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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX IV

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the annual action programme for 2023 in favour of Egypt

Action Document for EU support to Resilience of future generations

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan in the sense of Article 23 (2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title OPSYS Basic Act	EU support to Resilience of future generations Annual action plan in favour of Egypt for 2023 OPSYS business reference: ACT-61844 ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD. 1273683 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe).
2. Economic and Investment Plan (EIP)	No
EIP Flagship	No
3. Team Europe Initiative	No
4. Beneficiar(y)/(ies) of the action	The action shall be carried out in Egypt.
5. Programming document	Multi-annual Indicative Programme for European Union support to Egypt for the period 2021-27 ¹ (MIP)
6. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	SO.3.1. To promote and protect the values of democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
7. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area 3: Social cohesion, modern and democratic state

¹ C(2022)4049 of 17/06/2022 Commission implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for Egypt for the period 2021-2027.

	151 Government & Civil Society-general				
8. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 10: Reduce Inequalities. Other significant SDGs: SDG 5 - Gender Equality SG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions				
9. DAC code(s)	15160 Human rights				
10. Main Delivery Channel	41100 - United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN)				
11. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance				
12. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective	
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Disaster Risk Reduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective	
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	13. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
		EIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	EIP Flagship	YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Tags	YES	NO	
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
environment, climate resilience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
economic development (incl. private sector, trade and macroeconomic support)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
human development (incl. human capital and youth)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
health resilience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
migration and mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
agriculture, food security and rural development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
rule of law, governance and public administration reform	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Digitalisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tags	YES	NO	
digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tags	YES	NO	
digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduction of Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION			
14. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020110 Southern Neighbourhood		

	Total estimated cost: EUR 8 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 8 000 000
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
15. Implementation modalities (management mode and delivery methods)	Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.3

1.2. Summary of the Action

The action directly responds to the EU-Egypt Partnership Priorities 2021–2027², namely Priority 1 on Egypt’s Sustainable Modern Economy and Social Development with a focus to promote and reform social development and social justice through boosting the country's human resources, in particular youth, women and children.

The action aims to support the national approach to address gaps in child protection system in Egypt in particular on ending violence against children including combating child labour by focusing on policy, legal and institutional frameworks.

The action aims to improve children’s access to and utilisation of inclusive, gender-sensitive prevention and protection services that address violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect in an environment that promotes positive social norms. It shall also adopt a holistic approach to child protection to guarantee children’s rights (such as education, healthcare, nutrition, and housing, etc.).

Strengthening of a governance based child protection mechanism shall be also addressed by reinforcing institutional and technical capacities that relate to child protection coordination mechanisms and information systems. The successful implementation of the various activities under this action shall lead to a 6% decrease in children that experience any form of violence, which corresponds to around 2.5 million children.

In order to support the amendment of the national legislative and policy framework across sectors the action will address legislative reforms and amendments targeting social care, child labour, irregular migration, prevention of violence in schools, settings and supporting de-institutionalisation efforts of alternative care via evidence-generation on public finance for children; technical support to key child protection stakeholders; nation-wide and integrated information management system (IMS) child protection system that links between sectors.

The capacities of community outreach workers, health pioneers, social workers, and other front-liners in the core protection child protection system and structures will also be empowered. The action shall capitalize on the existing mechanisms through which child protection services are provided. It will additionally advocate and provide technical support to establish a unified and inclusive case management system among the different stakeholders as well as develop and implement standardized quality benchmarks for child protection services. In addition, the action will work on strengthening community-based structures and civil society, facilitating referrals of child cases to other essential services such as

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-2803-2022-ADD-1/en/pdf>

health, legal, Mental health and psychosocial support in crisis situations (MHPSS), social protection, and education. These interventions will contribute to increasing children's and adolescents' access to a continuum of child-friendly, inclusive, and gender-sensitive care services.

This action will capacitate civil society organisations to support children in need, including children with disabilities and at-risk of irregular migration through interventions to prevent violence against children including work on positive social norms addressing individual behaviours. The action will work with a variety of key stakeholders to change pre-conceived perceptions especially those that promote violence against children. This is in addition to raising community awareness on child protection, risks of violence, including of irregular migration, and on available services through advocacy campaigns, awareness-raising interventions, and community engagement tools.

1.3. Beneficiar(y)/(ies) of the action

The Action shall be carried out in Egypt which is included in the list of ODA recipients.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

Out of the total population of over 105 million, the number of children below 18 years old stand at 41.5 million.

The economic and social situation in Egypt is challenging, the multiple crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those challenges continue to impact the Government's efforts for the realisation of child rights including combating child labour.

