

## REPORT ON THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EGYPT 2015-2020

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women (2015-2020) in Egypt was launched and enacted in 2015 as a landmark for Egypt aiming to pave the way for an inclusive full-fledged approach to coordinate and consolidate all the concerned stakeholders' efforts of ending Violence against Women (VAW) in Egypt. The National Council for Women (NCW) was mandated and entrusted, as Egypt's national women machinery, to lead the process of drafting the strategy in full coordination with different line ministries, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and experts in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment. The strategy was adopted by the Prime Minister with more than committed 12 ministries, concerned councils and non-governmental entities and with the CSOs on board to work on the implementation of its five-year action plan. This important milestone was taken to translate the Egyptian constitution 2014 Articles into action, specifically Article 11 "*[t]he state is obligated to protect women against all forms of violence.*"

The strategy was also drafted to build upon Egypt's commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and platform for action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

A press conference was organized to mark the launching of the strategy. It was held under the auspices of the Prime Minister with a wide media coverage, and witnessed the participation of all stakeholders on the national and international level and the CSOs.

The National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women (2015-2020) defines the different forms of VAW and it includes four main pillars:

**Prevention Pillar    Protection Pillar    Services Intervention    Legal Prosecution**

## A GLIMPSE AT THE GLOBAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

During the implementation period of the strategy and its action plan, a lot of emerging dynamics and changes has occurred on both the global and the national level. On the global level, in September 2015, the United Nations (UN) members adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promising to leave no one behind and specifying, among other goals, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number five for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women** to make sure that all segments of the societies, principally women and girls, are included within the development plans of their governments and are able to contribute to their countries' development without facing violence or discrimination.

In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the Corona-Virus Disease (COVID-19) is a pandemic. COVID-19 is **a global pandemic** that took over the world leaving women among the most vulnerable dealing with its repercussions, and risking the achievement of the SDGs. While previous experiences in such crisis also put women and girls at the **highest risk to an even more increased level of violence** against them due to a higher level of tension and psychological burden. The COVID-19 pandemic played a major role to turn the gender equality agenda over, and facing increased VAW was inevitable given the lockdown and quarantine that had to be imposed to contain the pandemic. The Economic repercussions and burden have put families and households into a great pressure with women and girls possibly encountering unfortunate consequences such as increased level of domestic violence, school dropouts, child marriages, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices.

On the national level, the political will has been evident, starting by the Egyptian President visiting a woman who was subjected to harassment in July 2014 which proved the direction of this government and its stance towards such crimes. In 2017, The President of Egypt has announced this year to be **the Egyptian Year for Women**, which motivated all stakeholders to accelerate their efforts towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, especially those on eliminating violence and discrimination against women.

Additionally, in 2017, the **National Strategy for Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 (NSEW 2030)** was adopted by the President of Egypt with a clear directive to the GoE to adopt all its contents and consider it as a guide and a roadmap for all the work concerning

the empowerment of women, making Egypt the first country globally to launch its national women strategy 2030 in line with the SDGs. The NSWE 2030 was designed under Egypt's Vision 2030 and in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and the following specific indicators of SDG number five:

- SDG 5.2 (eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation) and;
- SDG 5.3 (eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation).

To ensure **strategic policy making alignment and coherence**, the NSEW 2030 designated a pillar for the '**protection of women from all forms of violence and discrimination against them**' which is the main umbrella for all the work of the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women and its action plan (2015-2020).

In response to COVID-19, Egypt was the first country in the world to issue a policy paper on "**Egypt's Rapid Response to Women's Situation during the COVID-19 Outbreak**", that described the situation of women and helped shape the national response to the pandemic, which included response to VAW associated with the COVID-19 outbreak. A "**Women Policy Tracker on Responsive Policies and Programs during the New COVID-19 Pandemic**" was launched by the government to monitor the implementation of these policies.

## HOW WAS THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTED?

After the adoption of the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women and its action plan, in April 2015, several Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) were signed with different line ministries, concerned councils and entities to **institutionalize the strategy and its action plan's implementation**. A **steering committee** was formed on the central level to guide the policy and strategic direction. An **executive committee**, that gathered technical experts and representatives, was also formed with the purpose of coordinating the implementation of the strategy's action plan.

