



Project Document – Crime Field Research

Background and objectives:

In general, there are three related categories of criminal justice statistics: administration and planning, as well as research and analysis of general policies.

The importance of statistics on crime and criminal justice lies in the fact that statistics help governments to evaluate and monitor the states, circumstances and courses of crime. Undertaking national criminal justice statistics that are complete and trustworthy is very important for those concerned by criminal justice and especially those responsible for it.

The establishment of an Arab Center for Criminal Studies emerged from this idea whereas there is a need to provide the pilot countries of the Project on the Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices with such statistics. However, this need should be preceded by specific criminal research to help guide the establishment of the Center and lay down its internal norms and working plan. A sample of criminal research has been selected and it concerns crime studies surrounding issues of women and children.

The initial objective behind the implementation of these crime studies that precede the establishment of the Center and surround issues of women and children is to assess the behavior of civil society and the level of acceptance found among governmental officials and officials responsible for the criminal justice system. This will allow identifying the need of these parties for similar researches and ultimately the need to establish the Arab Center for Criminal Studies.

The field researches that will be implemented according to the guidelines on criminal justice statistics that were put forward by the United Nations Social and Economic Administration (Unit of Statistics) aim to test that evidence and the extent to which it can be executed in the Arab criminal justice system.

Working plan:

The working plan consists of:

- 1- Conducting field research on the state of criminal research in the concerned Arab countries to:

- Identify governmental and non-governmental entities that conduct similar researches.
 - Assess the state of databases concerned with the status of crimes (if these databases are found) at the Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Justice (public prosecution offices or other institutions, governmental or non-governmental, such as universities, research center...).
 - Conduct stocktaking on the national literature found in each pilot country in the field of criminal research.
 - Identify some successful experiences and criminal research around the world.
 - Collect decisions, general guidelines and evidence related to the statistical rules concerning criminal justice, as well as monitor the extent to which the Arab countries abide by the literature.
- 2- Implementing a sample of the field researches relating to the criminality of women and children by adopting the following methodology to undertake these researches:
- Prepare a background paper on each subject.
 - Organize the research plan according to the guidelines of the United Nations in this field.
 - Get the approval of official authorities for the implementation of the research.
 - Establish the working team.
 - Elaborate a training manual for the working team and train the team on that manual.
 - Enter the extracted information on a database.
 - Analyze the extracted information and draft a primary report about it.
 - Hold study sessions with experts to discuss the primary report which shall then be revised in light of the comments brought up during the sessions.
 - Hold a national workshop to discuss the report.
 - Publish the report/criminal research in its final version.