Children are affected by poverty whose rate, despite a decline, is currently at 29.7 of the total population in 2019/2020. Poverty denies children their fundamental rights to nutrition, health, water, education, protection shelter and more diminishing their ability to build a better future. Children at risk have lower chances to receive quality medical and education services, therefore they are less productive and lack the adequate safety nets to protect them in entering in the informal labour market with high risk of exploitation. Human rights in Egypt are guaranteed by the Egyptian Constitution. The country is also a party to numerous international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In the framework of the Egyptian constitution and the National Human Rights Strategy (2021 to 2026), children are protected from all forms of violence, mistreatment, and sexual exploitation. Egypt has presented in November 2022 to the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) a detailed analysis on the critical points addressing vulnerabilities of children in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The analysis embeds the key elements on the vulnerabilities faced by children (poverty and social exclusion, sale and sexual exploitation (including child marriage), forced labour and human trafficking).

Egypt is a party to a number of key international conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), stipulating that State parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination and violence, as well the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). At the national level Egypt adopted the Child law in 1996 amended in 2008. This law established a system of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) including a child helpline. Further progress occurred in 2014 when the Constitution explicitly recognised children's rights and established the principle of the best interests of the child.

In 2018, the national council for childhood and motherhood (NCCM) adopted the child protection strategy “strategic framework and national plan for childhood and motherhood, 2018-2030” consistent with the Child Law. In the same year, the Government of Egypt adopted the Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) Strategic Framework which sets the framework for comprehensive, multi-sectoral and coordinated procedures to prevent and address violence against children.

In 2019, the Government of Egypt launched the National Action Plan (NAP) for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Egypt and Supporting Family (2018-2025) which sets timelines and roles of the Governmental agencies responsible for assisting children getting out of child labour. The NAP is aligned with Egypt Vision 2030, Egyptian Constitution, and International Labour Organisation ILO Conventions No. 138 on Minimum Age and No. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour.

In 2021, the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) has launched a National Strategy for the Alternative Care of Children and Youth in Egypt (2021 – 2030) to promote the de-institutionalisation of the alternative care system and enhance options for community-based alternative care systems for children in Egypt to improve the quality of life of every child and youth.

It aligns also with the principles of EU strategy on the rights of the child (adopted in 2021) which sets a commitment to ensure that children’s Rights are mainstreamed in all European Commission’s relevant policies, legislation and funding programmes. The action contributes to the achievement of key human and fundamental rights for children to support reducing inequality and good governance as a basis for stable fair, inclusive and prosperous societies as entrenched in the new agenda for the Mediterranean.

The action shall also contribute to the achievement of the EU commitments under Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the EU and all its Member States, stipulating that State Parties to that Convention shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

The action will directly contribute to the Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through all external action of the European Union including fighting against gender-based violence.

The action will contribute to the implementation of the **Youth Action Plan** (YAP) in European Union external action for 2022-2027 through promoting the participation of young people and children as a right and ensuring no one is left behind.

The action will capitalise upon the results of the previous EU funded action in Protection for at Risk Children in Egypt. Implementation will be based upon human rights principles on ending violence against children. The action will follow a participatory approach through which national stakeholders, civil society and community actors will be closely involved while addressing social norms to achieve an accelerated progress and sustainable impact.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis

For children to enjoy their right to education, development, participation, and survival, it is imperative to ensure, at all times and in all settings, their rights to protection. Evidence shows that violence hampers all aspects of a child’s

growth, including physical, psychological, and social development³. Children who have been severely abused or neglected often suffer from learning difficulties, poor school performance, problems transitioning to adulthood, low self-esteem, and depression. Furthermore, a child's exposure to maltreatment has substantial intergenerational effects, where children who grew up in a violent household or community tend to internalise that behaviour as a way of resolving disputes, repeating the pattern of violence and abuse against their spouses and children⁴. Therefore, violence against children (VAC) inflicts damage at both the individual and societal levels, including direct and indirect costs resulting from increased social spending to address VAC and its repercussions, as well as from decreased economic productivity⁵. Children who face violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation in different settings are prone to leaving their homes and communities in search of safety and to sustain their most basic needs, including through irregular migration. As a country of origin, current patterns reflect long-standing trends of young Egyptians, including unaccompanied minors, following established smuggling routes into Italy and Greece to escape persistent poverty. During 2022, around 21,000 Egyptians arrived in Italy, out of which 20% were unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Egyptian UASC arrivals in Italy account for 30% of UASC arrivals.

