May 2014 pursuant to Royal Decree No. 22/2014 as the culmination of the series of measures and dispositions taken by the Sultanate to improve the situation of children and follow up on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was drafted by a committee consisting of representatives of the governmental and private sectors and non-governmental associations and was then presented to the Council of Ministers and the Council of Oman (the Consultative Assembly and the State Council) and, finally, submitted to H.M. the Sultan for approval and promulgation under the terms of the above-mentioned Royal Decree.

The Children's Act was drawn up in the light of the State's Basic Law, the international instruments by which the State was bound and a broad range of national legislative enactments. The Act comprises 79 articles divided into 13 sections setting

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



forth general provisions and civil, health-related, social, educational, cultural and economic rights. Many of the articles concern child protection and an entire section of the Act is devoted to the rights of children with disabilities, including their rights to protection, care and rehabilitation.

The Act adopts the definition of the child as contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely “any human being below the age of 18 years in accordance with the Gregorian calendar”, and emphasizes the importance of observing the four principles set forth in the Convention. The articles of the Act also detail a number of provisions and principles concerning all aspects of the rights of the child.

With regard to civil rights, the Act recognizes the child’s right to have a distinctive non-derogatory name and stipulates that births within the Sultanate, as well as Omani births abroad, must be registered. It also guarantees the child’s right from birth to a nationality and the child’s right to be filiated to and cared for by his or her parents.

With regard to health-related rights, the Act recognizes the child’s right to preventive and therapeutic health care and stipulates that the State shall ensure his or her enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of free health care. It emphasizes that persons wishing to marry should undergo a medical examination and all children should be issued with a health card and should have the right to immunization and preventive vaccinations against contagious diseases free of charge at public health institutions.

On the subject of social rights, the Act recognizes the child’s right to survival and development in the bosom of a cohesive and mutually supportive family, the child’s right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis and the right to benefit from social security and kindergarten services for children under the age of primary education.

On the subject of educational rights, the Act recognizes the child’s right to free education in public schools until completion of the post-primary stage and makes the completion of primary education compulsory.

With regard to cultural rights, the Act recognizes the need to meet the child’s cultural needs in various fields, such as literature, the arts, knowledge, human heritage and modern scientific advances, to link them to social values and to establish children’s libraries and clubs in all the Sultanate’s governorates.

With regard to economic rights, the Act recognizes the child’s right to safekeeping and development of his or her assets. It prohibits the exploitation of children or their delivery into the custody of a third party for purposes of begging and likewise prohibits the employment of any child under 15 years of age. In the event of a child over 15 years of age being employed, the employer has an obligation to, inter alia, ensure that the child undergoes a free medical examination and is not required to work more than six hours per day.

Under the terms of the Act, children with disabilities are entitled to all the rights provided for therein, without any discrimination on grounds of disability, in addition to their other rights specified in the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled Act No. 63/2008. On the question of a child’s criminal responsibility, i.e. the manner in which a child who is delinquent or at risk of delinquency should be treated, reference is made to the provisions of the Juvenile Accountability Act. With regard to protection measures, the Act stipulates that it is a criminal offence to, inter alia:

- Force children to enlist in armed forces or armed groups or to participate directly in military operations;

- Abduct or sell children, remove any of their organs for purposes of transplantation, subject them to rape, indecent assault or sexual harassment, incite or coerce them to engage in any sexual act or exploit them in prostitution or other sexual practices or in pornographic performances and materials;
- Subject children to slavery or bonded or forced labour;
- Sell tobacco, alcohol, narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances to children or employ children in premises in which such items are produced or sold or for purposes of the promotion thereof.

In addition to prohibiting the above offences, the Act emphasizes the rehabilitative and therapeutic aspect by requiring State institutions to facilitate in every possible way the rehabilitation and social reintegration of child victims of any form of violence, exploitation or abuse.

The Act makes provision for the following child protection mechanisms:

(a) Child protection committees: In order to implement the provisions of the Act, the members of these committees for the protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse are vested with the powers of criminal investigation officers. The committees are empowered to receive complaints and reports concerning any violations of children's rights or incidents in which children have been subjected to violence, exploitation or abuse. Under the terms of the Act, anyone has the right to report such violations or incidents and the said committees have a legal obligation to take all the measures needed to protect informants and ensure that their identity is not disclosed;

(b) Temporary shelters: Any child victim of violence, exploitation or abuse may be placed in a temporary shelter by order of the Public Prosecution Service on the basis of a recommendation from a child protection officer and a child in respect of whom such an order has been issued may be released into the custody of his or her guardian when there is no longer any justifiable cause for such placement and provided that the guardian has given a written undertaking to care for the child;

(c) Child protection officer: The official appointed to monitor child victims of violence, exploitation or abuse and intervene when they are in need of protection.

With a view to ensuring the enjoyment of these rights, an entire section of the Act is devoted to penalties and civil damages with the proviso that such must not be prejudicial to any heavier penalty prescribed in other legislation. The Act sets the levels of these penalties and civil damages in a manner consistent with the gravity of the offence and the harm suffered by the child in order to act as a deterrent against the commission of any offences detrimental to children's rights.

Pursuant to article 77 of the Act, which stipulates that "the Minister of Social Development shall issue the implementing regulations for this Act after consulting thereon with the competent authorities", the said regulations are being drafted and are expected to facilitate the implementation of the Act which is designed to safeguard the rights of children in regard to numerous aspects of their care and protection.

The draft implementing regulations prescribe the procedures to be followed and the information to be provided during the medical examination of persons wishing to marry. They also identify traditional practices which are deemed to be harmful, such as branding, the use of lead and female genital mutilation, and specify the measures to be taken by the State to ensure the provision of assistance and the upgrading of institutions, facilities and services for child care and development. Eight subsections of the draft implementing regulations define the role of kindergartens, the conditions and procedures for their licensing, circumstances in which their licences can be

suspended or withdrawn, the manner in which they should be supervised and monitored and ways and means to ensure the achievement of their objectives.

An entire section is devoted to the conditions and procedures for the provision of alternative care. Stipulations are also made in regard to cultural rights, such as children's libraries and clubs and the type of films that can be screened in cinemas for children, and procedures are prescribed for the medical examination of children over 15 years of age prior to their employment.

With regard to the enhancement of child protection mechanisms, the draft makes provision for mechanisms to receive complaints and reports concerning any violations of children's rights or cases in which children have been subjected to violence, exploitation or abuse. It specifies the procedures to be followed by the child protection committees or their competent agents, such as the child protection officer, as well as the follow-up action to be taken by the latter after the child is discharged from the temporary shelter.

It is hoped that the draft implementing regulations will be completed during the current year and promulgated after the statutory legal review process so that they can be duly published in the Official Gazette.

By the end of September 2015, a total of 61 programmes and projects had been implemented to raise awareness concerning children's rights and the Act's provisions in regard thereto. These programmes and projects ranged from workshops to lectures, forums, working papers and awareness-raising campaigns through the various information media, such as radio, television, newspapers and magazines. Around 5,455 persons of both sexes participated in or benefited from the awareness-raising activities conducted in various institutions, including schools, hospitals, mosques, associations, provincial governmental offices, universities, the Central Prison and social development directorates and departments. The programmes targeted numerous segments of society, including children, parents and guardians, teachers, specialists and persons working with children, paediatricians, members of Omani women's associations and non-governmental organizations and public and private sector employees.

2. With regard to the status and implementation of the National Strategy for Childhood 2013-2020 to which reference was made in the combined third and fourth reports, the Sultanate is continuing the endeavours that it began in 2012, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other relevant bodies, to formulate child-related strategies and plans. The delay in the adoption of previous strategies is attributable to the fact that the Ministry of Social Development had begun to draw up social action strategies the components of which included a number of strategic objectives pertaining to children and ongoing efforts were being made to elaborate sectoral strategies for children, women and persons with disabilities.

A National Strategy for Childhood 2016-2025 has now been drafted, a working methodology based on an integrated and holistic approach to children's rights has been adopted and budgetary allocations have been made for the childhood sector in the light of the objectives and expected results. The Strategy focuses on a number of factors such as the need to respect the principles of the Islamic sharia and the Sultanate's Basic Law, policies and legislation, to apply the Children's Act, to observe international treaties, conventions and protocols and to take into account the principles of the rights of the child and the Millennium Development Goals.

The approach adopted in the Strategy is based on human rights, and particularly the rights of the child, a causal analysis of children's circumstances, monitoring of positive experiences and available opportunities on the basis of which the process of

maximizing the enjoyment of children's rights could be expedited, and identification of shortcomings in the data and challenges faced within the legislative, political and institutional frameworks and in the provision of services.

The Strategy has been drafted, as already indicated, and is being circulated to various bodies in order to enable them to make their final observations concerning any potential overlapping aspects. It is expected to be adopted at the end of 2015 so that a start can be made on its implementation in 2016.

3. With regard to budgetary allocations for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it should be noted that the Sultanate does not have a separate child-related heading in its general budget, from which appropriations are assigned to individual authorities to enable them to discharge their functions, including the provision of services for children. From the beginning of next year, the Government intends to transform budgetary headings into performance and programme-based budgets and consideration may therefore be given to women/child-friendly budgets.

Question 2, concerning the National Committee for Family Affairs and the Follow-up Committee on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The combined third and fourth periodic reports referred to the coordinating mechanism consisting in the two basic committees concerned with the rights of the child, namely the National Committee for Family Affairs and the Follow-up Committee on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and indicated that the role of the National Committee for Family Affairs was to supervise and coordinate the endeavours made by the various governmental and non-governmental bodies in regard to family issues in general, including policies for the protection of children, women and persons with disabilities.

Some developments have occurred since the preparation of the above-mentioned reports. Ministerial Decision No. 46/2012 of 23 April 2012, concerning the mandate of the National Committee for Family Affairs, amended the Committee's functions and working methods, assigned certain tasks to a technical secretariat and regulated the Committee's budgetary allocations. Accordingly, the Committee is now chaired by H.E. the Minister of Social Development and its membership consists of representatives of eight government agencies holding deputy-ministerial rank. Ministerial Decision No. 300/2012 of 14 November 2012 subsequently established the technical secretariat as a department of the National Committee for Family Affairs which would be responsible for preparing the Committee's meetings and implementing its annual plans. In 2012, a competent female specialist from the Ministry's staff was designated to act as the Committee's secretary. A team of technical specialists was also appointed to run the technical secretariat and a fixed budget was allocated for its programmes and activities.

It is noteworthy that, during its sessions in the years 2013-2015, the Committee discussed a number of issues relating to the rights of the child, such as children's cultural objectives, the establishment of children's cultural centres and the sectoral plan in regard to children's, women's and family rights within the context of the Ministry of Social Development's social action strategy.

The Follow-up Committee on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has continued its endeavours, in coordination with ministries and non-governmental bodies, to monitor the implementation of projects and programmes in the field of children's rights. The Committee was restructured in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. 127/2014 and is now chaired by H.E. the Deputy Minister and has a membership of 24 executive officials and experts from relevant ministries

and non-governmental organizations. In the light of the changes made to the Committee's mandate and functions under the terms of that decision, the number of technical staff has been increased in the Department of Children's Affairs which is responsible for the technical and administrative coordination of the Committee's activities and for coordination with other relevant ministries and bodies with a view to ensuring fulfilment of the Sultanate's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the two Optional Protocols thereto and other instruments relating to the rights of the child and human rights in general. Budgetary allocations have also been appropriated for the Committee as part of the Department's development programmes.

During the years 2013-2015, at its periodic meetings or in coordination with the ministries and bodies concerned, the Committee followed up on a number of issues relating to the rights of the child, such as the formulation of a plan of action to follow up on implementation of the Convention and preparations for the drafting of plans to implement the Children's Act and establish monitoring teams to protect children from abuse.

