



Towards Child-Friendly Justice in Egypt

Project Flyer



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt



About the project

The objective of this project is to support the development of a child-friendly justice system in Egypt by enhancing the institutional coordination, judicial capacity and effectiveness of the Egyptian Child Justice System to better protect children in contact with the law. 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.

As part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, this project will support the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) as the main national entity in charge of policymaking, planning and implementing programmes for the protection of children in contact with the law.

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. The project will also avail experiences from OECD countries particularly through peer-to-peer exchanges and policy dialogue with the Government of Egypt.

Rationale for the project

Children face several difficulties to access justice systems. This is also the case in Egypt where children represent around 40% of the population¹ and challenges persist in enabling a child-friendly pathway. The system requires further measures to ensure that related officials and social workers can safely carry out their tasks in providing more child-friendly environment in line with the Egyptian Child Law of 2008. These challenges are further heightened in the midst of a crisis such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Egypt ratified several conventions related to the rights and welfare of children; including the UNCRC and has placed the issue of childhood as top priority of its National Agenda. The Egyptian Constitution of 2014 also stated an integral set of fundamental rights for the Egyptian child, complementing the Child Law. Despite significant work and reforms undertaken by the Egyptian government to better protect children and enable a child-friendly justice pathway, challenges persist to improve children's experiences on a daily basis when they are in contact with the justice system.² There is an essential need to enhance coordination of efforts amongst the key national stakeholders for a more coherent approach and sustainable results of the application of the Child Law.³

Project key stakeholders:

- The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood – Main project partner;
- The Ministry of Justice;
- The Public Prosecution Office;
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity.

¹ [Egyptian Akhbar Elyom website](#)

² [National Strategic Framework on Ending Violence Against Children in Egypt 2018](#)

³ Strategic Framework and National Plan for childhood and Motherhood 2018-2030

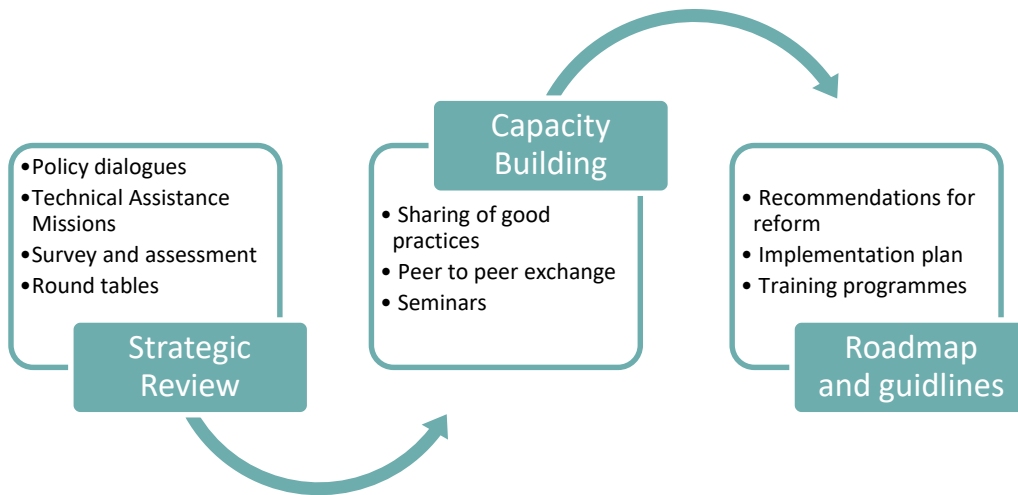
Objectives of the project

The overall objective of this action is to enable a child friendly Justice system in Egypt and to ensure its alignment with Egypt's Vision 2030, the UN SDGs and international standards.

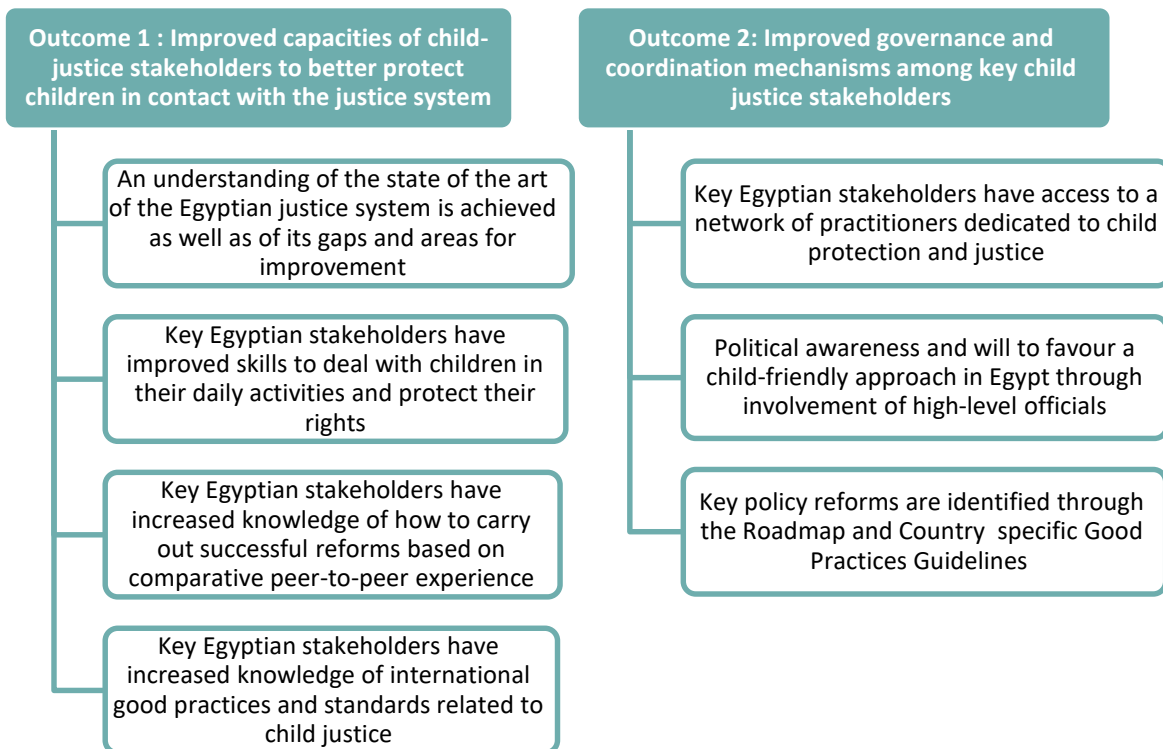
The two main outcomes of the project will be as follows:

- 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.

OECD methodology to achieve these objectives



Impact outputs per outcome



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.

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-centred 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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