



Ending Violence Against Children in Egypt

National Strategic Framework

February 2018



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Under the Auspices of
His Honorable Professor

Ahmed Emad El Din Rady

Minister of Health and Population
and Head of the National Council for
Childhood and Motherhood

Foreword



The development of this National Strategic Framework was led by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), in collaboration with the National Task Force on Ending Violence Against Children, with technical support from UNICEF Egypt and funded by the European Union. The document was prepared through a consultative process, involving a series of workshops and meetings with government counterparts and civil society organizations. It also benefited from the thoughts and perspectives of children and adolescents through the use of earlier research conducted on violence against children in Egypt, in which children and adolescents participated and expressed their views.

Information and evidence collected through studies and government reports further supported the identification of strategic priorities. Finally, in preparing the Strategic Framework, stakeholders drew on several new frameworks of thinking, such as the INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children, endorsed by the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.¹

This National Strategic Framework will guide the development of a detailed, costed National Plan of Action on Ending Violence Against Children in Egypt.

Dr. Azza El Ashmawy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "AZZA EL Ashmawy".

Secretary General of NCCM

Bruno Maes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruno Maes".

UNICEF Representative, Egypt

February 2018

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National Task Force on Ending Violence Against Children

Chair: National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

Task Force Members - representatives from: the Ministry of Health and Population; the Ministry of Social Solidarity; the Ministry of Education and Technical Education; the Ministry of Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Local Development; the Ministry of Religious Endowments; the Ministry of Culture; the National Council for Women; the State Information Service; the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics; the Public Prosecution Office; the Egyptian Parliament; the Bar Association; Al-Azhar Al Sherif; the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research (Azhar University); the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services (Coptic Orthodox Church); the Egyptian Association for the Assistance of Juveniles (NGO); the Hawaa El Mustaqbal (Future Eve) Association; experts (Paediatricians and Psychiatrists); Terre des Hommes; Save the Children; Plan International; Care International in Egypt; the European Union; the United Nations Population Fund; and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Steering Committee Members – representatives from: the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood; the Ministry of Health and Population; the Ministry of Education and Technical Education; the Ministry of Youth and Sports; the Egyptian Association for the Assistance of Juveniles; and the Hawaa El Mustaqbal Association.

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Introduction

Violence against children is widespread in Egypt and affects children at all social levels.² Despite this prevalence, it is a hidden problem, occurring behind closed doors or shrouded in silence resulting from social acceptance or tolerance of violence, fear of stigma or considered as a taboo subject.

While violence against children takes many forms – ranging from physical and emotional violence, to sexual abuse, child labour, trafficking, child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – and occurs in different settings, the most recent research data indicates that children in Egypt are often at highest risk of experiencing violence in the very places where they should be nurtured and protected: in their homes and through foster care, in their schools (used hereafter as the generic term for all educational settings for children, including kindergartens and early childhood development centres)³; and through social media and the internet.

The Government of Egypt affirms that any form of violence against children is inexcusable, and is committed to eliminating all forms of violence against children in conformity with the Constitution of Egypt (2014), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Egyptian Child Law (2008) and other national and international human rights standards. Furthermore, the Government is committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030, which includes ambitious targets for ending violence, as part of a broader vision of “a world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up safe from violence and exploitation.”⁴

It is against this background that the Egypt National Task Force on Ending Violence Against Children (hereafter referred to as the Task Force) was established in January 2017. Chaired by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, this multi-sectoral Task Force aims to accelerate and strengthen efforts addressing violence against girls, boys and adolescents. The present National Strategic Framework on Ending Violence Against Children was developed to build consensus, and to provide strategic guidance to the work of the Task Force and its members. This document offers a framework for comprehensive, multi-sectoral and coordinated procedures to prevent and address violence against children. Based on this Strategic Framework, the next step is to develop a detailed National Plan of Action to address violence against children, including accurate costing, realistic and time-bound targets, and corresponding monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

While the strategic approaches and actions described in this Strategic Framework are broad enough to apply to different forms of violence in different contexts, proposed measures have been specifically designed to address violence within the family, the school environment and online, through for example cyber-bullying, child online pornography, cyber-extremism and online grooming for sexual purposes. This is in response to available national data that specifically show the high levels and severe forms of violence within these settings, and the absence of a comprehensive government strategy to address it; unlike harmful practices such as FGM and child marriage that have already been included in extensive strategies in Egypt.⁵

Accordingly, this Strategic Framework pays particular attention to the following forms of violence:

1. Violent discipline, including the widespread use of corporal punishment and verbal abuse as disciplinary tools by parents and caregivers;
2. School-based violence perpetrated by teachers/school staff as well as children (peer-to-peer violence); and
3. Sexual violence, particularly the high levels of sexual harassment experienced by girls.⁶

Furthermore, strategic approaches - ranging from policy development and implementation to data collection, service delivery and social and behavioural change - will also be relevant to violence taking place in settings such as care and justice institutions (e.g. child care institutions and juvenile detention facilities), places of work and in humanitarian contexts. However these specific settings are not discussed in detail in this Strategic Framework.



Acronyms



CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDHS	Egypt Demographic and Health Survey
EU	European Union
EVAC	Ending Violence Against Children
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
MICT	Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MoSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VAC	Violence Against Children

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Background and Rationale

Violence Against Children

Egypt's population has reached approximately 95 million people, of whom 37.9 million are children (between 0 and 17 years of age), equivalent to 40 percent of the total population.⁷ Research shows that the large majority of children grow up in environments that routinely expose them to violence.⁸ Their safety and well-being are not just compromised in their homes and families, but also in schools, ECD centers, workplaces, child care institutions, the justice system, and in different places in the communities in which they live. While this Strategic Framework stresses the importance of addressing the systematic and

widespread nature of violence against children in all its settings and in all its forms, including physical, sexual and psychological violence, this Strategic Framework deals specifically with the high levels of violence that children suffer in their homes and in their schools, including violent discipline, peer-to-peer violence and sexual violence.⁹ However, it is important to re-emphasize that the strategic approaches included in this Strategic Framework may also apply to other forms of violence against children, such as harmful practices and neglect.

Violence Against Children

All forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.¹⁰

Physical	Emotional	Sexual	Neglect	Harmful Practices
Fatal and non-fatal physical violence, including all corporal punishment (such as hitting or kicking); and physical bullying by adults or by other children.	Including degradation; ridicule; humiliation; threats and intimidation; isolation; discrimination; and exclusion.	Including sexual harassment; rape; and sexual exploitation in prostitution or pornography.	Failure to protect children from danger, including deliberate failure to provide health care, sufficient protection, or supervision, and inadequate supervision of children's use of social media and the internet.	Including female genital mutilation (FGM); child marriage; and forced marriage.

A survey conducted by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and UNICEF in 2015 shows that children are often exposed to violence in their own homes by their parents or other caregivers, followed by violence in school by other students, and finally, by teachers.¹¹

Data from the 2014 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) support these findings, showing that 93 percent of children between the ages of 1 and 14 were exposed to violent disciplinary practices at home in the month preceding the survey, including both psychological abuse and corporal punishment. Furthermore, 43 percent were exposed to extreme

physical punishment, including being hit or slapped on the face, head, or ears; repeated beating; and being hit with a hard object, such as a belt.¹²

Children between 3 to 4 years of age are at highest risk of maltreatment, with a rate of corporal punishment of 43 percent for this age group. In general, disciplinary methods do not vary markedly based on the sex of the child.¹³

On a more positive note, despite the high prevalence of corporal punishment, the majority of mothers and fathers (over 70 percent) do not consider physical punishment a necessary form of child discipline.¹⁴

Egyptian parents also report using disciplinary strategies that do not include violent behaviour, such as discussion, praise and encouragement. Finally, the joint NCCM-UNICEF study found a strong desire on the part of parents to learn more about other positive parenting behaviours, thus creating a strong foundation for education programmes that help parents and caregivers to learn ways of managing child behaviour and supporting positive child development.

