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Unaccompanied and Separated Children Aftermath an Emergency Event or A Disaster in the Gaza Strip and a Proposal for an Alternative Shelter to Protect them

واقع الأطفال غير المصحوبين والمنفصلين عن ذويهم بعد حادث
طارئ أو كارثة في قطاع غزة ومقترح لمركز إيواء لحمايتهم

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إقرار

أنا الموقع أدناه مقدم الرسالة التي تحمل العنوان:

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بناءً على موافقة عمادة البحث العلمي والدراسات العليا بالجامعة الإسلامية بغزة على تشكيل لجنة الحكم على أطروحة الباحثة/ الهام محمد شحدة حسين أبو مصبح لنيل درجة الماجستير في كلية العلوم/ قسم إدارة الأزمات والكوارث وموضوعها:
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Unaccompanied and Separated Children aftermath an emergency event or a disaster in Gaza Strip and a proposal for an Alternative shelter to protect them

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Abstract

This thesis discusses and explores the unaccompanied and separated children and their existence in the Gaza Strip., in addition to the reasons beyond their separation and whether their separation from their families was due to the crisis or any other reasons.

Some of the reasons are related to frequent crisis happened in the Gaza strip, in addition to the consequences of those crisis as unemployment, blockade, divorce, drugs addiction, and the difficult economical situation.

In this research I explained in details the reasons for their separation, therefore I used the qualitative methodology through the semi-structured interview, including focus groups. Those interviews have been conducted with stakeholders related to the target group; UASC and they work with them directly or indirectly. I used a special application / program to analyze the data given by the interviewees called MAXQDA which connect the data to codes related to the UN convention on the Right of Child.

Moreover this research explained the difference between the two terms unaccompanied and separated children and provide the real definition for both terms according to United Nation articles.

This research also explores the NGO and International NGOs working with the target group explaining their provided services and role to protect those children and how to alleviate the mentioned phenomenon, and came to a result that only few organizations working with the UASC providing limited services as relief, educational, and few recreational services. The UASC are in a high need to shelter or an interim care center to host them for a while till they could be reunified with their biological or extended families. So this research also provides a proposal for a shelter according to the international criteria which will provide all the needed services including the psychological services, recreational activities beside the parental care they will receive inside the center.

At the end this research provides recommendations for future researches and studies as there is a need to in depth studies about the UASC and their living conditions, educational status, and the level of protection they have.

ملخص الدراسة

ناقشت هذه الأطروحة وجود الأطفال المنفصلين عن ذويهم وغير المصحوبين في قطاع غزة وأيضاً استعرضت الأسباب التي أدت الى انفصالهم عن ذويهم. بالإضافة الى الأسباب التي أدت الى انفصالهم، وإذا م كان الانفصال يرجع الى الأزمات والكوارث التي حلت بقطاع غزة خلال السنوات الأخيرة أم اذا كان هناك أسباب أخرى. وكانت بعض الأسباب تتعلق بالأزمات المتكررة على قطاع غزة، بالإضافة الى العديدي من الأسباب الأخرى المتعلقة بنتائج واثار تلك الأزمات مثل البطالة والحصار والطلاق وإدمان المخدرات بجانب الوضع الاقتصادي الصعب الذي يمر به القطاع. ولقد تم في هذا البحث أيضاً التطرق بالتفصيل الى أسباب الانفصال حيث تم استخدام المنهج الكيفي لجمع البيانات وذلك من خلال المقابلات شبه المنظمة، والتي شملت مقابلات ومجموعات بؤرية مع أصحاب المصلحة الذين عملو مع الأطفال المنفصلين وغير المصحوبين سواء بشكل مباشر أو غير مباشر. تم استخدام برنامج/ تطبيق خاص لتحليل المقابلات يسمى MAXQDA حيث تم ربط بيانات المقابلات ببعض الأكواد الخاصة باتفاقية الأمم المتحدة المتعلقة بقوانين حماية الطفل. وعلاوة على ذلك فإن هذه الأطروحة وضحت الفرق في المعنى بين كل من المصطلحين غير مصحوب ومنفصل، والتعريف الخاص بكل مصطلح حسب بنود القوانين الخاصة بالأمم المتحدة. ولقد استعرضت هذه الدراسة المنظمات المحلية والدولية التي تعمل مع فئة الأطفال المنفصلين وغير المصحوبين ووضحت الخدمات التي تقدمها تلك المنظمات ودورها في حمايتهم وتخفيف ظاهرة وجودهم في قطاع غزة، حيث وجدت أن هناك عدد قليل من المنظمات التي تعمل مع هؤلاء الأطفال وأن الخدمات المقدمة لتلك الفئة هي خدمات محدودة وغير كافية كالخدمات الإغاثية، والتعليمية، وبعض النشاطات الترفيهية،، ان هناك حاجة ماسة لوجود مركز خاص بهؤلاء الأطفال بحيث يكون مركز رعاية مؤقتة لحين إعادة دمجهم اما مع أسرهم البيولوجية أو الممتدة. لذلك قدمت هذه الأطروحة مقترح لمركز ايواء لحماية هؤلاء الأطفال وتقديم جميع الخدمات التي هم بحاجة اليها والتي تشمل الخدمات النفسية الاجتماعية، والأنشطة الترفيهية، بجانب الرعاية الأبوية التي سيتلقونها داخل المركز.

وفي النهاية عرضت هذه الأطروحة بعض التوصيات الضرورية مثل ضرورة عمل بحوث ودراسات معمقة حول هؤلاء الأطفال بحيث يتم دراسة أوضاعهم المعيشية، و والتعليمية، و مستوى الحماية الخاص بهم.

Dedication

I am happy to dedicate this thesis to the soul of my beloved mother who had meant and continues to mean so much to me. Although she is no longer of this world, her memories continue to regulate my life. and to my beloved father who supported and continues supporting me.

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List of Acronyms

ACE:	Alternative Care in Emergencies
CBOs:	Community Based Organizations
CPWG:	Child Protection Cluster and Child Protection Working Group
CRC:	United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child
CWD:	Children with Disabilities
GTM:	Grounded Theory Methodology
ICRC:	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs:	internally displaced persons
IMC:	International Medical Corp
INGOs:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IRC:	International Rescue Committee
IRCKHF:	Information and Research Center – King Hussein Foundation
MENA:	Middle East and North Africa
MOSD:	Ministry of Social development
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA:	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PCDCR:	Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution
SCUK:	Save the Children UK
TDH:	Terre des Hommes Swiss
UAC:	Unaccompanied children
UAMs:	unaccompanied minors
UASC:	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UASMs:	Unaccompanied and Separated Minors.
UMAs:	unaccompanied minors asylum seekers
UN:	United Nations
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNRWA:	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WB:	World Bank
WHO:	World Health Organization
WVI:	World Vision International

Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

Multiple individual, social, and environmental factors have long been recognized as influencing a child's response to upheaval and traumatic experiences (Kangaslampi, Garoff & Peltonen, 2015). In other words, in all types of these experiences, children are indorsed in a multitude of risks of being unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) from their usual caregivers or / and families. Respectively, the outputs of natural disasters, conflict, mass population displacement, and other emergencies might lead to having lost the protection of parents or guardians at a time (Betancourt, McBain Newnham & Brennan, 2013). Consequently, many children continue to experience massive physical and psychological threats to their well-being.

1.2 Post-Disaster of Child's Personification Outputs

It is crucial to highlight that there are extremely devastating physical, psychological, social, and cultural effects that have been imposed on children or even the adolescents' distress which is represented in the extent and intensity of being exposure to the traumatic event (Arslan, 2016). Furthermore, it is important to recognize that there are different dimensions were children might be affected especially before and after crisis that lead to the risk of unaccompanied and separated phenomena.

The personifications of these phenomena are characterized in four factors or reasons, firstly, *the extent and the intensity of exposure* to the post-disaster distress (Osofsky, 2013). Therefore, children who experience life threats and suffer extensive and extreme destruction to their homes and communities, or witness scenes of disaster destruction either directly or through media are in danger of anxiety and depression. Secondly, *the characteristics of the child* represented in demographic characteristics, lower socioeconomic background, racial and ethnic minorities or the poorer behavioral and academic functioning also has coercion an influence on children's reactions to crisis and increase the rates of post-disaster impairment (Tildeley, Luyckx, Soenens, Andrews, Hampson, Peterson & Duriez. 2011).

Thirdly, the major roles of the disaster environment factors of the family *and the characteristics of the this post-disaster environment*, which are shown by parental distress, shortage of access to social support, and the occurrence of additional life stressors such as abuse, exploitation, poverty, divorce, death or illness of a family member, have encountered the adverse of children's behavioral problems and mental health outcomes aftermath the disasters (Stallman, Helen, Berry, Vanessa, Cobham, McDermott & Brett. 2010). Finally, *the overcome or adaptation skills of the child and the coping assistance received* is another factor that affect children's capacity and ability to adapt and to respond to traumatic events. (Mitchell, Prinstein, Annette, La Greca, Eric, Vernberg & Wendy. 2010).

This dismal picture encompasses a negative impact on children's well-being and provides an illustration for both resilient, psychopathological responses and socio-cultural challenges towards traumatic actions. As a result, the children separation's magnitude and basic unaccompanied characteristics are the indicative sense of the problem scale.

1.3 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) Diversifications

Providing such humanitarian assistance needs understanding the norm of risks in which children face to better inform decision-making within the humanitarian and policy-making communities to build up the protection view of children on the move (Kangaslampi, Garoff & Peltonen. 2015). This move can be conceptualized into separated children, unaccompanied children, and unaccompanied minors as abroad concepts to be covered referring to countries' circumstances of risks and crises.

Dependently, separated children is considered as a term personifies children broke away with their both parents from their previous legal or primary caregiver, but not from any other relatives (Robinson & Branchini. 2015). This voluntarily or involuntarily move might be merely manifested accidentally - escaping from danger and during evacuation – or intentionally when children are abandoned or given over to the care of another individual or a residential care center, perhaps in the beliefs that they will have a better chance of survival or they will have access to needed services (ICRC. 2005). By this

norm, separation shows a maladaptive danger phenomena intimidates the whole social structure in the community.

Not to be used instead of orphans, on the other hand, unaccompanied children and unaccompanied minors are the stated mutual term which are indicated for the full separation of children from both biological and extended parents and family (Björklund & Krister.2015). This move is to encourage focusing action on family tracing issues, foster placements, increasing support to the community and family reunification.

Hence, it is very important to consider that most of the countries around the world have developed alternate conceptual meanings for those confused terms as they apply within the context of the immigration, asylum, child protection, and criminal justice systems. Consequently, the utilization, the interpretation and the implementation of these diversified meanings of UASC, children may face vastly different protection regimes (Amanda & Levinsin.2011).

From the above understanding to the dilemma of copying the meaning of unaccompanied and separated children concepts, this research is going to shed the light on elaborating the sense of these terms since they are tackling accumulative perspective telling that each society in all communities is structured by families which are varied according to social networks, culture, traditions, customs, beliefs and generations.

1.4 Gaza Strip as unstable area with UASC outcomes.

It is known that armed conflict, crisis, displacement, dispossession, poverty and other factors are contributing to the family breaking down and separation (Hobfoll, Johnson, Canetti, Palmieri, Hall, Lavi & Galea.2012). In this view, it can be paraphrased that the risks and vulnerabilities in which children might face towards stability within the framework of the entire family or their primary caregivers are rooting the growth and development problems in children as well as psychological effects of deprivation over the years (McDermott, Cobham, Vanessa, Berry, Helen & Stallman. 2010).

Ghannam & Thabet.(2014) copied that the Gaza Strip had been characterized as a protracted protection catastrophe with humanitarian consequences. In July and August 2014, the war erupted by Israel and lasting for 51 days mounted children and families with a wide range of risk exposure presented in displacement, dispossession and

deprivation. In addition, Children per sue to be affected by continued military violence and the ongoing blockade of the territory. The 51 days of bloody assault had promoted the devastation of psychological distress of children and the families and portrayed a vast unrevealed number of UASC.

In Gaza strip, the UASC appeared after 2014 conflict, but it seems that those children are victims of the previous three wars. Since the 2014 conflict was the most massive one; there were 2,104 Palestinian fatalities, of whom 1,462 were identified as civilians, including 495 children, in addition to huge number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as there were tens of thousands of IDPs. (Washington Post.2014). However, there were over 100,000 people, who lost their homes or their homes have been completely destroyed or severely damaged, therefore they are still displaced so far. This complicated situation has increased the appearance of UASC. (UNRWA.2017).

Moreover, Gaza strip suffers from several crisis due to the three consecutive conflicts such as; unemployment, high rate of poverty, electricity, political internal division, increased percentage of divorce and other factors.

Interestingly, I would to comprehend that this study is going to search deeply on finding out through several structured desk review and qualitative methodologies of inquiries of data to describe how those unaccompanied and separated children are understood in the Gaza Strip context, and reasons beyond it to be happening and how UASC phenomena are defined by Gaza community under the norms of habits, conventions, traditions and customs. Also it is practical to recognize those organizations, associations or even agencies which are dealing with this phenomena.

Finally, the researcher is going to tackle the idea of the 'first among the first' to receive protection and care by proposing a shelter with the features that is acceptable for children assistance.

1.5 Unaccompanied and Separated Children

When an armed conflict or other disaster occurs, many children become separated from their parents or other care-givers. The status of those is seldom immediately clear, therefore they are called as 'separated' or 'unaccompanied children' rather than orphans.

In almost all armed conflicts, mass population displacements, natural disasters and other crises, a number of children become separated from their families or from other adults responsible for them. These children form one of the most vulnerable groups in these situations, often deprived of care and protection. Most can be reunited with parents, siblings, members of the extended family or other adults whom they know and who are willing to provide for their care. (Inter-agency Guiding Principles on UNACCOMPANIED and SEPARATED CHILDREN.2004).

Children can easily become separated from their parents, relatives or usual caregivers in emergencies – whether rapid or slow in onset, or resulting from natural disaster, armed conflict or other situations of violence. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), those children lack the care and protection of their families, in addition they are at increased risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

This issue can be a crisis for a country or a government or even the community since they cannot provide the protection or the assistance to a child without a family.

Those children will cause a breakdown for the whole social structure in the community, as they will be without caregivers to take care of them; therefore they will be integrated within their biological or initial caregivers, extended families or within long term institutions if there is no solution for them. (They will have to be integrated: it is a must as it is vital for the society to function by making sure that all of its members are given a structure within to develop and grow therefore all members understanding the parameters of a fully functioning society. This will result in a harmonious community for all as there is a consensus of basic ideologies to live by.)

Before getting into further details about the UASC we need to define the terms and vocabularies that will be used in this research:

Separated children: are those separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members. (Inter-agency Guiding Principles on UNACCOMPANIED and SEPARATED CHILDREN.2004).

Unaccompanied children: (also called unaccompanied minors) are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an

adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so. (Inter-agency Guiding Principles on UNACCOMPANIED and SEPARATED CHILDREN.2004).

Sheltering of UASC: In most of the countries affected by disaster whether it was natural or man-made disaster, the unaccompanied and separated children are sent to a special center (shelter) with special and standard criteria to fit the needs of the children.

The children receive several a package of essential services such as: health care, psychosocial, educational, care, food,..etc.

In Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region there several shelters for the unaccompanied and separated children especially the Syrian Crisis affected.

In the Gaza strip the UASC appeared after 2014 conflict, but it seems that those children are victims of the previous three wars. Since the 2014 conflict was the most massive conflict, there were 2,104 Palestinian fatality toll is 2,104, of whom 1,462 have been identified as civilians, including 495 children, in addition to tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) (OCHA.2017). However, over 100,000 people whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged, still displaced so far. This complicated situation has increased the appearance of UASC.

Further to that, Gaza strip suffers from several crisis due to the three consecutive conflicts such as; unemployment, high rate of poverty, electricity, political internal division, ..etc

As a result for the mentioned crisis the percentage of divorce has been increased in the last three years and directly after 2014 conflict and this percentage is exacerbating by the time. (Higher Shariah Court Council records).

This issue led so many children to be forced to separate from their biological families.

Chapter 2

Study Framework

Chapter 2

Study Framework

2.1 Introduction

The target of the first part of this study is to focus on the core idea of my research and to provide an overall image of qualitative elaborative approach concerning the presence of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Gaza Strip. The 51 days of conflict in 2014, the Gaza children were affected by sever devastated and paramounted threats intimidate socio-cultural, psycho-social, social structural, psychological aspects during and most importantly after the conflict crisis (Miller Graff & Cummings.2017). This study aims to propose appropriate shelter as a type of protection and assistance.

Therefore, this part is going to preface post-disaster of child's personification outputs and state the pillar of (UASC) diversifications zones as the utmost outcomes of crisis and emergency situations. In addition, I am going to present the dilemma statement which is imposing the main questions of the research. Moreover, it is crucial here to shed the light on the purpose, the objectives and the significance of this study. Finally, it is worth mentioning here that obstacles are appeared as the limitation side of this work.

2.2 The Statement of the Research Problem

Despite a differing context to orphans, legal status challenges are likewise at the crux of protection concerns about UASC in Gaza Strip. It has been highlighted by the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) in Palestine that there are very high number of children who had lost their parental care collaborating UASC crisis (Inter-agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children.2004).

Furthermore, displacement and dispossession of the Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territories that occurs in the context of Israeli's prolonged and continuous occupation, encountered by recurrent rounds of violence in Gaza Strip, where there are around 47,000 people still displaced at the end of 2017 from the 2014 hostilities. (Miller Graff & Cummings.2017).

Referring to that humanitarian Gaza devastated outputs, UASC is considered as unrevealed crisis phenomena and further the caregivers of the children suffer from many

psychological problems. Therefore, most of those families' children lost the parental care became unaccompanied or separated.

The other dilemma is manifested with child protection cluster, protection working group, and protection network which caused unaccompanied and separated children who are in need to a temporary absent asylum which can provide protection till they are reunified with their families.

2.3 Research Questions

The research has one pillar and main question enshrined in: *Is there a need to have a special shelter or center for the unaccompanied and separated children in Gaza Strip?*

In addition to the above major question, there are other sub questions needed to be tackled:

1. What are the differences between the unaccompanied and separated children, referring to the Gaza context?
2. What are the reasons beyond their separation from their families?
3. Are there any NGOs /INGOs working with UASC in Gaza Strip? What are the types of services that they provide?
4. What are the features of the proposed shelter?

2.4 Aim and Objectives

The ultimate goal of this research is to be equipped with the identification of unaccompanied and separation children in Gaza Strip and how these are manifested in the same location without being migrated.

The trauma of UASC paraphrases the consideration of establishing a shelter as the mean of protection and assistance and the types of services which should be offered to them.

To establish protective and institutional care for the unaccompanied and separated children in Gaza Strip when family-based care is not possible.

To propose the services that should be provided inside the shelters.

To study national and international cases and their experiences with UASC and to provide an overview about their shelters.

To recognize the direction of the Gaza community towards UASC under the constraints customs, tradition and conventions.

2.5 Research Significance

The significance of the study is performed to:

1. help the community to alleviate the appearance of UASC in interior one location not in other country.
2. improve the services provided to UASC.
3. clarify the reasons beyond the separation of the child to support families from being fallen apart.
4. encourage other researchers to focus on the UASC.
5. propose a shelter for the target group as an appropriate solution.
6. enhance the right of children to education, health, and other rights.
7. encourage NGOs and International NGOs to focus on UASC on their activities.
8. provide this study to the Ministry of Social Development in Palestine as a process of getting funds in order to establish a shelter for these children.

2.6 Research Limitation

The researcher faced several constraints during this study formed as:

- The encounter part of the conservative and constrained culture of Gaza in accepting the idea of UASC.
- The UASC term is not popular in the Gaza strip.
- The Gazan community is not aware of the phenomenon of UASC.

2.6.1 Conclusion

By the outcome of this chapter, it has been overviewed a comprehensive understanding to the effects of conflicts and other devastating events against children's psychosocial and cultural aspects, in addition to the appearance of those UASC phenomena in Gaza Strip. Moreover, I had intended in my study to encompass the existence of UASC within Gazan community and encounter the acceptance of this phenomena.

This phase also has stated the urgent needy solution for UASC by establishing a temporary shelter providing the ultimate services to that phenomena till family reunification.

Accordingly, I am going to go through studies from different sources which were tackling the phenomena of UASC and present certain papers were conducted to illustrate the need of shelter as a key solution for that phenomena in the Gaza strip.

Chapter 3

Literature Review

Chapter 3

Literature Review

3.1 Introduction

Throughout this chapter intended studies concerning UASC phenomena are viewed from different perspectives and contributions tackled by socialists and psychologist. It is really important and essential to form an understanding of what specific terms of UASC mean, since these are often used interchangeably and it can be confusing. Therefore, views of man-made and natural disasters are introduced from scattered arenas investigating the meaning of UASC and other related concepts utilized in the affected areas in the world. Furthermore, the outlet phase stated previous UASC studies paraphrasing those contributors and their methodologies and approaches used to be equipped with comprehensive picture of UASC dilemma and paved the way towards implementing preserved international protection law of children on the move and understand the role of non-governmental and governmental organizations concerning children protection risks. Finally, I introduced a general overview of Gaza strip and the vital factors towards the existence of the UASC stratification within the community.

3.2.1 Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC): a co-related meanings and vulnerable phenomena outlets.

According to the reports of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (UNICEF. 2017a); there are at least 300,000 UASC children were registered in 80 countries around the world in the common years of 2015 and 2016, climbed up from 66,000 in 2010 and in 2011 as a result of persecution, violence, conflict, or human rights violations.

A diversity of circumstances such as natural disasters, man-made crisis, divorce, political unrest, abuses, and other factors cause children to become unaccompanied and separated from their birth parents, soci-genealogical and cultural roots and customary primary guardians, caregiver(s) and other relatives (Tanner & Seballos.2012). As vulnerable phenomena, those children are classified to be migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, or trafficking victims by referring to force children to leave the conditions of extreme lack of equality, restrictions, and risks including effects that are worsened by horrifying obstacles and dangerous migration tracks. (Furia.2012).

3.2.2 UASC definitions and the co-relations in terms.

Unaccompanied children or unaccompanied minors (UAMs) are marked as diversified children groups. (Sigona and Hughes.2012, Bhabha.2014a). Referring to The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR.2014) defined the unaccompanied children (also so called unaccompanied minors) as children who are under age of 18 years old and who have been separated from their both parents and from any other relatives and are not being looked after by any adult who by law is responsible for doing so. This clarifies that a child might be completely left without any kind of care that may be provided to him by any adult, or may be taken cared by a person not related to him, or not being known to the child, nor to his usual caregiver.

Remarkably, the evolution of migrant children terminology since nineties have shown a notification of conceptual transformation. In 1997, migrant children was classified as being a family member, however, this concept has been manipulated to be concerted as unaccompanied children who assumed to be asylum seekers. Falling within the same framework, the Europeans called the asylum seekers sorted from the nations of the third countries' receivers by unaccompanied minors (Bhabha.2014b).

Therefore, the Separated Children in Europe Program (SCEP.2003) has reported to refer to the term unaccompanied minors asylum seekers (UMAs) as children who are under the age of 18 and who are separated from either parents or any other legal or customary primary caregivers, and who submit an application for asylum in a foreign country.

On the other hand, apparently this terminology did not completely cover the diversity of the concerned migrated group because children who appeared as accompanied by an adult person who is not able to take care of any responsibilities, the intention or possibility to function as a responsible guardian and defend the interests towards those children are known as separated one (Save the Children.2003).

Here, it is notable that there is a shortage or even absence of a harmonized national definitions imposes a problematic scene to indoor a direct comparison between the different countries.

Hence, the UNHCR, (2009) has given a defined for separated children as children who are separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or custodian or customary primary caregiver but not necessarily from their relatives.

By these norms, while those explanations and definitions are being universally understood among field and social workers, it is necessary to note that several terms are often used in different languages and cultures. Consequently, making the decision to use of such a wide definition is based on the need of including all the other different national definitions that have been encompassed by this study since those national definitions of UASC children vary significantly across the socio-cultural countries customs and traditions and are often not in line with the international recommendations. (UNHCR.2014).

By and large, it is to clarify that those groups of children who are considered unaccompanied or accompanied but not being cared properly are very highly vulnerable group of children who risk coming into contact with traffickers or other exploitative persons (Bhabha.2014a), (Raghallaigh.2013), (Sigona , Hughes. 2012).

3.2.3 A vulnerable unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) phenomena outlets.

In modern times, civil wars and international conflicts often result in severe damage to communities. Henceforth, both natural occurrences such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods or droughts and man-made conflicts are major causes of childhood separation (Nirupama.2013). By that sense, the catastrophes or the disasters whether caused by nature or man-made, children are always among the casualties.

The study conducted by Lucia Slot, (2016) highlighted the migrant numbers influxed from Syria, Egypt, Libya, Gaza Strip, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Eritrea towards southern Italian shores to Greek Islands in 2015. Approximately 153.600 migrants arrived in 2015 were considered as unaccompanied minors (UAMs) estimated 15.949 in which the majority of them were 95% male and are between 15 and 17 years old (BBC. 2015).

The study described the scene of the Libyan armed conflict between Libyan factions that threaten the security situation which has been deteriorated in 2014. In which the chaos led the country to a wave of violence and lawlessness. The volatile situation in the country contributed to spread out and to expand the Libyan smuggling networks, which were sending extreme number of migrants to the outside of the country through unseaworthy boats.

In this research, the author used snowball sampling method in order to establish contact paths with the UAMs and conducted 47 semi-structured interviews with local stakeholders represented in persons working with UAMs including lawyers, social workers and NGO workers. Finally, informal conversations were held with around 20 to 30 unaccompanied minors met in different hosting centers of UAMs and at the office hours at local NGOs in Syracuse, Catania and smaller towns and villages such as Ragusa, Modica, Scicli, Florida, and Augusta.

The data of these techniques were collected by e-mails, through phone calls, and by conducting face to face interviews with other people to understand the conditions of UAMs admission in Italy and to be familiar with the challenges they were facing through their journeys from homeland to Southern Italy.

The output of this study remarked that the implementing of the policies of immigration of the UAMs encountered a problematic scene through the local level by not taking into consideration the invisible children during the procedures of registration. This refers to neglecting the children`s interests and their personal needs of UAMs because the authorities regard UASCs as numbers instead of individuals and disregarding their responsibilities towards them. It indoors, here, the absence of collaboration and communication among the involved state agencies and alight poor measures of protection norms taking into account in Italy.

By this criterion, UAMs as vulnerable migrants interface hard situation for those who tried or attempted to stay out of the image throughout registration process. That is to say, If asylum-seekers of the children and migrants did not get the necessary assistance from official authorities or institutions, the only remaining choice for them, which is left for migrants, is to be connected to the smugglers to move on. (Lemberg-Pedersen. 2015).

In addition, receiving those migrants can be characterized by ambiguity referring to the deficient services offered to them by the asylum centers figured in essential medical and psychosocial care, educational, and recreational activities.

It was clarified from Lucia Slot that unaccompanied minors are at the crosscutting of three vulnerable groups of people including migrants, undocumented or unregistered persons, and children. Despite demographic and cultural varieties in this high heterogeneous group, many UAMs, and separated children share same keys of jeopardize factors. (Oppedal & Thormod. 2015).

It is worth mentioning that hard-to-reach strategy can affect negatively affect on the vulnerable respondents and assure that there is a strong concern regarding privacy when it comes to realize UAMs groups. As a result, all confidentiality issues and the minimization of harm are a central benchmark in conducting ethical research with children (Raghallaigh.2013). Raghallaigh notes that unaccompanied minors face several challenges to be able to adapt the new context and encounter difficulties in establishing trust with others because they are accustomed to mistrusting others.

Under the rights-based approach, UASCs/UAMs are evitable to be protected and guard their rights when that approach adapted by international law. In the study conducted by Lore Bellaert.(2017) objected to encounter the implementations of the rights that UAMs need to achieve, the support process in realizing their rights, and the impact of the relationship between UAC and humanitarian workers.

His work focused its study on South Sudanese refugee in two settlements in Adjumani district, namely Boroli and Nyumanzi in Ugandan. The study noticed almost one million South Sudanese refugees are living in Uganda and more than 200,000 are settled in Adjumani district in which 63 % of them is under the age of 18 years old (UNHCR.2017). the author defined this group as refugees, minors, and unaccompanied. Those UAC faced multiple losses, such as the loss of familiar environments and persons, customs and habits, ways of living, and clear future perspectives. As a result, they exposed to difficult experiences during their journey to a safer place in a host country (Derluyn, Vervliet, 2014).

Bellaert applied a combination of different methods based on documents collection, observations and ten semi-structured interviews with UAC South Sudanese to accomplish and target the intended goal of this study. The results from the data-gathering methods and the interjection of pedagogical approach reflected that humanitarian organizations do not intend to remain for the long-term as UAC helper but they considered themselves as a non-governmental government to intervene in the lives of UAC in order to enhance their wellbeing, but do not claim authority, and responsibility over them.

From the data collection no one appears to be responsible or to take on responsibility, therefore, UAC find it difficult to access aid workers and organizations, as it is not clear who they should approach and request for their assistance. Consequently, the realization of UAC's rights is complicated as no humanitarian institution or person can be held accountable for this process. In other words, the outcomes attained the needs assessment as part of the support process (quantitative and repeated), the accessibility of humanitarian staff (psychological and physical), and experiences in relation to responsibility (shared and uncertain). The findings also shed the light on the commitment of host governments and humanitarian actors as starting points towards UAC/UASCs prevalence aftermath emergencies.

Stark, MacFarlan, Rubenstein BL, (etal.2018) the idea was about the population-based approach to measure the prevalence of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) during the Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. The authors conducted cross-sectional survey methodology using cluster sampling into two stage to be visualized with the number of UASCs aftermath the Hurricane. In this method, the participants were asked to give information on the composition of their own household, as well as the composition of the household of their closest neighbor, this process is called the Neighborhood Method. From the series of the survey results and the neighborhood method implementation, the study categorized 1044 primary respondents provided information about their own household, and 4165 people in the household of their closet neighbor. The results showed that out of 2046 children as the total number in the household followed before

and after Hurricane Matthew, 62 of them were UASCs reported to be separated and arrived to the household after the emergency or experienced a change of the caregiver.

