THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Mediterranean Project

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Rome, 29 – 30 November 2012
Commitments before & after revolution to promote child rights

Lead by NCCM with the relevant governmental entities, donors institutions as:
- United Nations organizations.
- The Italian Cooperation,
- EC & the World Bank
- Civil society.

The outcome=
- Shedding light on many gaps.
- Mobilizing the community.
- Technical & financial assistance to build capacities of NCCM staff.
Some basic aspects of the civil status law to strengthen protections & rights of marginalized children to:

- Free birth registration.
- Guarantee identity to every child without discrimination.
- Unwed mothers—to register her child at birth & to issue her child a birth certificate with the mother's name.
- Age for registration of marriage was raised from 16 to 18 years.
- Health and education are basic human rights.
- Protection from violence, abuse, corporal punishment & maltreatment.
- Criminalization of FGM.
- Criminalization of child trafficking, sale, prostitution & pornography.
Challenges and gaps

- Unmet needs related to fulfilling the children and parents basics rights.
- Insufficient resource allocations to child protection agencies.
  - political, economic and security instability.
  - Lack of specialized services for preventing and responding to the key child protection issues.
  - A multidimensional cross cutting factors (poverty, cultural, social norms, lack of information & knowledge, discrimination & gender based violence).
- Illiteracy.
- Family size.
- Lack of basic services.
- Harassment in the streets.
- Schools (remote, unequipped, lacking quality, bullying)
Threatening child’s safety, moral, health, or life

- Increase phenomenon of street children (abused in drug trafficking, prostitution, organized begging & in petty crimes, used as catalysts in protests)
- Social and cultural norms supporting abusing the girl child in harmful practices (child marriage – summer or transactional marriages)
- Dilemma of violations of various forms of physical, moral, social & psychological violence.
- Decreased opportunities (illiteracy, unskilled, unwanted pregnancies, new children denying their rights to identity, susceptible to sale & trafficking by gangs who sell neonates born out of wedlock).
Figures from Egypt

- 36% of the population in Egypt are children.
- 26.4% of the children are below poverty line.
- 11.8% are deprived of food.
- 5% deprived of basic education.
- 1.5 million are children engaged in labor (CAPMUS Egypt report 2012).
Corporal punishment in schools may compromise the already very fragile learning process. In disadvantaged communities, 81% of children declared, they were beaten at home and 92% were beaten at school. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) reaches 91% in the age group 15–49 and 74% for girls aged 15–17 years. 72% were performed by medical doctors in 2008. The exact number of children living on the streets is unknown. (Available studies go from 5,000 to 18,000. However these numbers do not reflect the reality. UNICEF estimates the number to be in the tens of thousands of children). 7% to 21% of children between the ages of 6–14 are working (boys more than girls), 81% of working children are located in rural areas. For working children aged 10–14, 53% work in agriculture & 28% work in construction, which are considered hazardous occupations. (UNICEF reports)
International Cooperation and best practices

The “Poverty Alleviation project legal rights for children, women & girls” collaboration between the NCCM & the World Bank funded by the Italian cooperation:

- Through continuous efforts of donors group to safeguard the basic rights of children.
- By protection and empowerment of families, specially women & girls.
- Increasing their available opportunities, and improve their economic & social conditions.
- The Italian Cooperation provided technical support (capacity building & monitoring the impact.
- The World Bank partnered in implementation, technical & administrative support, & funding activities.
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The project was conducted in 7 governorates.

It aimed at:
- Raising awareness on child rights and human rights., particularly their rights to identity,
- Building capacities of NGOs, health service providers, and local communities on the procedures required to issue official documents required to guarantee child’s identity.
- Facilitating access to birth certificates, IDs.
- Empowering the project’s beneficiaries economically, educationally.
- Enhancing access to health services guiding policy makers.
International Cooperation and best practices

Cooperation with IOM for rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of trafficking “Best interest determination in collaboration between NCCM/ IOM &UNICEF” ...A Long Journey Home

- Mariam was sold when she was 10 to an Egyptian family living in her country, Freeland. Brought to Cairo, she was physically and emotionally abused.
- Mariam escaped after six years and was arrested for her irregular migratory status.
- IOM was called in to provide return assistance. Recognized as an unaccompanied minor (UAM) and Victim of trafficking (VoT),
- Mariam was released & admitted to the NCCM/IOM shelter.
- Her employer is being prosecuted in accordance with Law 64/2010.
- In coordination with UNICEF, NCCM & Freeland authorities, IOM helped Mariam to return home, as per her desire as outlined in the NCCM Best interest (BID) determination.
- An IOM travel escort accompanied Mariam to final destination, where she was welcomed by a shelter specialized in assistance to VoTs.
- Mariam can now continue her education. She found her long lost family. IOM will support her reintegration needs with a grant.
Way Forward … *more has to be done specially now* … “International cooperation in implementation of sustainable child protection mechanism

- Adopting a comprehensive protection & time-bound coordinating strategies & frameworks for child care giving & protection, with the children themselves,
- Budgets at national & decentralized levels should be the primary source of funds for child care giving & protection strategies & international cooperation & assistance from donor institutions to support, both financially & technically the child protection programmes, including training professional groups & those who are working with & for children.
- This financial & technical support should be provided systematically through strong & reasonable partnerships, at the national & international levels.
- Child rights–based protection programmes should be one of the main components in assisting sustainable development in countries receiving international assistance.
Way Forward... *more has to be done specially now*... “International cooperation in implementation of sustainable child protection mechanism

- Continue working with the **S R SG on Violence against Children** & other international & regional human rights mechanisms to advance this goal.
- International Cooperation for **enhancing human resources**, improving communication, cooperation & individual exchange experiences, within & between professional groups working with, and for children.
- International cooperation for **financial measurement, coordination, M & E** of the impact of a holistic child protection approach versus the costs of managing the direct & indirect impact of violence at the individual, community, national & even international levels.
Way Forward… *more has to be done specially now*… “International cooperation in implementation of sustainable child protection mechanism

- International cooperation & technical support for developing evidence-based indicators, systems, models (model legislation, tools, guidelines, protocols & practice standards for use by communities & professionals, with guidance on their adaptation to different perspectives)
- A platform for organized sharing & accessing of information, knowledge & best practices.
- Mechanisms for ensuring child rights protection during up & down cycles of economies, & challenging circumstances as war, revolutions, protests, natural disasters..etc.
- Regional & international cross-border cooperation risk situations regionally or cross-border as in what we call “children on the move” (Children who migrate in search of opportunities, children exploited in the context of migration, children who flee dangerous situations, children of migrants/refugees facing with social vulnerabilities & discriminations, unaccompanied/ separated/orphan migrant children, children involved in illegal adoption, or missing children.
Thanks

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