It should also be noted that the relationship between the two above-mentioned committees is of an interactive, complementary and constructive nature, which makes it much easier to meet the requirements and needs of families and address issues relating to children's rights. In fact, the two committees have cooperated in the implementation of numerous programmes and projects, such as promulgation of the Children's Act, formation of the child protection committees, formulation of the National Strategy for Childhood, trainer training programmes in the fields covered by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and cultural and awareness-raising programmes to disseminate the principles of the Convention through the various information media.

Question 3, concerning the database

With regard to the Committee's recommendation (CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, para. 19), we can confirm that the Sultanate has taken the measures needed to implement that recommendation insofar as, in coordination with the UNICEF office, it has trained a number of specialists from the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the Ministry of Social Development and other relevant ministries to collect the data, which include all areas covered by the Convention. Most of these data and social indicators are recorded in the database compiled by the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The Ministry of Social Development has also compiled a database of social indicators relevant to its work and relating to the rights of the child. In its most recent form, the database covers numerous fields divided into various subcategories, each containing a large number of statistically relevant social indicators which are updated on a periodic and annual basis. In coordination with UNICEF, some of the social protection indicators collected during the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey are currently being included in the database (see Annex 2) and most of the data relevant to areas covered by the Convention are expected to be incorporated therein in cooperation with the bodies concerned.

Question 4, concerning the National Human Rights Commission

The National Human Rights Commission was established under the terms of Royal Decree No. 124/2008 which defined its terms of reference. Article 1 thereof stipulated that: "A National Human Rights Commission, reporting to the State Council, shall be established. It shall be endowed with corporate personality and authority to discharge its functions in an independent manner and shall be based in the city of Muscat." Article 8 specified the Commission's mandate and stipulated that it

would be funded by allocations from the State's general budget and any other resources approved by the Council of Ministers.

The Royal Decree appointing the Commission's members for the first term was followed by Royal Decree No. 10/2013 appointing its members for the second term.

The Commission currently consists of 14 members representing the State Council, the Consultative Assembly, the Oman Chamber of Trade and Industry and the General Federation of Oman Trade Unions and including a member of the legal profession, three members of non-governmental organizations and one member each from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Manpower and the Ministry of Civil Service. The Commission's organizational structure was defined in the Royal Decree under which it was established and in its statute specifying its departments and sections. It has a staff of 54 employees.

In accordance with article 7 of the Royal Decree under which it was established, the Commission's mandate is to monitor and help to settle and remedy any breaches or violations of human rights in the State, bearing in mind the fact that all citizens and persons residing in the territory of the Sultanate as well as its citizens living abroad, including children, are entitled to file reports with the Commission.

The total number of reports received during the period from January to December 2014 amounted to 47, of which 23 were classified in the category of civil and political rights and 24 in the category of economic, social and cultural rights, in addition to other reports on which the files were closed.

With regard to awareness-raising and training programmes, the Commission has implemented joint programmes with UNICEF and has organized training workshops, in collaboration with civil society institutions and some relevant ministries, on the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities, as well as freedom of expression. It held a training course, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, on human rights training and capacity building, and a symposium, in collaboration with the High Judicial Institute, on the human right to a fair legal hearing. It participated in the activities of the Second Legal Forum ("Dedication and Progress") in collaboration with the Bar Association and organized two discussion groups on "Youth and the concepts of citizenship and human rights" and "Social values and human rights". It has also made periodic visits to prison and detention facilities and has organized courses and workshops in which relevant bodies have participated.

Question 5, concerning children born out of wedlock, children with disabilities, migrant children and children from minorities

1. **Children born out of wedlock:** Article 12 of the State's Basic Law, concerning social principles, establishes the principle of social equality and stipulates that: "Justice, equality and equal opportunities for Omanis are pillars of society and are guaranteed by the State". Article 2 of the Omani Children's Act promulgated by Royal Decree No. 22/2014 recognizes the child's right to "non-discrimination on grounds of colour, sex, origin, language, religion or social or other status". The Sultanate has emphasized that there is no discrimination in its territory against children born out of wedlock, who enjoy their legally guaranteed civil rights, including the right to acquire a nationality, the right to be entered in the birth registers and the right to a name. Such children are given a normal quadrinomial name, followed by a name denoting tribal affiliation, after the form designed for this purpose has been completed. In the event of the child's true paternity being subsequently determined, the entry in the civil status record is corrected in accordance with the text of article 20 of the Civil Status Act which stipulates that "an illegitimate child shall be registered, in accordance with the

procedures specified in the implementing regulations, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Islamic sharia”.

2. **Children with disabilities:** Article 51 of the Children’s Act stipulates that “a child with a disability shall enjoy all the rights for which provision is made herein without discrimination on grounds of disability”. The Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled Act promulgated by Royal Decree No. 63/2008 confirms the State’s commitment to provide protection, care and rehabilitation for all disabled persons, including children. In recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to the provision of care and a decent life, the Sultanate ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the terms of Royal Decree No. 121/2008 and began to take numerous measures to ensure that such persons enjoyed all their rights.

3. **Children of migrant workers:** All workers recruited for employment in the Sultanate and who are accompanied by their children have a legally guaranteed right to the educational, health and other services that the State provides for all children. They are also entitled to register the births of their children and to receive birth certificates insofar as article 9 of the Children’s Act stipulates that “the officials designated in the Civil Status Act shall report births within the Sultanate, as well as Omani births abroad, and the competent authorities shall register them in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in the Civil Status Act”.

4. **Children from minorities:** As indicated in previous reports, there are no minorities in the Sultanate and, consequently, there are no children belonging to minorities. The Basic Law of the State established the principle of non-discrimination and equality among citizens as can be seen from article 17 thereof which stipulates that: “All citizens are equal before the law and in regard to their public rights and obligations, without any discrimination between them on grounds of sex, origin, colour, language, religion, confession or social status”. Accordingly, all persons are on an equal footing in regard to their rights and obligations, without any discrimination between them.

Question 6, concerning nationality

Article 10 of the Children’s Act stipulates that: “From birth, every child has the right to a nationality and the State shall guarantee the enjoyment of this right in accordance with the provisions of the Omani Nationality Regulatory Act”. The Omani Nationality Regulatory Act promulgated by Royal Decree No. 3/83 was superseded by the Omani Nationality Act promulgated by Royal Decree No. 38/2014, article 11 of which laid down the rules governing the acquisition of nationality which, in principle, is determined on the basis of the father’s nationality (*jus sanguinis*). Anyone born in or outside Oman to an Omani father is considered to be an Omani and anyone born to a foreign mother and a father who, although originally Omani, had become stateless is likewise considered to be an Omani provided that his or her parents were married with the prior approval of the Ministry of the Interior.

A child may also acquire the nationality of his or her Omani mother if the child’s paternity has not been legally established, regardless of whether the child was born in or outside Oman.

By law, a child of unknown parentage is entitled to acquire Omani nationality if the child was born in Oman (*jus soli*). All children can access the various social, health, educational and recreational services without any discrimination.

Question 7, concerning corporal punishment

Under article 56 (h) of the Children’s Act, no one is permitted to practise any form of violence against a child. Under the terms of article 72, offenders are liable to a penalty of 5-15 years’ imprisonment together with a fine of 5,000-10,000 Omani rials.

Article 1 (x) of the same Act defines violence as “the deliberate use, or threatened use, of physical strength or force by an individual or a group against a child in such a way as to cause actual or potential harm to the child”.

The Ministry of Education encourages regular school attendance and has developed programmes and activities to maximize the students’ academic achievements and minimize school dropouts in accordance with the regulations which guarantee the students’ rights in respect of the following:

- Access to school activities and learning resources;
- Receipt of appropriate health care;
- Provision of wholesome nutrition;
- Provision of transport services from the student’s place of residence to the school and vice versa;
- Participation in the formation of student councils to discuss issues and matters of concern to them, and the opening of channels of communication with the school through suggestion boxes, e-mail, direct dialogue, school radio, questionnaires and other means of communication.

The Ministry has established new departments and developed various programmes to encourage regular school attendance. By way of example, the Counselling and Awareness-Raising Programmes Department provides students with social and psychological counselling at school with a view to ensuring their sound physical, intellectual, social and psychological development at all stages of their education and its sociologists and psychologists have helped to improve students’ levels of academic achievement.

The principal topics addressed during the social counselling training programmes in the academic year 2013/14 included:

- The protection of children from abuse;
- Modern methods of student care;
- School mentoring and counselling programmes.

The Ministry has distributed a circular prohibiting beatings and corporal punishment in schools and specifying the rules and procedures to be followed in cases involving corporal punishment by teachers.

An electronic counselling kit comprising a “Class Mentoring Guide”, a “Guide on Ways to Respond to Emotions” and a “Practical Sociological Guide” has been developed for the sociologists.

Question 8, concerning incidents of child abuse

1. As already indicated, article 56 of the Children’s Act prohibits all forms of violence against children. These include: abduction; rape or sexual assault; use of children in prostitution; incitement of a child to engage in a sexual act, film it or take photographs of his or her sexual organs; publication or screening of pornographic material harmful to children; use of children in the slave trade or subjecting them to forced labour; smuggling of children; and the practice of any form of violence against a child. In cases of child abuse, the Public Prosecution Service investigates the reported incident and issues the necessary orders for the child’s medical examination, treatment and custody. The persons accused in such cases are charged with the offence of “practising any form of violence against a child” under the provisions of article 56 (h) of the Children’s Act and are liable to a penalty of 5-15 years’ imprisonment together with a fine of 5,000-10,000 Omani rials as prescribed in article 72 thereof.

The child protection committees monitor the procedural measures taken in respect of the child and the persons accused.

2. With regard to the reference made in the report to the endeavours that the Ministry of Health has been making since the beginning of 2007 to monitor incidents of deliberate child abuse reported by health-care centres on the forms provided to that end, those endeavours fall within the framework of the development of a monitoring, follow-up, treatment and health-care mechanism for child victims of abuse and do not preclude any legal proceedings that might be brought against the accused persons.

With regard to the results of the assessment study and action plan referred to in paragraph 118 of the national report, as already indicated, those activities were conducted within the framework of ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Social Development and UNICEF to assess the performance of the child protection teams established in 2008 and formulate a vision of future activities in a specific action plan. In fact, the assessment study was completed in collaboration with the River Jordan Foundation and was used to enhance the performance of the child protection teams which, under the terms of the Children's Act, were redesignated as committees for the protection of children against violence, exploitation and abuse and were empowered to receive complaints and reports concerning any violations against children.

That cooperation led to the formulation of an action plan which made provision for the preparation of a manual and a training programme for persons working in the field of child abuse. With the help of an Arab expert specialized in child protection programmes conducted in collaboration with UNICEF, a guide was prepared for persons engaged in family protection activities and the training of teachers, law enforcement officers and other professionals responsible for protecting children from abuse. Preparations are currently being made to hold a number of courses in November of this year to train the child protection committees to use the reference guide on the protection of children against abuse.

As already indicated, endeavours are being made to promulgate the implementing regulations of the Children's Act so that a start can be made on measures to launch programmes such as the children's helpline and establish the foundations for mechanisms to protect children against abuse in the Sultanate. These measures include development of the protection committees and regulation of the role of the child protection officer and other child protection procedures included in the National Strategy for Childhood.