Despite the prohibition on the use of violence and beating in all schools, corporal punishment remains common practice in educational institutions.¹⁵ While the NCCM-UNICEF study shows that teachers deny using violence to discipline their students, the students themselves paint a very different picture, with 65 percent of students between 13 and 17 years of age (especially boys) reporting having been hit with a stick, belt, wooden cane or whip at school.¹⁶ Moreover, students participating in the study indicated that the majority of abuse is not addressed despite the presentation of some complaints to school principals. In other cases, children affected by violence dropped out of school altogether, a serious risk to their future prospects. Physical violence by peers is also common, with 38 percent of children reporting experiencing such violence. Students also complained of experiencing psychological violence from schoolmates and teachers, resulting in feelings of humiliation.¹⁷

With regards to sexual violence, the NCCM-UNICEF study referenced above indicates that verbal sexual harassment is the most common form of sexual violence reported by girls (two-thirds of the girls that participated in the study in Cairo) and boys surveyed. This is followed in prevalence by physical sexual harassment. The 2013 UN Women Study on Ways and Methods to Eliminate Sexual Harassment in Egypt confirms these results, revealing that over 99.3 percent of Egyptian girls and women surveyed experienced some form of sexual harassment in their lifetime, ranging from whistling and verbal abuse, to unwanted touching and rape.¹⁸ Furthermore, research suggests that girls are not only vulnerable to sexual harassment at school, but also while travelling to and from school, on public transportation, and in the streets.¹⁹

While the NCCM-UNICEF study did not expose any "incidents of children being forced or coerced into sexual intercourse",²⁰ the NCCM operated National Child Helpline has received reports of sexual violence against children, including 206 cases of sexual assault and rape between 2011 and 2014. It is believed that the incidence of rape is higher, as many victims suffer in silence, too ashamed or afraid to disclose that they were raped, or simply unable to report their experience.²¹

In addition, global statistics demonstrate that one out of every five children in the 8 to 11 year old age



More than 9 out of every 10 children are subject to violent disciplinary practices at home²²



Nearly 8 out of every 10 children are exposed to corporal punishment at home²³



Nearly 7 out of every 10 children are exposed to corporal punishment at school²⁴



More than 1 out of every 3 students experiences bullying on a regular basis²⁵

group, and seven out of every 10 children in the 12 to 15 year old age group, have profiles on social media sites²⁶; one out of every four children has had an unpleasant experience online ²⁷; one out of

every three children has been the victim of peer violence on social media²⁸; and one out of every four adolescents has experienced hate speech or racism via social media or the internet. ²⁹

Consequences and Costs of Violence

“Violence against children undermines investments in child well-being, health and education, and negatively affects the productive capacity of future generations.”³⁰

There is clear and powerful evidence confirming that violence hampers all aspects of a child’s growth, including physical, psychological and social development.³¹ Children who have been severely abused or neglected often suffer from learning difficulties, poor school performance, and problems in transitioning to adulthood. They may suffer from low self-esteem and depression. Studies indicate, for example, that corporal punishment is an indicator of depression, unhappiness, anxiety, and feelings of hopelessness in children and adolescents. Even a low frequency of corporal punishment may lead to psychological frustration among youth, who may lose the trust in others that is essential for normal

human development.³² Furthermore, a child’s exposure to maltreatment has substantial inter-generational effects, where children who grew up in a violent household or community tend to internalize that behaviour as a way of resolving disputes, repeating the pattern of violence and abuse against their own spouses and children.³³

Furthermore, horrific crimes committed online and through unregulated social media may have a long term impact that can negatively affect the dignity and future prospects of children and adolescents of both sexes. In most severe cases, it can be used to exploit children and spread extremist ideologies.

Violence against children inflicts damage at both the individual and societal levels, including direct and indirect costs resulting from increased social spending and decreased economic productivity.³⁴

The Impact of Violence on National Economies

Investing in violence prevention is a question of good governance and respect for human rights. It also makes economic sense, with some studies confirming that violence is one of the major factors draining national economies.

- In **Egypt**, nearly 7 percent of potential earnings is lost as a result of school drop-out related to violence in schools.³⁵
- The cost of child maltreatment in the **United States** is estimated at USD 124 billion annually.³⁶
- According to the **European Union**, every EURO invested in preventing violence produces a social return of Euro 87.³⁷

On the other hand, research suggests that investments in preventing violence in childhood can bring important socio-economic returns by:

- Reducing expenditure on response services;
- Improving learning and educational outcomes; and
- Reducing inter-generational violence, adult criminality and juvenile delinquency.³⁸

Figure 1: Consequences of Violence



Risk Factors and Protective Factors

A growing body of research shows that the risk of violence arises from a complex interaction of a number of risk factors at different levels of the 'social ecological model',³⁹ as depicted in figure 2 below. Some factors stem from the individual characteristics of the child and the characteristics of the parent or caregiver. Others derive from the family setting, and the roles and relationships of people within it. For instance, findings from the 2014 EDHS indicate that although corporal punishment occurs across all socio-economic groups (i.e., ranging from 79 percent in the poorest quintile to 71 percent in the wealthiest quintile), families with low socio-economic status or those with low educational levels are more likely to use severe forms of punishment compared to wealthier or more educated families.⁴⁰

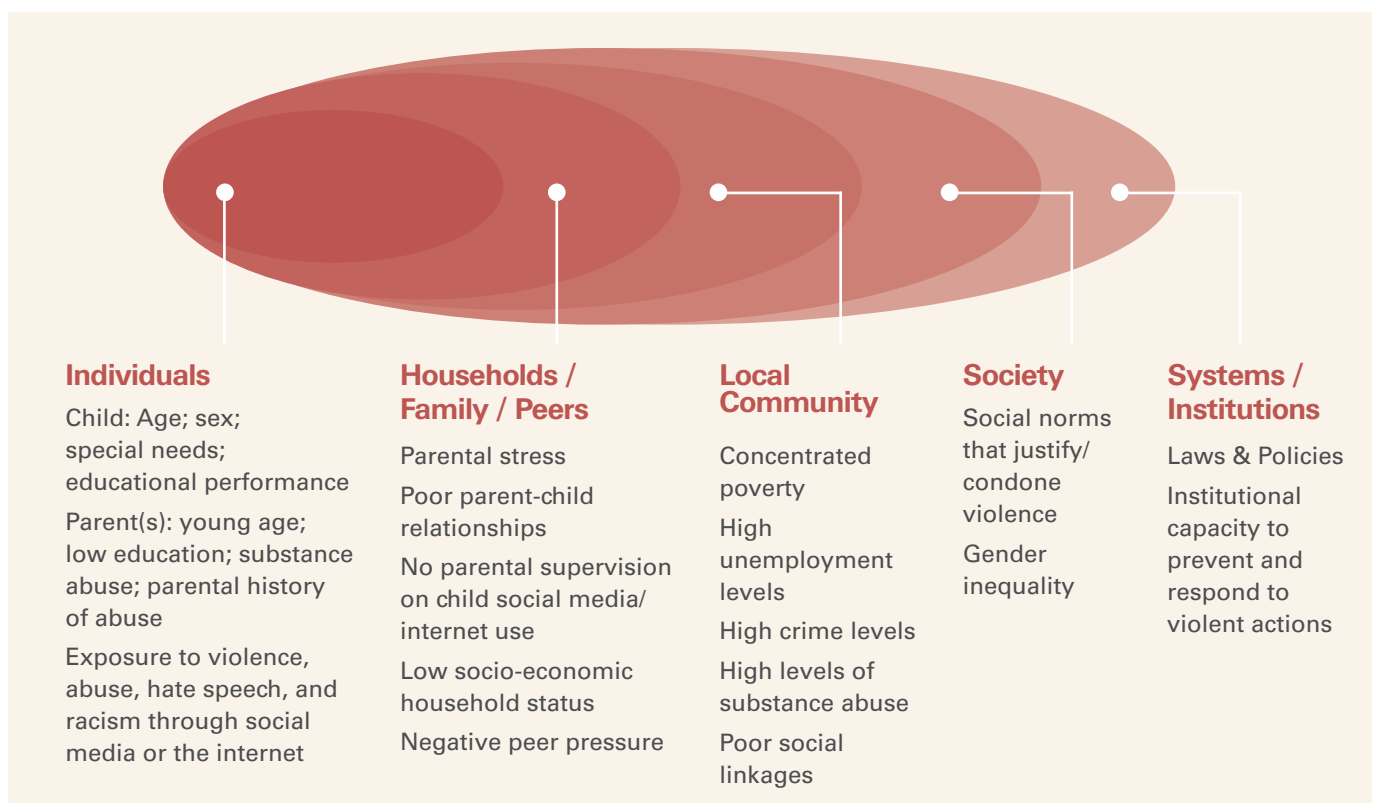
A large number of societal factors are associated with violence in Egypt, including deeply ingrained social norms regarding expected gender roles and power imbalances between the genders - manifested by the high prevalence of sexual harassment of women and girls – as well as social norms that justify or condone violence against children.⁴¹ Research has shown, for example, that the persistent social acceptance of the use of violence in child discipline is a major factor in its perpetuation.⁴² Moreover, the Egyptian Child Law (2008) continues to condone corporal punishment

in the home, which also contributes to children's increased vulnerability to violence.