Violence against children constitute a significant challenge in Egypt. Children are exposed to violence at home, schools and online. The 2021 EFHS⁶ indicates the prevalence of violent discipline is 81.2%, demonstrating a decline by 11.2% since the 2014 EDHS. About 93% of children experience some form of violent discipline at home. 65% of students (13-17 years) have experienced physical violence in school.. Practices of disciplining children using violent methods are still widespread nationwide. Many children in Egypt are being subjected to violence at the hands of those who are supposed to protect and nurture them due to some misconception by many caregivers on parenting and discipline. Violence is often condoned – or at least tolerated – as a way to instil discipline, to ‘teaching children appropriate behaviour, to exploit them or to reinforce power relations. Violence against children is often hidden from view – a source of shame that neither the perpetrator nor the victim are willing to reveal. The results of a study carried by NCCM and UNICEF in 2015 in three major governorates⁷ showed that many of the adults surveyed, including more than half of the parents, had no problem with the exposure of a child to violence as long as it was considered to be in the child's best interest. Accordingly, mothers, fathers and school teachers felt entitled to use different kinds of violence with children in a ‘proportionate’ manner, depending on what the child had done wrong. Children also adapted to this violence, internalizing it, accepting it and most of the time, even defending and excusing their parents. Domestic violence has negative impacts on children as demonstrated by elevated rates of both child maltreatment and partner violence in families characterized by marital conflict and family disintegration. In addition, there is an increased incidence of online violence against children, including sexual exploitation, harassment, cyber-bullying and incitement to self-harm. This is worsened by a lack of capacities of national authorities in effectively addressing online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA). Gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation and early marriage, is an important challenge to fulfilling human rights. In terms of child marriage, according to 2014 EDHS, 17% of women aged 20 to 24 years are married before the age of 18. Likewise, Child marriage is more pronounced in rural Upper Egypt, with as many as 46% of girls being married before the age of 18 years. Children with disabilities are one of the most categories living in vulnerable conditions, specially those who live in poverty as it presents an obstacle to children enjoyment of their basic rights to healthcare and education.

There is also a lack of community structures, school measures, and platforms that can prevent violence and abuse, including early detection, (MHPSS), safe platforms for children to express themselves and develop skills as well as referrals to basic services/social protection programmes that can contribute to improvement of the situation at home and in and around school. Response mechanisms and available services are limited as well, especially specialized and rehabilitation services (formal and informal). The general lack of

³ UNICEF (2015) Child protection – The case for support

⁴ UNICEF (2014) Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children

⁵ UNICEF (2015) Child protection – The case for support

⁶ https://www.capmas.gov.eg/pdf/%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AD%20%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%89%20_%20%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%89.pdf

⁷ <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/media/1906/file/Violence%20Against%20Children%20in%20Egypt-EN.pdf>

awareness about child rights/child development and the high levels of acceptance of violence amongst communities also lead to the overall reliance on violent discipline. This also results in a reluctance to report cases and tendencies to blame victims, especially in sexual abuse cases.

Part of legal Children without a protective family and community environment: institutional care is the most prevalent form of alternative care practiced in Egypt, including by social and justice sectors. According to the Ministry of Social solidarity, about 15,000 children are living in residential care institutions, which are largely underfunded, underdeveloped, and poorly monitored. Given that the majority of institutionalised children are 15 years old or above, the majority of children are spending most of their childhood in care institutions. The situation is exacerbated by the high population and increasing poverty levels across the country, especially child poverty, which is often associated with family breakdown. There are increased rates of divorce leading to increased dysfunctional families, coupled with the change in the concept of joint family/kinship. This is given the lack of family-based care options, including foster care or reintegration in extended families as well as the negative perceptions around foster care. Some children are also placed in residential care because, for instance, they are born out of wedlock, due to community stigmatization. Moreover, there is a misconception in communities that institutions are not a bad place for children and their development.

Children in Egypt are also subjected to the worst forms of child labour, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and in quarrying limestone. The number of working children in Egypt is estimated at 1.8 million working children in Egypt, including 1.6 million children who are involved in hazardous work. In 2021, Egypt made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. The Prosecutor General's Office announced the opening of eight specialized prosecution offices to combat human trafficking and illegal migration crimes nationwide. The government published data on the enforcement of child labour laws, and programs to address child labour are insufficient to adequately address the extent of the problem.