Question 9, concerning the Family Protection Department

The Family Protection Department was established in the Directorate General of Family Development in 2012 in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. 230/2012. Its terms of reference reflected the Ministry's desire to create a cohesive and secure family environment as a prerequisite for family protection, stability and unity in keeping with the Sultanate's consistent policy of advocating not only the care and protection of all Omani family members, regardless of gender or age, but also the need to protect foreigners living in the Sultanate, and particularly their women and children, from any abuse. The policies of the Family Protection Department are derived from the general policies and objectives of the Ministry which, in turn, are based on local laws and legislation and the international treaties ratified by the Sultanate. The principal legislative instrument by which the Department is guided in the fulfilment of its mission is the Basic Law of the State promulgated by Royal Decree No.101/1996, article 12 of which stipulates that: "The family is the basis of society. The means to protect it, preserve its legal integrity, strengthen its bonds, cater for the welfare of its

members and provide suitable conditions for the development of their aptitudes and capabilities shall be regulated by law.”

Through its three sections (the Protection Programmes Section, the Protection Mechanisms Monitoring Section and the *Dar al-Wifaq* Section), the Department is continuing to pursue its vision of “contributing to the development of a secure family and a stable society” and its mission based on “the provision of family protection for individuals and society and the provision of training for family members and the specialists working with them in accordance with scientific standards”. In order to fulfil its mission and realize its vision, the Department exercises the following functions:

- Formulation of plans to ensure family protection and support the endeavours of the mechanisms coordinating with the competent bodies in the field of protection;
- Provision of urgent protection and temporary shelter for victims of violence and abuse, assessment of their psychological and social situation and state of health, and provision of the requisite treatment and rehabilitation (through the *Dar al-Wifaq* Section);
- Study of the various aspects of family problems and formulation of programmes to help to address and resolve them;
- Assisting in the consolidation of the fundamental elements needed to ensure family stability and cohesion and a secure environment free from reprehensible behaviour;
- Proposal of programmes to train the personnel concerned in ways to assess, treat and rehabilitate victims of abuse;
- Receipt, recording and study of reports in order to ascertain the extent of their accuracy and credibility prior to the formulation of a plan to deal with the case;
- Helping to support national initiatives to protect family members;
- Compilation of statistical databases and family protection indicators.

Although the Department was established only relatively recently, it has already set up numerous mechanisms, programmes and projects to avert the vulnerabilities that prevent family members from protecting themselves and, if such vulnerabilities occur, provide the members concerned with means to overcome them. Some of the projects that the Department has implemented, or begun to implement, are detailed below.

Child protection committees

The Department is monitoring the child protection committees that it has established to protect and support child victims of violence and has formulated preventive, remedial and care programmes and plans in collaboration with the competent bodies. The membership of each of the 11 child protection committees distributed among all the Sultanate’s governorates includes a number of representatives from the bodies involved in child protection, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Public Prosecution Service and the Royal Oman Police.

- **Child protection hotline:** The purpose of the toll-free child protection hotline (1100) is to receive communications from children or other persons concerning any child who has been subjected to violence or ill-treatment or is at risk thereof. The hotline, which the Department established to protect children against any

form of danger to which they might be exposed, provides a counselling service and, if necessary, the call can be transferred to the competent authorities. It offers callers numerous forms of counselling and guidance, as well as appropriate options to resolve their problems, and helps to safeguard children's rights by protecting them from harm and neglect and ensuring their rehabilitation and social reintegration in accordance with the provisions and directives of the Children's Act. (The project under which the hotline is being set up is about 80 per cent complete.);

- **Reference and training guides for the protection of child victims of violence and abuse:** The Department has issued reference and training guides for the protection of child victims of violence and abuse in order to explain the ways in which such cases should be handled. The main purpose of these two guides is to facilitate the rehabilitation and pedagogical and social reintegration of child victims of any form of violence, exploitation or abuse and their significance lies in the fact that they constitute a highly useful aid and a basic reference for the development and enhancement of the capacities of the child protection committees insofar as they show the committees' members how to respond to and handle cases in an efficient manner and also help them to provide the medical, psychological, social and legal services that the victims need;
- **Preparation of the national child protection training team:** The Department has conducted its first 10-day intensive training course for the members of the national child protection training team. This team was established so that the Department would have a functional unit qualified to train child protection personnel throughout the Sultanate in the most effective ways to protect children from abuse and promote a culture of awareness of children's rights and the need for their protection. In order to further assist the team, the Department is preparing to issue a "trainer training guide" to ensure that the trainers are fully acquainted with the scientific, practical and technical methods that they will be applying to achieve the team's objectives.

Budget of the Family Protection Department for the years 2014 and 2015

	<i>Year</i>	
	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
1. Total in Omani rials	180 200	222 500
2. Total in US dollars	468 132.57	578 021.62

Ministry of Social Development, 2015.

This budget includes operating expenses, imprest fund, annual growth lines, staff salaries and the needs of *Dar al-Wifaq* inmates.

Question 10, concerning measures to address practices harmful to children

1. Practices harmful to children are prohibited under the provisions of article 20 of the Children's Act which stipulates that: "It is prohibited for any person, and particularly medical practitioners, nurses and guardians, to promote or engage or assist in traditional practices harmful to child health. The traditional practices deemed harmful to child health shall be specified in the implementing regulations." Under article 67 of the Act, any person who contravenes the provisions of the above-mentioned article is liable to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months and not more than 3 years and both the minimum and maximum limits of the penalty are doubled in the event of a repeated offence. Female genital mutilation is included among the harmful traditional practices specified in the draft implementing

regulations of the Children's Act and the Ministry of Health is endeavouring, through its health centres, to raise awareness of misguided health practices. With regard to child marriage, the Personal Status Act stipulates that a person is eligible to marry after attaining mental capacity at the age of 18 years although, by way of exception, under the provisions of article 10 (c) thereof a judge may permit the marriage of a person under 18 years of age after ascertaining that the marriage would be in the said person's best interest. It should be noted that early marriage does not constitute a phenomenon in Omani society insofar as the results of the 2003 and 2010 censuses showed that only 0.1 per cent of the children were married at an early age and the data collected during the national reproductive health survey in 2008 indicated that the average age at marriage was 26.8 years for women and 29.1 years for men.

2. As already stated in the reply to question 7, domestic violence is a punishable criminal offence insofar as article 56 of the Children's Act prohibits the practice of any form of violence against children and prescribes a penalty of imprisonment for the perpetrators thereof.

3. With regard to the penalties incurred by family members who kill their female relatives, a person convicted of the murder of any of his female ascendants or descendants is liable to the penalty of capital punishment in accordance with the provisions of article 237, paragraph 1, of the Criminal Code and no mitigating circumstances are admissible in such criminal cases.

Question 11, concerning support for parents in respect of their child-rearing responsibilities

The Sultanate provides support for parents in respect of their child-rearing responsibilities through the marriage guidance programme in which persons entering into marriage receive counselling in regard to many aspects of their marital relationship and the education and upbringing of their children. The various departments (Department of Children's Affairs — Child Welfare Centre — Family Development and Empowerment Department — Family Protection Department — Department of Women's Affairs — Family Guidance and Counselling Department) of the Directorate General of Family Development provide awareness-raising, guidance and counselling services for individuals and families in collaboration with other departments and directorates concerned. Private family guidance and counselling centres also provide such services in accordance with the regulations issued in Ministerial Decision No. 294/2013 and a toll-free telephone line (80077788) has been set up to provide counselling on family, child-rearing and protection matters.

The Child Welfare Centre provides orphans with a full range of welfare, educational, health, recreational and other services.

With regard to the protection of child victims of violence, exploitation or abuse, the requisite protection is provided by the *Dar al-Wifaq* institution.

Services for children with disabilities are provided by the *Aman* Centre, the Rehabilitation Department and the *Al-Wafa* social centres and the juvenile correctional and guidance centres run by the Department of Juvenile Affairs also provide services. In accordance with the regulations issued in Ministerial Decision No. 72/2014, the Ministry of Social Development provides numerous social assistance benefits to help families to meet their children's needs and, in accordance with the regulations issued in Ministerial Decision No. 235/2014, provides compensatory aids and assistive devices for persons with disabilities in need thereof.

The Ministry helps parents and persons responsible for the care and education of children through the social security benefits that it grants to various categories such as

orphans, incapacitated persons, widows, prisoners' families, divorced women, children of unknown parentage and abandoned children.

The Ministry of Health plays an effective role in making parents more familiar with all aspects of child health through its various health awareness programmes which are highly instrumental in ensuring the smooth implementation and progress of its preventive and therapeutic measures. The Ministry of Health is also making considerable endeavours to upgrade its health awareness programmes since health education has always formed an important supplementary component of all its principal health services and programmes and has helped to ensure the achievement of their objectives. The topics on which the health awareness programmes focus include maternal and child health, which is a matter of prime concern. Accordingly, the Ministry's Department of Health Education and Information has conducted numerous awareness-raising programmes and activities in fields such as childcare, respiratory tract infections, healthy nutrition, the advantages of natural and supplemented breastfeeding, the protection of children from malnutrition, diseases associated therewith and accidents in the home, and environmental health with a view to promoting greater health awareness among mothers and children and persons by whom they can be influenced. The number of educational activities conducted in the above-mentioned fields at health and social institutions in all of the Sultanate's governorates amounted to 111,923 in 2012, 245,264 in 2013 and 88,889 in 2014.

At the central level, 13 educational publications on child health were issued during the period 2012-2014 and awareness-raising messages concerning child health were also transmitted through the various information and social media.

Question 12, concerning children deprived of a family environment

Omani society is a Muslim society deeply attached to its social customs and traditions which are conducive to social and family cohesion. Consequently, the proportion of children deprived of family care is very low and does not constitute a phenomenon.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the alternative care system, including the care provided by foster families and the Child Welfare Centre, the Ministry of Social Development issued Ministerial Decision No. 49/2007, as amended by Ministerial Decision No. 138/2011, containing the family care and fostering regulations which specify the procedures to be followed when placing a child in the care of a foster family. The internal regulations of the Child Welfare Centre specifying the method of providing supplementary services for the child's integration in society are currently being updated in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Children's Act. The Ministry also establishes working groups to monitor the children and their foster families on a regular basis and prepare periodic reports on the extent to which the foster families are fulfilling their obligations. This monitoring is carried out by an experienced unit assisted by a professional team of specialists.

With regard to childcare institutions, children deprived of a family environment are provided with the basic necessities of life and are given an opportunity to lead a stable life in an alternative family environment in which values and principles are respected. The Child Welfare Centre, which was established to cater for the welfare of this category of children, applies the distinctive global SOS system which was designed to ensure that every child has the feeling of belonging to a family in which he or she can develop in an atmosphere characterized by affection, respect, security and emotional stability in an institution in which the child can find a mother, an aunt and brothers and sisters. According to the statistics for 2015, the Centre was accommodating a total of 148 children.

There is only one such institution, situated in the governorate of Muscat, which also serves all the other governorates. Children in need are accommodated in this Centre, which provides them with the requisite care. In view of the limited number of such children, the present situation does not necessitate the establishment of other institutions to serve this category of children.

It is noteworthy that the Sultanate does not have any residential care facilities run by private bodies. The Centre established by the Ministry of Social Development is the only one of its type.

With regard to *kafala*, this is a voluntary financial support programme in which the governmental, non-governmental and private sectors collaborate to secure the future of orphans living in the Child Welfare Centre or with foster families.

Chapter II of the Personal Status Act refers to the *hadana* (fosterage) system, full details of which can be found in articles 125-137 thereof.

With regard to the number of childcare institutions and the number of children residing therein, this question is answered in part III, section 3 (b) and (c), thereof.

