

Developing post care for released prisoners in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Guy Schmit

- Key expert for *Justice Coopération Internationale* in the EU-funded projet "Support to penitentiary reform in Jordan"
- Independant Advisor in Criminal Justice Reform
- Adjunct teaching staff member, University of Luxembourg

Overview of presentation

Jordan's penitentiary system - a brief introduction

Study on prisoner's needs in Jordan

- Main research findings

Solutions & actions responding to prisoner's needs

- Working with NGOs
- Prisoner Rehabilitation Plan
- Pre-Release and Post Care Program
- Resource manual for prisoners (The Way Out)

Cooperation with the CRCD

The way forward



Jordanian penitentiary system: a short introduction

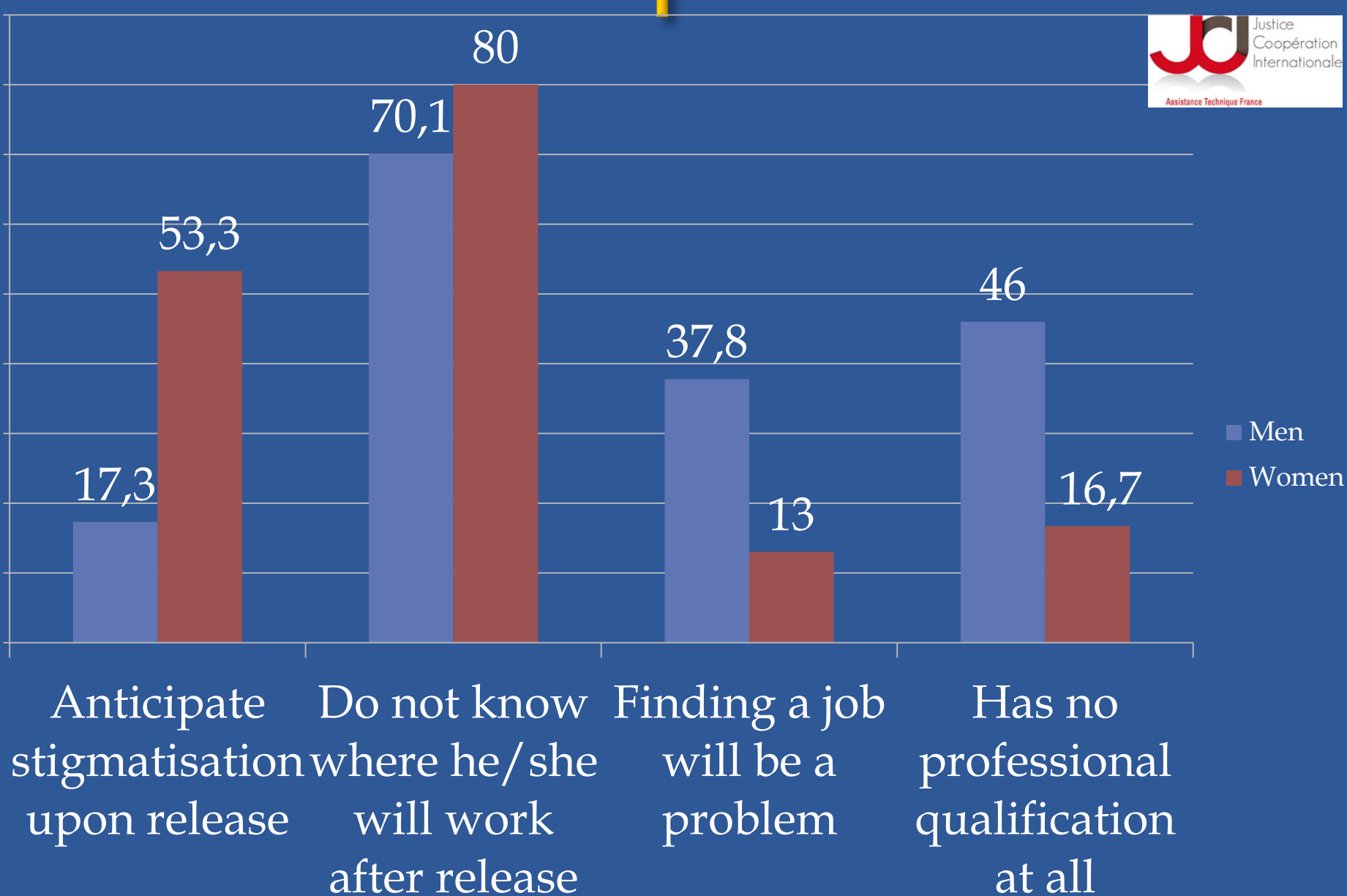
- Jordanian "Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs)" under Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres' Directorate (CRCD) which comes under the Public Security Directorate (PSD), Ministry of Interior;
- **All correctional staff are police officers;**
- Social workers (SWs) and psychological counselors (PCs) from PSD or from Ministry of Social Development
- Average caseload of SW/PC: 222 inmates