Egypt has made achievements related to the legislative framework as well as enhanced access to services to protect children, however, they persistently suffer from inadequate implementation of laws and policies; lack a strong system of managing child protection services and of monitoring child protection issues amid the absence of child budgeting across the country; limited investments in data collection and management systems, and weak regulatory/monitoring mechanisms in place. This have resulted in millions of children still being out of the safety net or experiencing various forms of abuse, violence and neglect, including online violence and exploitation. In addition, investments in research-based evidence generation and an integrated information management system (IMS) across stakeholders and sectors (education, social services, health, and justice) to support the child protection system) are thus key to ensure informed planning, implementation and monitoring. IMS aims at enhancing data collection, quality, and security of data on child protection cases to generate timely and accurate data for evidence-based programming and decision making. The lack of responsiveness and awareness regarding the rights of children and the responsibility of their parents towards them is still persistent. Understanding the impact of violent disciplinary practices on children (i.e. psychological, slow development and physical harm) is critical to tackling the issue while involving all stakeholders. The Government of Egypt has tried to fight violent disciplinary practices through awareness programs and response mechanisms, however, violent disciplinary practices against children require rigorous change in the behaviour of communities in Egypt to break the normalization of using violence in parenting and to redirect families towards positive discipline. It is intertwined with different levels of awareness including on the rights of children and the existing response mechanisms.

It is thus essential to have a strong and accountable child protection (CP) system and a national program with a clear road map to ensure that existing legislations policies are fully implemented to protect all children in Egypt. This programme would support Egypt reinforcing child protection mechanisms and fostering children to living up to their potential.

The action will support the mitigation of the abovementioned challenges and will capitalise upon the complementary efforts of various stakeholders (government entities, National councils and CSOs) to prevent unsafe migration and ensure that children are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation. It will contribute to coordinated governance-based approaches and strengthened capacities of key stakeholders. Close involvement and support to the civil society across the various targeted areas will be ensured.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action.

Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) - is the key governmental entity responsible for child and family welfare and protection and is leading social care services for families in vulnerable situations, women and children. MoSS has a leading role in the on social protection and its linkages with social care, on the finalization and operationalization of the alternative care law and bylaws and social workforce strengthening and licensure as well as child case management.

Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) - is providing preventive and responsive services to address violence against children and adolescents through identifying abuse early, providing victims with treatment, and referring children to appropriate and informed care, including specialised Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support. (MHPSS). MOHP are key for the adoption a child protection policy in health care units and public and private hospitals, with professional codes of conduct, reporting mechanisms, and case management protocols for children exposed to violence as per relevant legal provisions.

Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MOETE) - is mandated to provide safe and inclusive learning environments for all children to ensure that all students reach their full potential and promote of a culture of non-violence. MoETE has a key role to scale up and institutionalize the capacity building programmes and tools for educators on ending violence in schools. It has also an important role to issue / Amend/ operationalise relevant decrees and school policies that aim to end violence in schools and develop a mechanism to monitor their implementation.

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) - is mandated to provide a safe and informed access to the internet to all, including children and adolescents, and to promote a culture of responsible digital citizenship. MCIT has a key role in developing a national strategy and action plan to address online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA). It has also the lead on the contextualization and implementation of a comprehensive national response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse based on international models and best practices.

Civil Society organisations (CSOs) - CSOs are key partners to NCCM and MOSS to support the protection response services, support the CHL and facilitate the national referral process. CSOs play an important role in supporting the national case management system become more responsive to reports of at-risk children given the structural challenges faced by district CPCs in responding to cases after working hours or due to lack of allocated human resources to the respective Child Protection Unit.

National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)- national entity mandated to advocate for child rights and protection, lead policy dialogues and legislative reform addressing child issues and to coordinate governmental and non-governmental efforts regarding child rights and protection. NCCM is the key partner in amending the child law and operationalizing the alternative care law. NCCM is also to support MOSS in coordinating different ministries' interventions to implement the national strategy for alternative care.

2.3. Lessons Learned

This programme is in line with the EU commission's five policy priority areas builds on achievements of the EU-UNICEF programme Expanding Access to Education and Protection for at Risk Children in Egypt (2015 – 2020). The previous action succeeded in raising capacity of the national Child Helpline (CHL) by enabling it to function in full capacity. To ensure that the CHL is able to connect children and their families to the needed services, Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) were adopted nationally by stakeholders that standardize referral pathways between the CHL, CPCs, NGOs and other national partners. Under the previous action also plans were developed and initiated for an information management system (IMS) that enables easier flow of case management data and better extraction of data on the system's performance.

