



Towards Child-Friendly Justice in Egypt: Understanding justice needs and child- centred pathways

High Level Policy Dialogue
9 November 2021
9.45 – 14:15 (Cairo time)
Sofitel Cairo Nile El Gezira



The Project

The objective of this project is to support the development of a child-friendly justice system in Egypt by enhancing the judicial capacity, institutional coordination and effectiveness of the Egyptian Child Justice System to better protect children in contact with the law. Aligned with Egypt Vision 2030, the National Child Strategy and the UN SDGs, the project is implemented by the OECD with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

As part of the MENA-OECD Governance programme and Rule of Law support to Egypt, this project will support the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood as the main national entity in charge of policymaking, planning and implementing programmes for the protection of children in conflict with the law for a more coordinated, participatory and coherent approach that enable a child-friendly justice system in Egypt.

The project will facilitate high-level engagement in support of effective implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Framework and National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt (SF & NPCM) for the years 2018-2030 to contribute to strengthening the Rule of Law and enable a child-friendly justice system in Egypt, and will avail experiences from different OECD countries particularly through peer-to-peer exchanges and policy dialogue with the Government of Egypt.

The proposed activities on child-friendly justice will provide support to the Government of Egypt in identifying key challenges and opportunities in this field and build a Roadmap for reform and raising public awareness on the importance of child-friendly justice.

Objective of the High-Level Policy Dialogue

The High-level Policy Dialogue aims at building momentum during the project implementation through the engagement with high-level representatives from a wide range of stakeholders to help improve governance and coordination mechanisms among national stakeholders.

AGENDA

09:45 -10:00 Registration and welcoming of participants

Opening Ceremony

- Dr. Tarek Tawfik, Deputy Minister of Health and Population
- Dr. Sahar Al Sonbaty, Secretary General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
- 10:00 - 10:45
 - Justice Amal Amaar, Deputy Minister of Justice for Human Rights, Woman and Child's Affairs
 - Ms. Elisabeth Gilgen, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt
 - Dr. Miriam Allam, Head of MENA-OECD Governance Programme

10:45– 11:00 Coffee break

Session 1: Inter-institutional coordination in support of child-friendly justice

The aim of this High-level Dialogue session is to present existing mechanisms and practices in the area of institutional coordination among the key stakeholders that work towards child-friendly justice in Egypt. It aims to highlight the crucial role of cooperation across different sectors and to facilitate an exchange among Egyptian institutions and a peer country about the challenges and opportunities to enhance institutional coordination on child justice in Egypt.

Moderator:

Dr. Sherifa Sherif, Executive Director of the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development - MOPED

A whole-of-government approach to child-friendly justice

11:00 – 12:00

Keynote Speech

Dr. Tatyana Teplova, Head of Division, Senior Justice Counsellor, OECD

Speakers

- Dr. Sahar Al-Sonbaty Secretary General - NCCM
- Justice Amal Amaar, Deputy Minister of Justice for Human Rights, Women and Child Affairs
- Justice Hesham Gafaar, Chief Attorney General, Member of the Child Protection Department, Public Prosecution Office
- Counsellor Mohamed Omar Elkamary, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Head of the supreme committee for alternative families
- Mr. James Kenrick, OECD global expert in access to justice and former CEO of Youth Access

12:00 – 12:30 **Open Discussion**

12:30 – 12:45 **Coffee break**

Session 2: Reinforcing a Child-friendly Justice Pathway

The aim of this session is to highlight initiatives that can be applied in practice to strengthen a child-friendly justice pathway from a child's first contact with the law until the situation is resolved, as well as follow up strategies. Discussion questions include how to ensure appropriate communication between relevant staff and children, enabling the right infrastructure and applying procedural rules targeted to the children's level of development. It aims to facilitate an exchange of experiences and practices among the main actors of Egypt's child justice system in these aspects.

Moderator:

Dr. Tatyana Teplova and Mr. Amr Soliman, OECD

Global good practices in the area of child-friendly justice pathways

12:45– 14:00

Opening presentation

Ms. María Pascual Dapena, Justice Policy Analyst, *OECD*

Round table discussion:

- Public Prosecution Office
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Social Solidarity
- NCCM
- OECD

Keynote Speech:

Judge Anne-Catherine Hatt, Swiss Juvenile Court and Member of the Board of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates IAYFJM.

Closing remarks

- Dr. Sahar Al Sonbaty, Secretary General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
- 14:00 – 14:15** - Dr. Tatyana Teplova, Head of Policy Coherence Division and OECD Senior Justice Counsellor
- Ms. Michal Harari, Deputy Head of the Office of International Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland

14:15 **Lunch**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is the agency for international cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The SDC is responsible for the overall coordination with other federal authorities of development and cooperation with Eastern Europe as well as for humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation.

The Swiss international cooperation, which is an integral part of the Federal Council's foreign policy, aims to alleviate need and poverty around the world, to foster respect for human rights, to promote democracy and to conserve the environment. It fosters economic self-reliance and state autonomy, contributes to the improvement of production conditions, helps address environmental problems, and ensures better access to education and basic healthcare services.

The OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 38 Member countries, a Secretariat in Paris, and a committee, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the Organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. It collaborates with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change, and measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment.

The OECD and Access to Justice for Children

The OECD supports its Member and partner countries in achieving more responsive and people-centered justice services and access to justice as core components of inclusive growth, sound democracies and a thriving investment climate. Vulnerable groups, including children and youth, face particular barriers to access justice, such as complex procedures, high costs and lack of legal empowerment. In particular, children have specific needs and rights but tend to face heightened difficulties in getting their legal needs addressed, which exacerbates the likelihood of trauma and impedes child well-being. The OECD supports countries in moving towards child-friendly justice that puts children at the centre of design and delivery of justice services and ensures their needs are met.

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme is a strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise, with a view of disseminating standards and principles of good governance that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region. The Programme acts as a leading advocate of managing ongoing public governance reforms in the MENA region. The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects. These projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and of meeting citizens' growing expectations in terms of quality services, inclusive policy making and transparency.

CONTACTS

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