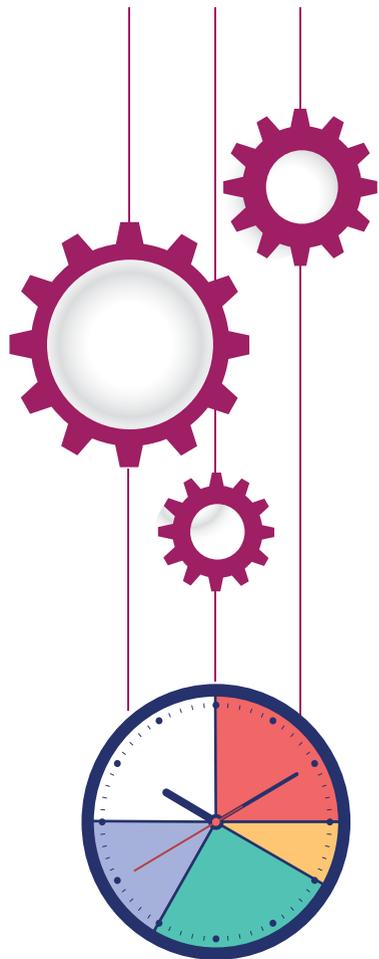


**TIME TO
TALK!**

Working children are still **children**
Protect their rights

الطفل العامل ما زال طفلاً. دافعوا عن حقه

This campaign is funded by
KNH & TDH Germany
& implemented by AMURT Lebanon
with a group of working children in Chouf district



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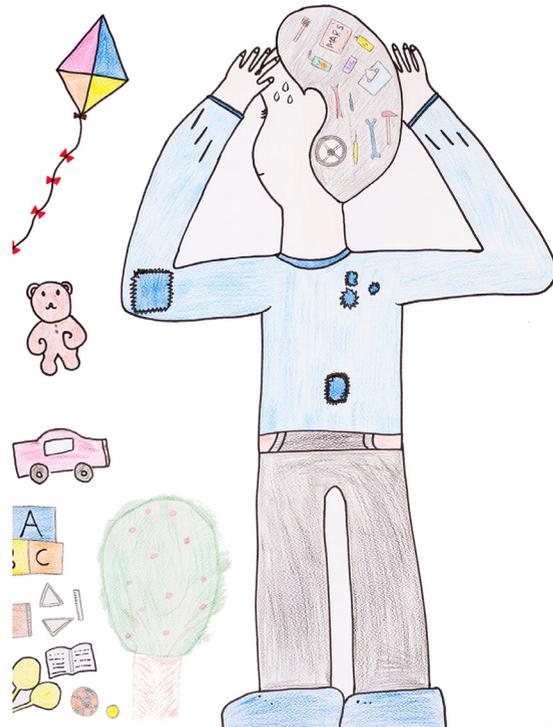
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Drawings by:
AMURT Youth Media Club

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Terre des hommes Germany

“All I want to do is play,
but I can't.”

Riham, 9 years old,
sells tissue boxes on the street



The participating children and AMURT Lebanon thank every person who participated in this booklet which shares children's views and feelings on children's work, their needs, and conclusions that they reached.



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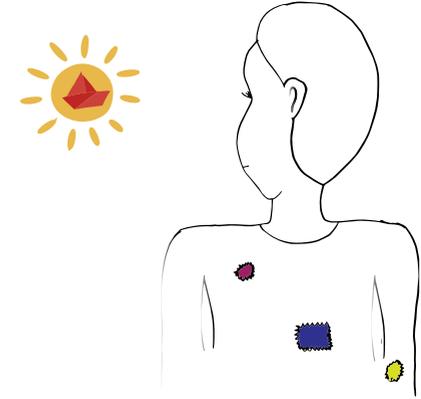
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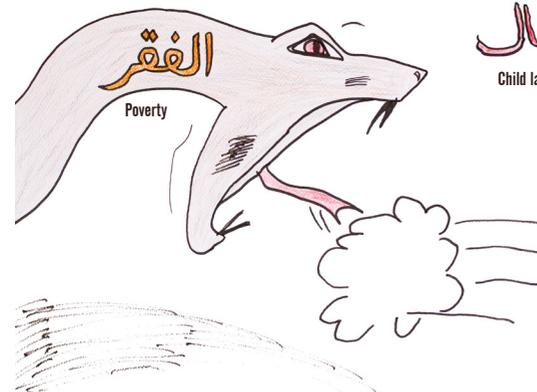
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عمالة الاطفال
Child labor



1- Background



1a- Introduction to Time to Talk

“It’s Time to Talk! – Children’s Views on Children’s Work” was launched in 2016 with the goal of enabling working children to have their views heard in local, national, and global decision-making processes. Through collaboration with more than 50 civil society partners, about 2,000 children aged 5 to 18 were consulted about their working lives in 36 countries across the world.