Protective Factors

Just as certain factors may increase the likelihood of violence against children, other factors can reduce its likelihood and can be found at different levels of the social ecological model. At the societal level, strong legislative and policy frameworks that protect children from violence, and corresponding systems and institutions to enforce laws, constitute important protective factors. This also sends a powerful message to society about the rights of children to grow up free from violence, especially when combined with strategies to promote positive social and behavioural change.⁴⁴ At the local community and household level, it is clear that families and schools can be a powerful source of protection and support for children.⁴⁵ In particular, children who experience consistent, positive (as opposed to harsh) discipline at home and in school in the form of positive encouragement, warmth and affection are more likely to achieve their developmental potential, learn pro-social skills, and make a meaningful contribution to society.⁴⁶ They are also more likely to transfer these skills to their own children, thus strengthening the inter-generational transfer of positive non-violent relationships.⁴⁷

Figure 2: Socio-ecological Model for Understanding and Preventing Violence Against Children⁴³



National Response to Date

Egypt has made significant efforts to adopt laws and policy measures to better protect children from violence, including in the home and school settings. Children’s rights to protection from violence are included in the Egyptian Constitution (2014), the Child Law (2008), and the 2014 amendment to the 1937 Penal Code that criminalizes sexual harassment for the first time. Egypt has also ratified numerous international human rights treaties in which children’s rights are guaranteed, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Furthermore, the Government has committed itself to delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes ambitious targets for ending violence, as part of a broader vision of “a world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation”⁴⁸

To translate the above-mentioned national and international standards into action, specific institutional and policy measures have been adopted. These include, amongst others, the establishment of multi-sectoral Child Protection Committees (CPCs) at the governorate and district levels. The CPCs fall under the administrative responsibility of the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) and are mandated by the Child Law (2008) to develop policies at the governorate level on child protection issues, as well as to monitor and follow-up on individual cases at

the district level. Moreover, the NCCM-operated toll-free National Child Helpline 16000 and the Family Counselling Helpline 16021 were established to receive and follow-up on complaints on children’s rights violations. Social workers operating the helplines have been trained to respond to parenting inquiries and to act as a referral mechanism for caregivers for those seeking parenting support.

The workshops for training helpline staff are one component of a larger programme funded by the European Union (EU) in partnership with UNICEF to reduce violence against children in Egypt. As part of this programme and under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), a national curriculum for child protection social workers has been developed, focusing on building their capacity to work more effectively with children and families. In December 2016, the programme launched the first of its kind multimedia campaign to promote positive parenting known as “Awladna”, meaning “Our Children”; implemented by NCCM, supported by UNICEF and funded by the EU. By combining the voices and experience of different stakeholders, including opinion leaders, parenting and violence experts, and parents and children themselves, the campaign helped create a common understanding about the importance of positive parenting and violence prevention.⁴⁹

Figure 3: Examples of content released during the Awladna campaign



The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) provides support services to vulnerable and disadvantaged families through the Village Pioneers Home Visitation Programme and Family Classification Bureaus. Furthermore, the MoSS-operated early-childhood development (ECD) centres, and the Takaful conditional cash transfer programme targeting low-income households with children, constitute essential violence prevention measures supported by the MoSS.⁵⁰

In the education and health sectors, important initiatives have been undertaken to address violence against children. For instance, the Ministry of Education (MoE) issued a Decree on School Discipline in 2016 (287/2016), which establishes measures for positive discipline to be used by teachers, while also creating school protection committees to respond to cases of violence. Furthermore, psychosocial support, life skills training and family support services, such as parenting programmes to combat violence, have been delivered to Egyptian, migrant and refugee children and their families through the Family Club Initiative, offered within existing Primary Health Care Units under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). Moreover, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) operates over 4,000 youth centres where programmes are offered to strengthen life skills, employability, and entrepreneurship for adolescents and youth; in addition to promoting their right to meaningful participation; all of which are essential elements in supporting the safe and successful transition of adolescents to adulthood.

The Government also works closely with non-governmental organizations, including academic institutions on research and capacity-building initiatives for example. Furthermore, the Government acknowledges the important role played by civil society organizations in the provision of services for children as well as their participation in policy formulation and programme development aimed at protecting children.⁵¹ Accordingly, the Egyptian Child Law (2008) calls for the inclusion of representatives from NGOs in all CPCs at governorate and district levels. Under the umbrella of government institutions, civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations, have also been instrumental in promoting understanding of children's rights,

and providing numerous child and family support services.⁵² For example, Muslim and Christian religious leaders widely disseminated a joint publication on protecting children from violence and harmful practices. The publication was developed collaboratively by the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research at Al-Azhar University and the Bishopric of Public Ecumenical and Social Services of the Coptic Orthodox Church, with UNICEF support.⁵³

In recognition of the importance of internet user safety, and in line with global trends in this respect, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology launched an ambitious programme in 2007 that specifically targeted online child safety. The internet Safety Programme was established in response to steadily increasing internet use in Egypt, especially by youth and children, and the accompanying potential hazards that children can be exposed to online. As responsibility for the cyber world is shared between the State and society, it is a collective social responsibility. Accordingly, the National Committee for Child Online Protection⁵⁴ was established to synchronize and coordinate efforts in this area. The Committee's priority concerns are providing the best ways of protecting families and children from different hazards, particularly those that impact privacy. The Committee's vision is to "Empowering children and youth to use the internet while protecting them while embedding sound usage principles." The National Committee for Child Online Protection aims to

- Enhance online safety for children and their families
- Prevent internet related risks by identifying and developing tools and methods that are designed to achieve online safety and security.

The Committee adopts a multi-sectoral approach that solicits the participation of all stakeholders concerned with child internet safety, to explore the different dimensions of the issue, devise specific plans for each member, and develop a general strategy for all members.

Key Challenges

While significant work has been undertaken in Egypt to better protect children from violence, important gaps continue to exist between child rights standards endorsed by the Government, the multitude of programmes and initiatives put in place to address violence, and what children experience on a day-to-day basis.

Analysis of the functioning of the child protection system indicates that the legislative and policy framework is currently not supported by the required organizational and human capacity to ensure its full implementation.⁵⁵ Many of the existing efforts and approaches to address violence against children are fragmented and uncoordinated, resulting in a lack of clear division of roles and responsibilities and accountability by all stakeholders. Moreover, there are currently insufficient standardized mechanisms at the local level for case referral and case management, with social workers often having to rely on personal relationships with other service providers to ensure any action is taken.⁵⁶ This creates fragility in the system, especially if there is frequent rotation of personnel, and may eventually result in lost opportunities to provide children with a continuum of care and protection, particularly for vulnerable children.

