

**THE COMPARATIVE ARAB REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STUDY ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

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This report is developed by the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States (LAS),
Department of Family and Childhood – Social Affairs Sector

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All views and analysis incorporated in this report do not necessarily express those of the League of Arab States, for they are the sum of the member states responses to the questionnaire specifically designed for the purposes of this report. They are also the result of a joint effort that involved the expert group who were tasked with the development of this report by the Follow-up Committee on monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (FC UNSG's VAC); which is a sub-committee of the Arab Childhood Committee (ACC). All information and data in this report has been reviewed by the ACC member states.

Foreword

The Social Sector at the League of Arab States (LAS) is pleased to present “The Comparative Arab Report on Implementing the Recommendations of The UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children”, which was prepared by the Department of Family and Childhood (DFC), in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Childhood Committee. Following extensive regional consultations on the efforts of Arab States to protect children against violence, and a study conducted to this end, this Comparative Arab Report evaluates the efforts of 19 Arab countries to end violence against children, and presents a pan-Arab vision of future steps needed to provide protection for children against all forms of violence and abuse.

The Comparative Arab Report was first launched in Beirut – Lebanon in 2011 in the presence of representatives of States members of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Violence Against Children (UNSGSR). The Report was also presented during the Fourth High-Level Arab Conference on the Rights of the Child (Marrakesh 2010) as one of the key reference documents for The Second Arab Plan of Action for Childhood. It is recognized in the Annual Report of the UNSGSR to the United Nations General Assembly (65/A/262) as “the first regional initiative worldwide in this respect, and the foundation for identifying needed reforms in the area of legislation related to ending violence against children”.

The findings of this Arab Comparative Report indicate that, in general, the Arab states have made considerable progress in recognizing the problem of violence against children, in developing policies, and enacting necessary legislations, and, in building institutions and establishing counter-violence mechanisms. It includes a policy document on actionable recommendations, and a list of proposed programmes and activities.

I would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the experts who contributed to the development of this Report and its actionable recommendations. I would also like to express gratitude to all the institutions and bodies that are addressing the issues of children and violence against children in the Arab World. And, last but not least, I extend special thanks to Mrs. Marta Santos Pais, the UNSGSR on Violence Against Children for her dedicated efforts, and to UNICEF MENARO for their support.

Dr. Sima Bahous



Assistant Secretary General

Head of Social Affairs

Department of Family and Childhood at the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States

The Department of Family and Childhood (DFC) at the LAS Secretariat is considered to be the technical secretariat of the Arab Childhood Committee (ACC) and the Arab Family Committee (AFC), which were both established as a result of decisions issued by the council of Arab ministers for social affairs. The DFC has two divisions: Family and Children, whose work addresses family- and child-related issues, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Activate the objectives of The Second Arab Plan of Action for childhood (2004-2015) that was adopted during the summit meetings of the LAS Council (Tunisia, 2004).
2. Activate the objectives listed in the Arab Family Strategy, adopted during the summit meetings of the LAS Council (Algeria, 2005).
3. Develop and work to implement child-related plans, strategies, programmes and projects, and support the role of the Arab family in collaboration with the relevant authorities, as well as to support national, regional and international activities appertaining to of the development of Arab children and families.
4. Prepare and develop the ACC and AFC meetings, and work to implement and follow up on the recommendations issued during these meetings.
5. Follow up on the implementation of the items and objectives of the children's rights-related Arab charters and international agreements that have been ratified by the Arab states in order to actively protect Arab children and adolescents rights.
6. Release regular reports on the state of Arab children and families, in addition to issuing an additional regular report on the conditions, status, key programmes and activities of the agencies involved in children's issues in the member states, as well as to consider amendments that might be introduced to the structures and regulations of these agencies.
7. Communicate, collaborate and coordinate with all relevant bodies concerned with child and family issues such as the following:
 - Relevant national and regional Arab agencies, ministerial councils, as well as specialized Arab organizations and technical departments at the LAS Secretariat whose mandates involve the child's rights and family matters.
 - International agencies and regional UN offices.
 - Regional organizations, non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in child and family affairs.
8. Hold and organize conferences, seminars, symposiums and workshops on topics related to children's rights and family issues.
9. Carry out and conduct theoretical and applied studies and research on topics related to Arab children and families.

10. Develop an Arab children's database and document pilot experiences and projects to enhance the sharing of pan-Arab experiences; develop national and regional indicators on family development, and set up a gender-based database.
11. Hold training courses on work areas related to children with the purpose of building the capacity of the specialized Arab staff in addition to developing training programmes to help families function effectively.
12. Coordinate the Arab Children Forum, regularly held on Arab Children's Day.
13. Participate in Arab events pertaining to children's rights, and child and family affairs in the Arab states.
14. Work to intensify Arab visibility in international child- and family-related forums and bodies.
15. Coordinate biannually Arab children's parliament sessions.

Acknowledgments

The DFC at the LAS Secretariat-General would like to express their thanks and gratitude to the ACC member states and the expert group tasked with the development of this report for their efforts; the General-Secretariat would also like to commend the constructive collaboration amongst the member states and the expert group in reviewing and enriching the draft version of the current report.

The DFC would also like to extend their thanks to Mrs. Marta Santos Pais, the UNSG Special Representative on Violence Against Children for her efforts to maintain cooperation and coordination with the LAS, and for following up on the efforts made by the Arab states in the area of ending violence against children. Mrs. Santos Pais has taken part in the launch ceremony of the report of this report during the fifth meeting of The FC UNSG's VAC (Beirut, 2010), in addition to the Fourth High-Level Arab Conference on the Rights of the Child (Marrakesh 2010). The DFC also appreciates the fact that the UNSGSR commended the LAS initiative to develop this report in order to complement the UNSG Study on Violence against Children; the Department also commends The FC UNSG's VAC for their efforts as manifested in the annual reports to the UNGA and The Council on Human Rights (Report no.: 262/A/65) and (54/A/HRC/16).

The DFC would also like to extend its thanks to the UNICEF MENARO, which has taken the initiative to translate this report into English.

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Introduction

(1) Report Background

The development of this report comes as part of the follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children and achievement of the objectives and measures of The Second Arab Plan of Action for childhood with regards to protection. In its capacity as the technical secretariat of the ACC, the Department of Family and Childhood (DFC), the body in charge of following up on the pan-Arab and international efforts to end violence against children, has participated in the Regional Steering Committee, which organized regional conferences on ending violence against children in Cairo (2005, 2006 and 2007) as part of the preparatory work for the UN study. This involvement was later reflected in the UN study presented during the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) at the end of 2006.

In light of the recommendations of the ACC during its 12th session (Damascus, 2006), violence against children was listed as a standing item on the CAC agenda; the aim is to promote a pan-Arab approach that reflects the commitment of Arab governments to providing protection for children. This move also comes as a result of efforts to implement the recommendations of the CAC 13th session (Riyadh 2007), during which an Arab Follow-up Committee was formed under the CAC – to be called the The FC UNSG's VAC, which held six meetings since its establishment. The meetings were dedicated to considering the UNSG's Study recommendations. The Follow-up Committee has recommended, during its first meeting in January, 2008 the development of a comparative Arab report on the implementation of the recommendations of the UNSG's VAC.

(2) Purpose of the Report

The Report aims at evaluating Arab efforts to end violence against children during the past five years. In addition, the report constitutes a pan-Arab vision of the future steps that are needed to provide protection for children against all forms of violence and abuse, which is one of the key objectives of The Second Arab Plan of Action for childhood. The report was also presented during the Fourth High-Level Arab Conference on the Rights of the Child (Marrakesh 2010) as a key document. It will also be forwarded to the UNSG in order to demonstrate the level of pan-Arab commitment to the implementation of the UNSG's Study on Violence Against Children. The Report aims at achieving the following objectives:

- To monitor the state of violence against children, and identify problems and priorities;
- To develop an action plan to end violence against children that includes:
 - Policy and programme design
 - Identification of the bodies in charge of coordinating execution
 - Allocation of necessary financial and human resources
 - Development of indicators to help evaluate performance and follow-up on implementation
- To develop an implementation mechanism across the Arab countries.

The ACC Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the UNSG's VAC

Based on recommendations from the ACC 12th session in Damascus (2006), violence against children has been listed as a standing item on the CAC meeting agendas in order to promote a pan-Arab approach that reflects the commitment of Arab governments to providing protection for children. In light of the outcomes of meetings during its 13th Session in Riyadh (2007), the Committee has made the following recommendations:

- Ask the technical secretariat to continue its coordination efforts and set up an Arab committee under ACC to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the UNSG's Study. The FC UNSG's VAC shall be mandated with the task of monitoring the implementation of the UNSG's Study recommendations by the Arab states, and of defining the modus operandi of the Committee in accordance with the following proposal:
- Heads of the national committees on ending violence against children should serve as members of the FC UNSG's VAC;
- Representatives of member states should select a chairperson for a term of one year provided that Egypt should be the first to chair the committee. Such chairmanship comes in appreciation of the vital and distinguished role Egypt has played in chairing the Regional Steering Committee, which has coordinated regional conferences and the study;
- The international partners and representatives from civil society should also serve as members of the Follow-up Committee; and
- The FC UNSG's VAC should meet twice a year provided that at least one of the two meetings takes place on the sidelines of the ACC meetings, while the other should convene at the Secretariat General headquarters.
-

In implementing this recommendation, the FC UNSG's VAC was formed and has thus far held six meetings, – the most recent of which was held in Cairo on 13 & 14 March 2011.

(3) Meetings of The FC UNSG's VAC

The FC UNSG's VAC held six meetings, the most recent of which was held in Cairo on 13 & 14 March 2011, to consider the UNSG's Study recommendations as follows:

- Meeting I: held at the LAS Secretariat General headquarters on 2-3 January, 2008, Egypt chaired the meetings in which twelve states took part.
- Meeting II: held on 4 June, 2008 on the sidelines of the 14th ACC session in Cairo; seventeen states took part.
- Meeting III: held in Rabat on 23-24 March 2009; it was chaired by Morocco and thirteen states took part.

- Meeting IV: held at the LAS headquarters on 3 June, 2009 on the sidelines of the 15th ACC session in Cairo; nineteen states took part.
- Meeting V: held on 28-29 June 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon and chaired by Mauritania on the sidelines of the 16th ACC session in Beirut; fifteen countries took part.
- Meeting VI: held at the LAS headquarters and chaired by Yemen, the meeting took place on 13-14 March 2011, and twelve states took part.

During the above mentioned FC UNSG's VAC meetings, the following key recommendations were made:

- Develop a questionnaire form to be filled out by the appropriate bodies in the member states in order to prepare a comparative report on the implementation of the recommendations of the UNSG's Study on Violence against Children. In implementing this recommendation, the DFC sent the questionnaire (developed by experts from Jordan, Egypt and Morocco) to governmental and non-governmental higher councils, committees, commissions and agencies involved with the issues of children;
- Prepare and present during the FC UNSG's VAC's third meeting a comprehensive and comparative report on the implementation of the UN Study recommendations in light of the states' responses to the questionnaire. A group of experts for the development of the report was formed from Jordan, Egypt and Morocco; the DFC called for an expert group meeting on 19-22 March 2009 to discuss the comparative report;
- Consider the means of cooperation with the UNSGSR on violence against children as well as with the UNSGSR on children and armed conflicts;
- Deliver the final version of the "Comparative Arab Report on the Implementation of the UNSG's Study on Violence Against Children" to the UNSGSR on violence against children prior to having the Report submitted to the UNGA as decided during the Fourth High-Level Arab Conference on the Rights of the Child (Marrakesh 2010); and
- Develop a study to review and analyze the laws and legislation relevant to child protection against all forms of violence; in implementation of this recommendation, the DFC called for an expert group meeting at the LAS headquarters on 15-16 June 2011 to commission the study.

Launching the Comparative Arab Report on the Implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children

During the fifth meeting of the Follow-up Committee that was held on 28-29 June 2010 in Beirut, the Comparative Arab Report on the Implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children was launched in the presence of the representatives of the member states, His Excellency Dr. Saleem al-Sayegh (Minister of Social Affairs in Lebanon), Dr. Marta Santos Pais (UNSGSR on violence against children), Dr. Sima Bahous (Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs) and Dr. Marelina Viviani (Deputy Director of UNICEF-MENARO).

Definition of 'Child'

For the purposes of the present study and in light of the definition provided in Article I of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a child is considered to be "every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier." In light of this definition, the information related to the strategy on ending violence against boys and girls who are under eighteen years of age was included in all sections of the questionnaire.

(4) Scope of the Report and the Preparatory Steps

Numerous sources were consulted in the process of developing this report. The first source consisted of the data collected from the responses of the following 19 Arab states that filled out the questionnaire specially designed for the present report: Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen.

The questionnaire was distributed to all governments of the Arab states in order to retrieve the data needed at the national level with reference to ending violence against children. The questionnaire included two key sections:

- I. The current state of violence against children – this section involves the following twelve themes:
 - Strengthening national and local commitment;
 - Prohibition of all forms of violence;
 - Prioritizing prevention;
 - Promoting the values of non-violence and raising awareness;
 - Enhancing the capacity of all parties involved in working with and for children;
 - Provision of juvenile correction and social integration services;
 - Ensuring child participation;
 - Establishing accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services;
 - Ensuring accountability and eliminating impunity;
 - Addressing the gender-based dimension of violence against children;
 - Introducing and implementing a standard system for national data collection and research; and
 - Strengthening international commitment.

II. Procedures to end violence against children in the following settings where violence occurs:

- Home and family;
- Schools and educational settings;
- Violence in care and juvenile justice systems;
- Violence in work settings;
- Violence in the local community; and
- Implementation and follow-up.

The second source used in this report is the body of reports developed the Arab and international agencies such as Save the Children, MENA country reports submitted as part of the UN Study and all studies and data accessed with reference to violence against children. The sources of the United Nations' various agencies on human and children's rights have also been counselled.

(5) Structure of the Report:

The Report is divided into three parts. The first section provides a survey and analysis of the current status of the phenomenon of violence against children in the Arab world in terms of the efforts put forth in this regard. These are manifested in strengthening national and local commitment to develop national action plans, strategies and responsibilities that outline the activities, and procedures and laws taken/enforced to end violence against children and provide protection for them. They also outline the laws that prohibit the worst forms of child labour and prioritize prevention and awareness-raising through the promotion of non-violent values. The process also includes raising awareness among all actors involved with children, using modern educational methods apart from legal policies and measures meant to protect children against violence, and the effective enforcement of these laws, including the role of civil society in combating this phenomenon.

Definition of Violence

The UN Secretary-General's Study adopts the definition of violence as enshrined in the WHO report on violence and health that defines violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation."

This study also refers to the definition of violence as scripted under Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the CEDAW, in addition to the definition that experts agreed upon during the WHO-organized meeting on prevention against violence. Such a reference is done in a way that would best serve the present study, since all these definitions accommodate all forms of physical and psychological violence, intentional neglect, ill-treatment or abuse, including the sexual abuse of children and child trafficking. Violence becomes more dangerous when it is perpetrated by those in charge of the child or those who provide care for children. Violence against children includes physical violence, psychological violence, discrimination, negligence, abuse ranging between sexual molestation at the household level and corporal and degrading punishment at school, inflicting harm and neglect at institutions and gang fights in the streets where children work or play, and the killing of children and the phenomenon of "honour killings".

Part II of the report presents the recommendations that are derived from and the country reports and the information they contain. In each case, relevant bodies and their roles and responsibilities to end violence against children are identified. The report also highlights, in this part, the recommended measures to be followed in the area of legislation and policy design as well as the procedures to be put in place in the settings where violence against children occurs: home, family, school, educational settings, care and juvenile justice systems, work settings and in the local community.

Finally, Part III provides a range of actionable recommendations to implement the recommendations of the UNSG's Study on Violence against Children at the pan-Arab level. It also includes a collection of practical proposals to end violence against children in settings where such violence occurs. Part III suggests examples of the lessons learned from the success stories across the Arab world in the area of child protection against violence. In addition, this section of the Report addresses the challenges and difficulties that hinder procedures to implement relevant international recommendations; and it concludes with a set of programmes and activities proposed to implement the practical objectives set to fulfil the recommendations of the UN Study, for which each country is free to develop an implementation timeline.

Executive Summary

Chapter I: The Current Situation

Chapter I of this report analyzes the efforts Arab states have exerted to implement the universal recommendations of the UN Secretary-General Study on Violence Against Children in light of the data retrieved from questionnaires provided by the Arab agencies in charge of the handling of children's issues, which was prepared by the LAS's DFC.

(1) Strengthening local and national commitment and action plans

Child protection strategies and plans of action:

The Arab states have achieved remarkable progress with reference to developing child protection strategies and plans of action, including those related to violence against children. Most countries who responded to the questionnaire have developed separate national plans to end violence against children. Some states have developed specific and accurate objectives to end violence against children. Other countries have sought to provide safeguards that ensure the success of the strategies and plans of actions to end violence against children, such as political and financial support from political and administrative leaderships, securing funding from various sources, and mobilization of resources and efforts for implementation and evaluation activities.

Agencies responsible for child protection planning:

The report has revealed that many Arab states have independent agencies charged with child-related policies whereas other countries have many agencies that are jointly involved in policy design and planning. This indicates that there are two points of departure from which to address issues related to children: the first is specific and focuses on specialization, and the coordinating role a specialized agency can play, while the second is generic and connected to the nature of planning for children by various ministries, commissions and committees. Each access point has its own advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, the solution is to combine the two approaches; the existence of an independent body on children does not mean that coordination with various ministries, commissions and committees should be overlooked.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) agencies:

The Report explains that agencies mandated with child protection planning, policy design and strategies are responsible for the follow-up and implementation of children's rights. An increasingly prominent role is being given to independent NGOs so that they can fulfil their roles in monitoring the rights of the child. Such tasks can be delivered either through enabling these NGOs to become involved in government structures and institutions, or by allowing them to implement their own independent programmes – a positive indicator of gradual development toward independent monitoring. In a different vein, systems that monitor and evaluate the implementation of national child-oriented strategies, policies and action plans have become more visible across the Arab states.

Therefore, we find that some states do have M&E mechanisms in place to measure child-related national strategies, policies and action plans. These mechanisms are diverse, taking the form of

regular reports, the development of evaluation studies, the preparation of field and administrative surveys, and the holding of specialized meetings, as well as monitoring-specific activities.

(2) Prohibition of all forms of violence against children

The Report reveals that most Arab states have laws that prohibit the death penalty and life imprisonment for children. Some states have achieved great progress with reference to alignment of legal provisions to the standards of child protection against all forms of violence. Other states are developing bills (draft laws) to protect children against all known forms of violence. The Report addresses forms of violence against children and laws to prohibit such violence as follows:

Female Genital Cutting/ Mutilation (FGC/M):

The practice of female circumcision, female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) does not occur across all Arab societies; some Arab states have emphasized that such practices are not present within their borders. Other countries in which FGC/M is prevalent have described efforts put forth to combat the practice through national strategies and legislation criminalizing it.

Honour Crimes:

Some countries have stated that honour crimes do not occur within their borders, others have conceded that such crimes do take place against females and are often justified as being committed under the pretext of defending honour. There are laws that prohibit honour crimes, and stipulate harsh penalties.

Early Marriages:

Despite a general trend towards raising the minimum age for marriage in Arab countries, the practice of early marriage is still widespread in many areas. Many countries in the region have a low legal minimum age for marriage, although some countries have made remarkable progress in combating early marriage. Across the region, there are discrepancies in the minimum age for marriage, which ranges between 16, 17 and 18 years old. Some countries are currently working to make the age of 18 years the minimum legal age for marriage so as to prevent female minor marriages and set a proper age limit for female marriages.

Despite legislative emphasis on early marriage issues, the age of marriage remains low, and key issues such as education have not been fully considered. Due to the correlation between the legal age of marriage and the age at which girls complete their secondary schooling, early marriage could present a hindrance to the completion of secondary education and progression to university studies.

Corporal Punishment:

The issue of the child's right to protection against corporal punishment has received ample attention recently from all relevant bodies. In this regard, most countries issued laws that ban corporal punishment in school along with other cruel or degrading treatment, including violence and physical abuse, or the threat of any other form of physical violence.

Sexual Violence:

The majority of countries emphasized that they have in place laws that prohibit sexual violence and torture. In this respect, it can be noted that all member states who have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) optional protocol on the trafficking of children, and the use of the child in areas of prostitution and pornography have committed themselves to putting in place preliminary measures and procedures to protect children against different forms of sexual violence. Laws on children's rights and detailed legislation manifested in the penal codes and executive regulations rank first in terms of their significance in efforts to prohibit sexual violence against children.

(3) Prioritizing Prevention

Policies and Programmes for Prevention of Violence:

With reference to the procedures put in place to address risk factors so as to pre-emptively end violence, the findings of the questionnaire have revealed that the majority of the Arab states have a diverse collection of policies, programmes and institutions that target social and human development and provide support for families living in difficult conditions.

Resources allocated for violence prevention:

Most countries have revealed that they have earmarked resources in the budgets of Ministries or institutions for the implementation of preventive programmes and fund-raising. Other countries have also indicated that their standing and fixed budgets for program implementation are limited, as it is an issue linked to external funding. In addition to their government budgets, some states also depend on special social affairs funds.

The overall volume of resources allocated for ending violence against children cannot be precisely calculated from the available information. On the other hand, it can be noted that utilizing available international support oriented towards children currently takes place on a very limited scale. Overall, there is a shortfall in the financial resources earmarked for the requirements of strategy implementation, action plans and programmes of prevention against violence.

Promoting the Values of Non-violence and Raising Awareness

By analyzing the available data on the states' roles in promoting the values of non-violence and raising awareness, it can be seen that all countries have created initiatives to put in place a number of procedures and programmes that target the publication and dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the distribution of a set of documents that introduce the relevant laws necessary for the enforcement of the Convention and release of simplified versions for distribution amongst children.

Upon extrapolation of the response inputs with reference to procedures applied to ensure that the child's rights are published and understood by adults and children alike, it is worth mentioning that the majority of the Arab states have placed an increasing emphasis on promoting children's rights-related cultural values and mindsets. Overall, the combined experiences of the Arab states can be viewed as an integrated strategy, provided that these experiences and information are shared amongst them.

In the available information on the media campaigns launched to raise awareness in the communities about the harmful effects that violence can have on children, it is revealed that most Arab states prioritize media campaigns that are public-oriented; they also seek to broadcast programmes in media outlets in order to end violence against children and promote their rights. They have also launched awareness campaigns through education, fine arts-based and cultural programmes, in addition to publishing and distributing TV and cinematic footage and tapes on children's rights-related issues.

(4) Enhancing the capacity of all parties working with and for children

Programmes and activities oriented to build the capacity of all parties working with children:

When it comes to programmes and activities targeting capacity building of actors involved in eliminating all forms of violence against children, the available inputs reflect a trend amongst the majority of Arab states towards emphasizing capacity building of all parties engaging with children. To this effect, training courses, manuals and standard guidelines have been developed to improve the capacity of such workers in dealing with children on psychological, social and legal levels.

Curricular Education Programmes and Activities:

With reference to programmes and activities across curricular education, we can note tremendous efforts by most Arab states to include elimination of violence and child's rights in the curricula at all levels of primary, secondary and tertiary education. Definite procedures and protocols are being developed to define the roles and responsibilities of employees in institutions in dealing with cases of violence. The Arab states have worked to develop major programs of study at the university level and in social worker training facilities focused on engagement with children. We can also note that there is tangible emphasis on the issue of developing curricula and guides connected to the determination of cases of violence against children, as well as the ways to handle and monitor them through reliance on local and foreign expertise. Some countries have already embarked on developing codes of conduct for agencies specialized in child care.

(5) Provision of Juvenile Correction and Social Integration Services

Care facilitating health services:

Some states provide a wide range of health services that facilitate pre-hospitalization and emergency care. A number of pilot programmes and projects are in place to serve this area, such as the development of procedures and protocols that regulate coordination amongst contributing actors and the provision of fixed or mobile specialized units to deal with cases of violence and introduce maternal and child health programmes. These programmes also include those related to training medical staff and physicians to diagnose symptoms and signs caused by violence and preparation of staffers to be specialized in early detection and reporting of early signs and symptoms of violence.

Social services and programmes designed to detect violence:

With reference to the provision of violence detection and prevention-oriented social services and programmes, the majority of the Arab states are gradually moving toward introducing toll-free telephone lines to receive complaints and offer guidance and counselling services; to this effect, special institutions have been established to receive and follow up on cases of violence against children.

Legal aid programmes for children and their families:

With regards to child and family legal assistance programmes, some states have provided data on the offering of legal aid through diverse mechanisms and projects such as child protection and care in criminal justice programmes, while other countries offer legal aid and counselling to children and their families. Services that are offered for children include judicial and police services and legal assistance. Some NGOs also provide legal services within the framework of offering assistance and advice. These services include the following: legal advice, judicial assistance (this includes hiring defence counsels on a voluntary basis) for clients that cannot afford to retain a lawyer. They also include fees and contacting security services when monitoring a case in order to provide safety on the one hand, and ensure observance of litigation proceedings or provision of shelter on the other.

Available data also emphasize that the majority of countries dedicate volunteer lawyers for representation and free advice as part of child and family legal assistance initiatives. We also note the trend across some areas towards introducing public institutions that provide legal services. NGOs received grants to implement projects to provide legal assistance for children.

Health services intended to meet children's special needs:

With reference to this type of services, which help protect children against violence, a number of countries provided information on health services targeting children, particularly in the area of protection against violence. In light of the absence of clear progress indicators in this area, a group of countries shares the practice of making it mandatory to report all cases of violence against children while providing support for the NGOs specialized in this area.

(6) Ensuring Child Participation

From the Arab states' responses to the questionnaire, it can be seen that there are pilot experiences that pertain to the establishment of children's parliaments in some states, in addition to the existence of student bodies, municipal councils and child forums in some countries.

It can be noted that the number of the Arab states that seek to engage children in child strategy planning and development is growing at a remarkable pace. Children in a number of Arab states take part in local and national workshops and pan-Arab forums on issues of concern. There, children are given complete freedom to discuss their issues and express their needs; in addition, students are given the freedom to select the activities and courses that suit their aptitude and capacity. They are also encouraged to be creative in their respective schools and communities. Children's parliaments are considered to be amongst the most important forums where children can express their views on all children's issues, the rights of the child and child-oriented programmes. Many Arab states have laws that ensure child participation in civil society and planning.

(7) Establishing accessible and child-friendly reporting systems

With reference to the safety mechanisms that countries put in place to receive reports on cases of violence from children themselves or from others, available inputs reveal that the majority of Arab states have been placing increasing emphasis on introducing safe reporting mechanisms and frameworks to enable children and their parents to report all cases of violence with complete secrecy, while stressing the need to enact laws that make reporting a mandatory exercise. Hotlines have also been established to receive reports about cases of violence against children.

In addition to criminal justice institutions, all countries – with only few exceptions – have relied on toll-free telephone lines to receive complaints and recording of complaints by groups of social workers. Civil society plays an important role in establishing reception centres and introducing the notion to children and parents while educating them about the telephone line services and listening and guidance centres.

(8) Ensuring accountability and eliminating impunity

Safeguards that equally guarantee justice against the perpetrators of crimes against children vary from one country to another. The majority of countries have laws that guarantee just punishment such as the Penal Code, Children Acts, or legislation on care for minors or juveniles. These laws provide for the punishment of perpetrators of crimes against children. Penalties vary across countries as per the acts committed under the laws of each country.

Safeguards to guarantee just systems:

Available data show that the majority of countries are on track to incriminate acts of violence against children and institute harsher penalties for perpetrators.

Procedures and Penalties:

It was found that appropriate penal, civil, administrative and professional procedures and penalties to hold accountable the perpetrators of crimes against children, regardless of their positions, vary from one country to another. Available inputs indicate that some states have laws that guarantee certain procedures and penalties to hold perpetrators of crimes against children accountable. In other states, there are universal laws that regulate this issue such as the penal code and the corpus of penalties. A third group of countries has special or ad hoc laws to hold perpetrators accountable; these are related to the sites or institutions concerned, such as families, educational institutions, shelter agencies for children and work settings.

Measures against perpetrators of crimes of violence:

Measures have been put in place to restrict those convicted of child abuse and molestation from contact with children. In addition to measures to expel perpetrators from employment that brings them into contact with minors, some states have described legal safeguards to prohibit such perpetrators from being allowed to work with children again in the future. There are other countries that follow other legal procedures to ensure punishment for such criminals.

(9) Addressing the gender-based dimension of violence against children:

Available inputs in this aspect show that action is concentrated at legal levels in the majority of countries. In general, clear data pertaining to mainstreaming gender-sensitive policies, programmes and measures to end violence against children and address all forms of gender-based discrimination have not been provided.

In general, it can be noted that a group of Arab states are inclined towards setting up women-, children- and family-specific ministries, institutions and administrations. In their capacity as oversight and guiding bodies, these institutions are mandated with monitoring the implementation of government strategies and plans to protect women and children. To this effect, the human rights ministries, councils and organizations as well as the specialized civil society organizations have been playing an increasingly important role. The accumulation of their expertise could lead to improvement in needs assessment, policy development and programme implementation and monitoring.

(10) Introducing and implementing a standard system for national data collection and research

With reference to the existing systems to collect data and information on underprivileged groups and monitoring forms and cases of violence, the situation suggests the lack of a standard system of data collection. There are no integrated information systems connecting institutions working to end violence against children. Likewise, there are no accurate systems to identify regular data collection indicators regarding cases of violence against children.

The report indicates that some states commission qualitative and quantitative studies on children in order to provide information and statistics on their various conditions. In other countries, there are also agencies mandated with monitoring indicators, observatories for reporting, training and documentation, and family, women and children data centres and banks. Some states are even experimenting with setting up special child-specific databases.

This information highlights the challenges and obstacles that hinder data collection and the conduction of research. The process of developing mechanisms to enable regular and sustainable data can be collected on the state of children and the quality of life they lead, as well as the facets of violence and ill-treatment they face will require more time and effort. This situation exposes the shortfall in research and studies of children's issues in general and on the abuse of children in particular. Likewise, a gap exists in the implementation of regular surveys that could provide reliable databases to support the design of policies and strategies to address childhood problems.

(11) Strengthening International Commitment

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two optional protocols:

With the exception of Somalia, all Arab states have confirmed that they are legally committed to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by virtue of signing and ratifying the Convention and eventually having it incorporated within their domestic laws (in official laws, legislation and

other fields) so that it can become enforceable. Twenty-one Arab states have signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); most of the ratification processes took place between 1990 and 1997. Despite signing in 2002, Somalia has yet to ratify the Convention.

All Arab states that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) have submitted their preliminary reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and have been preparing their reports regularly. Most countries have developed adequate experience in developing and presenting reports as well as in monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the CRC Committee's observations on state performance. Similarly, most Arab states have passed or ratified the two optional protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and many states have already developed and reviewed their preliminary reports as per the specific timeline given.

International and regional human rights instruments relevant to child protection:

With reference to ratifying international and regional human rights instruments on child protection, the Report highlights, in a collection of tables, the status of Arab states' ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its two optional protocols, the ICESCR, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, the CEDAW and its optional protocol, the Convention on the Elimination of Torture and Other Forms of Severe, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Family Members, the ILO Agreement 138 on Minimum Age, and the ILO Agreement 182 on Prohibiting the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the immediate procedures to eradicate such forms.

Extrapolation of the data in the tables reveals that some countries have achieved progress but others have not when it comes to ratification of these regional and international instruments. Progress has been achieved at the level of the procedures in place to implement the international and regional commitments to end violence. When analyzed vis-à-vis the international commitment, the pan-Arab approach suffers from a gap that separates the reality on the ground from the standards and specifications enshrined in these instruments. This situation highlights the need to develop a consolidated pan-Arab plan of action with reference to the international commitment to the conventions and protocols involving human rights in general, and children's rights in particular.

Chapter II: Roles and Responsibilities of Parties Involved with ending Violence against Children (Settings in which violence against children occurs)

Chapter II presents a comparison and analysis of the recommendations given in the Arab states' questionnaires on the roles and responsibilities of bodies concerned with ending violence against children. The questionnaires include a group of recommendations related to the five settings where violence takes place (in light of the classification in the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children). These five settings are as follows: home and family, schools and educational settings, care and juvenile justice systems, work settings and the local community.

(1) Home and Family

The key themes of ending violence against children at home and in family settings were focused on the level of the development of programmes; the aim is to educate parents and care providers, and offer parental education and conduct capacity building exercises for families who live in difficult conditions, and to hold training sessions and seminars for families, and institutions that support parents.

The recommendations made by the Arab states that have been surveyed demonstrate that these countries generally and increasingly place emphasis on programmes that target families in difficult circumstances such as female-headed households, women in rural areas and families with limited income. As for parental education, the Arab states need to redouble their efforts in this area, particularly due to the fact that targeted programmes are few and far between. In the meantime, they focus on media-related programmes, publications, journals and periodicals.

(2) Schools and Educational Settings

With reference to schools and educational settings, the responses to the questionnaires concentrated on the following themes: encouraging schools to adopt and implement violence-free behavioural systems; developing a teaching strategy that is free from violence, intimidation, threat, humiliation or use of physical force; developing programmes for school settings; promoting skill development; adopting violence-free curricula; implementing anti-intimidation policies and alignment of the violence-free curricula and pedagogical methods, as well as the other practices laid out by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) principles.

The data from the questionnaire show that some of the Arab states have not yet managed to develop school-oriented behavioural methods and systems. By contrast, there is an increasing interest in addressing violence at schools.

Regarding pedagogical strategies and methodologies characterized by a lack of violence, intimidation, threats, humiliation or use of physical force, the data reveals that there is a dire need to pay more attention to this issue in order to achieve a situation where violence and other forms of harsh treatment cease to be an aspect of classroom conduct. Countries should not be satisfied with sporadic programmes and activities that lack universality and integration, and should take advantage of practical indicators to develop appropriate strategies in this respect.

When it comes to policies that target school settings and promote skill building and a culture of non-violence and anti-violence policies, the Arab states do show interest in having violence-free school settings and adopting a corpus of laws, programmes and activities to preserve childrens' rights at school.

As for alignment of the curricular teaching methodology and other practices with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), most Arab states are exerting efforts to promote a culture concerned with childrens' rights among the various officials and employees in the educational system. The purpose of this is to ensure that these methodologies, curricula and related principles are in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) principles. Some Arab countries have already implemented these principles in school curricula at various levels, in addition to the application of concepts of protection of children against violence.

(3) Violence in Care and Juvenile Justice Systems

In this area, responses provided by the Arab states came in line with several themes relating to the role of care and justice juvenile systems in reducing violence against children: efforts in place to reduce the rates of placement of children in institutions, prioritizing the maintenance of family integrity and other societal alternatives, efforts to reduce the number of children in juvenile justice systems, promoting alternative measures and rehabilitation programmes, policies to promote regular reviews of the measures, preference for transferring children into family- or community-based care systems, independent complaint and investigation mechanisms and facilitating access to address cases of violence in care and juvenile justice systems, programmes on raising the awareness amongst children on their rights within these institutions, procedures in place to facilitate access by the children placed in institutions to the mechanisms designed for their protection, and independent bodies that are mandated with monitoring the state of children in care and juvenile justice institutions.

The questionnaire responses in this regard have shown a set of key points that can be summarized as follows:

Reducing the rates of placement of children in institutional care:

Awareness about the need to go beyond institutional policy has increased across the Arab states, as it is the only solution to address cases of children in difficult circumstances, including those who are charged with violating the law. Some states also have in place special programmes for designating specialized mechanisms and human resources in order to promote keeping the child within their family unit. These measures include mediation, family support, foster families and promotion of the kafala system. Some other countries have also opted for the implementation of programmes and activities to raise awareness about the role of the family in all child-related measures.

As for children in conflict with the law, it has been found that Arab states have opted for developing special laws that protect this segment of children, prioritizing child rehabilitation and social reintegration, involving families in all measures to be taken, developing special programmes for legal assistance and counselling and supporting mediation and problem-solving mechanisms. Some other states have embarked on preparing bills to entrench the concept of alternatives for custody-based penalties that deny children in conflict with the law their freedom.

Reducing the number of children placed in juvenile justice systems:

All Arab states have worked to introduce a judicial mechanism to enhance the protection of children in conflict with the law. This work also involves focusing on increasing the minimum age for criminal responsibility in some countries and adopting mediation and reconciliation as primary mechanisms prior to resorting to legal recourse so as to maintain the child's best interest and emphasize the educational role a judge can play in their rehabilitation.

Some Arab states have also opted to set up special programmes to provide legal assistance and counselling, and to train specialists on prioritizing the child's best interest and realizing the importance of resorting to non-custody measures for children in conflict with the law. This is in addition to supporting the NGOs in carrying out their roles in counselling and guidance as well as in implementing social monitoring and post-care programmes.

Promoting alternative measures and rehabilitation programmes:

From the information available in this respect, it can be discerned that Arab states are eager to prioritize alternative measures. This can be achieved through developing new legislation that would provide an alternative to imprisonment as a punishment. The legislation would also provide for establishing special courts for children and developing programmes to rehabilitate juvenile delinquents outside the regular institutions, as well as training a number of specialists on education and psychological areas. These efforts are aimed at monitoring the state of the children and parents for the cases that may so require. In contrast, some countries are outsourcing NGOs to implement programmes with alternative measures and double the number of the existing reception, guidance and monitoring centres.

Promoting regular reviews of measures, with emphasis on child transfer to family or community-based care:

Inputs in this regard have indicated that some procedures and activities promote family care that focuses on the development and promotion of reviews of child-related judicial measures and on monitoring child-specific or family-related cases.

The independent mechanisms for complaints, investigations and access to address cases of violence in care and juvenile justice systems:

No data from the Arab countries was received with reference to the independent mechanisms in place for receiving complaints, conducting investigations and accessing the treatment of cases of violence in the care and juvenile justice systems. Some countries mentioned the work of national human rights institutions in general in relation to this point.

Special programmes on raising the awareness among children about their rights inside institutions:

Data inputs indicate that such programmes are spread across a group of procedures and activities that share some points in common across the Arab states, which have provided information in this regard. These points include the following: mainstreaming the child's rights in curricula and study programmes, organizing training courses and media programmes and publishing literature on children's rights education.

Procedures to facilitate access of children in institutional care to the existing protection mechanisms:

Responses to the questionnaire have not provided sufficient information on the procedures in place to facilitate access of institutionalized children to available protection mechanisms. The exception here applies to the availability of toll-free telephone lines and the existence of awareness-raising programmes. Some states that have indicated the existence of legal and regulatory provisions organized through receiving agencies to pay regular visits to institutions to check on the conditions of the children and to receive complaints.

The independent bodies mandated to monitor the state of children inside care and juvenile justice institutions:

The majority of countries that responded to the questionnaire did not offer complete information on the availability of independent bodies mandated with monitoring the state of children inside care and juvenile justice institutions. Information received from a few states that responded to this section indicates that government institutions do exist but did not reference any independent bodies or agencies.

These outcomes emphasize that the Arab states in general, despite the significant role played by care and juvenile justice systems in ending violence against children, still need to develop mechanisms to enhance child protection programmes, to support children lacking family support and to introduce new strategies to activate the role of care and juvenile justice systems in ending violence against children.

(1) Violence in Work Settings

The recommendations made in the Arab states' responses to the questionnaire focused on a number of themes relating to ending violence against children in work settings. These themes are as follows: measures put in place to enforce labour laws with particular reference to prohibition of child labour, measures to universalize prohibition of child labour in general and the worst forms of such labour in particular, programmes and measures that are associated with ending violence in work settings, programmes for withdrawal of children from work settings and re-integrating them and how to involve the private sector, labour unions and the civil society in programmes to prevent and combat child labour.

Measures to enforce labour laws, particularly those prohibiting child labour:

Some countries offered information that indicates, on aggregate, the availability of legal provisions appertaining to making primary education compulsory, prohibiting child labour and increasing the age of accessing the labour market to 15, 16 or 18 years (these ages vary across the states). Added to that is the prohibition on employing children in work hazardous to their health and of limiting the working hours for children aged 15-18 years. Some states have also developed national strategies to prevent child labour, form national committees and set up units to combat child labour.