The previous action supported central and key protection structures and capacitate them to respond to child protection issues in a systemic and sustainable method. It also worked on building a well-coordinated national response that fosters cooperation amongst stakeholders, including government bodies and civil society, and ensures that children and their families receive needed holistic interventions that appropriately address the complex dimensions of child protection. The action supported the establishment of CPCs in 4 governorates and 52 districts. Their key role was to coordinate the response to be provided to children calling the child helpline at Governorate and district levels, to hold multi-sectoral coordination meetings which focus on the response to violence case with Governmental stakeholders as well as NGO and to coordinate provision of basic social services to children. It supported also the development and roll out of capacity building programs for CPC social workers, and addressed the gap in case management by advocating with the government to establish functional Units (CPUs) inside the District CPCs (DCPs) to ensure individual response to cases. These CPUs were successfully created, staffed and functioning in the four core governorates. The previous action contributed for the establishment of a case management system within MoSS, comprised of units which provided the space for coordination in provision of services to children along different administrative levels initially in 3 Governorates. The previous action also initiated an information management system (IMS) that enables easier flow of case management data and better analysis of data on the system's performance that needs to be further reinforced and institutionally integrated.

Key lessons learned from the previous action was that introduction or activation of new structures within the government is a time -exhaustive process and long-term outcome that require focus on development of the structures, extensive technical support to government partners, capacity building and planning and advocacy to embed such structures efficiently within government structures to ensure future sustainability. Once structures are created, high-level engagement and advocacy with the government is crucial to ensure structures are institutionalized in terms of budgeting and staff allocation and connectivity to the protection ecosystem. The involvement and full participation of CSOs in the programme was also another key element ensuring outreach.

While the previous action has supported the establishment and strengthening of the core child protection system and structures, lessons learnt have shown that it is equally important to mainstream prevention of and response to violence against children in key sectors that come into daily contact with children. This primarily applies to the education and health sectors where not only incidents violence against children can occur, but also serve as platforms for the identification of cases of children at-risk, provision of frontline support and psychological first aid, and referral to more specialised services when needed. Building on the previous action the new action will help scale up national capacities to prevent and respond to VAC within those systems, as well as to create sustainable cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and referral pathways.

The previous action clearly targeted formal systemic structures for child protection, and in working with various actors, it was clear that local communities have their own mechanisms to prevent and respond to child protection issues. With the eruption of COVID-19 pandemic, the child protection community

structures played a vital role in identifying children and families in distress and linking them to formal services. The proposed action will thus build the capacities of community structures and civil society organization, enabling them to provide child protection services, especially at the prevention level, and enhancing referral pathways between civil society and governmental child protection structures towards integrating them within the wider child protection system.

The proposed action intends to build on the results achieved by the previous action, by transitioning to the next phase of national system strengthening/maturity from the development/enhancement phase towards system integration and institutionalization to ensure sustainability of implementation. It thus focuses on revising and strengthening the national policy frameworks, mainstreaming child protection across sectors, strengthening capacities of child protection stakeholders of the core child protection structure as well that of the social care, education, and health sectors, and in the labour market, enhancing coordination across sectors, institutionalizing referral pathways, and building a coordinated social workforce with a social workforce regulatory. In addition, building on the previous action's recommendation, this action will work on improving, documenting, analysing, and disseminating data on child protection through supporting the establishment of a nation-wide and integrated IMS child protection system that links between sectors (education, social services, health, and justice).

The proposed action will build on the structures that were successfully developed under the previous action, by focusing on the scaling-up and institutionalisation of interventions that ensure children at risk or victims of violence receive the necessary services they need along with their families. This is in order to address the increasing demand of child protection services

The action will focus on strengthening the functions of the child protection committees and MoSS case management units at the local level by providing technical support to enhance NCCM's monitoring role, as well as supporting high-level advocacy plan for child budgeting and inter-ministerial cooperation. To do this, the proposed action will support fostering stakeholder coordination not only between the core child protection structures but also across sectors (education, health, etc.).

In addition, following the previous action's recommendations to enhance child participation and continue/expand social and behaviour change interventions to enhance demand for relevant protection services, the action will promote positive social norms as a strategy to successfully address individual behaviours as well as the community perceptions and attitudes for ending violence against children. The action will thus work with communities, service providers, and key stakeholders to change pre-conceived perspectives especially those that promote violence. This will work towards an equilibrium between child protection supply and demand.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective(s)/Impact(s) of this action is: children are legally and effectively protected according to international standards.