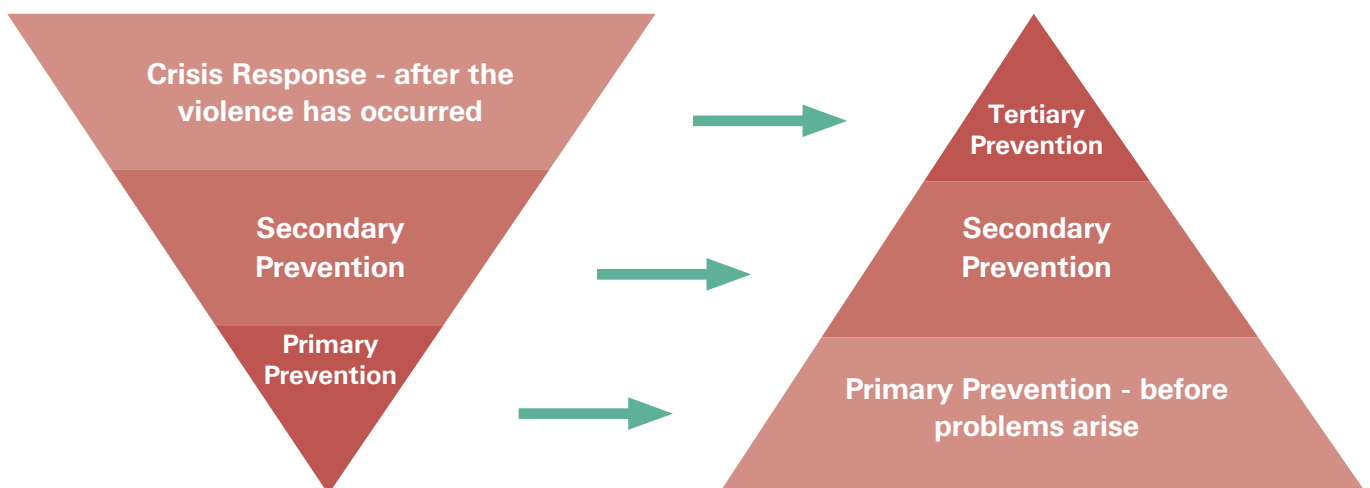
Furthermore, most interventions, while valuable, tend to focus on response services only, and therefore do not sufficiently address the underlying root causes of violence to stop it before it occurs. In this regard, major efforts continue to be needed to change attitudes, behaviours and discriminatory social norms that tolerate gender-based violence or justify violence as an acceptable way to resolve conflicts and to discipline a child. This form of 'crisis response' is further compounded by a lack of

financial resources and a specialized workforce to ensure full implementation of laws and policies, and monitor their enforcement.⁵⁷

There are numerous challenges to protecting children from the dangers of digital media and information and communication technology (ICT) such as cyber bullying, child online pornography and cyber extremism. The Government is continuing its efforts to harmonize between the optimal use of new technologies, ICT and digital media for children (with all the benefits they offer for child creativity and development) with legislation to resolve the criminalization of criminal actions related to children. The Government must attempt to cope with the rapid increase in new technologies, and their positive and negative implications, particularly in light of globalization and the resulting cohesion between the Arab and Western worlds, with people learning about cultures and experiences that may expose them, both young and old, to cybercrime, and extremism. The cyber world features an interconnected triad of extremism; human trafficking; and sexual, commercial and economic exploitation. These challenges are complicated by the difficulty of apprehending criminals; the weakness of monitoring mechanisms, including the lack of databases on these types of crimes; and lack of awareness about internet pirates, who are often extremely intelligent and skilled in information technology and communications.

The present Strategic Framework acknowledges these obstacles, and offers a way forward that transcends reactive interventions, towards a comprehensive preventative approach, spanning the continuum from primary to secondary and tertiary prevention. This approach will be explained further in the following section.

Figure 4: A gradual shift needs to take place from the current emphasis on crisis response to a stronger focus on primary and secondary prevention⁵⁸



Intervention Level	Target and Timing	Purpose
Primary Prevention	Whole communities or all families - before problems arise	To prevent violence through awareness-raising, education, advise and support
Secondary Prevention	Children and families at-risk of violence occurring - that is, vulnerable children and families at higher risk of disadvantage and in need of greater support	To address risk factors, alleviate problems and prevent escalation, with a focus on early-intervention
Tertiary Prevention	Children and families where violence has occurred	To reduce long-term implications of violence and prevent violence re-occurring



Strategy and Approach

Goal and Approach

Preventing and responding to violence is critical to ensuring children's rights, so that they can grow, develop and reach their full potential. As described in the previous section, providing such protection, however, is often very sensitive and complex, involving different stakeholders - both state and non-state actors - operating across sectors and at various administrative or geographic levels. This has prompted the National EVAC Task Force to adopt a comprehensive and multi-level approach to strengthen the child protection system while at the same time addressing risk factors at all stages of children's lives – from early childhood to adolescence – as well as promoting positive social and behavioural change.

Goal

The long-term goal is to ensure that all girls and boys below the age of 18 years, especially those living in situations of vulnerability, grow up free from all forms of violence.

Children in situations of vulnerability may include girls and boys with disabilities, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced; or those affected by harmful practices, suffering from HIV and AIDS, living in extreme poverty, and/or living with any other social or economic disadvantage.

A Comprehensive Multi-Level Approach

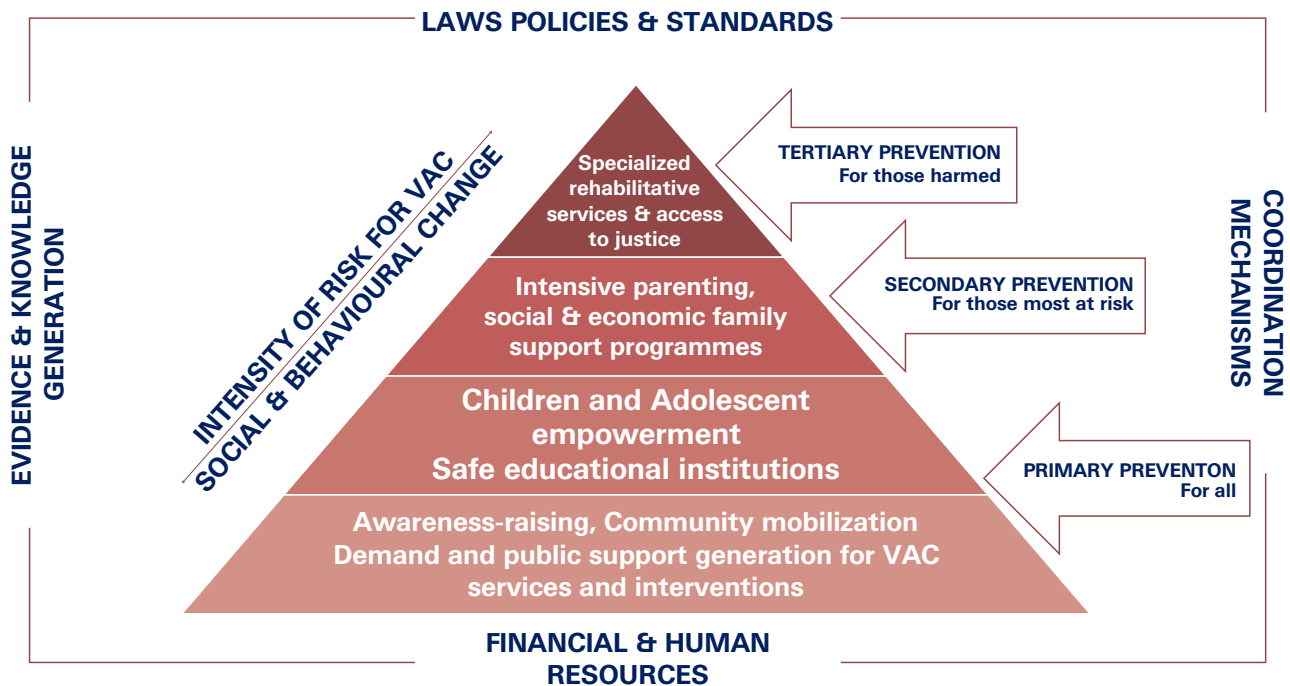
In support of this goal, a comprehensive approach to tackling violence against children will be pursued, with interventions implemented at multiple levels of increasing intensity and narrowing population reach. This type of multi-level approach - spanning the continuum from primary to secondary and tertiary prevention - seeks to optimize impact by reaching at the primary level a large proportion of

the general population with core violence prevention messages and information about available support services. Interventions at this primary prevention level, therefore, aim to promote knowledge and skills as well as to engage local communities - including children and adolescents themselves - and society at large in keeping children safe and protected. This level of work also seeks to de-stigmatize and encourage help-seeking behaviour by generating demand and public support for VAC services and interventions.