Measures to prevent child labour in general and the worst forms of such labour in particular:

In this respect, responses have emphasized the availability of inspection bodies and mechanisms, for the withdrawal and rehabilitation of child workers through vocational education, training, and awareness-raising activities.

Programmes and measures associated with ending violence in work settings:

Available responses stressed reliance on oversight to end violence in the work settings through intensifying inspection tours and setting up complaint-receiving committees, in addition to enforcing fines and penalties and organizing awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with civil society.

Programmes for withdrawal of children from work settings, and for their re-integration:

The responses indicate that the majority of countries do not have standing programmes to withdraw children from work settings and re-integrate them. They indicated some activities, however, that aim at re-enrolling children in schools and vocational training programs, as well as offering assistance to child-headed households so as to enable them to re-enrol in school. Responses also reflect efforts to follow-up on complaints, launch media campaigns on risks associated with child labour, collaborate with NGOs in awareness raising and education, introduce education programmes, and improve the economic conditions of families.

How to involve the private sector, labour unions and civil society in programmes to prevent and combat child labour:

With reference to involving the private sector, labour unions and civil society in such programmes, the responses show poor performance overall. Some countries, however, underlined the fact that their national programmes to prevent child labour include numerous partners at governmental and non-governmental levels. All relevant bodies are involved in the planning to address this phenomenon, in terms of both implementation and providing support; all activities are based on the participatory approach to reducing child labour.

(2) Violence in the local Community

Regarding the role of the local community in the prohibition of violence against children, the responses of the Arab states reflected the following key points: strategies to prevent and end violence at the local level, programmes and policies adopted to reduce social and economic disparities, children's rights -related training programmes that target the police and other security agencies, efforts at the local community level to coordinate and monitor the services targeting child victims of violence, and the role of the local community in enhancing and supporting government and civil society initiatives to prevent and end violence against children.

Strategies to prevent and end violence at the local level:

Responses provided by some states indicate that there exist some strategies to prevent and end violence against children at the local level, in addition to other national strategies that cover such type of violence in a number of other countries.

Programmes and policies adopted to reduce socioeconomic disparities:

The majority of the Arab states' responses in reference to such policies and programmes emphasize that there are special social funds to finance poverty reduction projects, housing programmes, and income-generating projects; to support and promote NGOs to implement local development projects and poverty reduction. In general, improving the overall standard of living has become a strategic goal for development.

Children's rights -related training programmes targeting the police and other related security agencies:

With reference to such programmes that are aimed at training police and other security agencies on children's rights and educating them about the nature of violence against children, no information was made available by participants in the questionnaire. Available responses focused on training courses held to train the security agencies on the rights of the child and the bodies in charge of offering such courses.

Efforts at the local community level to coordinate and monitor services that target child victims of violence:

Responses to the questionnaires offered no sufficient inputs on this topic. Some states stressed that there are units, cells and centres in charge of coordinating the services and attending to child victims of violence.

The role of the local community in enhancing and supporting government and civil society initiatives to prevent and prohibit violence against children:

Upon surveying the responses presented in this area, some Arab states emphasized the role of the local community in ending violence against children. Other states, however, explained that they have no specific mechanisms to address this issue, although initiatives by NGOs in the area of ending violence against children exist.

(3) Implementation and Follow-up

Responses from the Arab states on implementation and follow-up covered the following themes: completing the national planning efforts for measures to end violence against children, the body in charge of coordinating the national planning for ending violence against children, development and finalization of bills by 2009 on ending violence against children, forms of cooperation with international agencies and international financial institutions to improve the child protection indicators in their respective settings, establishing an ombudsmen system or children's rights commissioners, and the mandates and guarantees vested in them to monitor children's rights and receive complaints.

Completing the national planning efforts for measures to end violence against children:

Some countries continue to work at the national level to develop plans to end violence against children whereas other countries have asserted that they have completed the national planning process.

The body in charge of coordinating the national planning for ending violence against children:

State responses in this regard to this issue indicate that the responsibility is spread across more than one body to include other authorities, committees and even councils within government structures that are tasked with social affairs.

Development and finalization of bills by 2009 on ending violence against children:

Some states indicate that they do have bills on children in general as well as other laws on prevention of female circumcision, juvenile delinquency and combating human trafficking.

Forms of cooperation with international agencies and international financial institutions to improve child protection indicators in their respective settings:

Some countries made reference to the ongoing collaboration with UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, OCHA, Save the Children Sweden, UK Union for Child Relief, EU, USAID and the World Bank Group.

Establishing an ombudsmen system or children's rights commissioner, and the mandates and guarantees vested in them to monitor children's rights and receive complaints:

The majority of countries' responses to the questionnaire in this regard show that there are ombudsmen systems or child's rights commissioners in the Arab states.

Recommendations

The recommendations, which can be derived from the questionnaires, on enhancing efforts toward ending violence against children show, that the overall results emphasize the fact that the pan-Arab region has achieved a remarkable progress in addressing the problem of violence against children. The recommendations also demonstrate that the strategies and mechanisms designed to address this type of violence have been put in place, agencies to implement the ensuing policies have been established, and various necessary pieces of legislation have been developed.

Despite the disparities among the Arab states in terms of their starting points in addressing this issue, and the nature of institutions concerned with children's issues, all states realize the importance of this matter and agree on the need to redouble efforts to prevent all forms of violence against and abuse of children. Most Arab countries resort to setting up official and government bodies as a means to achieve their objectives in this regard. Yet, most countries have created a space for independent and civil society institutions to implement child-oriented policies while using the principle of partnership in implementing social policies. The Report includes a collection of actionable recommendations that can enhance efforts aimed at ending violence against children, located at the end of this chapter.

Chapter III: Actionable Recommendations to Implement the Recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children at the pan-Arab Level

Chapter III presents a range of actionable recommendations for the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children at the pan-Arab level. It also surveys the principles that need to be taken into consideration regarding the implementation of these recommendations, which include full protection for all groups of children against all forms of violence, ill-treatment, abuse and neglect. The recommendations also include working toward achieving a multi-faceted universal approach focused on prevention and direct intervention to address damage inflicted. In addition, they also call for adopting rights-based and non-discriminatory approaches and achieving the integration of programmes and strategies, as well as working to establish coordination and partnership among all relevant bodies.

In addition to actionable recommendations, this chapter also includes a group of practical suggestions to end violence against children in the various settings where such violence takes place. It also presents sample lessons learned across the success stories in the Arab region in the area of protecting children against violence. The chapter also addresses the challenges and difficulties that hinder the implementation of the international recommendations to end violence against children.

The chapter concludes with a list of proposed programmes and activities to implement the practical objectives of the implementation of the recommendation of UNSG's study. Against this background, each state can define its own time frame to be implemented in 2011 and 2012 as per the current administrative status, the available financial and human resources and the expertise they have accumulated. These activities can be implemented through coordination and networking between governmental and non-governmental bodies.

Appendix

The report includes a special appendix on Arab states' ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two optional protocols, in addition to the relevant international and regional human rights instruments in light of the UN's most recent international references.

Chapter I

Current Situation

The United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children (UNSG's VAC) made comprehensive recommendations that include available information on regional and national efforts to end violence against children, and is primarily addressed to governmental agencies on relevant legislative, administrative and judicial frameworks, as well as on those relating to policy-making, service delivery and institutional functions. The recommendations also addresses important sectors, such as public bodies, professional capacity, labour issues, research institutions, businessmen and employers, and non-governmental organizations, in addition to parents and children.

The present document reviews efforts made by Arab countries, as detailed in their responses to the questionnaire Set by the Department of Family and childhood (DFC) at the League of Arab States (LAS).

(1) Strengthening local and national commitment and action

Child protection strategies and plans

The key recommendation highlighted by the UNSG's SVC is the need to develop national plans with clear objectives, specific timeframes and clear-cut responsibilities that define the activities and actions to be undertaken by countries under their strategies for ending violence against children in the development of indicators to measure progress. This effort also includes the formulation of national strategies and plans based on realistic goals in partnership with various sectors, whether in terms of devising national programmes or implementation.

This report emphasizes compliance by countries with the UNSG's SVC recommendations, and focuses on identifying national strategies and plans that have been developed across Arab states. The report recognizes that Arab countries have achieved significant progress in the development of strategies and plans for the protection of children from violence. Among the 19 countries that responded to the questionnaire, 18 countries have already designed independent national strategies to end violence against children, with specific targets, including accurate plans with indicators measuring success. These countries are Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen.

Framework 1: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary General's Comprehensive Study on Violence against Children

1 - Strengthen national and local commitment and action States shall develop a multi-faceted and systematic framework to respond to violence against children which is integrated into national planning processes. A national strategy, policy or plan of action on violence against children with realistic and time-bound targets, coordinated by an agency with the capacity to involve multiple sectors in a broad-based implementation strategy, should be formulated. National laws, policies, plans and programmes should fully comply with international human rights and current scientific knowledge. The implementation of the national strategy, policy or plan should be systematically evaluated according to established targets and timetables, and provided with adequate human and financial resources to support its implementation.

The reports indicate variations in strategies and national action plans adopted by countries. In terms of strategies and plans, based on the information available from the states' reports, it is clear that many Arab countries have either developed specific national plans of action to end violence against children (Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen) and/or introduced activities and programmes for child protection under national plans or strategies (Jordan, Lebanon¹, and Morocco).

Table 1 shows the number of countries that developed strategies and national action plans, and have already begun the implementation process. Observations on these strategies and action plans are described in detail with reference to the data received in the responses to the questionnaire, which reveal the extent of attention that has been given to issues of child protection in planning and programming, and reflects interest expressed by concerned ministries and institutions.

1.1: Child protection plans and strategies

The table below summarizes efforts by Arab countries to develop plans and policies to end violence against children, based on responses to the questionnaire. The plans have been undertaken at various paces and levels of depth across the Arab states. Additionally, the clarity of objectives ranges broadly: Eleven countries have set specific targets and implemented precise procedures to address violence against children. Table 2 displays the countries' efforts from this perspective.

Success factors for strategies and plans confronting violence against children

Available data indicate that countries have developed action plans to combat violence against children, with specific objectives; however, only five countries managed to provide factors of success: Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania. Main success factors include:

- Gathering political and financial support from political and administrative bodies at the central level.
- Allocating budgets for specific plans and clear indicators.
- Raising funds from multiple sources.
- Sharing information, monitoring cases at risk, building the capacity of relevant technical personnel, and acquiring skills.
- Mobilizing resources and efforts in the implementation and evaluation processes.
- Raising awareness about the harmful effects of violence against children and changing the existing attitudes and misconceptions.
- Hiring competent personnel in the areas of children's affairs.
- Rationalizing goals and expanding financial and human resources allocated to promote the rights of the child.
- Developing mechanisms of partnership and joint technical committees across sectors with precise allocation of responsibilities.
- Forming a ministerial committee for children to follow-up on action plans.
- Making periodic governmental progress reports on the implementation of the action plans.

Table 1: Strategies and action plans for child protection and ending violence against children in the Arab states

Country	Strategies and action plans for child protection
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Plan for Family Protection and Prevention of Domestic Violence, 2005-2009. - Jordanian National Plan for children, 2004-2013. - National Strategy for Reduction of Child Labour.
United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal Government Strategic Plan, 2008 -2010. - Ministry of Social Affairs' Strategic Plan, 2008 -2010. - Federal Government Strategic Plan, 2011 -2013. - UAE National Document for the year 2021
Kingdom of Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy for Children.
Republic of Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Programme for ending violence against children and spreading a culture of non-violence, 2009-2012. - Second National Action Plan for Children, 2002-2011. - National Strategy for the prevention of violent behaviours in the household and society. - National Strategy of communication to serve the interests of the family in child upbringing and protection from risk. - National Strategy to promote a culture of children's rights. - National Plan for Social Defence
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Plan for children. - National Strategy to combat illiteracy. - National Strategy to end violence against children. - National Plan to combat child labour and its prevention. - Master Plan for education and training of professionals. - Master Plan for drug prevention and reduction of children's exposure to delinquency. - General protection plan to reduce child abuse. - Brainstorming Plan. - National Strategy to fight poverty and exclusion. - National Strategy for school solidarity.
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy for Children of Saudi Arabia - Cooperative Education Strategy. - National Plan for Children, 2005 to 2015. - Strategy for Combating Illiteracy. - National Plan for youth protection from drugs. - Country's Five-Year Plan - National Plan to promote the culture of children's rights.

Table 1: Strategies and action plans for child protection and ending violence against children in the Arab states

Country	Strategies and action plans for child protection
Republic of Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five-Year Plan for Children, 2007-2011, developed. - “Sudan Fit for Children” Document (2005). - National Policy of Child Health (2005). - National Policy for Empowerment of Women (2007). - National Strategy for the Elimination of FGM/C (2008-2018). - National Plan for Fighting Violence against Children (2009). - National Policy for Children without Parental Custody (2009). - National Policy for Treatment of Homeless Children (2009).
Syrian Arab Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Plan for Child Protection in Syria. - National Plan for Disability. - Operational Plan for the Early Childhood Strategy. - The Tenth Five-Year Plan (includes a chapter addressing children).
Sultante of Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy for Children (in the pipeline).
Republic of Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A psycho-social strategy adopted at school level to train teachers and parents on how to deal with child victims of violence.
Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Plan for Child Protection for 2011-2013. - National Plan for the Palestinian child (2009-2011). - Child protection system, which was adopted in its final form in 2010.
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laws and legislation for child protection enforceable. - Plans and strategies developed; Qatar’s 2030 vision drafted, which is the country’s national reference for policies and development plans; these include, for example, the National Development Strategy (2011- 2016), the Overall Family Strategy (2011-2016), and the policy on population. - Anti-narcotics National Strategy (2010 - 2015) - Mechanisms to protect children in schools and combat dropouts.
Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child protection strategy and plans. - Legislation on care for the citizenry from birth through childhood. - Plan for juvenile care. - Universal National Economic Development Plan.

Table 1: Strategies and action plans for child protection and ending violence against children in the Arab states

Country	Strategies and action plans for child protection
Republic of Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A bill on child protection against all forms of violence, exploitation and neglect. - National strategy for child protection from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect. - National strategy for prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of street children. - General framework for early childhood. - National strategy for child participation. - National strategy for rehabilitation of underage vulnerable (at risk) girls in contact with the law. - National strategy for psychosocial support for post-conflict traumatized children. - National strategy for combating child labour.
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategies for child protection. - A study on child labour, conducted in 1997. - National plan for basic education for boys and girls. - Rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles into society. - A strategy to protect young people from drugs and narcotics. - Plans for childcare and work with children. - Revision of child protection laws
Arab Republic of Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National survey on child labour in Egypt, 2001. - National Plan for Girls' Education, 2002. - National Strategy for the protection, rehabilitation and integration of street children, 2003. - National Strategy for the Elimination of Child Labour and Action Plan, 2005. - Strategy to protect young people from drugs. - Five-Year Action Plan based on the "World Fit for Children" document, 2005. - National Plan for ending Violence against Children, 2006. - Balancing the Rights of the Egyptian Child (the first balance of rights in Egyptian society, 2006). - National Strategy for Family Empowerment (draft). - National plan to address child trafficking developed. - Amendments introduced to various laws and legislation (Child Act, nationality, family, social security, and insurance).
Kingdom of Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Plan for Children, 2006-2015

Table 1: Strategies and action plans for child protection and ending violence against children in the Arab states

Country	Strategies and action plans for child protection
<p>Islamic republic of Mauritania</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National strategy for child protection, 2009. - National Policy for Early Childhood Development, 2005 - National strategy to stop FGM/C, 2006. - An action plan for integration of former child workers in the UAE camel racing industry. - The 10-year plan for development of education. - National strategy for legal and social aid for children in conflict with the law.
<p>Republic of Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft national plan for ending violence against children developed. - Draft national action plan to stop FGM/C. - National action plan to combat child trafficking developed. - National Strategy for Children and Youth and accompanying plan of action, (2006-2015). - National Network for Child Protection Plan, 2010-2012. - National plan to combat the phenomenon of street children. - National Strategy for Disability Plan, 2004-2008. - National strategy for School Health, 2008. - National strategy to support the registration of infants, ratified in 2008. - National strategy for early childhood development, 2011-2015. - Mechanism for implementation of the recommendations of the international Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with reference to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)'s optional protocol on child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography.

Table 2: National strategies and action plans to end violence against children with specific objectives

Country	National Strategies and Action Plans to end Violence against Children
Kingdom of Bahrain	- National plan for child protection against abuse, maltreatment and neglect, 2009-2010
Republic of Tunisia	- National programme to end violence against children and promote a culture of non-violence (2009-2012) developed for prevention of violence, provision of child protection through spreading the culture of non-violence, and for strengthening the capacity of workers in the areas of prevention and protection at all levels.
Democratic People's Republic of Algeria	- A national strategy has been put in place to end violence against children; it was developed for the prevention of all forms of violence and to provide assistance to victimized children. The strategy aims to end violence and provide child protection in the household, at school and on the street; to promote a culture of non-violence and to strengthen the capacity of prevention and protection systems.
Republic of Sudan	- The national plan for ending violence against children in Sudan is being addressed from three key angles: (i) the environment where children could be exposed to various form of violence, including violence on street, in households, inside justice institutions, across armed conflict areas, and at places of work; (ii) specialized for the three main types of violence that children may experience: having unknown parents or being orphaned, FGM/C, and sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; and (iii) the role of media as a key partner in contributing to building a comprehensive system to protect children from all kinds of violence. The plan has taken into account the qualitative dimension, in cases of violence against female children, in addressing and ending violence in its various forms.
Arab Republic of Syria	- The National Plan for Child Protection in Syria, which aims to create a system for child protection against violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, through three objectives: 1) To build knowledge and awareness; 2) to provide protection and support; and 3) to provide treatment and rehabilitation.
Sultante of Oman	- National Commission for Family Affairs, groups to study and follow up on cases of abused children; relevant departments' operational plans and numerous programmes described under five-year plans; the Committee on the Rights of the Child and a hotline dedicated for family counselling.

Table 2: National strategies and action plans to end violence against children with specific objectives

Country	National Strategies and Action Plans to end Violence against Children
Republic of Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A draft national strategy for prevention and child protection against all forms of violence, abuse and neglect in 5 key areas has been developed; each key area includes a group of strategic goals each of which is sub-divided into objectives which are, in turn, broken down into a range of activities and specific indicators for measurement.
Arab Republic of Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national plan for ending violence against children was developed in 2006. This plan was created to complement other national plans and strategies meant to protect street children and young people from drugs, and to prevent child labour and aid the fight against FGM/C, as well as to advocate for female education and raise awareness about children’s rights.
Kingdom of Morocco	<p>The National Plan for Children in the Kingdom of Morocco includes the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop mechanisms to protect children against school violence. - To introduce child protection units. - To withdraw children under the age of 15 from all forms of labour and integrate them in schools. - To improve the working conditions of 15-18 year-old children. - To take care of neglect and abandoned children - To secure and improve the conditions of children placed in penal institutions. - To secure and improve the conditions of children in contact with the law. - To secure and improve the conditions of child victims of maltreatment, abuse and violence. - To better serve children with disabilities. - To offer unaccompanied migrant children better assistance in reintegration.
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	<p>A national strategy for child protection was developed in 2009, with the following critical themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevention of child vulnerability. 2. Provision of due care for child victims of violence, exploitation, discrimination, abuse and marginalization. 3. Strengthening the technical and financial capacity of the sector in charge of children’s affairs. 4. Advocacy and communication. 5. Coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

Table 2: National strategies and action plans to end violence against children with specific objectives

Country	National Strategies and Action Plans to end Violence against Children
Republic of Yemen	<p>Based on the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary General’s Study on Violence Against Children, and on the strategies and plans relevant to children’s rights, a draft national plan has been prepared for ending violence against children covering a number of themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibition of all forms of violence against children under the existing legislation. - Promotion of social and economic security. - Promotion of the culture of non-violence. - Strengthening the capacity of personnel working with children. - Strengthening mechanisms for child protection. - Strengthening programmes for data collection and recording. - Promotion of child participation. - Provision of psycho-social rehabilitation services for child victims of violence, abuse and neglect.

Lessons learned from strategies and action plans for combating violence against children include:

- The relevance and clarity of the plan and the timeframe of the strategy.
- The importance of connections between plans for the protection of children from violence to the strategies for child protection.
- The importance of a country’s role in targeting specific venues (such as schools) where violence against children may be prevalent, through guidance and social counseling offered to the students in order to reduce violence in general.
- The allocation of separate budgets for the implementation of plans targeting children, while avoiding allotment of child-earmarked budgets in other budgetary items, and reducing dependence on budgetary support provided by international organizations.
- The training of personnel and highly skilled professionals to address the phenomena of violence, especially in schools.

Human and financial resources are essential indications of the support offered by countries to aid the implementation of plans and strategies. Iraq, Mauritania and Yemen reported the absence or limitation of financial and human resources, while other countries emphasised on the integration of financial resources into the state budget, without specific reference to such resources. Only three countries (Sudan, Oman, and Egypt) noted the advantages of the support and funding delivered by international organizations in the area of children’s issues. In this regard, Egypt developed a budget for the implementation of child’s rights, including an estimate of expenditures for programmes targeting fulfilment of children’s rights; specific details on the breakdown on annual financial plans were not provided, however.

Based on the available data, we note the absence of data on the magnitude of human resources available in Arab countries. Most of the countries covered by the report have confirmed their reliance on human resources, including the citizenry, and workers in the health, social and educational sectors, in the implementation of all activities related to the ending of violence against children through the implementation of special programmes for child protection; raising the level of efficiency of those working with children; publishing magazines tackling diverse issues; and the establishment of libraries, clubs and spaces where children can participate in various social, cultural and recreational activities.

1.2: Agencies involved in child protection planning

A review of the reports on key bodies and institutions involved in the planning and development of policies and strategies for child protection, reveals two types of organizational mechanisms: the first type is concentrated in a specific institution (coordination) and is involved in policy development and planning for child protection, as is the case in: Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen. The other type of mechanism involves coordinating body for more than one institution, specifically related planning, which is found in Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait and Libya. In Tables 3 and 4 respectively, on the institutions involved in the planning and policy development and those responsible for planning only are detailed.

Table 3: Key agencies involved in developing child protection policies

Country	Key agencies involved in policy development
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council for Family Affairs.
United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Affairs. - Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood. - Red Crescent via the establishment of shelters for abused children. - Dubai Foundation for the Welfare of Women and Children welfare. - The Rehabilitation Centre for Women and Children Victims of Domestic Violence, Abu Dhabi. - Family Development Foundation, Dubai. - Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah.

Table 3: Key agencies involved in developing child protection policies

Country	Key agencies involved in policy development
Kingdom of Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Development. - Ministry of Education. - Ministry of Interior. - Ministry of Culture and Information. - Ministry of Health. - National Committee on Children - Royal Charity Organization
Republic of Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Women, Family, Children and the Elderly in collaboration with the Ministries of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning and International Cooperation. - Education. - Public health. - Social Affairs, Solidarity and Tunisians Abroad. - Justice and Human Rights. - Interior and Local Development. - Youth, Sport and Physical Education. - Culture and Preservation of Heritage.
Democratic People’s Republic of Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of National Solidarity and Family - Office of the Plenipotentiary Minister for National Solidarity, Family and the National Community Abroad, for family and women’s issues. - Ministry of Justice. - Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform. - Ministry of National Education. - Ministry of Interior and Local Communities. - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. - Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. - Ministry of Youth and Sports. - Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments. - Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. - Ministry of Information and Communication. - Ministry of Culture.
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Committee on Children. - Ministry of Social Affairs. - Human Rights Commission.
Republic of Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council for Child Welfare. - Provincial councils for child welfare. - Departments of women and children in government ministries.

Table 3: Key agencies involved in developing child protection policies

Country	Key agencies involved in policy development
Arab Republic of Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syrian Commission for Family Affairs. - State Planning Commission. - Ministry of Education. - Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. - Ministry of Interior. - Ministry of Information. - Ministry of Health. - Ministry of Culture. - Ministry of Religious Endowments.
Republic of Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission on Child Welfare.
Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Affairs. - Ministry of Education - Ministry of Health. - Ministry of Labour. - Ministry of Planning.
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher Council for Family Affairs. - The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children.
Republic of Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher Council for Children.
Arab Republic of Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.
Kingdom of Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity.
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Affairs and Children and Family. - Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development. - Ministry of Basic Education. - Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Education. - Ministry of Justice. - Ministry of Health. - Ministry of Interior and Decentralization. - Commission in charge of human rights and humanitarian action and civil society. - Food Security Bureau. - Centre for Child Protection and Social Integration - Rehabilitation Centre for Minor Children. - National Council for Children.
Republic of Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood. - Ministries involved in child protection (Social Affairs and Labour, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Health and Population, etc)

Table No. (4): Institutions responsible for planning

Country	The institutions responsible of planning
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council for Family Affairs. - Ministry of Planning. - Ministry of Education. - Ministry of Social Development. - Family Protection Department. - The Jordan River Foundation (JRF). - Ministry of Health. - Ministry of Justice.
United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Affairs. - General Women’s Union. - Ministry of Education. - Ministry of Interior. - Ministry of Health. - Higher Council for Family Affairs. - Family Development Foundation. - Ministry of Culture. - Councils of Education. - Red Crescent Shelters for Women and Children.
Kingdom of Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Committee on Children - Bahrain Centre for Child Protection, Social Welfare Department at the Ministry of Social Development.
Republic of Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Women, Family, Children and the Elderly in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and other relevant Ministries.

Table No. (4): Institutions responsible for planning

Country	The institutions responsible of planning
<p>Democratic People’s Republic of Algeria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of National Solidarirt and Family - Office of the Plenipotentiary Minister for National Solidarity, Family and the National Community Abroad, for family and women’s issues. - Ministry of Justice. - Ministry of Finance - Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform. - Ministry of National Education. - Ministry of Interior and Local Communities. - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. - Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. - Ministry of Youth and Sports. - Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments. - Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. - Ministry of Information and Communication. - Ministry of Culture.
<p>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Committee for Children. - Ministry of Social Affairs. - Ministry of Justice. - Ministry of Interior. - Ministry of Education. - Ministry of Information. - Ministry of Health. - Human Rights Commission.
<p>Republic of Sudan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council for Child Welfare. - National Council for Strategic Planning.
<p>Arab Republic of Syria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syrian Commission for Family Affairs - State Planning Commission.

Table No. (4): Institutions responsible for planning

Country	The institutions responsible of planning
Sultante of Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Development. - Ministry of Health. - Ministry of National Economy. - Ministry of Education. - Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. - Royal Oman Police. - General Prosecution. - Muscat Municipality. - Civil society organizations.
Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Affairs. - Ministry of Education. - Ministry of Health. - Ministry of Labour. - Ministry of Planning.
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children. - Higher Council for Family Affairs. - Qatar Foundation for the Welfare of Orphans. - Cultural Centre for Children. - National Commission on Human Rights. - Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking. - Social Rehabilitation Centre (Al Owain). - Ministry of Social Affairs.
Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher Council for Planning and Development and all ministries involved in children’s issues, such as health, social affairs and education.
Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Public Committee on Social Affairs (Department of Child Welfare, Department of Studies and Research, Planning, and Social Solidarity).
Arab Republic of Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family. - The National Council for Children - The National Committee on Human Rights

Table No. (4): Institutions responsible for planning

Country	The institutions responsible of planning
<p>Republic of Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood. - Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. - Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. - Ministry of Interior. - Ministry of Justice. - Ministry of Public Health and Population. - Ministry of Information. - Ministry of Human Rights - Civil society organizations.

Tables (3 and 4) indicate that some Arab countries have independent institutions for child related policies. In the other countries, several institutions involve in the process of planning and policy-making, demonstrating that there are two mechanisms to address children’s issues: the first is of special significance, which involves focusing on the coordinating role a specialized institution could play, is of special significance; while the second is linked to a comprehensive plan for children in ministries, commissions and various governmental committees. Each mechanism has advantages and disadvantages, while an independent Children’s Fund is ideal to promote overall coordination with ministries, agencies and committees.

1.3: Monitoring and evaluation agencies

Arab countries such as Jordan, Bahrain, Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen have a specific institution responsible for the following up on the implementation of conventions on children’s rights and protection, in cooperation with other relevant agencies. On the other hand, some countries involve a range of institutions in the follow-up on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; these include countries such as the UAE, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Oman², Qatar, and Kuwait.

In some countries, there exist clear mechanisms to evaluate the implementation of these strategies and plans: In Jordan, for instance, there has been in place an electronic system for monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up on the implementation of the activities and programmes covered by the national plans. This is achieved through close coordination with the national institutions involved in the implementation of the relevant programmes, plans and strategies, particularly the National Plan for Children. The electronic system relies on a group of liaison officers representing the institutions involved in the implementation process and in developing the periodic reports on the implementation of national programmes and plans.

In Bahrain, National Economic Strategy is implemented through ministries and government agencies. These institutions have an obligation to develop and identify clear and specific indicators to measure and evaluate the implementation of national strategies and plans.

In Tunisia, a clear mechanism is well placed in the media, as an observatory for information, training and studies on the protection of the rights of the child. It is also placed in the General Directorate for Children and in the Office of the Commissioner General for Protection of Children. Such an observatory allows for indicators and events to be monitored, and help in the follow-up and evaluation on the one hand, and in the preparation of periodic reports on the other, including an annual report on the status of children, which is usually presented to a ministerial council, during the first week of the administrative year. The major task of the Centre for Information, Training, Documentation and Studies is to present facts regarding the status of children and their rights, and to help develop policies related to children³.

In Oman, the follow up procedure on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child involves representatives of relevant institutions involved in children's issues. In Palestine, a number of institutions are in charge of monitoring and evaluation: the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Planning, as well as human rights organizations such as the Defence for Children International – a Global Movement, and the independent international Committee on Human Rights.

In Sudan, the National Council for Strategic Planning meets annually in the capital, Khartoum, to evaluate relevant ministerial plans, including the childcare plan. The annual conference of the Board of Child Welfare evaluates performance and coordination in the area of child protection.

In Egypt, there are clear mechanisms for evaluation, such as the Egypt National Children's Rights Observatory mandated to conduct periodic studies and field surveys on the implementation of plans targeting children. From this perspective, the provision of strategic information on Egyptian children is done on a regular basis, and reports on the state of children in Egypt are also regularly developed.

In Morocco, the National Centre for the Rights of the Child organizes a national conference biannually on the Children's Fund in order to evaluate the achievements made under the National Plan for Children, and to provide the Ministerial Committee on Children, chaired by the Prime Minister, with a detailed report on these achievements.

We conclude from the above presentation that institutions involved in planning, policy development and strategies for the protection of children are also the main institutions responsible for the follow-up and implementation of children's rights; however, independent civil society increasingly plays an institutional role in monitoring children's rights, either through their participation in state structures and governmental institutions, or through the implementation of independent programmes, indicating gradual development towards independence in the area of follow-up. On the other hand follow-up mechanisms are included within the system in order to ensure evaluation, and the implementation of strategies, policies and action plans; therefore, national planning children's issues occupies a significant position in some Arab countries: 14 countries, including Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen, have mechanisms in place for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of strategies, policies or action plans for children. The distribution of these mechanisms is as follows:

- Periodic reports.
- Preparation of evaluation studies.
- Field surveys.
- Organize specialized meetings.
- Monitor specific indicators.

(2) Prohibition of all forms of violence against children:

Aspects of violence against children and laws on violence prevention

The following countries have made data on violence against children available: Jordan, the UAE, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen. These countries have confirmed that they have promulgated and put in place laws that prohibit the death penalty and life imprisonment for children.

Bahrain stated there are no statistics reflecting instances of capital punishment and life imprisonment for children under 18 years. There are clear disparities between the States in determining the age at which children can be held accountable for criminal activity under the law. It is worth noting that some of the above-mentioned countries have developed shelter centres for child convicts to emphasize the educational role such centres can play in helping to rehabilitate and reintegrate children into society.

Framework 2: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary General's Comprehensive Study on Violence Against Children

2 - Prohibiting all forms of violence against children

States shall ensure that no person below 18 years of age should be subjected to the death penalty and sentences of life imprisonment without possibility of release. States shall take all necessary measures to immediately suspend the execution of all death penalties imposed on persons for having committed a crime before the age of 18, and take the appropriate legal measures to convert them into penalties in conformity with international human rights standards.

Death penalty as a sentence imposed on persons for crimes committed before the age of 18 should be abolished as a matter of highest priority.

States shall prohibit all forms of violence against children, in all settings, including all corporal punishment, harmful traditional practices, such as early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation and so-called honour crimes, sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment, as required by international treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. drawing attention to General Comment No. 8 (2006) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment (articles 19, 28, para 2 and 37, inter alia) (CRC/C/GC/8)

Laws related to the protection of children from violence vary across countries. Some countries, like Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen have made remarkable progress in promulgating legal provisions with standards for the protection of children from violence. Some other countries have also proposed bills concerning child protection against violence; these are currently in the process of being ratified, as is the case in Lebanon.

Bahrain added a full chapter on child protection, in a proposed "Child Act" presented before the Shura Council in 2010. Saudi Arabia has taken the same approach to protecting children from abuse and neglect; it is being ratified by competent authorities, and is close to implementing a child helpline service.

Syria has devoted an entire chapter to child protection in the bill for the "Children's Rights Act", presented to the Premiership.

In Oman, the Ministry of Social Development is currently in the process of developing a Child Act, within the provisions of the Law on Fatherhood, including measures and mechanisms for child protection.

In Palestine, the Palestinian Child Act and protective legislation for children⁴ has supported by the establishment of child protection networks, centres and programmes; all of which are laid out in the Palestinian Child Act, which provides procedures and measures to protect children from all forms of abuse and exploitation

Prohibition of all forms of violence against children:

2.1: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is one of the major forms of violence against girls and constitutes a clear violation of their rights. This traditional practice still exists in a number of Arab nations, although some countries, such as Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Palestine, Qatar, Morocco, and Lebanon, have all reported that such practices are not performed within their borders. Egypt has passed legislation criminalizing female circumcision and genital mutilation. In Yemen, the phenomenon is prevalent in some coastal cities. The draft amendments to the Rights of the Child submitted to the country's House of Representatives include legal provisions on the prohibition of female genital mutilation. Other countries have not provided any information regarding this issue.

Recent research conducted on female genital mutilation shows that the continuation of this practice is linked to "cultural heritage", specifically the notion that its practice will help ensure that girls get married and attain a respectable social status. Despite the existence of legislation in a number of Arab countries to help reduce FGM practices, it is still widely practiced due to weak enforcement of the legislation.

Sudan was among the first countries that tried to combat FGM practices, but the country's Penal Code of 1993 makes no reference whatsoever to the criminalization of such practices, which are still prevalent among a large proportion of married women in the age group of 15-49 years. Prevalence rates stood at 68.4% in 2006 with disparities between regions; while the Darfur region experienced the lowest prevalence rate, it was as high as 87% in the Eastern region. The FGM/C rates also vary by religion, with 90% of Muslim women being affected compared to 47%⁵ of Christian women. Sudan is implementing a national strategy to eliminate female genital mutilation within the generation of women (2008-2018) under the Programme for Elimination of FGM/C, which is being implemented by National Council for Child Welfare⁶.

In Egypt, the state has given special attention to the issue of FGM/C, prioritizing it on the national agenda for child issues in Egypt. In this context, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, which was first established in 2003, created a national program to combat FGM/C practices in the country. This socio-cultural practice was considered as a violation to the fundamental rights of females in Egypt and is not proscribed by religion and does not promote health, two rationales the practice was linked with previously. A comprehensive program has been designed to handle this aspect of the issue⁷.

In Yemen, female circumcision rates are as high as 25% nationally, but with wide regional variations; prevalence rates stand at 96% in coastal areas, 38% in the mountains and 38-40% in desert areas. According to some studies conducted in Yemen, female circumcision is more prevalent in coastal areas because of multiple waves of migration from Eastern Africa. Most circumcisions are performed in the first weeks after birth, and the practice is based mostly on a legacy of religious heritage. In this regard, a decision by the Minister of Health (No. 01 / 03 of 2001) bans the practice of FGM/C by all health service providers in both the public and private sectors. The subject of female circumcision is also being addressed in a number of provinces within the framework of a project to combat FGM/C.

2.2: Honour Crimes (HCs)

Honour crimes represent the most severe type of criminal acts and domestic violence against females. This type of crime is driven by dominant beliefs concerning honour within the family unit, in many cases pertaining to relationships conducted outside of wedlock by female members of family. Generally, information about this type of violence is rare.

In Jordan, the phenomenon of so-called 'honour crimes' does not exist officially, despite criminal occurrences of a similar description that involve women occurring on a yearly basis. These incidences are legally justified in some cases, and are labelled as honour crimes. Jordan has amended the Penal Code to impose harsher punishments on perpetrators and abolish impunity in cases of honour crimes.

Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Oman, Egypt and Morocco, did not report any cases of honour crimes. In Syria and Lebanon, legislation prohibits honour crimes. In Libya, the law prohibits and punishes crimes of honour. In Syria, a law which made an exception for the perpetrator in cases of honour crimes has been amended and punishment was gradually extended to 5-7 years of imprisonment. Other countries did not provide information about laws against honour crimes.

2.3: Early Marriages

Despite a general trend towards increasing the minimum age for marriage in Arab countries, the practice of early marriage is still widespread in many areas. Many countries in the region have a low legal minimum age for marriage, and early marriage sometimes prevents girls from continuing their education. It also undermines the potential of women to participate in the development process, and leads to a consequent increase in spending on health services and treatment. This increase in health spending is attributed to the diseases and injuries experienced by girls as a result of early marriage and pregnancy. Teenage motherhood presents serious health risks, exacerbated in many cases by the unpreparedness of young girls for the role of motherhood.

Some countries have made remarkable progress in combating early marriage. Across the region, there are discrepancies in the minimum age for marriage, which ranges between 16, 17 and 18 years old in Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Oman, Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania, where the age of marriage is fixed at 18 years for both sexes. Qatar, on the other hand, has set the age of marriage at 18 years for males and 16 years for females, while Sudan cited the existence of a law preventing the marriage of minors without specifying age limits. Syria is currently working towards increasing the minimum age for marriage for girls from 17 to 18 years. Bahrain has issued a ministerial decree which describes the inadmissibility of any marriage contract for individuals under the age of 15 for females, and 18 years for males.

Egypt has criminalized marriages contracted before the age of eighteen, describing it as child trafficking. The person responsible for concluding a marriage contract including a minor can be prosecuted as a felon. A toll free line has been established to receive reports on incidences of child marriage.

In Yemen, drafted amendments have been submitted to the House of Representatives, requesting legal provisions be enacted to determine the age of marriage. In line with this motion, a programme for support and advocacy for the drafted legal provisions was launched as discussions were held at

the Council of Representatives; some resistance has been shown by some members on the adoption of such provisions. A recent ministerial circular directive from the Ministry of Justice has been also sent to religious leaders in order to help prevent illegal marriages by individuals under the age of 17. In Saudi Arabia, a system to prevent marriages of minors and to identify the suitable age for girls to be eligible to marry is being examined.

Despite legislative emphasis on early marriage issues, the age of marriage remains low, and key issues such as education have not been fully considered. Due to the correlation between the legal age of marriage and the age at which girls complete their secondary schooling, early marriage could present a hindrance to the completion of secondary education and progression to university studies.

2.4: Corporal Punishment

The issue of the child's right to protection against corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading treatment, including violence and physical abuse, or threat of any form of physical violence, has been raised in widespread and controversial debates across the Arab region and internationally.

The issue has recently drawn the attention of relevant authorities in Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen, resulting in the establishment of a series of laws and procedures that prohibit corporal punishment in schools.

In Jordan, legislation prohibits protection of the perpetrators of domestic violence and criminalizes all forms of abuse of children, including physical and psychological abuse. Corporal punishment and all forms of child abuse are completely prohibited in Jordan, and the use of corporal punishment in schools is presently prohibited by law.

The UAE includes a list of guidelines on student behaviour in the school community, and indicates that school behaviour should be free from cruelty and psychological abuse, and absent of any form of defamation, insult, sarcasm or humiliation. The hotline at the Ministry of Social Services in Sharjah encourages reporting child abuse under the tagline "Stop hurting me"; the line receives complaints from children exposed to violence.

In Algeria, the law offers guidelines for civic education for the year 2008, wherein corporal punishment and all forms of violence and psychological abuse in schools were strictly prohibited.