Question 13, concerning abandoned children

1. The Sultanate shows special concern for abandoned children (children of unknown parentage or paternity) through the social, educational, health, psychological, recreational and other services that it provides under the programmes designed to ensure their welfare, the development of their skills and their endowment with sound Omani customs, traditions and values so that they can become self-reliant and assume their responsibilities towards themselves and society. With regard to assessment of the consequences for children who are not given a tribal name, it should be noted that this issue was addressed by amending various provisions of the implementing regulations of the Civil Status Act to which reference was made in the combined third and fourth national reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (paragraph 46 of section A on non-discrimination). Every child therefore bears a tribal name and is free to choose the name that suits him or her provided that it is consistent with the sharia and the laws and legislation in force in this connection. There is no discrimination between this category of children and other members of society since they all enjoy their full rights, particularly in regard to marriage and the formation of a thriving family.

2. Giving birth out of wedlock is not, in itself, a crime although it may be the result of a crime (illicit sexual intercourse or rape) and the crime of illicit sexual intercourse is conditional on the filing of a complaint by the husband or guardian. The illegitimate child is placed in the custody of the child's mother and the birth is entered in the civil status records.

3. With regard to non-Muslim children in need of fostering, it should be noted that all children are treated equally. There are no such needy children and, if such existed, they would be treated in accordance with international conventions and local laws and legislation.

Question 14, concerning child custody and parental rights

1. The Personal Status Act No. 32/1997 regulates child custody and guardianship in a manner that takes the best interests of the child into account. Custody can be transferred from one parent to another whenever the child's interests so require and the parent holding custody has an obligation to protect, bring up and care for the child and look after the child's affairs. In the same way as custody may be granted to the father, mother or one of the child's relatives, guardianship may be assigned to a male or a female in accordance with the stipulations of article 172 of the Act.

The child's right to maintenance is recognized in article 28 of the Children's Act which stipulates that: "The child is entitled to an appropriate standard of living that meets the requirements for his or her physical, intellectual, psychological and social development and the parents or guardian, depending on the circumstances, shall be responsible for securing this standard of living within the limits of their means and capabilities. The State shall ensure the fulfilment by the parents or guardian of their child support obligation through the collection of child maintenance, whenever necessary, from any of them in accordance with the provisions of the Personal Status Act."

The Omani Criminal Code prescribes a penalty of 10 days' to 3 months' imprisonment together with a fine of up to 10 rials for any father or mother who leaves their legitimate, illegitimate or foster child in a state of need regardless of whether they refuse to support the child or neglect to obtain the means needed to enable them to support the child.

2. The rules of inheritance are specified in the Islamic sharia. The Personal Status Act confirms the right of both boys and girls to inherit, their respective shares being in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic sharia and depending on their degree of kinship.

Question 15, concerning children with disabilities

1. The combined third and fourth national periodic reports gave a detailed account of the efforts being made to improve the situation of persons with disabilities and the services that they receive. It is noteworthy that, since 2011, greater concern has been shown for persons with disabilities in the Government's social policies in general and, in particular, in those of the Ministry of Social Development. This is illustrated by a number of measures such as the increase in the employment quotas of persons with disabilities and in opportunities for their enrolment in higher education, etc. The most important measure taken by the Ministry of Social Development consisted in the transfer of responsibility for the *Al-Wafa* centres for the rehabilitation of children with disabilities from the private to the private sector with effect from 17 October 2011 in accordance with the royal directives of H.M. Sultan Qaboos. This increased the State's role in the effective realization of the rights of children with disabilities and, accordingly, urgent measures were taken during the years 2012-2015 to increase the number of public sector personnel working in this field and provide them with further training. The social security and social assistance benefits for persons with disabilities were also increased.

The developments that have taken place since the submission of the previous reports include the incorporation of a special section on the rights of children with disabilities in the Children's Act. Consideration is being given to the introduction of amendments to the Welfare and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities Act, promulgated in 2008, in the light of the recommendations made on the basis of the results of the analytical and diagnostic study of the situation of persons with disabilities throughout the Sultanate which was conducted in 2014 in cooperation with UNICEF. A national strategy on persons with disabilities is currently being prepared within the framework of the 2016-2025 social action strategy and the Ministry of Social Development, in coordination with the Supreme Council for Planning, has compiled a statistical database on persons, including children, with disabilities. The Ministry, in coordination with the National Centre for Statistics and Information, is also making preparations to conduct a comprehensive census to enumerate and classify all persons with disabilities throughout the Sultanate and, in coordination with the Information Technology Authority, is implementing a project to establish electronic governmental mechanisms by the end of 2015 for the provision of a full range of services for persons, and particularly children, with disabilities.

It is noteworthy that the Sultanate's initial report on measures taken during the period 2008-2014 to implement its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, on 2 March 2015, the Ministry of Social Development signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the National Human Rights Commission in the monitoring and implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It should also be noted that the Sultanate enables children with disabilities to benefit from the health, educational and social services available in the various governorates on an equal footing with their non-disabled peers. Such services are provided by 25 *Al-Wafa* centres for the rehabilitation of children with disabilities, 8 non-governmental associations and 14 private centres in the various governorates. In order to improve the situation of persons, including children, with disabilities, the *Al-Aman* Rehabilitation Centre, the Rehabilitation Department, the Vocational Assessment and Rehabilitation Centre and the Department for the Provision of Services for Persons with Disabilities in the Directorate General of Persons with Disabilities are providing services for children free of charge under the supervision of, and with support from, the Government.

2. With regard to studies on the link between the prevalence of congenital malformations and consanguineous marriages, Omani society has a tradition of marriage within the extended family. The numerous studies that have been conducted on this subject include the *Study of consanguinity in the Sultanate of Oman, A. Rajab, M.A. Patton, 2000* which determined the proportion of consanguineous marriages among 635,600 couples (20.8 per cent of the total population of childbearing age) on the basis of a questionnaire distributed in all segments of society. The study found that 24.1 per cent of marriages were between first-degree relatives, 11.8 per cent between second-degree cousins and 20.4 per cent within strictly delimited tribal groupings.

The national health survey that was conducted in 2008 to determine the extent of knowledge of and trends in congenital malformations and hereditary disorders among 4,525 Omani households in the Sultanate showed that around 50 per cent of the participants in the survey had bonds of kinship before marriage and, when the male and female respondents were questioned concerning the causes of the congenital malformations with which they were afflicted, 74 per cent of them expressed their belief that consanguineous marriages and hereditary diseases were among the principal causes. The few studies that have been carried out point to a close link between consanguineous marriages and congenital malformations such as neurological and hearing impairments in children.

Question 16, concerning the accessibility of health services to all children

1. As already indicated, the Sultanate guarantees access to health services by all children, without discrimination, in all the governorates and regions and, since 1976, the Ministry of Health has been formulating five-year plans for the development of health services. During the first phase, these plans focused on horizontal expansion of the infrastructure for health services in order to ensure their equitable distribution in all of the Sultanate's governorates. During the second phase, which began in the 1980s, there was a trend towards development of the quality of these services in order to make them more comprehensive and ensure their coverage of all aspects of promotive, preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitative care. Thematic programmes targeting major health problems and vulnerable categories, such as the expanded immunization programme, the maternal and child care programme and the programmes to combat diarrhoea and respiratory diseases, were designed and implemented and the number of facilities providing health services continued to increase throughout this phase. During the third phase, the Ministry focused on the

regulation and development of the increasingly diverse health services in a manner consistent with the concepts of primary health care and decentralized management of health services and the need to treat the new types of diseases resulting from the shift to a modern lifestyle and the changing demographic structure.

It is noteworthy that the health system in the Sultanate of Oman is characterized by a certain degree of decentralization in the provision of health services, as a result of which the health departments in the governorates are of crucial importance in view of their fundamental role as service providers and first responders to the needs of individuals.

It is evident from the above that health services are available to all citizens and expatriates in both urban and rural areas. They are accessible to girls as well as boys from all segments of society without exception insofar as health insurance is guaranteed to all. As pointed out in the national reports, Omani society forms a single fabric in which there are no groups constituting minorities.

2. With regard to awareness-raising and education programmes to inform parents and children about sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and the measures taken in this connection, reference was made in the national reports to the measures taken to raise health awareness, which is regarded as supplementing the health services and programmes provided by the Ministry of Health and its various facilities, through the community health support groups attached to the Ministry of Health which constitute a connecting link between the health programmes and local communities, or through the awareness-raising and education programmes implemented by numerous government ministries such as the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Heritage and Culture and the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

Mention was also made of the fact that HIV/AIDS infection rates are low in Oman, which gives an indication of the effectiveness of the measures taken.

The Department of Contagious Diseases is continuing to implement the national programme to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, leprosy and sexually transmitted diseases and is making every endeavour to prevent the propagation of the HIV/AIDS virus, particularly among the most vulnerable categories. It is doing its utmost to improve the health and psychological situation of persons living with the virus and to provide the treatment needed to avert its complications.

The principal recent achievements in this field include the inauguration, in 2009, of a national campaign to raise health awareness in society as a whole, and especially among youth, with a view to putting an end to discriminatory stigmatization of persons infected with the HIV/AIDS virus and encouraging governmental and non-governmental institutions to participate in the programmes to make the public better informed on the subject of HIV/AIDS and the nature of the treatment and counselling services available. The national programme to combat HIV/AIDS conducts awareness-raising campaigns at events such as the Muscat Festival, the Salalah Autumn Festival and the celebration of International Volunteer Day and in various other governorates where such campaigns are run by teams trained to provide counselling and carry out voluntary tests. The programme also encourages public and private institutions to deliver awareness-raising lectures targeting youth, and particularly college students. These awareness-raising campaigns consist in the dissemination of information concerning the HIV/AIDS syndrome, the conduct of rapid and confidential tests and distribution of the requisite educational material.

Question 17, concerning measures taken to combat child labour

1. The rights of young workers are regulated by the Labour Code (Act No. 35/2003) and section VII of the Children's Act also addresses the question of child labour within the context of economic rights. Article 45 of the latter Act prohibits the employment of any child in occupations or industries which, by their very nature or due to the conditions in which they are practised, are likely to be harmful to the child's health, safety or moral conduct. These occupations and industries are specified by decision of the Minister of Manpower after consultation with the bodies concerned.

The Ministry of Manpower and the bodies concerned are currently conducting a final review of a draft ministerial decision regulating the terms and conditions under which young persons can be employed and specifying the occupations, trades and industries in which their employment is not allowed. The draft decision stipulates that young males and females under 15 years of age must not be employed in, or allowed to enter, workplaces and specifies a number of occupations in which their employment is prohibited due to the bodily, psychological, moral, chemical, physical or biological risks involved.

The draft regulates the terms and conditions of such employment in such a way as to ensure that children are not exposed to risks that would be detrimental to their development, health or safety, reduce their ability to benefit from education or render them vulnerable to any form of exploitation. It should be borne in mind that, by law, education is compulsory until the basic stage is completed when the child reaches the age of 15 years, before which the employment of children is prohibited in order to enable them to complete their basic education.

Article 46 of the Children's Act prohibits the employment of any child under 15 years of age in occupations other than those specified in article 45 thereof, with the proviso that the Minister of Manpower may raise that age limit in industries and occupations the nature of which so requires. The minimum age limit set in article 46 does not apply to the employment of children in agricultural, fishing or artisanal, craft or administrative occupations in family businesses in which employment is restricted to the members of a single household, provided that such work is not likely to impede the child's education or impair the child's health or development. For the purposes of the application of this provision, the term "household" is defined in the implementing regulations of the Act.

Under article 48 of the Act, the employer is obliged to have the child medically examined free of charge prior to, and at periodic intervals after, his or her employment. Such periodic medical examinations must be scheduled in the light of the nature of the work and the child's state of health in the manner specified in the implementing regulations.

A child's daily working time must not exceed six hours, interspersed by one or more rest periods amounting in total to not less than one hour. It is prohibited to require a child to work for more than four consecutive hours or remain in the workplace for a period of more than seven hours.