In addition to primary level interventions, more intensive and targeted secondary and tertiary level interventions are required for most at-risk, highly disadvantaged and/or affected families. Secondary prevention services (e.g. intensive parenting skills programmes, conditional cash transfers, treatment for substance abuse, etc.) need to be tailored to individual circumstances of the child and family and essentially seek to address risk factors, alleviate problems and prevent escalation, with a focus on early intervention. Interventions at the tertiary level on the other hand seek to reduce the long-term implications of violence and prevent its re-occurrence. Examples of such interventions include ensuring access to emergency services, medical care, and justice as well as specialized therapeutic services, such as individual and/or family therapy.

Furthermore, preventing and responding to violence requires strengthening key components of the child protection system, including laws, policies, and standards, human and financial resources, coordination mechanisms and data collection. As illustrated in the graph below, ultimately, what is needed is a set of mutually reinforcing violence prevention interventions at multiple levels, supported by a strong child protection system.

National Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Children in Egypt



N.B.: Some services and interventions may fit into multiple intervention levels. This is not a duplication of provision as long as it reflects a continuum of services required to respond to a wide range of needs. The diversity of childhood and children's situations means that a variety of overlapping services may be needed to avoid gaps in provision.⁵⁹

Theory Of Change

The work of the National EVAC Task Force and its partners will be guided by the Theory of Change that contains the following two mutually reinforcing outcomes:

Outcome 1:

Child protection systems at national, governorate and district levels are well-resourced, evidence-based and coordinated across all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national and international standards.

Outcome 2:

Children benefit from quality primary, secondary and tertiary violence prevention services and interventions across multiple sectors.

Outputs:

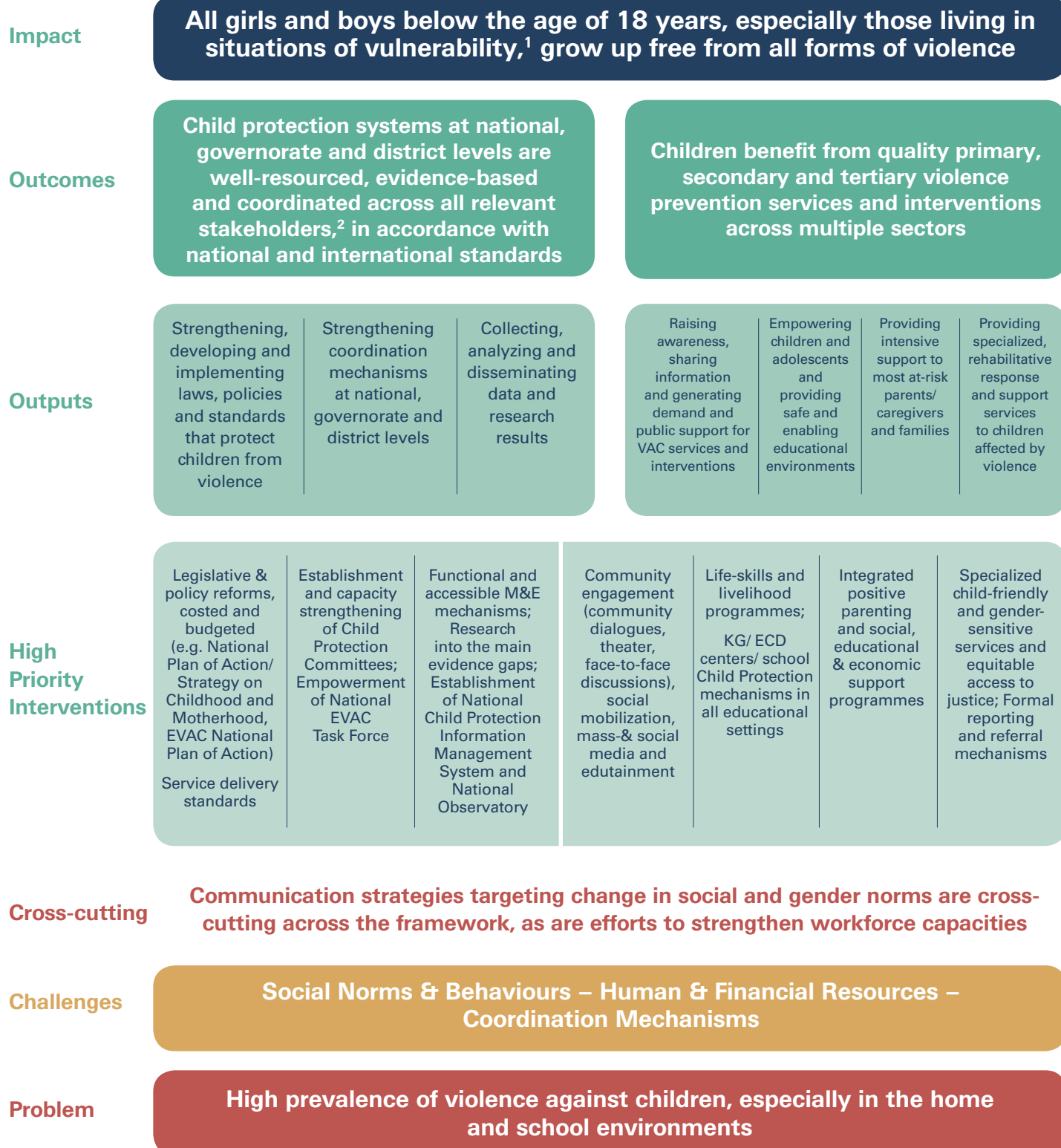
The two outcomes will be achieved through seven outputs, and each output will be linked to key strategic interventions; and will be guided by a set of

general principles. These interventions and guiding principles are described in detail below, but it is important to acknowledge here that there are a series of assumptions that must hold true to ultimately achieve the goal of ensuring that all children grow up free from all forms of violence.

The major assumptions are:

- Government entities are willing and able to make meaningful and sustained investments - i.e. with financial and human resources - to address violence against children.
- Stakeholders across sectors - both governmental and non-governmental - support a holistic and coordinated approach to addressing violence against children.
- Communities - including key influencers, religious leaders, parents, teachers, children and adolescents - are open to receiving information and behaviour change messages concerning attitudes and practices towards violence.

Theory of Change – National EVAC Strategic Framework



¹ Including girls and boys with disabilities, on the move (migrant, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced), affected by harmful practices, HIV and AIDS, living in extreme poverty, living in humanitarian/emergency settings and/or living with any other social or economic disadvantage

² Relevant stakeholders include stakeholders from government and non-government sectors

Guiding Principles

In accordance with national and international human rights standards and evidence about effective violence prevention and response, all programmes and initiatives aimed at ending violence against children will be guided by the following key principles:⁶⁰

Rights-Focused	All children have an equal right to be protected from violence, regardless of their sex, age, ability-disability, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status or legal or care status. Any action to prevent and respond to violence must take into account the needs, rights and best interests of all children, without discrimination of any kind.
Child-Centered	Children's rights and needs shall be the primary focus. All actors involved in preventing and responding to violence will listen to children and respect their views, providing them with meaningful ways to participate in their work and to contribute to decision-making processes.
Gender-Sensitive	Violence poses different risks for girls and boys. Gender-sensitive perspectives will be central to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.
Equity	All programmes and policies related to violence against children should seek to understand and address the root causes of inequity, so that all children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations, have access to protection.
Accountability	Accountability for protection results will be enhanced, as well as effective access to remedies for child victims of violence.
Evidence-Based	Programmes and interventions addressing violence will be informed by the best available evidence. Data collection and research will be used to plan programmes and interventions, measure their impact and continuously improve them to ensure success.
Partnerships	The National Strategic Framework is based on the principle of partnership and shared responsibility: parents, families, educational facilities, communities, government bodies, civil society organizations, businesses and children and adolescents themselves all have a role to play.

**All children have an equal right to be protected from all forms of violence
No child should be left behind**

These Guiding Principles are aligned with the human rights-based approach to programming and the principles endorsed by the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. For more details, please refer to Strategy 2016-2020 Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

The Child Protection System



Laws, Policies and Standards

Programmes addressing violence can never entirely succeed without a supportive policy and legislative environment.⁶¹ Laws, policies and standards should therefore be reviewed, strengthened where necessary, and harmonized in consultation with key stakeholders across sectors, including social welfare, health, education, justice, security, and ICT.