In Saudi Arabia, a ministerial decision made by the Minister of Education prohibits corporal punishment of children.

The provisions of the Sudanese Child Act, Chapter V, 2010, under "the child's education: the child's right to education" forbid any harsh measures or penalties on children.

In Oman, regulations for schools prevent all forms of corporal punishment and are in accordance with the Rules for Student Affairs at the schools that offer universal and basic education for the year 2008. In Palestine, the Palestinian Child Law prohibits all forms of corporal punishment and threat. In Libya, a decision by the General Peoples' Committee for Education, No (22) in 1993, outlined a code of student conduct that prevents corporal punishment in schools.

In Mauritania, civil society organizations were given the right to report violations of children's rights.

In Yemen, the Minister of Education issued a ministerial decision prohibiting the use of violence against children in schools and included draft amendments to the laws affecting children. The draft amendments to the Penal Code, currently presented before the House of Parliament, have the specific purpose of preventing and criminalizing behaviour that goes beyond the guidelines of appropriate discipline.

2.5: Sexual violence

The sexual abuse of children may occur within the family, in school, and in various other settings and institutions.

In reference to this issue, 13 countries (Jordan, UAE, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen) have described existing laws that aim to end violence and sexual torture; other countries did not provide information on this subject.

Bahrain has formed a national committee to combat human trafficking and a commission to assess the state of victims of human trafficking.

Tunisia, in addition to the laws that prevent and punish sexual abuse, has enacted a Child Protection Code (Chapter 20) which focuses on sexual exploitation as a threat to children requiring the intervention of a child protection officer. A bill also provides special protection for child victims of physical violence and sexual abuse at all stages of inquiry and prosecution, with provisions for legal rights, and free treatment and psycho-social rehabilitation.

Sudan's Children's Rights Law, or "Child Act" (2010 Chapter IX) includes provisions banning the use of children in prostitution and pornography; these criminal acts are punishable by death sentences or imprisonment accompanied by a fine for twenty years for rape or harassment, or for harming or engaging a child in sex acts.

In Syria, Decree No. 3/2010 on human trafficking provides special protection for female and child victims of trafficking. Such trafficking includes the sexual exploitation of a child in any form or manner (including photographing of the child's genitalia or creation of pornographic images to meet unsolicited demand directly or indirectly).

In Palestine, the Palestinian Child Law prohibits all forms of sexual abuse of children as well as the engagement of children in pornography and prostitution.

Within the framework of separate legislation to criminalize human trafficking, an ad hoc committee was established by the Egyptian Council of Ministers in 2007 to formulate an open-ended statement addressing the issue of sexual exploitation of children. The Committee is linked to the National Coordinating Committee and is meant to combat and prevent human trafficking and to prepare an integrated draft law to criminalize human trafficking. Such a law will focus on the various aspects of trafficking and the implications of the fragmented provisions that exist currently within several laws. This effort comes in line with a global trend towards dealing effectively with the issue of trafficking⁸.

In Yemen, a draft amendment to the Children’s Rights Act is in the pipeline for ratification by the House of Representatives; the Act incorporates provisions for punitive action against various forms of sexual exploitation of children.

All member states that ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on child trafficking child prostitution and child pornography have committed themselves to the development of measures and preliminary procedures for the protection of children from sexual violence. These measures are to be included as part of laws on children and in provisions in criminal law and operational procedures in order to develop an effective mechanism to reduce sexual violence against children.

(3) Prioritizing Prevention

Prevention is a main aspect of programmes addressing the risks facing children and all child protection policies should incorporate preventative mechanisms. Furthermore, all programmes and policies should incorporate a rights-based approach to child protection and promote this approach in all relevant bodies working in this area. The rights-based approach is a key aspect of the present report.

3.1: Policies and programmes for ending of violence

According to the questionnaire responses, measures taken by Arab countries to address risk factors with a view towards ending violence, include programmes undertaken to address the parent-child bond, disintegration of families, alcohol and drug abuse, access to firearms, poverty and unemployment and high urban and suburban population density. Countries including Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen have implemented a wide range of policies, programmes and institutions targeting social and human development and providing support to families in difficult situations.

Framework 3: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary-General's Comprehensive Study on Violence against Children

3. Prioritizing prevention

States shall prioritise preventing violence against children by addressing its underlying causes. Just as resources devoted to intervening after violence has occurred are essential, States should allocate adequate resources to address risk factors and prevent violence before it occurs. Policies and programmes should address immediate risk and factors such as lack of parent-child attachment, family breakdown, abuse of alcohol or drugs ,and reducing access to guns and other weapons. In line with the Millennium Development Goals, attention should be focused on economic and social policies that address poverty, gender and other forms of inequality, incomegaps, unemployment, urban overcrowding, and other

3.2: Resources allocated for violence prevention

The allocated resources to address risk factors and end violence shows that Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen have dedicated resources to end violence from the budgets of ministries and institutions. Such allocations enable the implementation of prevention programmes and help address funding issues. However, a lack of clarity in terms of monitoring these allocations persists.

Jordan has shared a study that includes an analysis of allocation of funds and child-friendly budget items provided by a number of ministries with the aim of develop a mechanism for monitoring child-related funding allocations. .

Bahrain has allocated funding to develop alternative care resources for children exposed to domestic violence. Other budgetary allocations have been set aside to cover attendant expenses and address the needs of children in institutional care Action has been taken to provide adequate housing for young people of unknown parentage.

Syria noted that work is underway to establish a fund for families at risk of maltreatment.

Palestine has identified budgetary limitations for the implementation of programmes, noting that such issues are linked to external financing.

Examples of policies, programmes and institutions targeting social and human development and providing support for families in difficult situations based on data received from Arab countries:

- Free telephone lines: allocated to receive reports from children and help protect them from violence; these lines are a mechanism used in cases of children separated from their parents and priority should be given for child-family reunion.
- Family counselling programme: this programme targets a select segment of families in need of assistance via free telephone lines; the programme provides care and guidance and defines procedures on how to deal with domestic violence.
- Psychological counselling for children exposed to violence and their family members.
- Group counselling sessions for alcohol, drug and other substance addicts to enable them to build a balanced family life.
- Working towards developing appropriate action plans and solutions to address these problems.
- Improvement in the quality of services for street children.
- Protection of vulnerable children and children in conflict with the law.
- Accommodation for at-risk children in specialized institutions.
- Support for low-income families and development of mechanisms for the protection of children and adolescents.
- Educating children with the values of tolerance, respect and dialogue, and exposing them to curricular materials related to human rights.
- Development and promulgation of legislation on children to protect them from all forms of violence and abuse.
- Raising cultural awareness on the rights of the child through the media and advertising campaigns.
- Integration of the child's rights in educational programmes for children and in university degree programmes and specializations in the fields of education, health and mental health, sociology and social science, law and journalism.
- Development of mechanisms for mediation and family dispute resolution.
- Promulgation of laws mandating tougher sanctions in cases of child abuse.
- Establishment of funds for aid and social spending and national solidarity for children and their families.
- Adoption of a mechanism for reporting violations as a means of practicing the legal rights of all individuals.
- Improving the economic and social conditions of female heads of households via funding and income-generating projects.

Some countries have allocated state budgets and earmarked funds for social affairs. Jordan's National Aid Fund; the Tunisian National Solidarity Fund, and the Alimony Fund and Maintenance Allowance for Divorced Women; and Algeria's National Solidarity Fund offer prime examples. In Syria, a decree was issued establishing a fund for social assistance to provide socioeconomic, health and educational support for the beneficiaries through provision of regular or emergency aid. Syria is also preparing a proposal for a fund that guarantees social solidarity spending. To help address poverty, Libya distributes asset-based support to low-income families through the Fund for Economic and Social Development, and helps build investment portfolios for low-income families, those not entitled to basic pensions and for the unemployed. Egypt recently created a development fund for child and maternity care, by virtue of Law No. 12 of 1996 and amended Law No. 126 of 2008; Egypt has also established a special fund for the care and rehabilitation of children with disabilities. Yemen has created a number of funds targeting children and youth groups, as well as persons with disabilities, including a fund to provide care for disabled youth, a development fund, and the Social Welfare Fund.

The exact nature of resources allocated for ending of violence against children is not easily identifiable from the available information. Information regarding access to international support for children's funds in the majority of Arab countries is also limited, either due to a lack of information provided in the questionnaire responses, or due to a decline in the contributions of international organizations to projects dedicated to children. Overall, the financial resources allocated to cover the needs of the implementation of strategies and action plans and programmes for violence prevention remain insufficient.

The data collected from responses to the questionnaire show that policies and action plans to tackle poverty and prevent the causes of violence drive economic and social policies in the Arab region. Jordan, Bahrain, the UAE, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen have programmes and specialized or comprehensive plans to address poverty. However, reports on special efforts to address poverty in general do not provide information about specific procedures to prevent the causes of violence against children in the struggle against poverty; this is either a sign of declining interest or a failure to provide sufficient information. There are assumptions about the relationship between growing poverty and increasing violence, as poverty represents structural violence against poor children and their families. Thus, efforts to reduce poverty constitute a manner of confronting violence.

(4) Promoting the values of non-violence and awareness-raising

States share responsibility with civil society organizations in raising awareness about the importance of preserving human dignity, this being a fundamental human right connected with the Rights of the Child. Special protection of children above and beyond this is necessary due to the child's vulnerability and need for care and protection. The importance of this is reflected through the development of a protective and supportive environment that guarantees the Rights of the Child and through the adoption of appropriate pieces of legislation, especially those relevant to reporting violations of children's rights. This comes in addition to awareness programmes targeted at families and professional caretakers working with children; the aim is to alter traditional cultural norms that allow the use of physical or verbal punishment as a tool for of childrearing and education.

Analysis of available data in terms of the role of the state in promoting non-violence and increasing awareness shows that a group of countries (Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen) have initiated a series of programmes to disseminate the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Such efforts are also meant to distribute literature defining the laws associated with the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and to promote simplified versions of this international Convention amongst children. The box below contains examples of related actions plans and programmes.

Framework 4: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary General's Comprehensive Study on Violence Against Children

4- Promoting the values of non-violence and raising awareness

States and civil society should strive to transform attitudes that condone or normalise violence against children, including stereotypical gender roles and discrimination, acceptance of corporal punishment, and other harmful traditional practices. States should ensure that children's rights are disseminated and understood, including by children. Public information campaigns should be used to sensitize the public about the harmful effects that violence has on children. States should encourage the media to promote non-violent values and implement guidelines to ensure full respect for the rights of the child in all media coverage

In addition to the above examples, some countries have referred to policies supporting independent institutions' efforts to monitor the status of children's rights, and involve specialized institutions and civil society organizations in these efforts. A group of countries (Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen) have focused on the implementation of a number of activities to raise awareness on the types of violence and their negative effects. Such emphasis is intended to educate influential persons and families, to strengthen public responsibilities and the role of professionals involved in child protection from violence, to educate the media, religious leaders, and police officers involved with juveniles; and to increase awareness about how the prevalence of violence against children, and to alter cultural norms that allow for the use of corporal punishment as a tool of childrearing and education.

Questionnaire responses provide examples efforts to raise awareness about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and combating violence against children:

- Implementation of training courses targeting media professionals on violence and its different forms, to enable them to raise awareness via the media about violence against children.
- Production of television and radio programmes and publication of articles and press releases on violence against children and its impact on them.
- Educational lectures on the impact of violence on children in the households.
- Education of parents through parental participation and parental care.
- A guide for religious leaders on ways to raise awareness about children's rights.
- Encouragement of religious discourses on positive parenting during Friday and Sunday sermons and lectures, with the aim of raising awareness and curbing traditional practices harmful to children.
- Development of a manual on dealing with juveniles personnel working in care and juvenile institutions.
- Publication of documents to raise awareness on anti-violence against children, and prevention of violence in schools
- Holding seminars and meetings with civil society and with children and adolescents themselves.
- Participation in regional and international activities.
- Inclusion of the children's rights in basic education curricula to educate children about their rights, responsibilities and duties and to help them understand the concept of exploitation and violence against them.

For example, in Jordan, article (11/h) - "Instructions to parent councils" and Article (9) of 2007 - "Instructions to teachers" in public and private educational institutions, encourage such councils to contribute to solving student-specific violence problems.

Programmes and activities promote the dissemination of information about children's rights across the Arab region with reference to several guidelines in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). These include: guiding principles for law enforcement officers, workers in health and educational settings, workers in child-oriented public institutions, human resources personnel in associations involved with children, and religious leaders, in addition to parents and children themselves, the media and the general public.

Based on the responses to the questionnaire, in terms of the "actions taken to ensure the dissemination of information on children's rights to adults as well as to children themselves," it seems that Arab countries have attached increased importance efforts to spread information on children's rights on a large scale. Different countries noted that an exchange of experiences between Arab countries would be helpful in developing such efforts.

Some countries prepared a communications policy for the advancement of children's rights via the media in order to change attitudes, promote good practices, publicize outreach campaigns, and organize lectures and seminars to inform audiences on the rights of the child. Such policies also aim to train children's rights personnel in terms of specific trainings, training manuals on child's rights,

a series of training courses, integration of the principles of children's rights in school curricula, education programmes to train children on their rights, and raising awareness about children's rights within NGOs. This is in addition to placing more emphasis on broadening the implementation of the child act. In general, there is a growing awareness of the importance of the media in spreading a positive culture of children's rights

Jordan, for example, has launched programmes and information campaigns to end violence, and has launched a number of media programmes that focus on quality education methods and the harmful effects of violence against children. Jordan has announced the launch of a national communications plan, entitled "Together ... Towards a Safer School Environment", designed to promote positive changes in the behaviour of teachers within the national strategy for child protection in Jordan. The plan also aims at reducing violent disciplinary practices and suggesting alternative ways to guide and change the behaviour of students

Tunisia organizes a "Child Protection Month" each year. Sudan organized a media campaign to advocate for child issues in 2007; the campaign covered ten areas: children with unknown parents, children in conflict with the law, child soldiers, FGM/C, gender-based violence, the dangers of unexploded ordnances (UXOs), birth registration, maltreatment and abuse in the home, and corporal punishment in schools and educational institutions. Coverage of these issues was achieved through the production and distribution of informational materials on child protection including the development of publications, brochures, written messages, video and radio series addressing these issues, and studies to measure knowledge and behaviour and practices of child protection. These campaigns continue across Sudan's provinces.

Palestine also tackles this area through awareness campaigns, the education of families and community members, and via networks of child protection in partnership with governmental and private institutions, as well as through the development of bulletins and publications on parental education, family counselling, and the training of young couples in child-rearing, in addition to activating the role of the media, the community and its leaders.

Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children has undertaken several programmes including "Change Your Life" and "Break the Silence"; the goal is to inform children how to protect themselves from sexual violence, and to rehabilitate those who have been subject to violence. The programme "Friends of the Child", which is composed of school-age students, has worked to spread a positive culture of protection and violence prevention, in addition to raising awareness about the principles of children's rights. Lebanon also organizes an annual campaign in partnership with media outlets to promote non-violence against children during the month of November. The event involves a variety of participants: NGOs, scouts and municipalities, children, and official departments.

In Egypt, the programme "A Culture of Children's Rights" promotes the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the third and fourth periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva; experts in the field of children's rights discuss issues covered by the report. Representatives from the country's ministries and agencies participate in the forum along with university students and volunteers.

In Mauritania, the children's programme, which is presented by children themselves, constitutes an important platform for expression childrens' problems and aspirations.

In Yemen, a media network was established to end violence against children, with identified functions and terms of reference for the Coordinating Committee. These include workshops, training seminars, development of material for the media at the national and local levels on issues of violence against children, and development of plans and programmes for the implementation of activities.

In support of efforts in the area of training, some States have designed training manuals for professionals working in the fields of justice and health, in institutions working with children, and for school teachers and religious leaders. These manuals cover topics such as the rights of the child, protocol for the protection of children from violence, juveniles in conflict with the law, specifications and standards for medical and mental health practitioners working with female and child victims of violence, and public protection promotion in the media. User manuals for educators on protection of students from violence and abuse in Jordan focus on child protection from abuse in the age group from 8-12 years, and a includes training manual on creating a safer school environment. Other efforts to establish children's rights have begun in some universities and institutes through the training of specialized experts in child-specific areas.

Yemen is currently completing a guidance plan with instructions for doctors and health workers about the protection of children, women and the elderly from abuse, assault and neglect, the importance of child's age, as well as about children's rights in Islam.

The information available about "media campaigns to educate the public about the harmful effects of violence against children," shows that Arab countries give priority to media campaigns directed at the public. Briefings from available data conclude that collective experiences shared by all countries form a comprehensive strategy, if we can generalize all experiences and expertise exchange takes place.

Concerning the involvement of the media in spreading a positive culture of children's rights, a group of countries have worked to implement awareness-raising programmes in the media.

In order to enhance the capacity of workers in this area to cope with the role of the media in the dissemination and follow-up on children's rights, some countries have organized training courses for media professionals.

The available data also highlight several areas of action, including media programming to stop violence against children and promote the child's rights, awareness-raising campaigns, educational programmes, arts and culture programming, as well as publishing and distribution of a collection of links, video tapes and movies to the public about children's rights issues.

According to a survey on the "programmes channelled through the media to promote nonviolence and to implement guidelines on children's rights", a limited number of Arab states promote public information campaigns to enhance a positive culture of children's rights.

(5) Enhancing the capacity of all parties working with and for children

5.1: Programmes and activities aimed at building the capacity of all parties working with children

"Programmes and activities must be geared towards capacity building for all parties working with and for children to enable them to contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against children." Based on the data available, the majority of Arab countries have demonstrated concern about developing the capabilities of professionals dealing with children. Capacity development

can be achieved through training courses aimed at establishing standards and training manuals designed to raise the psycho-social and legal capacity of personnel.

Examples of actions and programmes aiming to develop the capacity to deal with children, according to data received from Arab countries through the questionnaire:

- Tailoring an integrated programme and specialized training courses in the field of counselling skills and household researchers and specialists from all regions and addressing the problems individuals and families encounter.
- Holding workshops and seminars especially for family-members' rehabilitation and increasing the efficiency of field workers.
- Convening a seminar on child's rights laws.
- Organizing a series of training courses on how to detect cases of abuse on children for professionals and specialists in public schools.
- Training of the security services cadres and health workers on how to handle child victims of violence.
- Launching campaigns to raise awareness about the risks of community-based crimes of violence against children.
- Training supervisors and teachers on alternative means of corporal punishment.
- Holding sessions with the Centre for Civic Education on "citizenship and human rights."
- Training of civil servants in government agencies on how to protect children caught in disasters.
- Preparing and implementing programmes targeting street children and designed to building the capacity of various workers with children on child rights; and identifying appropriate ways of how to engage with children, and the consequences of violence vis-a-vis the mental health of children, and how to show respect for their views and deal with them.
- Establishing evidence, for special training purposes, on protection against violence and on sexual harassment, for the sake of social workers with children.
- Establishing evidence for those working in the area juvenile care and at police posts/stations, and on the rights of the child in Islam for the sake of mosque preachers; and identifying non-punitive alternatives for children in schools.
- Adopting policies supportive of a culture of nonviolence, and raising awareness at relevant information and communication institutions.

Some countries have developed training plans on children's rights, and established training centres at universities for this purpose. Jordan has created a regional centre for training on protection against domestic violence; the country has implemented annual training plans aimed at engagement with children in the areas of health, education, justice and development, and means of involving children themselves, with contributions of support and expertise from international organizations.

In the UAE, focused efforts have been undertaken to redirect student interests outside the realm of formal education to mainstream them into other types of education. Some means of achieving this include establishing a centre specialized in education and vocational rehabilitation and introducing sports and other activities, including clubs, summer schooling, day care and social education for juveniles at risk of delinquency. Such programmes are geared to ensuring cultural rights are delivered to the centres affiliated with the Supreme Council for Families. In Algeria, efforts are being put forth to create a national centre for research and studies on women, children and family.

Syria also has created a regional centre for early childhood care in order to train professionals working with children; the centre is developing a reference manual for primary care in early childhood

training, dedicating a special chapter entitled “Child protection from abuse and violence.” Another manual, “A child-friendly school,” includes a description of a suitable, attractive and sound school environment for children. The project is underway in a number of provinces while the Ministry of Education is developing a set of criteria for “child-friendly school”.

Oman has developed functional specialties specific for nurseries, kindergarten, and preschools, in addition to organizing training courses workers in relevant institutions on how to deal effectively with children; a department specialized in “pre-school children” has been created at Sultan Qaboos University. Graduates will be academically qualified and receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree to certify their expertise in child social work.

In Palestine, the Ministry of Social Affairs trains staffers and develops their abilities in all aspects of human rights (legal, administrative, professional, etc); this programme has implemented a modern training project for ministry personnel working in the domain of child protection, and for other staffers at relevant national and public institutions that include labour, police, education, health, and civil bodies and organizations. This training programme is funded by UNICEF.

The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children has ongoing program to train workers in the fields of education and health, in family security and on how to handle cases of violence against children; and develops plans for preventive and remedial protection of children.

Framework 5: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary General's Comprehensive Study on Violence Against Children

5 - Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children

the capacity of all those who work with and for children to contribute to eliminate all violence against them must be developed. Initial and in-service training which imparts knowledge and respect for children's rights should be provided. States should invest in systematic education and training programmes both for professionals and non-professionals who work with or for children and families to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children. Codes of conduct and clear standards of practice, incorporating the prohibition and rejection of all forms of violence, should be formulated and implemented.

5.2: Training programmes targeting all parties working with children

Training programmes for child social workers allow participants to acquire relevant knowledge and gain respect for children's rights; they also receive focused responses from various relevant training programmes. Given the importance of expertise and specialized skills in engagement with children, all countries have set specific criteria for the selection of competent staffers.

The UAE has established academic, educational and social standards for employment in services involving children; the country has also developed criteria for selection of the most qualified candidates in this area.

In Bahrain, efforts are being put forth to retrain holders of BA degrees in psychology, and to conduct pre-service training for high school diploma holders, master's degree (MA) holders in family counselling, and holders of BAs in social work.

Syria has developed a special diploma programme for staffers to become trained specialists in child protection and has trained a core group of educators affiliated with the Ministry of Education on the training manual for child protection in schools. The Faculty of Education at the University of Damascus has introduced a programme specialized in pre-school education designed to train teachers over a four-year period towards a university degree in Early Childhood Education.

In Egypt, many mechanisms are in place at private kindergartens for training personnel on how to engage with children. Additionally, students are educated about child protection in the areas of psychology, health and law. Child-related law is taught as part of the curriculum at faculties of law.

Yemen has also established a Department of Social Services (BA programme) at the faculties of education at Sana'a University and the University of Aden. A master's degree programme for early childhood development has also been introduced at the faculty of arts at Sana'a University.

5.3: Curricular education programmes and activities

Intensive efforts have been made in most Arab countries to develop programmes and activities within formal education to mainstream issues of children's rights and violence against children at all levels of education, and to develop protocols that clearly define the roles and responsibilities of staffers working for institutions involved in handling cases of violence against children. The Arab states are progressing in the development of programmes related to social work and children within university departments and other educational. There has also been a clear focus on the development of curricula and manuals on identifying cases of violence against children and the ways to handle violence and devise follow-up mechanisms drawing upon local and foreign expertise. Some countries have initiated the development of codes of conduct for institutions specialized in childcare.

Jordan is among the countries that have had successful experiences in this area, setting a code of conduct outlining safe school environment, and instructions for student discipline in public and private schools.

UAE has launched a series of top-notch technology-based methods to develop educational curricula that incorporate the basic principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Tunisia has developed special publications on laws for child social workers concerning discipline, as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

However, apart from these experiences, available data does not suggest that sufficient significance is being attached to educational programmes in social work and child-related professions in most of the countries under study.

In Saudi Arabia, rules of conduct that include stipulations for prevention of violence are prevalent in public education and are explained to students at the beginning of the school year. In public schools, student mentors and leaders, who handle behavioural issues, also receive training to qualify them for such tasks. Syria circulated a code of conduct that prohibits all forms of violence.

In Palestine, the Palestinian Child Law calls on each institution working in child-related areas to develop policies designed for child protection against abuse and violence; this law stresses the regulations it incorporates for child protection, while holding violators accountable. In Lebanon, a bill on media ethics in dealing with children is in the process of being developed.

In Egypt, the draft regulations of the Children's Rights Act provision call on institutions working in child-related areas to develop policies for child protection against intentional and unintentional abuse, and ensure that these institutions adopt local mechanisms, criteria, rules and procedures to implement such policies. These tools and measures include taking preventive action to preclude harm to the child; delegating administrative responsibilities for handling such policies within an institution; establishing rules and general guidelines to define, jointly with children, acceptable and unacceptable behaviours; recruitment and trainings to ensure adherence to the policy of child protection; developing general guidance on children's issues; defining and identifying cases of abuse and how to report them; and taking follow-up action on such cases.

(6) Provision of correction and social integration services

6.1: Health services and pre-hospitalization and emergency care

Arab countries provide a range of accessible health care services in the areas of pre-hospitalization and emergency care. A range of programmes and pilot projects are offered in this area, including development of procedures and protocols governing coordination amongst participants, the creation of specialized fixed or mobile units to deal with violence, and programmes promoting maternal and child health. Other examples include training programmes for health workers and doctors to identify the signs and symptoms of violence, trainings and assignment of staffers specialized in the detection of early symptoms of violence and in reporting.

Framework 6: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary-General's Comprehensive Study on Violence against Children

6 – Provision of correction and social integration services

States shall provide accessible, child-sensitive and universal health and social services, including pre-hospital and emergency care, legal assistance to children and, where appropriate, their families when violence is detected or disclosed. Health, criminal justice, and social service systems should be designed to meet the special needs of children.

Jordan has developed procedures and protocols with the Ministry of Health to deal with cases of domestic violence. A specialized unit within the ministry handles issues of violence via a forensic medicine clinic within the Family Protection Department, which provide specialized medical services. All medical services are provided free of charge to victims of domestic violence. The Council of Ministers decided in 2004 to provide treatment and services free of charge to victims of domestic violence referred to hospitals and health centres by the Department of Family Protection.

Tunisia has installed a toll-free telephone number dedicated to helping battered women. Child protection officers can also be contacted by phone or e-mail in cases where children become victims of violence.

In Algeria 1,212 units exist to screen for health issues in schools, in addition to 48 unites to protect children in difficult circumstances and to integrate them in the society. Saudi Arabia (KSA) has formed social protection committees in the country to provide care in cases of violence. Saudi Arabia has also established health units within the Department of Medical Supervision for clinical and psychological

care. Relevant services and appropriate care are provided to students. The Department undertakes special programmes, workshops and seminars tackling violence and problems relating to childhood and adolescence, and trains educational personnel in relevant skills.

In Syria, the Directorate of School Health at the Ministry of Education designated clinics to each cluster of schools; these facilities serve several functions: providing medication, a programme for psychosocial support and child protection, and psychological evaluation, clinical and supportive psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy services. The National Centre for Forensic Medicine within the Ministry of Health provides specialized services and has branches in all Syrian governorates.

In Oman, all schools have designated health services facilities. An ad hoc form has been designed to document and report cases of abuse in health centres, and task forces have been formed to study and follow-up on cases of abuse across the governorates of Oman.

Qatar has opened two offices for The Qatar Foundation for Protection of Women and Children and to receive reports of offenses at the Emergency Department of Hamad Medical Corporation and within the Directorate of Security in the capital city.

In Egypt, the centres affiliated with the Ministry of Health offer general health care, including preventive and emergency services; critical cases are referred to the secondary level of Ministry of Health hospitals in accordance with the Child Act, Article (7) bis. Mobile units to provide on-site emergency health services for street children at their gathering places have been established.

Morocco has developed 18 medical units to receive female and child victims of violence, and has created units for child protection providing support, coping with urgent health issues and keeping current with legal and social services for the children victims of violence or those threatened by violence. In 2006, Yemen launched a programme for prevention of injuries and violence.

6.2: Social services and programmes designed to detect violence

The majority of Arab countries have implemented toll-free telephone line services to receive complaints and provide guidance and counselling services to victims of violence. Private institutions have also been established to receive reports about and follow-up on cases of violence against children.

In Jordan, the “Protection against Abuse” office at the Ministry of Education receives reports on cases of abuse of students at schools through its toll-toll-free hotline and website. Social workers are appointed to follow-up on abuse issues, and agreements have been signed with civil society organizations along with the signing of agreements with civil society organizations to monitor cases of abuse, in addition to the outstanding efforts exerted by NGOs in this area.

The Bahrain Centre for Child Protection offers a one stop shop for legal, health and social services in a child-friendly environment. In Bahrain, toll-free lines are being established to allow children to report cases of abuse or violence. The hotline has been dubbed ‘hotline and child support’ and will be reachable by children at an easy-to-remember number, 998. A number of specialists in the fields of health, psychological and social guidance and counselling have been assigned the task of receiving calls to the hotline. A home has also been set up to provide shelter, security, health care, and psycho-social support to women and children exposed to violence. This is in addition to the introduction of Batelco House Children’s Fund, and the opening of a private clinic to receive children experiencing violence, at Sulaymaniyeh Medical Centre, Ministry of Health.

Algeria has established offices within each municipality for social activities, providing social and economic assistance for families in need. These offices rely on the National Committee on Solidarity and its existing local branches across 48 states, in addition to toll-free hotlines to receive complaints and provide guidance and counselling services.

Syria has established family protection units; such units receive child abuse complaint cases, and investigate and forward them to the competent authorities. Some units have also embarked on setting up a shelter facility to protect – in a centre dedicated for child victims – the children who cannot be reintegrated in their communities without receiving physical and psychological rehabilitation; a re-evaluation of the environment in which they live would follow rehabilitation.

In Palestine, a protocol on child protection across networks, including public and private institutions involved in child protection, has been concluded. Child protection services are implemented based on full partnership and interaction among institutions. Children's issues are mediated through a child protection system of interventions, programmes and services. The system represents a child protection programme, with centres for child protection, and protection teams for children, which receive calls and complaints. Referral of children is made in writing or over the phone; children are then placed following a plan devised to provide protection and care for victims of domestic violence. The system also ensures rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims in their families and communities. The emphasis put on these plans is meant to avoid committing children into justice systems; pre-trial detention is proposed only in extreme cases according to the amendments made to the Palestinian Child Act, which has recently increased the minimum age of criminal accountability from 9 to 12 years.

In Qatar, several institutions have created programmes to end violence and provide social support, psychological counselling and behavioural change programmes for children and their families, in addition to the availability of protection and refuge and alternative family care when necessary.

In Egypt, the offices of social defence, family and children at the Ministry of Solidarity monitor the role of NGOs in monitoring, control and inspection, and oversee care provision in relation to children's issues. Incidences of exposure to risk and violence are detected by these offices and complaint boxes have been installed in social welfare units, allowing children to lodge complaints of violence by their caregivers. School doctors and psychologists detect and follow-up on cases such, work on character development and assist the children in solving the problems they encounter. Egypt has also established committees at the provincial level, with a mandate to monitor cases of exposure to risk, receive complaints and undertake direct interventions to confront the dangers children face. Recently, in addition to the existing child rescue line, another special line was installed to address family issues.

In Yemen, the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, in cooperation and coordination with governmental and non-governmental organizations, has established a range of networks and national commissions for children, including the National Network on Violence against Children, and the National Network for the Care of Children in Conflict with Law. In 2008, the two networks were integrated into a single national network, under the name 'National Network for Child Protection'. This Network aims to contribute to the provision of a safe environment to meet the needs of children. This goal can be furthered through strengthening the legal framework for child protection, raising community awareness about child protection, and providing psycho-social and legal support for child victims of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. It can also be accomplished through monitoring, reporting and follow-up on cases of violence and abuse, neglect and exploitation. The

services are based on coordination of efforts among members of the network and its affiliated entities. Currently, the establishment of child protection networks in ten governorates is underway. The first stage is the completion of network development and regulation of the networks for child protection at the provincial level. Recently, the Yemeni journalists' network to end violence against children was also established⁹.

6.3: Legal aid programmes for children and their families

With regard to programmes for legal assistance to children and their families, some countries that responded to the questionnaire provided data concerning the provision of legal aid. Such provision is made through a variety of mechanisms and programmes, including projects intended to protect and care for children in the criminal justice system, and programmes meant to provide legal assistance and counselling for children and their families. One of the programmes has provided judicial services to children, as well as police and legal assistance; meanwhile, certain NGOs provide legal services, assistance and advice, including:

- Legal advice.
- Judicial assistance (assigning volunteer lawyers to plead) in cases where clients are unable to retain counsel.
- Communication with security services for follow-up purposes to ensure safety on one hand, and secure legal proceedings on the other.

The available data show that the majority of countries assign, within the framework of legal assistance for children and families, volunteer lawyers to represent them and provide advice free of charge. We also noted some experimental programs directed towards the development of public institutions to provide legal aid and allocate grants to NGOs to undertake ad hoc projects and provide legal assistance to children.

In the context of suitable legal provisions for child victims of violence, Jordan has ensured that abused children have access to the necessary technology to give their testimony without becoming subject to undue psychological pressure. Jordan also plans to provide protection and care services for children in the criminal justice system in order to provide guidance and legal assistance to a number of correctional centres and institutions. This is in addition to the implementation of the "Nour" legal aid and counselling programme for children accused of breaking the law

The UAE prepared a bill on protection of children's rights, detailing the specific functions of the law and the role of social workers who provide legal assistance to children and families at risk of violence.

Tunisia developed a new system that provides an advisor to every child appearing in a court of first instance to provide support and legal advice free of charge.

In Algeria, a council offers support to children at all stages of the judicial process. In Oman, the Ministry of Social Development proposed an act on accountability regarding juveniles, detailing the role of the probation officer, who manages probation, visits the juvenile offender at their place of residence, and provides advice and assistance.

In Lebanon, a child friendly setting, equipped with audio-visual technical media, was created in the Justice Palace in Beirut; the aim is to listen to the child victim of sexual abuse and exploitation, thus avoiding repeated interrogations. The bill to protect children against abuse and neglect introduces

mechanisms for protection at the national level, such as the social guide, specialized police and others.

In Egypt, the law stipulates that parties must present a lawyer conversant with trials to defend the accused child; expenses are borne by State. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt provides some internationally funded grants to ensure legal aid to children through civil society organizations.

In Mauritania, a special department to secure judicial protection for children was created at the Ministry of Justice. A legal aid system is also in place and a private room has been designated within the courthouse for juveniles in conflict with the law. The law also provides for judicial protection of the child; for example, interrogation of a child by police must be conducted in the presence of a social worker and a lawyer.

Yemen has begun to activate after-care services through the establishment of offices for after-care and social protection services in the governorates of Taiz and Hodeida; this motion will be scaled up to include the provinces of Sana'a and Aden. A family protection unit at the Police General Directorate has recently been established to serve women and children at the Interior Ministry. The Ministry of Justice is currently examining a proposal on the establishment of family courthouses in a number of provinces.

6.4: Health services designed to meet the special needs of children

Health services have also been designed to meet the special needs of children, helping to protect them from violence. A group of countries provided information about the health services they deliver for children, particularly in the area of protection against violence. In the absence of clear indicators about the progress made in this area, some countries require that health workers report all cases of violence against children. Other countries have units and sub-units for detection and follow-up on the physical and mental health conditions of children, with support from professional associations.

Bahrain has set up health centres and social centres responsible for all psycho-social and legal services for both children and adolescents.

Algeria has developed an institutionalized interdependent psycho-social support network for the treatment of traumatized children in educational institutions where various aspects of children's physical and mental health are attended to.

Morocco has worked on the formulation of protocols for treatment of child victims of violence; this effort has been approved and is currently in progress.

In Yemen, the National Programme for Violence and Injury Prevention was introduced at the Ministry of Public Health and Population early in 2010. The programme works on establishing a surveillance system for cases of violence and accidents, to be connected to emergency departments in hospitals; these cases include violence against children and gender-based violence. The programme also works on a number of awareness-raising publications and television programmes. These endeavours fall within the framework of primary prevention of violence and aim to raise health awareness in order to reduce mortality rates resulting from violence against children. The National Programme for Violence and Injury Prevention and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood are developing a manual for health workers on how to identify and deal with cases of violence against children in hospitals.

(7) Ensure child participation

Measures have been taken by Arab states to ensure respect for children's views in all aspects of violence prevention ; these steps will enable response and monitoring (while taking into account the child's right to express their views in accordance with Article (12) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) as illustrated in the country responses to the questionnaire and the piloting exercise on the development of childrens' parliaments in Jordan, the UAE, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen.

Framework 7: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary General's Comprehensive Study on Violence against Children

7 - Ensuring child participation

States shall actively engage with children and respect their views in all aspects of prevention, response and monitoring of violence against them ,taking into account article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child .Children's organisations and child-led initiatives to address violence, guided by the best interests of the child, should be supported and encouraged.

In Jordan, the development of student councils is regulated by the 2007 Regulation No. (8) on student councils in public and private schools. Apart from these bodies, students' parliaments have been established, and participation by students in public and private schools in the Arab Youth Forum has been encouraged. These efforts are meant to help students express their views freely and safely, make and advance cases for protection of and respect for their organization, and allow them to make recommendations to the League of Arab States in the area of decision-making. Approval has been granted of student membership in the committees on advocacy; these structures are present in all public and military schools and aid agencies for the purposes of activating a violence-free and safe school environment, and for prompting interactive communication between teachers and students.

In this framework, the Emirate of Sharjah in the UAE established the Shura Council of Children and the Youth Parliament of male and female school students at the primary and secondary levels; these structures are linked to the centres emerging under the Supreme Council for Families to help prepare students for parliamentary life, involve them in community issues in general, and allow them to discuss their cases in particular.

In Bahrain, all public and private school have students' councils; centres for children and young people are linked to workshops designed to promote training of children in participation in forums at the local, Arab and international levels.

Tunisia formed municipal councils of children, district councils and student councils, as well as clubs for child parliamentarians. Through these structures, senior children among parliamentarians train their peers in parliamentary work, education on child's rights and means to fulfil the childrens' right to participate and express their opinion.

Algeria also has formed local childrens' municipal councils, and established special children's offices in municipalities. The "child-friendly city" initiative has also been launched, in addition to establishing a parliament for children.

Children in Sudan have also been invited to express their views and to comment on proposals regarding all child-specific issues; children are involved in the preparation of periodic reports on the state of children through workshops.

In 2005, Syria formed a children's parliament in Deir-al-Zour to build upon the work at the children's parliament in Homs. Two popular organizations in Syria, the Talaa'a Organization and the Youth Organization, manage the participation of children at the primary and secondary education levels, and demonstrate their organizational expertise via sports events and entertainment, summer camps and talent development. There also exists a student elections organization at the school level. These structures also supervise consultations with young people, during which the current situation of youth is analyzed and hearings and child consultations are conducted. This serves as a prime example of the involvement of children in matters concerning them. A recent forum, the "Ninth Arab Children's Forum", was held in Damascus in 2008 to expand the partnership between relevant bodies and young people.

The number of Arab countries working on the involvement of children in the planning and preparation of strategies targeting children is noticeably increasing; children in a number of Arab countries take part in workshops held locally and nationally on issues of concern to them. In the meetings held at the Arab regional level, children have full freedom to discuss their issues and needs; students choose the activities and courses that appeal to them and match their abilities, and their creativities are encouraged both at school and in the community. The children's parliament is an important platform in which children express their views on all issues relating to childhood and children's rights and programmes for children. Many Arab countries have laws that ensure child's participation in public life and in planning processes.

In Oman, childrens' cultural festivals are organized on a regular basis; forums are held on the sidelines of festivals, conventions, and workshops for consultation on children's issues and problems, allowing for freedom of expression, and involving children in Oman in the preparation of reports tackling their needs.

In Palestine, participation by children and their active role in the establishment of municipal councils of children has been enacted in Ramallah and Jericho. These activities have helped develop children's creative capacity and involve them in national, Arab and international events and festivities related to creativity, culture, society and human rights. Added to that is the involvement of children in parent-school councils, and the organization of events marking Palestinian Children's Day in the Arab World. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has encouraged the role of children and youth in promoting youth leadership in the Palestinian society.

In Qatar, Al Jazeera launched a dialogue show for children in a program entitled "A View On" addressing, in several episodes, issues concerning the rights of the child.