Study of prisoner's post care needs

(Durnescu & Schmit, Deptember 2012, unpublished)

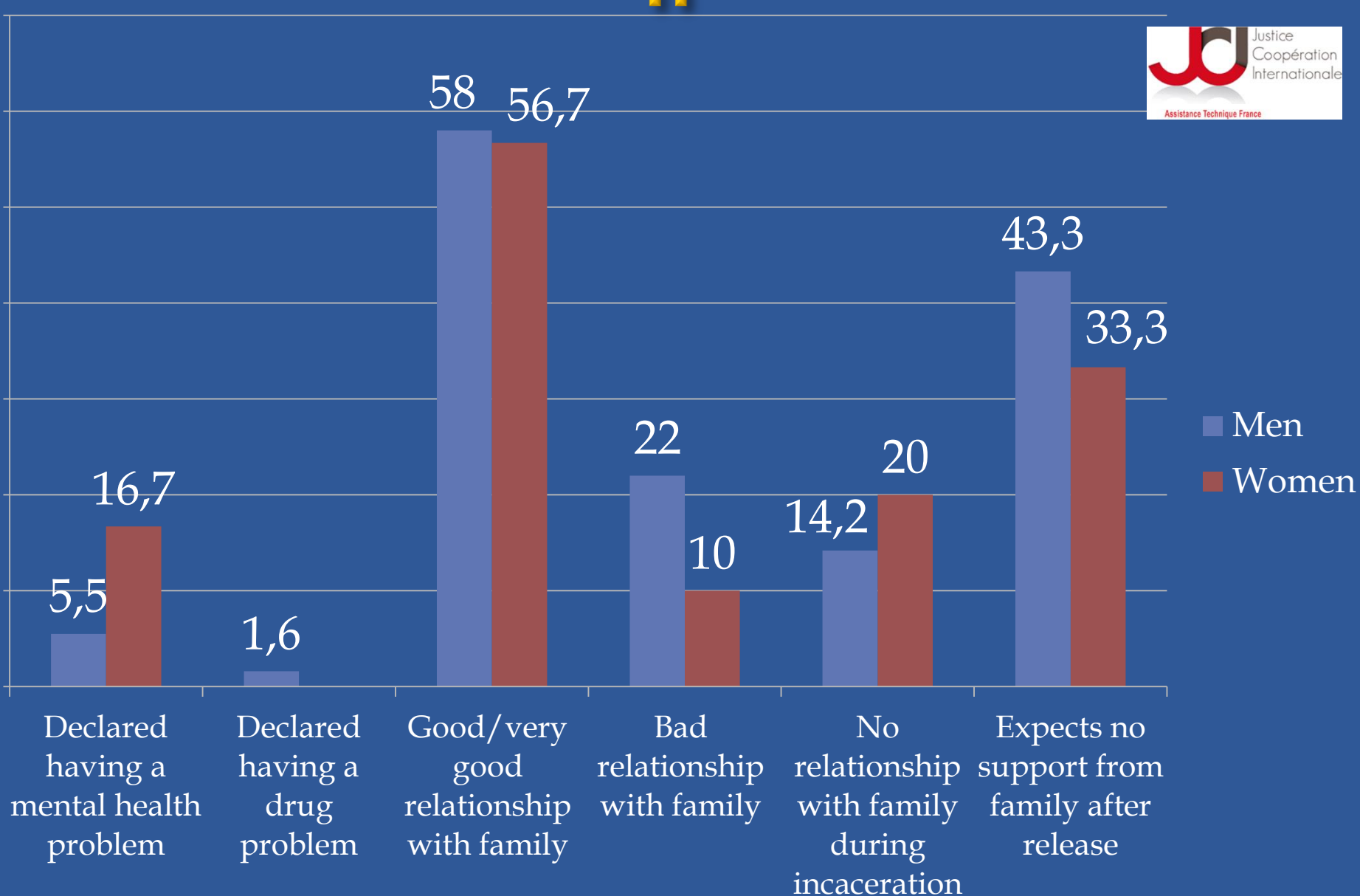
| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Research sample | 157 prisoners (127 men and 30 women) from 4 CRCs |
| Research method | Self-administered anonymous questionnaires outside of cells (19 questions) |
| Period of research | Between 15th and 26th July 2012 |
| Answers processed | 2983 (19 x 157) |
| Profile of prison population | a) 10% of the inmate population from a given CRC; b) 6 months or less to serve |
| Language of questionnaires | Questionnaires filled out in Arabic language, translated into English |