The Specific Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action is improved children's access to and utilisation of inclusive, rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention and protection services.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)

- 1.1. National gender sensitive frameworks (legal, policy, and institutional) are revised and strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against children.
- 1.2. Capacities of stakeholders, including government and civil society, are strengthened to identify, prevent, and respond to cases of violence against children, including cases of violence against girls, at the national level.
- 1.3. CSOs capacities to promote child rights and to provide child protection services are strengthened.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

- 1.1.1. Provide technical support to key stakeholders to update and issue gender sensitive legislations, policies, ministerial decrees, and/or national strategies related to the protection of children within the key sectors, namely core protection structures, children without parental care (deinstitutionalisation), education, and health.
- 1.1.2. Provide support to strengthen national capacities to budget, finance, and monitor child protection programmes (including information management systems), and create sustainable policy reform to institutionalize and link all national child protection mechanisms, including the child helpline, the child protection committees and other services and outputs.

Activities related to Output 1.2:

- 1.2.1. Provide institutional and technical support to stakeholders to further strengthen the national institutional child protection mechanisms, actors, and services (including mainstreaming the case management methodology across sectors, institutionalising national SOPs and social workforce regulatory, and strengthening cross-sectoral referral pathways) to prevent and respond to violence against children, including cases of violence against girls, and reducing the risks associated with irregular migration.
- 1.2.2. Build the capacity of relevant stakeholders to combat child labour (employers' organizations, trade unions, CSOs, teachers, women rural leaders, social workers, and health professionals) and its worst forms at the national, regional, and local levels.
- 1.2.3. Build the capacity of civil society organisations and community-based structures within the child protection system to improve service provision, including operationalizing coordination across child protection mechanisms and referral pathways between formal and community structures.
- 1.2.4. Improve service provision in identified areas of necessary improvement, including rendering appropriate MHPSS and preventing family separation and supporting family integration.
- 1.2.5. Develop and implement awareness and advocacy campaigns and community engagement tools and interventions to identify and prevent violence against children and promote positive social norms.

Activities related to Output 1.3:

- 1.3.1. Support CSOs to develop initiatives that foster child rights and that build partnerships and networks and strengthen community engagement.
- 1.3.2. Develop and implement awareness and advocacy campaigns and community engagement tools and interventions to prevent violence against children (particularly children with disabilities) and identify cases of children at risk/exposed to different forms of violence .

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project).

EIA screening classified the action as category C, no further assessment.

Outcome of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project).

The CRA screening concluded that this action is no or low risk, no need for further assessment.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality being a significant objective of the action. Gender dimension will be considered in all interventions to limit the exposure of girls and boys to gender-based discriminations and violence. The action will contribute to the objectives of the EU Gender Action Plan III through strengthening legislative and policy frameworks and the elimination of all forms of violence and harmful practices against children.

Human Rights

The action will pursue the SDG approach to ensure the fulfilment of child rights throughout all outputs and that child friendly, right-based and age-appropriate prevention and response services are provided so that every child get their rights fulfilled. The action will continue working on legal and policy reforms so as to reduce the risks of provision and rules are being interpreted and applied in an arbitrary manner, thus violating the rights of children.

The action will also contribute to ensuring that the national legislative and policy framework related to protection of the rights of children are in line with the international standards. This action will support the government of Egypt to comply with its international commitment, including but not limited to the Convention on the rights of the child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the ILO Convention No.138 on Minimum Age and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

The action will also focus on establishing cross sectoral coordination mechanisms to ensure the linkages and coordination among the different actors within the CP system will be able to provide child-friendly, rights-based and age-appropriate prevention and response services.

The action will furthermore contribute that equal treatment before the law and prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, disability, political or other opinion, national or social origin, etc. Therefore, the action will contribute to ensure that the rights of certain vulnerable, disadvantaged, and individuals living in vulnerable situations who face greater difficulties in accessing child-friendly, rights-based and age-appropriate prevention and response services are well reflected in the laws to improve their access. Finally, the action will ensure the principles of ‘do no harm’, and ‘leave no one behind’ will guide the design and implementation of all the interventions.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that disability is a significant objective. Inclusion and non-discrimination are cross cutting priorities of the action. The action will support policies and initiatives that will ensure that children and with disabilities to

have increased access to their rights. The action will contribute to strengthening their skills, capacities and awareness, and access to socioeconomic opportunities and protection services.

Therefore, this programme will be using an inclusive approach where services will be equipped with more tools and resources to address additional issues facing children with disabilities whenever they are in contact with different CP service providers. In addition, the indicators within the governmental IMS will be tailored to track the reach of children with disabilities exposed to risk or have experienced violence, abuse and exploitation

Democracy

The Egypt Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS 2030) lays out a vision of inclusive development through economic and social justice taking into ‘consideration the rights of new generations in a prosperous life’. SDS 2030 addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic, environmental) while emphasising governance and participation as key principles.