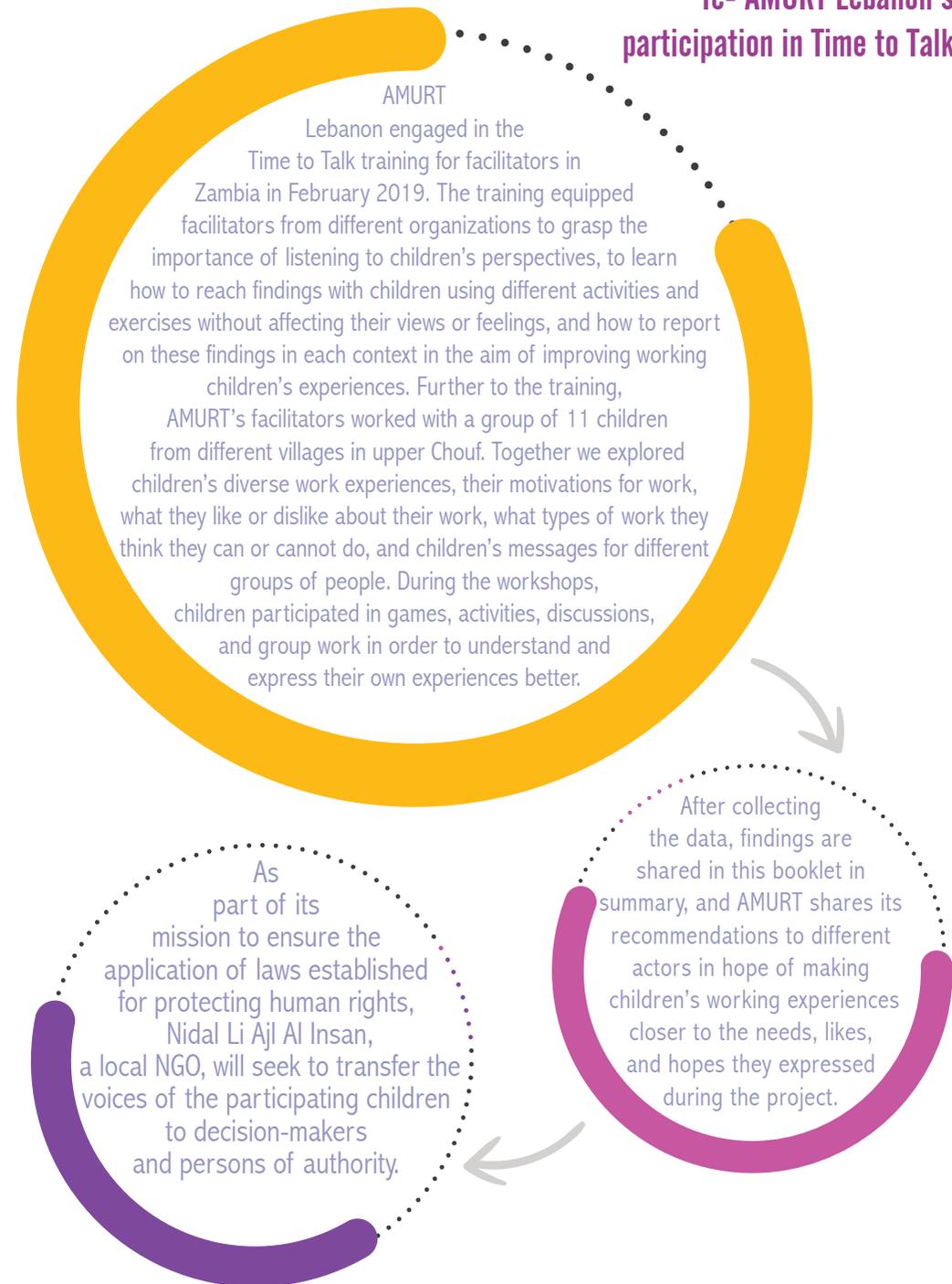
1b- The importance of working children’s perspectives to be heard

Despite worldwide efforts to understand, raise awareness, and end exploitative child labor, it still remains a problem until today. The ILO estimates that 152 million children worldwide, between the ages of 5 and 17, are engaged in child labor, and more than half, 73 million, are engaged in hazardous work, endangering their health, safety and moral development (ILO 2017).