Key Priority Interventions:

- Integrate provisions within existing legislation (such as the Child Law of 2008) and policies (such as the National Plan of Action / the National Strategy on Childhood and Motherhood, and the National policy to limit violence in the school environment) that explicitly prohibit all forms of violence against children and promote non-violent and gender-equitable social norms and behaviours.
- Review laws and their executive regulations and related national policies that address the protection of children from online exploitation; and intensify sentences for internet pirates and criminal groups, with the required international and regional cooperation.
- Develop a detailed, costed and multi-sectoral National Plan of Action to address violence against children with realistic and time-bound targets and corresponding monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- Accompany policy initiatives and new legal provisions with detailed executive regulations for implementation and effective enforcement, including service delivery standards, allocation of adequate financial and human resources and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen workforce capacities of law enforcement officials and service providers across sectors.
- Create public awareness on the revised laws and policies.



Coordination Mechanisms

Delivering evidence-based violence prevention programmes and services requires well-coordinated actions from national and local government departments responsible for social welfare, health, education and justice; the private sector; and civil society organizations, such as professional associations, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, foundations, and other NGOs.⁶²

Key Priority Interventions:

- Strengthen the capacity of the National EVAC Task Force to provide a platform for partners across the country and across sectors to systematically share information, work together and coordinate their actions.
- Improve the functioning and capacities of Child Protection Committees at governorate and district levels, including their capacity to continuously improve inter-agency child protection policy and practice in relation to all forms of violence against children - with special emphasis on gender-based violence, including harmful practices.
- Institute a national coordination framework that includes a clear vision for coordinating all activities related to children, digital media, and ICTs across sectors at the national, regional and international levels; and provide the coordination framework with the necessary human, technical and financial resources to carry out its work effectively.
- Improve mechanisms for reporting ICT and online crimes; while ensuring the confidentiality of reports, and the safety of victims and witnesses.



Evidence and Knowledge Generation

Robust evidence and data are critical to achieve the goal and objectives outlined in the Theory of Change. In this regard, coherent and standardized data collection, analysis, monitoring and evaluation should contribute to determining the scale and scope of violence against children, identifying vulnerable groups, ascertaining risk and protective factors, informing policy and programming, and ensuring accountability.

Key Priority Interventions:

- Conduct research into the main evidence gaps, including: prevalence study on sexual violence against girls, boys and adolescents; research into the risks attached to the use of ICTs by children, including exposure to cyber-bullying; in-depth analysis of root causes of violence against children and the links between them; cost-benefit and cost-of-inaction analyses to develop an investment case for ending violence against children; and rigorous evaluations of interventions to prevent and respond to violence.
- Conduct regular research, analysis and data collection to gain a better understanding of how children access and use digital and social media, as well as the extent of influence of these sites on their lives, personalities, thinking, and attitudes.
- Design and put in place a National Child Protection Information Management System to facilitate case management and - at a broader level - assess the functioning of the child protection system, and inform policy, programming and resource allocations.
- Establish a National Observatory within the NCCM to consolidate and analyze information on violence against children; and to maintain a repository of knowledge, best practices, innovations and lessons learned, and ensure their dissemination.



Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Prevention



Awareness-Raising, Information & Community Mobilization

Evidence suggests that raising awareness and changing social norms that support violence are essential components of long-term prevention and creating better responses to violence.⁶³ Doing so often requires modifying deeply ingrained social norms and behaviours – in particular, the idea that some forms of violence are not only normal, but even tolerated as justifiable.⁶⁴

Key Priority Interventions:

- Engage in community mobilization through community dialogues, workshops, theatre, etc. by encouraging community members - including boys and men - and local change agents (such as key influencers and role models) to explore shared beliefs and practices around violence and support collective public commitment to taking those actions necessary for change.
- Conduct comprehensive and sustained mass and social media campaigns to raise awareness and provide opportunities for public debate and discourse around non-violent social norms; promote gender equitable relationships; support positive alternatives to violent discipline; champion positive role models; and encourage reporting of violence and help-seeking behaviour.
- Spread the culture of peace in its comprehensive sense to reject the terms that incite hatred, extremism and religious discrimination.
- Develop different age-specific awareness programs in order to raise public awareness (particularly for children) about violence and extremism through the misuse of ICTs and digital media.



Adolescent Empowerment and Safe Schools

One of the cornerstones of any strategic response to violence against children must be to break down the silence in which most children endure episodes of violence at home and at school and to empower children to protect themselves and seek help when necessary.⁶⁵ Schools are uniquely placed to provide life-skills training programmes and offer learning environments where social norms and gender inequalities are challenged and transformed, including attitudes and practices condoning violence.

Key Priority Interventions

- Strengthen and expand rights-based life-skills programmes to provide accurate, accessible and age-appropriate information and empowerment on life skills to children and adolescents through schools, youth centres and sports clubs. The aim is to prevent violence by enhancing children's communication, conflict management and problem-solving skills, assisting them to build positive, non-violent and gender-equitable peer-to-peer relationships; and build their resilience to help them cope and manage risks and challenges when violence (including bullying and sexual harassment) does occur.
- Strengthen child protection mechanisms in schools with professional codes of conduct and clear operating procedures regarding all forms of violence in schools, which should include role identification, reporting and response mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation systems.

- Institutionalize training programmes (e.g. in collaboration with the Teacher’s Academy) to build the capacity of all school and pre-school staff in the use of non-violent and respectful classroom management strategies, as well specific skills to prevent patterns of bullying and gender-based violence and to respond to it effectively.
- Promote activities to ensure children’s right to freedom of expression and access to appropriate information online, including establishing national safe channels for children’s online activities, with age-appropriate educational and entertainment content whether generated for or by children.
- Avail quality training programmes for children to develop their digital skills and knowledge of the principles, to not only improve the responsible use of social media and ICTs by children, but also to enhance their ability to avoid risks and protect themselves from harm.
- Actively engage children in the design and implementation of initiatives for safe digital and social media and ICT use, including internet safety. Establish safe blogs and webpages where children can express their point of view safely and responsibly.

Parent/Caregiver & Family Support



Supporting families and enabling them to thrive despite economic, social and psychological stress is essential for addressing some of the major risk factors for family violence against children. Promising approaches include conditional cash transfers to vulnerable households; especially when provided in conjunction with positive parenting training to help parents⁶⁶ - both fathers and mothers - build strong, healthy and non-violent relationships with their children.

Key Priority Interventions:

- Select an evidence-based parenting programme that can target low-income disadvantaged families with young children, and adapt it to the Egyptian context. Test and evaluate delivery mechanisms and initial results, revise the programme where necessary and facilitate national scale-up with ongoing monitoring.
- Integrate positive parenting messages/education in pre- and postnatal care services, and the work of Primary Health Units, the Village Pioneers Home Visitation Programme, and MoSS-operated ECD centres.
- Provide sufficient training and support to parents, caregivers, and child care and education professionals, educate them on the appropriate use of technology, sensitize them to potential risks and dangers, to allow them to help children to use digital media and ITCs safely and responsibly.
- Incorporate messaging on family strengthening, positive parenting and violence prevention and response in training manuals and guidelines for ECD facilitators, child helpline staff, community health workers, village pioneers, family classification bureau staff, among others.
- Establish linkages between violence prevention initiatives and conditional cash transfer (CCT) schemes (such as the Takaful and Karama programme), by creating (additional) financial incentives for families to attend positive parenting interventions.



Rehabilitative Response Services

To successfully break the cycle of violence in children's lives and to help them cope with the consequences, effective child-friendly and gender-sensitive services should be provided for children to seek help, support and care and to safely report violent incidences.⁶⁷

Key Priority Interventions:

- Establish protocols, referral mechanisms and case management service delivery models to ensure an effective, multi-sectoral and child-friendly response for children affected by, or at risk of, violence.
- Provide a comprehensive package of specialized child-friendly and gender-sensitive services for child victims of violence, including confidential medical care, legal assistance and psychological and family counselling and applying alternative measures to detention and restorative justice.
- Provide adequate accredited training and systematic capacity building in prevention and protection efforts - including early recognition of abuse and appropriate responses - to key child protection service providers across different sectors, such as: social workers (through the use of the national curriculum for child protection social workers), health workers, justice and welfare professionals, education staff, and community workers, including village pioneers.