Selection of research findings

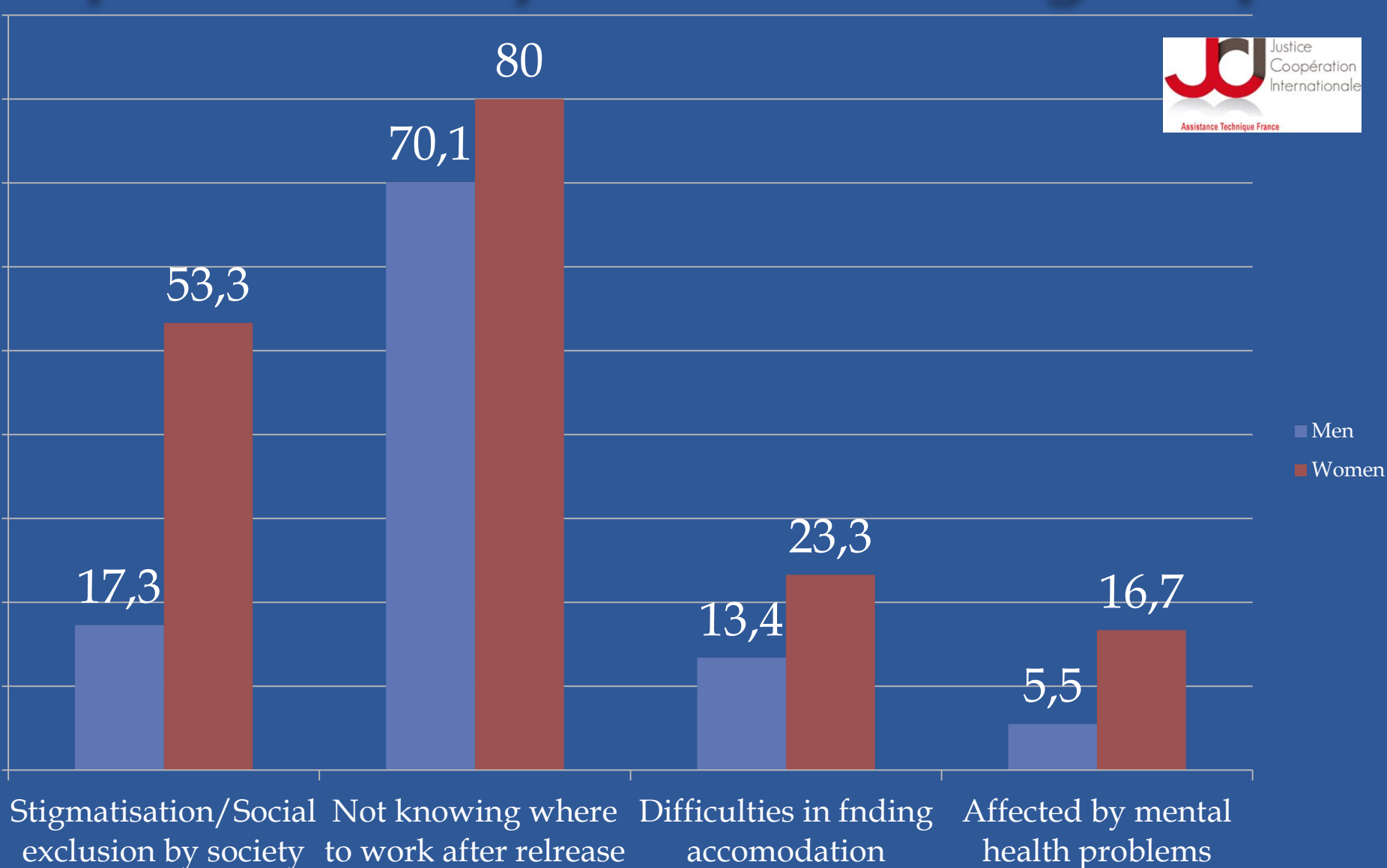


Selection of research findings

II



Female prisoners: a particularly vulnerable group



Proposed actions to these needs within the project

- Actions based on prisoner's needs
- Programs developed in cooperation with Jordanian counterparts
- Also, regular group consultations with prisoners (male and female)
- Sustainability through training of Jordanian trainers