In Lebanon, a children's parliament was established in 1996. The Higher Council for Children has also formed a special committee on child participation with representatives from the formal sector and the local community. Municipal councils of children have been created in all regions across Lebanon and are composed of elected grade-six members from public and private schools; a shadow youth government was also formed.

In Libya, children participate through Jamahiriya junior and student conferences. In these venues, children are partners in political decision-making and economic and social development; they discuss their cases through periodic meetings held within each educational setting.

Egypt has established a coalition of non-governmental organizations for children's rights, and a forum for adolescents; the country has also set up 450 student clubs in schools, to ensure the involvement of children in conferences held outside Egypt.

Morocco organizes the biannual National Conference on the Rights of the Child (twelve sessions have so far been held). Morocco has also formed 25 group councils for children.

In Mauritania, the Children's Parliament is given considerable powers by Mauritanian legislators, including the power to hold members of the government accountable. The parliament is representative of all children in the country; each district is represented by two children (a boy and a girl) while children with disabilities have six representatives. Newly established municipal councils of children, one of which is currently up and running in the capital city, promote participation in decision-making at the municipal level. The regular municipal councils take into consideration the problems and concerns expressed by children, which include violence.

Yemen encourages and supports children's initiatives through financial and moral support to the Children's Parliament, reflecting real participation by children in different areas. The Parliament conducts field visits to childrens' neighbourhoods and homes, and reports to authorities on the state of children in institutions during the meetings of the annual session of the Children's Parliament. During the session, recommendations made in the plans and strategies are discussed, as is the involvement of children reflected in the responses to a questionnaire by the United Nations on violence against children.

It is evident from the present report on the participation of children that measures have been taken by Arab states to ensure respect for children's views in all aspects of violence prevention related to the rights of the child. In addition to these steps, a variety of measures have been taken by Arab countries to involve children in the planning and development of child-specific strategies. It is hoped that these measures will grow noticeably, reflecting interest by Arab countries to forward the cause of protection of children against violence.

In terms of the measures and actions taken to ensure the best interests of the child, reports show that Arab countries have made remarkable progress on the legislation giving priority to the child's best interest, thus ensuring the child's integrity and safety. However, it is obvious that a lack of adequate procedures has resulted in enforcement of such laws falling sort of expected targets.

(8) Establishing accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services

Regarding mechanisms for children and caretakers, it is evident from the data and reports available from Arab states on violence against children that the majority of Arab countries have created safe reporting mechanisms and institutions. It is also obvious that children and parents are able to report cases of violence in strict confidence, and emphasis has been placed on the promulgation of mandatory reporting laws.

Such hotlines should receive all reports of violence against children. In addition to the presence of criminal justice institutions in all countries, and toll-free telephone lines to receive complaints, units for listening, guidance and communications are available in all but a few cases. Civil society plays an important role in the dissemination of information about the reception centres to relevant actors, including children and parents by clearly describing the role of telephone line services and listening and guidance centres and how to access them.

Framework 8: Recommendations on the United Nations Secretary-General's Comprehensive Study on Violence against Children

8 – Establishing accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services:

States should establish safe, well-publicised, confidential and accessible mechanisms for children, their representatives and others to report violence against children. All children, including those in care and justice institutions, should be aware of the existence of mechanisms of complaint. Mechanisms such as telephone helplines through which children can report violence, speak to a trained counsellor in confidence and ask for support and advice should be established and the creation of other ways of reporting violence through new technologies should be considered.

In Jordan, reporting cases of children's exposure to abuse is mandatory for medical and social professionals; toll-free lines and mechanisms for reporting cases of abuse are advertised through pamphlets, posters and websites.

In Sudan, the Family and Child Protection offers a rescue-line for children; this is an important mechanism to safely and confidentially report cases of violence. The unit advocates for and offers prevention and protection services as well as treatment for children and women experiencing all forms of violence and exploitation. These tasks are performed through programmes and activities stemming from the values and culture of society, in accordance with existing legislation and the country's commitment to national, regional and international conventions.

In Palestine, children are offered assistance through a network of child protection services, including telephone lines, centres for child protection, and a child protection programme (The Childhood Protection Advisors).

In Qatar, reporting of violent crimes is mandatory, particularly for doctors and qualified medical professionals and staff. The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children offers hotlines and a security-line to support women and children (919); this line operates around the clock to receive reported cases and work for immediate rescue of at-risk individuals.

Egypt established the Child Helpline 16000 in 2005. The line is toll-free and is dedicated to the rescue of children; the hotline plays an important role in monitoring violence against children, in providing treatment to and rehabilitation of victims, in ensuring punishment of offenders and in providing services to children around the clock across all governorates of Egypt. The Child Helpline also plays a vital role in the development of a database for marginalized groups of children, a generally inaccessible population segment; the line received 1,025,218 communications between 29.06.2005 - 17.12.2008. Law No. 126 describes the child rescue line as a critical monitoring mechanism with a mandate to receive and address complaints, make referrals and investigations, and follow-up on the results of investigation and protection. (See Article [144])¹⁰.

In Yemen, there are many civil society organizations available to receive reports and complaints on violence against children (Child Helpline). Those units offer psychological assistance and guidance to families for the protection of children against violence, abuse and exploitation, in collaboration with the National Network for Child Protection. This Network follows-up on such communications and complaints to the authorities and judicial bodies.

(9) Ensuring accountability and eliminating impunity

Multiple safeguards are in place to ensure that justice systems provide suitable punishment for perpetrators of crimes against children; these measures vary from one country to another. In sixteen countries (Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen), laws ensure that perpetrators of crimes against children are punished under different codes in the justice system, such as the penal code, the criminal law, the child act, the law on children's rights, and the minors or juveniles act. Penalties vary from one country to another according to the criminal acts committed.

Framework 9: Recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's Comprehensive Study on Violence Against children

9 – Ensuring accountability and ending impunity

States should build community confidence in the justice system by, inter alia, bringing all perpetrators of violence against children to justice and ensure that they are held accountable through appropriate 'No matter whether violence against children occurs in the family, school, community, institution or workplace, health workers are the front line for responding to it. We must make our contribution to ensuring that such violence is prevented from occurring in the first place, and that where it does occur children receive the best possible services to reduce its harmful effects'. Anders Nordström, Acting Director-General, WHO an end to violence against children criminal, civil, administrative and professional proceedings and sanctions .Persons convicted of violent offences and sexual abuse of children should be prevented from working with children.

In Tunisia, crimes against children are considered in the context of the circumstances of the criminal act in order to administer punishment to aggressors. In Saudi Arabia, where Islamic Shari'a is the basis of legislation, the judiciary system holds accountable the perpetrators of crimes against children according to the gravity of the offense committed.

In Syria, the penal code allows for the addition of harsher penalties for the crime in case it is committed against a child. In Palestine, the Palestinian child act and the penal code deny impunity for perpetrators of child abuse. In Qatar, the constitution ensures equality and non-discrimination between citizens and residents before the law.

In Morocco, forthcoming procedures will accelerate the pace of judicial proceedings and enforce the principle of no impunity; units have also been created in the public prosecution to handle issues of childhood, especially in matters related to violence; strict instructions are given to punish all perpetrators of offenses committed against children. Some NGOs working in the area of interventions against violence against children can act as a civil party supporting children victims of violence.

In Egypt, lawmakers have recently introduced a provision doubling the minimum penalty prescribed for all crimes committed by adults against children. In Yemen, a family protection unit was created to attend to women's and children's issues within the General Directorate of Police; the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Justice are to study the creation of family courthouses in some provinces. Furthermore, draft legal amendments relating to children are proposed to be introduced to the draft penal code and are currently being presented before the House of Representatives for discussion and approval. The amendment's provisions involve legislative penalties against perpetrators with relation to bullying, exploitation and abuse against children.

The following sections details major steps that have been taken to ensure justice and equitable legal proceedings in relation to crimes against children in Arab countries.

(9) Ensuring accountability and eliminating impunity

9.1. Safeguards to guarantee justice system

The data available show that the majority of countries are moving towards criminalization and imposing harsher penalties for perpetrators of violence against children, as shown in Table No. (5), which illustrates special safeguards to ensure efficient provisions in the justice system.

9.2. Procedures and penalties

Procedures and punishments in the civil, administrative and professional fields highlight the need for holding perpetrators accountable for the crimes they commit against children. Measures vary from country to country, as indicated in the data available from fourteen countries: Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco and Yemen, when it comes to the laws, procedures and punishments against the perpetrators held accountable for the crimes they perpetrate against children. In some countries, there are comprehensive laws addressing perpetrators in terms of penalties and punishments, while other countries have specific laws or articles that hold the perpetrators of such crimes accountable. Such laws are applicable to venues connected to the locality in which the crime was perpetrated, such as the family, educational institutions and other places where children spend time, such as work settings. Table 6 details procedures and punishments that ensure an effective criminal justice system.

Table 5: Safeguards to guarantee justice systems

Country	Safeguards to guarantee justice systems
<p>Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the penal code (Articles 185- 306) cases of sexual abuse of a minor under the age of fifteen are considered crimes punishable by the death penalty; the same penalty is stressed in the law on anti-narcotics and psychotropic substances for those who use children to promote narcotics. - There are laws meant to protect children from abuse, such as the law on monitoring juvenile behaviours: law No. 37/2006, and the law on prohibition of human trafficking: No. 9/2009.
<p>United Arab Emirates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article (14) of the constitution stipulates: "Equality, social justice, ensuring safety and security and equality of opportunity for all citizens shall be the pillars of the society." - Article (16) of the Constitution of the United Arab Emirates: "Society shall be responsible for protecting motherhood and childhood and shall protect minors." - Article (25) of the Constitution stipulates that: "All persons are equal before the law, without distinction between citizens of the Union in regard to race, nationality, religious belief or social status." - Article (26) of the Constitution No person shall be subjected to torture or to degrading treatment. - The law on children's rights provides in Article 7 "A child shall in all circumstances be given priority for recreation, protection, care and relief." - Article (29) of the Juvenile Law No. (9) provides "Trial proceedings of a juvenile should take place in private, and may be attended only by his/her parents, witnesses, lawyers and representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs and juvenile institution and whoever the court authorizes to attend." - Chapter 8 of the child act states: Never expose the child to torture and repeated attacks on his/her physical integrity or engage him or her in any act of cruelty, never expose the child to sexual exploitation, and never expose him/her to acts of prostitution, whether paid or not paid, and directly or indirectly to sexual exploitation. - Local law No. (3) of 2006 about the welfare of deprived children of social welfare in the Emirate of Sharjah ensures protective measures for children. - Local law No. 9/2007 regarding the establishment of the Endowments and Minors' Affairs Foundation in Dubai, provides protection to children, minors, orphans and manages their properties.
<p>Kingdom of Bahrain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The penal code. - Juvenile welfare act. - The code of criminal procedures. - The Health Law.

Table 5: Safeguards to guarantee justice systems

Country	Safeguards to guarantee justice systems
<p>Republic of Tunisia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to the criminal law of Tunisia, assault of a child is considered one of the factors bolstering penalties, which vary according to the severity of the acts committed. This law gives priority to the preventive aspect over the criminal one; it avoids depriving delinquent children, as much as possible, of their liberty, and works to provide dedicated spaces to them. It should be noted as well that there are specialized structures that take care of children's issues (family- or child-dedicated judges).
<p>Democratic People's Republic of Algeria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The constitution - The penal code - Health law - Family law - The nationality law - Social security laws - Resolution no. 03-72 (1972) regarding children and adolescents' protection - Resolution no. 64-75 regarding the establishment of institutions related to children and adolescents' protection
<p>The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The basic law.
<p>Republic of Sudan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sudanese laws (Law on Children's Rights of 2010, the Criminal Code of 1991, State-level Laws) provide for punishment of the perpetrators of crimes, and the civil society organizations play an important role in this regard. - The laws of Sudan warrant that justice will be done to children; these laws include, for example, the law on children's rights of 2010, which provide for deterrent penalties reaching death penalty or punishment by imprisonment for twenty years with a fine. The law also includes associated procedures in the area of juvenile justice; it further provides for setting up mechanisms for child protection against exposure at child courthouses and the waiting areas therein in line with the best interests of the child, and his/her safety and security against the perpetrators of such crimes. - The Law on Children's Rights increases the age of criminal responsibility to twelve years.

Table 5: Safeguards to guarantee justice systems

Country	Safeguards to guarantee justice systems
<p>Arab Republic of Syria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Syrian penal code imposes harsh penalties reaching hard labour for a period of fifteen years in imprisonment for sexual abuse of children; it imposes punishments on parents, in cases of abandonment whether of legitimate or illegitimate; in addition, the decree on human trafficking imposes severe penalties against the perpetrators of crimes of trafficking in children.
<p>Republic of Iraq</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children in Iraq receive legal protection through a number of laws including the Law on the Welfare of Minors No. 78 of 1970; this law provides for protection of orphans and younger children while providing for their social, cultural and financial affairs – hence contributing to community building; this law is also meant to address issues of minors and provide protection for them.
<p>Sultanate of Oman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The criminal procedures law provides for the provision of justice. The provisions of the law provide the legal basis for equal investigations and trials of various types of cases.
<p>Palestine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considered as an exemplary source in this area, the Palestinian child act and the penal code guarantee that punishment is imposed on perpetrators of crimes against children.
<p>Qatar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the most important judicial guarantees stipulated by law is that people are equal before the law; the law does not discriminate among them based on sex, origin, language or religion. - Every person legally residing in the country enjoys protection for himself/herself, and their assets, in accordance with the provisions of the law. - The judiciary is independent; it is not beholden to anything other than the law. - Juvenile justice agencies are present (juvenile police, juvenile commissioner, juvenile court, and welfare institutions provide protection for juvenile delinquents and potential delinquents). - Justice is done in the best interest of the child upon sentencing.
<p>Kuwait</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impunity will not be tolerated for anyone who commits a crime against children as the country's laws punish anyone who commits a crime against children.

Table 5: Safeguards to guarantee justice systems

Country	Safeguards to guarantee justice systems
<p>Republic of Lebanon</p>	<p>- According to the Lebanese penal code, punishment is imposed on the offender according to the type of offense.</p>
<p>Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</p>	<p>- Safeguards are ensured equally for all, and legal action will be taken to criminalize the perpetrators of violence against children; punishment takes the form of a fine, publishing the final verdict of conviction and deprivation of rights, privileges, subsidies and loans as punishment for those who deprive children of compulsory education (primary), and who fail to immunize/vaccinate his/her children or secure a birth certificate.</p>
<p>Arab Republic of Egypt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Child Act includes provisions that ensure a justice system that addresses the perpetrators of crimes against children, as do the penal code and other laws. - The Child Act includes provisions ensuring child protection against all forms of violence and providing a system of justice, as do the penal code and other special laws; the following points are also stipulated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Avoid subjecting a child to multiple interviews and tests with multiple parties present in cases of investigation of violence against him or her. * Children should not be subjected to lengthy judicial procedures under poor conditions. * As much as possible, avoid having children appear during trial in the presence of criminals. * Provide children with access to legal support. * Anyone who receives a child and neglects performing his or her duties towards them, will be punished by a minimum fine of two hundred Egyptian pounds and a maximum of one thousand pounds, if such negligence will cause a crime be committed against the child or will expose him/her to risk. * Multiple penalties are stipulated against anyone in charge of the child who might expose him or her to risk or negligence.

Table 5: Safeguards to guarantee justice systems

Country	Safeguards to guarantee justice systems
<p>Kingdom of Morocco</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Units created at the level of public prosecution departments within the various courthouses handling children’s issues across Morocco, especially those addressing violence. - Strict instructions for punishment are implemented against all who would be held responsible for offences committed against children, in order to ensure reporting and accountability; the clause addressing the criminal code is amended to allow persons bound by professional secrecy, especially doctors, to report all acts of violence affecting children. - Permission is given to some organizations to interfere as a civil entity for the benefit of child victims of violence. - All courthouses are now handling incidences of violence against children through judicial bodies specialized in children’s issues.
<p>Islamic Republic of Mauritania</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All laws ensure equal access to the justice system for the perpetrators of crimes against children; judges in such a system are not subject to the decisions of either the executive or the legislative authority. Moreover, children are provided with legal aid, which makes it easier for them to ensure their rights and have their abusers punished. Other stipulations include allowing human rights-based organizations to play advanced roles in advocacy of childrens’ issues.
<p>Republic of Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The penal code and its draft amendments ensure, on equal footing, a justice system for the perpetrators of crimes against children under 18 years of age, and severe punishments for individuals who use violence against those children or exploit them in begging and smuggling ring. A draft provision of an article has also been added, designated as the right to discipline. - A family protection unit within the Police Department of Women and Juveniles at the Ministry of Interior has been established. - Guidelines on the best methods of dealing with children in police stations are developed. - Establishment of Department of Human Rights, Women and Children, in the Ministry of Justice. - A network of public and private entities involved in child protection, composed of representatives of various governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney General’s Office, the Ministry of Interior and the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, as well as civil society organizations; is was established to follow up on issues of violence against children at police stations, by prosecutors and in the courts. - The Ministry of Justice is considering the creation of family courthouses in some provinces.

Table 6: Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system

Country	Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system
<p>Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 8 of the law on protection against domestic violence binds medical, social, educational, public and private sectors service providers to report suspected cases resulting from violence. - The Jordanian penal code procedures set forth penalties and punishments enforceable against anyone who violates its provisions and toughens punishments related to violence against children, Other provisions also relate to those set forth in the code of criminal procedures, No. 9/1961. The general prosecution takes responsibility for activating criminal cases if a conflict of interest occurs between the child and his or her custodian; cases are built on complaints.
<p>United Arab Emirates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article (102) of the federal penal code No. (3) of 1987 and its amendments consider “anyone who commits a crime by seizing the opportunity of the victim’s poor understanding or his/her failure to resist, or him/her being in circumstances that do not allow others to defend him/her receives the harshest punishment” - Article (33) of the penal code stipulates a maximum ten-year imprisonment in case of assaults on somebody else’s person by any means. - Article (350) of the penal code provides that anyone who exposes a child under the age of seven to risk will be punished by imprisonment or a maximum fine of ten thousand dirhams. - Article (358) of the penal code provides that any obscene public acts and violations of public decency stipulates no less than a six-month jail term. If A boy or girl under the age of 15 does such acts in public or, even in private, will be punished by imprisonment for no less than one year. - Article (10) of the criminal procedures code (enclosed) the victims who are less than 15 years: complaints should be submitted by their custodians; if there is a conflict of interest between the victim and his or her custodian or if the victim is not represented by anyone, the general prosecutor replaces the victim as is provided for under Article (14) of the law. - The Ministry of Education bans corporal punishment of children in schools. - Article (42) of Juvenile Law No. (9)/1976 stipulates that anyone who exposes a juvenile to any form of vagrancy will be punished by imprisonment for a maximum of one year or a fine ranging between two thousand dirhams and five thousand dirhams. - The human trafficking Act, No. (51) 2006, includes penalties for perpetrators of crimes of human trafficking and orders protection to be provided to victims. The law sets forth a number of means to provide children with protection, and deterrent penalties are set forth against those who put children at risk and expose them to trafficking.

Table 6: Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system

Country	Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system
Kingdom of Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The penal code. - The code of criminal procedures. - The juvenile welfare law
Republic of Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In addition to the severe criminal penalties set forth against perpetrators of violence against children, perpetrators will be removed from office, whether in the public or the private sector. Tunisia is working on a law to introduce a penal system for young men in the age group 18 to 21 years old.
Democratic People's of Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The penal code. - The code of criminal procedures.
Republic of Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The children's rights act, 2010, sets forth penalties up to death penalty or a twenty-year jail term and a fine for perpetrators of sexual crimes against children.
Arab Republic of Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Imposed severe criminal penalties against perpetrators of crimes against children (sexual crimes, kidnapping, negligence). - Published a decree on human trafficking, law No. 3 of 2010, which gives due attention to protection for child victims of trafficking. - The provisions of the juvenile law introduce protection of children in conflict with the law; publication of children's photographs and the proceedings of their trials in books, newspapers or movies in any form is prohibited.
Republic of Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The public prosecutor law, No. 159 of 1979, refers to the role of public prosecution in the defence of the public right in criminal and civil cases, where the state is a party to such cases, in addition to being a party in some personal lawsuits.
Sultanate of Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The law imposes appropriate penalties on the perpetrators of crimes, and considers the young age of a victim an aggravating cause for some penalties to be imposed on the offender, for example, public morals offences if committed against juveniles.

Table 6: Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system

Country	Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system
<p>Qatar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the child victim was involved in crimes of violence and sexual exploitation, abduction and deprivation of freedom, the offender's punishment should be more severe. - A slight risk of child exposure to danger is considered a crime punishable by law. - Taking a child away from a person who has a legitimate power over him/her is considered a crime punishable by law. - The law gives permission to suspend some or all of the rights of the State and of those of anyone who takes on the responsibility for the child, if the perpetrator endangers the child's health, safety, or morals because of maltreatment or bad conduct. - The law considers the general prosecutor a custodian of the child if the child has no custodian and in case of a conflict of interest with the child's guardian. - Qatari labour law No. (14) of 2004 imposes prison sentences and fines on violators of the law regarding the employment of juveniles. - The Qatari penal code (11) of 2004 imposes prison sentences for intended murders, suicide, abuse and torture. - The Qatari juvenile law No. 01/2004, imposes prison sentences and fines on the perpetrators of certain crimes against minors.
<p>Kuwait</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harsh measures are provided for under the articles of the penal law in case of an adult committing a crime against children, such as sexual assault; perpetrators receive punishment following conviction.
<p>Republic of Lebanon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedures and punishments are subject to special regulations, which are functional within relevant institutions
<p>Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal punishments are represented in criminalization of the perpetrators of violence against children; this is done through the enactment of laws that deprive the perpetrators of all their financial and administrative rights.

Table 6: Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system

Country	Procedures and punishments ensuring effective functioning of the justice system
<p>Arab Republic of Egypt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numerous laws carry variant degrees of punishments for those who commit crimes against children, and other punishable offences (exposing a child to risk or neglect, trafficking or exploitation, female circumcision or (FGM/C), failure to segregate children and adults in detention and defamation through the media); the law doubles the minimum penalties for all crimes committed by adults against children. - Punishments are also set forth in the law against anyone who withholds an already sentenced child. The law also provides for punishment against anyone who incites or helps a child commit a crime or misdemeanour.
<p>Kingdom of Morocco</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The penalty is intensified for the cases provided for under the criminal law.
<p>Islamic Republic of Mauritania</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The criminal, civil and administrative doctrinal penalties are left to the discretion of the adjudicating judges and in accordance with the nature of the crime committed; however, it is important to impose severe and deterrent punishments on criminals who commit crimes against children.
<p>Republic of Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numerous measures are taken and criminal penalties established under the penal and criminal codes are enforced against the perpetrators of crimes against children. - Regarding administrative and professional procedures, each institution sets forth a range of actions to be taken against their staffers who perpetrate violent crimes, including referral to investigation and, in cases of conviction; the convicts will be committed to the general prosecutor. Penalties include suspension of employment, delayed promotions, demotion and dismissal. - Juvenile welfare law, the children's rights law and the criminal law are in place.

(9) Ensuring accountability and eliminating impunity

9.3. Measures against perpetrators of crimes of violence

Measures taken against perpetrators of crimes of violence and sexual abuse of children should prevent them from working with children, as is the case in Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen. Legal decrees prohibit perpetrators of violence against and sexual abuse of children from returning to work with children. Some measures adopted include dismissal from work, or preventing the perpetrator from working with children in the future. Some countries also take action to ensure enforcement of other legal punishments. Bahrain indicates that the country has no explicit provisions preventing abusers from working with children, but the special procedures of the Civil Service Bureau prevent recruitment of recidivist perpetrators. In Lebanon, there is no explicit provision preventing abusers from working with children; such decisions are left to judges.

In Egypt, measures begin with pre-requisites for employment in accordance with the labour law, requiring publication of the criminal act in a newspaper, to prevent recruitment of ex-offenders or persons in conflict with the law. Government institutions have inspectors at the departments of legal affairs to investigate negligence and violations committed by staffers against children. Private foundations are also subject to the justice system and accountability in accordance with the labour law. These measures allow for dismissal of employees who commit violations and soil the foundation's reputation in terms of professional standards and honour. Other punishments include arrest, imprisonment and prohibition from interaction with children. Table 7 shows special measures taken against perpetrators of crimes of violence and sexual abuse of children, and preventive punishments imposed in work settings.

Table 7: Measures toward perpetrators of violence against and sexual assault on children, and prevention of child labour

<p>Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</p>	<p>- The punishment for those convicted of violence against children may be up to totally preventing perpetrators from work and other forms of engagement with children. In addition, the punishments against such convicts will be enforced in accordance with the Jordanian penal code. Such punishment gets more severe if the perpetrator is a family/household member, regardless of whether the child is legitimate or illegitimate, or if the perpetrator is the child's custodian, or he/she is entrusted with the child's education, welfare, or has a legal authority over the child, or if the perpetrator is a cleric, or the director of an office, or a worker in an office who commits the offence while misusing his/her powers or the facilities that he/she derives from such powers.</p>
<p>Kingdom of Bahrain</p>	<p>- Courthouses have the right to pronounce sentences removing parental custody or a child's custodianship on grounds of committing a crime of assault or neglect or maltreatment against children. The courthouses can also pass judgments to transfer custody to foster families; many rulings have been pronounced in this regard.</p>
<p>Republic of Tunisia</p>	<p>- In addition to the severe criminal penalties imposed on perpetrators of violence against children, they will be fired from work, be they in the public or the private sector. Tunisia is embarking on a law creating a special penal system for young men between in the ages of 18-21 years.</p>
<p>People's Democratic Republic of Algeria</p>	<p>- The penal code punishes and condemns all acts of neglect or abandonment of children, crimes of rape or incest against children, incitement of minors for prostitution. In addition, the code censures neglect of children born or to be born, and of all who use them for financial gain. It also punishes for crimes of sexual harassment and violation of public decency, and rape. Penalties get more severe if the perpetrator is a member of the victim's family. Finally, the penal code condemns acts related to trafficking of women and girls.</p>
<p>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>- Procedures and punishments are taken in accordance with the rules derived from the Islamic Shari'a law, where it is provided that parental custody or a child's custodian shall be removed on grounds of committing a crime of rape or indecent assault against the child. If a parent or a custodian endangers a child's health, integrity and safety, or abusively treats a child, the judge has the right to consider replacement of the child's custodianship.</p>

Table 7: Measures toward perpetrators of violence against and sexual assault on children, and prevention of child labour

<p>Republic of Sudan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those convicted by a court ruling are dismissed from their jobs after convening an administrative council to hold them accountable for their crimes.
<p>Arab Republic of Syria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legislative decree relating to the crimes of human trafficking: the decree sets forth penalties against anyone who commits a crime of trafficking in persons or incites, participates in or interferes with such trafficking, or if he/she knows of it and fails to report it; the decree aims to prevent and combat human trafficking, and pays particular attention to child victims of these crimes. - Persons requesting employment should have a clean criminal record.
<p>Sultanate of Oman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedures and punishments prevent the perpetrators of crimes of violence and sexual abuse against children from working with children.
<p>Palestine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The procedures and punishments are enforced according to the Palestinian children’s rights law and the penal law.
<p>Qatar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The law is enforced and penalties will be imposed on whoever violates the law.
<p>Kuwait</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A specialized security system is in place at juvenile police stations; the system carries out its duties vis-a-vis the crimes committed by or against juveniles; furthermore, the system delivers psycho-social services to meet all the needs of the child victims of violence or abuse.
<p>Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deterrent legal action is taken against perpetrators of crimes committed against children; a statement declaring that a perpetrator will never be permitted to work with children will be disseminated.

Table 7: Measures toward perpetrators of violence against and sexual assault on children, and prevention of child labour

<p>Arab Republic Of Egypt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Among the requirements of employment under the labour law, a prerequisite provides that an applicant should exhibit his or her criminal record. The aim is to prove that he/she has never violated the law; if he/she has, their application will be excluded. - All government institutions include inspection departments, regulatory bodies and legal affairs counsels who conduct investigations of cases of negligence committed by staff. - Under the children's rights law, the operations list sets forth few conditions for those who work at/for and run a kindergarten; these include preference for female staff at kindergartens, possession of a certificate of good conduct, a clean criminal record, and having relevant qualifications or training for the position.
<p>Kingdom of Morocco</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The State prevents perpetrators convicted of crimes of violence and sexual abuse against children from reengaging with children. - Perpetrators convicted of crimes of violence and sexual abuse against children will be brought to justice and dismissed from office; programmes to rehabilitate the perpetrators if they are minors or mentally-ill will be put in place.
<p>Islamic Republic of Mauritania</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions taken against employees who commit crimes against children in their professional work settings include deprivation of promotion and transfer to another work setting along with a financial fine; the harshest action would be a combination of imprisonment and a financial penalty. The funds received from the perpetrators of crimes against children should be directed toward improving the services delivered to these children, especially in social care institutions. - Judges have the right to remove a child from his family if it is proven that his/her parents do not have the capacity to care for him/her. Within this framework, a non-binding recommendation can be made to the employer of staffers who commit crimes against children; the recommendation should request the employer to disengage or transfer a perpetrator, or at least to work toward not leaving him/her unaccompanied with children – thus preventing them from committing other crimes.
<p>Republic of Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The state enforces the laws and regulations against any person who uses violence against children in accordance with the penal code and other relevant laws and regulations.

(10) Addressing the gender-based dimension of violence against children

10.1. National legislation, laws and strategies

With respect to gender-specific action plans, states' approaches generally lack clarity in the area of gender-based to end violence against children. However, most countries have indicated that legislation is in place that is compatible with a policy of equality between sexes, although variations exist between the details of such laws in different countries.

Some countries like Jordan, the UAE, and Bahrain, have enshrined the principle of non-discrimination in their constitutions, and translated such principles into legislation, laws and national programmes for child protection. For example, the Family Protection Department in Jordan handles issues of victims of domestic violence while observing gender-sensitive practices such as having trained female police officers deal with female victims throughout proceedings. Due to the sensitivity and specificity of female cases, the Department takes gender requisites into consideration when managing such cases and maintains statistics on case management incorporating gender-related indicators.

Bahrain also notes that female police officers manage the cases of victimized children of both sexes. The country's constitution guarantees equality within the community regardless of sex, origin, language, religion or belief; the right to equality is provided for under the laws on family custody, education and health; under the social security law; the child protection law and a forthcoming law intended to end domestic violence.

In Tunisia, the development of programmes and interventions are based on a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach in punitive and rehabilitation-focused interventions. In this context, the National Office for Family and Population Programme advocates for "gender-based parity and ending of violence"; adolescents and young people are encouraged to integrate the values of honesty and tolerance into their personal conduct, and to reject violence in all its forms through dialogues, meetings and other activities.

In Algeria, the government considers gender-sensitive policies and programmes in the development of strategies, including the national strategy on ending violence against women and girls, and the preparation of a national strategy to empower and integrate women

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10 – In addressing the gender-based dimension of violence against children,

States shall ensure that anti-violence policies and programmes are designed and implemented from a gender perspective, taking into account the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence. States should promote and protect the human rights of women and girls, and address all forms of gender discrimination as part

In Saudi Arabia, the gender dimension has recently been mainstreamed in the development of the national strategy on ending domestic violence against women and children. This national strategy is yet to be ratified by the appropriate bodies.

Sudan adopted the national policy for empowerment of women in 2007; this policy has been taken into account in the qualitative development of all plans, policies and programmes in accordance with the provisions of the Interim Sudan Constitution of 2005. The national plan to end violence against children takes into account the gender dimension in issues of ending violence.

In Syria, legislation targets crimes of violence and gender-victimization, taking into consideration the nature of the criminal act and the age of the victim. Several provisions in the penal code consider the sex of the child (male or female) and the nature of the criminal act, as well as the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim (parents or other relatives and caregivers). The anti-prostitution law plays a discriminatory role in terms of the rights of females and males, with disparity with regard to punishments to redress the damage inflicted upon the victim. The gender dimension is further considered in a decree against human trafficking. The Constitution guarantees women equality with men; the laws on labour and education also carry similar provisions for equality.

Iraq states that its laws do not support discrimination between citizens; however, dominant cultural values allow for gender-based discrimination, including within the family and household, and proscribe distinct roles for males and females.

Policies in Oman advocate non-discrimination between males and females; Oman guarantees equal opportunities for both sexes, and ensures specific political, socio-economical, and military rights for women, in accordance with the country's basic law and various conventions like the CEDAW.

In Palestine, the gender dimension is considered upon recruitment of staffers who work in the area of child protection, and Palestinian law also takes into account the rights of both sexes.

In Qatar, the constitution provides for equality for all before the law without discrimination on the basis of sex, origin or mother tongue; national laws are consistent with these constitutional principles. The same applies to the implementation of child-specific plans and policies, to consideration of biological difference, including the physical abilities of each sex, as well as to social conditions, mental health and living conditions.

Kuwait takes into account gender-sensitive issues when addressing violence against children, and the community does not discriminate between males and females. Educational, social and health services are provided across the country without discrimination.

Under the Lebanese constitution, all citizens are equal in terms of their rights and duties without discrimination based on gender.

Libya draws on the Islamic Shari'a law in this regard, and implements this law equally stipulating human rights for both sexes while taking into account their biological differences.

In Egypt, the constitution ensures the principle of equality among all citizens without discrimination, and the country is committed to highlighting this issue in all its laws. The provisions of the children's rights law No. 12 of 1996 as amended by law No. 126 of 2008 provide for the child's right to non-discrimination with provisions almost identical to those under article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The amendments address several issues, including the elimination of specific

forms of discrimination, be they against young girls, against children in rural areas or against those from poor or marginalized families. These amendments also eliminate discrimination against children born out of wedlock, and discrimination in the granting of nationality and in the minimum age set for female marriage; in addition, the amendments also criminalize early marriage and FGM/C, and provide for the child's right to free and quality education, the right to health care and to protection against violence and harmful practices; these provisions are incorporated in different laws, like the nationality law on non-discrimination between men and women and the provisions of the law on pension security for the poor. The present report deals with these amendments in detail under the current legislation.

In Mauritania, the "Women and Gender Empowerment Department" of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family is working toward mainstreaming the gender dimension in all the policies and programmes adopted by the government, particularly those targeting children.

In Yemen, the state guarantees equal rights for males and females, such as the right to education, while encouraging girls to receive education. Yemen also has established a task force on the education of girls under both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, and has developed a national strategy for female education. The country's constitution, CEDAW and other provisions under international conventions include several articles emphasizing respect for the rights of male and female children; the laws and legislation include no provisions discriminating between women and men, as long as they are not in contradiction with the provisions of Islamic Shari'a. A number of laws have been amended to ensure mainstreaming of gender issues, including in the law on nationality and the civil status law.

10.2. Anti-violence measures

In order to address the various risks girls and boys, Jordan is taking appropriate measures by studying the reality of violence, and is building appropriate strategies to reduce it. Based on the recommendations of the study, which reflect the characteristics of violence against children by gender, programmes have been designed to reduce risk. It is worth mentioning that all of the programmes and projects implemented by the Ministry of Education are directed towards both sexes without discrimination; performance indicators show equal numbers of males and females benefitting from these programmes; they also show enrolment of pregnant girls and mothers, especially new mothers, in public and private schools. Moreover, the indicators suggest integration of female school dropouts into relevant programmes via dropout centres; these centres offer services for both sexes without discrimination. .

In the UAE, legislation regulates all aspects of protection and care on the basis of equality between males and females.

Tunisia has adopted a gender- and human rights-based approach to programming directed towards preventative and remedial interventions.

In Algeria on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, the society approved a convention on child protection Internet spaces, and formed a sectoral committee to prepare an action plan to protect children from cybercrimes; a bill intended to protect children using the Internet is underway along with the development of mechanisms to enable (legal) guardians to monitor their children while employing this technology to prevent access to unwanted sites.

Iraq ensures non-discrimination between sexes and respect for human rights in general, for men and women alike; measures are being taken to end violence against males and females in accordance with applicable laws.

In Oman, child care services are provided to institutions and foster care families, taking into account a qualitative dimension through assignment of the cadres capable of interacting with each category by sex.

In Qatar, the penal code punishes crimes committed by males and females, while strengthening the protection of women by increasing the penalties and punishments to maximum limits for perpetrators of honour crimes against females specifically.

Lebanon faces a dilemma vis-a-vis the corpus of personal status laws that negatively affect some gender-sensitive decisions. Libya, on other hand, confirmed that there are private gender-specific institutions.

The penal code in Egypt provides for the death penalty for perpetrators of female rape in order to achieve general community protection; furthermore, the government has amended the child's act with a view to criminalizing FGM/C, exploitation or trafficking in children or using them in research and scientific experiments. To be incriminated also under this Act are the use of computers or the Internet for obtaining information, animation, preparation, saving, printing, publishing or sale of child pornography and for all acts of child prostitution and child trafficking. The Act also regulates the introduction of children's courts formed of three judges, assisted by two social workers; with one must be a female.

In Mauritania, gender is mainstreamed in social care institutions; the Ministry of Justice will also open a centre for rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with law, with a ward designated specifically for girls, later this year.

In implementing measures against violence, Yemen considers the various risks girls and boys face through protection mechanisms against all forms of violence and maltreatment of male and female children. Yemen has also implemented a number of measures and procedures, including, for example, in the field of social welfare and alternative care for children, and the creation of social care institutions for male and female children alike. Field studies were also conducted, in selected rural and urban areas, on street children, internally displaced persons, children exposed to abuse, and children in difficult circumstances. The outcome of such studies will be reflected in plans, protection programmes, measures and procedures to ensure protection and care for male and female children. Furthermore, in order to reduce early marriages, a survey was undertaken in a number of provinces, and laws were reviewed, including the civil code with a view to determining the appropriate minimum age for marriage for boys and girls; the bill is currently being presented to the House of Representatives ahead of enactment.

10.3 Human rights protection and addressing gender-based discrimination

Some Arab states have taken a number of measures and actions to promote the protection of human rights, especially those of women and girls; they have also addressed all forms of gender discrimination as part of a comprehensive strategy to end violence. These procedures varied from one country to another.

In Jordan, Education Law No. 3 for the year 1994 is derived from the Jordanian constitution, and education is a right for all Jordanians as provided for in article (5). The principles of the pedagogical policy apply to the education system in order to meet the individual's needs and to maintain balance in society (with no special reference made to either gender). The aim of the National Strategy for Jordanian Women is to make positive changes in the reality of Jordanian women, remove all forms of discrimination against them and achieve effective participation by them to a level equal to that of men in all political, economic, social and cultural rights. The amended civil code of 2001 is one of the most important legal measures taken to alter stereotypical attitudes about the respective roles and responsibilities of women and men. This is being done by adjusting the meaning of the phrase "head of the family" to include the words 'father' or 'wife' or the term 'senior boy', according to the circumstances and status of the family; Moreover, Jordan's Ministry of Education (MoE) has developed gender-sensitive curricula and textbooks, to ensure balanced images for both of men and women, and to confront stereotypes. Above and beyond this, the Ministry has put forth efforts to implement a training program for leadership, targeting the MoE's section managers for the sake of capacity building and to enable them to run for competitions and access decision-making positions. The MoE has also developed a strategy to mainstream the gender dimension in policies, plans and programmes.

In Tunisia, the issue of women's legal and social protection has evolved since independence, and has aimed at achieving full participation by women as partners in building a modern state. Tunisia adopted the personal status code in (1956), just a few months after independence. The code abolished polygamy and set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years of age for both sexes in 2007; it also abolished the paternal right of fathers to marry off their daughters and approved judicial divorce. The personal status code also features legal protection for women and ensures gender equality. In politics, women were given the right to vote and run for elections at the time of independence in 1957 and these rights were enshrined in the 1959 constitution. Both sexes enjoy equal rights and duties. In 1966, the Work Journal published the terms of equality between women and men in the field of employment. Tunisia has also ratified several international conventions related to women's rights, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and its additional protocol. The aim of the policies and programmes targeting families is to give root to a culture of cooperation and partnership between spouses in child care, and to emphasize equity in the education of children, without discrimination, in addition to promoting further work related to ending domestic violence within the family.