The Ministry of Manpower has appointed labour inspectors in all of the Sultanate's governorates to monitor compliance with the provisions of the labour legislation.

The Children's Act prescribes penalties ranging from 1 to 6 months' imprisonment and/or a fine of 500-5,000 Omani rials for breaches of the provisions of articles 45, 46, 48 and 49 thereof.

2. The Ministry of Social Development, in collaboration with Sultan Qaboos University, is currently conducting a study on child labour with a view to identifying

the main reasons that motivate many children to seek employment, shedding more light on the psychological and social effects and consequences of this phenomenon on the children, their families and society, determining the magnitude and geographical scope of the problem of child labour in Omani society and the social, educational and economic characteristics of Omani working children and formulating effective recommendations the adoption of which would help to curb and put an end to this problem.

Question 18, concerning juveniles

1. Chapter III of the Juvenile Accountability Act No. 30/2008 is devoted to the juvenile justice system. Articles 34 and 35 of the Act made provision for the establishment of a number of courts of first instance, defined as being single-judge courts, to adjudicate cases involving misdemeanours and infractions committed by juveniles. These are the only courts competent to hear juvenile delinquents or potential delinquents. The Act lays down the following rules of procedure which differ from those applied under the Omani Code of Criminal Procedure:

- Civil actions are not admissible in juvenile courts;
- In cases in which a juvenile under 16 years of age is among the persons accused, he must be referred to a juvenile court. If he has reached that age, he is referred to a criminal or misdemeanours court, depending on the circumstances, in which the provisions of this Act are applied to him;
- Any measure of which, under the terms of the Act, the juvenile must be informed and any judgement passed on him must also be notified to one of his parents or his legal or testamentary guardian or curator, as appropriate, who have the right to appoint an attorney to defend the juvenile delinquent, failing which the court appoints an attorney to undertake that task;
- The juvenile courts sit in camera and only the juvenile's father or legal or testamentary guardian or curator, attorneys, witnesses, probation officers and other persons authorized by the court are permitted to attend the proceedings;
- Although the juvenile may be excused from attendance and replaced by an authorized representative, a judgement convicting him cannot be handed down until the record of the proceedings has been explained to him;
- A judgement imposing care and correctional measures on a juvenile is enforceable;
- If so requested by the public prosecutor or by the juvenile, his parents or his legal or testamentary guardian or curator, the court may rehear and suspend or amend a judgement or order imposing any of the measures prescribed in the Act provided that the observation reports issued by the bodies responsible for the juvenile's care are attached to the request;
- The minimum age of criminal responsibility is set at 9 years. However, a study is currently being conducted by various bodies concerned with a view to raising this age to 12 years.

2. The care and correctional measures are as follows:

The juvenile is handed over to any of the following, provided that they meet the requisite moral standards and are capable of providing the care needed:

- One or both of his parents;
- His legal or testamentary guardian;
- One of his family members or relatives;

- An alternative family assuming responsibility for his care;
- A juvenile guidance facility or any approved juvenile care institution.

The juvenile may be reprimanded, given a warning or prevented from frequenting certain places or from engaging in certain types of work.

The correctional measures consist in:

- Placement in a juvenile reform facility;
- Placement under judicial probation;
- Enrolment for vocational training;
- Obligation to perform community service;
- Placement in a health institution.

If a juvenile over 16 years of age commits a felony punishable by the death penalty or life imprisonment, he is sentenced to a term of not less than 3 and not more than 10 years' imprisonment. If he commits an offence punishable by a fixed term of imprisonment, he is sentenced to not more than half the maximum legally prescribed penalty for the offence but not less than 3 years' imprisonment in the case of felonies. The court may also impose one of the measures specified in article 20, without prejudice to any ancillary penalties prescribed in the Omani Criminal Code. The terms of imprisonment to which juvenile delinquents are sentenced are served in a juvenile reform facility.

Juveniles in conflict with the law are not detained together with adult prisoners. This is guaranteed by article 21 of the Act, which stipulates that: "Juvenile delinquents shall be placed in a juvenile reform facility on the basis of an order to that effect."

3. The roles played by juvenile care and correctional facilities are defined as follows:

- **Juvenile Observation Facility:** This is a facility run by the Royal Oman Police in which a delinquent is confined until the court delivers its verdict. The period of confinement must not exceed 48 hours but may be extended to five days by the public prosecutor. The facility provides full recreational and care facilities for juveniles. It is noteworthy that, when the report was discussed at the first national conference on childhood in 2013, it was recommended that responsibility for the facility be transferred from the Royal Oman Police to the Ministry of Social Development;
- **Juvenile Guidance Facility:** This is a facility run by the Ministry of Social Development in which juveniles at risk of delinquency are confined in order to correct their behaviour and protect them from delinquency. It became operational at the end of 2013 and all the programmes needed to protect juveniles from lapsing into delinquency are being applied by appropriately qualified staff. It comprises a multipurpose hall, classrooms, a library and a medical clinic to provide inmates with first aid;
- **Juvenile Reform Facility:** This is a facility run by the Ministry of Social Development in which convicted juvenile delinquents are confined. It provides juveniles with a range of social, psychological and educational care services that contribute to and expedite the process of their reform. Specialized professional staff resolve the social and psychological problems of juveniles, strengthen their bonds with their families, foster their self-confidence and help them to complete their studies. The facility's specialized workshops teach juveniles how to operate electrical equipment and repair automobiles. There are also handicraft and drawing workshops to bring out and develop their talents. The physical and

psychological welfare of juveniles is catered for by sports training given by specialized sports instructors.

Question 19, concerning the involvement of children and asylum seekers in armed conflict

1. The Omani Criminal Code is currently being reviewed and amended by the competent authorities. With regard to the inclusion therein of a provision criminalizing violations of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the State's Basic Law stipulates that international treaties ratified by the Sultanate have the force of law and form part of the country's legislation. The said Optional Protocol therefore has the same legal force as the Omani Criminal Code. Moreover, article 55 of the Children's Act prohibits the recruitment of children into the Armed Forces or armed groups or their direct involvement in military operations and any violation of the provisions of that article are punishable by a term of up to 15 years' imprisonment and a fine of 10,000 Omani rials.

2. With regard to the establishment of an identification mechanism for asylum-seeking and migrant children, and especially children coming from Yemen, who may have been recruited or used in hostilities, the Sultanate is facilitating the humanitarian endeavours made for the benefit of the wounded Yemeni children who are being treated and provided with every form of assistance in its territory. After ensuring that they have recovered their health and that the situation in Yemen has improved, they will be sent back to their home country where they will be monitored and provided with appropriate aid.

Question 20, concerning the sale of children and child prostitution

1. In order to ensure the safety and safeguard the rights of children, the Children's Act made provision for the establishment of child protection committees to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse in all the Sultanate's governorates. These committees are competent to receive complaints and reports concerning any violations of children's rights and cases in which children have been subjected to violence, exploitation or abuse. Any child victim thereof may be placed in a temporary shelter by order of the Public Prosecution Service on the basis of a recommendation from a child protection officer and a child in respect of whom such an order has been issued may be released into the custody of his or her guardian when there is no longer any justifiable cause for such placement and provided that the guardian has given a written undertaking to care for the child.

Children are entitled to claim civil damages in respect of the harm suffered as a result of violence, exploitation or abuse.

With a view to protecting children and deterring those who seek to exploit them, article 218 of the Omani Criminal Code promulgated by Royal Decree No. 7/74 prescribed a penalty of 5-15 years' imprisonment for anyone convicted of sexually abusing a person under 15 years of age.

2. The role of the Department of Juvenile Affairs is confined to juvenile delinquents or potential delinquents as indicated in the reply to question 18. Dar al-Wifaq is the facility which, in accordance with its statute, offers urgent protection for child victims of abuse and exploitation, assesses their psychological condition, provides them with appropriate accommodation, health care, recreation and entertainment, implements rehabilitation programmes, formulates treatment and rehabilitation plans, monitors the child's psychosocial behaviour and organizes excursions outside the facility for their benefit.

Part II

(a) New bills and laws, and their respective regulations

- The Children's Act was promulgated by Royal Decree No. 22/2014 on 19 May 2014. It is noteworthy that, prior to the promulgation of this Act, crimes against children were dealt with in accordance with the Omani Criminal Code;
- The implementing regulations of the Children's Act are in the final stage of preparation;
- The School Education Act, in which reference is made to the compulsory nature of the basic stage of education, is in the process of being approved.

(b) New institutions and their mandates, and institutional reforms

- The Directorate General for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities was established by Royal Decree No. 18/2014;
- The Family Protection Department, to which *Dar al-Wifaq* is attached, has been established;
- The juvenile observation, guidance and reform facilities, as well as the Child Welfare Centre, have been established;
- The statute of *Dar al-Wifaq* was issued by Ministerial Decision No. 228/2013.

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing

Preparations are currently being made to complete the following strategies relating to the rights of the child:

- The Government's Social Development Strategy (Supreme Council for Planning);
- The Social Action Strategy of the Ministry of Social Development;
- The National Strategy for Childhood;
- The National Strategy for the Advancement of Omani Women;
- The National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities;
- The National Strategy for Education 2040 and the Vision for Education in the Sultanate have been developed and updated and are in the final stage of approval;
- A health workers' manual on ways to deal with cases of violence and abuse of children has been prepared with a view to providing better services for such children;
- The Ministry of Social Development and the Royal Oman Police are preparing joint programmes, policies and plans for the care and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents and potential delinquents;
- A children's helpline (1100) has been set up;
- A training guide has been prepared for the child protection committees;
- Developmental standards for early childhood have been established;
- Child protection officers have been designated.

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments

- The Sultanate has acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-fourth session in December 1999, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 104/2011;
- Ratification of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 54/2011;
- The Sultanate's accession to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, adopted in 1994, was approved under the terms of Royal Decree No. 30/2013;
- Accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 64/2013;
- Accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 26/2014;
- Ratification of the Arab Convention against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 27/2014;
- Ratification of the Arab Convention against Corruption, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 28/2014;
- Ratification of the amendment to the Arab Convention against Terrorism, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 14/2010;
- Ratification of the Arab Convention against Cybercrime, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 5/2015;
- Ratification of the Arab Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, under the terms of Royal Decree No. 6/2015.

Part III**Data, statistics and other information, if available****1. Budget lines covering the past three years regarding children and social sectors****Resources allocated to health services****Total expenditure of the Ministry of Health**

<i>Indicator/year</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Expenditure of the Ministry of Health (millions of Omani rials)	448.1	530.6
Percentage of total government expenditure	4.5%	5.5%

Source: National Centre for Statistics and Information, Statistical Yearbook, 2014.

Resources allocated to primary and secondary education

Total expenditure of the Ministry of Education

<i>Indicator/year</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Expenditure of the Ministry of Education (millions of Omani rials)	866.2	920.1
Percentage of total government expenditure	6.8%	6.9%

Source: National Centre for Statistics and Information, Statistical Yearbook, 2014.

Resources allocated to social development

Total expenditure of the Ministry of Social Development

<i>Indicator/year</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Expenditure of the Ministry of Social Development (millions of Omani rials)	149.3	161.8

Source: National Centre for Statistics and Information, Statistical Yearbook, 2014.

2. Updated statistical data, disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location and socioeconomic status, covering the past three years, on the number of:

(a) Child injuries and fatalities resulting from road accidents

Child injuries resulting from road accidents in the years 2012-2014

<i>Year</i>	<i>0-14 years</i>			<i>5-9 years</i>			<i>10-14 years</i>			<i>15-19 years</i>			<i>Grand total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
2012	796	560	1 356	696	428	1 124	820	390	1 210	2 995	645	3 640	7 330
2013	715	481	1 196	717	422	1 139	813	344	1 157	2 464	481	2 945	6 437
2014	590	437	1 027	665	347	1 012	688	258	946	1 941	423	2 364	5 349

Road accident injuries recorded in outpatient departments of Ministry of Health institutions.