The programme will focus on inclusive, rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention and response services for VAC. Its multi-layered interventions will foster the right of the child and play an integral role in human rights protection in Egypt. Further, by enabling children safe access to education, health services and social services, the programme fosters future children’s participation in democratic processes.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

NA

Disaster Risk Reduction

NA

3.4. Risks and Assumptions

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Egypt's lack of ability to sustain its support for human rights could negatively affect the action’s capability to deliver.	Low	High	Policy dialogue with national stakeholders is an important means to discuss commitments and support the action implementation a process of change.
External environment	Weak co-ordination between stakeholders	Medium	High	Capacity buildings will be provided to ensure better co-ordination at all levels. Effective co-ordination mechanism by ensuring an active role of the steering committee of the programme.
People and the organisation	Social norms and misconception by many caregivers	High	High	Awareness and advocacy campaigns and community engagement and emphasising the advocacy through NGOs.

	on parenting and discipline persist.			
Planning, processes, and system	Limited national capacities and resources challenge	Medium	high	The action will work on strengthening capacities of key stakeholders to budget, finance, and monitor child protection programmes

External Assumptions

- The action will be able to promote engagement with different stakeholders, including community members.
- National legislative and policy frameworks continue to evolve to support elimination of violence against children
- Stakeholders’ commitment, including at the institutional level, and minimum required capacities by duty bearers to support child rights
- Different stakeholders willing to collaborate in the implementation of the activities.
- CSOs receive the necessary government approvals to implement successfully their interventions

3.5. Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that :

The Action aims to contribute to the legally and effectively protect children according to international standards by directly influencing and leveraging change in terms of improving access to and utilization of inclusive, rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention and protection services for Children and Adolescents (Girls and boys) in Egypt.

The logic is the following:

Through various activities undertaken by the Action’s implementing partners the following will be produced:

- National frameworks (legal, policy, and institutional) are revised and strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against children.
- Technical capacities of stakeholders, including government and civil society, are strengthened to identify, prevent, and respond to cases of violence against children at the national level.
- CSOs have strengthened capacities to support service provision in the area of children’s rights and to contribute to children’s rights monitoring and advocacy in an environment that promotes positive social norms

On the assumption that National legislative and policy frameworks continue to evolve to support elimination of violence against children and that Stakeholders’ commitment, including at the institutional level, and minimum required capacities by duty bearers to support child rights and different stakeholders willing to collaborate in the implementation of the activities and that CSOs receive the necessary government approvals to implement their interventions, then the Action should directly influence a change that is expressed as Improved children’s access to and utilization of inclusive, rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention and protection services.

3.6. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact 1	Children are legally and effectively protected according to international standards.	Percentage of children aged 1-14 years experienced any form of violent discipling methods	(1)81%	(1) 75%	(1) Upcoming EFHS	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. Children and Adolescents (Girls and boys) in Egypt have improved access to and utilization of inclusive, rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention and protection services.	<p>1.1 Number of child-related laws and policies enacted or revised in compliance with international standards to end violence against children</p> <p>1.2 % of targeted individuals who report improved well-being (reduced level of distress) – OPSYS Core Indicator</p>	<p>(1.1) 0</p> <p>(1.2) 0.</p>	<p>(1.1)2</p> <p>(1.2) 60% of the 75,000 under 1.2.4 (45,000)</p>	<p>(1.1) Wellbeing assessments</p> <p>(1.2) IMS data Partners’ reports (Intervention Monitoring and Reporting System)</p>	The action will be able to promote engagement with different stakeholders, including community members

<p>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.1 National gender sensitive frameworks (legal, policy, and institutional) are revised and strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against children.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of gender sensitive policy documents revised / drafted regarding the improvement of policies and/or legislation related to violence against children (0.drafted 1. Submitted 2. Discussed 3. Approved)</p> <p>1.1.2 Status of secure, integrated information management systems for child protection</p>	<p>(1.1.1) 0</p> <p>(1.1.2) Not available</p>	<p>(1.1.1) 3</p> <p>(1.1.2) Integrated IMS is in place and piloted</p>	<p>(1.1.1) Availability of policy documents (1.1.2) Programme records</p>	<p>National legislative and policy frameworks continue to evolve to support elimination of violence against children</p>
<p>Output 2 related to Outcomes 1</p>	<p>1.2 Capacities of stakeholders, including government and civil society, are strengthened to identify, prevent, and respond to cases of violence against children, including cases of violence against girls, at the national level.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Number of frontline workers and protection actors trained as competent on child protection standards – Additional Indicator</p> <p>1.2.2 Existence of Standard Operating Procedure(s) governing referrals between social services, justice and health sectors in place and operational</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of children (girls and boys) who have experienced violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect benefiting from health, social work or justice/law enforcement services</p>	<p>(1.2.1) 0</p> <p>(1.2.2) Partially in place</p> <p>(1.2.3)0</p> <p>(1.2.4) 0</p>	<p>(1.2.1) 1,500</p> <p>(1.2.2) Cross-sectoral SOPs are in place and piloted</p> <p>(1.2.3)75 000</p> <p>F : 50% M :50%</p>	<p>(1.2.1) At close of training Survey and follow up</p> <p>(1.2.2) Programme records</p> <p>(1.2.3) IMS data Partners' reports (Intervention Monitoring</p>	<p>Stakeholders' commitment, including at the institutional level, and minimum required capacities by duty bearers to support child rights</p> <p>Different stakeholders willing to collaborate in the implementation of the activities</p>