Issues of family and women in Algeria play an important role in the pursuit of greater equality between males and females. This pursuit is associated with a clear political commitment to supporting the status of women and ensuring their human rights, and remarkable progress in improving their role has been achieved. Under national policies, programmes and legislative reforms, the government has exerted efforts in education, training and health, and in reproductive health in particular, by providing access to resources, authority and decision making bodies. Algeria has also drafted a national strategy to promote the integration and inclusion of women; women and men benefit from the strategic planning on equitable policies and development programmes, and authorities have agreed on the specific requirements of each. The purpose is to contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to the development process, especially in terms of decision-making based on partnership between women and men. The national strategy aims to prevent and end violence against women and girls and to implement gender equality in rights, while promoting the dignity of the Algerian woman and eliminating discrimination and violence against females.

In Sudan, women enjoy broad political participation through the parliament and in leadership positions, without discrimination in nominations to governmental and judicial positions along other positions.

A rehabilitation centre for female juvenile delinquents, recently developed in Syria, has become a national pioneer; this structure is supported by an information campaign (in cooperation with the Ministry of Information) on the impact violence against women has on Syria's economy and society, as well as on the development of the country's policies and legislation. Such changes are in line with CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). A national strategy for the empowerment of women is planned for implementation; a chapter is devoted to women under the tenth (Five-year) Plan. Operational plans have also been developed to incorporate the gender dimension into the State budget. The laws ensure more support for women in pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding in both the public and private sectors.

Iraq is a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The country encourages the protection of human rights, and established the Ministry of Human Rights to ensure rights for all citizens.

In Oman, the country's policies are based on non-discrimination between males and females, with equal opportunities provided to both sexes; the non-discrimination dimension is integrated into the country's policies, programmes and activities. In this regard, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has a legal dimension that enjoys independence in functions and in jurisdiction. The NCHR is mandated with the task of following up on progress in the protection of human rights and freedoms in Oman in accordance with the constitution and in compliance with international conventions and agreements signed by Oman, and in providing advice to the concerned authorities. This National Commission also contributes to reports addressing these topics, monitors violations and abuses of human rights across the country and helps settle and resolve conflicts related to human rights.

In Qatar, a number of national laws highlight the rights of women in different fields: civil and political rights; economic, social, family rights; and right to special care, etc. Such laws are included in the constitution, nationality law, elections law, labour law, law on human resources, military service law, compulsory education law, family law, civil law, social security laws, health and housing laws, and a collection of criminal laws; all these laws have mainstreamed protection and care in their provisions. National legislation on children's rights also includes articles that ensure rights without gender discrimination, such as law (40) of 2004, minors' funds law 2/2004, as well as the law on citizens with special needs and the family law No. 22 of the year 2004.

In Lebanon, the constitution guarantees women's participation in politics, the economy and social development. A national plan on human rights has been drafted in coordination with the parliamentary committee on human rights, the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Committee is currently preparing a national strategy for human rights, in order to build structures for independent monitoring (National Institution for Human Rights).

Libya has developed a number of draft constitutional documents to ensure protection of human rights, particularly for women and girls, including the Great Green Charter for Human Rights and the law on child protection, while promoting women's rights and equality in rights and duties.

Egypt has already taken action to implement its child law, which was amended in 2008. The law raised the age of marriage for girls and set the minimum age for marriage for both males and females at 18 years. The law also criminalizes FGM/C and child trafficking. Egypt is currently monitoring the implementation of CEDAW, and is working on amending criminal laws, the personal status and nationality act and the law on social security. Egyptian women occupy almost all positions at different ranks across the country. As a matter of fact, 30 female judges have recently been appointed and women preside over city councils and occupy mayor's offices. The State guarantees free and compulsory education services and the provision of free health services to all without discrimination. Public hospitals provide specialized services free of charge for women.

Morocco has engaged actively in achieving social justice and establishing gender equality through the changes it has introduced to the family code; through the amendments made to the labour law, the penal code and the nationality law; and by lifting its reservations on the CEDAW. Such shifts within the framework of the law have ensured more equality in the rights and duties of male and female citizens. A recent national strategy for equity and gender equality has been developed to mainstream gender issues in the development of policies and programmes for civil rights, representation, decision-making and socioeconomic rights, as well as for individual and collective behaviours and the consolidation of the values of equity and gender equality in institutions and policies. Within the context of female protection against violence, a one-month long national campaign to end violence against women is organized annually. The campaign maintains continued communication with the public through audio-visual and printed media to raise awareness about the risks and consequences of violence against individuals and society.

Mauritania has increased the quote for female political participation; government allocated 20% of the electoral seats for women in the Parliament (the House of Representatives and the Senate) and in municipal councils. Women are integrated into different government sectors, including the military and paramilitary; they also benefit from the services offered by microfinance institutions, such as the "Women Bank", which supports simple economic initiatives for women. In order to ensure the female right to education, there are programmes in place to support education through prizes awarded to the girls excelling in school in every academic year and other initiatives as the for various stages of education.

Yemen has taken measures to promote the protection of human rights. The country's constitution guarantees equal opportunities to all citizens to exercise their political, social and economic rights. The Children's Rights Law ensures the right of the child to public freedoms and to protection and care, which are guaranteed by humanitarian laws in general and children's and women's rights legislation in particular, without discrimination based on race or skin colour. The code of criminal procedure stresses equality for all citizens before the law; it also prevents damage to persons due to race, origin, education or social status. The labour law also provides for female-specific rights in cases of pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. The Government of Yemen has enacted laws to protect male and female children in difficult circumstances, such as the juvenile welfare law of 1992, which was amended in 1997. The government has also established an independent judiciary body to hear juvenile cases and take protection measures. The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood has conducted field studies addressing issues of child protection against violence, and has established departments, programmes and services for women and children in various ministries.

The survey data shows an increased focus by most countries on the legal aspect of children's protection against violence, but they lack clear, quality data regarding policies, programmes and measures to stop violence against children and address all forms of gender-based discrimination. In general, a group of Arab states is moving towards the establishment of ministries, institutions or departments for women, children and families, mainly as supervisory, regulatory and guiding institutions. These are mandated to follow up on the implementation of strategies and government planning to protect children and women. To this end, ministries, councils and human rights organizations have increasingly assigned civil society organizations specialized roles, thereby accumulating experiences in the area of needs assessment, policy definition, programme development, implementation and follow-up; accordingly, the gender aspect will be institutionalized in all policies, legislation, action plans and programmes.

(11) Introduction and implementation of a standard system for national data collection and research

11.1. Data and information collection systems

Most of the countries that have provided data in the questionnaire currently have data and information collection systems in place. Such systems collect data on the state of disadvantaged groups; types and incidences of violence against children; and control records, which are available from the institutions working in areas involving children. These bodies also issues periodic reports. Some countries, such as Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Palestine, Qatar, Egypt, and Morocco conduct qualitative and quantitative studies on children, in order to build a database and statistics on their conditions. Some countries' responses reveal the absence of a mechanism for systematic data collection or the lack of an integrated information system, while and other responses suggest progress in developing data collection systems.

Bahrain has a special institution tasked with monitoring indicators; the Ministry of Social Development monitors information and statistics in areas related to the child and family, with an electronic link to all ministries. Tunisia and Egypt have centres to collect information on training, documentation and studies on the Rights of Child.

Algeria has an information bank on family, women and children. In Sudan, an information centre on children was established at the National Council for Child Welfare. This centre has established technical and systematic coordination with the National Information Centre of the Council of Ministers, and with the Central Bureau of Statistics.

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11. Introduction and implementation of a standard system for collection of national data and research.

States should improve data collection and information systems in order to identify vulnerable sub-groups, inform policy and programming at all levels, and track progress towards the goal of preventing violence against children. States should use national indicators based on internationally agreed standards, and ensure that data are compiled, analysed and disseminated to monitor progress over time. Where not currently in place, birth, death and marriage data registries with full national coverage should be created and maintained. States should also create and maintain data on children without parental care, and on children in the criminal justice system. Data should be disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, household and family characteristics, education and ethnicity. States should also develop a national research agenda on violence against children across settings where violence occurs, including through interview studies with children and parents, with particular attention to vulnerable groups of girls and boys.

In Palestine, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics conducts surveys and research on the social sector, including surveys on domestic violence and violence against children.

In Qatar, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs, in association with Hamad Medical Centre and The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children have established coordination links to monitor indicators of child protection.

11.2. Data collection indicators

With regard to the indicators used in the collection of data on violence against children, reports from Arab countries emphasized a lack of systems that establish accurate indicators for systematic data collection on violence against children. Reports have noted, for example, that in Jordan, national institutions involved in family protection are the sources of reference for programmes.

Tunisia has adopted a Child Info System that allows storage and display of data on child development and provides a set of indicators. These tools are also available for child protection commissioners who help collect information, and provide indicators on children at risk, including those exposed to violence and abuse.

In Syria, the establishment of the National Centre for Domestic Violence is underway with a mandate to monitor cases of violence. In Oman, reports issued by police, courthouses and the Ministry of Economy offer indicators.

In Palestine, some statistical indicators measure progress in achieving strategic goals via the national child protection strategy (2011 - 2013) and the Palestinian National Child Plan (2009 - 2011).

Yemen is making great efforts to spread the adoption of the “DEVINFO” programme and an upgraded version of the “CHILDINFO” programme; these two software applications are being considered in the Yemeni report on indicators to create a database. Yemen is currently establishing the National Centre for Children’s Rights in cooperation with and with support from UNICEF.

11.3. Data collection and archiving mechanisms

With respect to records maintained to record births, deaths and marriages in society at large (city, rural, remote areas) and determine how they benefit analysis, monitoring and publication, the majority of responses confirm that such records exist in the State’s institutions and contribute to the processes of reliable statistical analysis and the preparation and publication of periodic reports. However, two of the main problems gleaned from the countries’ reports are the inability to make use of such statistics and periodic records, and the difficulty of collecting material and information from remote areas. Such usage and collection would confirm the relationship between data processing and the organization of data collection on a continuous basis. This will help make a case for planning to take advantage of data at all stages of relevant policies in order to address violence against children.

Concerning the mechanisms established by Arab States to maintain data on children lacking parental care and those who have been committed to the criminal justice system, it appears that little data is available or provided by relevant institutions, including justice, interior, security, and social affairs. In this regard, Sudan has established an e-government system to link relevant ministries together. Some countries are working to establish a database on children, including Jordan, the UAE, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Mauritania, and Yemen, for example.

Jordan established the Coordination Commission for Social Solidarity Authority (CCSS) to coordinate efforts made by the institutions working in social solidarity and integration, in order to avoid duplication and waste of resources and capabilities. Also, the CCSS will carry out studies on the data needed to identify poverty levels, and update the database on institutions involved in the domains of social solidarity and development, which are cornerstones for a data on the status of children.

In Saudi Arabia, a mechanism for data collection is in place. Data is collected through the implementation of the national strategy with a view to addressing poverty, social security and charities.

In Palestine, the Ministry of Social Affairs established a database on children and another for social security, along with administrative records on family and childhood matters, and administrative reports. Personnel were also trained on data collection and classification, and the Ministry of Social Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to build the capacity of workers and to make use of statistical data.

In Kuwait, the Supreme Council for Planning consolidates the data that relevant sectors generate and supply.

In Yemen, the Central Authority for Statistics at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation operates within the framework of international cooperation to issue a yearbook on children, which includes various indicators and statistics on children in different domains.

Disaggregated data on children in difficult circumstances and violence against children is available; disaggregation takes into account sex, age, family background, education, origin, and residence (urban, rural, etc) as well as other factors, as indicated in the majority of responses available, without further details.

11.4. Conducting research and studies

With regard to studies and research on violence against children, programmes of action take into account interviews with children and parents, and give special attention to vulnerable groups of boys and girls alike. Various responses to the questionnaires confirm that such studies do exist, with an increasing trend to involve children and take their opinion. Other responses illustrate that there are planned prospective studies that will be implemented in the future.

The current situation in the Arab region reveals obstacles related to data and research. The region remains far from have the capacity for collecting sufficient data about how children's lives are organized, the ongoing conditions where children live and their quality of life, and most importantly, from collecting quality data about their exposure to violence and maltreatment. Reports also reveal a lack of research and studies on children in general, and maltreatment of children in particular, as well as a lack of regular surveying activity. Such results indicate the need for establishing a basis for reliable and continued availability of data in connection with the design of policies and strategies to address and confront childhood issues.

(12) Strengthening international commitment

The human rights enshrined in international documents such as the International Convention on Human Rights¹¹, are of a general nature and composition; such texts apply to all individuals, regardless of their particular circumstances, such as age, sex, nationality, ethnic backgrounds, affiliation with intellectual, linguistic and cultural groups, and other considerations.

However, targeted legislation in international human rights specifically covers certain groups of people; such groups, due to their vulnerability for various reasons, are in need of allocated charters, declarations and agreements to afford them greater protection and special attention¹².

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a major and integral part of the international human rights system; in addition to international human rights legitimacy, it provides the child with a set of rights of its own with reference to needs for special protection due to the child's age and other factors. It is clear that whenever the values and culture of human rights in general are reinforced in communities, this in turn reinforces the values and culture of children's rights, and vice versa. A This relationship enhances efforts in child protection, as seen in the experiences of countries in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as well as other relevant international and regional instruments of human rights providing protection for children:

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12. In terms of strengthening international commitment,

States should ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. All reservations which are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and the Optional Protocols should be withdrawn in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993.

States should ratify all relevant international and regional human rights instruments that provide protection for children including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol; ILO Conventions No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour; and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. States should implement all their international legal obligations and strengthen their cooperation with the treaty bodies

12.1: Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols

All Arab countries, except Somalia, have legal obligations towards the Convention on the Rights of the Child through signing and ratification. Countries have, therefore, issued enforceable domestic laws (in official sectors, laws and legislation) to enshrine the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC has been signed and ratified by 21 Arab countries; most of these made between 1990 and 1997. Somalia signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2002, but has not yet ratified it¹³. Tables 8, 9, 10 and 11, respectively, detail the ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by Arab states, the dates on which they signed it, the dates on which it became effective, and the commitments made by Arab states to submit preliminary and periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as the Arab states' ratifications of the two optional protocols to the Convention, based on the responses received in the questionnaire.

Responses from questionnaires indicate that initial reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)'s optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict were submitted by six Arab countries, namely:

- Tunisia submitted its report on 13.8.2007.
- Sudan submitted its report on 12.8.2008.
- Syria submitted its report on 20.10.2006.
- Kuwait submitted its report on 13.4.2007.
- Qatar submitted its report on 21.7.2006.
- Oman submitted its report on 11.10.2007.
- Egypt submitted its report on 05.02.2010.

Responses also reveal that eight countries submitted initial reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)'s optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as follows:

- Sudan submitted its report on 03.03.2006.
- Syria submitted its report on 29.8.2005.
- Kuwait submitted its report on 13.4.2007.
- Qatar submitted its report on 09.02.2004
- Oman submitted its report on 11.10.2007.
- Morocco submitted its report on 28.6.2004.
- Yemen report discussed in 30.9.2009
- Egypt submitted its report on 02.05.2010

Table 8: Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by Arab states, and the date ratification entered into force

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	29/8/1990	24/5/1991	16/10/2006
United Arab Emirates	Approval	--	10/5/2009	2/2/1997
Kingdom of Bahrain	Accession	--	3/9/1991	14/3/1992
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	26/2/1990	30/1/1992	29/2/1992
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	26/1/1990	16/4/1993	16/5/1993
Republic of Djibouti	Approval	30/9/1990	6/12/1990	5/1/1991
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	--	26/1/1996	25/2/1996
Republic of Sudan	Approval	24/7/1990	3/8/1990	2/9/1990

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Approval
Arab Republic of Syria	Approval	18/9/1990	15/7/1993	14/8/1993
Republic of Somalia	Signature	9/5/2002	--	--
Republic of Iraq	Accession	--	15/6/1994	15/7/1994
Sultanate of Oman	Accession	--	9/12/1996	8/1/1997
Palestine*	--	--	--	--
Qatar	Approval	8/12/1992	3/4/1995	3/5/1995
United Republic of Comoros	Approval	30/9/1990	22/6/1993	21/7/1993
Kuwait	Approval	7/6/1990	21/10/1991	20/11/1991
Republic of Lebanon	Approval	26/1/1990	30/11/1990	13/6/1991
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	---	15/4/1993	15/5/1993
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	5/2/1990	6/7/1990	2/9/1990
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	26/1/1990	21/6/1993	21/7/1993
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Approval	26/1/1990	16/5/1991	15/6/1991
Republic of Yemen	Approval	13/2/1990	1/5/1991	31/5/1991

* Palestine holds observer status at the United Nations; however, the Palestinian National Authority is keen on adhering to international conventions on human rights and children's rights in particular. Palestine committed itself to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2004 and enacted the Palestinian child act in the same year, thus involving Palestine in Arab and international conferences on the Rights of the Child. Palestine also develops reports on children's rights and child protection and presents them to UN organizations; Palestine avails itself of Arab and international expertise in the implementation of children's rights and child protection. Palestine also gives increasing attention to partnership and cooperation with the international organizations working in children's specific areas, such as UNICEF and Save the Children; Child protection programs and plans in Palestine are implemented by an international fund.

Table 9: Initial and periodic reports by Arab states to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Country	Date due for submission of the first, second and third national reports	Submission date of the first, second and third national reports
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	First: 22/6/1993 Second: 22/6/1998 Third: 22/6/2003	Presented the first report on 25/5/1993 Presented the second report on 5/8/1998 Presented the third report on 11/7/2005 Fourth and fifth reports merged (2011)
United Arab Emirates	First: 1/2/1999 Second: 1/2/2004 Third: 1/5/2009	Presented the first report on 15/4/2000
Kingdom of Bahrain	First: 14/3/1994 Second: 14/3/1999 Third: 14/3/2004	Presented the first and the second reports on 23/7/2001 Second and third reports merged / presented in January 2009
Republic of Tunisia	First: 28/2/1994 Second: 28/4/1999 Third: 28/4/2004	Presented the first report on 16/5/1994 Presented the second report on 16/3/1999 Third and fourth reports merged on 6/6/2008 Third and fourth reports discussed on 4/6/2010
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	First: 15/5/1995 Second: 15/5/2000 Third: 15/5/2005	Presented the first report on 16/11/1995 Presented the second report on 16/12/2003 Presented the third report on 3/3/2005
United Republic of Comoros	First: 21/7/1995 Second: 21/7/2000 Third: 21/7/2005	Presented the first report on 24/3/1998
Republic of Djibouti	First: 4/1/1993 Second: 4/1/1998 Third: 4/1/2003	Presented the first report on 27/2/1998 Presented the second report on 26/10/2007
Republic of Sudan	First: 1/9/1992 Second: 1/9/1997 Third: 1/9/2002 Fourth: 1/9/2007	Presented the first report on 29/9/1992 Presented the second report on 7/7/1999 Presented the third and fourth reports in November 2007
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	First: 24/2/1998 Second: 24/2/2003 Third: 24/2/2008	Presented the first report on 15/10/1998 Presented the second report on 12/11/2004 Third and fourth reports merged (2011)
Arab Republic of Syria	First: 13/8/1995 Second: 13/8/2000 Third: 13/8/2005 Fourth: 13/8/2010	Presented the second report on 22/9/1995 Presented the second report on 15/8/2000 Presented the Third and Fourth reports in 2009

Country	Date due for submission of the first, second and third national reports	Submission date of the first, second and third national reports
Republic of Somalia	-----	-----
Republic of Iraq	First 14/7/1996 Second 14/7/2001 Third 14/7/2006	Presented the first report on 6/8/1996
Sultanate of Oman	First: 7/1/1999 Second: 7/1/2004 Third: 7/1/2012	Presented the first report on 5/7/1999 Presented the second report on 13/9/2006
Palestine	-----	-----
Qatar	First: 2/5/1997 Second: 2/5/2002 Third: 2/5/2007	Presented the first report on 29/10/1999 Presented the second report on 10/1/2008
Kuwait	First: 19/11/1993 Second: 19/11/1998 Third: 19/11/2003	Presented the first report on 23/8/1996
Republic of Lebanon	First: 12/6/1993 Second: 12/6/1998 Third: 12/6/2003 Fourth: 12/6/2009	Presented the first report on 21/12/1994 Presented the second report on 4/12/1998 Merging of the third report on 15/11/2004 Fourth and fifth reports merged (2011)
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	First: 14/5/1995 Second: 14/5/2000 Third: 14/5/2005	Presented the first report on 23/5/1996 Presented the second report on 8/8/2000 Third and fourth reports merged before 14/11/2008
Arab Republic of Egypt	First: 1/9/1992 Second: 2/9/1997 Third: 29/12/2008	Presented the second report on 23/10/1992 Presented the second report on 18/9/1998 Presented the third and fourth reports and they will be discussed in January 2011
Kingdom of Morocco	First: 20/7/1995 Second: 20/7/2000 Third: 20/7/2005 Fourth: 20/7/2010	Presented the first report on 27/7/1995 Presented the second report on 13/10/2000 Third and fourth reports merged and discussed before 20/1/2009
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	First: 14/6/1993 Second: 14/6/1998 Third: 14/6/2003	Presented the first report on 18/1/2000 Presented the second report on 26/11/2007
Republic of Yemen	First: 30/5/1993 Second: 30/5/1998 Third: 30/5/2003 Fourth: 30/5/2008	Presented the first report on 14/11/1994 Presented the second report on 7/10/1997 Presented the third report on 7/5/2003 Presented the fourth report in 2009

Table 10: Ratification by the Arab States of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Signature	6/9/2000		29/8/2006
United Arab Emirates	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	Accession	--	21/9/2004	21-10-2004
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	22-4-2002	2-1-2003	2-2-2003
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	--	2/9/2006	--
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14-6-2006	--	--
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	28/6/2010		
Republic of Sudan	Approval	9-5-2002	26-7-2005	25-8-2005
Arab Republic of Syria	Approval	17-10-2003	26/10/2003	26/10/2003
Republic of Somalia	Signature	16-9-2005	--	--
Republic of Iraq	-----	--	--	--
Sultanate of Oman	Accession	--	17-9-2004	17-10-2004
Palestine	-----	--	--	--

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Qatar	Accession	--	25-7-2002	25-8-2002
United Republic of Comoros	-----	--	--	--
Kuwait	Accession	--	26-8-2004	26-9-2004
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	11-2-2002	--	--
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	29-10-2004	29-11-2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	Accession	--	6-2-2007	6-2-2007
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	8-9-2000	22-5-2002	22-6-2002
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	--	--	--
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	2-3-2007	2-3-2007

Table 11: Ratification by the Arab States of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale, child prostitution and child pornography

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Signature	6/9/2000		29/8/2006
United Arab Emirates	----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	Ratification	---	21/9/2004	21/10/2004
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	22/4/2002	13/9/2002	13/10/2002
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	---	2/9/2006	2/9/2006
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14/6/2006	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	H 16/7/1431 C 28/6/2010		
Republic of Sudan	Ratification	---	2/11/2004	2/12/2004
Arab Republic of Syria	Ratification	---	15/5/2003	15/6/2003
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	-----	---	---	---
Oman	Ratification	---	17/9/2004	17/10/2004
Palestine	-----	---	---	---

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Qatar	Ratification	---	14/12/2001	14/1/2002
United Republic of Comoros	Accession	---	23/2/2007	23/2/2007
Kuwait	Ratification	---	26/8/2004	26/9/2004
Republic of Lebanon	Approval	10/10/2001	8/6/2002	8/12/2004
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Ratification	---	18/6/2004	18/7/2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	Ratification	---	12/7/2002	12/8/2002
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	8/9/2000	2/10/2001	18/1/2002
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	---	23/4/2007	23/4/2007
Republic of Yemen	Ratification	---	15/12/2004	15/1/2005

Concerning the level of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the relevant optional protocols, available responses focused on amendment of appropriate legislation and domestic laws in line with the requirements of international conventions, the development of institutions involved in the implementation of children's rights, and the necessity to develop strategies for action.

Arab countries made efforts to follow up on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, as follows:

- All Arab countries, except Somalia, have ratified the Convention; all of them prepared and presented initial reports, and all of them are presently preparing periodic reports on a regular basis. In many countries, experiences and traditions maintain a good ranking. Countries not only prepare reports and publish them, but also follow-up on the implementation of the Convention, and receive observations of the CRC Committee in terms of performance.
- Most Arab countries have adopted or ratified the two optional protocols to the CRC, and some have already prepared and discussed their initial reports according to a specific timeframe.

12.2: International and regional human rights instruments relevant to child protection

Concerning the ratification of international and regional human rights instruments relevant to child protection, tables 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 show, respectively, Arab states' ratifications of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention (138) on the minimum age for admission to employment and the ILO Convention (182) concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, as indicated in the Arab states' responses to the questionnaire.

Table 12: Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by the Arab States

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	30-6-1972	28-5-1975	23-3-1976
United Arab Emirates	---	--	--	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Approval	--	20-9-2006	--
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	30-4-1968	18-3-1969	23-3-1976
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	10-12-1968	12-9-1989	12-12-1989
Republic of Djibouti	Ratification	--	5-11-2002	5-2-2003
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	---	--	--	--
Republic of Sudan	Accession	--	18-3-1976	18-6-1986

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	--	21-4-1969	23-3-1976
Republic of Somalia	Accession	--	24-1-1990	24-4-1990
Republic of Iraq	Approval	18-2-1969	25-1-1971	23-3-1976
Sultanate of Oman	---	--	--	--
Palestine	---	--	--	--
Qatar	--	--	--	--
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	25-9-2008	--	--
Kuwait	Accession	--	21-5-1996	21-8-1996
Republic of Lebanon	Accession	--	3-11-1972	23-3-1976
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	15-5-1970	23-3-1976
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	4-8-1967	14-1-1982	14-4-1982
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	19-1-1977	3-5-1979	3-8-1979
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	--	17-11-2004	17-2-2005
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	9-2-1987	9-5-1987

Table 13: Ratification of the ICCPR's first optional protocol on individual complaints mechanisms

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Arab Emirates	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Tunisia	-----	-----	-----	-----
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Accession	-----	12/9/1989	12/12/1989
Republic of Djibouti	Ratification	-----	5/11/2002	5/2/2003
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Sudan	-----	-----	-----	-----
Arab Republic of Syria	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Somalia	Ratification	-----	24/1/1990	24/4/1990
Republic of Iraq	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sultanate of Oman	-----	-----	-----	-----
Palestine	-----	-----	-----	-----
Qatar	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Republic of Comoros	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kuwait	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Lebanon	-----	-----	-----	-----
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	-----	16/5/1989	16/8/1989
Arab Republic of Egypt	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Yemen	-----	-----	-----	-----

Table 14: Ratification of the ICCPR second optional protocol on abolition of death penalty

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Arab Emirates	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Tunisia	-----	-----	-----	-----
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	-----	-----	---	---
Republic of Djibouti	Ratification	-----	5/11/2002	5/2/2003
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Sudan	-----	-----	-----	-----
Arab Republic of Syria	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Somalia	-----	-----	----	----
Republic of Iraq	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sultanate of Oman	-----	-----	-----	-----
Palestine	-----	-----	-----	-----
Qatar	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Republic of Comoros	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kuwait	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Lebanon	-----	-----	-----	-----
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-----	-----	---	---
Arab Republic of Egypt	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Yemen	-----	-----	-----	-----

Table 15: Ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) by the Arab States

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	30-6-1972	28-5-1975	3-1-1976
United Arab Emirates	-----	--	--	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Subscription	--	27-9-2007	27-9-2007
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	30-4-1968	18-3-1969	3-1-1976
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	10-12-1968	12-9-1989	12-12-1989
Republic of Djibouti	Ratification	--	5-11-2002	5-2-2003
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	--	--	--
Republic of Sudan	Accession	--	18-3-1986	18-6-1986
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	--	21-4-1969	3-1-1976
Republic of Somalia	Ratification	--	24-1-1990	24-4-1990
Republic of Iraq	Approval	18-2-1969	25-1-1971	3-1-1976
Sultanate of Oman	-----	--	--	--
Palestine	-----	--	--	--
Qatar	-----	--	--	--
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	25/9/2008	--	--
Kuwait	Accession	--	21-5-1996	21-8-1996
Republic of Lebanon	Accession	--	3-11-1972	3-1-1976
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	15-5-1970	3-1-1976
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	4-8-1967	14-1-1982	14-4-1982
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	19-1-1977	3-5-1979	3-8-1979
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	--	17-11-2004	17-2-2005
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	9-2-1987	9-5-1987

Table 16: Ratification of the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Accession	--	30-5-1974	29-6-1974
United Arab Emirates	Accession	--	20-6-1974	20-7-1974
Kingdom of Bahrain	Accession	--	27-3-1990	26-4-1990
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	12-4-1966	13-1-1967	4-1-1969
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	9-12-1966	14-2-1972	15-3-1972
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14/2/2006	--	--
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	--	22-9-1997	23-10-1997
Republic of Sudan	Accession	--	21-3-1977	20-4-1977
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	--	21-4-1969	21-5-1969
Republic of Somalia	Approval	26-1-1967	26-8-1975	25-9-1975
Republic of Iraq	Approval	18-2-1969	14-1-1970	13-2-1970
Sultanate of Oman	Approval	--	2002-12-17	1-2-2003
Palestine	--	--	--	--
Qatar	Accession	--	22-7-1976	21-8-1976
United Republic of Comoros	Approval	22-9-2000	27-9-2004	27-10-2004
Kuwait	Accession	--	15-10-1968	4-1-1969
Republic of Lebanon	Accession	--	12-11-1971	12-12-1971
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	3-7-1968	4-1-1969
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	28-9-1966	1-5-1967	4-1-1969
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	18-9-1967	18-12-1970	17-1-1971
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Approval	21-12-1966	13-12-1988	12-1-1989
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	18-10-1972	17-11-1972

Table 17: Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	3-12-1980	1-7-1992	31-7-1992
United Arab Emirates	Accession	--	6-10-2004	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Accession	--	18-6-2002	18-7-2002
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	24-7-1980	20-9-1985	20-10-1985
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Accession	--	22-5-1996	21-6-1996
Republic of Djibouti	Accession	--	2-12-1998	1-1-1999
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Approval	7-9-2000	7-9-2000	7-10-2000
Republic of Sudan	--	--	--	--
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	--	28-3-2003	27-4-2003
Republic of Somalia	--	--	--	--
Republic of Iraq	Accession	--	13-8-1986	12-9-1986
Sultanate of Oman	Approval	--	2005-5-7	--
Palestine	--	--	--	--
Qatar	--	--	--	--
United Republic of Comoros	Accession	--	31-10-1994	30-11-1994
Kuwait	Accession	--	2-9-1994	2-10-1994
Republic of Lebanon	Accession	--	21-4-1997	16-4-1997
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	16-5-1989	15-6-1989
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	16-7-1980	18-9-1981	18-10-1981
Kingdom of Morocco	Accession	--	21-6-1993	21-7-1993
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	--	10-5-2001	9-6-2001
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	30-5-1984	29-6-1984

Table 18: Ratification of the CEDAW optional protocol

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Arab Emirates	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Tunisia	-----	-----	-----	-----
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	-----	-----	----	----
Republic of Djibouti	-----	-----	----	----
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Sudan	-----	-----	-----	-----
Arab Republic of Syria	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Somalia	-----	-----	----	----
Republic of Iraq	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sultanate of Oman	-----	-----	-----	-----
Palestine	-----	-----	-----	-----
Qatar	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Republic of Comoros	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kuwait	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Lebanon	-----	-----	-----	-----
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	-----	18-6-2004	18-9-2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Yemen	-----	-----	-----	-----

Table 19: Ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	--	13-11-1991	13-12-1991
United Arab Emirates	---	--	--	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Accession	--	6-3-1998	5-4-1998
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	26-8-1987	23-9-1988	23-10-1988
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	26-11-1985	12-9-1989	11-10-1989
Republic of Djibouti	Accession	--	5-11-2002	5-12-2002
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	--	23-9-1997	23-10-1997
Republic of Sudan	Signature	4-6-1986	--	--
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	--	19-8-2004	18-9-2004
Republic of Somalia	Accession	--	24-1-1990	23-2-1990
Republic of Iraq	---	--	--	--
Sultanate of Oman	---	--	--	--
Palestine	---	--	--	--
Qatar	Accession	--	11-1-2000	10-2-2000
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	22-9-2000	--	--
Kuwait	Accession	--	8-3-1996	6-4-1996
Republic of Lebanon	Accession	--	24/5/2000	4-11-2000
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	16-5-1989	15-6-1989
Arab Republic of Egypt	Accession	--	25-6-1986	26-6-1987
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	8-1-1986	21-6-1993	21-7-1993
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	--	17-11-2004	17-12-2004
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	5-11-1991	5-12-1991

Table 20: Status of the Arab states' ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	---	---	---
United Arab Emirates	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	-----	---	---	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	---	21/4/2005	---
Republic of Djibouti	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Sudan	-----	---	---	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	---	2-6-2005	1-10-2005
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	-----	---	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	-----	---	---	---
Palestine	-----	---	---	---
Qatar	-----	---	---	---
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	22-9-2000	---	---
Kuwait	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	-----	---	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	---	18-6-2004	1-10-2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	Accession	---	19-2-1993	1-7-2003
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	15-8-1991	21-6-1993	1-7-2003
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Subscription	---	22-1-2007	22-1-2007
Republic of Yemen	-----	---	---	---

Table 21: Status of the Arab states' ratification of International Labour Organization's (ILO's) Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Signature	23/3/1998	---	---
United Arab Emirates	Signature	2/10/1998	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	Signature	19/10/1995	---	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Signature	30/4/1984	---	---
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14/6/2005	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Sudan	Signature	7/3/2002	---	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Signature	18/9/2001	---	---
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	Signature	13/2/1985	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	Signature	21/7/2005	---	---
Palestine	---	---	---	---
Qatar	Signature	3/1/2006	---	---
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	17/3/2004	---	---
Kuwait	Signature	15/11/1999	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	5/6/2002	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Signature	19/6/1975	---	---
Arab Republic of Egypt	Signature	9/6/1999	---	---
Kingdom of Morocco	Signature	6/1/2000	---	---
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Signature	3/12/2001	---	---
Republic of Yemen	Signature	---	15/6/2000	---

Table 22: Status of the Arab states' ratification of the International Labour Organization's (ILO's) Convention No. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour

Country	Ratification Status / Accession	Date of Signature	Date of Approval	Date of Entry into Force
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Signature	20/4/2000	---	---
United Arab Emirates	Signature	28/6/2001	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	23/3/2001	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	Signature	28/2/2000	---	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Signature	9/2/2001	---	---
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	28/2/2005	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Signature	8/10/2001	---	---
Republic of Sudan	Signature	7/3/2003	---	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Signature	22/5/2003	---	---
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	Signature	9/7/2001	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	Signature	11/6/2001	---	---
Palestine	----	---	---	---
Qatar	Signature	30/5/2000	---	---
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	17/3/2004	---	---
Kuwait	Signature	15/8/2000	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	2/8/2001	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Signature	4/10/2000	---	---
Arab Republic of Egypt	Signature	6/5/2002	---	---
Kingdom of Morocco	Signature	26/1/2001	---	---
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Signature	3/12/2001	---	---
Republic of Yemen	Signature	15/6/2000	---	---

From the tables shown above we can detect a decline in some countries in the area of accessing international and relevant regional human rights instruments to enhance protection for children. In the meantime, other countries have made progress in this area, especially in taking action to implement international and regional obligations for the prevention of violence.

An analysis of Arab States' positions with regards to international commitments shows a gap between the standards and specifications such conventions establish; it also shows the actual realities in these countries, illustrating the need to develop an Arab common plan to commit to international conventions and protocols relating to human rights in general, and to the rights of the child in particular.

Endnotes to Chapter 1

1. In Lebanon: In addition to the national strategy to end violence and protect children from all forms of abuse and neglect, child protection has been incorporated in the National Strategy for Social Development, developed by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and in the sectoral strategies prepared by the Council on Children's Fund, as well as the early childhood strategy.
2. The follow-up structure on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child includes representatives of institutions involved with children.
3. In Tunisia: The major task of the Observatory for Information, Training, Documentation and Studies is to provide facts about the situation of children, and determine whether children enjoy their rights; there is an emerging role for children as helpers in making policies about children; the most important objectives of the Centre are:
 - a. To utilize scientific research in monitoring the state of children.
 - b. To provide regularly updated strategic information about children's issues through ChildInfo, this is currently supervised by the centre for children's rights protection.
 - c. To establish an integrated system to monitor the National Action Plan for Children and to evaluate such monitoring.
 - d. To raise awareness among children and adults on the Children's Rights Law.
4. In Palestine: Commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2004 led to the enactment of a "Palestinian Child Act" in the same year and introduced amendments to the children's law in September 2009; this law was approved by the Palestinian Council of Ministers and is awaiting endorsement by the President himself given that the Palestinian Legislative Council is currently disrupted due to political division.
5. (UNICEF, Demographic and Health Survey "DHS", 1989/90).
6. There are national and regional strategies to eliminate FGM/C within the generation 2008-2018 being undertaken by a programme designed to eradicate FGM/C, on behalf of the National Council for Child Welfare, with the participation of all sectors involved in enforcement, public and voluntary, at federal and state levels (legal, health, education, religious, the media, information and social). Many provinces have enacted laws to prevent FGM/C, As the constitution of Sudan 2005 allows for the provinces to issue provincial laws in the framework of the national legislation
7. Egypt has launched the FGM/C National Programme to fight this socio-cultural practice that violates the fundamental rights of the Egyptian child (a practice that has no health or religious precedents). These efforts are part of an integrated programme covering the following key themes aimed at:
 - a. Building a resource test-base against FGM/C in Egyptian villages, relying on partnerships with NGOs (21 NGOs) and local leaders; adopting initiatives to deliver health, educational, cultural and social services. Such initiatives would help inform public opinion against FGM/C within each village. The (model) programme has been implemented in 120 villages, targets the girl child and can be replicated at the national level. It allocates 40% of its total funding to the national programme for support to

NGOs through institutional capacity building and implementation of community-based initiatives at the sites where the programme is executed.

- b. Developing a public opinion against FGM/C practices through a strategy involving media campaigns. An extensive media response to the concerns of the community has been developed and is, perceived and viewed as an integrated medical, religious, social and legal campaign; all media outlets, including the press, radio and television and the Internet, in addition to advertising in public places and on roads,, contributed to this effort.
 - c. Tackling the phenomenon of practicing FGM/C by doctors, this can be achieved through support to doctors in rural health units by supplying them with scientific and medical information on FGM/C. It can also be achieved through training of doctors to provide appropriate advice to Egyptian families with a view to preventing FGM/C, and activating ministerial decisions on the prohibition of FGM/C practices through medical health service providers, and enforce the law incriminating perpetrators of FGM/C.
 - d. Issuing a new legislation to criminalize FGM/C practices by raising awareness amongst the judiciary (judges and prosecutors) and the members of the People’s Assembly about FGM/C-related health issues and the various related social, religious and legal aspects. The purpose is to render meaningful and instrumental the involvement of all these stakeholders in a proposed bill to incriminate the FGM/C practice.
 - e. Encouraging male and female youth volunteerism, and form youth groups within educational and cultural institutions; the aim is to change prevailing misconceptions/ beliefs about FGM/C amongst future parents, extending “child-to-child” education.
 - f. Coordinating national efforts with line ministries, civil society and the media to incorporate FGM/C prevention in the strategies of the institutions concerned with this phenomenon.
 - g. Educating the public about the issues to increase reporting on planned FGM/C incidences from across Egypt via a dedicated 24-hour toll-free line (Child Helpline 16000). These calls were received confidentially, and FGM/C-specific questions and counselling communications were also received via the Child Rescue Helpline, accounting for 65% of the total calls.
 - h. Having FGM/C criminalization approved by the People’s Assembly and Shura Council, and punish those who perform this practice, which violates the rights and dignity of girls in Egypt. The provisions of the law criminalizing FGM/C, Article 242 bis, punish: “FGM/C practitioners without prejudice, to any severe penalty provided for under the law by a minimum three-month to a maximum two-year imprisonment , or a minimum of one-thousand to a maximum of five-thousand Egyptian-Pound fine for all wounds punishable under Articles 241 and 242 of the Penal Code”.
 - i. A Circular was issued to the Attorney General, illustrating the general philosophy behind the amendments to the Children’s Rights Act; the letter includes a separate section explaining steps for the implementation and investigation of FGM/C cases.
8. In Egypt: the ad hoc drafting committee of the national coordinating committee for combating and preventing human trafficking was established by the Council of Ministers in 2007; the committee was, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working on a draft study to integrate a law criminalizing human trafficking, the outcome of which will be presented to the Coordinating Committee for approval and referendum. The main features of the bill are:
- a. Development of a precise definition of the crime of human trafficking through appropriate means. For example, identifying activities that represent trafficking in humans.