Child fatalities resulting from road accidents in the years 2012-2014

<i>Year</i>	<i>0-4 years</i>	<i>5-9 years</i>	<i>10-14 years</i>	<i>15-19 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
2012	49	27	24	88	188
2013	40	14	16	65	135
2014	34	20	29	59	142

Road accident fatalities recorded in Ministry of Health facilities.

(b) Child marriages

The birth rate among females in the 15-19 age group declined notably from 59.6 per cent per 1,000 of the female population in this age group in 1990 to 15 per cent in 2013 (Ministry of Health, annual health report, 2013).

(c) **Cases of child abuse and neglect in families, in foster families, and in other types of care and public and private institutions, such as children's homes, schools, juvenile detention centres and prisons**

Statistics on cases of child abuse handled by the Family Protection Department and the child protection committees in the governorates in the years 2014 and 2015

(i) *By age*

Year		0-6 years	7-12 years	13-18 years	Unknown	Total
2014	Number	7	16	6	2	31
	Percentage	23%	52%	19%	6%	100%
2015	Number	14	7	7	11	39
	Percentage	36%	18%	18%	28%	100%

(ii) *By sex*

Year		Male	Female	Total
2014	Number	10	21	31
	Percentage	32%	68%	100%
2015	Number	23	16	39
	Percentage	59%	41%	100%

(iii) *By nationality*

Year		Omani	Other nationalities	Total
2014	Number	30	1	31
	Percentage	97%	3%	100%
2015	Number	35	4	39
	Percentage	90%	10%	100%

(iv) *By governorate*

Year		Muscat	Batinah	Sharqiyah	Dakhiliyah	Dhahirah	Buraimi	Dhofar	Musandam	Wusta	Total
2014	Number	9	3	6	7	0	6	0	0	0	31
	Percentage	29%	10%	19%	23%	0%	19%	0%	0%	0%	100%
2015	Number	17	3	3	15	0	1	0	0	0	39
	Percentage	44%	8%	8%	38%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	100%

(v) *By type of abuse*

Year		Physical	Psychological	Sexual	Neglect	Multiple	Total
2014	Number	2	4	3	14	8	31
	Percentage	6%	13%	10%	45%	26%	100%
2015	Number	2	4	6	19	8	39
	Percentage	5%	10%	15%	49%	21%	100%

(d) Cases of child abuse and neglect reported through police stations, hospitals, schools and family development offices in each governorate, and on the legislation and policies in force to ensure the mandatory reporting of suspected cases of child abuse and neglect

The child protection committees are responsible for the receipt of complaints and reports concerning any violations of children's rights. Anyone has the right to report any incident constituting violence against or exploitation or abuse of a child or any violation of the rights provided for in the Children's Act. The numerous reports that the committees receive from police stations, schools and individuals are handled in accordance with the Children's Act under which child victims are entitled to protection and care. The following statistics show the number of cases received from health institutions.

Cases of abuse and neglect reported by Ministry of Health institutions and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

<i>Year reported</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
2012	42	31	73
2013	83	48	131
2014	70	64	134

Ministry of Health, 2015.

(e) Investigations into cases of sexual violence and rape, and the outcomes of the trials, including information on penalties imposed on the perpetrators and on redress and compensation offered to the victims

Sexual violence and rape are violent acts which, far from being motivated by sexual desire, are committed with a view to using sex as a weapon with which to forcefully assert domination over the victim of the act. Anyone who is subjected to sexual harassment, sexual assault or rape has the right to decide whether to report it to the authorities (the police) or discuss it with trustworthy persons. In all circumstances, there are some protection measures that need to be taken as soon as possible. Some cases have been closed on legal grounds while others have been referred to the competent court with an indictment for indecent assault in accordance with article 218 of the Criminal Code. Since the promulgation of the Children's Act, article 56 (b) thereof has been applied and a severe penalty has been imposed for any form of harassment, however slight, of a child. In cases of sexual violence and rape, even heavier sentences are imposed, ranging from 5 to 15 years' imprisonment and a fine of 5,000-10,000 Omani rials.

Number of persons accused of offences of indecent assault in the years 2013 and 2014

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of persons accused of offences of indecent assault</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Omanis</i>	<i>Foreigners</i>	
2013	28	-	28
2014	38	-	38

(f) Children classified as malnourished and iron-deficient, and those under 5 classified as underweight and physically underdeveloped

Year	Total number of new cases recorded			Average per 1,000 children under 5			Total cases recorded by the end of December		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2012	801	677	1 478			4.6			3 702
2013	798	689	1 487			4.3			3 422
2014	445	425	870			2.4			2 928

Malnutrition resulting from protein deficiency in children under 5 in Ministry of Health institutions in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014, Ministry of Health statistics.

(g) Children with HIV/AIDS

Year reported	Males	Females	Total
2012	6	2	8
2013	4	2	6
2014	3	1	4

Children afflicted with HIV/AIDS in the years 2012-2014, Ministry of Health statistics.

(h) Children working in the formal and the informal economy, including camel jockeys and girls exploited as domestic workers

Reference was made to child labour in the reply to question 17 in Part I. The manpower statistics for the age group 15-17 up to the end of July 2015 are shown in Annex 1.

With regard to camel jockeys, the third and fourth national reports stated that the Sultanate had prohibited the use of children in camel races and had replaced them with robot jockeys in accordance with orders issued by H.M. Sultan Qaboos in 2008.

Robot jockeys came into use in the Sultanate with effect from the 2009/10 season in the races and *ardhas* (camel shows). The directives of Sultan Qaboos met with numerous positive responses since they are consistent with international laws and regulations and will also enable Omani camels to compete strongly in external competitions.

Even before those royal orders were issued, the Sultanate's Camel Racing Federation and other relevant bodies had introduced mechanisms and controls to protect children.

(i) Unaccompanied child migrants and children of migrant workers in the State party, including the number being detained in immigration facilities

The Residence of Foreigners Act promulgated by Royal Decree No. 16/1995 regulates the entry of migrant workers into the Sultanate and sets the minimum age for issuance of a work permit at 21 years. The children of migrant workers are guaranteed protection under the Children's Act No. 22/2014 and, if they are subjected to any form of violence, exploitation or abuse, are provided with care at the temporary shelter (*Dar al-Wifaq*). No children are being detained.

(j) Children convicted of crimes and in prison and/or juvenile detention centres**Numerical distribution of juveniles detained in correctional facilities, by age group, during the period 2012-2014**

<i>Age group</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
Under 9 years	0	0	0
9-12 years	1	1	0
13-17 years	67	31	31
Total	68	32	31

Ministry of Social Development, Department of Juvenile Affairs, 2015.

Numerical distribution of juveniles detained in correctional facilities, by duration of detention, during the period 2012-2014

<i>Duration of detention</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
Less than 3 months	34	9	9
3-6 months	16	6	5
6 months-1 year	0	0	0
1-3 years	9	16	13
More than 3 years	4	1	0
Until reaching legal age	5	0	4
Total	68	32	31

Ministry of Social Development, Department of Juvenile Affairs, 2015.

3. Data, disaggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic background, ethnic origin and geographical location, covering the past three years, relating to the situation of children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents**(a) The number of children separated from their parents**

There are very few such cases. The children concerned are placed in the Child Welfare Centre.

(b) The number of children placed in institutions**Number of children placed in the Child Welfare Centre during the period 2013-2015**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of children</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
2013	91	40	131
2014	97	39	136
2015	108	40	148

Ministry of Social Affairs, Directorate General of Family Development, Child Welfare Centre, 2015.

(c) The number of children placed with foster families**Number of children placed with foster families during the period 2013-2015**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of children</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
2013	129	205	334
2014	136	205	341
2015	147	211	358

Ministry of Social Affairs, Directorate General of Family Development, 2015.

(d) The number of children adopted domestically (applicable to non-Muslim children) or through inter-country adoptions

Although the regulations in force in the Sultanate do not permit adoption, there is a fosterage system to which reference was made in paragraph 159 of the combined third and fourth national reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. Data, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability and geographic location, covering the last three years, on the number of children with disabilities**(a) Living with their families**

According to the statistics for 2010, the number of children with disabilities in the age group 4-18 amounted to 10,178 of whom 41 were enrolled in the Vocational Assessment and Rehabilitation Centre, 2,158 in the *Al-Wafa* rehabilitation centres for children with disabilities, 135 in the *Al-Aman* Rehabilitation Centre, 360 in the 10 centres run by the Association for the Care of Children with Disabilities in the Sultanate's various governorates, 345 in centres of the Early Intervention Association for Children with Disabilities, 127 in the *Omar bin al-Khattab* Institute for the Blind, 171 in the School for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and 172 in the *Al-Amal* School for the Deaf, the others remaining with their families and receiving the requisite rehabilitation through the institutions concerned.

(b) In social care boarding institutions**The *Al-Aman* Rehabilitation Centre**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of boarders</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
2013	43	19	62
2014	45	19	64

Ministry of Social Affairs, annual reports, 2013-2014.

(c) Attending regular primary schools

(d) Attending regular secondary schools

Number of students aged 5-18 enrolled in the educational integration programme

Governorate	2012/13			2013/14			2014/15		
	Number of students			Number of students			Number of students		
				Impediment					
	Hearing	Intellectual	Total	Hearing	Intellectual	Total	Hearing	Intellectual	Total
Muscat	0	125	125	0	140	140	0	150	150
Al-Batinah South	36	111	147	36	148	184	38	158	196
Al-Batinah North	60	217	277	60	226	286	76	268	344
Al-Dakhiliyah	42	155	197	54	172	226	50	210	260
Al-Sharqiyah North	30	86	116	30	104	134	32	146	178
Al-Sharqiyah South	18	56	74	27	96	123	29	97	126
Buraimi	11	28	39	16	37	53	19	40	59
Al-Dhahirah	7	83	90	12	95	107	14	98	112
Dhofar	41	62	103	37	72	109	40	74	114
Musandam	3	20	23	5	18	23	5	17	22
Al-Wusta	0	9	9	0	5	5	0	4	4
Total	248	952	1 200	277	1 113	1 390	303	1 262	1 565

Ministry of Education, 2015.

Number of educationally integrated schools in the governorates in the academic year 2014/15

Governorate	Basic education		Total
	First cycle 6-9 years	Second cycle 10-16 years	
Muscat	44	23	82
Al-Batinah South	43	30	100
Al-Batinah North	27	22	69
Al-Dakhiliyah	34	20	75
Al-Sharqiyah South	18	9	47
Al-Sharqiyah North	20	12	44
Buraimi	13	6	19
Al-Dhahirah	15	11	49
Dhofar	22	14	66
Al-Wusta	4	1	16
Musandam	4	3	9
Total	244	151	576

Ministry of Education, 2015.

(e) Attending special schools

Number of students enrolled at *Al-Amal* School for the Deaf

		2014/15			
	Grade	Males	Females	Total	Classes
1.	First preparatory	2	3	5	1
2.	Second preparatory	2	3	5	1
3.	First basic	5	5	10	1
4.	Second basic	6	4	10	2
5.	Third basic	11	9	20	3
6.	Fourth basic	8	3	11	2
7.	Fifth basic	5	0	5	1
8.	Sixth basic	11	3	14	2
9.	Seventh basic	6	5	11	2
10.	Eighth basic	6	6	12	2
11.	Ninth basic	12	0	12	1
12.	Tenth basic	12	5	17	2
13.	Eleventh	11	9	20	2
14.	Twelfth	11	9	20	2
Total		108	64	172	

Ministry of Education, 2015.

