



Towards a child-friendly justice system: Implementing SDGs for children in Egypt

Training for Judges and officials from the Ministry of Justice



27 July 2023, 9.00 – 16.00 (Cairo time)
Sofitel El Gezirah, Cairo, Egypt

Agenda



The Project

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 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.

Objective of the training

The training will provide a hands-on approach on how to improve the participation and interaction of children with the justice system, aligned with international standards and emergent good practices from OECD countries on child-friendly justice. The training will outline mechanisms for improved coordination between the child judges and relevant court actors, including how to:

- engage directly with child defendants, witnesses and complainants; and
- review, assess and incorporate social and psychological report recommendations (and engage with the authors).

It will include exchange of expertise at technical level and exercises on good practices with peers and experts from OECD member countries.

Target participants:

The training will gather child judges and officials from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), along with representatives of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, OECD peers and experts and the OECD Secretariat.

Agenda

Wednesday, 27 July 2023

Simultaneous interpretation between English and Arabic will be available.

09:00 – 9:30	Welcoming of participants
9:30 – 09:50	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Justice Amal Ammar, Assistant Minister for Human, Women and Child Rights, Ministry of Justice ▪ Eng. Nevine Osmane, Secretary General, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (TBC) ▪ Mr. Amr Soliman, Project Lead and Policy Analyst, OECD
09:50 – 10:35	<p>Reinforcing child participation: good practices and tools to ensure children participation in legal proceedings</p> <p>This session will consider how child defendants participate in legal proceedings in Egypt. This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understanding <i>trauma-informed care</i> and child development – relevant to court participation; - the relevance of child participation and the different forms it may take (e.g. additional to social and psychological reports); - appropriate judicial communication methods (applying <i>trauma-informed</i> principles). <p>The session will enable participants to understand the applicable legal framework and international standards, and explore good practices from OECD countries. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in practical exercises to understand the different tools that could be used to ensure a meaningful and child-friendly participation in all the matters that concern the child.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative from the Ministry of Justice ▪ Ms. Claire Farid, Director General and Senior General Counsel, Family Law and Youth Justice Section, Justice Canada, and OECD peer ▪ 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 <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Amr Soliman, Project Lead and Policy Analyst, OECD</p>
10:35 – 11:00	Open discussion
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20 – 13:20	Practical exercise (Mock Court)
13:20 – 13:35	Coffee break

13:35 – 14:20

Improving the administration of the child justice system and integration of services: coordination between judges and child justice actors to ensure the best interest of the child

This session will provide an overview of the relevant Egyptian Child Law provisions and the new template report developed by the Ministry of Social Solidarity for the provision of social and psychological reports. This session will discuss:

- the importance of coordination between judges and social workers to ensure courts can obtain necessary information and impose commensurate/appropriate sentences;
- recourse / mechanisms available to the judiciary when reports are not adequate.

The session will enable participants to explore good practices from OECD countries for reviewing, assessing and (where appropriate) incorporating social and psychological report recommendations into sentences for children. Through practical exercise and case study, this session will demonstrate effective mechanisms that promote proper coordination and liaison with relevant actors in the child justice system, especially social and psychological workers.

Speakers:

- **Representative from the Ministry of Justice**
- **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. Claire Farid**, Director General and Senior General Counsel, Family Law and Youth Justice Section, Justice Canada

Moderator: Ms. Marwa Salah, Consultant in the OECD Project

14:20 – 14:50

Open Discussion

14:50 – 15:50

Practical exercise (Case Study)

15:50 – 16:00

Closing remarks

- **Representative from the Ministry of Justice**
- **Mr. Amr Soliman**, Project Lead and Policy Analyst, OECD

16:00

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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