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Roles and Responsibilities

The National Strategic Framework is based on the principle of partnership and collective responsibility: parents, families, educational facilities, communities, government bodies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and children and adolescents themselves all have a role to play.

Protecting Children From Violence - A Collective Responsibility

Parents/caregivers and families have the primary responsibility for bringing up their children and building a protective and loving family environment.⁶⁸

Children and adolescents should be empowered to participate in decisions affecting them, protect themselves and their peers, and seek help when required.

Communities should protect their most vulnerable members - children and adolescents - and support families to raise their children in a space free of violence. Communities and community leaders/influencers also have an important role to play in challenging attitudes that perpetuate the tolerance and condoning of violence in all its forms.

Schools and social institutions which children attend are responsible for offering safe and enabling learning environments by reinforcing the principles of gender equality, non-discrimination, respect and non-violence; and taking appropriate actions to prevent and respond to violence.

Non-government organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations have a vital role to play in delivering services (including on behalf of the Government), contributing to the development of policies, programmes and the evidence base; and actively promoting child safety, protection, rights and wellbeing. Religious leaders should encourage families to continue participating in their children's lives, guiding them in their use of the internet and social media, and instilling positive spiritual and social values.

The private sector should meet its responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children, by contributing to the elimination of child labour; providing decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers; and reinforcing community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children's rights.⁶⁹

The technology industry has a critical role to play in establishing the foundations for safer and more secure use of internet-based services and other technologies.

Media professionals are well-placed to keep children's rights on the news agenda, by scrutinizing efforts to protect those rights, and challenging those who fail to meet their commitments to children – while ensuring that their own practice, and that of the media industry, acknowledges children's rights.⁷⁰

Government bodies have to endorse and promote a zero tolerance policy on violence against children in their institutions, as stipulated by relevant laws and policies. Furthermore, they have the responsibility of delivering a range of universal support services and early intervention initiatives to prevent violence and fund and coordinate services by the non-government sector. They are also responsible for statutory child protection services, including the obligation to protect child victims and witnesses from human rights violations – as well as the obligation to investigate and to punish those responsible, and to provide access to redress human rights violations.⁷¹

Regardless of whether or not violence takes place, government bodies have a positive and active obligation to support and assist parents and other caregivers to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities and with respect for the evolving capacities of the child, the living conditions necessary for the child’s optimal development.⁷² The Government, furthermore, shall ensure that all persons who, within the context of their work, are responsible for the prevention of, protection from, and response to violence are addressing the needs and respecting the rights of children.⁷³

To effectively carry out these functions and ensure that a protective environment is created for all children, government institutions have a vital role to play in strengthening the performance of the child protection system in a holistic and coordinated manner at the governorate and district levels, through: legal reform and policy development; strengthening of multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms; allocation of human and financial resources and capacity-building for child protection workers; evidence and knowledge generation; and monitoring and evaluation.

Every sector has an important role to play in violence prevention and response, including but not limited to social welfare/social protection, education, health and justice and security. Multi-sectoral collaboration among all sectors is essential for promoting positive social and behavioural change, and strengthening the child protection system.⁷⁴

Social Welfare/Social Protection (MoSS; MoYS; NCCM; civil society)	Provide effective access to safe, child-friendly and gender-sensitive social welfare services, including child protection and social protection, at primary, secondary and/or tertiary prevention levels
Education (MoE; MoSS; MoYS; civil society)	Provide safe, non-violent and inclusive learning environments for all and ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills for the promotion of a culture of non-violence ⁷⁵
Health (MoPH; civil society)	Address violence against children as a public health issue and identify, assess, refer and provide care to child victims of violence
Justice and Security (MoJ; MoLD; Mol; Police; Public Prosecution; Bar Association; civil society)	Enforce laws that protect children from violence, reduce impunity of perpetrators, and ensure equitable access to justice for child victims ⁷⁶
Communications and Information Technology (MICT)	Provide safe means for the use of information technology, the internet and social media, while providing mechanisms for tracking perpetrators who commit online crimes against children.

Annex A: Glossary

Child: Every human being below the age of eighteen years.

Child protection: The measures and structures to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence affecting children.

Child protection system: A comprehensive and sustainable approach to preventing and responding to child protection issues, comprising the set of laws, policies, regulations and services required across all social sectors – especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice – to respond to and prevent protection-related risks.

Child labour: Labour performed by a child who is under the minimum age specified for that kind of work (as defined by national legislation, in accordance with accepted international standards), and is likely to impede the child's education and full development.

Child marriage: Formal marriage or informal union where at least one of the partners is below the age of 18 years.

Child trafficking: Refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons under 18 years of age for the purposes of exploitation.

Civil society organizations: Includes NGOs, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, community-based organizations, trusts, foundations, charitable organizations, and support groups.

Disabilities: Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Family support: A set of (service and other) activities oriented to improving family functioning and grounding child-rearing and other familial activities in a system of supportive relationships and resources, both formal and informal.

Female Genital Mutilation: Refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Parenting support: A set of (service and other) activities oriented to improving how parents approach and execute their role as parents and to increasing parents' child-rearing resources - including information, knowledge, skills and social support – and competencies.

Positive parenting: Warm, consistent parenting where parents have good relationships with their children, use non-violent forms of discipline, and exercise supervision over their children as appropriate to their developmental stage.

Prevention services: Activities specifically aimed at limiting or removing the conditions and situations that put children at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation before they occur.

Response services: Child protection interventions geared to respond to circumstances in which a child is at risk of harm or has been abused, exploited, neglected, abandoned, or without appropriate family care harming the child. These services seek to reduce the possibility that harm will be repeated and to restore a child's well-being.

Violence against children: Means all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Violent discipline: Includes both psychological aggression and physical punishment by caretakers and may occur in the home, in school and in other settings.

Annex B: Detailed List of Roles & Responsibilities of Task Force Members

In line with the Constitution of Egypt (2014), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other national and international human rights standards, and as per its Terms of Reference, the National EVAC Task Force is committed to strengthen and coordinate efforts to end all forms of violence against children. Within their respective mandates, responsibilities and policies, individual members of the Task Force are encouraged to support, in a harmonized manner, the implementation and monitoring of strategic interventions outlined in this National Strategic Framework and its Theory of Change.

The following table provides a summary of the key roles and responsibilities that were identified by Task Force members at the “Review Workshop” held in Cairo on 26 September 2017.

Party	Key Roles and Responsibilities	
	Outcome 1: Child protection systems at national, governorate and district levels are well-resourced, evidence-based and coordinated with all relevant stakeholders in accordance with national and international standards	Outcome 2: Children benefit from quality primary, secondary and tertiary violence prevention services and interventions across multiple sectors
National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose laws and policies and develop strategies (National Strategy for Childhood and Motherhood and its National Plan) Support EVAC coordination mechanisms (e.g. Child Protection Committees, EVAC National Task Force) through technical support and advocacy work Prepare, supervise and help disseminate national EVAC studies and research Establish and maintain a National Observatory for Children's Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and lead EVAC information and awareness-raising campaigns Support the Child and Family Counselling Helplines in providing information, advice, support and referrals
Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a child protection policy in health care units and public and private hospitals, with professional codes of conduct and reporting procedures for violence as per relevant legal provisions Promote inter-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination, including with the Maternal and Child Health Care Department; Psychological Support Clinics; and Health Education Department Strengthen the evidence base by developing a database on monitored and referred cases of violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create awareness on the Child Helpline within health care facilities Implement capacity-building programmes for health care practitioners on how to identify and report cases of violence against children Raise awareness about positive parenting through health care service provision
Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support legal and policy reforms to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase criminal penalties for parents in case of child neglect (Ministry of Justice) Regulate work within child care institutions and service units, including through quality standards, especially for children with disabilities Strengthen family-based alternative care systems for children born outside of marriage Strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, including NGOs Promote coordination and uniformity between the hotlines of government agencies at national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the capacity of caregivers on positive parenting through all MoSS service units Expand the conditional cash transfer programme “Takaful Wa Karama” (Solidarity and Dignity) as well as other services of the Ministry