In this quantitative study, the authors have tried to make a belief to acknowledge the population of the UASCs that they would deal with after the disaster in order to estimate the shape of the emergency services which are going to offer protection not only the children but also the families in natural disaster.

Hurricane Matthew disaster data revealed that there are certain groups of children who may be at increased risk of separation in these situations. This suggests that after natural disasters, prompt and targeted outreach to children under the primary care of their fathers may be merited which showed the validity of neighborhood method in measuring UASCs in certain context. Hence, this process of gathering information about UASC phenomena contributes to build general understanding of how the complex patterns and drivers of separation vary according to different emergency typologies.

Farnaz & Hamid (2010) investigated the role of local non-governmental (NGOs), governmental organizations and Inter-Governmental United Nations to give an overview about the management of unaccompanied and separated children and to describe the role of NGOs in managing those children, aftermath the Bam earthquake in Iran. They hold 25 informal meetings and semi-structured interviews with three NGOs and governmental organizations working in Iran to base the aim of these organizations in recording, identifying and registering those children, tracing family members, families' reunification and arrangements for care whether interim or durable care after that disaster.

The study revealed the responsibilities of different national and international actors in producing guidelines for managing all issues related to UASC children aftermath Bam disaster. This cooperation role presented NGOs in providing valuable and great support in providing financial assistance, educational support and extra-curricular activities, in addition to the psychosocial support.

The authors noticed in their research that there were huge and excessive number of organizations that came to Bam and causing the area chaotic which entailed uncoordinated means between these agencies and showed no clear organizations' role

who were in charge. The appearance of NGOs absence role, data collection and the investigations, however, confirmed and regarded the role of NGOs in the broader sense and all, other organizations, have major roles in taking care of children, aftermath the disasters in Iran. The study concluded that if the government, international, national and local organizations continues their cooperation, the emerging systems will be formalized easily.

3.2.4 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and the Arab World

According to the norm of protection and save guardian, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 stated that:

“A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State and specialized agencies.”

Under this criteria Save the Children in Jordan (2015) adapted the research methodology to focus on kinship care of children in a humanitarian context. This work applied on unaccompanied and separated Syrian children who left their country during the conflict eruption among the contested parties in Syria. International Medical Corp (IMC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) registered in the first six months of 2014; 1,367 UASC as an effort made by Jordan to accommodate more than 600,000 refugees from Syria. Here, the cooperation established between the state of Jordan and the child protection agencies has granted the accessibility to services such as health and education in host communities, supported the establishment of refugee camps and prioritized family tracing and reunification, supporting family based care of children with parents or relatives.

To achieve the ultimate objectives in this study, series of methodological tools were adapted to promote family based alternative care and child protection systems of UASC. These techniques categorized in four workshops reaching out to girls and boys living in kinship care and caregivers, both in Zaatari Camp and in Amman, in addition, focus group discussions were organized separately with caregivers, girls and boys. Child

friendly participatory research tools were also applied during the focus group discussions, including the use of body mapping, time line, visual care mapping, me map, draw and write, stories, and value line discussions as a mean of collecting the data.

Information and Research Center – King Hussein Foundation (IRCKHF) research team members intervened with additional supplementary data collection including: two Focus Group Discussions with caregivers; nine interviews with Syrian caregivers living in Amman and two caregivers living in Zaatari; eight key informant interviews with specialists, NGOs and UN agencies working with separated children (Syrians and Jordanians); three interviews with case managers in Amman (1 JRF and 2 UNHCR); and one focus group discussion with five case managers in Zaatari (IMC, IRC and UNHCR). From consulting 98 stakeholders during the research process including: 40 children aged 8-17 years living in kinship care; 5 children living with parents; 35 kinship caregivers; 8 case managers; and 10 representatives from Government, UN, INGO and NGO agencies, war was considered as the main reason behind separation and unaccompanied children which had led to displacement and migration of family members to seek safety and to access to basic services.

Furthermore, the outputs of processing the data emphasized children were staying with relatives in a long term care arrangement due to parental death, divorce, or other inability to care for the child according to the imposed through the lack of monitoring of the care arrangements and barriers to accessing services. Some other children claimed that they were living with relatives on a temporary basis, until they could be reunited with their parents in Syria or in Jordan.

In this sense, kinship care showed advantages and disadvantages towards UASC. Syrian UASC described their living with relatives give love and care; be treated as the caregivers own child; blood relations and continuation of customs and traditions; get their basic needs, respect and advice; and get inheritance. The writers also manifested that cultural acceptance of kinship care can help to reduce the likelihood of children being sent to institutional care where the risks to neglect, abuse, and exploitation are heightened.

In contrast, the disadvantages can be identified by discrimination especially when the caregivers had their biological children, gender favors, financial burdens, risks of abuse or child labor exploitation. Honor, moreover, was also existed as one of the Arab societies' characteristics and structure to be protected (Williamson. 2017). Therefore, this qualitative study emphasized on the importance to protect the honor of girls, since some of the girls were sent with their relatives to seek their safety in Jordan and to reduce risks of sexual violence they might get during the conflict in Syria.

Despite of challenges faced by caregivers and children in their host country categorized in several challenges as economic, social or personal, and risks that headed to be connected to: poverty; discrimination and disparate treatment within the household; health and nutrition differences; abuse, neglect and exploitation; lack of legal status and risks of losing inheritance; and emotional and psychosocial stress, Kinship care supported the form of alternative care as a mean of case management services for UASC care and protection.

Civil uprisings and the images of oppression refusal ushered a transition to democracy others found themselves swept up by sudden political instability and plunged into armed conflict. Referring to UN Secretary-General's annual report, (2014) on children and armed conflict, of the 23 conflict situations covered, seven involved Arab countries in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Children are considered victim to such grave violations as killing and maiming, recruitment and use, sexual violence, and abduction.

From the other side, Arab countries still grapple with social norms that view early child marriage, female genital mutilation, child labor, and violence toward children, among other violations of children's rights (Kinzie. 2016). Moreover, the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers outpaced the rate of response in host countries, leaving refugee children vulnerable out of protection and seeking for guardians.

In 2017, Luigi, Hannah, and Monica, tried to provide evidence to better inform decision-making within the humanitarian and policy-making communities regarding the protection of children on the move. The study made Jordan, Lebanon and Greece the field of

investigating the challenges in which UASC bear across the three countries and the types of protection offered to them.

Statistically, the number of UASC has increased five times over the past six years on a global scale (UNICEF. 2017b). Most UASC arriving to Europe by sea in 2016 were boys between 15 and 17 years of age. 92% of the 28,223 children who arrived in Italy were unaccompanied (25,846). The top countries of origin for UASC reaching Europe in 2016 were from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, with smaller but significant numbers from Gambia, Eritrea, and other African countries (UNICEF.2017a).

The authors employed series of in-depth interviews with UASC, as well as semi-structured interviews with relevant actors in charge of UASC protection , and other stakeholders and local authorities. To be more productive, they used nine focus groups in the target countries with UASC ranging from 13 to 17 years of age (groups of four to six children) the majority of the participators were boys while the girls were the minors referring to the lower percentage of the selected countries. In addition, The interviews and focus groups were conducted in the language of the interviewed person. The investigation was taken place in countries where INTERSOS implements child protection programs and has direct access to UASC in Greece, Jordan and Lebanon.

By all these processes, the research entailed that the three selected countries faced a lack of harmonized data collection and poor coordination between the local, national and international procedural levels of UASC protection. However, there was a diversity of the processes and procedures towards UASC registration within the followed system in the three countries. Jordan comprehended a lack of accessible data on the presence of UASC entering the country which showed documentation complexities incur. UASC at the same time faced legal obligation to regularize the state of entry. In other words, according to the legal rules, if a minor wants to rent something, she/he has to presence an adult to be legally guarded. This path exposed UASC in physical protection risks and potential exploitation by landlords. Greece also had obstacles in the norm of UASC registration figured in the medical inaccuracy and poor implementation of the age assessment process.

It can be notified that a number of reports and studies that have shown how UASMs are particularly at risk of abuse, detention, exploitation, neglect, and violence continue to threaten the right of UASC to access asylum and child-specific support and child protection approach until the followed rules and regulations in UASC documentation are modified for the sake of international children rights to be protected (Barnett & Wedge, 2010).

3.2.5 Literature overview and Previous studies:

This research is about the unaccompanied and separated children UAS in the Gaza strip, and a proposed solution of a shelter to host them till they are reunified with their biological or extended families.

The majority of information about this category of children is collected from the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and International organizations as United Nations of children`s Fund (UNICEF), and SOS Children`s Villages International.

Despite the fact that manmade conflicts had been and still storming many Arab countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and Palestine causing so many UASC emerging, it is rare to find related researches or studies except those made either by UN Agencies or international NGOs. This is potentially due to the fact that areas where such incidences occur are within displacement camps or where children flee away in Europe or Canada or elsewhere. As such, some studies could be found and summarized as followed:

- 1- (Dr. Ahmed,2018 titled: the impacts of war on children and how to protect them through the International Humanitarian Law).

The research discussed the impacts and influence of war on the children around the world and the protection stated for them in the International Humanitarian Law (IHL). This research aimed to clarify the impacts resulted from the wars and conflicts on the children whether national or International armed conflicts as it is existed in contemporary times. This study relied on data collection and analysis.

The major finding in this research papers were that millions of children around the world still exposed to several forms of abuse and exploitation during the conflicts, and the

conflicts had several negative influence on the children on the economical, Psychosocial level that threaten the development and growth of those children.

- 2- (Odenel 2016, titled the unaccompanied and separated children at the European Union. Article published at forced migration publication no.51)

The study indicated that the number of the UASC is increased by time since 2010, those unaccompanied children who fled from their whereabouts seeking safe refuge due to extreme violence and armored conflicts away from their countries in European countries.

The author here clarified that so far the number of UASC is in an increase since 2010 (EUROSTAT). The number of UASC who applied for asylum is 23349 children between January and October (2015. statistic department at European Union).

The sample used in this research was unaccompanied children who seek asylum in Sweden in 2015. The findings of this study were: there is no system for the unaccompanied children and the system existed and funded by EU only for the asylum seekers. And the author recommended that EU should have a significant role to protect all unaccompanied children who migrate alone from exploitation and neglect.

- 3- (Research article of Stark, Rubenstein, Mansourian, Spencer, Noble, and Chisolm-Straker, 2016) titled :”Estimating child separation in emergencies: Results from North Kivu. Child Abuse & Neglect”)

The research discussed the risks that, the UASC who separated from their caregivers during emergencies, this study aimed to clarify the reasons beyond the separation of children during and after emergency situation and the impacts on those children health and wellbeing, in addition to the risks that they face during separation, moreover to study the funding and projects that presented to them and their caregivers.

The study was conducted in Democratic Republic of the Congo and targeted the separated children after M23 attacks in 2012 (it was so called in reference to a 23 March 2009 peace deal), the researcher used surveys for 522 households, and 2197 separated children lived in responding shelters at the time of collecting the data.

The major findings by the researcher were that characteristics the separated children who arrived into the shelters and the children who left the shelters are diverged and almost similar in terms of age, reasons for separation and frequency of unaccompaniment. Also the findings indicated that the separation could be replicated during emergency settings therefore the researcher recommended that this issue should be considered in the emergency appeals and response programs funding.

4- (Sloth-Nielsen and Ackermann. 2016 titled: "Unaccompanied and Separated Foreign Children in the Care System in the Western Cape – A Socio-Legal Study)

The study aimed to map and quantify the number and demographics of foreign children placed in all CYCCs across the Western Cape. And also to analyze the reasons for children's migration and the circumstances around their placement in residential care institutions in order to establish whether family reunification was possible or desirable. Besides the study explores the sufficiency of efforts made to trace and reunify the children with their families, whether in South Africa or across borders, as the institutional placement of children should not only be a last resort but it should preferably be temporary whilst family-based solutions are sought.

The sample used by the researcher was 50 children resident in the care facility that located throughout the Western Cape, in addition to the complete samples of alla foreign children staying at the residential care in the Western Cape between the period of 7 January 2015 to 24 February 2015 and the researcher made telephonic contact with 50 children from the children inside the care residential.

Main findings of this study were that the reasons for the children's placement in the care system are varied. The largest number of children were placed in CYCCs (child and youth care centers) for socio-economic reasons, which involve for the most part the parents' or caregivers' financial inability to provide for the basic needs of their children. Further to that the asylum system is effectively inaccessible to unaccompanied and separated refugee children placed in the Western Cape. Therefore the researcher recommended that the Department of Social Development should consider the

possibility of the placement of younger foreign children in the foster care of recognized refugees, so that they can maintain ties to their country of origin.

- 5- (Sjuve Maria, 2015. titled: Natural Disasters impact on children, with a particular emphasis on girls and children with disabilities: case study from Haiti)

The master research studied the most affected group within a disaster, especially the natural disaster. It also indicated that the children, girls and children with disabilities are the most vulnerable groups and they are the most affected by the natural disasters. It explained that the impacts of natural disasters are not evenly distributed among people. The researcher stressed that the children are exposed to abuse and exploitation during the disasters, and the girls are more vulnerable than other boys' children. This study recommended that there is a high need to conduct researched about the children's vulnerabilities and what influence their vulnerabilities during disasters. This study took a case study for Haiti disaster in 2008 when the country was hit by four hurricanes within 30 days and caused severe damages.

- 6- (Research of Niemeyer, 2014 titled: (The Cultural and Social Capital of Unaccompanied Refugee Children)

The research discussed the challenges faced by the receiving countries of unaccompanied and separated children, and also clarify the education concerns of the UASC and the view of policies and society towards the UASC.

The researcher targeted the unaccompanied and separated refugee children to indicate that they are more vulnerable than the normal refugee children.

The sample used by the researcher was the unaccompanied and separated refugee children in Sweden and Germany.

The main findings of this study were that there some attempts to use the existing capital for the UASC to educationally support them as in Sweden but also there still several difficulties for those children in education as access schools, and discrimination in the schools.

- 7- (Research article for FEMA, American Red Cross, 2013, titled: National center for missing children. Post-Disaster Reunification of Children: A Nationwide Approach)

The study is a handbook that include a proposed approach on the reunification of the separated children with their biological or extended families, after a crisis or a disaster. This handbook also described the process of children separation, and it clarified the time of separation as when it could happen. The handbook stated that children separation might occur during rescue, or evacuation, or even during the sheltering process.

The handbook also recommended the best ways of coordination between community, government, and Local and International organizations to reunify the unaccompanied and separated children and all families separated due to a crisis or disaster.

- 8- (Verhagen. 2012) titled : The Return of Unaccompanied Minors asylum seekers in Holland)

The research aimed to study the Dutch asylum policy regarding the return of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in relation to international human rights law, and to find out what the potential legal impact of the proposed policy on international rights of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in the Netherlands, in order to form an opinion about possible human rights violations by the Dutch government.

The study analyzed and discussed the international legal framework concerning the obligations of States regarding unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, and the proposed return policy.

The sample used in this research was the applications of asylum submitted by unaccompanied children since 2002 till 2009 and compared with the number of children who depart the country and return back to their countries of origin.