Working with NGOs

- Close cooperation with Penal Reform International (PRI) and Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI)
- No NGO providing direct services *only* for inmates
- Most NGOs are charities with ad hoc funding, volunteer-based activities and numerous objectives

I. Prisoner Rehabilitation Plan, PRP

Nature: PRP is an assessment of problems and resources that the individual may have

Purpose : find out *how* the offender came to commit the offence(s) and *what* can be done to reduce the chances of any further offending.

Filled out by: CRC's SWs and/or PCs

Link to PRPCP: PRP first preparatory step for the Pre-Release and Post-Care Program (PRPCP)

II. Pre-Release and Post-Care Program



September 2013

II. Pre-Release and Post-Care Program

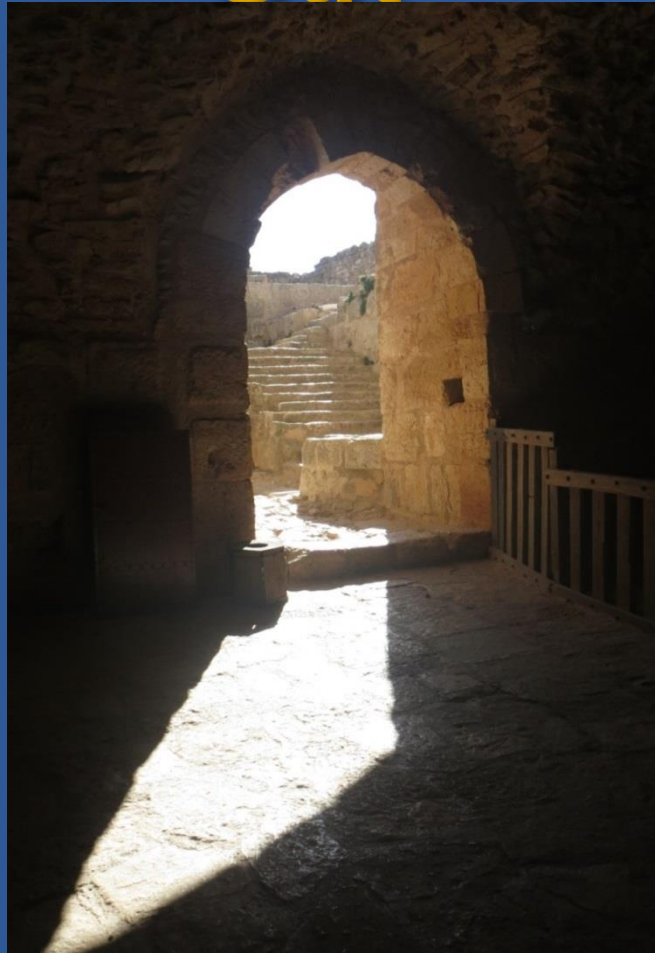
- Taylor made program for post care based on group work theory
- Selection criteria: 3 months prior to release, willingness for group work
- Methods: Role-plays and discussions
- Frequency: 6 (weekly) group sessions (90')

II. Pre-Release and Post-Care Program

- Participants: 8-10 inmates
- After release: Personal assistance by a social worker or outside NGO worker
- Successfully piloted in 2 CRCs

Reintegration fund for released inmates created: a) PRI (funding), b) SIGI (implementation), c) Our project: capacity building & technical assistance

III. Manual for local and national resources: "The Way Out"



October 2013

Cooperation with the CRC

- Location of project office inside the CRC's Training and Development Center in Amman
- Clear willingness to cooperate from Jordanian beneficiary and to implement proposed actions (e.g. additional social workers under recruitment)

The way forward

- Post care can not be the sole responsibility of CRCD/PSD. Other ministries & non state actors need to be involved
- Creation of a comprehensive post care system - including *sustainable* funding - still needed
- Existing legislation needs to be amended & new legislation needs to be introduced

Thank you

Guy Schmit

E-mail: schmitgn@gmail.com

Skype: schmitg