- b. Designation of a chapter related to protection and care for victims of human trafficking, in terms of both transnational and domestic crimes, thus emphasizing cooperation with foreign judicial authorities.
 - c. Giving greater attention to child victims to ensure the best interest of the child, and aggravation of the punishment for the crime if the victim is a child or has special needs.
 - d. Stressing the importance of non-placement of child victims in prison or in detention centres with criminals under any circumstances, but rather in places created for this purpose, until the investigation and trial are finalized; and providing appropriate services for them, including understanding their rights and provision medical, psychological and mental care, depending on the age and needs of child victims
 - e. Providing educational programmes consistent with the general standards of the standing educational system in Egypt
 - f. Providing appropriate conditions for child witnesses that guarantee confidentiality of testimony, while ensuring that reunion between children with their families in their country of origin is completed.
9. In Yemen: a media network has recently been established to end violence against children and identify the functions and terms of reference of the network's coordinating committee; these include:
- a. Holding workshops and training seminars;
 - b. Development of a media knowledge base at the national and local levels on issues of violence against children;
 - c. Devising plans and programmes to implement the activities and tasks of the network, which are contained in the articles of incorporation document, in coordination with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood's technical secretariat; the overall programme that is aimed to provide women and children with information and data; and
 - d. Conducting activities and events to report on violence against children.
10. In Egypt: the Child Helpline 16000 was established. This service plays an important role in monitoring violence against children, in providing treatment and rehabilitation for victims and in ensuring punishment of the offenders. A toll-free telephone line was launched in June 2005 to provide help services to children; the line is operated 24 hours per day with coverage across all governorates of Egypt. Work on this Helpline began by training the personnel on communication skills, child psychology, receiving communications and managing databases. Complaints are resolved through a national network, including all line ministries involved with children, the centre for psychological counselling at the University of Ain Shams and a number of hospitals and educational institutions. The Helpline provides a specialized on-line service to answer questions relating to FGM/C and intervene to prevent FGM/C incidences. The Child Helpline 16000 plays an important role in:
- a. Building a database on marginalized and difficult to reach children;
 - b. Mapping street children groupings in four governorates: Cairo, Qaliubiya, Alexandria and Giza;
 - c. Putting forth efforts to develop plans and build a database, by monitoring the problem patterns experienced by children and understanding their needs. The number of communications received by the Child Helpline from 06.29.2005 until 12.17.2008 totalled 1,025,218 calls, and provided services including legal counselling, educational, health and security services, etc; and
 - d. Directing proposals to amend the Children's Rights Law No. 126 and the legal status

of the Child Rescue line, as a monitoring mechanism, with a mandate to receive and address complaints, refer and demand investigations and follow-up be conducted on the outcome of the investigation and remedial response. (Article 144 of the law).

11. Three documents have gained international legitimacy in the area of human rights: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
12. Mohammed Sayed Said, an introduction to understanding the human rights system, a series of human rights education (3), the Cairo Centre for Human Rights Studies, Cairo, 1997, p. 69.
13.
 - 1 - Signature of a convention means the initial acceptance of its provisions by the State, but does not confirm its commitment to the requirements of the convention, i.e.: the State which has only signed a treaty is not obliged to implement the convention's provisions.
 - 2 – Ratification of a convention after signing it by the State, i.e. the parliamentary (legislative) bodies have ratified it; the convention then becomes binding and incurs some requirements in the constitution as the highest legal reference.
 - 3 - Accession means that the State accepts engagement in the requirements of the convention, leading to conclusion of accession through a declaration to this effect; thereby becoming a party to the convention.

Chapter II

Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties Involved in Combating Violence against Children (Settings in Which Violence against Children Occurs)

This part of the Report presents a comparative analysis of the recommendations drawn from the questionnaires made by Arab States, in terms of the roles and responsibilities of the relevant bodies involved in stopping violence against children. There have been a series of recommendations linked to the five settings in which violence occurs (in accordance with the categorization contained in the United Nations Secretary General's Report on the Study on Violence Against Children (UNSG Study on VAC), with respect to the locations where violence occurs): in the home and family, educational settings and institutions, care and justice systems, local community and on the street, including in work settings. Recommendations relating to the settings where violence against children takes place are:

1 - Home and family

Given the importance of the role played by the home and family in the care and upbringing of children, main approaches taken by countries to combat violence against children include programmes to support and educate parents and caregivers – and train them - and enhancing capabilities of families living in difficult conditions, and holding training sessions and seminars for families and various institutions concerned with family support. The proposed programmes include – but not limited to - the following:

1-1: Parent and other caretaker support programmes

The proposed programmes for supporting parents and other caretakers focus on the following:

- Holding training sessions for workers providing care for children including: nannies, supervisors, teachers, social workers, psychologists and foster families.
- Preparing an educational guide to raise awareness about best practices in parental care, as well as preparing training sessions for childcare personnel in, and assisting parents in providing better parental care.
- Raising awareness via school administrations, teachers and social workers, to help families deal with early childhood and adolescence, with an emphasis on compassionate care and positive discipline, emotional empowerment, self-confidence and a culture of respect and cooperation, as well as teaching children not to psychologically or physically abuse their peers.
- Raising awareness about female genital mutilation (FGM) and its harmful health and psychological effects through television adverts.
- Initiating field visits by psycho-social workers to the families of the children in order to evaluate their conditions.

1-2 Programmes targeting families in difficult circumstances

- Promote social stability through social security and assistance.
- Ensure free health services.
- Promote economic stability for families through productive earning and livelihood projects.

- Provide financial assistance to foster families, if social research proves that they need it to provide appropriate family, educational and social care.
- Provide information to parents regarding the education and behaviour of children, through an e-learning portal and school meetings.
- Implement income-generating projects.
- Undertake national programmes to help low-income families.
- Implement housing programmes targeted to poor households.
- Operate scholarship programmes for needy children.
- Allocate special funds for needy families.

1-3: Parent-oriented education programmes

The proposed parent-oriented education programmes include – but are not limited to – the following:

- Health and education support groups for parents.
- Women's associations for the social education of women

Jordan is implementing a parental care programme to reach out to parents and caregivers and families to educate them on the means and methods of proper upbringing of young children (0-8 years), and provide a safe environment to stimulate their growth and development. The programme was implemented in Jordan in 1996, and the Kingdom's Ministry of Education became a partner of the programme in 2002, together with a number of other institutions, including the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health in addition to local community institutions. The programme targets school teachers, administrators, kindergarten teachers, and families (as caregivers). The programme is supported by UNICEF, partner ministries and organizations, in order to institutionalize the programme and integrate it within the annual plans of partner institutions.

Tunisia made a number of achievements in this field, developing a national strategy to address violent behaviour within households in addition to a media strategy for family rehabilitation and support to enhance capacity. Sudan has set up a national plan to combat violence against children, and devoted a chapter in the plan to domestic violence.

Egypt also made some achievements, developing programmes for families in difficult circumstances through the "Poverty Reduction Project" that was established jointly with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. The project aims at enabling women to attain their civil rights and supporting families economically through small-scale projects.

Recommendations from Arab countries were reviewed with regard to family assistance and support in order to reduce violence against children. The Arab States generally show a growing interest in programmes directed to families in difficult circumstances, such as female-headed households, women in rural areas and low-income families.

Arab countries need to increase their efforts in the areas of parental education, reduction of stress and emotional management, with a special focus on media programmes, publications and periodicals. Presently, such programs are scarce and unintegrated with other efforts.

2 - Schools and education settings

It is important to highlight the role of school and educational institutions in stopping violence against children and in emphasizing the right of all children to learn in a violence-free, safe and appropriate school environment. Such recommendations are reflected in the responses of Arab States to the questionnaires in four approaches: encouraging schools to adopt and implement violence-free codes and regulations; ensuring teaching strategies that are free from violence, intimidation or threat, humiliation or physical force; delivering special programmes for a safe school environment; and encouraging skill building to enable development of a curriculum that is free from violence and to implement anti-bullying policies. Such recommendations relating to curricula, teaching processes and other practices effectively comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 's principles and have had an impact on the reduction of violent behaviours.

2-1: Encouraging schools to adopt and implement non-violent behaviour/ disciplinary approaches and systems Ensuring appropriate means of success within the educational system;

Promulgating laws and regulations that address the rules which prohibit physical or psychological abuse against students; abuse is a violation of children's rights, of his/her dignity, of respect for him or her and of their right to protection against violence and abuse;

- Preventing corporal punishment in schools;
- Developing personnel discipline in schools;
- Establishing groups and institutions to provide counselling and psychological services for students and parents;
- Establishing a system of educational guidance (school counsellors) in schools;
- Incorporating human rights-based themes in school curricula; and
- Developing codes of conduct for students and staff in schools.

2-2: Developing teaching strategies free of violence, intimidation, threats, humiliation or physical abuse

- Use modern educational methods to ensure freedom of expression for students, in addition to the methods used by teachers, such as cooperative learning, the art of discussion and respect for opinion, as well as encouraging the elimination of violence, intimidation, threat, humiliation or physical abuse.
- Have ministerial decisions issued to prevent violence in schools.
- Offer training programs for teachers, educational social workers, and counsellors, with special education strategies and alternatives to punishment without recourse to violence.

2-3: Programmes targeting school environment, promoting development of skills and a culture of non-violence and implementing anti-intimidation policies

- Developing a set of laws, and implementing a range of activities and programmes for ensuring children's rights in school;

- Implementing training programmes to promote a culture of respect for, and protection of, the rights of the child in educational settings; and
- Finding alternatives to corporal punishment.

2-4: Efforts linked to alignment of curricula, teaching methods and other practices with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 's principles and to ensuring they include no violent indications

- Establishing children's rights clubs in basic education schools, and carrying out activities to educate and inform children of their rights;
- Organizing seminars and lectures for parents on family guidance and children's rights;
- Organizing training courses for workers in the educational field about the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Delivering lectures on behavioural change; and
- Conducting case-studies for the students who experience behavioural and mental disorders; and
- Holding regular meetings with parents

Data available from responses to the questionnaire show that some Arab countries have not yet developed teaching methods in private schools despite a growing interest in addressing violence within schools. With regard to teaching strategies that are free from violence, intimidation or threat, humiliation or physical force, there is an urgent need to give greater attention in all Arab States to developing teaching strategies that are free from violence and other forms of cruel treatment; programs and activities related to this need to be carried out on a regular and consistent basis, and piloting is needed to assess new strategies. With regard to programmes that target the school environment and encourage skill building and a culture of non-violence, and advocates for policies against violence, it has been found that Arab countries show an interest in a violence-free school environment and have adopted a set of laws, programmes and activities that show respect for the rights of the child at school. On the issue of compliance in terms of the curricula, teaching processes and other practices with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 's principles, and the issue of reducing violence, most Arab states have intensified or are currently intensifying efforts in promoting a culture of children's rights amongst various officials and actors in the educational arena; the purpose is to ensure approval of the teaching methods, processes and practices associated with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) principles. The Arab countries that have integrated the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), including the concept of protecting children from violence, in the curricula at different educational levels include , Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan¹, Syria, Qatar², Libya and Yemen.

(3) In care and juvenile justice systems

Arab countries' efforts to reduce the number of children placed in the justice systems show increased work on a judicial mechanism to protect children in conflict with the law; the efforts focus on raising the age of criminal responsibility in some countries, such as Egypt and Sudan. A mediation mechanism has been adopted for implementation before initial proceedings take place. Meanwhile, priority is being given to reducing rulings made against juveniles in court with preference to monitoring within their family environment.

Observation is performed on a regular basis every six months in order to ensure and maintain the best interests of the child, and to emphasize the educational role a judge can play. Some Arab countries, such as Jordan, UAE, Tunisia, Sudan, and Yemen have also endeavoured to develop tailored programmes targeted to provide counselling and legal assistance, train specialists to promote the best interests of the child and stress the importance of non-custodial measures for children in conflict with the law and in institutional care. Such measures are also vital for officers in law enforcement departments and judicial bodies, as well as for the staff assuming social guidance and counselling roles, and for providing support to associations and non-governmental organizations to help them offer counselling and guidance, oversight and implementation of social programmes and aftercare.

In Syria, a multidisciplinary rehabilitation effort has been in place and targets a collection of officers, judges, health workers, sociologists, counsellors, psycho-social workers - all to be trained on child protection issues through an education programme that culminates in a Child Protection Specialist Diploma.

3 – In care and juvenile judicial systems

The UNSG's VAC recommends that all states should assume responsibility for ensuring the safety of children in residential care and juvenile detention facilities. Responses from Arab States to the questionnaire were received on eight themes centred around the role of care and juvenile justice systems in reducing violence against children: efforts to reduce the rates of children in institutions; giving priority to family reunion and other community-based alternatives; efforts to reduce the number of children who are placed in justice systems; efforts to promote alternative measures and rehabilitation programmes and policies to encourage regular evaluation of measures taken; ensuring the transfer of children to family- or community-based care; independent mechanisms for filing complaints and investigation of issues of violence in care and justice systems and programmes to inform children in institutions about their rights; actions taken to facilitate access to children in institutions and existing mechanisms to protect them; and the existence of independent institutions with the power to monitor the state of children in care and justice institutions.

The following section details the responses made by countries regarding different approaches; recommendations for each approach are reflected in the following points:

3-1: Efforts to reduce the rates of placement of children in institutional care, and prioritizing family reunion and other community-based alternatives

- Organize awareness-raising programmes and regular seminars to encourage the local community to embrace the notion of care offered inside institutions.

- Develop/enact legal provisions to ensure the child's right to life, survival and development in an atmosphere of a collaborative and supportive family.
- Reduce as much as possible instances where children are of their freedoms mandatorily, and make such deprivation a last resort and limit it to the shortest possible span of time.
- Prioritize measures for the child-family reunion.
- Implement various projects aimed at reducing rates of child placement in institutional care. These projects include, the project for childcare and child protection in the area of criminal justice, the legal aid programme, programmes for guidance / counselling for children accused of breaking the law, and the juvenile justice project.
- Establish specialized offices for juvenile police, security centres and juvenile courts in order to implement restorative justice and settle children's issues before bringing them to justice and placing them in care centres.
- Involve family protection departments in projects engaging juveniles, which are undertaken by competent authorities, with support from international organizations. Examples of such projects include the 'juvenile criminal justice project', the 'project for juvenile justice rehabilitation', and the 'juvenile justice system reform project'.
- Operate an alternative care system and allocate budgets for the transfer of children exposed to domestic violence to foster families, where the governments will ensure that all the needs of the foster families are met.

Arab countries have worked towards reducing the rates of children placed in institutions and have begun to prioritize the practice of keeping children within their families and communities, while addressing cases of children in difficult circumstances, including children in conflict with law. Some Arab countries (Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Qatar, and Egypt) have developed specially-designed programs and mechanisms and recruited specialized human resources to address these issues. Meanwhile, these countries continue to prioritize the development of the child within his or her family, whether through mediation and support to families, or through foster care. Some other Arab countries, in particular UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, Oman, and Libya, have implemented programmes and activities to raise awareness about the role of the family in all actions concerning children. For example, in Bahrain a group of health, social and mental health workers, all holders of university degrees, have majored in 'family counselling' at the University of Bahrain, with the support from the National Commission for Children and the Child Protection Centre. For juvenile delinquents, Arab countries have developed specific laws to protect this group of the child population, and given priority to re-education and social reintegration, while involving family members in the measures taken under especially designed programmes for legal aid and counselling, as well as for putting support mechanisms in place for mediation and problem-solving. Moreover, other countries, including Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen, have initiated bills to establish alternatives to custodial penalties for young offenders. Egypt has already initiated such a law in order to restrict deprivation of liberty to a last resort.

3-2: Efforts to reduce the number of children placed in juvenile justice systems

- Raise awareness about children's programmes within institutions and ministries.
- Increase the age of criminal responsibility for children from seven years to twelve years.
- Create new sectoral mechanisms (protection committees) composed of representatives of the security, social, psychological, medical and educational sectors, in addition to civil society representatives to engage and interact with children at risk.
- Introduce correction programmes in the offices caring for juvenile delinquents to handle minor cases (misdemeanours), with a special focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment, thus ensuring reintegration of juveniles into society.
- Develop statistics on the number of children financially supporting their families and provide financial support to these families.

3-3: Efforts to promote alternative measures and rehabilitation programmes

- Conduct field research to study the state of families.
- Develop guidelines for interviews with family members, and devise appropriate plans for rehabilitation.
- Develop outreach programmes to promote foster care and family foster care.
- Promulgate a children's rights act that prohibits sentences of imprisonment for children under the age of fifteen, and implement alternative punishment measures such as detention, reprimands, vocational training or placement in a social care institution.
- Develop legislative provisions stipulating that children who have not reached 15 years of age shall not be subjected to detention, but rather should be placed in specialized institutional care.
- Introduce correction programmes in the offices providing care for juvenile delinquents who commit misdemeanours; the aim is to rehabilitate them and ensure their reintegration into society.
- Plan for children's hearings to be held in specialized centres instead of in courts.
- Adopt measures for physical and psychological rehabilitation and reintegration; through these services, a juvenile delinquent receives schooling and vocational education inside institutions in preparation for re-integration into society.

In the side on the development of policies to encourage re-evaluation of the measures taken regularly, and to ensure the transfer of the child to the care of the family or community, and after examining the available data, it can be assured of the absence of this type of policy, by contrast, there is a reference to some procedures and special activities to encourage family care focusing on the development and promotion of judicial review of measures for children and follow-up cases, whether it is related to child or family.

3-4: Policy on promoting regular reviews of measures, with emphasis on child transfer into family or community-based care

- Gradually place children, who have been deprived of parental care and who are admitted at institutions, into foster families by the adoption of procedures according to government rules and regulations.
- Periodically review the cases of children separated from their families, through follow-up studies and visits to them and their families. The aim is to inquire about their situations and to reduce the risk factors impacting them; this effort shall be associated with continued social follow-up.
- Nullify sentences against children in the absence of a social expert's report.
- Implement the children's rights law. The child protection committee ensures that the child is subject to a periodic follow-up in order to control the procedures and outcome of the implementation measures.

From the limited information available, Arab states appear to be giving priority to alternative measures and rehabilitation programmes; this effort is made through promulgation of new legislation meant to replace prison as punishment. Arab states' responses also show a trend towards the creation of ad hoc courts for children, designing programmes for rehabilitation of delinquent children outside care institutions and training specialists on teaching methods and psychological follow-up counselling for children and parents in at risk situations. On different note, certain Arab States have contracted with NGOs to implement programmes that provide alternative measures and work to increase the number of placement centres, and provide guidance/counselling and follow-up. In Qatar, the Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children (Aman Foundation) has been established to protect abused children and rehabilitate them. The Qatar Orphans Foundation was established to protect children who have lost parental protection. In Lebanon, the juvenile delinquent institution of the Ministry of Justice has concluded contracts with two civil associations to implement alternative measures with the support of UNICEF.

3-5: Independent mechanisms for complaints, investigation and recourse to addressing incidences of violence in care and justice systems

- Complaints and problems experienced by children are revealed to ad hoc technical working groups, who will examine them, devise solutions for them and address them appropriately.
- Cases of violence, under the care and juvenile justice systems, can be reported using telephone lines and the toll-free Child Helpline - a mechanism based on receiving communications involving children through a hotline.
- Field visits can be made to interview children in care centres in order to address cases of violence in these institutions.
- Establishing social offices to receive complaints of violence against children.

A range of countries including UAE, Iraq and Morocco did not provide data on independent mechanisms for filing complaints or on investigations and case studies of violence in care and justice systems. Some of the countries mentioned institutions and national bodies on human rights in general. Jordan, Algeria and Sudan mentioned specialized units receiving complaints and toll-free telephone lines established for this purpose. Algeria has appointed an Advisory Committee for Human Rights periodically reporting to the Committee's chair, especially for children; this body is tasked with listening to children and receives their complaints. In Mauritania, the National Commission for Human Rights is an independent body and has all powers to report issues that may be observed in relation to children; also in Mauritania, the Bar Association observes procedures and reports on compliance with regulations and international standards in respect of children's rights.

3-6: Programmes on raising the awareness of children about their rights inside institutions

- Setting up projects within institutions can help confront violence against children; studies and workshops can enhance discussion; and introduction of specially tailored programmes to inform children of their rights within the institutions, through brochures and posters, can impart simplified version of the children's rights law to children.
- Producing awareness-raising television programmes presented by children, jointly with adults, that explain to children their rights and how to ensure them, in a simplified manner.
- Holding training sessions and workshops about the rights of the child can help institutions to uphold children's rights and show children ways to access their rights.
- Informing children about their rights within care institutions can be done with a view toward implementing a number of educational courses for children about their rights; and publications and posters can contain informational messages relevant to these rights.
- Children within juvenile justice systems are informed of their rights and duties through especially developed guides for juveniles in prison and correctional facilities, as well as through a special booklet for parents about the rules of life in juvenile facilities. It is further accomplished through a range of publications for delinquents who violate the criminal law and for the child victims in order to for them to understand judicial procedures.
- Organizing events and festivals in various fields help inform children about their rights within institutions.

Efforts to educate children about their rights in institutions include a range of similar programmes across Arab countries. These activities include the mainstreaming of children's rights in school curricula, training courses and information programmes and dissemination of documents to raise awareness about children's rights.

3-7: Procedures to facilitate access of children placed in institutional care to existing protection mechanisms

- Protection committees within dedicated departments can monitor cases of exposure to danger and violence.
- Heads of children's courts, or delegated judges or experts, can, every three months, pay visits to observation and training centres, rehabilitation and social welfare institutions, specialized hospitals and penal institutions, and other entities that cooperate with the children's court; the purpose of such tour visits is to make sure that such facilities are fulfilling their duties in terms of child rehabilitation and efforts to help children reintegrate into society..
- The management structures of care institutions can be transparent in performance; they can adopt an "open door policy", whereby the persons concerned with children's rights can visit relevant institutions and make sure that children are not exposed to violence; they also can directly approach officials or contact children's families and other institutions involved in child protection.

There are not sufficient data on the measures observed to facilitate access by children placed in institutions to the existing mechanisms for protection, save the reference made to the provision of toll-free telephone lines and development of awareness programme. In addition, some countries refer to existing legal provisions and regulatory private institutions. A receiver pays periodic visits to inspect the state of children and to receive complaints. For example, Qatar has established Qatar Foundation for Protection of Children and Women to support the safety of children and women, with a Helpline number (919) operating 24 hours, to receive children's communications and react for their rescue immediately

3-8: Independent bodies with mandate to monitor the state of children inside care and justice institutions

Given the absence of independent institutions, the Ministry of Social Development and the Directorate General of Family Development monitor the state of children in care institutions and police stations. The public prosecution can supervise the implementation of law provisions.

In Jordan, many institutions and independent organizations have mandates authorizing them to monitor the state of children in care institutions and judicial systems through periodic visits; these structures include the National Council for Family Affairs, the National Centre for Human Rights, Mizan Law Group for Human Rights, UNICEF and the Association of Domestic Violence Victims.

In Sudan, associations for family and child protection receive communications and control the implementation of support programmes for children and female victims of violence, in coordination with those working in child protection, led by the National Council for Child Welfare. These institutions also supervise juvenile delinquents in accordance with the provisions of the Children's Rights Law (2010) and relevant standards of juvenile justice.

In Qatar, The National Commission for Human Rights is an independent national institution with powers to monitor the proceedings taking place inside care and judicial institutions.

In Yemen, the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, in cooperation with the National Network for Child Protection, regularly visits the various judicial institutions located in all provinces. The visits are intended to evaluate and follow-up on the state of children and to submit reports to relevant authorities for necessary action. Such action is targeted towards improving the situation of children and finding appropriate solutions to the issues they face. In addition, a civil society organization (Yemen National Council for children's rights Care) makes field visits periodically to monitor the state of children in contact with the law, to follow up on their cases and provide legal aid in cooperation with judicial authorities. In 2007, Yemen began activating a special care system for juvenile delinquents, aiming to activate non-custodial measures, to follow-up on indicted juveniles after serving the term of their sentences, in terms of guidance/counselling and referral to institutions. This exercise was conducted in two districts. In addition, many training sessions for juvenile judges were organized to study non-custodial measures in various provinces.

Despite the importance of efforts made by Arab states to account for the role of care and juvenile justice systems in reducing violence against children, these results indicate that further efforts in this regard are necessary. The need to develop mechanisms and procedures that can help strengthen programmes designed to protect children in general, and the children who have lost family support in particular, and to introduce new strategies aimed at activating the reduction of violence against children in care and juvenile justice systems, remains pressing.

States who filled out the questionnaire did not provide information on the availability of independent bodies that have the authority to monitor the state of children in care and justice institutions. The information received from a few countries; namely, Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Libya, Egypt, and Yemen, mentioned government institutions without reference to specific institutions or independent bodies. In Jordan, the National Center for Human Rights has the authority to periodically monitor the situation of children in care and justice institutions.

4 – Violence in Work Settings

The phenomenon of child labour is widespread in many Arab countries but statistics vary according to the definition used and the approach taken in data collection. In most countries, it is difficult to determine the magnitude of child labour, due to the fact that children work primarily in the non-formal sector, in small workshops, and in marginal businesses. A number of studies on this topic show that children work in difficult circumstances, that their work day often extends to more than 10 hours, and that they are regularly subjected to verbal and/or physical violence by their employer or workmates, who are often older than them.. There are an unknown number of children working in hazardous areas, which account for the worst form of child labour; these working children are deprived of health care and their work threatens their health and impedes their development. Therefore, child labour has become a great challenge that faces children, given the loss of child dependency and the low standard of living of many families that forces them to send their children into the labour market.

Accordingly, the United Nations SG's study on VAC devoted a large section to work settings, focusing on a large volume of available information based on field work experiences, that can be utilized by Arab countries to curb violence against children. The recommendations are organized under five themes, according to the responses of Arab States to the questionnaire; namely:

- Measures to enforce labour laws, particularly those which prohibit child labour

- Measures to prevent child labour in general and the worst forms of child labour in particular
- Programmes and measures associated with the prevention of violence in work settings
- Programmes for withdrawal of children from work settings, and for their re-integration
- How to involve the private sector, labour unions and civil society in preventing and combating child labour

The following are the most important responses received from Arab countries on these themes:

4.1: Measures to enforce labour laws, particularly those which prohibit child labour

- Prohibit employment of male and female youth under the age of 18 years except under certain conditions; do not allow them to enter the labour market or to do types of work beyond their capacity or which affect their health and morality.
- Ban the worst forms of child labour and undertake immediate action to eliminate them.
- Develop a working system for juvenile delinquents, while setting stipulations and conditions for work, as well as the type of work suitable to their age.
- Create a unit mandated to monitor child labour.
- Impose financial penalties on employers who violate the legislation with respect to child labour.
- Prevent the employment of children during night shifts and in dangerous work situations.
- Provide work environments free of accidents, injuries and occupational health risks.
- Place emphasis on safeguards for children who enter the labour market, such as medical examinations and insurance; avoiding work which causes physical or psychological damage; and receiving full wages. If the work circumstances require work during night hours, children should be separated from adults.
- Prohibit 'overtime work' by children or on weekends and during holidays.
- Introduce national projects to reduce child labour, to bring children back into school and vocational training; in addition, provide assistance to the families of working children to enable children to return to school.
- Extend the social services being delivered to families to help them keep their children at school.
- Enter work settings without prior notification to examine the records, books, files, or any other labour-related documents to ensure compliance with the applicable legislation.

Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, and Yemen have all presented information about measures taken to enforce laws prohibiting child labour. These countries have indicated that there exist legal provisions for compulsory primary education, for prohibition of child labour, raising the age of access to the labour market to 15, 16 or 18 years - depending on the country, for prevention of employment of children in hazardous labour or activities that threaten their health, for limiting working hours for children between 15 and 18 years old, and for the imposition of fines, and establishment of inspection committees. Lebanon and Morocco indicate the presence of an inefficient inspection service. Jordan and Lebanon also note the existence in their countries of a national strategy to reduce child labour. Algeria has set up a national committee to combat child labour, supervised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, and inspection committees periodically carry out investigations on this phenomenon. The outcomes of such investigations have revealed instances of child labour as low as 0.54%. In Yemen, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has established a unit to combat child labour.

This structure is implementing a number of activities aimed at combating child labour, including awareness-raising activities for children themselves and their families, and at coordinating efforts among the agencies involved in combating child labour. The said Ministry also formed a ministerial committee composed of governmental agencies, employers, workers and NGOs – functioning under its own supervision. Another programme "ACCESS Plus" has also been implemented to reduce the worst forms of child labour in a number of provinces. This programme targets children themselves through a number of activities, including improvement of education in the schools programmes, creation of child-friendly environments, and implementation of professional training courses, awareness-raising activities and literacy classes.

4-2: Measures to prevent child labour in general and the worst forms of child labour in particular

- Enact laws to prevent forced labour.
- Ratify international conventions concerning the prevention of child labour in general.
- Eliminate the worst forms of child labour and determine the minimum age for employment.
- Inspect work environments.
- Establish a follow-up committee and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Establish a national committee to prevent and combat child labour, and develop a long-term plan of action.
- Extend incentives to children to study and pursue education and to prevent parents from stopping their children from enrolment in education.
- Ensure respect for the principles of compulsory free education free throughout various stages of education.

- Prevent the export of goods produced by factories hiring children.
- Create a "labour inspection service" in all branches throughout the country, aimed to monitor implementation of legislation governing workers in the area of child protection. The staffers in this service are called 'labour inspectors', and shall be entitled to make judicial inspections concerning implementation of the law.

Responses to the questionnaire show that measures are being taken to prevent the prevalence of child labour in general, and the worst forms of child labour in particular; Arab countries have confirmed the presence of inspection services and procedures, programmes to withdraw children from work and to reintegrate them through educational and professional training, and the implementation of awareness-raising activities.

In Jordan, legislation has been enacted to enable children to return to school and vocational training. There is a strategy for child labour, and a national framework on child labour is being undertaken; the latter defines the roles and responsibilities of all institutions in reducing access by children to the labour market, and integrates mechanisms for appropriate intervention into a participatory approach.

In Syria, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour cooperates with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to launch and implement the 'Agenda of Decent Work Country Programme', which monitors reduction in child labour; both parties are following up on the implementation of these laws through ad hoc committees to ensure implementation.

In Sudan, a national project to address child labour through education was adopted: 'Tackling Child Labour through Education Programme', established in partnership between the National Council for Child Welfare, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Public Education and the (ILO).

Iraq has prohibited the export of goods produced by factories that hire children. Egypt has also confirmed the existence of a national committee to prevent and combat child labour.

4-3: Programmes and measures associated with the prevention of violence in work settings

- Prohibit employment of children under the age of fifteen.
- Prohibit employment of young persons under the age of eighteen years between 06:00 pm and 06:00 am, and do not allow them to work more than six hours per day.
- Delinquents may not be assigned to work overtime hours or remain in the workplace after scheduled timelines, and may not work on rest days or holidays.
- Proceed with the implementation of the national programme "Enqaz" to fight the phenomenon of child domestic workers. The law codifying domestic work is now being endorsed.
- Organize audio-visual campaigns at the national level, targeting families of child domestic workers, the families involved, intermediaries, and public opinion to draw attention to the gravity of the phenomenon of domestic workers.

- Implement activities addressing mediators to promote income-generating projects, and contribute to endeavours to decrease school dropout rates among girls in targeted areas.
- Develop a national strategy to prevent and combat child labour across labour categories, including hazardous work.
- Establish social development projects, support the establishment of small enterprises for unemployed adults and heads of households, including withdrawal of their children from work and encouraging them to practice home-based craftsmanship, and take advantage of community-based rehabilitation projects.
- Appoint “protectors of children”, if children are subject to economic exploitation, or administrators in cases of school dropouts, in work settings. These protectors can withdraw child workers from work and reintegrate them into the education system, training or vocational training

4.4. Programmes for withdrawal of children from work settings, and for their re-integration

- Withdraw children from work settings; prevent them from returning to work and from financially supporting their families.
- Establish vocational training covering all areas.
- Encourage children to attend school by establishing distance education centres.
- Enforce compulsory schooling and prohibit dismissal of students from school for any reason.
- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is implementing a “School to Work Programme”, which seeks to develop the students’ job/career skills and professional/vocational capacity, to enable them to enter the labour market meet the requirements of the national economy.
- Implement programmes to enhance education among students leaving school; the programme was originally designed and built to meet the needs of the students and to emphasize their educational rights. It provides them with knowledge, experience, positive trends, and professional/vocational maturity; thus rehabilitating them according to specific criteria in order to enrol in professional/vocational training.
- Integrate children working as “Camel Jockeys” in educational institutions, finance income-generating projects for certain families, and improve the infrastructure in neighbourhoods.

With regards to programmes and associated measures to prevent violence at work, the Arab states' responses emphasize control measures through intensified inspections, formation of committees to receive complaints, imposition of fines and penalties, and organization of awareness-raising campaigns in collaboration with civil society. Bahrain has confirmed the absence of the phenomenon of violence in the workplace, has an enacted law on begging and homelessness, and has established the Centre for Social Welfare to provide services to child beggars and homeless children. Algeria has a national strategy in place to prevent and combat child labour in all work settings, including hazardous labour; the country has confirmed the absence of the phenomenon of child labour, in terms of prevalence, based on information from work inspectors. Most recently, specifically in 2006, the prevalence of child labour in Algeria did not exceed 0.54%; financial penalties and imprisonment - for a term ranging between 15 days and two months - are imposed on employers of minors as well as on those who employ people under the age of 19 during the nightshift. Oman has also noted that child labour does not exist within its borders. Lebanon has no ad hoc programme for child labour, but measures are taken by competent authorities in the event of a complaint. In Egypt, the media has played a role in turning public opinion against child labour and promoting the rights of working children; NGOs also play an active role in the programmes raising awareness about the legal rights of working children, in addition to their role in the surveillance of employers.

Few Arab States have submitted data on ad hoc programmes to withdraw children from work and reintegrate them in society. Available information shows that the majority of States have no permanent or established programmes; however, there are some activities in place. These aim to withdraw children from work and send them back to school and vocational training; they are also aimed at providing assistance to families that rely financially on children, in order to enable them to return to school, and at following up on complaints and information campaigns about the dangers child labour presents. Other efforts undertaken in cooperation with NGOs include: raising awareness, developing educational programmes and improving the economic condition of families.

4-5: How to involve the private sector, labour trade unions and civil society in preventing and combating child-labour

- Form a committee composed of working women and children
- Participate in several workshops held at the regional and international levels to discuss child labour.
- Devise and implement a national strategy to prevent violence against children.
- Devise and implement a national plan for children.
- Engage in networking, and create private associations concerned with children, such as "NADA Algeria Project" in Algeria

Concerning the involvement of the private sector, labour trade unions and civil society organization in the prevention and fight against child labour programmes, available responses show that such participation remains weak. Some Arab countries, such as Jordan, Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Yemen, have in place national programmes to reduce child labour, which are being implemented with support from many governmental and non-governmental partners, and with the participation of all relevant bodies in the planning process. The reduction of child labour depends heavily on a participatory approach by all involved actors.

5 – Violence at the local community

The United Nations Secretary General's Report on the Study on Violence Against Children has shown that mandatory measures to prevent violence against children and confront its occurrences in local communities requires a thorough analysis of the social, economic, financial and infrastructure risk factors at work. Responses from Arab countries regarding the role of the local community in stopping violence against children can be organized under five themes:

- Develop and implement prevention strategies against violence at the local level;
- Adopt programmes and policies to reduce social and economic inequalities;
- Target police and other security institutions with training programmes on children's rights;
- Exert effort at the local level to coordinate and track services for child victims of violence; and
- Define the role of the local communities in promoting and supporting government and civil society initiatives for the prevention of violence against children.

The following outlines the most important elements on such strategies:

5-1: Strategies to prevent and combat violence at the local level

- Develop a national plan to combat violence against children, including prevention, protection, treatment and rehabilitation.
- Develop a national strategy to combat violence against women, meant to protect all family members from violence, with the participation of various actors in society.
- Publicize cases of abuse and violence against children, whether inside or outside the scope of the family; this can be done through national committees for family affairs and the follow-up committees to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Address the situation of children who are in need of protection, with the goal of integrating them into community structures, and follow up on this issue.
- Plan, develop and implement protection programmes.
- Develop strategies for the prevention of violence in the community through partnership with governments, the media, schools, civil society and human rights organizations.
- Make violence against children a top priority, involving all government institutions and local communities.

- Build statistics on the magnitude of this phenomenon in order to enable the government to address it.
- Establish local radio stations and work on developing broadcast coverage. The media can provide information on key topics in a simple and popular manner that can be easily understood by rural people.
- Provide resources and qualified personnel to address this subject.

The few facts available about strategies for preventing and facing violence at the local level reveal that Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Sudan and Egypt have strategies to prevent and combat violence against children; some other countries like Jordan, the UAE, Iraq, Qatar and Yemen have national strategies incorporated in other overall strategies to confront violence against children, while many other Arab States did not provide information on the subject. The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Children and Women assumes responsibility for protection of women and children from violence and abuse. This Foundation is also responsible for rehabilitation and the provision of training courses for educational, medical and security personnel on how to handle cases of violence and abuse and on ways to achieve prevention and treatment. Qatar has also launched a "Safetyline" or "Rescueline" (919) to support children and women; the line remains operational around the clock to aid children and women suffering from violence or threatened violence.

5.2. Programmes and policies adopted to reduce socio-economic disparities

- Relevant bodies work to reduce social and economic disparities between different groups in society.
- Provide free education for all people.
- Provide mandatory social and health insurance.
- Request official credentials (identification cards) that are required for work or to increase income.
- Ensure recurrent cash aid programmes for poor families.
- Implement the Guarantee Fund Project for the future of orphaned children.
- Income generating programmes and projects for individuals capable of work in transient poverty or subject to poverty.
- Programme funds, credit, loans and housing projects for poor families.
- Encourage self-reliance and support local development in order to reduce disparities in living standards across regions and different income groups.
- Promote policies and mechanisms to achieve equal opportunities for all members of society.
- Expand the number of university scholarships and give priority of employment to children from low income families.
- Cooperate with United Nations organizations to improve the indicators of child protection

Concerning the programmes and policies that have been adopted to reduce social and economic inequality, and the initiatives and national action plans put in place, the responses available have confirmed that social funds are available for projects to combat poverty. They are also accessible for housing programmes and to support income-generating projects, as well as for the support and encouragement to non-governmental organizations and associations to execute local development projects and poverty alleviation strategies. Raising the living standards of citizens has been adopted as a strategic objective of development.

In Bahrain, a Fund has been established to support social work and community work and to support the Fund for Social Security and the Family Bank. This financial institution offers lending programmes and finances small projects to support families in need. In Syria, the project has contributed to the empowerment of women and to poverty reduction through an integrated national pilot programme. The government also implements lending programmes and finances small projects to support poor families and help them to achieve sustainable income to cover living expenses.

Lebanon has adopted a social policy involving fiscal adjustment and a decrease in existing social burdens. It is within this framework that Lebanon has launched two projects aimed at promoting local development and fighting poverty by focusing on the most pressing areas of need.

Egypt is implementing a programme entitled "Poverty Reduction ... The Legal Rights of Girls and Children", which aims to support and improve the state of children and women (in five provinces, 27 centres and 420 villages). It is also intended to enable them to address poverty by facilitating access to required documents, and to make use of the essential services provided by the State and community, through coordination and cooperation, and through the projects implemented jointly with concerned executive bodies³.

5.3. Children's rights -related training programmes targeting the police and other related security services

- Training programmes for police officers and police investigators in order to train them on amendments to the children's rights law; the programmes will also train these personnel on important social interventions aimed at ways to deal with street children and the philosophy behind the children's rights law, as well as on child mental development and human rights in general.
- Training of personnel in institutions and relevant ministries on how to address issues and situations of violence; the trainings will address the procedures and specific protocols of individual institutions concerning cases of domestic violence.
- Child protection programmes – these are designed to train personnel in departments concerned with family protection on how to conceive and develop positive concepts and attitudes towards victims of domestic violence.