Number of students enrolled at the School for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

		2014/15			
	Grade	Males	Females	Total	Classes
1.	First preparatory	3	2	5	1
2.	Second preparatory	2	2	4	1
3.	First basic	1	3	4	1
4.	Second basic	6	-	6	1
5.	Third basic	2	2	4	2
6.	Fourth basic	5	5	10	3
7.	Fifth basic	12	5	17	3
8.	Sixth basic	15	6	21	5
9.	Seventh basic	24	13	37	4
10.	Eighth basic	17	14	31	4
11.	Ninth basic	23	9	32	4
Total		110	61	171	29

Ministry of Education, 2015.

Number of students enrolled at *Omar bin al-Khattab* Institute for the Blind

		2014/15			
<i>Grade</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Classes</i>
1.	First preparatory	2	1	3	1
2.	Second preparatory	2	2	4	1
3.	First basic	3	4	7	2
4.	Second basic	4	4	8	2
5.	Third basic	6	6	12	2
6.	Fourth basic	4	2	6	1
7.	Fifth basic	6	3	9	2
8.	Sixth basic	8	3	11	2
9.	Seventh basic	5	3	8	2
10.	Eighth basic	4	1	5	1
11.	Ninth basic	9	3	12	2
12.	Tenth basic	3	6	9	2
13.	Eleventh	10	2	12	2
14.	Twelfth	7	3	10	2
15.	Seventh adult education	-	-	-	-
16.	Eighth adult education	3	1	4	1
17.	Ninth adult education	2	2	4	1
18.	Eleventh adult education	-	-	-	-
19.	Twelfth adult education	3	-	3	1
Total		127	46	81	27

Ministry of Education, 2015.

(f) Out of school

The statistics from the 2010 census were annexed to the combined third and fourth national reports.

(g) Abandoned by their families

There are no recorded cases of children with disabilities being abandoned by their families since Omani society is characterized by the humanitarian values derived from the Islamic religion, the cohesive tribal environment and the prevailing Omani customs.

5. Data disaggregated, inter alia, by age, sex, socioeconomic background, geographical location and ethnic origin, in particular with respect to minority children, rural children, children of nomadic peoples, children in situations of poverty and children of migrant workers

Minority children, rural children, children of nomadic peoples, children in situations of poverty and children of migrant workers do not constitute separate categories in the Sultanate.

(a) The enrolment rates and completion rates, in percentages, of the relevant age groups in pre-primary schools, in primary schools and in secondary schools

Percentage enrolment rates in public and private schools by grade

Academic year	Grades	Total enrolment rate			Net enrolment rate			Adjusted net enrolment rate		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2011	1-6	101.13	101.3	101.2	96.13	95.39	95.77	98.6	97.5	98.05
	7-9	99.5	98.9	99.25	82.75	83.23	82.99	95.7	95.0	95.35
	10-12	96.19	95.08	95.64	77.16	77.98	77.56	85.0	85.6	85.3
2012	1-6	101.2	101.4	101.3	96.2	95.5	95.9	98.7	97.6	98.2
	7-9	99.6	99.0	99.4	82.9	83.3	83.1	95.8	95.1	95.5
	10-12	96.3	95.1	95.6	77.3	78.1	77.7	85.1	85.7	85.4
2013	1-6	101.3	101.5	101.4	96.3	95.6	96.0	98.8	97.7	98.3
	7-9	99.6	99.0	99.4	82.9	83.3	83.1	95.8	95.1	95.5
	10-12	96.3	95.1	95.6	77.3	78.1	77.7	85.1	85.7	85.4

Ministry of Education, 2015.

Increase in percentage enrolment rates at kindergartens for the age group 3-5 yrs. between the academic years 2009/10 and 2012/13

Academic year	Net enrolment rate			Total enrolment rate		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2009	32.4	30.6	31.5	44.6	42.2	43.4
2010	41.2	40.9	41.0	54.2	54.7	54.4
2011	42.0	41.4	41.7	54.0	54.0	54.0
2012	38.6	39.8	39.2	46.7	48.2	47.4

(b) The number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions

Academic year	2010/11			2011/12			2012/13		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
First	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.30	0.30	0.30
Second	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.12	0.12	0.12
Third	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.10	0.11	0.11
Fourth	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.11	0.08	0.10
Total first-fourth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.15	0.15	0.15
Fifth	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.31	0.21	0.26
Sixth	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.33	0.33	0.33
Seventh	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.53	0.57	0.55
Eighth	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.02	1.05	1.03
Ninth	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.77	1.30	1.54
Tenth	1.9	1.2	1.6	2.4	1.2	1.8	3.54	2.18	2.87
Total fifth-tenth	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.26	0.94	1.10

Academic year	2010/11			2011/12			2012/13		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Eleventh	4.2	1.6	2.9	3.3	1.6	2.5	5.76	2.33	3.99
Twelfth	1.6	0.7	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.1	1.63	0.95	1.28
Total eleventh-twelfth	2.9	1.2	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.8	3.87	1.66	2.71
Grand Total	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.34	0.81	1.07

Ministry of Education, 2015.

(c) Vocational schools and alternative programmes for children who have dropped out of school

Children who have dropped out of school are enrolled at literacy and adult education centres to complete their education or, in some cases, at vocational training centres run by the Ministry of Manpower.

(d) The teacher-pupil ratio

Year	Ratio	Grades 1-6	Grades 7-9	Grades 10-12	Total
2012	Estimated teacher-pupil ratio	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.7
2013	Estimated teacher-pupil ratio	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.3
2014	Estimated teacher-pupil ratio	9.3	9.5	9.1	9.3

Ministry of Education, 2015.

6. The data contained in this report have been updated and the most recent statistics on juveniles accused of criminal offences in the years 2013-2014 are annexed hereto

7. Areas affecting children that are considered to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention

- The Children's Act;
- The National Strategy for Childhood 2016-2025;
- The child protection committees;
- The Education Act (awaiting adoption);
- The new National Strategy for Education 2040 (awaiting adoption);
- The Sultanate's updated Vision for Education (awaiting adoption).

Annex 1

Manpower statistics for the age group 15-17 yrs. up to the end of July 2015

1. Sex	
Males	24
Females	4
Total	28
2. Age	
16 years	8
17 years	20
Total	28
3. Educational level	
Illiterate	1
Literate	5
Primary	17
Secondary	5
Total	28
4. Geographical region	
Muscat	4
Al-Batinah North	10
Al-Batinah South	3
Musandam	0
Al-Dhahirah	0
Al-Dakhiliyah	7
Al-Sharqiyah North	1
Al-Sharqiyah South	1
Al-Wusta	0
Dhofar	0
Buraimi	2
Total	28
5. Economic sector	
Manufacturing industries	4
Construction	10
Wholesale and retail trade and vehicle repair	9
Hotels and restaurants	2
Real estate, rental and commercial enterprise activities	1
Total	26

6. Economic activity	
General (residential and non-residential) building and construction contracting	6
Groceries, supermarkets, general and frozen food shops	3
Cafés	2
Export and import offices	2
Commercial cleaning	1
Retailing of all types of games for entertainment	1
Retailing of ready-made and fashion clothes	1
Retailing of perfumes, cosmetics, beauty soaps and incense	1
Installation, fitting and repair of electrical equipment and warning systems	1
Food supply and catering companies	1
Manufacture of wall and floor tiles (ceramic and porcelain)	1
Manufacture and installation of cast metal products for use in building and construction, such as windows, doors, stairs and awnings etc. (metalworking)	1
Marble cutting and sawing	1
Enterprises setting up water, electricity and telephone supply facilities and networks	1
Distribution of general-interest newspapers and magazines	1
Total	24

Annex 2

Data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

The nutritional situation of children under 5 years of age, according to the three indicators of underweight, stunting and wasting, in the Sultanate of Oman in 2014

		<i>Weight for age</i>			<i>Height for age</i>			<i>Weight for height</i>						
		<i>Underweight</i>			<i>Stunted</i>			<i>Wasted</i>		<i>Overweight</i>				
		<i>Underweight for age</i>			<i>Short for age</i>			<i>Underweight for height</i>		<i>Overweight for age</i>				
		<i>Two deviations below standard (moderate and severe)[1]</i>	<i>Three deviations below standard (severe)[2]</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>	<i>Number of children under 5</i>	<i>Two deviations below standard (moderate and severe)[3]</i>	<i>Three deviations below standard (severe)[4]</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>	<i>Number of children under 5</i>	<i>Two deviations below standard (moderate and severe)[5]</i>	<i>Three deviations below standard (severe) [6]</i>	<i>Two deviations above standard (moderate and severe)[7]</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>	<i>Number of children under 5</i>
Total		9.7	2.4	-0.6	4 548	14.1	4.9	-0.7	4 501	7.5	2.4	4.4	-0.3	4 498
Type of community	Urban	9	2.2	-0.5	3 258	13.8	4.7	-0.6	3 234	7.3	2.2	4.6	-0.3	3 227
	Rural	11.4	2.7	-0.7	1 290	15	5.5	-0.7	1 267	8.1	2.9	3.9	-0.4	1 270
Sex	Male	11	2.9	-0.6	2 297	16.2	5.8	-0.7	2 273	8.2	2.5	4.4	-0.3	2 266
	Female	8.4	1.8	-0.5	2 251	12	4.1	-0.6	2 229	6.8	2.2	4.4	-0.3	2 232
Nationality	Omani	10.2	2.6	-0.7	4 113	14.5	5	-0.7	4 068	7.9	2.5	4	-0.4	4 064
	Expatriate	5.4	0.2	-0.1	434	10.5	4.1	-0.3	433	3.7	1.3	8.5	0.1	433
Age	0-5 months	12.1	3.3	-0.4	495	14.2	6.2	-0.3	479	11.7	5.3	8.4	-0.3	480
	6-11 months	6.9	2.4	-0.4	497	9.6	3.3	-0.1	492	6.6	2.4	3.5	-0.3	494
	12-17 months	9.3	3.5	-0.4	512	11.4	3.6	-0.5	506	7.4	2.9	4.9	-0.2	509
	18-23 months	8	2	-0.5	390	16.6	4.2	-0.8	380	6.4	2.9	3.8	-0.1	386
	24-35 months	9.4	2.6	-0.6	848	15.5	6	-0.8	842	7.4	1.9	3.9	-0.3	840
	36-47 months	11.2	1.4	-0.8	941	16.6	5.4	-0.9	940	6.6	1.6	3.2	-0.4	940
Educational level	48-59 months	9.7	2	-0.7	865	13	4.7	-0.8	862	7.4	1.4	4.4	-0.4	849
	None	9.5	3.5	-0.7	259	13.9	3.2	-0.8	258	9.6	4.2	4	-0.4	260
	Below secondary	11.1	2.2	-0.7	861	18.1	6.9	-0.9	852	6.6	1.6	4.2	-0.4	855

<i>Weight for age</i>				<i>Height for age</i>				<i>Weight for height</i>				<i>Number of children under 5</i>	
<i>Underweight</i>				<i>Stunted</i>				<i>Wasted</i>		<i>Overweight</i>			
<i>Underweight for age</i>				<i>Short for age</i>				<i>Underweight for height</i>		<i>Overweight for age</i>			
<i>Two deviations below standard (moderate and severe)[1]</i>	<i>Three deviations below standard (severe)[2]</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>	<i>Number of children under 5</i>	<i>Two deviations below standard (moderate and severe)[3]</i>	<i>Three deviations below standard (severe)[4]</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>	<i>Number of children under 5</i>	<i>Two deviations below standard (moderate and severe)[5]</i>	<i>Three deviations below standard (severe) [6]</i>	<i>Two deviations above standard (moderate and severe)[7]</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>		
Above secondary	9.4	2.3	-0.6	3 428	13.1	4.6	-0.6	3 391	7.6	2.4	4.5	-0.3	3 383

[1] MICS indicator 2.1a and MDG indicator 1.8 — Underweight prevalence (moderate and severe).