The main findings of this research that the long procedures used by the government for asylum are the main reason of prolonged residence of unaccompanied minors in the Netherlands, therefore the researcher proposed new policy to be used by the Netherland government and recommended to use it as the greater part of that policy was from the policy of the VVD-CDA Cabinet with regard to the return of unaccompanied minor

asylum seekers in compliance with fundamental rights, guaranteed by international and European treaties and legislation.

- 9- (Research of Peek,2008 titled: children and disasters: understanding vulnerability, developing capacities, and promoting resilience)

The master research / thesis no.9 aimed to enhance the knowledge of the impacts of disasters on children and to clarify those effects and concerns related to the health and wellbeing, in addition to create new policies and guidelines to alleviate their sufferings. And to highlight that there is a lack of social science researches on children and disasters.

The sample in this study was children in 67 child care centers in the hurricane prone regions of Florida, Wilson and Kershaw.

The major finding of this study is that all studies and researches that have been conducted in this field were only in United States and the developed countries, moreover children in developing countries are suffering daily risks due to persistent poverty, crimes, violence, poor health, lack of education and low quality housings so they live in major crisis before the disasters occurred.

The researcher recommended to conduct research and studies on the children pre-disaster, social context, and the ability of the children to respond and to recover from disasters.

- 10- (Mixwel and Al-Helali. 2004, titled: "The separated refugee children in Cairo- children rights analysis. Cairo")

The study aimed to highlight the determined problems related to the separated children, and to orient the national and international organization working in the field of child protection to focus on the rights of the separated children.

The researcher found that the separated children in Cairo lacked to their main and basic rights which were granted to them by the convention on the rights of child, and the organizations working in the field of child protection don't consider the separated children. The study recommended that there is a high need to increase and improve the

cooperation and coordination between the Egyptian government and the International organization, and the UN agencies particularly UNICEF and UNHCR, and the organization working on families` reunifications.

This research discussed the roles of the international organizations that worked in the field of UASC.

Reflection the previous studies:

The previous mentioned studies focused on the unaccompanied and separated children who migrated from their country of origin to Europe countries. Those researches studied several issues and concerns about the UASC.

The research of (Odenel 2016) and (Mixwel and Al-Helali, 2004) explained that those children are exposed to violence and they are abused, so my research will also clarify if the Palestinian UASC are abused or not and the type of abuse they had.

In addition; it was cleared in the previous mentioned researches the characteristics of the care inside the shelters that provided the alternative care for the targeted group of children as the research of (Stark, Rubenstein, Mansourian, Spencer, Noble, and Chisolm-Straker,2016).

This research will study the impacts of disaster on the children in Gaza strip which is similar to the previous researches of (Peek,2008), (Dr. Ahmed,2018), and (Sjuve Maria, 2015).

This research will be similar to those researches as it will study the reasons beyond the separation of the children, and the characteristics of those separated children, beside the type of the separation if they are primary separated or secondary separated as it is clarified in the first chapter that the secondary separation occur due to the consequences of the disasters.

Moreover my research will clarify the impacts of the previous disasters on the children which caused the separation and unaccompaniment of the children.

My research will be distinguished since it will be the first study conducted in Palestine, particularly the Gaza strip. And the UASC are not refugee within another country in the Arab world or Europe as the other researches and studies.

The sample is the UASC themselves within the same country or area, who separated from their families due to the several crisis that took place in the Gaza strip but they could not flee to another country due to the siege and blockade imposed on the Gaza strip.

In addition it will discuss the treatment of UASC inside their country of origin and inside the same country or place where they live.

It also will be the first of its kind in Palestine and particularly the Gaza strip.

Further to that, this research will propose a solution for those children which is a shelter or care setting according to the International criteria.

3.1.5 Unaccompanied and separated children UASC: the invisible phenomenon in the Gaza Strip aftermath 2014 conflict, an overview.

Studying the example of UASC in Palestine had been personified not only their struggle with Israel's occupation policies and practices, but also they face a harsh domestic juvenile justice system and inadequate protections (Robbins & Nimah. 2013).

The 51 days war on Gaza; families and children are exposed to a wide range of protection risks associated with armed conflict such as displacement, dispossession and deprivation (Al- Haq, 2015). The 2014 assault on Gaza had a psychological impact of ongoing threats of violence which had emphasized the definite need for psychosocial support and interventions for both children and adults. Thus, children are in need for direct structured psychosocial support and child protection interventions on the basis of families who have experienced death, injury or loss of home since the beginning of the crisis (Al- Haq. 2015). From these effects and the outcomes of the assault, UASC represent invisible phenomena affected by economic, social and cultural factors that create challenges in addressing child protection within the stratifications of the Gazans.

Hence, I am going to study and build a comprehensive understanding towards those challenges: economic, social and most importantly traditional and cultural obstacles in making this phenomena visible and acceptable in the Gazans society. Moreover, this research is going to establish a shelter for this category of the community as a mean of protection and the right of their existence.

Chapter 4

Methodology

Chapter 4

Methodology

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is the fourth step in this research to clarify the approach which is used to collect the data and highlight the techniques conducted to get answers to the required research questions and build ones perspective. Here, the characteristics of respondents and their numbers also pro-fundred. My involvement as a shelter manager and expertise with UASC is figured out and justified.

In addition this chapter describes and justifies the methodology used in this study. It describes the choice of research strategy and research design, sampling, methods of data collection and data analysis. Finally, it will discuss issues related to doing research in the Gaza strip and ethical considerations during the research process. Throughout the chapter.

Pilot procedure, furthermore, is stated to confirm reliability and validity of the chosen methodology, the adapted techniques and built up discussions with the supervisors concerning any following procedures. Inductive and deductive approaches in using two coding systems methodology were compressively prefaced with its ways of applications and the criteria which were followed to have qualitative outcomes.

4.2 Research Design:

According to Huges 2006, qualitative researchers “use a variety of tools and techniques in order to develop deep understandings of how people perceive their social realities and in consequence, how they act within the social world. They seek to make connections between events, perceptions and actions so that their analyses are holistic and contextual”.

The key purpose of this study is to understand the existence of UASC, and the impact of disasters and crisis on the children separation from their families.

This means going into depth in terms of understanding the relationship between disasters and children and why children are more exposed to risks than other groups.

In terms of epistemological considerations, i.e. “what is acceptable knowledge”, an interpretivist approach is adopted since it is “concerned with how the social world is interpreted, understood, experienced or produced” (Mason in Huges, 2006).

When it comes to ontology, a constructivist approach is adopted because it sees the social world as “outcomes of the interactions between individuals, rather than phenomena “out there”, and separate from those involved in its instructions” (Bryman, 2012, p. 380).

Based on these reflections, a qualitative research strategy is seen as most appropriate.

Because the stakeholders who are interviewed are aware with those children and have the required information about the UASC because this approach enables a “detailed and intensive analysis. (Bryman. 2012, p.66). Further, Yin (2012, p.5) argues that a case study design should be considered when the focus of the study is to answer “how” and “why” questions and where you cannot manipulate the behavior of those involved in the study.

A case study research design is therefore an exploratory tool where one might be able to establish a link between wider theory and the particular case, which again might be applicable to other situations.

I believe it is possible to generalize children’s vulnerabilities in disasters, as the impacts are rather similar within and across countries. This is especially true in developing countries with high poverty levels and where there are weak legal frameworks and disaster risk reduction strategies together with weak government institutions meant to protect children in such circumstances.

The invisible phenomena of UASC in Gaza Strip motivated me to conduct the approach of snowball sampling in order to be able to contact with the related respondents. This method gives the researcher a guideline to come into contact with groups of people relevant to the research topic and recruit other participants through these initial contacts (Bryman. 2008). This technique also is applied to reach difficult-to-reach populations and proved to set an accessible sampling frame for the respondents. Accordingly, representatives from stakeholders such as caregivers, social workers, and case managers

were performed within the study and collaborated throughout their interviews, focusing group and responses to construct answers and objectivity of this work.

4.2.1 Semi-structured Interviews

I held thirteen semi-structured interviews with relevant stakeholders from different organizations in the Gaza Strip. The respondents were contacted via email, phone calls, face-to-face meetings and other people. Five of the participants interviewed by phone while two others via email. Face-to-face meeting and focusing groups were taken place officially with managers of relevant organizations and in different settings including offices and public places. All interviews were held in Arabic Language then translated into English for the sake of this study. The interviews took approximately forty minutes to an hour and a half to cover ten questions required to achieve the goals of this research and all of them were typed and documented.

Ten questions were prepared and asked to the interviewees and then their answers were analyzed according to data analyzed mentioned above and connected to the open codes. Those questions are as follow:

1. When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?
2. Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?
3. How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?
4. Please describe the status of those children when you find them?
5. Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which kind abuse they had?
6. In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?
7. Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?
8. Are there other organizations working with this group of children?
9. What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

10. What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

4.2.2 Interviewing

Interview is probably the most commonly used method in qualitative research (Bryman, 2012). One of the advantages of using interviews is the flexibility it gives as well as allowing the researcher to explore a topic in great depth using a variety of people and informants.

Although my initial plan was to have one-on-one interviews with children and caregivers in the field, this proved to be difficult. This was mainly due to time constraints as well as lack of planning and cooperation with the field staff. These challenges will be covered in more depth in the challenges section below.

Consequently I did not get to use the interview guide that I had prepared for children and youth.

One-on-One interviews were therefore only conducted with NGO staff and Government officials and took form as semi-structured. All of the interviews were conducted through the methods mentioned above as; phone call, emails, face to face interviews and focus groups.

Hence, from table (4.1) below, I can give an overview image concerning the thirteen stakeholders' participants categorized according to the types of organizations then specifying organization titles, respondents' positions and duties and the ways of communication:

Table (4.1): The definition of the thirteen participants in the interview and the ways of communication.

Nu.	Type of organization	Organization	Respondent Name	Position & Duty	Way of contact
1.	Local NGOs	PCDCR	Mr. Eyad Abu Hejeyer	the head of the center / the administrative manager	Face-to-face
		PCDCR	Madlin Alhalabi, Doaa Salama,	social psychologist	Focus group

Nu.	Type of organization	Organization	Respondent Name	Position & Duty	Way of contact
			Amani Aburaya. AMna Zaqout.		
		MabaratAlrahma for illegal children,	Mohammed Saqer	Case manager	Email
		Ma'an Development Center	HousamAl-Madhoun	Programs manager	Phone
2.	Governmental Organizations and Directorates	MoSD	Roba Al-Betar, Heyam, MonaAlejla	family and child protection guidance.	Focus group
		MoSD/North Directorate	Mohammed Alkahlout	Case manager	Email
		MoSD/Gaza Directorate	RehamAlagha	Case manager	Phone
3.	United Nations' Organizations	UNRWA/ North Area	Najwa Alzaalan	Social worker	Phone
		UNRWA/ South Area	Eftekhar Mohammed	Social worker	Phone
		UNICEF	Mona Abed	Child protection officer	Phone
4.	International NGOs	SOS children`s villages- Rafah	Samar Zourob	Family based care coordinator	Face-to-face
		SOS shelter employee	Mona Alzerie, Razan Najjar, Hedaya ALjouri, Asmaa Soud	Caregivers and social workers	Focus group
		TDH	Houda Al Awady	Child protection officer	Phone

4.2.3 Focus Groups:

The focus group is another important method of data collection in the case study design and is a technique of interviewing that involves more than one person (Bryman.

2012.p.501). Each focus group discussion had duration of 45 minutes depending on the availability of time. The purpose of the focus groups was to discuss the existence of UASC in the Gaza strip and the reasons beyond their separation, and they were asked the same questions that were asked to other interviewees.

I was unable to conduct one-on-one interviews with a group of workers in the organizations or in the field of child protection and was only able to have focus group discussions with these groups.

The former co-workers of the interim center of SOS children`s Villages were called by me and gathered as it was very difficult to meet them one by one as they are no longer working with SOS Children`s Villages and now some of them are committed with other organizations therefore I conducted one focus group with them.

4.3 Population:

The population of this research are the Unaccompanied and Separated children which referred as UASC. Those are the children who were separated from their families due to disasters and crisis whether it is natural or man-made disasters.

In almost all armed conflicts, mass population displacements, natural disasters and other crises, a number of children become separated from their families or from other adults responsible for them. These children form one of the most vulnerable groups in these situations, often deprived of care and protection. Most can be reunited with parents, siblings, members of the extended family or other adults whom they know and who are willing to provide for their care. (Inter-agency Guiding Principles on UNACCOMPANIED and SEPARATED CHILDREN, 2004).

The majority of the research population were hosted by SOS Children`s Villages at their interim center (the temporary shelter) that they opened as a response for 2014 conflict. (MOSD. 2017).

The total number of those UASC who were hosted at the temporary shelter of SOS is 170 children within two years, their ages were between 1 years-old to 17 years old from both females and males. (SOS CVI.2017)

Currently most of those children are living with one of their relatives or neighbors, or sometimes at the streets, beside we could find few of them hosted by other organization as Mabarat Rahma that is only hosting the illegal children or at ALamal orphanage but they are limited and might be those organizations have only one or two children as they are not dealing with UASC.

4.4 Sample:

The research sample are specialists and filed workers community in Gaza were personified in a diverse group of stakeholders who had been engaged with UASC/UAMs. Those subjects were represented multi-sectors of UASC's stakeholders as having crucial positions within working local NGOs, governmental organizations and directorates, united nations' organizations and international NGOs in order to indoor perspectives towards UASC phenomena in the Gaza Strip. The research population, however, were characterized in administrative managers and social psychologists at the families forum of the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR), Child Protection Officer at Terre des Hommesswiss (TDH), programs manager at Ma'an Development Center, Family Based Care Coordinator at SOS Children`s Villages, former caregivers and social workers at the SOS shelter, Mabarat Alrahma for Illegal Children and further were shown as other non-governmental and local NGOs participators.

International organizations were profoundly encountered through Child Protection Officer at the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and two social workers at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in north and south areas. The respondents from Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) was also collaborated referring to its ultimate and important role in accessing information about this category of people, forming an official organ in the Gazan society and contributing in proposed future solutions concerning UASC. Therefore, three main focal points working in the family and child protection unit and two of case managers in North and Gaza directorates were founded as respondents in this study. (See table 4.1).

4.5 Sampling:

According to Bryman, sampling is “an inevitable feature of most, if not all, kinds of social research and therefore constitutes an important stage in any investigation” (2012, p.12). One of the major reasons is that we as researchers are not able to interview or observe all individuals that are suitable to our research and we therefore almost always have to sample (Bryman, 2012).

Because I had previously worked for several Humanitarian organizations and in the field of child protection and currently working for SOS children`s villages International which is the only organization working with UASC, I found it an obvious choice when first exploring which organizations to contact. When I contacted SOS Children`s Village they were positive of me coming to conduct my research in collaboration with them and put me in contact with the Family Based care Coordinator.

My initial plan was to only collaborate with the children themselves, but since I can get the required information from the stakeholders I decided to contact the senior officers in the selected organizations focusing on the MOSD which is the only governmental organizations dealing with UASC.