Concerning training programmes targeting the police and other security services on the Rights of the Child and on identifying the dynamics and nature of violence against children, most Arab states did not provide sufficient information; the available responses focus on training courses targeting at security services in the area of children's rights, and the authorities in charge of these courses.

Egypt has implemented the Violence Against Children Programme; the programme involves training and capacity building for members of child protection committees and sub-committees and members of committees on children's rights, including security, education, health, solidarity and civil society representatives, across all 29 of Egypt's governorates. The Programme also works on capacity building for personnel working with children in detention, evaluates the detention institutions and develops a regulatory system that is independent from penal institutions. The Programme also develops alternatives to child detention and awareness-raising to change public and community opinion toward these child groups. The Programme team evaluates reception centres and other related services administered by non-governmental organizations; it also improves the services available to street children, develops standards for reception houses and establishes connections with non-governmental organizations working with street children.

5.4. Efforts at the local community level to coordinate and monitor services targeting child victims of violence

- Creating toll-free telephone lines to aid children in coordination with line relevant ministries;
- Tracking services for at-risk conditions;
- Coordinating efforts between agencies and institutions working in the areas affecting children; such coordination is necessary to avoid duplication of efforts and the waste of energy and money;
- Holding seminars, workshops and meetings to exchange experiences and information and to promote protection for all segments of society;
- Producing and delivering basic documents in the area of the national framework for family protection from violence; such a tool will clarify the roles, responsibilities, powers, and partnerships. Coordination begins with prevention and ends with evaluation of the organizations' efforts to improve and develop services; and
- Formation of national teams for family protection, including official national and civil institutions concerned with the protection of families; this is to be based on the principle of promoting participatory action in the formulation of national policies.

Arab States have not provided data concerning efforts made at the local level to coordinate and track the services offered to child victims of violence. Some countries, namely Jordan, Bahrain, Algeria and Egypt, have noted the presence of units and centres ensuring coordination of services for child victims of violence.

5-5: The role of the local community in enhancing and supporting government and civil society initiatives to prevent and prohibit violence against children

- Coordinating, networking with civil society organizations through advocacy for all child issues and intervention;
- Private sector participation in financing programmes targeting children in collaboration with civil society;
- Creating coalitions to support the rights of the child;
- Creating children's libraries as substitutes for home and school in the education of children and refinement of talents;
- Establishing cultural symposia to work on publishing specialized magazines and books for children and also host plays;
- Implementing activities and awareness programmes to prevent violence and protect children from abuse, neglect and sexual exploitation; and
- Developing community-friendly police stations to involve citizens in security operations, and to strengthen mutual trust and constructive cooperation between public security personnel and citizens.

The responses received from Arab countries regarding the promotion and support of initiatives by governments and civil society towards the prevention of violence include the emphasis that Jordan puts on the community role in reducing violence against children. Jordan has developed a national strategic plan for family protection, preventing violence, combating poverty and developing a national framework document for family protection from violence. This national framework document is a national, scientific and practical one which displays and defines roles, responsibilities and prerogatives in households. The document attaches great importance to child education and supports their cognitive and scientific talents.

Lebanon indicated that there are no specific mechanisms in place. Other initiatives relating to the work of the NGOs operating within the framework of combating violence against children are in place, however.

6 - Implementation and follow-up

In order to implement the recommendations of the UNSG's Study on VAC, reports and information concerning the achievements made and the procedures established have brought to light five major approaches:

- Completing national planning efforts for measures to prevent violence against children;
- Appointing a body in charge of coordinating the national planning for combating violence against children;

- Developing bills on the prohibition of violence against children, and elaborating these bills by the beginning of 2009;
- Monitoring cooperation with international agencies and international financial institutions to improve indicators for child protection in their respective settings; and
- Establishing an ombudsman structure or a child-rights commissioner, and the mandates and guarantees vested in them to monitor children's rights and receive complaints.

Arab countries have shown cooperation in these areas as follows:

6-1: Completing national planning efforts for measures to prevent violence against children

- The national action plan for eradicating all aspects of violence against children has been developed, and government structures and civil society organizations are working on designing programmes in favour of this plan.
- Introducing new pieces of legislation to restrict abuse of children as is the case in Jordan and Iraq.
- Creating a planning committee for the child protection centre in Bahrain to analyze the situation through a critical study on the practical modalities; the goal is to enable ministries to effectively engage with and address children in cases of corporal and psychological injuries. Other goals include elaboration of executive guidelines that govern cooperation and definition of specific roles and responsibilities.
- In Egypt, the national planning process for the measures aiming at prohibiting violence has been finalized.
- Putting in place a national strategy to fight violence against children.

The majority of Arab States did not produce relevant data on the timeframe set forth to finalize the national planning process for devising measures aimed at prohibiting violence against children. Some countries, such as the UAE, Algeria, Iraq, Oman and Libya, have confirmed that planning is ongoing. Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen have confirmed that the national planning exercise for measures aiming to prohibit violence against children has been finalized.

6-2: Appointing a body in charge of coordinating national planning for combating violence against children

- The General Authority for Child Welfare at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; the Committee on Family, Women and Child in the Parliament; and the Ministry of Human Rights, are mandated with the task of national programmes for coordination in combating violence against children;
- Supreme Council for Family Affairs;
- Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Children and Women;
- National Council for Family Affairs;

- National Commission for Family Affairs and the Commission on the Follow-up on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- National Commission on Children;
- Board of Directors of Childcare Home;
- General Women's Union;
- Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Education;
- Ministry of the Interior;
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Child and Family;
- Commission on Family Affairs; and
- Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood

In identifying the party in charge of coordinating national planning for combating violence against children, the majority of Arab States did not produce relevant data; they have indicated that such responsibility is distributed amongst more than one authority. The Arab countries eventually shared information regarding the presence of committees and councils within governmental structures in charge of social affairs; they have confirmed that these bodies are responsible for coordination.

6-3: Developing bills on prohibition of violence against children

- Bahrain is close to issuing a law on child protection, a new law on juveniles and another law on domestic violence;
- The juvenile laws in Tunisia and Morocco;
- In Algeria, a bill is being drafted on child protection; another bill on paternity and a third one on social activism;
- Iraq has drafted a consolidated child act outlining specific mechanisms needed to meet the needs of the child; this act serves as important starting point in the process of human development, and is emphasized in the plans and programmes of the State. This bill is pending legislation to be enacted by the Iraqi Council of Representatives;
- In Oman, the juvenile law was issued in 2008, and the final bill of child protection, and the law on combating human trafficking was also issued in 2008;
- In Qatar, the juvenile law was revised by the Supreme Council for Family Affairs;
- The Children's Rights Law in Egypt;

- In Yemen, legal amendments relating to children have been drafted (the Children's Rights Law, the Juvenile Welfare Law, the Penal Code, and the Personal Status Law).

Concerning the bills on the prevention of violence against children and the progress made by 2009, some countries, such as Jordan, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, indicated that they have drafted bills concerning children in general with no dates set forth for approval. Egypt has recently formulated a law to prevent FGM/C.

Oman has confirmed promulgation of a law on accountability in 2008, and of a law against human trafficking. The Supreme Council for Family Affairs in Qatar has revised its Juvenile Law No. 1/2004 in the light of the Children's Bill.

6-4: Monitoring cooperation with international agencies and international financial institutions to improve the indicators for child protection in their respective settings

- Cooperation with United Nations organizations in improving the indicators of child protection, and in particular: United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), United National Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- European Union;
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
- Italian Cooperation;
- World Bank;
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- Save the Children;
- World Health Organization;
- UNESCO; and
- African Union.

A cross-section of Arab countries did not provide data on cooperation with international organizations and international financial institutions to improve the indicators of child protection. Some Arab States have hinted at existing cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations for Population Fund, World Health Organization, UNESCO, UNHCR High Commissioner for Human Rights, Save the Children-Sweden, UK Union for Child Relief, the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank

6-5: Establishing an ombudsmen structure or a child-rights commissioner, and the mandates and guarantees vested in them to monitor children's rights and receive complaints

- In Oman, the committee on follow-up on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child functions as a commissioner for children's rights, and is mandated to follow up on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) implementation and the preparation of progress reports on the achievements made within the framework of the Convention.
- The National Centre for Human Rights is the national institution tasked with receiving complaints about and monitoring and reporting on children's rights violations.
- In Tunisia, the officer in charge of the plan for child protection undertakes the protection of children subject to violence and abuse.
- In Mauritania, the National Council for Childhood is an advisory body to the Government. The Independent National Human Rights Commission monitors the rights of the child. The government has established a Commission for Human Rights.

Concerning the ombudsman or commissioner for children's rights, it is clear from the data received from Arab states that such structures do not exist.

Recommendations drawn from the Arab states' responses to the questionnaires, aimed to strengthen the efforts directed to reducing violence against children:

The overall outcome that can be concluded from this report is that the Arab world has made considerable progress in understanding the issue of violence against children, in developing strategies and mechanisms to address such violence and in establishing institutions to implement these policies and strategies, as well as in enacting the legislation necessary for the implementation of these policies.

In spite of the discrepancies between Arab countries in terms of the nature of the institutions engaged in children's issues, Arab states are aware of the importance of this issue, and agree on the need to intensify efforts to confront all forms of violence and abuse against children. Most Arab States have established official bodies, governmental structures and tools to achieve pertinent objectives; furthermore, most countries have allowed space for individual enterprises and civil society organizations to work on the implementation of child policies and social development, on a partnership basis. Nevertheless, there is still a set of recommendations that could be useful in consolidating and strengthening the efforts directed to reduce violence against children:

1. Working towards strengthening observatories and centres involved in recording or handling incidents of violence against children.
2. Working to make comparative studies between Arab countries to exchange experiences in recording incidents of violence against children and methods of addressing them.

3. Activating the role of the committee on the follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the UNSG's Study on VAC, through national periodical reports, or comparative studies similar to this report.
4. Working towards deepening the relationship between the strategies aimed at the child and those targeting the family - the reasons behind such efforts are attributable to the fact that the family is the primary caretaker of the child, and that when the family is protected against risks, the child is protected from such risks as well.
5. Working towards increasing the level of coordination between the efforts of the institutions directly involved with childcare and those indirectly sponsoring similar actions. For example, prevention of drug addiction is an important area where coordination between the efforts of childcare institutions and those made at the national level are needed. A similar instance relates to the efforts put forth by the ministries of labour to protect children from forced labour and the different manifestations of abuse.
6. Working towards provision of positive incentives for successful experiences in child protection against violence and abuse in the Arab world and towards highlighting and discussing these experiences across different media.
7. Working towards supporting budgets allocated to programmes for childhood and motherhood, and allocating funds to research centres and comparative studies in the Arab world. There is also a need to increase financial resources allocated to the implementation of strategies, action plans and programmes for the prevention of violence against children in Arab countries.
8. Supporting civil society and deepening its role in relation to the protection of children against violence, as well as protecting the rights of children and mothers and the family in general.
9. Working on training manuals and codes of children's rights, with widely spread publications.
10. Supporting the Department of Family and Childhood at the League of Arab States, expanding its roles to include building databases, and providing technical assistance to various Arab countries in the protection of families and children.
11. Putting forth greater effort to strengthen the capacity for dealing with children in schools, courthouses and nurseries, with particular focus on pre School College, in order to provide highly skilled staff to interact with children.
12. Creating socio-cultural networking between families and the institutions involved in the protection of children, including civil society organizations.
13. Making use of different experiences undergone by Arab countries, sharing such experiences and redoubling efforts to protect children against violence.
14. Directing more financial support to the activities of child protection in Arab countries.
15. Training the human resources needed to deal with children's issues in general, and violence against children in particular.
16. Elaborating laws and legislation, specifically those meant to help reduce manifestations of violence against children, and laws concerning FGM/C, and related to sexual abuse in general.
17. Working towards disaggregating collected data, introducing mechanisms for continued data collection, and using indicators to compare such data over time. The data collection process needs to be sustainable and systematic.
18. Carefully establishing a cross-sectoral interactive and coordinated system and promoting inter-agency consultative processes outside the administrative setting.
19. Developing an Arab strategy to combat internet crimes.
20. Drafting a unified Arab law to address violence and child protection.
21. Setting up national committees fully enabled to effectively follow up on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the UNSG's Study on VAC in a multi-phase manner, and link the recommendations to national policies concerning children.
22. Attaching greater importance to the preventative side of violence against children.

Endnotes to chapter II

- 1 Sudan incorporated the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into the curricula of the teacher training institutes.
- 2 We have found that Qatar has established an education system free of physical and verbal violence, derogation and humiliation; the Minister of Education had firstly prohibited physical violence and later on banned verbal violence after approval of the policy for behavioural assessment of the students of independent schools in 2009. A standing committee of the Supreme Council of Education was then formed to follow up on the violations of the compulsory education law, committed by parents.
- 3 Egypt is implementing a programme (Poverty Reduction ... The Legal Rights of Girls and Children), which is designed to support and improve the status of children and women (in five governorates, 27 centres and 420 villages) and to enable them to address poverty. This can be achieved by facilitating the children's and women's access to civil status documents (birth certificate, National ID, etc) so that they can benefit from the essential services provided by the State. A community-based programme is also designed to raise awareness among community members about the importance of obtaining such documents. The community members will benefit from the socio-economic and infrastructural services delivered. Project implementation will be undertaken through coordination and cooperation between actors in the community and the Project's executive committee to enable the target groups to enjoy the services delivered under various sectors – health, education, literacy and adult education, and local development, etc. The programme aims to obtain official identification documents for 40,000 men, women, children; however, the number of beneficiaries during the first year of the project's lifecycle stood at more than 68,000 (birth certificates, national ID numbers, etc). The higher figures of official ID documentation obtained reflect the significance of this Project to the geographical localities where it is being implemented, especially that three (namely, al-Minya, Sohag and Bani Sweif) of the five provinces targeted by the programme are disadvantaged in terms of human development according to the 2008 Human Development Report. A total of 5,413 literacy classes were delivered, small loans were extended to 2,313 women, 2,200 men and women received vocational training, 300 job opportunities created, 8,311 people received health care (screening/examination and treatment, surgical operations, and lenses/spectacles), and more than 381 seminars and public meetings held.
This programme is not only designed to obtain official ID papers, but rather to link education on the target group's right to identity papers to their social, educational and economic empowerment.

It is also intended to provide a package of services through coordinating the services delivered by other projects undertaken by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in the same provinces, the services the government agencies provide, and the services provided under the projects implemented by partner associations in the same geographical areas. The overall objective is to improve the standard of living for the poor and the marginalized.

Chapter III

Actionable Recommendations to Implement the Recommendations of the United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children at the pan-Arab level

Introduction

The UNSG's Study on VAC recommends the establishment of a follow-up mechanism to implement the recommendations of the Study. Arab governments have committed to provide protection for children, and to continue with the coordination efforts made by the League of Arab States (DFC), particularly in the establishment of The FC UNSG's VAC; its mandate is to ensure an appropriate follow-up on the implementation of UNSG's VAC recommendations, One of the achievements of The FC UNSG's VAC is this report, which analyzes and draws lessons and challenges. by Arab States

(1) Recommendations

1.1 The institutional framework

I Child protection plans and strategies

- Develop a national strategy to protect children against violence, including devising operational goals for each set of operational activity.
- Identify the institutions responsible for the implementation of recommendations allocating the human and financial resources required for such implementation.
- Develop a timetable for the implementation of the strategy, including thorough periodic reviews.
- Develop indicators to measure achievements; and adopt a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
- Develop a training plan in order to build and strengthen the capacity of the team working on the follow-up of the strategy implementation. Assign a supervisory body to follow up and monitor the implementation of the strategy. This body is to be mandated with the responsibility to report on the progress made, the difficulties encountered and the challenges identified, to the national body in charge of coordinating child protection policies. Involve all related professional groups in developing the strategy, including children and decision-makers.
- Adopt a systematic approach to the United Nations Secretary-General Study on Violence against Children (UNSG's SVC) in the strategy's structure.
- Ensure that the strategy for child protection is a part of the overall national strategy for children in the state.

II Institutions involved in child protection planning

- Set up a national body with appropriate representation of the different sectors in charge of child protection planning responsible for outlining the strategic goals, as well as ensuring that children at risk are protected and that children victims of violence are provided with rehabilitation services and support.
- Establish coordinating committees subordinated to the national body that include representatives from all relevant areas, including the public and private sectors, civil society

and international organizations working in the field of child protection, and involving them in planning, follow up and evaluation processes.

- Form committees representing all relevant bodies at the local level.
- Recruit leading and reputable figures on the Arab level and on national level to support advocacy campaigns.
- Establish national and Arab observatories to monitor and analyze violations, in addition to providing consultancy and needed resources.

General principles

While reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (UNSG's SVC), the following principles should be taken into account:

- Ensure full protection for all groups of children against all forms of violence, exploitation and neglect within different settings: the family, schools and other educational institutions, welfare institutions, penal and correctional facilities, detention and arrest facilities, at the workplace, on the streets, in the media and in the community and society as a whole.
- Develop a comprehensive multi-faceted approach, centred mainly on prevention; such an approach is intended to prevent the occurrence of violent practices against children, and to introduce direct action to remedy the damage inflicted on children through specific mechanisms. This approach must also provide treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration support.
- Adopt a rights-based approach, as rights are inherent and indivisible; the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 's basic principles prioritize the child's best interest in all areas of action.
- Adopt the principle of non-discrimination with regard to gender, as a course of action, and give priority to programmes targeting the children most vulnerable to violence.
- Ensure coordination and partnership between government departments, agencies and parliaments on one side, and NGOs, United Nations and other international organizations on the other side, in addition to involving the private sector, universities, labour unions, and the media in this effort.
- Promote the ideas of efficient participation of children themselves in child protection strategies, the children's right to express their views, and participation in the planning, implementation and follow-up processes.
- Develop a wide range of indicators in order to increase the knowledge base; and introduce a monitoring and evaluation process to monitor achievements and failures made, and to propose appropriate measures.
- Integrate programmes, strategies, actions and resources to address the issue of violence against children in order to enable multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral engagement as well as financial resources.
- Ensure the confidentiality of information about children on one hand, and the publicity and availability of services on the other.
- Strengthen international and regional cooperation and contributions of technical and material support in the area of programme implementation.

III Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) institutions

- Establish an institution mandated with monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and child protection, which will work in cooperation and coordination with relevant bodies and institutions.
- Create an independent mechanism to monitor violations of children's rights and to receive complaints, such as an "ombudsman"¹; to present proposals for the promulgation of legislation; and to monitor the enforcement of appropriate laws; to document violations and make progress and follow up reports.
- Establish branches for the M&E institutions on a governorate level to periodically provide accurate information on the status of children.
- Establish an integrated electronic system at the national and regional levels to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national action plans to enhance child protection.

1.2 Legislative framework

- Revise national laws and compare them with international agreements on children's rights, in order to ensure an effective legal framework that prohibits all forms of violence against children in all settings.
- Develop a legislation in order to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect; such a legal framework should include mechanisms of legal protection for children and set forth clear measures to be taken against perpetrators of violence against children.
- Create programmes and policies that help protect children in justice institutions and legal proceedings, by strengthening the capacity of relevant courthouses, and advancing the level of specialization.
- Ensure that laws and legislations focus on the following principles:
 - Imposing harsh penalties on perpetrators of violence against children.
 - Criminalizing all forms of violence against children, exploitation and neglect of children in all settings.
 - Imposing harsher punishment according to the type of offence inflicted upon the victim, based on the age, gender, kinship and the extent of physical and psychological harm sustained.
 - Enforce accountability by furthering the fight against impunity, abolish all lenient sentences, and enforce the payment of fines.
 - Banning offenders from working with children again.
 - Offering perpetrators rehabilitation and recovery programmes.
 - Preventing the appearance of the child victim as a witness to the crime.
 - Avoiding incrimination of child victims.
 - Enabling appropriate protective action in favour of children victims of violence, especially during investigations and trials (video recording, listening rooms, etc.)

1.3 Promoting the values of non-violence and raising awareness

- Encourage the media to promote child protection issues in television productions and radio programmes with the aim of changing negative behaviours associated with child rearing.
- Encourage competition in the media by launching annual competitions for the best productions promoting children’s rights and the protection of children against violence.
- Develop training programs for journalists and media professionals on the protection of children against violence and its consequences with a view to enable them to acquire the skills and knowledge required to effectively convey positive messages aimed at increasing public awareness.
- Involve the media in the process of developing awareness campaigns targeting the public at large.
- Develop guidelines and codes of conduct for the media with respect to children’s rights in audio-visual and printed mass media. Such tools to be adopted by all media institutions.
- Develop a mutually agreed upon mechanism to monitor and follow-up on the media’s commitment to these principles, with the participation of civil society.
- Promote a culture of child legal protection through the publication of relevant laws and legislation, as well as through measures and procedures relevant to the protection of children from violence, via simple methods that are understandable and accessible to children; such processes should be targeted at all sectors of society.
- Involve opinion leaders and decision makers, intellectuals and religious leaders in advocating campaigns on the issue of protecting children against violence.
- Involve the private sector in promoting the principles of social responsibility and increasing financial support for social activities.
- Mainstream the “children’s rights” modules in programmes and trainings for all professionals dealing with children.
- Hold meetings, seminars and advocacy campaigns with Parliamentarians, in order to enhance the process of ratifying relevant legislation, and monitoring budgets to ensure the protection of children.
- Encourage networking between local institutions, associations, and municipalities, in order to increase the impact of efforts, directed to change harmful practices, and reject the notion of violence as a pedagogical means.
- Activate the role of local and municipal bodies while addressing the underlying causes of child abuse and reporting cases to the relevant authorities and follow-up on the cases.
- Issue publications and brochures to increase awareness with respect to combating violence against children, and to promote positive alternatives in dealing with them; such publications should target all social groups.
- Promote the importance of “child protection policies” in all the institutions working directly or indirectly with children.

1.4 Enhance the capacity of all relevant bodies² working with, and for, children

- Set standards and specifications for professional groups working in the area of child protection against abuse, according to their specialized areas and fields of expertise.
- Conduct a study on the training needs of the professionals working with children..
- Produce training manuals and material for professionals working in the area of child protection, in collaboration with relevant experts.
- Prepare national teams of trainers, at the national level, specialized in child protection issues.
- Adopt specialized training programmes on the patterns of violence and provide terms of reference for professionals working directly with children in all sectors. These should be based on the professional needs and quality of intervention in order to enable those professionals to develop or acquire the skills and methods directed towards protection, prevention, intervention and rehabilitation.
- Develop training programmes for professional newcomers working with children to ensure periodic reviews of the training plans and to modify and develop them accordingly.
- Develop exchange programmes in order to share experiences between sectors at the local level, and to benefit from relevant Arab and international expertise.
- Develop models for codes of conduct for professional groups working with children in all sectors; such models should be strictly complied with a mechanism to monitor the extent of such compliance should be established.
- Introduce the concepts of child protection from violence, and how to monitor and diagnose to university disciplines relevant to working with children; and develop specialized curricula for pertinent academic disciplines and professions.
- Introduce the principles of family counselling to specialized university curricula.
- Create a diploma specialized in children's rights and child protection.

1.5 Provision of juvenile correctional and social integration services

- Strengthen primary health care programmes; improve the quality of preventive services offered in health centres and disseminate preventive and rehabilitative services.
- Develop decentralized multi-disciplinary units that deal with issues of violence against children; coordinate these units' services and link them to the rest of the components of the protection system.
- Establish committees to protect families in health centres and hospitals, consisting of specialised doctors, including paediatricians. Such committees will evaluate suspected and confirmed cases of violence, determine the extent of risk, and develop a safety plan.
- Develop a set of procedures and protocols that defines the roles and responsibilities of institutions handling cases of violence against children.

- Develop health programmes and periodic evaluations at the school level; in order to strengthen the services to include diagnostic and referral procedures to address cases of violence against children and provide psychosocial support.
- Set legal and administrative measures to ensure that health and medical institutions provide recovery services and psychological support to child victims of violence.
- Develop the capacity of frontline health workers with respect to the diagnosis of cases of violence against children and ways to identify, report and follow-up on such cases.
- Develop local and national mapping of the available services and resources, as well as the specialized interventions accessible by vulnerable families and children at risk.
- Adopt clearly structured criteria for the institutions involved in sheltering or rehabilitating child victims.
- Develop and increase the level of specialization at institutions that provide rehabilitation and psychological recovery of children victims of violence; such specificities in service delivery must be available to perpetrators and to families.
- Provide free counselling and legal assistance to children and their families.
- Set measures and procedures for professionals working with children to report cases of child abuse under disciplinary punishment.

1.6 Ensuring children's participation

- Develop effective mechanisms in order to encourage the participation of children (including marginalized groups), in the process of child protection at the local and national levels. These mechanisms will focus on the following:
 - Establishing a children's Parliament to contribute in raising issues of child protection.
 - Establishing "youth governments" elected by the youth in the secondary education system, in order to familiarize children with democratic practices; children can thus be involved in addressing child protection problems and contribute to finding solutions.
 - Organizing consultations and meetings through specialized workshops, in order to explore their opinions on the issue of violence against children.
 - Establishing children's clubs, to be managed by children themselves, and developing child to child programmes to raise awareness on ending violence.
 - Activating student councils as a means of facilitating complaints and enhancing the involvement of children in family councils.
 - Establishing municipal councils for children, inclusive of different age groups, in order to enhance the youth role in tackling child protection against violence.
 - Involving children in appropriate revisions of educational curricula to include activities promoting the participation of children.

- Promote a culture of children participation; and respect for their opinions in the issue of violence against children.
- Organizing media campaigns and specialized seminars for all professionals working with children focused on the importance of children's participation.
- Including codes of conduct to support the participation of children through respect for their freedom of expression, with reference to various forms of violence on the one hand, and to various aspects of prevention and protection, on the other hand.
- Strengthening the capacities of staffers and personnel on the use of educational methods and techniques to ensure the participation of children and their right to freedom of expression (annual workshops).
- Developing national programmes and promoting appropriate settings for children to express their views on confronting violence through national competitions in the areas of informatics, drawing, writing, theatre, posters designs, educational games, etc.
- Encouraging the training of influential leaders, child and youth peers, and training them on transfer of knowledge and ways to confront violence.

1.7 Establish accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services

- Establish a toll-free telephone line and dedicate services at the national and local levels in order to provide advice and guidance, referral and reporting; such systems should also ensure planning of advocacy and publicity for the Child Helpline, organizing campaigns and empowering the media to appropriately disseminate the data collected and explain the communication procedures.
- Develop mapping of the resources and services available in the official and national sectors that provide protection of children against violence.
- Establish complaint mechanisms in residential care institutions as well as in correctional settings; such mechanisms should include human capacity and appropriate processes and structures: complaint boxes, codes of conduct, and follow up on complaints, while avoiding penal policies towards children.
- Appoint a social worker, (Protection Officer) in residential care, correctional and juvenile institutions; the Protection Officer's mandate should be to follow-up on complaints, to ensure adequate access of children to due process, to ensure protection of children and appropriate punishment of the perpetrators.
- Strengthen the role of the media and encourage the promotion of process, complaints and reporting.

1.8 Introduction and implementation of a standard system for data collection and research

- Set various mechanisms to meet the challenge of accurate data collection and share information at the national and local levels, and link them to the national central database.
- Prepare a list of national indicators to measure the conditions of all groups of children, including with respect to violence, and to disaggregate data in a comprehensive way that allows detailed examination and analysis.

- Coordinate between administrations in the review of data and develop cooperation tools in sharing knowledge about, and within, information systems; and to compare this knowledge with information received from the non-governmental sector.
- Promote child observatories, for data collection and reporting, monitoring, referral and follow-up on information from all concerned sources.
- Develop a system for collecting data and storing information regularly and accurately with respect to children being placed in juvenile institutional care, correctional and punitive institutions, as well as children with disabilities, street children, and other vulnerable groups exposed to violence.
- Train personnel and authorized professionals on methods to provide support in terms of data collection within relevant units or departments; this should include municipal officials, and private and community-based associations in the training programme, in order to identify and document the information received.
- Use reports from international organisations on prevention of and protection against violence in order to create a comparative database to assess all forms of violence.
- Activate the role of concerned institutions in terms of record management and data archiving and disaggregation, particularly those relating to registries, in order to analyse official documents, such as vital statistics of births, marriages, and deaths, etc.
- Promote research and studies on children's rights and on all forms of violence against children wherever it takes place.
- Organize meetings with academic experts that are working in the areas of children's rights and with communities, health, sociology and other professional groups; motivate them to adopt remedies to address incidents of violence against children in their studies.
- Develop scientific research in child protection, and include topics like child protection and prevention of violence in the curricula for professionals working with children, especially in post-graduate programme studies.

2. Practical proposals to prevent violence against children in various settings

2.1. Home and family

- Organize workshops and meetings with a view to educating parents and families about appropriate and non-violent methods of child-rearing.
- Organize training programmes for parents and couples who are about to get married on life skills, parental education and positive ways to raise children.
- Design educational programmes for communities and tools required by families for positive parenting and find alternatives to corporal punishment based on communication skills relating to children's rights.

- Activate “programmes for home visitations” for new families in order to provide guidance and counselling.
- Implement specialized education programmes to enable families living in difficult circumstances to obtain specific vocational skills in order to improve their living conditions. These programmes are also intended to provide opportunities for households to live decently, and to devise a sustained social follow-up strategy for families facing difficult economic, educational and social circumstances.
- Establish an enhanced, supported and monitored child protection system involving foster families; the system is to target children exposed to violence, abuse and neglect. Such a system should include procedures to:
 - Establishing specifications and criteria to categorize the families who are in need and in a position to receive support for child victims of violence.
 - Training families on positive parenting and relevant skills and ensure monitoring and supervision by relevant judicial and administrative sources.
 - Stimulating the active participation of family structures in protecting children against violence through child-parent interaction and participation in boards formed in schools and care institutions, as well as in associations concerned with issues of children and parenting in school councils.
 - Expand relevant plans to expose the media and parents’ associations to positive alternatives to violence, and to encourage them to lodge complaints and submit reports.

2.2 In schools and educational institutions

- Ensure a school environment and teaching methods free of all forms of violence, through:
 - Issuing the provision of laws prohibiting corporal punishment of students.
 - Issuing specific and adapted criteria for selection of professional candidates of professors, administrators and other personnel dealing with students, especially with respect to basic education.
 - Issuing a code of conduct signed by educational and administrative personnel, setting the measures to be taken against perpetrators of violence.
- Prepare a code of conduct in the workplace, regulating relationships between teachers and students in classrooms, in relation to teaching practices and human behaviours.
- Prepare a code of conduct regulating the relationships between the students themselves.
- Establish a system to map “child-friendly schools”.
- Revise school curricula to make it free of violence and to include special activities concerning self-protection against violence.
- Evaluate the school curricula and the time invested in child-specific social issues, especially in early education (kindergarten, nursery, and primary education); these are to include lessons on self-protection for children, sharing of institutional child protection policies,

developing activities that promote non-violence, tolerance and acceptance of others, as well as children's rights in general.

- Establish a process for educational guidance and listening session; to provide protection and intervention, as well as preventive consultations and mental health services for students.
- Tailor specialized programmes to help children acquire relevant skills, educate them on their rights, and enhance their capacity in terms of self-protection against violence.
- Promote children's participation in school life to ensure their contribution in reducing violence in schools, including violence amongst students and bullying.
- Revise educational curricula to mainstream activities on life skills, self-protection and children's rights.
- Conduct trainings and recruit specialized personnel in the educational system; allocate and report of cases of violence, and follow-up on such cases.
- Encourage the introduction of complaint mechanisms within educational institutions, and identify the actions and measures to be taken to handle these complaints. Train children on how to use these mechanisms and how to report.

2.3 In institutional care and juvenile justice institutions

- Establish a national mechanism to plan for a child-friendly alternative care system; enact laws that guarantee the child's right to grow up in his family, with placement in institutions and in child protective institutions as the last resort.
- Adopt a child protection policy in all care institutions; train the employees and professionals working with children; and, designate a 'child protection officer' to follow-up on child protection issues.
- Develop an accreditation system that set standards and criteria for institutional care, including equipment, trained human resources, programmes, services and a mechanism of accountability, referral and supervision.
- Ensure periodic reviews of the living conditions of children placed in institutional care and judicial institutions.
- Reduce the rates of placement of children in institutional care systems through the promotion of family involvement, support for institutions and development of alternative care for the children in need, and for those who live in conditions that require protection from violence; such a system should address the situation of children without caregivers and provide for legal support, as well as for appropriate control and supervision.
- Improve the conditions of children in conflict with the law in juvenile correctional institutions through adequate conditions, as well as through healthcare and child-friendly infrastructures and logistical support within these institutions.
- Develop specific criteria to be followed by professionals and employees working with children in conflict with the law; and train them on ways of dealing with children in conflict with the law.

- Establish a comprehensive complaints mechanism that includes reporting on violations of the rights of children in institutions and ensures appropriate follow-up.
- Encourage alternative educational measures, rehabilitation and repair; promote these measures and encourage the abolition of penal institutions for children.
- Support the role of NGOs and the involvement of the public and formal sectors in the implementation of alternative measures in order to prevent the deprivation of liberty of children, and for the purpose of reintegrating children in conflict with the law.
- Spread the concept of disciplinary mediation, restorative justice and reconciliation with perpetrators of acts of violence against children.
- Develop specialized units of police within the law enforcement agencies (including female juvenile police officers) specifically trained to interact and engage with children in conflict with the law.
- Establish specialized juvenile or family courthouses that work jointly with judiciary staff, who should be specialized in the areas of sociology, psychology and other relevant disciplines.
- Accelerate the pace of judicial due processes that involve children.
- Ensure legal protection and safeguard human dignity for child victims as well as for children in conflict with the law in all investigations, prosecution proceedings or trials.
- Set up specially-designed hearing rooms with audio and video recording to take testimony from children.
- Avoid repeated interviews and hearings of children at courthouses.

2.4 In the workplace

- Prohibit abusive employment of children of both sexes who are less than 18 year-old except under specific terms; children shall benefit from healthy working conditions that are not harmful to their development and health.
- Develop a list of jobs that legally constitute the worst forms of child labour; inform employers, parents and children of this list; and identify occupations and industries compatible with work for children of different ages.
- Put emphasis on life and social safeguards for children entering the labour market; these protective tools involve health and social insurance, salary rights, acceptable working hours and holidays.
- Create national programmes or projects to confront child labour, reduce school dropouts, and promote return to school and vocational training; offer assistance to families of working children along with social incentives to enable those children to return to school.
- Create units or departments with the aim of monitoring child labour and inspecting working conditions; ensure conformity of the work performed by children with the laws and legislation and detect cases of violation or abuse.

- Develop codes of conduct to be approved by employers and labour unions, and particularly institutions of the private sector (such as hotels and travel agencies).
- Design programmes for social development to support the establishment of small enterprises for unemployed heads of households, with a view to enabling them to withdraw their children from work and return them to education, vocational training, etc.
- Develop a complaint mechanism specifically designed for working children; introduce children to the complaints process, and have the tool linked to existing national mechanisms.
- Emphasize the role of competent inspection and supervision services and ensure proper enforcement of laws.
- Develop a national strategy to combat child labour, to withdraw children from workplaces, whenever possible; and in all cases of abusive or illegal work, to return children to the education system or help them acquire skills for career opportunities and build professional capacity in order to prepare children for entry into the labour market.
- Encourage employers to introduce extracurricular training at work.
- Involve the private sector in supporting and financing small projects or extending soft loans for working children and their families.
- Activate the role of local authorities in the child labour network and build networks of community organizations to confront child labour in the most vulnerable areas.

2.5 In the local community

- Establish local committees to protect children from violence and involve governmental and non-governmental sectors in monitoring violations of children's rights. Include them in the follow-up process shared with other relevant bodies.
- Design training programmes for specialized police units in charge of protecting children's rights.
- Strengthen the role of sports and recreational sectors in promoting a culture of non-violence towards children.
- Encourage specialists to provide free services in the fields of legal, health and counselling consultancies, social services, and foster families.
- Promote partnership and coordination between the formal sector and civil society through establishing a national counselling committee mandated with participating in drafting laws and action plans concerning children's rights.
- Promote the role of religion in advocating for non-violence and the respect children's rights across all religions.
- Develop mechanisms for protection against internet and electronic games that encourage violence and aggression.

2.6 Implementation and follow-up

- Select and assign a specific national institution to follow up on the recommendations of the UNSG's Study on VAC.
- Adopt a clearly elaborated mechanism to measure progress based on a clearly defined list of indicators and standards.
- Secure budgets for the implementation of activities and allocate adequate financial resources in the budgets of administrations, departments and institutions to support relevant programmes and services of the UNSG's Study on VAC; these efforts must be coupled with a follow-up mechanism and auditing of financial contributions to child-centred programmes.
- Assign a task force with a clear mandate and objectives to periodically monitor the implementation of activities, to measure achievement, to build the capacity of the task force and enhance acquired skills in supervision, monitoring and evaluation.
- Adopt a timeline in the follow-up mechanism for evaluation and periodic review in order to report on ongoing implementation processes and provide corrective counseling to achieve the targeted objectives.
- Report on the progress and difficulties encountered by professionals and task forces involved in the implementation of the national strategy for the prevention and protection of children against violence.
- Report on community members in order to identify achievements and difficulties; sustained activities and the mobilization of local support.

3. Lessons learnt from successful Arab experiences in child protection against violence

This section reviews some experiences in Arab countries on the implementation of the recommendations of the UNSG's Study on VAC, based on the Arab Comparative Report.

3.1 Institutional framework

Arab states have made significant progress in developing strategies for the protection of children. 16 states have developed plans to establish independent national bodies to confront violence against children: Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen.

However, these strategies require clearly-defined mechanisms to assess implementation and report on challenges. Some Arab States, like Jordan and Tunisia, have developed electronic systems to monitor and analyze indicators regarding follow-up on the activities and programmes described in national plans; such systems can enhance coordination with the national institutions involved in the implementation of these plans and strategies, particularly national plans of action for children. The system relies on a group of liaison officers representing the relevant institutions involved in child protection, producing periodic reports on the implementation of programmes under the national plans of action. In Egypt and Tunisia, national centres prepare studies and field surveys on issues relevant to children's rights, share insights on the implementation of plans, regularly provide strategic information on children, and monitor the status of children. In Morocco, the national

centre for the rights of the child organizes bi-annual national conference to evaluate and assess the achievements of the national plan of action. The ministerial committee, chaired by Morocco's Prime Minister, presents during the conference a detailed report on the achievements and challenges of two years of implementation of plans.

3.2 Legislative framework

Different approaches to legal protection for children against violence vary in Arab countries; some States are promulgating a child protection act or law, some have amended their laws their legislation appropriately, to bring them into line with relevant international standards. The Arab States are increasingly incorporating protection against violence into their legal systems, and are mainstreaming children's basic needs in legislation. In most states, national mechanisms for child protection lack clear legal framework that is inclusive of the various components of the child protection system.

In Tunisia, the provisions of the law include all aspects of a child's life and appoint a "child protection officer" - recognized as a law enforcement officer thus shortening legal proceedings and ensuring early protection for the child. Family judges also ensure child protection, with a clearly defined mandate to order legal and social measures. Obviously, such legal systems provide for mandatory reporting and child help-lines.

Some laws, like the Egyptian law, identify the forms of violence and relevant support mechanisms; they are jointly articulated along with the Child Helpline and child protection committees; such legislation also covers issues related to violence, such as child trafficking.

Some legislation has been effectively implemented in Arab countries for decades. Many laws have, however, been developed recently. Such diversity of experience provides valuable lessons when the impacts and challenges faced during the drafting process of these laws are considered. Certain considerations must be taken into account with regards to legislation:

- Building on relevant international conventions in conformity with regional recommendations and in accordance with national laws that need to be adopted.
- Addressing all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Including all categories of children without discrimination, and in all settings.
- Proposing mechanisms and means of child protection at the local and national levels, such as child protection lines and committees, social workers, judicial delegation and specialized police.
- Imposing harsh penalties on perpetrators of acts of violence against children, with harsher penalties to be imposed if the perpetrator is a parent or a delegated caretaker of the abused child.
- Imposing rehabilitation and recovery measures on the perpetrator in addition to a mental recovery programme.
- Imposing protective measures for the abused child, and ensuring rehabilitation and reintegration of the child.