[2] MICS indicator 2.1b — Underweight prevalence (severe).

[3] MICS indicator 2.2a — Stunting prevalence (moderate and severe).

[4] MICS indicator 2.2b — Stunting prevalence (severe).

[5] MICS indicator 2.3a — Wasting prevalence (moderate and severe).

[6] MICS indicator 2.3b — Wasting prevalence (severe).

[7] MICS indicator 2.4 — Overweight prevalence.

Table CP.14

Children's living arrangements

Percentage distribution of children in the 0-17 age group by living arrangements (not living with biological parents or bereaved of one or both biological parents) in the Sultanate of Oman in 2014

Characteristics of child's living arrangements	Children not living with either of their biological parents					Children living only with their mothers		Children living only with their fathers		No details of father/mother	Total	Children not living with either of their biological parents [1]	One or both parents deceased [2]	Number of children in age group 0-17 years
	Living with both parents	Only the father still alive	Only the mother still alive	Father and mother alive	Both parents deceased	Father still alive	Father deceased	Mother still alive	Mother deceased					
Total	93.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	2.2	2.8	0.7	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.6	3.5	15 051
Type of community														
Urban	93.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	2.2	2.8	0.7	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.5	3.4	10 788
Rural	93.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	2.2	2.9	0.6	0.4	0.0	100.0	0.8	3.7	4 263
Sex														
Male	93.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.0	2.9	0.8	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.4	3.5	7 601
Female	93.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	2.4	2.8	0.6	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.8	3.5	7 450
Head of household														
Omani	92.9	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	2.4	3.0	0.7	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.6	3.7	13 617
Expatriate	96.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	100.0	0.5	1.6	1 434
Age groups (years)														
0-4	97.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.1	1.0	4 768
5-9	94.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.4	2.0	0.8	0.5	0.0	100.0	0.2	2.6	4 218
10-14	90.6	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	2.5	4.6	1.0	0.7	0.0	100.0	0.5	5.3	3 820
15-17	87.3	0.1	0.2	1.4	0.4	2.7	5.7	1.0	0.8	0.2	100.0	2.2	7.4	2 244

[1] MICS indicator 8.13.

[2] MICS indicator 8.14.

Table ED.2
School readiness

Percentage of children enrolled in the first primary grade in 2014 who attended pre-school education in the previous year in the Sultanate of Oman

<i>Selected characteristics</i>		<i>Percentage of children enrolled in the first primary grade who attended preschool education in the previous year[1]</i>	<i>Number of children enrolled in the first primary grade</i>
Total		69.5	821
Type of community	Urban	71.3	586
	Rural	65.2	235
Sex	Male	72.2	371
	Female	67.3	451
Nationality of head of household	Omani	69.7	724
	Expatriate	67.8	97
Mother's educational level	None	52.2	92
	Below secondary	58.3	185
	Secondary and above	76.1	541

[1] MICS indicator 7.2 — school readiness.

Table ED.3
Net intake rate in primary education

Percentage of children of primary school age enrolled in the first primary grade (net intake) in the Sultanate of Oman in 2014

<i>Selected characteristics</i>		<i>Percentage of children enrolled in the first primary grade who attended preschool education in the previous year[1]</i>	<i>Number of children enrolled in the first primary grade</i>
Total		92.2	845
Type of community	Urban	92.2	605
	Rural	92.3	240
Sex	Male	91.1	413
	Female	93.2	432
Nationality of head of household	Omani	92.5	752
	Expatriate	89.9	93
Mother's educational level	None	94.1	88
	Below secondary	90.3	203
	Secondary and above	93.0	550

[1] MICS indicator 7.3 — net intake rate in primary education.

Table ED.4

Primary school net attendance rate

Percentage of children of primary school age regularly attending school (net attendance rate) in the Sultanate of Oman in 2014

Selected characteristics		Males					Females					Total				
		Percentage of children who				No. of children	Percentage of children who				No. of children	Percentage of children who				No. of children
		Net attendance rate [1]	Have not attended school or preschool	Have attended preschool	Are out of school		Net attendance rate	Have not attended school or preschool	Have attended preschool	Are out of school		Net attendance rate	Have not attended school or preschool	Have attended preschool	Are out of school	
Total		97.1	2.3	0.6	2.9	2 308	98.0	1.3	0.7	2.0	2 351	97.5	1.8	0.6	2.5	4 659
Type of community	Urban	97.2	2.2	0.6	2.8	1 659	98.1	1.4	0.5	1.9	1 689	97.7	1.8	0.6	2.4	3 348
	Rural	96.8	2.6	0.6	3.2	649	97.7	1.2	1.1	2.3	662	97.3	1.9	0.8	2.7	1 311
Nationality of head of household	Omani	97.4	2.1	0.5	2.6	2 059	98.1	1.1	0.7	1.9	2 110	97.8	1.6	0.6	2.2	4 169
	Expatriate	94.5	4.4	1.1	5.5	249	97.0	3.2	0.3	3.5	241	95.7	3.8	0.7	4.5	490
Age at start of academic year	6	92.6	4.8	2.6	7.4	413	94.1	3.2	2.7	5.9	432	93.4	3.9	2.7	6.6	845
	7	96.5	2.7	0.8	3.5	341	98.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	426	97.6	1.9	0.5	2.4	767
	8	98.2	1.8	0.0	1.8	386	98.9	0.7	0.4	1.1	364	98.5	1.3	0.2	1.5	750
	9	99.2	0.8	0.0	0.8	409	99.1	0.6	0.3	0.9	384	99.2	0.7	0.1	0.8	793
	10	97.7	2.3	0.0	2.3	380	98.8	0.9	0.3	1.2	396	98.3	1.6	0.1	1.7	775
	11	98.4	1.6	0.0	1.6	380	99.3	1.0	0.0	1.0	349	98.8	1.4	0.0	1.4	729
Mother's educational level	None	97.3	2.7	0.0	2.7	374	97.8	1.5	0.7	2.2	414	97.6	2.1	0.4	2.4	788
	Below secondary	96.7	2.7	0.6	3.3	661	97.7	1.6	0.9	2.5	652	97.2	2.2	0.7	2.9	1 312
	Secondary or above	97.4	1.8	0.8	2.6	1 241	98.3	1.1	0.6	1.7	1 251	97.9	1.4	0.7	2.1	2 492
	Mother not at home	(87.9)	(12.1)	(0.0)	(12.1)	32	(97.4)	(2.6)	(0.0)	(2.6)	34	92.8	7.2	0.0	7.2	66

[1] MICS indicator 7.4 and MDG indicator 2.1.

Table ED.5
Preparatory and secondary school net attendance rate

Percentage of children of secondary school age regularly attending preparatory, secondary or higher schools (net attendance rate adjusted) in the Sultanate of Oman in 2014

Selected characteristics		Males				Females				Total			
		Net attendance rate adjusted [1]	Percentage regularly attending school	Percentage out of school	No. of children	Net attendance rate adjusted [1]	Percentage regularly attending school	Percentage out of school	No. of children	Net attendance rate adjusted [1]	Percentage regularly attending school	Percentage out of school	No. of children
Total		91.3	4.0	4.6	2 350	92.2	3.0	4.8	2 236	91.8	3.5	4.7	4 586
Type of community	Urban	91.9	3.6	4.5	1 646	93.2	2.8	4.0	1 609	92.5	3.2	4.3	3 255
	Rural	90.0	5.1	4.9	704	89.9	3.5	6.6	627	89.9	4.3	5.7	1 331
Nationality of head of household	Omani	91.6	3.8	4.6	2 165	92.2	3.1	4.7	2 060	91.9	3.4	4.6	4 225
	Expatriate	87.9	7.1	5.0	185	92.2	2.2	5.6	176	90.0	4.7	5.3	362
Age at start of academic year	12	81.6	16.9	1.6	360	86.9	11.5	1.7	373	84.2	14.1	1.6	732
	13	91.9	6.5	1.6	401	94.6	4.2	1.2	423	93.3	5.3	1.4	824
	14	97.8	1.4	0.8	378	97.1	0.8	2.1	377	97.4	1.1	1.5	755
	15	96.9	0.2	2.9	418	94.3	0.3	5.4	358	95.7	0.2	4.1	776
	16	92.7	0.4	6.9	416	94.0	0.9	5.1	322	93.3	0.6	6.1	738
Mother's educational level	17	85.9	0.2	13.8	377	86.6	0.0	13.4	383	86.3	0.1	13.6	761
	None	90.0	5.4	4.6	701	90.1	3.9	6.0	642	90.1	4.7	5.3	1 343
	Below secondary	90.6	4.6	4.8	764	93.4	2.7	4.0	745	92.0	3.6	4.4	1 510
	Secondary or above	96.1	3.0	0.9	678	95.8	3.1	1.1	656	96.0	3.0	1.0	1 334
	Unspecified	82.7	1.1	16.1	207	82.8	1.1	16.1	193	82.8	1.1	16.1	400

[1] MICS indicator 7.5.

Table ED.6

Children reaching last grade of primary school**Percentage of children progressing from the first to the last primary grade (rate of completion of primary education) in the Sultanate of Oman in 2014**

<i>Selected characteristics</i>		<i>Percentage passing from first to second grade</i>	<i>Percentage passing from second to third grade</i>	<i>Percentage passing from third to fourth grade</i>	<i>Percentage passing from fourth to fifth grade</i>	<i>Percentage passing from fifth to sixth grade</i>	<i>Percentage passing from first to sixth grade[1]</i>
Total		99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.4
Type of community	Urban	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.8	99.6
	Rural	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9	98.9
Sex	Male	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Female	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	98.8
Nationality of head of household	Omani	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.3
	Expatriate	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mother's educational level	None	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.6	98.6
	Below secondary	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Above secondary	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.8
	Mother not at home	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] MICS indicator 7.6 and MDG indicator 2.2.

Table ED.7

Net rates of completion of primary education and passage to secondary education in the Sultanate of Oman in 2014

<i>Selected characteristics</i>		<i>Rate of completion of primary education [1]</i>	<i>Number of children of school age completing primary education</i>	<i>Rate of passage to secondary education[2]</i>	<i>Number of children in the final primary grade in the previous year</i>	<i>Rate of effective passage to secondary education</i>	<i>Number of children in the final primary grade in the previous year who did not repeat it in the current year</i>
Total		104.9	729	96.5	795	99.9	767
Type of community	Urban	110.8	493	97.8	556	100.0	544
	Rural	92.7	236	93.4	238	99.7	223
Sex	Male	101.2	380	95.4	415	100.0	396
	Female	109.0	349	97.7	380	99.8	372
Nationality of head of household	Omani	103.9	653	96.3	729	99.9	703
	Expatriate	113.8	76	98.9	65	100.0	65
Mother's educational level	None	101.7	171	93.2	205	99.7	192
	Below secondary	94.3	245	96.7	277	100.0	268

<i>Selected characteristics</i>	<i>Rate of completion of primary education [1]</i>	<i>Number of children of school age completing primary education</i>	<i>Rate of passage to secondary education[2]</i>	<i>Number of children in the final primary grade in the previous year</i>	<i>Rate of effective passage to secondary education</i>	<i>Number of children in the final primary grade in the previous year who did not repeat it in the current year</i>
Above secondary	115.0	298	98.8	292	100.0	289
Mother not at home	*	16	*	17	*	17

[1] MICS indicator 7.7.

[2] MICS indicator 7.8.