The experience of community-based organizations has shown that in order to be effective, programs need to actively involve concerned stakeholders, and interventions need to address the complexities of children’s situations (Bourdillon, Levison, Myers & White, 2011; Boyden, Ling & Myers, 1998; Crivello & Pankhurst, 2015; Hungerland et al., 2007; Ladegaard, 2009).

Childhood experiences are diverse and are influenced by gender, age, family structure, family income, sibling order, geography, culture, religion, and broader socio-political factors (Morrow, 2015). Therefore, different forms of children’s work may have positive or negative outcomes for children depending on the type of work, working conditions, relationships, and wider contextual factors (Bourdillon et al., 2011). The key to understanding children’s experiences and their complexity is the participation of the children themselves. Understanding the realities of children’s daily lives from their points of view is helpful in exploring solutions to address their concerns.

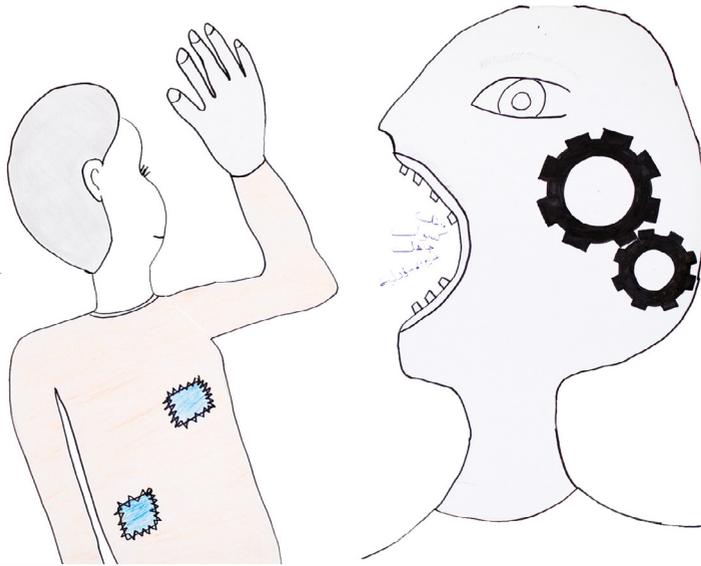
1c- AMURT Lebanon’s participation in Time to Talk



2- Findings

**“You’re dumb! You’re lazy!
You’re irresponsible! Ignorant,
stupid, failure...
I couldn’t defend myself.”**

Mohammad, 12 years old,
car mechanics assistant



2a- Different types of child work

The group consisted of 8 girls and 3 boys who had engaged in the following types of work: Household chores, cosmetics and hairdressing, secretarial work, work in a supermarket, agriculture work, construction, car mechanics assistant, nursing assistant and site painting

2b- Motivations and reasons for child work

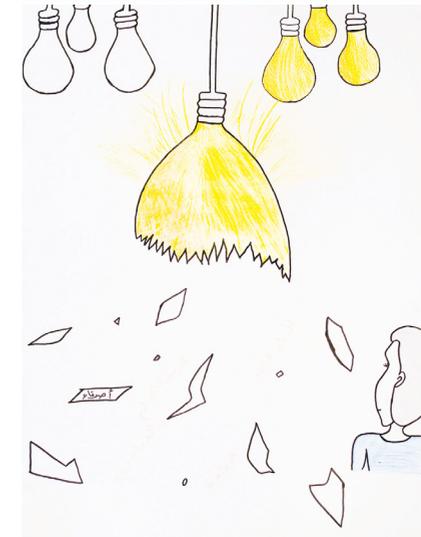
When children were asked about their motivations & reasons for working, the most common answers were:

- To help parents or family members
- To continue education
- To ensure a better future
- To learn new skills
- To make parents proud
- Passion for certain jobs/vocations
- To feel empowered and develop strong personalities
- To make new friends in the workplace
- To stay busy

2c- What children like and dislike about their work and working conditions,

What children like:

- Respectful communication with employers, customers, and parents
- Having their rights respected; healthy working hours, fair wages, lunch breaks, and safety
- Honesty from the employer
- Ability to continue education and have time to rest and play outside working hours
- Working in safe places that does not threaten their health or safety
- Feeling that their work is appreciated by their parents and employers
- Seeing good results from their work
- Proximity of workplace to their house



“My dreams are shattering.”

