



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

Policy Dialogue (Round table)



24 March 2022
Cairo, Egypt & online participation

Summary



Project overview

The project "Towards Child Friendly Justice in Egypt" supports the development of a child-friendly justice system in Egypt 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. The project also builds on the work of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme and rule of law support to Egypt. It facilitates high-level engagement in support of the objectives of the Strategic Framework and National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt 2018-2030.

Vision 2030. Dr. Tatyana Teplova, Head of Division and Senior Justice Counsellor at the OECD presented good practices on the alignment of national child justice strategies to achieve SDG 16+ and their application to the Egyptian context. The first session was followed by an open dialogue with the project stakeholders discussing the sectoral strategies (i.e. Human Rights Strategy, National Child Strategy) and their alignment with Egypt Vision 2030 and SDGs. The discussions allowed to identify challenges and opportunities to ensure the coherence of the various national sectoral strategies and ensure their compliance with Egypt's commitment to SDGs. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) reaffirmed their support to Egypt's efforts to improve the child justice system in the framework of the Swiss Cooperation Programme in Egypt and its pillar 3 "Human Rights, Governance and Rule of Law".

The policy dialogue brought together participants, including senior representatives from involved key national stakeholders: the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Public Prosecution Office (PPO) as well as the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED), the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (NIGSD), along with the SDC and OECD representatives.



Objectives of the Policy Dialogue

The Policy Dialogue discussed the commitment and efforts of Egypt and child-justice stakeholders to achieve the SDGs in line with national sectoral strategies and Vision 2030. Dr. Sherifa Sherif, Executive Director of the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, presented Egypt's commitments toward SDGs and the importance of aligning national sectoral strategies to Egypt's

Summary of the discussion

Main takeaways

- Governance is a key enabler to achieve SDGs. Policy tools such as monitoring and evaluation should apply to national strategies to ensure their alignment with SDGs.
- Access to justice for children is a core component of SDG 16 that needs to be aligned with national strategies.
- Child-justice stakeholders in Egypt should aim at increasing institutional coordination to ensure the application of the child's rights in protection and participation.
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities among Egyptian institutions has been identified as a priority to ensure coherent policy efforts that deliver on the SDGs

Identified needs

- Participants highlighted the need to strengthen capacities and increase the resources of services in charge of child protection to achieve SDG 16, improving the child-friendly justice system and increasing the efficiency of public services for children.
- They also emphasised the importance of an effective communication strategy to communicate with children and their families, raise awareness about child rights and existing protection mechanisms in Egyptian society, and to advance child-friendly justice in the country.
- Governments should strive to align child-justice policies across silos and manage synergies and trade-offs coherently, notably by involving all relevant actors of the

Egyptian society that have a role to play in the justice pathway of children and adopting a child-centred lens when devising policy for child protection.

- The inclusion of a child justice dimension across citizen plans and strategies carried out by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development is particularly important to improve community development and citizen participation.

Next steps

- Launch and high-level discussion on the key findings of the Strategic Assessment with the project stakeholders, peers and experts on 9 June 2022.
- Identify the trainings and capacity-building needs for staff in contact with children to make services more appropriate and targeted.
- Coordination meeting with the project stakeholders and the Sustainable Development Unit of MPED to link Egypt's SDS with the national child strategy, and to mobilise required resources for the implementation of the child-friendly agenda.

For more Information

- [Library - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(oecd.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/)
- [OECD/Open Society Foundations \(2019\), Legal Needs Surveys and Access to Justice, OECD Publishing, Paris.](#)
- [Egyptian Law no. 12 of 1996 promulgating the Child Law amended by Law no. 126 of 2008](#)