		(disaggregated by sex, type of assistance) 1.2.4 Number of women, men, girls and boys reached by social norm change interventions – Additional Indicator (disaggregated by age and sex)		Type of Assistance : TBD during inception (1.2.4) 5 Million Children below 18 : 2M Adults: 3M F: 50% M:50%	and Reporting System) (1.2.4) Social media matrix, campaign reports	
Output 3 related to Outcomes 1	1.3 CSOs capacities to promote child rights and to provide child protection services are strengthened	1.3.1 No of civil society organisations capacitated to provide child protection services 1.3.2 No of civil society organisations supported to advocate for / raise awareness on child protection and children’s rights	(1.3.1) 0 (1.3.2) 0	(1.3.1) 15 (1.3.2) 15	(1.3.1) Grants monitoring and reporting system (1.3.2) grants monitoring and reporting system	CSOs receive the necessary government approvals to implement their interventions

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant will partially contribute to output 1.3 of the action.

b) Type of applicants targeted

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

4.3.2. Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to output 1.3.

4.3.3. Indirect Management with a pillar-assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with a pillar-assessed entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Proven track-record and significant experience in implementing interventions with focus on areas of Child rights.
- Experience in supporting and implementing development assistance projects in Egypt including through working with the Government of Egypt and civil society.
- Operational capacity to implement development assistance projects.
- Proven experience in coordination with international and local actors at both the EU and country level.

The implementation by this entity entails Output 1.1 and 1.2.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Outcome 1 - Improve children's access to and utilization of inclusive, rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention and protection services composed of	8 000 000
Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity – cf. section 4.3.3	4.000.000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	3 600 000
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.2	300 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	100 000
Strategic communication and Public diplomacy – cf. section 6	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.
Totals	8 000 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Steering Committee (SC) will be set up in the first six month of operation of the action to oversee and guide the overall direction and policy of the action. It shall meet twice a year. It could also be convened whenever the project implementation requires strategic decisions. The SC shall be chaired by the Ministry of International Cooperation (MoIC) on behalf of the Government of Egypt and will be composed of the Government line Ministries, representatives of other relevant ministries, and Government entities and representatives of the implementing partners. The EU Delegation in Egypt shall attend as an observer. Other entities and stakeholders shall be also invited whenever deemed appropriate. MoIC will act as SC secretariat. The SC will receive, discuss and review the periodical work plans, budgets, technical and financial reports of the programme. The SC can be also convened at any time whenever the action requires strategic decisions or changes.

For each contract a project technical coordination committee shall be convened twice a year. The composition of the technical coordination committee shall be defined at the contract level. The technical coordination

committees will be more of technical instruments to ensure ongoing monitoring and to discuss about the shaping of the actions. The EU will be an active member of those technical committees as the role will be to go beyond the one of a donor and more act as a partner.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its Outputs and contribution to the achievement of its Outcomes, and if possible at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its Impacts, as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Arrangements for monitoring and reporting, including roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring: In close cooperation with key stakeholders, the entities selected for implementation will ensure an internal monitoring framework for the action that will rely on national and international data sources. Data will be sex disaggregated and, when possible, include data on persons with disabilities involved in the Action..

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation will be carried out for this action via independent consultants contracted by the Commission via an implementing partner.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes.

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the outcomes of the evaluation will feed into the identification of forthcoming possible actions.

The Commission shall form a Reference Group (RG) composed by representatives from the main stakeholders at both EU and national (representatives from the government, from civil society organisations (private sector, NGOs, etc.), etc.) levels. If deemed necessary, other donors will be invited to join. The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner

country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3. Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All entities implementing EU-funded external actions have the contractual obligation to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the 2022 guidance document [Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions](#) (or any successor document).

This obligation will apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds. Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.

Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and the EU Delegation/Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before the implementation. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication actions as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.