4.6 Ethical Procedures:

As a field worker with solid experience and expertise in the arena of child protection, I played an active role to reflect an influence factor on the respondents. As a result, my involvement equipped me with the capability of selecting the targeted entities that I need to interview. Additionally, the benchmark of relevant people, organizations, and authorities productively advocate for better treatment and procedures on UASC/UAMs and may put my objectivity as a researcher into question. This mechanism of my interference as an expertise builds a belief that the help of those institutions and organizations has proved essentially to gain access to respondents.

In the light of difficulties related to conduct research with UASC, I ethically decided to limit myself to hold informal and formal conversations with stakeholders as key to adjust a new context in investigating hard-to-reach population phenomenon.

Nevertheless, in situations where children's rights were violated, I signaled 170 USAC cases during my previous work and documented a closed shelter in 2017 belonged to SOS Children's Villages after two years of its establishment in 2014. From this perspective, I attempted to share this information with the interviewee and my colleagues to state highly a path in protecting those children.

I also signed the code of conduct and confidentiality for each organization to respect the privacy and confidentiality of the information I will get from them.

4.7 Measurements:

The researcher was agreed to conduct a qualitative research method using interviews only since the information can be gathered from one source. The questionnaire was also proposed and consulted but the supervisors pointed out that no need for this tool since the required information can be collected from the persons who are working or referring to those children.

As a result of the very limited number of organizations which are working in the field of UASC in Gaza, the researcher focused only on the stakeholders as a mean of one-way gathering information. Therefore, the researcher has selected the key informants and the organizations that the researcher needs to visit and held interview with their specialists.(see table4.1).

Eleven interview questions were piloted then they were illustrated to fruitfully motivate the interviewee stating the essence of that phenomena. Consequently, the pilot-test outputs highlighted to remove question seven because it regarded the educational status since this work is concentrated on the appearance of abnormal phenomena in eastern culture. Moreover, the outcomes of piloting procedures recommended in question two to replace the term "average" with "group" since the total number in Gaza strip is not identified yet. Accordingly, ten questions were structured and revised to be utilized as a clue in collecting information about this phenomena.

4.7.1 Measures of Data Collection

The ten open-ended questions as the content of the interview technique, started with background question to gain a first impression of UASC phenomena. After all, the rest

of the probing questions were asked to obtain more understanding of the research case depending on the purpose of this work. Productively, I designed these types of questions to encourage the respondents to talk openly about UASC in the Gazans community, to guide the interview and to gather as much relevant information as possible. In addition, this interviewing technique proved a suitable way of allowing participants to elaborate their experiences with this category of people or to discern any related phenomena.

It is worth mentioning, I made time available to explain the study for the subjects, offered the opportunity to ask questions, and asked them to decide whether they wanted to participate or not. It should be noted also that I emphasized their freedom to refrain from participating or to stop participating at any time without any consequences.

The most interesting part in the phase of conducted the interview was reflected from my affiliation with humanitarian organization. This role as expertise of UASC and researcher at the same time became intertwined; as a result, I experienced strong feelings, such as powerlessness or worry, concerning the situation of UASC in Gaza and followed my diary. Consequently, self-reflection and discussions with the interviewees were very fruitful (Vervliet. 2015), because being an intern and researcher at the same time proved advantageous for familiarization with the research setting and for lessening the degree of being considered an outsider to obtain more detailed information and gain a broader understanding of the study setting.

Hence, the data collected in Arabic Language via diversified ways of communications such as phone calls, face-to-face conversations, emails, and focus groups after a month and twenty five days. After that, the transcripts of the interviews encoded in this research paper with the real names of the respondents to maintain confidentiality, and the mass of communications were coded and the whole interviews and the questions were translated into English language (see Appendix, B) for the sake of the research targets.

4. 7.2 Data collection

The most frequently used methods of data collection in such topics, is interviews and observation (Bell, 1999). The primary method of data collection in this research was

interviews with NGO staff, Government Officials and focus groups with field workers who deal directly with the UASC.

Both interviews with NGO staff and field workers data sources was mostly for triangulation purposes in order to compare and discover any discrepancies between the two groups. (Bryman. 2012).

The data were collected through the semi structure interviews with the relevant stakeholders and the questions they answered are as listed below.

The data were collected through several methods as some of the interviewees was out of the country so I had to send the question by email and then received them back through the email but we had a phone call to clarify on some points.

I also used face to face interview and conducted some of them via phone call with those stake holders.

4.8 Data Analysis:

As the raw data were textualized, I decided to utilize two qualitative data coding techniques in order to form reliable and valid inferences and use my reflections on the applied standard concepts or assumptions. Accordingly, inductive and deductive approaches of two content analysis framework were applied to move from data to theory then from more general level to a more specific one, so the transcripts of semi-structured interview objectively defined and evaluated the two methods of data coding to yield pragmatic and best results.

I chose open and template coding techniques in which the former code attempts to identify the meaning within a text without any preconceptions while the later code purposefully develop framework as a means to draw out the meaning of processes or experience in order to constitute reality and knowledge about the concerned case. Therefore, the presence of ontological and epistemological orientations in my analysis become crucial element of the philosophy of the knowledge about the way we know things and what things are? (Creswell, 2014). Moreover, theoretical and conceptual frameworks, and even the choice of coding method itself attribute on evocate meanings to data ontologically and epistemologically.

Within this criteria, the data were labeled into two techniques to analyze and interpret what the transcripts inferred. The first technique was open coding or emergent labeling while the second technique was template coding or a priori labeling. That is to say, open coding was identified as a method of generating participant-generated ‘theory’ from the data and template coding was identified as a tool for framing data into a coherent construct through the application of an established ‘line-by-line codes’.

Moreover, each techniques was coded into meaningful categories as a mean of deductive process reflecting UASC milestone. This recursive process consisting of different analytical phases. The first step, I gathered close knowledge of the data by collecting, transcribing, reading and re-reading the data a number of times, which generated early reflections on the data and ideas about themes. The second phase involved coding generation, which consists of phrases of data coding to work towards the themes the research generates. These codes do not emerge from the data but are created by experimenting with ideas regarding data and referring semantically to the research questions.

Table (4.2) is considered as the formula of codification which has been conducted throughout the phase of analysis to define and label the final theme. Finally, the process of analysis was facilitated by using MAXQDA v12 (2018); a qualitative and mixed methods data analysis software (VERBI GmbH), which is a software program that aids to organize, visualize and analysis qualitative data in a structured manner and to deal relatively with large number of interviews and focusing groups.

Table (4.2): Open and template codification and categorization

Norm	Sub-norm						
Open coding	Emergед Truth						
		the right to physical and legal protection	the right to registrati on	the right to participate in decision making	the right to care and assistant	the right not to be separated from the parents	
Template	priori Definition						

Norm	Sub-norm									
coding	protection type	guardianship	legal/illegal approach	engaging with caregivers or parents	UAC existence UACE	Separated children frontloading (SCF)	Best interest determination (BID) (economical situation)	Conflict crisis	Cultural mediator	Social interference

Purposefully, being methodologically self-conscious, the transcription and the analysis were being criticized with my reflection to the themes that I found. Chinn and Brewer (2001) stated that when a researcher analyzes a data he/she "constructs a cognitive model of the data according to the perspective of the person who is reporting the data". Accordingly, the researcher intends to justify the processes and the criteria which are followed to build the codes and their related sub-codes.

4.8.1. Codifying and Categorizing

Since my involvement in analyzing qualitative data, it indoors when looking at that raw data a sense of asking, "*What does all this mean?*". The 'answers' as a result lie within that data are not always explicit but they need methods to be employed in order to extricate these 'answers'. Kumar, (2014) suggested that, before we can interpret our findings, the messages that lie within the data "need careful teasing out". (Mayring,2014) stated that the tools which are utilized for analysis should not be left unexamined and should be scrutinized in the early stages of the research process.

Under the norms of teasing out and scrutinizing, coding method was processed as an analytic tactic in order to permit data content to be segregated, grouped, regrouped and linked the content of the collected information with dimensions of research objectives to be developed into consolidated meaningful categories in order to be cryptanalyzed. This step brought to analysis phase an interpretivist view throughout acknowledging my dynamic relationship with the data, and accepting my place within the research.

This subjectivity of content analysis approach mutually entails epistemological counterpart which plays a role in replacing the traditional relationship between truth and

the interpretation within the productive recognition of the relationship between all actors in this research and my perspective's interference. Therefore, it becomes ultimate to shed the light of the role of ontological and epistemological frameworks that influence and affect my decision of coding.

In trying to recognize the difference between ontology and epistemology, it must be noted that they have meanings related to their absolute concept. Ontology is related to the nature of reality and the study of the nature of being or becoming existence and their differences and similarities, while epistemology is the study of knowledge and concerns with the natural sources and scope (Finlay.2003). In adapting the paradigm of interpretivist, epistemology is less tangible frame to be followed in this study since it is connected to the relationship between the researcher and the objects under research (Lynch. 2000). Ontology, on the other hand, focuses on a question about "how I use my reflections" to build up the understanding of the related issues and topics of the concerned study and let the research able to explore and acknowledge subjectively. Therefore, I found my research ontologically subjective referring to the mechanism that I used to constitute the identity of the data coding.

4.8.2 Establishing Qualitative Codes

As I elaborated in the previous section, I maintained that the tactic of achieving content analysis approach is relied on establishing codes that can be applied to the collected transcripts from the respondents of the study in order to evolve data into meaningful categories then to be analyzed and interpreted. Therefore, open and template coding were not arbitrarily utilized since they were examined to consider which of these techniques best suited my study analysis. Furthermore, by positioning my perspective's outlet within this study, my coding procedures were also influenced by that norm and performed the touchstone of the results validity. Hence, I made a comprehensive understanding about open and template coding to determine which of them is appropriate to be used in data content analysis.

4.8.2.1 Open coding

It stands for emerging codes from the real text, so it can be called emergent coding. However, the mechanism of utilizing this process depends on deriving the code from

standard theoretical dimensions rather than imposing these stands upon raw data. Theoretically, (Strauss & Corbin. 1998).

Then, data analysis highlights after all issues that need exploration and interpretation. The sampling process as a following step is guided by the on-going theory development. Procedures of Data collection and analysis take place in alternating sequences. This process is described as an iterative cycle of induction and deduction method which is consisting of data collection and constant comparison between results and new findings in order to guide further data collections (Strauss,Corbin.1994).

From this criteria, my analysis to the collected data of my research sparked five ultimate rights for children who had been separated and unaccompanied.

Those rights see figure: (4.1) were considered as a comprehensive approach towards establishing open phrases coding in order to state theoretically general understanding of UASC phenomena in the Gaza Strip. The category of open coding phrases are formed under a broad range of international organizations represented by: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children UK (SCUK), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and World Vision International (WVI) (JakobK.2004).

The codes that I applied in open coding system are stood as principles of my data content which means that I moved deductively from more general to specific or top-down analysis level. Accordingly, this process of codification did not make me able to impose my inductive codes which caused an issue about my subjective perspective. Another issue when applying open coding method was revealed according to the actual truth in UASC face in the Gaza Strip as abnormal phenomena existed in a conservative community. Therefore, my contribution here is to find out scientifically that truth and to use my subjective reflection that allow me to interpret what I found.

The second and third coding include axial and selective coding. The axial coding indicates that "categories are related to their subcategories to form more precise and complete explanations" (ibid), while selective coding performs the idea that "categories are organized around a central explanatory concept until an analytic gestalt allows the

theory to emerge (ibid). This process of coding imposed another dilemma with my interpretation and translation to the content of my data since they move from logical, systematical relation and intersection of data to the sudden insight of discovery and neglect my ontological and epistemological reflection.

For these reasons the development and identification of variables does not happen prior to data collection but instead as part of the data collection process. That is to say, the identification of variables or concepts are initiated by the interviewee and further developed and conceptualized by the researcher. Dependently, I play a role to correlate traditional or heteronomous with autonomous approaches within the procedures and outputs of my study.

Open Coding Codes

the right to physical and legal protection (0)

the right to registration (0)

the right to participate in decision making (0)

the right to care and assistant (0)

the right not to be separated from the parents (0)

Figure 3.7.2.1.2: Open Coding Codes

Figure (4.1): open coding codes

4.8.2.2 Template Coding

From a subjective strategy in codifying data content, I decided to use template coding (King. 1994) tool for two reasons: first, the used codes were defined by the researcher, which involves using *a priori* codes drawn from research, reading and re-reading of the raw data. While the second reason aligned different philosophical perspective which moves away from the positivist and realist paradigm. Nevertheless, as it is difficult to code the data in a detached manner and not isolated from open or emergent coding, in this regard template coding seemed more in-line with my epistemological and ontological approaches and offered me an analytical method that would allow the data to speak through me rather than at me.

Moreover, the utilization of template coding technique based the models-of-data theory which helps on explaining how my reflexivity supports my evaluation of the data and has an effect upon the answer that I then found.

Under the above respects, figure (4.3) shows that template coding process was applied on thirteen interview transcripts then ten sub-codes were coded under the coordination with the five principle rights codes of open coding. In other words; codes and sub-codes are based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in which I chose five of the related articles in order to be the guidelines towards achieving my objectives and the interpretation of my research questions. The chosen rights were examine and piloted to represent open coding framework then they were defined and coded referring to CRC criteria. The correlation between sub-codes and the entire codes was persuasively built upon the criteria of Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (Jakob.2004) to form template codes (see appendix A).Though, I managed eventually to define, categorize, characterize, correlate and justify the five emergent codes and the ten relevant template or priori codes.

Furthermore, I utilized the windows of MAXQDA version 12 (2018) the facilitator software program which combined between manual analysis processing and machine qualitative procedures outcomes to be my pen and paper for the sake of reliability and validity performance through my findings and discussions competence.

Open and Template Coding

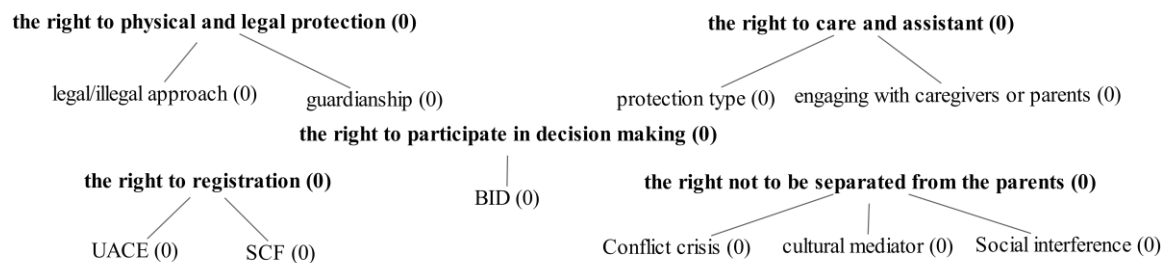


Figure 3.7.2.2.1: Coding & Sub-coding of Open and Tempale Coding

Figure (4.2): codes and sub-codes of open and template coding

Chapter 5

Findings And Results

Chapter 5

Findings and Results

5.1 Introduction

The factor analysis of this chapter was taken from the participants' performance in order to justify my strategy in choosing codes and sub-codes which were utilized in my analysis methods. Accordingly, the codes are classified into five open codes or emergent codes which are related to Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) articles Ratified and Accessed by General Assembly Resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. The template codes or priori codes are categorized into ten sub-code which were derived from the competence performances of the five CRC articles.