Party	Key Roles and Responsibilities	
	Outcome 1: Child protection systems at national, governorate and district levels are well-resourced, evidence-based and coordinated with all relevant stakeholders in accordance with national and international standards	Outcome 2: Children benefit from quality primary, secondary and tertiary violence prevention services and interventions across multiple sectors
Ministry of Education (MoE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legal and policy reforms to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Integrate EVAC within the National Strategy for Education » Integrate the protection of persons with disabilities in public and technical education and develop regulations for effective implementation » Put in place an educational system that accommodates dropouts (community schools from the age of 15 years and above, especially for women who have dropped out due to early marriage) • Integrate issues related to violence within the evaluation criteria for school accreditation through the National Authority for Accreditation and Quality • Activate Decree 287 of 2016 on School Discipline • Amend Ministerial Decree No. (306/2013) concerning the Board of Trustees, allowing for the regular monitoring of and support to school social workers to support them in protecting students from violence in schools • Establish a mechanism to coordinate data collection on child victims of violence in schools with the Child Helpline and Child Protection Committees • Strengthen the evidence base by establishing a database to maintain records of violence in schools and contribute to research and studies on the prevalence and causes of violence and best ways to address it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise children’s awareness about the risks related to violence and empower them to seek help when violence does occur, e.g. report the case to the relevant Helpline • Inform parents about the effects of violence against children, including FGM, child marriage and violent discipline • Integrate positive concepts and values in curricula, especially human rights and the values of peace • Develop summer programmes for children, in which VAC is addressed using active learning strategies • Provide psychological support for victims of violence within schools • Identify and address negative social norms and attitudes related to violence and replace them by applying the principles of positive education and discipline used by school staff and parents • Expand the scope of training and guidance programmes approved by the Ministry of Education under the umbrella of the Professional Academy of Teachers presented to the administrators of the educational process, which deals with VAC and how to provide psychological, social and educational support to victims • Create a culture of awareness by conducting activities and actual practices and performances inside and outside schools so as to ensure that it will raise awareness about the causes of VAC and ways to prevent and respond to it
Ministry of Interior (MoI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legal and policy reforms to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Tighten the punishment for offenders » Encourage reporting of violence » Increase penalty for false reporting of violence • Notify MoSS of statistics • Advocate for the appointment/deployment of full-time officers, appointed by official decision as heads of human rights units in each police department/station 	
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish/strengthen forensic units of the Ministry of Justice, responsible for detecting VAC cases • Continue to organize workshops for judges in relation to the rights of child victims and witnesses of violence • Coordinate with all relevant partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » National Council for Childhood and Motherhood » Ministry of Interior » Ministry of Social Solidarity » Public Prosecution Office » Mental Health for Adolescents and Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the manual on the protection of the rights of child victims of violence

Party	Key Roles and Responsibilities	
	Outcome 1: Child protection systems at national, governorate and district levels are well-resourced, evidence-based and coordinated with all relevant stakeholders in accordance with national and international standards	Outcome 2: Children benefit from quality primary, secondary and tertiary violence prevention services and interventions across multiple sectors
Public Prosecution Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legislative reforms for the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime • Establish standard procedures and apply them in the public prosecution • Collect data on VAC cases • Coordinate with concerned authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose working mechanisms to better address violence, e.g. by combining procedures with social interventions
Bar Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and propose legislative reforms to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased penalties for child abusers; better protection of reporters of violence and victims of violence; tightening the penalty for false reporting; better protection of children from torture; criminalization of verbal abuse • Advocate for the establishment of a Forensic Medicine Department • Provide support to strengthen the intelligence and information gathering sector • Advocate for the establishment of centers in each governorate to detect crime • Activate available laws and procedures to prevent the publication of any data concerning child victims, perpetrators or witnesses 	
Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the National EVAC Strategic Framework into the Ministry's plan. To this end: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Incorporate EVAC interventions into all MoYS facilities and programmes (e.g. youth centers) » Establish specialized committees in governorates and a 'higher-level' committee at national level to implement relevant provisions of the strategic framework and ensure follow-up and evaluation of interventions » Strengthen coordination between the concerned ministries to intensify efforts • Promote education and awareness of laws and policies that address violence against children and support the concerned authorities to implement/enforce these laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness about EVAC through social media • Organize seminars for children in all 27 governorates to raise awareness on the dangers of violence and how to manage risks • Implement innovative activities in line with the desires, interests and concerns of young people • Strengthen efforts to reintegrate affected children and their families, including through rehabilitation programmes • Utilize youth cadres and children to reach out to families • Participate in the modernization and activation of religious interventions • Implement sustainable interactive workshops for families • Implement interactive cultural workshops for those who are close to getting married
Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose legal provisions to protect children against all forms of violence in schools • Follow-up on the implementation of laws on the ground and monitor and report implementation gaps • Review and redraft identified gaps in the laws • Put in place mechanisms to ensure speedy access to justice for children and activate the role of the Family Court • Establish a committee of parliamentarians; friends of children's rights • Accelerate the adoption of 'witness and reporting laws', particularly those relevant to the reporting of children at-risk of violence • Criminalize and intensify punishment for crimes of harassment and rape • Support the Child Helpline 16000 and its implementation mechanisms • Strengthen the role of Child Protection Committees mentioned in the Child Law • Support the establishment of the Child Observatory within NCCM • Establish a mechanism to ensure the protection of children's rights in all relevant laws discussed by Parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of parliamentarians on children's rights and child protection mechanisms • Advocate for the establishment of treatment/rehabilitation centers for victims of psychological and physical abuse • Advocate for increasing the state budget to allocate an independent line item for the Child Protection Committees.

Party	Key Roles and Responsibilities	
	Outcome 1: Child protection systems at national, governorate and district levels are well-resourced, evidence-based and coordinated with all relevant stakeholders in accordance with national and international standards	Outcome 2: Children benefit from quality primary, secondary and tertiary violence prevention services and interventions across multiple sectors
Episcopal Social Services of the Coptic Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote coordination with Child Protection Committees to strengthen efforts to end violence against children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate clerics and religious leaders about violence against children, its prevalence, causes and how to prevent and respond to it Develop unified communication messages around violence against children to be used by all churches across the country Educate families on violence prevention, including child marriage Educate children/adolescents and teachers in schools on violence prevention and response
State Information Services (SIS)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness about child rights, child protection, child marriage and child labour by targeting a large audience through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 200 seminars a month in 96 media centers and agencies countrywide » TV advertisements produced by the Centre for Information, Education and Communication » Children's clubs in information centers
Ministry of Local Development (MoLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funds through the investment plan in the governorates Promote coordination between the service directorates within the governorates through the Executive Boards or support the establishment of a committee of specialists, including representatives of Child Protection Committees Establish a central committee in MoLD to coordinate EVAC work between governorates Provide headquarters for protection units operating within the organizational structure of the Child Protection Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of rehabilitation programmes in collaboration with Child Protection Committees Implement awareness-raising and capacity building programmes for specialists working in the governorates
Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish mechanisms to implement existing legislation Review and provide suggestions for improving legislation related to VAC Establish effective partnerships and coordination mechanisms with all NGOs to protect children from violence and mobilize resources in this regard Propose the most appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks in partnership with all relevant stakeholders at all levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in capacity building of all those dealing with children on the importance of child rights and practices that constitute violations of those rights Provide legal support, psychosocial rehabilitation and economic empowerment to victims of violence to ensure that they are properly reintegrated into society Raise community awareness about the rights of children and how to identify different forms of violence
Ministry of Culture - National Center for Child Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise public awareness about laws and policies related to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread the culture of children's rights among those involved in the educational process, in accordance with the needs of different age groups and local cultures Educate children and adolescents about ways to protect themselves against harassment and where to seek advice and support Develop programs to raise awareness about the rights of children with disabilities and how to respect and protect those rights

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Additional Resources include:

- The International Committee on the Rights of the Child
- The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)
- Articles by Dr. Azza Ashmawy, including a working paper for a national campaign against extremism through ICTs and digital media for children





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