3.3 Programmatic and service-based frameworks

Most Arab countries have increased their commitment to child protection by developing mechanisms and institutions to inform communities, and provide quality services to children and families.

Action on reports and complaints increasingly rely on toll-free telephone lines for children in order to facilitate the reception of complaints; such toll-free telephone lines provide listening and counselling using different means of telecommunications, with Child Rescue-Lines in some Arab countries, as part of the protection system in these States as well as challenges given the comprehensiveness based on supply and demand and available resources.

Some institutions have made progress and achievements in this regard, which can be promoted so that others can benefit from. The “Family Protection Department” in Jordan provides services to families (medical, psychological and social - interdisciplinary approach) to ensure effective protection; such systems are linked to security services and have coordinated with the private and informal sectors, giving the system a social dimension rather than emphasizing its punitive aspect, while also keeping it in direct contact with child victims and their families.

Algeria has also established offices in municipalities to promote social activities through which social and economic assistance is provided to families in need.

Syria established a “Family Protection Unit” to work on complaints regarding incidents of child abuse, carry out investigations and refer the outcomes to the competent authorities; the Unit also offers shelter for child protection, including a centre for child victims who cannot return to their community without physical and psychological rehabilitation and re-evaluation of their livelihood and environment.

In penal and correctional institutions, it is worth reporting that hearing rooms, which are equipped with audio-video facilities to listen to children victims of violence and sexual exploitation, as is the case in Lebanon, provide an instructive example. In Morocco, professional units are working together with the public prosecution at courthouses to address child issues, especially with reference to cases of violence. Syria is in the process of developing a rehabilitation centre for female offenders. Lebanon has also developed a rehabilitation centre for young girls.

In modern justice systems, the issue of criminal responsibility is central. Some countries have increased the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years and above, as is the case in Tunisia and Egypt, while other countries should address the reviewing of punitive laws for juveniles in conflict with the law to include restorative justice or rehabilitation. In order to stop criminal prosecution and punishment of children, Tunisia has developed a system for mediation and reconciliation to address cases between children in conflict with the law and their victims.

Data collection systems are still a major challenge in most Arab States. Independent systems in place to collect information and data on the status of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of children, and on forms of violence and cases of abuse are non-existent. The Arab report has demonstrated, on a comparative basis, the absence of systematic data collection; the lack of integrated information systems connecting the institutions working on violence against children; and the lack of systems to help determine the accuracy of the indicators for systematic data collection on violence against children. Some countries, such as Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco, are conducting qualitative and quantitative studies on children in order to provide information and statistics on the circumstances in which violence occurs.

Egypt have both set up centres to interact with the media and offer training, and to provide documentation and research opportunities. Some countries like Tunisia have observatory centre for children's rights, operating under the supervision of the national information system, which includes representatives of all ministries concerned with children's rights, and is in charge of feeding the system with statistics and data. The system provides insight on 390 indicators, including indicators of child protection.

Algeria also has an information database in place, which is specialized in matters related to women and children. Sudan has an e-government system to link ministries to data on children without parental care or on those who have been referred to the criminal justice system. Some countries are establishing databases on children, such as Jordan, the UAE, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

In terms of child participation in the prevention of violence, some pioneering experiences have revealed different approaches to the involvement of children; some initiatives developed children's parliaments, as in Jordan, the UAE, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Yemen. The Emirate of Sharjah in UAE established a council for children; Algeria and Lebanon have formed local municipal councils for children, and established children's offices in municipalities. Moreover, the "child-friendly city" initiative is gaining prominence in Arab States.

The question of the efficiency and the sustainability of children's participation remains a valid one. Are regular and systematic consultations with children taking place, or is the subject matter addressed with children relegated to general topics?

4. Challenges and difficulties faced in the implementation of international recommendations to combat violence against children

Arab countries have shared rising concern about the status of children and respect for their rights. Key challenges in the Arab world in this regard lie in the weakness of development of holistic social policies that are based on special needs of marginalized social groups, the limitation of the programmes, and the issue of comprehensive and specialized action plans that address poverty without identifying the appropriate needed measures to prevent or address the causes for violence against children. This is mainly due to the close correlation between violence and poverty.

Child protection also requires a common understanding of concepts and definitions along with a dependence on scientific research in order to unify the vision and strategies for on how to approaching this topic, and a reliance on general frameworks agreed upon by all relevant bodies at the State level, accompanied by a mainstreaming of reflecting these frameworks at the Arab level to ensure that the objectives of the action plan are met.

A key challenge is that the legislative environment in the Arab world is not ready yet to put in place a legal framework that comprehensively protects children against all forms of violence, bad treatment and exploitation. The sensitivity of this topic, and given that it can be considered a violation of a family's privacy and interference in its affairs in some communities, poses another challenge related to this issue. Accordingly, seeking a legislation that protects children from all forms of violence (corporal punishment, sexual exploitation, internet crimes, etc.) could might take a long time to become effective for it to be effective enough, which poses an obstacle towards achieving a comprehensive protection for children against violence. There is, therefore, a need to rally social action lobbying and attain community support in order to change mentalities, reduce social taboos and build coordinated plans.

Arab states also need to enhance priority given to child protection via the establishment of a comprehensive system for child protection, and by identifying the components of the system that are overlapping, crosscutting or poorly coordinated. In addition, there is a need to restructure the working methodology in general, and identify the strengths and weaknesses of available resources and the general attitudes of the state in particular.

Another difficulty is the scarcity of specialized local centres to receive child victims; when found, they lack appropriate and quality specialized services and programmes, structures and human resources.

The concept of child protection is part of a children's rights -based approach by countries, communities and individuals, and remains, therefore, a priority in the development of specialized programmes and policies to address violence against children. Weak human resources and the lack of specialization in children protection issues also hinder the execution of action plans.

Obstacles in the planning and implementation process include a lack of dedicated resources at the level of ministries, in terms of budgets or institutional support for the implementation of programmes; a lack of analytical studies to evaluate levels of spending; a lack of mechanisms to attract child-friendly budgets; and a lack of investments and benefits from international support and funding for children in most Arab countries.

Furthermore, the conditions being experienced by some countries in the region under occupation, or in situations of war or civil conflict, stand as significant barriers to the implementation of the recommendations of the UNSG's Study of VAC.

Given the disparities in the legal frameworks and institutions in the Arab countries that should protect children against violence, the development of joint Arab action is required, and taking advantage of available expertise in the region is imperative; there is always a need for more engagement with international organizations, particularly UNICEF, to support these efforts.

But the biggest challenge, according to the report, is the extent and effectiveness of children's involvement and the partnership with youth, from planning to evaluation. Such involvement shall take place throughout the process and in the preparation of child-specific strategies. Meanwhile, mechanisms are to be established to allow children to enjoy their freedom of speech in discussing their issues, needs and the solutions they can offer.

**TABLE NO. (23):
Proposed programmes and activities to implement the operational goals of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary General’s Study on Violence Against Children**

5.1. Legislative framework	
Goal	Activities / Procedures
<p>To promulgate a law to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect</p>	<p>Formation of a specialized research team, with the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting a survey on the provisions and content of legal measures and procedures that are directly or indirectly related to children and to violence against them in particular. - Revising relevant laws and assessing their enforceability in order to compare them with international treaties and agreements; and to ensure appropriate prohibition of all forms of violence against children in all settings. - Developing a bill to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in all settings and across all groups of children. - Organizing meetings and consultation workshops to explore the views of professionals and opinion- makers and hear the opinions of children themselves. - Organizing a campaign to rally support for the adoption of the new law.
<p>To strengthen programmes and the capacity of justice and judicial institutions and increase the level of specialization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up specialized courthouses for families and children affairs, in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take legal measures and implement the regulatory processes necessary for the establishment of special courts for children and families. • Develop a working mechanism for these courthouses, and enhance their organization and competence. • Develop a specialized training programme for the working teams within the courthouse. • Provide the courthouses with resources and means appropriate to the circumstances and conditions of children (hearing rooms equipped with needed technical facilities). • Implement a continuous training programme for judges handling the cases of children in conflict with the law.

5.2. Institutional framework

Goal	Activities / Procedures
<p>To develop a national strategy and action plans to protect children against violence, and to set forth objectives for this process for each set of operational activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparatory stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a team of experts to draft a national strategy and relevant action plans to protect children against violence; the strategy will then be presented to focus groups for discussions ahead of formal approval. - Implementation and follow-up stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointing the body that will be responsible for the implementation process, supervision and follow-up; the body must have the human and financial resources necessary to carry out the implementation. • Setting a timetable for the implementation of the strategy, with a task list for periodic review. • Developing indicators to measure the achievements made in relation to the objectives and adopting a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation. • designing a training plan to increase and develop the capacity of the panel that is mandated with the follow-up on the implementation of the strategy.
<p>To set up and activate the national institution. (The Arab countries will consider appropriate institutions in terms of the location and identity of the national structure that will provide a protection system along with all necessary means and resources.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing national institutional structures in charge of designing and monitoring policies, with strategic objectives: to devise a prevention plan, set forth protection goals and ensure rehabilitation of children victims of violence or at risk in various sectors. - Establishing an independent structure to monitor children’s rights violations and receive complaints: (an Ombudsman) mandated with specific tasks for the development of legislation, monitoring the implementation of laws, documenting violations and reporting them, as well as following-up on the progress made. - Establishing multi-disciplinary units for child protection at the local level, and providing preventive services, in terms of legal assistance and necessary protection against violence; such units will also provide accurate information and present periodic reports on the status of child protection. - Developing specialized police for children. - Ensuring that personnel working with children hold licences obtained from relevant authorities according to standards of good conduct and the charter for social work.

5.3. Promoting non-violence and raising awareness

Goal	Activities / Procedures
<p>To strengthen the role of the media and communication for raising public awareness and education on non-violence against children</p>	<p>1. Activities for the general public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing media campaigns and advertisements to increase awareness and enhance education about the types and consequences of violence against children and extending programmes to promote positive alternatives. - Involving opinion leaders and decision makers, intellectuals and religious leaders in advocacy campaigns and lobbying on child protection against violence. - Engaging the private sector, promoting principles of social responsibility and securing financial support for social activities. <p>2. Activities for the media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing training courses for journalists on the protection of children from violence and its consequences, and promoting awareness and relevant skills. - Launching annual competitions for the best media work promoting the rights of the child and helping to protect children against violence. - Developing guidelines and a code of conduct for the media to abide by in coverage of children's issues; focusing on child protection in audio-visual and printed media. - Developing a mechanism to monitor and follow-up on the commitment of the media to these principles with the participation of civil society.

5.4. Enhancing the capacity of parties working with children and for children

Goal	Activities / Procedures
<p>To develop the capacity of parties working with children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studying the training needs of all professional groups working with children. - Developing specialized training programmes to address the patterns of violence and setting forth the terms of reference for the professionals working directly with children in all sectors, based on professional requisites and quality of intervention, in order to enable them to use appropriate skills and methodologies, aimed at protection, prevention, intervention and rehabilitation. - Publishing training manuals in collaboration with relevant experts for all workers in the field of child protection. - Developing model codes of conduct for all professional groups working with children across all sectors, the stipulation of mandatory compliance with these codes, and developing a mechanism to follow up on compliance. - Introducing concepts related to child protection against violence and the skills needed for monitoring, diagnosis, and family counselling in university degree programmes and courses that are related to working with children; and developing specialized curricula for academic and professional disciplines. - Adopting a “Child Protection Policy” in all care institutions and associations; training working groups; and designating a specialist for follow-up on issues related to the protection of children against violence. - Revising school curricula to ensure that they are free from violent indications, especially those intended for kindergarten and primary education levels. The curriculum should include training in self-protection skills for children and the introduction of a framework for child protection. This framework should involve, for example, protocol for decision-making at the school level and the development of common activities that promote non-violence, tolerance and acceptance of the Other, and children’s rights issues. - Creating a special diploma programme on the rights of children and child protection. - Training personnel to upgrade their knowledge on how to diagnose and document information, within an integrated and unified system, to meet the needs and legal provisions of reporting, monitoring, referral and follow-up.

5.4. Enhancing the capacity of parties working with children and for children

<p>Developing parental capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing educational workshops and training programmes for parents about appropriate methods of child-rearing and how to deal with children in a violence-free manner, to be supported with training manuals. - Organizing premarital training programmes about life skills, parental education and how to raise children through evidence-based guidelines. - Developing programmes for home visitations to newlywed spouses and provision of guidance and counselling. - Implementing specialized programmes to help families experiencing difficult circumstances obtain training in vocational skills on one the one hand, and to improve their living conditions and provide decent housing for them on the other, while ensuring follow-up with these families in terms of economic, educational and social support.
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5. 5: Ensuring children’s participation

<p>Goal</p>	<p>Activities / Procedures</p>
<p>To develop mechanisms to encourage the participation of children, including children from marginalized groups, against violence, at the national and local levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing national children’s parliaments and children’s municipal councils, in order to highlight issues of child protection, and including children from all age groups and across all social sectors. - Organizing consultation meetings or specialized workshops for children to explore their opinions on issues that concern them, particularly the issue of violence. - Establishing children’s clubs, where children themselves contribute to club management. - Developing the capacity of student councils to receive complaints within the school, and to involve children in their school’s council.

5.6. Establishing accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services

Goal	Activities / Procedures
To develop a Child Helpline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forming supervisory and steering committees. - Ensuring a standard toll-free telephone line that is credible, readily-accessible and that maintains privacy and confidentiality. - Putting maps resources and services available in both the formal sector and the local community to provide protection for children. - Organizing and advertising a media campaign to promote and explain the helpline. - Training staff to provide advice, guidance and referrals.

5.7. Introduction and implementation of a standard system for data monitoring and collection

Goal	Activities / Procedures
<p>To introduce a national mechanism to collect, archive and analyze data and information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collecting and monitoring information to document and aggregate statistics and publish data results. - Preparing a list of child protection indicators involving all child groups. - Developing a system that has the capacity to collect and analyze data and information regularly and accurately, on child placements in juvenile care and correctional institutions, as well as on children with disabilities, street children and other groups of at-risk children. - Involving relevant bodies in terms of record management, data archiving and disaggregation, particularly in areas related to vital statistics (births, marriages, and deaths) to be fed into the database.

5.8. Provision of psychological recovery and social integration services

Goal	Activities / Procedures
<p>To provide and organize rehabilitation programmes and psychosocial support to child victims and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing interdisciplinary units and hearing cells within the institutions concerned with follow-up on children victims of violence. - Developing and increasing the level of specialization within institutions that provide rehabilitation and psychological recovery for child victims of violence and their families. - Designing programmes for counselling and legal assistance to children and their families free of charge. - Providing mandatory psychological support and rehabilitation for perpetrators of violence.

Endnotes to chapter III

- 1 In particular prejudices against children during the process of resorting to law, or effecting any legal administrative or any other transaction, and defining specific terms of reference similar to that of the national institution
- 2 “Workers with children” mean judges, lawyers, police officers, social workers, teachers, educators, doctors, nurses..etc

Appendix

Signature and ratification of Arab States on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two Optional Protocols And related international and regional Human Rights' instruments According to recent UN references (June 2011)

Table (1): Signature and ratification of Arab States Convention on the Rights of the Child and the date of enforcement of the Convention *

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	29/8/1990	24/5/1991	23/6/1991
United Arab Emirates	Joining	--	3/1/1997	2/2/1997
Kingdom of Bahrain	Joining	--	13/2/1992	14/3/1992
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	26/2/1990	30/1/1992	29/2/1992
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	26/1/1990	16/4/1993	16/5/1993
Republic of Djibouti	Approval	30/9/1990	6/12/1990	5/1/1991
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Joining	--	26/1/1996	25/2/1996
Republic of Sudan	Approval	24/7/1990	3/8/1990	2/9/1990
Arab Republic of Syria	Approval	18/9/1990	15/7/1993	14/8/1993
Republic of Somalia	Signature	9/5/2002	--	--
Republic of Iraq	Joining	--	15/6/1994	15/7/1994
Sultanate of Oman	Joining	--	9/12/1996	8/1/1997
State of Palestine**	--	--	--	--
State of Qatar	Approval	8/12/1992	3/4/1995	3/5/1995
United Republic of Comoros	Approval	30/9/1990	22/6/1993	21/7/1993
State of Kuwait	Approval	7/6/1990	21/10/1991	20/11/1991
Republic of Lebanon	Approval	26/1/1990	14/5/1991	13/6/1991
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Joining	--	15/4/1993	15/5/1993
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	5/2/1990	6/7/1990	2/9/1990
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	26/1/1990	21/6/1993	21/7/1993
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Approval	26/1/1990	16/5/1991	15/6/1991
Republic of Yemen	Approval	13/2/1990	1/5/1991	31/5/1991

*Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

**Palestine is an observer at the United Nations, but is keen Palestinian National Authority to adhere to international conventions on human rights and children in particular, where the committed Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2004 and enacted the Act of Palestinian children in the same year, involving Palestine in the Arab and international conferences on the Rights of the Child And reports them on child rights and protection to UN organizations, as well as benefit from the experiences of Arab and international developments in the application of child rights and protection, and attention to partnership and cooperation with international organizations working in the field of childhood, such as UNICEF and the institutions of Save the Children, as is the implementation of programs and plans for the protection of children in Palestine international financing

Table (2): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child On the involvement of children in armed conflict

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	6/9/2000	23/5/2007	---
United Arab Emirates	----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	Joining	--	21/9/2004	21-10-2004
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	22-4-2002	2-1-2003	2-2-2003
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Joining	--	6/5/2009	--
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14-6-2006	--	--
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Sudan	Approval	9-5-2002	26-7-2005	25-8-2005
Arab Republic of Syria	Joining	17-10-2003	17/10/2003	17/11/2003
Republic of Somalia	Signature	16-9-2005	--	--
Republic of Iraq	Joining	--	24/6/2008	--
Sultanate of Oman	Joining	--	17-9-2004	17-10-2004
State of Palestine	----	--	--	--
State of Qatar	Joining	--	25-7-2002	25-8-2002
United Republic of Comoros	-----	--	--	--
State of Kuwait	Joining	--	26-8-2004	26-9-2004
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	11-2-2002	--	--
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Joining	--	29-10-2004	29-11-2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	Joining	--	6-2-2007	6-2-2007
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	8-9-2000	22-5-2002	22-6-2002
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	----	--	--	--
Republic of Yemen	Joining	--	2-3-2007	2-3-2007

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table No. (3): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child On the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	6/9/2000	4/12/2006	4/12/2006
United Arab Emirates	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	Joining	---	21/9/2004	21/10/2004
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	22/4/2002	13/9/2002	13/10/2002
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Joining	---	27/12/2006	27/12/2006
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14/6/2006	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Sudan	Joining	---	2/11/2004	2/12/2004
Arab Republic of Syria	Joining	---	15/5/2003	15/6/2003
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	Joining	---	24/6/2008	---
Sultanate of Oman	Joining	---	17/9/2004	17/10/2004
State of Palestine	-----	---	---	---
State of Qatar	Joining	---	14/12/2001	14/1/2002
United Republic of Comoros	Joining	---	23/2/2007	23/2/2007
State of Kuwait	Joining	---	26/8/2004	26/9/2004
Republic of Lebanon	Approval	10/10/2001	8/11/2004	8/12/2004
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Joining	---	18/6/2004	18/7/2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	Joining	---	12/7/2002	12/8/2002
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	8/9/2000	2/10/2001	18/1/2002
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Joining	---	23/4/2007	23/4/2007
Republic of Yemen	Joining	---	15/12/2004	15/1/2005

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table No. (4.1): Reports of Arab States to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (According to the data contained in the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission held in the period From 17 January to 4 February 2011 CRC/C/56/2)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	The First Report	22/6/1993	25/5/1993	
	The Second Periodic Report	22/6/1998	5/8/1998	
	The Third Periodic Report	22/6/2003	11/7/2005	
	The Fourth Periodic Report	22/6/2008		Merging Of the Fourth and Fifth Reports to be presented before 22/12/2011
	The Fifth Periodic Report	22/6/2013		
United Arab Emirates	The First Report	1/2/1999	15/4/2000	
	The Second Periodic Report	1/2/2004		
	The Third Periodic Report	1/2/2009		
	The Fourth Periodic Report	1/2/2014		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	1/2/2019		

(Table 4.1 cont'd)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
Kingdom of Bahrain	The First Report	14/3/1994	3/8/2000	
	The Second Periodic Report	14/3/1999	12/2/2009	Merging Of the Second and Third Reports to be presented before 12/2/2009
	The Third Periodic Report	14/3/2004		
	The Fourth Periodic Report	14/3/2009		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	14/3/2014		
Republic of Tunisia	The First Report	28/2/1994	16/5/1994	
	The Second Periodic Report	28/2/1999	16/3/1999	
	The Third Periodic Report	28/2/2004	6/6/2008	
	The Fourth Periodic Report	28/2/2009		Merging of the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports to be presented before 28/8/2017
	The Fifth Periodic Report	28/2/2014		
	The Sixth Periodic Report	28/2/2019		

Table (4.2): Reports of Arab States to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (According to the data contained in the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission held in the period From 17 January to 4 February 2011 CRC/C/56/2)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	The First Report	15/5/1995	16/11/1995	
	The Second Periodic Report	15/5/2000	16/12/2003	
	The Third Periodic Report	15/5/2005	25/6/2009	Merging of the Third and Fourth Reports to be presented before 25/6/2009
	The Fourth Periodic Report	15/5/2010		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	15/5/2015		
Republic of Djibouti	The First Report	4/1/1993	17/2/1998	
	The Second Periodic Report	4/1/1998	26/10/2007	
	The Third Periodic Report	4/1/2003		Merging of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Reports to be presented before 31/10/2012
	The Fourth Periodic Report	4/1/2008		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	4/1/2013		
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	The First Report	24/2/1998	15/10/1998	
	The Second Periodic Report	24/2/2003	12/11/2003	
	The Third Periodic Report	24/2/2008		Merging of the Third and Fourth Reports to be presented before 24/8/2011
	The Fourth Periodic Report	24/2/2013		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	24/2/2018		

(Table 4.2 cont'd)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
Republic of Sudan	The First Report	1/9/1992	29/9/1992	
	The Second Periodic Report	1/9/1997	7/7/1999	
	The Third Periodic Report	1/9/2002	27/6/2008	Merging of the Third and Fourth Reports to be presented before 27/6/2008
	The Fourth Periodic Report	1/9/2007		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	1/9/2012		Merging of the Fifth and Sixth Reports to be presented before 1/10/2015
	The Sixth Periodic Report	1/9/2017		

Table (4.3): Reports of Arab States to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (According to the data contained in the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission held in the period From 17 January to 4 February 2011CRC/C/56/2)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
Arab Republic of Syria	The First Report	13/8/1995	22/9/1995	
	The Second Periodic Report	13/8/2000	15/8/2000	
	The Third Periodic Report	13/8/2005	4/3/2009	Merging of the Third and Fourth Reports in one report to be presented before 4/3/2009
	The Fourth Periodic Report	13/8/2010		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	13/8/2015		

(Table 4.3 cont'd)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
Republic of Somalia	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Iraq	The First Report	14/7/1996	6/8/1996	
	The Second Periodic Report	14/7/2001		
	The Third Periodic Report	14/7/2006		
	The Fourth Periodic Report	14/7/2011		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	14/7/2016		
Sultanate of Oman	The First Report	7/1/1999	5/7/1999	
	The Second Periodic Report	7/1/2004	28/4/2005	
	The Third Periodic Report	7/1/2009		Merging of the Third and Fourth Reports to be presented before 7/7/2012
	The Fourth Periodic Report	7/1/2014		
State of Palestine	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Qatar	The First Report	2/5/1997	29/10/1999	
	The Second Periodic Report	2/5/2002	10/1/2008	
	The Third Periodic Report	2/5/2007		Merging of the Third and Fourth Reports to be presented before 2/5/2013
	The Fourth Periodic Report	2/5/2013		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	2/5/2018		

Table (4.4): Reports of Arab States to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (According to the data contained in the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission held in the period From 17 January to 4 February 2011CRC/C/56/2)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
United Republic of Comoros	The First Report	21/7/1995	24/3/1998	
	The Second Periodic Report	21/7/2000		
	The Third Periodic Report	21/7/2005		
	The Fourth Periodic Report	21/7/2009		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	21/7/2014		
State of Kuwait	The First Report	19/11/1993	23/8/1996	
	The Second Periodic Report	19/11/1998	30/7/2010	
	The Third Periodic Report	19/11/2003		
	The Fourth Periodic Report	19/11/2008		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	19/11/2013		
Republic of Lebanon	The First Report	12/6/1993	21/12/1994	
	The Second Periodic Report	12/6/1998	4/12/1998	
	The Third Periodic Report	12/6/2003	15/11/2004	
	The Fourth Periodic Report	12/6/2008		Merging of the Fourth and Fifth Reports to be presented before 12/12/2011
	The Fifth Periodic Report	12/6/2013		

(Table 4.4 cont'd)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	The First Report	14/5/1995	23/5/1996	
	The Second Periodic Report	14/5/2000	8/8/2000	
	The Third Periodic Report	14/5/2005	1/9/2009	Merging of the Third and Fourth reports to be presented before 1/9/2009
	The Fourth Periodic Report	14/5/2010		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	14/5/2015		
Arab Republic of Egypt	The First Report	1/9/1992	23/10/1992	
	The Second Periodic Report	2/9/1997	18/9/1998	
	The Third Periodic Report	2/9/2002	24/11/2008	Merging of the Third and Fourth Reports to be presented before 24/11/2008
	The Fourth Periodic Report	2/9/2007		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	2/9/2012		

Table (4.5): Reports of Arab States to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (According to the data contained in the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission held in the period From 17 January to 4 February 2011CRC/C/56/2)

Country	The first Report and the periodic Reports)	The expected date for submission of the reports	The effective date for submission of the reports	Notes
Kingdom of Morocco	The First Report	20/7/1995	27/7/1995	
	The Second Periodic Report	20/7/2000	13/10/2000	
	The Third Periodic Report	20/7/2005		Merging of the Third and Fourth reports to be presented before 20/1/2009
	The Fourth Periodic Report	20/7/2010		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	20/7/2015		
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	The First Report	14/6/1993	18/1/2000	
	The Second Periodic Report	14/6/1998	26/11/2007	
	The Third Periodic Report	14/6/2003		Merging of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Reports to be presented before 14/6/2013
	The Fourth Periodic Report	14/6/2008		
	The Fifth Periodic Report	14/6/2013		
Republic of Yemen	The First Report	30/5/1993	14/11/1994	
	The Second Periodic Report	30/5/1998	7/10/1997	
	The Third Periodic Report	30/5/2003	7/5/2003	
	The Fourth Periodic Report	30/5/2008	21/5/2010	
	The Fifth Periodic Report	30/5/2010		

Table (5): Authentication mode of Arab States to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	30-6-1972	28-5-1975	23-3-1976
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Approval	--	20-9-2006	20/12/2006
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	30-4-1968	18-3-1969	23-3-1976
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	10-12-1968	12-9-1989	12-12-1989
Republic of Djibouti	Endorsement	--	5-11-2002	5-2-2003
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	--	--	--
Republic of Sudan	Endorsement	--	18-3-1976	18-6-1986
Arab Republic of Syria	Endorsement	--	21-4-1969	23-3-1976
Republic of Somalia	Endorsement	--	24-1-1990	24-4-1990
Republic of Iraq	Approval	18-2-1969	25-1-1971	23-3-1976
Sultanate of Oman	-----	--	--	--
State of Palestine	-----	--	--	--
State of Qatar	----	--	--	--
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	25/9/2008	--	--
State of Kuwait	Endorsement	--	21-5-1996	21-8-1996
Republic of Lebanon	Endorsement	--	3-11-1972	23-3-1976
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Endorsement	--	15-5-1970	23-3-1976
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	4-8-1967	14-1-1982	14-4-1982
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	19-1-1977	3-5-1979	3-8-1979
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Endorsement	--	17-11-2004	17-2-2005
Republic of Yemen	Endorsement	--	9-2-1987	9-5-1987

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (6): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Optional Protocol International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concerning the submission of complaints by individuals

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Arab Emirates	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Tunisia	-----	-----	-----	-----
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Endorsement	-----	12/9/1989	12/12/1989
Republic of Djibouti	Endorsement	-----	5/11/2002	5/2/2003
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Sudan	-----	-----	-----	-----
Arab Republic of Syria	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Somalia	Endorsement	-----	24/1/1990	24/4/1990
Republic of Iraq	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sultanate of Oman	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Palestine	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Qatar	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Republic of Comoros	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Kuwait	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Lebanon	-----	-----	-----	-----
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Endorsement	-----	16/5/1989	16/8/1989
Arab Republic of Egypt	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Yemen	-----	-----	-----	-----

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (7): Authentication mode of Arab States to the Second Optional Protocol International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Arab Emirates	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Tunisia	-----	-----	-----	-----
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	-----	-----	----	----
Republic of Djibouti	Endorsement	-----	5/11/2002	5/2/2003
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Sudan	-----	-----	-----	-----
Arab Republic of Syria	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Somalia	-----	-----	----	----
Republic of Iraq	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sultanate of Oman	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Palestine	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Qatar	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Republic of Comoros	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Kuwait	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Lebanon	-----	-----	-----	-----
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-----	-----	----	----
Arab Republic of Egypt	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Yemen	-----	-----	-----	-----

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (8): Authentication mode of Arab States to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	30-6-1972	28-5-1975	3-1-1976
United Arab Emirates	-----	--	--	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Joining	--	27-9-2007	27-9-2007
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	30-4-1968	18-3-1969	3-1-1976
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	10-12-1968	12-9-1989	12-12-1989
Republic of Djibouti	Endorsement	--	5-11-2002	5-2-2003
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	---	--	--	--
Republic of Sudan	Endorsement	--	18-3-1986	18-6-1986
Arab Republic of Syria	Endorsement	--	21-4-1969	3-1-1976
Republic of Somalia	Endorsement	--	24-1-1990	24-4-1990
Republic of Iraq	Approval	18-2-1969	25-1-1971	3-1-1976
Sultanate of Oman	-----	--	--	--
State of Palestine	---	--	--	--
State of Qatar	---	--	--	--
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	25/9/2008	--	--
State of Kuwait	Endorsement	--	21-5-1996	21-8-1996
Republic of Lebanon	Endorsement	--	3-11-1972	3-1-1976
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Endorsement	--	15-5-1970	3-1-1976
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	4-8-1967	14-1-1982	14-4-1982
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	19-1-1977	3-5-1979	3-8-1979
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Endorsement	--	17-11-2004	17-2-2005
Republic of Yemen	Endorsement	--	9-2-1987	9-5-1987

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (9): Authentication mode of Arab States at the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Endorsement	--	30-5-1974	29-6-1974
United Arab Emirates	Endorsement	--	20-6-1974	20-7-1974
Kingdom of Bahrain	Endorsement	--	27-3-1990	26-4-1990
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	12-4-1966	13-1-1967	4-1-1969
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	9-12-1966	14-2-1972	15-3-1972
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14/2/2006	--	--
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Endorsement	--	22-9-1997	23-10-1997
Republic of Sudan	Endorsement	--	21-3-1977	20-4-1977
Arab Republic of Syria	Endorsement	--	21-4-1969	21-5-1969
Republic of Somalia	Approval	26-1-1967	26-8-1975	25-9-1975
Republic of Iraq	Approval	18-2-1969	14-1-1970	13-2-1970
Sultanate of Oman	Endorsement	--	2002-12-17	1-2-2003
State of Palestine	--	--	--	--
State of Qatar	Endorsement	--	22-7-1976	21-8-1976
United Republic of Comoros	Approval	22-9-2000	27-9-2004	27-10-2004
State of Kuwait	Endorsement	--	15-10-1968	4-1-1969
Republic of Lebanon	Endorsement	--	12-11-1971	12-12-1971
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Endorsement	--	3-7-1968	4-1-1969
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	28-9-1966	1-5-1967	4-1-1969
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	18-9-1967	18-12-1970	17-1-1971
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Approval	21-12-1966	13-12-1988	12-1-1989
Republic of Yemen	Endorsement	--	18-10-1972	17-11-1972

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (10): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	3-12-1980	1-7-1992	31-7-1992
United Arab Emirates	Accession	--	6-10-2004	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Accession	--	18-6-2002	18-7-2002
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	24-7-1980	20-9-1985	20-10-1985
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Accession	--	22-5-1996	21-6-1996
Republic of Djibouti	Accession	--	2-12-1998	1-1-1999
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Approval	7-9-2000	7-9-2000	7-10-2000
Republic of Sudan	--	--	--	--
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	--	28-3-2003	27-4-2003
Republic of Somalia	--	--	--	--
Republic of Iraq	Accession	--	13-8-1986	12-9-1986
Sultanate of Oman	Accession	--	2005-5-7	--
State of Palestine	--	--	--	--
State of Qatar	Accession	29/4/2009	--	--
United Republic of Comoros	Accession	--	31-10-1994	30-11-1994
State of Kuwait	Accession	--	2-9-1994	2-10-1994
Republic of Lebanon	Accession	--	21-4-1997	16-4-1997
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	16-5-1989	15-6-1989
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	16-7-1980	18-9-1981	18-10-1981
Kingdom of Morocco	Accession	--	21-6-1993	21-7-1993
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	--	10-5-2001	9-6-2001
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	30-5-1984	29-6-1984

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (11): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Arab Emirates	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Tunisia	Accession	-----	23/9/2008	-----
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	-----	-----	---	---
Republic of Djibouti	-----	-----	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Sudan	-----	-----	-----	-----
Arab Republic of Syria	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Somalia	-----	-----	---	---
Republic of Iraq	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sultanate of Oman	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Palestine	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Qatar	-----	-----	-----	-----
United Republic of Comoros	-----	-----	-----	-----
State of Kuwait	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Lebanon	-----	-----	-----	-----
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	-----	18-6-2004	18-9-2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kingdom of Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	-----	-----	-----
Republic of Yemen	-----	-----	-----	-----

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (12): Authentication mode of Arab States to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Accession	--	13-11-1991	13-12-1991
United Arab Emirates	---	--	--	--
Kingdom of Bahrain	Accession	--	6-3-1998	5-4-1998
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	26-8-1987	23-9-1988	23-10-1988
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	26-11-1985	12-9-1989	11-10-1989
Republic of Djibouti	Accession	--	5-11-2002	5-12-2002
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	--	23-9-1997	23-10-1997
Republic of Sudan	Signature	4-6-1986	--	--
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	--	19-8-2004	18-9-2004
Republic of Somalia	Accession	--	24-1-1990	23-2-1990
Republic of Iraq	---	--	--	--
Sultanate of Oman	---	--	--	--
State of Palestine	---	--	--	--
State of Qatar	Accession	--	11-1-2000	10-2-2000
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	22-9-2000	--	--
State of Kuwait	Accession	--	8-3-1996	6-4-1996
Republic of Lebanon	Accession	--	24/5/2000	4-11-2000
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	--	16-5-1989	15-6-1989
Arab Republic of Egypt	Accession	--	25-6-1986	26-6-1987
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	8-1-1986	21-6-1993	21-7-1993
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	--	17-11-2004	17-12-2004
Republic of Yemen	Accession	--	5-11-1991	5-12-1991

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (13): Authentication mode of Arab States at the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of their families

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	-----	---	---	---
United Arab Emirates	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	-----	---	---	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Accession	---	21/4/2005	1/8/2005
Republic of Djibouti	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Sudan	-----	---	---	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	---	2-6-2005	1-10-2005
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	-----	---	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	-----	---	---	---
State of Palestine	-----	---	---	---
State of Qatar	-----	---	---	---
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	22-9-2000	---	---
State of Kuwait	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	-----	---	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Accession	---	18-6-2004	1-10-2004
Arab Republic of Egypt	Accession	---	19-2-1993	1-7-2003
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	15-8-1991	21-6-1993	1-7-2003
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Accession	---	22-1-2007	22-1-2007
Republic of Yemen	-----	---	---	---

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (14): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Convention on the International Labour Organization (138) Minimum age

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Signature	23/3/1998	---	---
United Arab Emirates	Signature	2/10/1998	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	----	---	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	Signature	19/10/1995	---	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Signature	30/4/1984	---	---
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	14/6/2005	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Sudan	Signature	7/3/2002	---	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Signature	18/9/2001	---	---
Republic of Somalia	----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	Signature	13/2/1985	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	Signature	21/7/2005	---	---
State of Palestine	----	---	---	---
State of Qatar	Signature	3/1/2006	---	---
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	17/3/2004	---	---
State of Kuwait	Signature	15/11/1999	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	10/6/2003	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Signature	19/6/1975	---	---
Arab Republic of Egypt	Signature	9/6/1999	---	---
Kingdom of Morocco	Signature	6/1/2000	---	---
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Signature	3/12/2001	---	---
Republic of Yemen	Signature	15/6/2000	---	---

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (15): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Convention on the International Labor Organization (182) on the Worst Forms of Child labor and immediate action to eliminate them

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Signature	20/4/2000	---	---
United Arab Emirates	Signature	28/6/2001	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	----	23/3/2001	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	Signature	28/2/2000	---	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Signature	9/2/2001	---	---
Republic of Djibouti	Signature	28/2/2005	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Signature	8/10/2001	---	---
Republic of Sudan	Signature	7/3/2003	---	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Signature	22/5/2003	---	---
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	Signature	9/7/2001	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	Signature	11/6/2001	---	---
State of Palestine	----	---	---	---
State of Qatar	Signature	30/5/2000	---	---
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	17/3/2004	---	---
State of Kuwait	Signature	15/8/2000	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	11/9/2001	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Signature	4/10/2000	---	---
Arab Republic of Egypt	Signature	6/5/2002	---	---
Kingdom of Morocco	Signature	26/1/2001	---	---
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Signature	3/12/2001	---	---
Republic of Yemen	Signature	15/6/2000	---	---

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (16): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Approval	30/3/2007	31/3/2008	---
United Arab Emirates	Approval	8/2/2008	19/3/2009	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	Signature	25/6/2007	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	30/3/2007	2/4/2008	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Approval	30/3/2007	4/12/2009	---
Republic of Djibouti	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	---	24/6/2008	---
Republic of Sudan	Approval	30/3/2007	24/4/2009	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Approval	30/3/2007	10/7/2009	---
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	-----	---	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	Approval	17/3/2008	6/1/2009	---
State of Palestine	-----	---	---	---
State of Qatar	Approval	9/7/2007	13/5/2008	---
United Republic of Comoros	Signature	26/9/2007	---	---
State of Kuwait	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	14/6/2007	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Signature	1/5/2008	---	---
Arab Republic of Egypt	Approval	4/4/2007	14/4/2008	---
Kingdom of Morocco	Approval	30/3/2007	8/4/2009	---
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Yemen	Approval	30/3/2007	26/3/2009	---

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

Table (17): Authentication Mode Arab States of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Country	Ratification status	Date of signature	Date of Approval/ accession	Date of Entry Due process
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Signature	30/3/2007	---	---
United Arab Emirates	Signature	12/2/2008	---	---
Kingdom of Bahrain	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Tunisia	Approval	30/3/2007	2/4/2008	---
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Signature	30/3/2007	---	---
Republic of Djibouti	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Accession	---	24/6/2008	---
Republic of Sudan	Accession	---	24/4/2009	---
Arab Republic of Syria	Accession	---	10/7/2009	---
Republic of Somalia	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Iraq	-----	---	---	---
Sultanate of Oman	-----	---	---	---
State of Palestine	-----	---	---	---
State of Qatar	Signature	9/7/2007	---	---
United Republic of Comoros	-----	---	---	---
State of Kuwait	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Lebanon	Signature	14/6/2007	---	---
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-----	---	---	---
Arab Republic of Egypt	-----	---	---	---
Kingdom of Morocco	Accession	---	8/4/2009	---
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	-----	---	---	---
Republic of Yemen	Approval	11/4/2007	26/3/2009	---

* Source: Human Rights Index in the Arab States www.arabhumanrights.com UNDP