Under MAXQODA 2018 application and mechanism, findings procedures are storytelling manifested with the correlation to the five standard rights of CRC to give a hand for saving information towards my discussion. After all, pretexts and the ways of persuasion in defending my objectives of the study are thoroughly stereotyped through answering the research question.

5.2 Findings and Data Analysis

After reading and highlighting the subjects' performance from their answers to the interview questions, and after deep line-by-line analysis (see, appendix, B) of interviewee responses and two times of data estimation relying on the standard children's rights advanced by international human organizations, the data inferred interesting outcomes concerning UASC phenomena in the Gaza strip.

Thus, the results interpret the following authentic facts of data content as:

1. The right to registration

The findings translated through the pie chart see, figure(5.1) shows 88.2% percentage of separated children identity which represents the majority existence within the whole respondents' answers while 11.8% of responses is respected as unaccompanied children minority among Gazan community.



Figure (5.1): Percentage of UASC existence in the Gaza Strip

2. The right not to be separated from the parents

As the results shown, UASC phenomena had embarked the dilemma behind the real appearance of this class in the Gazan society. Therefore, confronting the right that the child has a must to have a family and not to be separated from his parents coined by international community, figure (5.2) portrays that 58.9% of participants' answers have accused social interference as a main reason in reflecting the appearance of UASC.

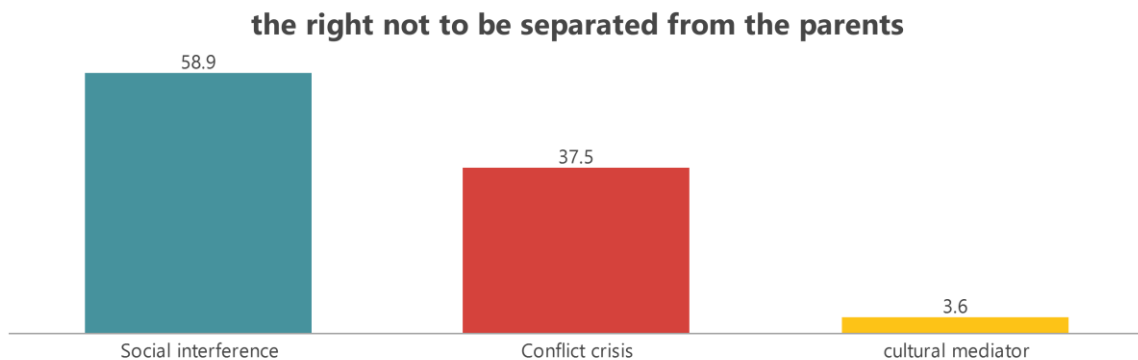


Figure (5.2): Social Interference, Conflict Crisis and Cultural Mediator reasons

3. The right to physical and legal protection

Under the respect of physical and legal protection right, figure (5.3) counts forty guardianship segments that figures 62.5% of replies which insisted on achieving the

right of child protection and the mean of survival. This is the right that international, national and local organizations extend great efforts to secure.

The subjects personified that criterion throughout their answers to the open-ended question of the interview explain the necessity of having shelters guardian UASC in order to preserve their rights and to be able to provide the needy services. In addition the outcomes of data analysis approved the absence of organizations which cared about those types of children even government does not show a role to play in this issue.

Respectively, 37.5% of legal or illegal approach shows an interested correlation with the mean of guardianship process to enhance and state the role of children's human rights organization in protecting and approaching those classes of societies.

Here, it can be proved from the findings of participants words the way of approaching those children in front of hospitals, mosques, homes, or even ministries, and sometimes at the doors of banks and in public streets. That is why most of respondents recommend to have studies concerning this phenomena and conduct several workshops and awareness session to give a whole and comprehensive overview about the situation of UASC.

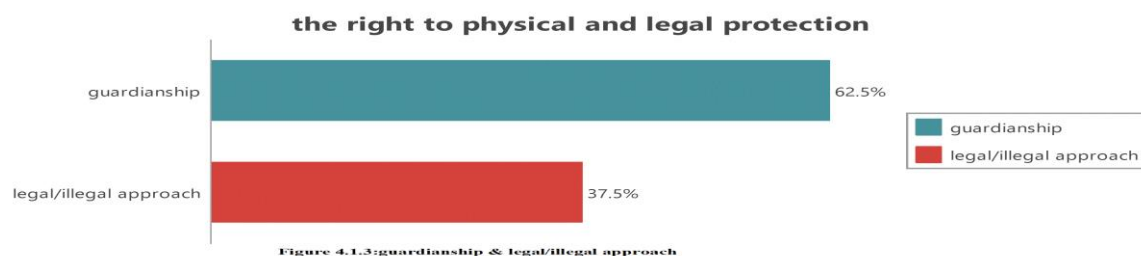


Figure (5.3): Guardian and legal/illegal approach manifestation

4. The right to participate in decision making

The results of decision making has been consensus among the whole participants of the study because it has been scattered between two important angles; the first is to let decision mutual made among organization and children for any future outlets, the second corner is to offer best interests, from economical perspective. This criterion has offered huge psychological and economic problems, unemployment factor, and force the children to work to get money.

5. The right to care and assistant

Consequently, with its 53.3% percentage, protection type see, figure (5.4) has been firmly introduced throughout the responses towards interview questions which entirely characterizes the shapes of services which are expected to be offered. The results confirm that the shape of services should be characterized in relief, health care, food security, psychological, and educational services, but these services are violated since the absence of UASC organizations in the Gaza Strip and if they are existed their role and services are not sufficient and not cover the essential needs. The shortcoming is not only shown in the provided services but also in the specialists who can supervised or qualified to work with UASC.

Finally, by these temporal procedures, reunification with nuclear family and even engaging with the caregiver are considered the utmost objectives of child's human rights that to be preserved. Therefore, it can be noticed from the pie chart in figure (5.4) that 47.7% of responses that engaging with caregivers or parents goes side-by-side with protection type.

The results infer that manmade, natural and even cultural factors have influenced to make children capable to be engaged with their parents or even caregivers. This due to the community traditions and customs as the divorced woman could not keep her children with her. Moreover, migration of the main caregivers in the families has another crucial role in which the child can be neglected and not being taken cared by anyone. Parents also are not qualified to hold responsibilities of their children, disputes between the family members and the extended families don't care for their children.



Figure 4.1.5: protection type % Engaging with caregivers or parents

Figure (5.4): The right to care and assistant

Main findings of the research according to the main research questions:

Research question1: What are the differences between the unaccompanied and separated children, referring to the Gaza context?

Separated children: are those separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.

Unaccompanied children: (also called unaccompanied minors) are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Research question2: What are the reasons beyond their separation from their families?

- Divorce and social breakdown- not taken care by anyone.
- Force the children to work to get money.
- Parents are not qualified to hold responsibilities of their children.
- Disputes between the family members.
- The extended families don't care for their children.
- The crisis that are encountered Gaza strip which led to several social problems as divorce, and disputes, unemployment, addiction of the most fathers or parents, the deteriorating economic system.
- Drugs addiction due to the frequent disasters happened in the Gaza strip.
- Blockade, siege, and social breakdown.

Research question3: Are there any NGOs /INGOs working with UASC in Gaza Strip? And what are the types of services they provide for UASC?

There are few organizations dealing with UASC but they are very limited and they don't deal directly with those children but the only organization that dealt directly with them is SOS Children's Villages as they had a shelter to host the UASC for two years after the 2014 conflict but the shelter was closed because it was a response for the emergency of 2014 and there was a need to have a long term shelter for those children and the fund there was not supporting.

The other organizations are only supporting through providing some supporting but sporadic services as educational, relief, Psychosocial and some recreational activities.

From those organizations: the Ministry of Social Development which is the only governmental entity dealing with them and the only one responsible for the referral pathway between organizations and those children.

Research question4: What are the features of the proposed shelter?

All of the interviewees stressed out that there is a high need to have temporary shelter to host the UASC till they can be reunified with their families whether biological or extended family therefore I proposed the following shelter to be adapted by the one of the organizations or the MOSD to host those children with the characteristics of services preserved by CRC descriptions. By this term, I deserve the right to answer the fourth question of my research.

5.4 Shelter proposal

5.4.1 Project Definition

The Alternative Care Centre (Shelter) is a short-term which reflects formal care solution for UASC. It is a formal residential care setting meaning that it is recognized and accredited by the Ministry of Social Affairs and provides care in a non-family based group setting where professional careers and employees are responsible for the well-being of children in the centre. Here, the centre model and management of the centre is based on guidelines in the *Save the Children Alternative Care in Emergencies (ACE) toolkit*.

5.4.2 Project Objective

The objective of the Alternative Care Centre is to ensure the well-being and continued development of children residing at the centre whilst at the same time seeking the most appropriate long-term care solution that is in the best interest of each individual child.

5.4.3 Project Outline

The centre will accommodate up to 100 children at a time for between 24 hours and one year, the maximum time it takes to either reunify children with their family or find a long-term alternative care solution, but it depends on each child case as sometimes a child needs more than one year to be settled in a good, suitable and safe place.

Furthermore, the centre provides secure accommodation and services in basic primary healthcare, psycho-social support, education and recreational activities to children in its care and also to beneficiaries in our target group residing outside of the centre. Those children that will be placed with extended family will receive follow-up in our second project, which is supporting extended family care-givers and the children in their care.

5.4.4 Admission

Children will be referred to the centre by the MoSD and partner NGOs working in the UN Child Protection Cluster and Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), as well as local CBOs. Upon arrival children are allocated an individual case worker, who does the following priority tasks:

1. registers the child with the Centre, local authorities and with the family-tracing NGO partner who is responsible for tracking their families;
2. opens a file with the child's name, ensuring the child receives a medical check-up and appropriate medical attention where necessary, a psychological consultation and follow-up where necessary and –in consultation with the child - enrolls the child in educational and recreational activities with the center;
3. The case worker is principally responsible for ensuring family-tracing and that a long-term care solution is found as quickly as possible for each child.

5.4.5 Beneficiary Selection Criteria

Selection criteria for beneficiaries of the Centre, as per the Save the Children ACE model, are the following:

1. The child is unaccompanied with no known relatives or previous caregivers.
2. The child requires temporary care until their reunification with located family members or usual caregivers can be organized.
3. The child's parents or usual caregivers are unable or unwilling to care for the child, even with appropriate support.
4. The child is at serious risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation by his or her current caregivers and protection and support services cannot sufficiently improve the quality of the care of the child in this situation.

5. Children will be referred to the Centre by the MoSD and organizations identified by the UN Child Protection working group.

5.4.6 Project Strategy

The strategic organizational objective of the project is to contribute to establishing a shelter for USAC as the prominent leading organization in alternative care in emergencies. SOS CV Palestine has established itself as the key organization within the OCHA UN Protection Cluster Group and with the MoSD, concentrating its efforts and expertise on securing suitable shelter and care for unaccompanied and separated minors (UASC).

The strategic operational objective of the project is to ensure high-risk UASC are cared for in quality short-term alternative care whilst a long-term care solution is sought.

5.4.7 Beneficiary Participation

Beneficiary participation is assured in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases. In the planning phase, families and children have been questioned in an initial assessment and identified UASC will be further questioned to establish the needs that are most important to them in education, psycho-social care and recreational activities in order to tailor these activities to their needs and requests.

During the implementation phase, child beneficiaries will be invited to participate in decorating the Centre and will be requested to “mentor” new arrivals to the Centre, making sure each child feels at home and secure in the Centre and with the other children they are sharing their living space with.

For monitoring purposes, child beneficiaries will be asked to give regular feedback on the Centre activities and family-tracing services, as well as feedback on their Case Manager, in order to improve the quality and reach of our activities and ensure their best interests are being taken into consideration.

When each child leaves the Centre and is either placed with biological family or in a suitable alternative care solution, they will be invited to participate in an “exit interview” with the Centre Director. This will provide them with the opportunity to evaluate their stay at the Centre in order to maintain project quality.

All children will be invited to fill out an impact survey and attend group discussions at the end of the project, which will feed into the final evaluation.

Target Group(s) And beneficiaries

The target group, as per the Child Protection Policy is children who have lost parental care, either temporarily or permanently. The Centre will admit children aged between 2 and 16 years old.(with some exceptional admission for some cases depending on the conditions of each case).

This includes:

1. Unaccompanied children: children who are living without a guardian or adult.
2. Separated children: children who have lost parental care, but living with biological family.

Special attention will be given to:

1. Disabled or mobility reduced children who have lost parental care;
2. Unaccompanied children who have not yet been registered with any NGO or UN agency

5.4.8 Project Intervention Logic Overall Objective

UASC reside in appropriate long-term care solutions with suitable caregivers where their well-being and continued development is assured.

5.4.9 Specific Objective

Between January and December 2019 to provide immediate care and protection to 1,000 at-risk UASC children in a Relief Alternative Care Centre and assure a long- term care solution in each child's best interest is secured.

5.4.10 Expected Results (R) and Main Activities (A):

R1: Upto 100 children have received alternative relief car and accommodation during one year (each year the center will accommodate 100 UASC children).

A1.1: An interim Alternative Care Centre is opened (staff are recruited and trained; an MoU is signed with MoSD; the Centre has been renovated and an admission and beneficiary criteria checklist is elaborated and used).

A1.2: Children are admitted to the Alternative Care Centre (children are referred by MoSA and the CPWG).

A1.3: Children are cared for by professional care-givers and alternative care practitioners in the Alternative Care Centre.

R2: At least 100 children have attended informal educational sessions every year

A2.1: Each child meets with their Case Manager to decide which educational activities they would like to attend and this is documented in their individual Development Plan.

A2.2: Specialized Educators are trained and hired at the Centre. They plan, manage and deliver informal educational activities for children residing in the Centre and for children in our target group residing outside the Centre, using the Unicef informal education curriculum.

A2.3: Activities that are delivered in the Centre using the Montessori teaching and learning model are: basics in core subject (Maths, Arabic, Science), reading, writing and arithmetic.

R3: Up to 100 children have received relevant medical care and follow-up every year

A3.1: Each child receives a medical check-up and psychological one-to-one session upon admission to the Centre, of which the results are documented in their individual Development Plan.

A3.2: Each child receives relevant and appropriate medication and/or is referred to the public health services or NGO health service providers for continued medical follow up.

A3.3: Each child receives appropriate psychological follow-up, either in-house with the center resident psychologist on a one-to-one basis, in group therapy sessions in the center recreational activities or is referred for specialist psychiatric treatment.

R4: At least 1,00 children have participated in recreational activities at the Centre every year.

A4.1: Activities Coordinators are trained and hired at the Centre. They plan, manage and deliver recreational activities for children residing in the Centre and for children in the target group residing outside the centre.

A4.2: Activities that are delivered in the Centre are: painting, sports, theatre, story-writing and telling etc.

R5: 75% of up to 100 children have been placed in suitable long-term care during one year .

A5.1: The Case Managers work together with the family-tracing unit of partner organizations to trace family members of each child (working with the ICRC primarily).

A5.2: The Case Managers map and monitor the capacity of alternative care institutions (the MoSA and other CBOs, as well as orphanages and institutions).

A5.2: The Case Managers, in consultation with the child, discuss and decide on long-term care placement options.

A5.3: The Case Managers assist in placing the child in long-term care solutions (according to legal stipulations, the best interest of the child determination and available capacity of the long-term solution).