Rabih, 14 years old,
electrician

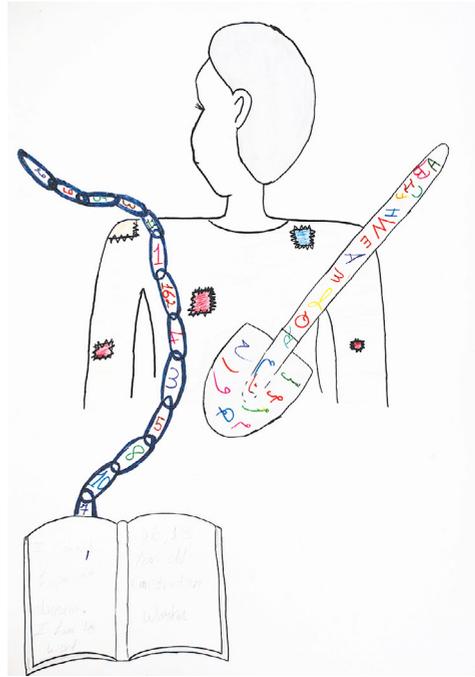
What children don't like and why:

- Being forced to work against their will
- Facing different forms of abuse from employers or parents
- Experiencing racism or gender inequality in the workplace
- Experiencing harm or fatigue due to the type of work or workload
- Dishonesty from employers
- No respect for their rights; long working hours, unfair wages, no breaks, and lack of safety
- Not having time to continue their education or rest outside working hours
- Not feeling their work is appreciated from employers or parents
- Feeling hungry and not being allowed a break to eat
- Walking a long way from home to reach the workplace

2d- Types of work children think they can or cannot do

Work children can do:

- Household work
- Light agriculture work like picking crops
- Secretarial work
- Makeup and hairdressing
- Sewing and weaving
- Working in restaurants during the day
- Nursing assistants
- Working in sports clubs
- Working in nurseries
- Work in NGOs



"I cannot continue my studies and hobbies because of the long working hours."

Wael, 13 years old,
construction worker

Work children cannot do and why:

- Forced work from parents or employers because children are not comfortable working against their will
- Physically challenging jobs such as construction, carpentry, mines, electricity, and operating heavy agriculture equipment
- Night-shift jobs such as pubs and wedding events because they feel tired and need to rest
- Cleaning garbage or toxic waste because this imposes a threat to their health
- Asking for money or selling items on the streets because they feel their dignity and safety would be compromised
- Teaching or other high positions because it imposes too much responsibility for their ages

2e- Children's key messages for different groups of people

To parents or caretakers

Give more importance to our education, choose jobs that are suitable and safe for us, and support us emotionally and psychologically.

To employers

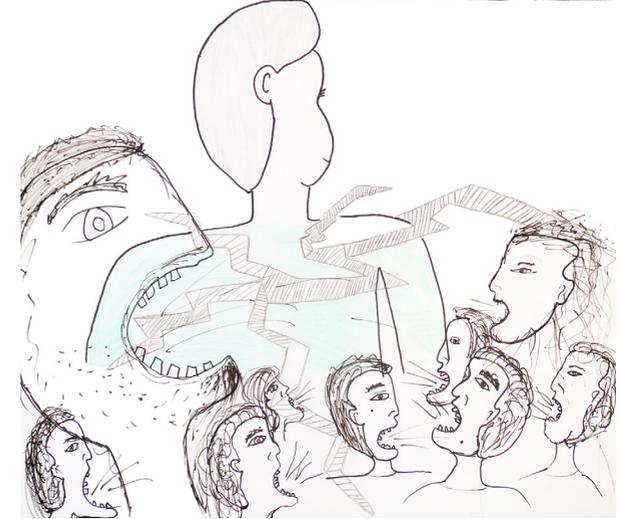
Give more importance to our education, choose jobs that are suitable and safe for us, and support us emotionally and psychologically.

