



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

Capacity Building Expert Workshop:
Sharing experiences and good practices on child-
friendly justice

15 February 2022

9.45 – 14:00 (*Cairo time*)

Sofitel Cairo Nile El Gezirah

Right



The Project¹

The objective of this project is to support the development of a child-friendly justice system in Egypt and better protect children in contact with the law by enhancing the institutional coordination and effectiveness of the justice system. Aligned with Egypt's 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.

The project facilitates 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) (2018-2030). It contributes to strengthening the Rule of Law and avails experiences from different OECD countries, particularly through peer-to-peer exchanges and policy dialogues with the Government of Egypt.

As part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, the project will provide support to the Government of Egypt in identifying key challenges and opportunities, building a Roadmap for reform and raising public awareness on the importance of child-friendly justice.

The two main outcomes of the project are as follows:

- Improved capacities of child-justice stakeholders to better protect children in contact with the justice system;
- Improved governance and coordination mechanisms among key child justice stakeholders.

The OECD aims to support the Government of Egypt to further enhance and empower the coordination and protection role of the child justice system. The support will be carried out in accordance with the objectives of the Strategic Framework & National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood and the outputs of the National Strategic Framework on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) in Egypt.

Objective of the Capacity Building Expert Workshop

The capacity building workshop will facilitate exchange of expertise and good international practices, at the technical level, on various dimensions of the child-friendly justice between Egyptian stakeholders and with peer experts from OECD member and partner countries. The workshops will raise awareness on the rights of children in contact with the law (victims, witnesses and offenders) and present to the various stakeholders the good practices based on international standards on child-friendly justice with examples of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Barnahus model.

Target participants (approximately 30 participants):

The workshop will gather senior staff, prosecutors, child judges and social and psychological experts from involved key national institutions as well as OECD experts and practitioners.

¹ [Governance - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(oecd.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/)

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 15th

The workshop will be held in English and Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation between English and Arabic will be available.

09:45 – 10:00 **Registration and welcoming of participants**

Opening remarks

- Dr. Tarek Tawfik, Deputy Minister of Health and Population
- Judge Amal Amar, Assistant Minister of Justice for Human, Women and Child Rights
- Justice Hesham Gafaar, Chief Attorney General, Member of the Child Protection Bureau, Public Prosecution Office
- Mr. Amr Soliman, Policy Analyst and Project Manager, OECD

Moderator of the sessions:

Mr. Amr Soliman, Policy Analyst and Project Manager, OECD

Session 1: Child-friendly justice pathways and coordinated services

The aim of this session is to present different key aspects of the child justice pathways in practice and their impact on children, with examples of:

- **France**

Judge Véronique Isart, First Vice President in charge of the children's judge function, Judicial Court of Lille

- **Spain**

Judge Jorge Jiménez Martín, Director of the Judicial School

- **Switzerland**

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

- **Egypt**

Representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Representative of the Public Prosecution Office

Open Discussion

12:00 – 12:45

The aim is to discuss the child justice system in Egypt. This discussion will facilitate an exchange of experiences and practices among the main actors of Egypt's child justice system and peers and experts from OECD countries.

12:45 – 13:00 **Coffee Break**

Session 2: International standards and good practices on child-friendly justice, with examples of:

- **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

Dr. Nevena Vučković Šahović, Professor of international Child Law and former member and general rapporteur of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

13:00 – 13:40

- **The Barnahus model²**

Ms. Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Head of Children at Risk Unit, Council of the Baltic Sea States and President of the Promise Barnahus Network

Open Discussion

13:40 -14:20

The aim is to discuss the best ways to enable a child-friendly environment and justice system. This discussion will facilitate an exchange of experiences and practices among the main actors of Egypt's child justice system and peers from OECD countries.

14:20 – 14:30

Wrap up

14:30

Lunch

² Barnahus (Scandinavian word for Child houses) works rather as a child-friendly office, under one roof, where law enforcement, criminal justice, child protective services, and medical and mental health workers cooperate and assess together the situation of the child and decide upon the follow-up.

<https://www.barnahus.eu/en/about-us/>

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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