5.4.11 Characteristics of the Shelter (care center)

The center should have the capacity to host 50 children at least at the same time.

The center should 20 bedrooms at least, one big hall for recreational activities, a hall for the TV that have the capacity for 50 children to watch TV.

The center consists of two floors one for male and the second for females.

There should be a big dining room, separate bathrooms, and shower rooms, big green area for the children to sit in.

5.4.12 Project Management

5.4.12.1 Project Management and Staff structure

The center director Gaza is responsible for ensuring project spending is aligned to the budget in this proposal. S/he reports directly to the head of the organization, who is his/her Line Manager.. S/he is responsible for overseeing that the programmatic content of the project is aligned to the project proposal.

The Centre Director is responsible for ensuring the day-to-day running of the Centre and ensuring the Centre is aligned to the project proposal. S/he is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day financial book-keeping, maintenance of the building and material, management of the Centre team, ensuring legal procedures are followed and ensuring the correct treatment of each child in the Centre. S/he is responsible for ensuring the Centre is a safe and conducive environment for both the staff and the children in its care.

5.5 Conclusion

This chapter manifests the analysis of the data collection and discusses the outcomes of the subjects' participation. In this part, a conclusion can be drawn to highlight main reasons behind enriching UASC phenomena in the Gaza Strip. The reasons are figured in the excessive intervention of followed social traditions with the cases of divorce, violence-based on gender and other treatment factors. Furthermore, conflict crisis in which Gazan community involved with has not been neglected because it has considered as other main factors that birth UASC phenomena.

The outputs with the systematic and ordered inquires of aftermath reception of UASC concludes to enforce and enhance the step of shelter proposal. This empowerment entails from the lack of services provided to the separated children and the absence of asylums or shelters which care about this existent separated phenomena.

Chapter 6

Conclusion and Recommendations

Chapter 6

Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion

As justified in the previous chapter, the seeds of the extensive separated phenomena and the absence of caregiver factor towards protecting of that phenomena in the Gaza Strip. This thesis focuses on the reception and challenges that unaccompanied minors and separated children face. By taking an interdisciplinary approach, this thesis answered the four research questions, which were posed at the introduction of this dissertation:

1. What are the differences between the unaccompanied and separated children, referring to the Gaza context?
2. What are the reasons beyond their separation from their families?
3. Are there any NGOs /INGOs working with UASC in Gaza Strip? And what are the types of services they provide for UASC?
4. What are the features of the proposed shelter?

This case study is based on the analyses of information gathered from semi-structured interviews which were held with a broad array of ‘stakeholders’ including NGO workers and local employees in the Gaza Strip. The findings overshadowed that the implementation of protection policies for separated children is problematic on a local level and that the reception of those children can be characterized by ambiguity. The absent shelters and even the short related numbers of organizations lack the necessary medical and socio-psychological care, educational facilities, and leisure activities. A number of stakeholders indicated that separated children have poor access to a guardian, and best interests.

Moreover, the collaboration and communication between the involved state agencies are seemed to be poor and the protection measures are not uniformly applied thoroughly. Consequently, UASC are insufficiently protected against possible smugglers and there is a heightened risk to become victims of abuse, and negligence.

This study has provided a short overview of the local reception and treatments of UASC and marked a sharp rise of separated children and a better understanding of the implementation and protection of UAMs by local stakeholders is needed and the

touchstone matter of establishing UASC shelter as a mean of protection and providing interim care and services.

6.2 Recommendations and Proposed Studies

In depth research is needed to elucidate the negative effects to make the phenomena of UASC in order to get a better understanding of the security risks, protection gaps and to find new ways to improve the reception and integration of them specially from their perspectives.

Another point needs to be investigated is conducting academic research elaborating and explaining the influence of restricted and conservative traditions and customs of the Gazan community as a mean of hidden this phenomena.

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Appendix

Appendix (A): Convention on the Rights of the Child

Ratified and Accessed by General Assembly Resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989

Guidance on the Use of Standardized Specific

Open codes and related Template Codes – key definitions

Open codes	Definition
<p>CR1: The right to physical and legal protection</p>	<p>Article 22</p> <p>1. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties.</p> <p>2. For this purpose, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, co-operation in any efforts by the United Nations and other competent intergovernmental organizations or nongovernmental organizations co-operating with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for reunification with his or her family. In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child permanently or temporarily deprived of his or her family environment for any reason , as set forth in the present Convention.</p>
Template codes	Definition
<p>Guardianship</p>	<p>1. it refers to the designation of responsibility to an adult or organization for ensuring that a child's best interests are fully represented.</p> <p>2. the rights and best interests of UASC must be safeguarded and promoted by organizations working on behalf of these children.</p> <p>3. UASC's access to appropriate health care should be promoted and monitored.</p> <p>4. The food served to UASC should strike a balance between the need for a nutritious diet, cultural eating habits and the diet of the local community.</p>

Open codes	Definition
legal/illegal approach	<p>1. The identification of unaccompanied and separated children must be approached very carefully to ensure that all genuine cases are found, while not attracting false cases. This should be verified through interviews with the child and members of the community.</p> <p>2. Organizations should help to build the capacity of relevant ministries handling child-welfare issues, NGOs and local communities, by providing technical assistance, training and material resources at national and local level. Developing relevant policies and promoting standard approaches should be key objectives of this capacity-building process.</p>
CR2: the right to registration	<p>Article 8</p> <p>1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.</p> <p>2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.</p>
Template codes	Definition
SCF: Separated children frontloading	<p>1. Separated children are those separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.</p> <p>2. Families should be made aware of measures that they can take in emergencies to minimize the risk of their children becoming separated. Parents and schoolteachers should teach children their name, address and details of where they come from, to facilitate tracing should they become separated. Name tags may be useful to identify children, particularly young children, if they are forced to flee.</p> <p>3. When an armed conflict or other disaster occurs, many children become separated from their parents or other care-givers. Because their status is seldom immediately clear, they are referred to as 'separated' or 'unaccompanied children' rather than orphans.</p>

Open codes	Definition
	<p>4. The child's identity, including nationality as well as the identity of his or her family must be recorded and preserved. Organizations caring for separated children must seek to obtain the documentation needed to record children's identity and affiliation, for protection and to facilitate tracing purposes.</p> <p>5. the identification and estimated numbers of all unaccompanied and separated children in various locations desegregated by age, sex and situation.</p> <p>6. Identifying unaccompanied and separated children is a priority in any emergency or other situation that leads to family disruption</p>
<p>UACE: unaccompanied children existence</p>	<p>1. Unaccompanied children (also called unaccompanied minors) are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.</p> <p>2. When an emergency arises, it is imperative to identify, register and document both unaccompanied and separated children as quickly as possible. This process will promote the protection and assistance of children and the tracing of their families. It is especially important in countries where legal registration is not properly carried out.</p> <p>3. Identifying unaccompanied and separated children is a priority in any emergency or other situation that leads to family disruption.</p> <p>4. The identification of unaccompanied and separated children must be approached very carefully to ensure that all genuine cases are found, while not attracting false cases. This should be verified through interviews with the child and members of the community.</p>
<p>CR3: the right to participate in decision making (economical side)</p>	<p>Article 3</p> <p>1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.</p>

Open codes	Definition
	<p>Article 12</p> <p>1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.</p> <p>2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.</p> <p>Article 18</p> <p>States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.</p>
Template codes	Definition
<p>BID: best interests determination</p>	<p>1. constitute the basic standard for guiding decisions and actions taken to help children, whether by national or international organizations, courts of law, administrative authorities, or legislative bodies. These Inter-agency Guiding Principles should be taken into account when determining the best interests of the child in a given situation</p> <p>2. The care and placement of children should be supervised by national or local welfare services to ensure that these children receive care that meets at least the minimum standards. The most appropriate form of placement must be determined for each child. Family care is likely to be best.</p> <p>3. Children should be given the opportunity to express their opinion, and it should be taken into consideration.</p>
<p>CR4: the right to care and assistant</p>	<p>Article 3</p> <p>1. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.</p> <p>2. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities,</p>

Open codes	Definition
	<p>particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.</p> <p>Article 18 States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.</p> <p>Article 19 1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.</p> <p>2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.</p>
Template codes	Definitions
engaging with caregivers or parents	<p>1. The principle of family unity – or integrity of the family – states that all children have a right to a family, and families have a right to care for their children. Unaccompanied and separated children must be provided with services aimed at reuniting them with their parents or primary legal or customary caregivers as quickly as possible.</p> <p>2. Unaccompanied and separated children must not be adopted in haste at the height of the emergency.</p> <p>3. Any adoption must be determined as being in the child’s best interests and carried out in keeping with applicable national, international and customary law.</p> <p>4. Priority must be given to adoption by relatives wherever they</p>

Open codes	Definition
	<p>live. If this is not an option, preference will be given to adoption within the community from which the child comes, or at least within his or her own culture.</p> <p>5. Awareness of ways to prevent separation should be raised among governments, donors, staff of national and international agencies, religious groups, communities, and families especially women as they are in many cases the primary care-givers in emergencies.</p>
protection type	<p>1. The concept of ‘protection’ refers to all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual – in this case a child – as set out in the relevant human rights instruments and international humanitarian law. There are essentially three complementary types of action to help unaccompanied and separated children:</p> <p>2. remedial action aimed at restoring dignified living conditions through rehabilitation, restitution and reparation;</p> <p>3. environment building aimed at creating and/or consolidating an environment (political, institutional, legal, social, cultural and economic) conducive to full respect for the rights of the individual</p> <p>4. Priority must be given to protection and assistance to enable families to meet the needs of the children in their care. This involves clearly identifying needs and addressing them effectively so that people are able to choose to remain where they are and to keep their families together.</p> <p>5. Separated children’s access to appropriate health care should be promoted and monitored.</p> <p>6. The food served to separated children should strike a balance between the need for a nutritious diet, cultural eating habits and the diet of the local community.</p> <p>7. Separated children, like all children, have a right to education Efforts should be made in all situations, including emergencies, to ensure that separated children participate in structured activities for recreation and continued learning.</p>

Open codes	Definition
	<p>8. Separated children should attend local schools where available.</p> <p>9. Assistance with school fees and uniforms is often requested to facilitate the reunification of children with families, particularly if the children have been attending school during the period of interim care.</p>
<p>CR5: the right not to be separated from the parents</p>	<p>Article 9</p> <p>1. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child.</p> <p>2. Such determination may be necessary in a particular case such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents, or one where the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence.</p> <p>3. States Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests.</p> <p>4. Where such separation results from any action initiated by a State Party, such as the detention, imprisonment, exile, deportation or death (including death arising from any cause while the person is in the custody of the State) of one or both parents or of the child, that State Party shall, upon request, provide the parents, the child or, if appropriate, another member of the family with the essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent member(s) of the family unless the provision of the information would be detrimental to the well-being of the child.</p> <p>Article 10</p> <p>1. States Parties shall take into account the importance of the traditional and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child.</p> <p>Article 11</p> <p>1. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed</p>

Open codes	Definition
	<p>conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.</p> <p>Article 16 1. The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.</p> <p>Article 33 1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.</p> <p>Article 38 1. States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.</p>
Template codes	Definitions
Social interference	Many children in institutions are not orphans. They may be placed there for safety, education, or for economic or social reasons.
cultural mediator	The majority of the evidence focuses on consequences of parental divorce and death , which are often preceded and/or followed by various other life adversities, confounding the effects of the parent-child separation experience itself.
Conflict crisis	<p>When an armed conflict or other disaster occurs, many children become separated from their parents or other care-givers. Because their status is seldom immediately clear, they are referred to as ‘separated’ or ‘unaccompanied children’ rather than orphans.</p> <p>2. In areas where unrest is anticipated, those engaged in prevention work should strike a balance between anticipating problems and taking care not to aggravate people’s sense of insecurity.</p> <p>3. children separated from their parents and families because of conflict, population displacement or natural disasters are among the most vulnerable.</p> <p>4. the survival of unaccompanied and separated children may be threatened in armed conflict or other disasters. These children are most likely to have their basic rights violated and to risk abuse, exploitation or recruitment into armed forces.</p>

Appendix (B): analysis processing

	1	Housam Almadhoun Maan Development center
	2	Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?
..Conflict crisis the right not to be se	3	After the first conflict on Gaza in 2008.
..SCF the right to registrati	4	Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?
	5	The separated children are more than the unaccompanied
..legal/illegal approa the right to physical	6	Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?
	7	Child protection network, and the family centers managed by us, and through the case management system that we are working on.
..BID ..Social interf ..BID the right to participate the right not to be se	8	Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?
..Social interference the right not to be se	9	Very bad situation and mostly abused and neglected
..BID the right to parti ..Social interferer the right not to be ..engaging with care the right to care and	10	Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?
	11	Yes they are exposed and got abused. Sexually, physically, emotionally abuse and neglected.
	12	Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?
	13	The deteriorating economic situation/ increased divorce cases/ suicide commitment increased/ drugs addiction/ Psychosocial diseases that caregivers suffer
	14	Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If

1/2

	15	there isn't; is there a need for such center?
..guardianship the right to phys ..legal/illegal app the right to phys	16	There is no special center or shelter to host those children as there was the one related to sos but this was closed recently. And there is high need to have such center.
..guardianship the right to physical	17	Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?
	18	There are a limited number of CBOs and NGOs that work with them but without having them in a shelter or center.
..protection type the right to care and	19	Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?
	20	education, health, food security but these services are not complete and don't cover the essential needs
..guardianship the right to physical	21	Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?
..legal/illegal approa the right to physical		there should be a shelter to protect those children/ the organizations need to cooperate to find a complementary solution and services to help and protect those children/ conduct several workshops and awareness session to give a whole and comprehensive overview about the situation of UASC

2/2

	1	Houda al awady TDH
	2	Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?
	3	Since 2007 and since the first conflict on Gaza.
	4	Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?
	5	The separated children are more than the unaccompanied, as the unaccompanied stay in the same country due to the blockade
	6	Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?
	7	Child protection working group of MosD, the cases themselves sometimes approach us
	8	Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?
	9	Very bad situation and mostly abused and neglected
	10	Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?
	11	The frequent conflicts on Gaza strip/ political division/ blockade/ unemployment
	12	Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?
	13	The deteriorating economic situation/ increased divorce cases/ suicide commitment increased/ drugs addiction/ Psychosocial diseases that caregivers suffer, frequent

1/2

	14	wars on Gaza strip
	15	Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?
	16	There is no special center or shelter to host those children as there was the one related to sos but this was closed recently. And there is high need to have such center.
	17	Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?
	18	There are a limited number of CBOs and NGOs that work with them but without having them in a shelter or center.
	19	Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?
	20	education, health, food security but these services are not complete and don't cover the essential needs
	21	Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?
	22	there should be a special shelter to host them then we as International organizations can provide the necessary services/ encourage the research studies about those children

2/2



PCDCR2, Madlin Alhalabi, Doaa Salama, Amani Aburaya, AMna Zaqout. social psychologist at the families forum. (focus group)

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?Through our work at the family forum in which parents come to meet their separated children once every two weeks, we notice that the number is increasing the last ten years and on, and this may be because of the wars on Gaza strip, political split, and blockade.

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children? Thorough our works here in the forum we can say that the separated children are more than unaccompanied children.

