



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

*Training for the Ministry of Social
Solidarity*

6 - 7 December 2023
Sofitel - El Gezira, Cairo

AGENDA



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. Aligned with Egypt's Vision 2030, the National Child Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the project is implemented by the OECD with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The project facilitates high-level engagement in support of the objectives of the Strategic Framework and National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt 2018-2030. It contributes to strengthening the Rule of Law and avails experiences from different OECD countries, particularly through peer-to-peer exchanges and capacity-building workshops 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.

Objective of the training

The objective of this training is to help the participants gain a deeper understanding of how to produce quality reports with complete information to be submitted to the Judiciary and Prosecution for a better judicial decision making, drawing upon good practices from OECD member countries based on a child-centred approach. It will foster a hands-on approach for a technical discussion focusing on the challenges and opportunities to improve the quality of information and reports. The training will facilitate the exchange of expertise, international practices, and standards of international access to justice for children.

Target participants

The training is designed for the staff of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), in particular the social and psychological workers.

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

6 December 2023

10:00 – 10:15	Opening session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counsellor Mohamed El Kamary, <i>Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Social Solidarity</i>• Mr. Amr Soliman, <i>Policy Analyst and Project Lead, MENA-OECD Governance Programme</i>
10:15 – 11:30	Enhancing child justice: drafting reports to prioritise the best interests of children
	<p>This session will provide an overview of the new template report developed by the Ministry of Social Solidarity for the provision of social and psychological reports. This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding the distinction between detention, imprisonment and the role of observation• Staff expectations regarding report completion, including requirements related to interactions with children and families• Key elements to be included in reports (presentation of deficient reports - with missing elements)• How thorough reports support better judicial decision making and commensurate/appropriate sentences – enabling the best interest of the child considerations• Addressing challenges faced by social experts and observers• Good practices from OECD countries for interviewing children and drafting social and psychological reports/ providing expert opinions in a professional manner <p><i>Moderator: Marwa Salah, Consultant in the OECD project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MoSS representative• Ms. Nicole Drew, <i>Barrister & Solicitor, former Director of the Taskforce Response Unit (Women’s Safety and Youth Justice), Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland, Australia and OECD peer</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Open Discussion
12:30 – 12:50	Coffee break
12:50 – 14:00	Practical exercise
	<p>This session will provide a hands-on approach on how to develop reports recommending restorative justice and alternative measures.</p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Nicole Drew, <i>Barrister & Solicitor, former Director of the Taskforce Response Unit (Women’s Safety and Youth Justice), Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland, Australia and OECD peer</i>• Ms. Marwa Salah, <i>Consultant in the OECD Project</i>• Ms. Caroline Mina, <i>Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Governance Programme</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Open Discussion
15:00 – 15:30	Recap and key messages / End of Day 1

7 December 2023

09:30 – 09:45	Summary of day one learnings
	Recap of best practices identified in Day 1
09:45 – 11:30	Enhancing child justice: effective working relationships to support institutional co-ordination
	<p>This session will provide an overview of how to establish effective communication (with children and other professionals) and include critical assessments in social and psychological reports. This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of how MoJ/PPO use MoSS reports• Gaps that MoJ/PPO typically encounter - how MoSS reports help bridge these gaps• Strategies for building strong communication channels between MoSS and MoJ/PPO• OECD best practice techniques for establishing effective working relationships developing trust – correlation with enhanced weighting of report recommendations• Communication techniques to relay assessment findings• Conflict resolution skills <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Caroline Mina, Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Governance Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MoSS representative• MoJ representative• PPO representative• Ms. Nicole Drew, Barrister & Solicitor, former Director of the Taskforce Response Unit (Women’s Safety and Youth Justice), Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland, Australia and OECD peer
11:30 – 12:30	Open Discussion
12:30 – 13:00	Coffee break
13:00 – 15:00	Practical Exercise: Group Work
	<p>This session will enable participants to reflect on the challenges and opportunities in implementing the intervention and determining when the intervention ends.</p> <p><u>Facilitators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Nicole Drew, Barrister & Solicitor, former Director of the Taskforce Response Unit (Women’s Safety and Youth Justice), Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland, Australia and OECD peer• Ms. Marwa Salah, Consultant in the OECD Project• Ms. Caroline Mina, Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Governance Programme
15:00 – 15:30	Recap and closing

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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<http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/>

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