To schools

Take our parent's economic situations into consideration, offer awareness about children's rights and child protection, spread awareness about the importance of education.

To NGOs

Provide us with psychosocial support, offer our families financial support, protect us from exploitation and abuse, empower us and spread awareness of children's rights, offer vocational trainings to equip us with skills to find better jobs.



To national officials including municipalities, general security, government, and parliament

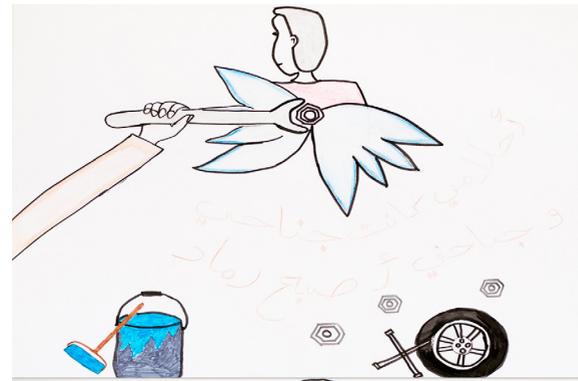
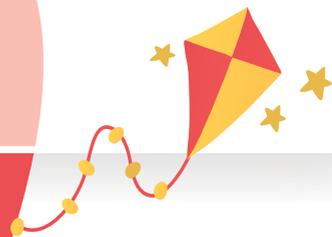
Enforce laws that protect working children, monitor employers closely, implement children's right to education, decrease school fees and public school's transportation fees, provide children with health insurance, reduce poverty and support families in need, develop a new ministry that specializes in children's affairs.

3- AMURT Lebanon's Recommendations



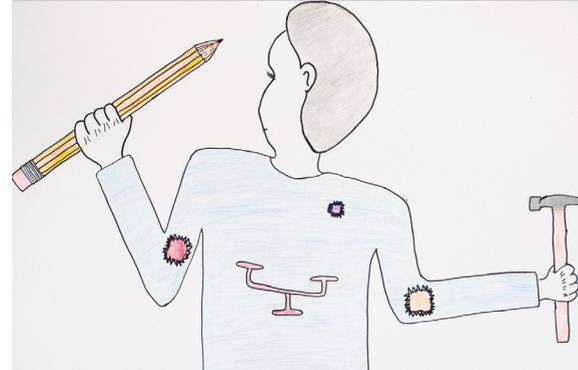
AMURT offers the following recommendations to parents, SMEs, schools, civil society partners, and national officials:

- 1) Develop and implement national policies to become more child-focused, gender sensitive, locally relevant, and responsive to the needs, rights, and hopes of children and families in different contexts.
- 2) Engage employers and businesses to respect children's rights and improve working conditions.
- 3) Strengthen children's rights to information, expression, and participation. Ensure that decision-makers listen to and build upon the perspectives of working children.
- 4) Provide free education to children in families living under the poverty line who cannot afford transportation fees to public schools.
- 5) Strengthen child protection strategies to prevent and protect children from violence in families, work places, schools, and communities.
- 6) Increase humanitarian support for children and families living under the poverty line.



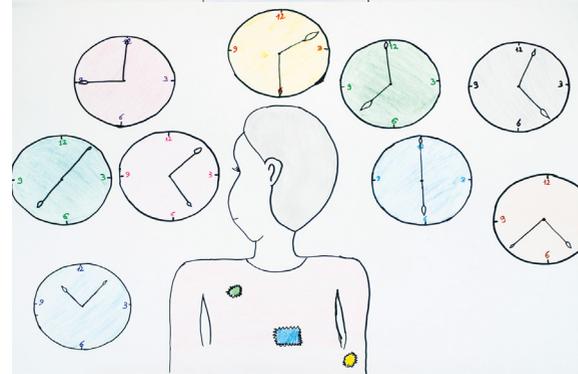
"Work shackles my childhood and my dreams."

Roy, 15 years old,
car mechanics assistant



"I try to balance between my work and education. It's hard, but I'm doing my best."

Tarek, 14 years old,
restaurant waiter



"I work from 5:00 am till 7:00 pm. I cannot feel my legs and my back hurts."

Sami, 11 years old,
farmer



"How can I choose between work and education? I'm stuck..."

Reem, 13 years old,
cosmetics assistant



#talkaboutchildwork

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