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

Through the cases referred to us by the courts as observation and to meet their parent (father or mother) once every two weeks here in the forum.

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

They look much neglected, abused sometimes, and not taken cared, their behaviors are not good.

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?

Most of them as we can notice. They are neglected, and not being taken cared by anyone, and physical abuse.

1/2



Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

The main reason for the separation of children is the crisis that are encountered Gaza strip. And those crisis led to several social problems as divorce, and disputes, unemployment, addiction of the most fathers or parents, the deteriorating economic system.

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There is no shelters. And yes there is a need and a very high need to have a shelter in Gaza strip.

Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

Yes there are very limited number of the organizations working with those children but not directly.

Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

Psychosocial services or educational services. Those services are not enough to cover those children's needs, and still we need a shelter to protect them.

Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

Firstly to have a shelter managed by the government, then to focus more on those children and protect them, make awareness sessions for parents to provide them about the consequences of the children separation.

2/2



1 Case manager in MosD at North directorate; Mohammed Alkahlout. (by email)

2 Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?

3 This phenomenon is considered modern in Gaza strip and in the beginning of 1990s, and due to the effects of the frequent conflicts on the Gaza strip, some of them resulted from the divorces and the breakdown of the social system. The death of killing of one of the parents sometimes led to separation of the children. And the extreme poverty.

4 Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

5 The separated children are more than the unaccompanied children.

6 Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

7 The children themselves might be existed in front of hospitals, mosques, homes, or even ministries, and sometimes at the doors of banks and in public streets.

8 Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

9 They look very dirty with dirty clothes, and look as they are abused.

10 Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?

11 Yes they are abused as sometimes fathers or one of the parents try to kick out the child through physically abuse

1/3



12 this child, and they are emotionally, sexually, verbally abused.

13 Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

14 Family disputes as divorce, drugs addiction, the economic breakdown,...etc.

15 Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?

16 Yes there are few shelters deal with orphans as Alalmal orphanage, the safe house of vulnerable women, and mabarataAlrahma for illegal children but there is not shelter or the urgent cases or the separated children.

17 Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

18 There is a good cooperation from the philanthropist but the network is not that much good, and there is no coordination on the ground to fulfill their needs.

19 Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

20 Those organizations provide the care for the unaccompanied and separated children but it is not enough and incomplete, as there is lack in the educational service, and health.

21 Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

22 Enhance the role of the family, – conduct awareness session

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for youth and parents to be aware of the consequences of the children separation. –activate the Palestinian child law as each perpetrator of children should be punished, alleviate the divorce.

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1 Mohammed Saqer **Mabarat Alrahma Case manager**

2 **Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?**

3 This is very old phenomenon and not recently discovered, which appeared due to the absence of the family stability, increasing divorce, polygamy, the community traditions and customs as the divorced woman could not keep her children with her.

4 **Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?**

5 The illegal children are existed a lot in Gaza but also the separated children are more than the both unaccompanied and illegal children.

6 **Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?**

7 We usually find the illegal children at the doors of orphanage when they are just born, or besides trash baskets.

8 **Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?**

9 It depends on their ages sometimes look very dirty, neglected and if they are too young or babies we find them in plastic sheets.

10 **Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?**

11 Yes they are abused. Physically abused and emotionally abused, in addition to negligence.

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12 **Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?**

13 There are many reasons as divorce, the deteriorating economic conditions, and those children are deprived to live in a normal environment as other children from their age.

14 **Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?**

15 There are few centers but they don't deal with UASC, they only deal with specific target group as the orphans, and the illegal children but there is not specific center to deal with UASC.

16 **Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?**

17 No other organizations deal with them.

18 **Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?**

19 The existed organizations don't have the capacity to fulfil the children needs in addition they don't provide the protection for those children.

20 **Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?**

21 Conduct awareness sessions for parents to advise them on the family disputes and the consequences of divorce, - enhance the role of the family, - conduct several workshop to discuss the problems of the UASC.

2/2

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Mona Abed UNICEF

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?

It is recent phenomenon since ten years in 2007.

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

The separated children are more than the unaccompanied

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

Mental health and psychosocial working group managed by UNICEF

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

Very bad situation and mostly abused and neglected

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?

The frequent conflicts on Gaza strip/ political division/ blockade/ unemployment

Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

The deteriorating economic situation/ increased divorce cases/ suicide commitment increased/ drugs addiction/ Psychosocial diseases that caregivers suffer, frequent wars on Gaza strip.

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If

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there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There is no special center or shelter to host those children as there was the one related to sos but this was closed recently. And there is high need to have such center.

Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

There are a limited number of CBOs and NGOs that work with them but without having them in a shelter or center.

Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

education, health, food security but these services are not complete and don't cover the essential needs

Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

to have a shelter managed by the government as MosD, / conduct workshops and conferences to discuss the case of UASC/ conduct desk review about those children.

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Former employees at the sos shelter that was closed, the employees are caregivers and social workers. (focus group): Mona Alzerie, Razan Najjar, Hedaya ALjourri, Asmaa Soud

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?

After the chain of the three wars on Gaza strip (2008–2012–2014) and also the blockade imposed on Gaza, and migration of the main caregivers in the families.

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

The separated children are more than the unaccompanied, but there are unaccompanied children in Gaza strip but in the same country

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

Through the organizations working in the field of child protection, and mainly through MoSD referral network or child protection network.

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

Very dirty/ look miserable/ neglected/ and abused

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?

Yes. Sexual, physical and psychosocial abuse

Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other

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secondary reasons?

The frequent conflicts on Gaza strip/ political division/ blockade/ unemployment

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There is no special centers for them, and there is a high need to have a center that hosts and protect those children.

Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

There are few organizations working with them as our organization but without hosting them,

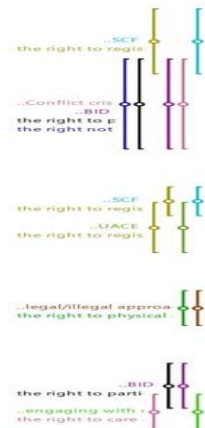
Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

Educational, and psychosocial services.

Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

There should be a special center to host those children/ donors and International organizations should encourage the local organizations to work with those children/ make a survey to select and determine the number of those children in Gaza Strip.

2/2



Mr. Eyad Abu Hejeyer PCDRI

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza? Most of the UASC the children we meet live with one of their parents, and few of them with their extended families and they are not more than 5% of the children we meet in the center. This phenomenon is growing and increasing since ten years and specially after the blockade and the deteriorating circumstances which affected the social system and lead it to break down.

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

The separated children are more than the unaccompanied as Gaza strip is small and families are known. The unaccompanied are limited and have exceptional conditions in Gaza strip.

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

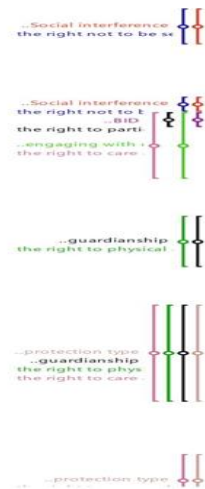
Through the courts we receive those cases, who are referred to us by the Shari'a Courts for observation by their parents.

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

In general the children look that they live in very bad conditions and suffer from several Psychosocial diseases and problems, but it depends on the conditions they live in with the ones that they are cared by.

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they

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been abused? Which abuse they had?

Most of them are exposed to violence, as physical, emotional, verbal violence and negligence.

Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

Divorce and social breakdown— not taken care by anyone. Force the children to work to get money. Parents are not qualified to hold responsibilities of their children. Disputes between the family members. The extended families don't care for their children.

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There is no any shelter or center for such children. And yes there is a high need for a center of shelter to host those children.

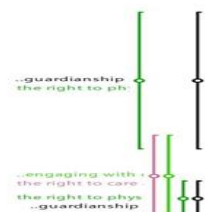
Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

The existed organization that work with only provide specific services and not hosting them, and they are only few organizations. Those organization provide educational, psychosocial and sometimes relief services. And those organizations are very limited in addition the services are not complementary.

Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

The services are not enough and still there is a need to a shelter, and the services are limited in psychosocial

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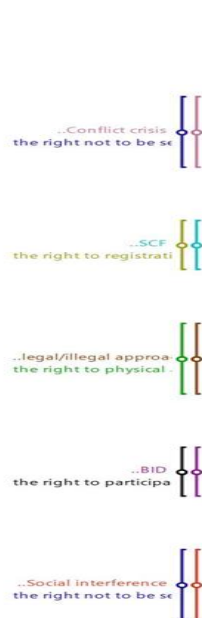


services and some recreational activities.

Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

MoSD should perform its role completely towards those children and our roles as supporting organizations should be to support the local ministries.— there should be civil society organizations that serve those separated and unaccompanied children. — form a national committee to follow up those cases and this committee should have specialized persons to be able to solve the problems of those children to reunify them with their families.— there should be a comprehensive mapping surveys for those children through the legal authorities as Jurisdiction system, and through the sharia courts to identify those children.— there should an alternative care center for those children to take of them).

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Najwa Alzaalan: UNRWA 1

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?

Since 2014 as a result for the 2014 war, directly after the war we started to get those children (unaccompanied and separated children).

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

The separated children are more than the unaccompanied children.

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

Referral pathway between the child protection network.- UNRWA schools. _ the case itself goes to the counsellor or psychologist asking for a help.- workshops.

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

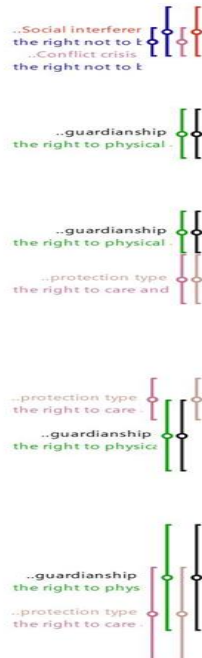
They look very poor, and suffering huge psychological and economic problems.

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?

Yes they are abused. Verbal, emotional, physical abuse and sexual exploitation due to their need to love and compassion.

Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

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The social disputes. The death or killing of one or both of the parents. The wars and disaster on Gaza strip.

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There is no such shelter, there was the SOS center which was recently closed.

Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

A very limited number of the organizations as SOS children's villages, and Alamal orphanage which only deals with the orphaned children, and UNRWA that provide the supporting services as education and psychology.

Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

Only educational and recreational activities which are not enough to cover their needs, as the most important is to have a special shelter to take care of them then the services could be provided.

Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

There should be a safe shelter to host those children. - there should be a qualified team and well trained to be able to deal with this group of children. - there should be a good supervision for the co-workers in the organizations working with those children.- provide several supporting services as educational and psychological.

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Reham Alagha MosD2

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?

Directly after the conflict of 2014 as there were a huge number of orphaned children.

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

The separated children are more than the unaccompanied due to the increasing divorces and other problems.

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

Through the referral system by the organizations working in the field of child protection.

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

Totally neglected and put on dirty and torn clothes.

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had? Yes they are abused, most of them are neglected, and in need to food and clothes, in addition they need health care.

Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

Absence of the one of the parents due to death, divorce, addiction of the father, or the father left his family due to the social responsibilities.

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If

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there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There was one center managed by SOS children's villages but this center was closed recently therefore there is not such center. There is a high need for a shelter to host those children for a temporary period till they can be reunified with their extended family.

Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

The only organizations working with this category are SOS and Alamal orphanage which only targets the orphaned children, but there is no specific center or organization for this group of children.






Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

Educational services, psychosocial relief and developmental services.






Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

Try to solve the problems that lead to divorce. – there must be a center or shelter to host those children. – there should be supporting services for the families to be able to take care of their children.

2/2

	1	Roba Al-Betar, Heyam, MonaAlejla
	2	Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?
	3	Since long time and approximately since the last ten years after the disaster and conflicts taken place in Gaza strip and due to frequent conflicts on Gaza strip.
	4	Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?
	5	The separated children are more than the unaccompanied children.
	6	Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?
	7	Through the referral system by the organizations, sometimes through police, and sometimes the children themselves approach us.
	8	Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?
	9	They look very dirty and not washed for long time, neglected.
	10	Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?
	11	They are exploited by others in the community and in the streets. And they are highly exposed to violence as sexual, verbal, emotional, and physical violence.
	12	Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

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	13	The main reason for the separation the breakdown of the social system and families' separation as divorce.
	14	Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?
	15	No there is no shelters or centers to protect them and host them. And yes there is high need for such shelter.
	16	Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?
	17	A few number of organizations but they are not providing staying services or hosting services.
	18	Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?
	19	Only few services in coordination with the MoSD as psychosocial services.
	20	Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?
	21	Make awareness sessions for parents and counselling sessions for the parents who are about to get divorces. - counselling services for the couples who will get married.- provide general awareness for the community through the social media platforms.

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Samar Zourob SOS

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?

After the chain of the frequent wars on Gaza strip (2008– 2012– 2014) and also the blockade imposed on Gaza, and migration of a lot of fathers.

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

The separated children are more than the unaccompanied children.

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

Through the ministry of social development, the partner organizations, and through registering directly in our organizations.

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

Very difficult status, and they look very sad and poor with dirty clothes. Appeared as neglected and their health is not good.

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?

Yes they are exposed to violence and abuse as sexual, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse.

Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

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The main reason is the siege and blockade on Gaza strip. In addition to the deteriorating economic conditions that influenced the social system that led to divorce, drugs addiction, and the social orphans.

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There centers serve some categories but still there is a need to have a special center for UASC.

Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

There are few organizations work with them but the current action on the Middle East affect the fund of those organizations so they are not able to provide the services for UASC.

Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

Several services as education, health, food security but these services are not complete and don't cover the essential needs.

Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

Provide several services that cover all needs of the UASC.– there should be complementary services include the other groups of vulnerable children. – there should be organizations work with those group and provide them with their essential needs.

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Eftekhar Mohammed UNRWA2

Q1: When did the phenomenon of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) start to appear in Gaza?

I think it started after the three wars that took place in Gaza strip, in the last ten years since 2007.

Q2: Which group, do you think, is more existed in Gaza: unaccompanied and separated children?

The separated children are more than the unaccompanied children.

Q3: How do you approach those children? Please explain in details?

Through UNRWA schools, counsellors and psychologist. Through the child protection network that refer those children to UNRWA

Q4: Please describe the status of those children when you find them?

They look poor, neglected, and they look as they suffered huge psychological and economic problems.

Q5: Are those children exposed to violence or have they been abused? Which abuse they had?

Yes, they are exposed to physical and psychological abuse. Some of them are exposed to sexual abuse and negligence

Q6: In your opinion: what are the reasons beyond their separation from their parents? Are there any other secondary reasons?

The blockade imposed on Gaza/ the frequent conflicts on

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Gaza/ the political division on Gaza/ deteriorating economic situation/ unemployment

Q7: Is there any alternative center to take care of them? If there isn't; is there a need for such center?

There is no shelter for the time being, there was one belong to SOS children's village but now it was closed.

Q8: Are there other organizations working with this group of children?

Yes there are few organizations as UNRWA but they don't provide the protection as they don't have shelter and they can not host those children. And they don't serve those children only as they serve all children in general including UASC if there are children.

Q9: What are the services provided by the organizations for those children? Are those services enough to cover their needs?

Relief, Psychological, educational services

Q10: What are your recommendations to alleviate the number of those children in Gaza Strip?

There should be a shelter managed by the government as MOSD/ there is a need to have studies about those children

2/2