Aiming to produce and enhance **knowledge products, data, statistics collection and analysis**, using international tools and techniques that were tailored to the Egyptian context and national priorities, in 2016, Egypt launched the "*Economic Cost of Gender Based Violence Survey*" to support evidence based policy-making while dealing with violence and



discrimination against women. Egypt is the first Arab country to conduct this survey. The survey facilitated the provision of **adequate knowledge-based products** for effective implementation and monitoring of the strategy.

Later in 2016/2017, and with the aim of **translating strategies** that are responsive and tailored to women's different needs and challenges **into actions**, and **incorporating the 2030 agenda's SDG 5 within the strategy implementation**, NCW took steps towards the **localization of the strategy and its action plan**. Through its 27 branches all over the governorates of Egypt, NCW conducted workshops and focus groups in each governorate to discuss the needs, challenges and prospects needed in relation to the strategy. Local CSOs and local departments on ministries and entities concerned with women's empowerment participated in these workshops in order to ensure that the **implementation of the strategy's action plan was based upon a participatory approach and a considered local dimension**.

Furthermore, NCW worked on developing working groups on the local level to 1) address the challenges, 2) report them to the central executive authorities 3) propose solutions that are practical and realistic 4) include these solutions within the annual workplan of each concerned stakeholder 5) map existing prevention, protection and response services/services outlets and capacities.

Ensuring and facilitating these interlinkages between local actors on ground with the international policies and Egyptian strategies and central context was a crucial step to breakdown the strategy's vision and mission into responsive actions in an integrated manner.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Having a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system is mandatory to be able to assess each and every step and update policies to match the global and national context. The following M&E mechanisms were established to ensure proper and rigorous implementation of the strategy:

- 1) Establishment of the Unit for the Elimination of VAW within NCW.
- 2) Establishment of steering and executive committees to monitor the strategy and its action plan's progress and implementation.
- 3) Establishment of Egyptian National Observatory for Women (ENOW) to monitor the progress and indicators of the NSEW 2030, specifically indicators under the pillar of protection of women from all forms of violence and discrimination.
- 4) Holding periodic and regular meetings between NCW and the Egyptian Cabinet as indicated in the NSEW 2030 to assure GoE's accountability and commitment towards the implementation.
- 5) Holding official periodic meetings with EOUs within concerned line ministries.
- 6) Holding regular meetings and open dialogue with NCW's CSOs Forum including women specialized organizations.
- 7) Establishment of local taskforces and issuing regular Local Governorates reports.
- 8) Exchanging regular official letters from/with Line ministries.
- 9) Launching the Women Policy Tracker on Responsive Policies and Programs during the New COVID-19 Pandemic.

To ensure **full transparency and accountability** of the work done under the strategy, there has been several reports that were regularly published to sensitize the public about what has been achieved such as:

- **Egyptian Women Factsheet** with a section on the protection of women from violence against them that includes efforts of the GoE.
- **NCW's Annual Reports (Hasad)** including a section on efforts to eliminate VAWG that indicates the efforts of NCW.

Moreover, during the annual international campaign "16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" and specifically on its closing day each year, NCW has been **announcing the**

**results** of the intensified work that has been done during this campaign, along with the **yearly progress** that has been achieved on eliminating VAWG at large throughout the year. For an inclusive implementation approach, NCW has conducted a number of 10 consultations **and dialogues on VAW with its CSOs Forum** since the launch of the strategy. The CSOs Forum has formed **a sub working group** within its structure **to focus on topics related to VAW** and develop recommendations on regular basis.

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED FOR EGYPTIAN WOMEN? WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES AND GAPS?

### OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT

- Highlight the most important results of the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women (2015-2020).
- Showcase detailed achievements and activities implemented under each of the four pillars of the strategy to provide a transparent tool for the public on what has been done and what the gaps are.
- Explain the M&E process that took place during the implementation of the strategy.
- Act as a new standing point that can be used to determine the way forward and future steps needed to continue and build upon the previous efforts to eliminated violence and discrimination.

Furthermore, after the launch of this report, several national studies that aim to compile statistics and research on the extent, causes and effects of VAW shall be issued to further assess the goals, targets and new baselines using scientific methodological tools (such as but not limited to: a second edition of the Economic Cost of GBV and the DHS).

## HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### **ROBUST LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The GoE had a very strong legislative framework and baseline to build on before the adoption of the strategy to ensure social justice and protect all women equally without any discrimination against them. Around 19 different laws and nine decrees and decisions were enacted by the GoE during the implementation period of the strategy (2015-2020) among these are: criminalizing FGM and imposing sticker penalties to omitting any reference to its medical justification, and Introducing penalties to incriminate anyone who promoted, advocated, encouraged or incited to commit the crime; protecting imprisoned mothers; criminalizing migrant smuggling; amending inheritance law; and issuing a law for the rights of people with disabilities; combating cyber-crimes; protection of data of women survivors of violence; and criminalizing bullying.

The equal access to justice for women and the enforcement of those laws to protect them is evidently manifested, specially through the transparent statements made by concerned authorities such as the Public Prosecution Office (PPO). Digitization and the provision of the e-government services facilitated the dissemination of timely and adequate information to the Egyptian public, which has also motivated women to seek legal actions in case of facing any form of violence.

NCW has submitted to the GoE a comprehensive anti-VAW bill that defines the different forms of VAW and provides a comprehensive legal framework for dealing with VAW. NCW has conducted several consultations and hearing sessions with different stakeholders in order to finalize this draft bill and ensure a participatory approach.

### **PROVIDING FULL FLEDGED COORDINATED MULTISECTORAL SERVICES THROUGH A NATIONAL REFERRAL PATHWAY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES PACKAGE THAT ENSURES EGYPTIAN WOMEN SAFETY**

Decree no. 827/2021 was issued by the Prime Minister of Egypt to establish a one stop shop for the protection of women victims of violence.





With adaptation to its national context, Egypt applied the global Essential Services Package (ESP)<sup>1</sup>; protection, health, counseling, and legal for women who are subjected to violence which included: Medical Protocol for Healthcare of Women Subjected to GBV in Egypt; Judges' Standards of Handling Crimes of Violence against Women; Procedural Manual on Handling Cases VAW; Manual on Effective Police Response to Crimes of Violence against Women; Survivors' Advocate Manual for NCW's Women Complaints Office Staff; Practical Guide for NCW's Women Complaints Office Hotline Operators; Operational Manual for anti-violence units in universities; Training of Trainers (TOT) Manual for Women Complaints Office Staff on VAW Case Management; TOT Manual for Health Service Providers on VAW Case Management; Adapted Module on Social Services for VAW Case Management and Shelters' Guidelines. Prior to the finalization of the ESP, Egypt developed a medical protocol/guideline for medical response for women victims of violence. This was a major factor that qualified Egypt to be among the first 10 countries for piloting the ESP given the serious steps taken demonstrating its commitment to end VAW.

Moreover, the first National Referral Pathway Model for women subjected to violence was developed as a model for multi-sectoral referral in the legal, medical and social sectors. In November 2019, as the national coordinating body, NCW officially adopted the referral pathway model by the development of the first national process to ensure the quality and efficiency of services for women subjected to violence. The model is shared with the concerned authorities and entry points/ service providers to VAW cases (e.g., hospitals, health clinics, police departments, and units for eliminating VAW in universities). Operational local referral pathways in all governorates are currently being developed.

Additionally, in response to COVID-19, the PPO announced the opening of a digitized office for the prosecution of family courts in different governorates.

## **INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS WITH ADEQUATE RESOURCES**

Institutional innovation to improve women's access to services designed to protect women from violence against them is a powerful tool. The GoE has been keen to deliver such services to women efficiently and effectively and to extend the reach of those services to all women across the governorates of Egypt. This was done in a manner that is building upon existing

---

<sup>1</sup> The Essential Services Package was created by the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, which was launched by UNFPA and UN Women in December 2013. The participating UN agencies include: UNFPA, UN WOMEN, WHO, UNDP and UNODC.



baseline that were created before the strategy as well as creating new innovative mechanisms that are institutionalized within existing architecture to ensure sustainability.

#### Upgrading and upscaling existing mechanisms:

NCW worked on upgrading several already existing vital mechanisms; its Women Complaints Office (WCO) and hotline, to enable it to widen its scope of work and increase its reach out and availability of services. Strong linkages were enhanced between the WCO and the PPO, the special unit for eliminating VAW which is established within the Ministry of Interior (MoI), and the one within the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Moreover, the already existing shelters to receive women subjected to violence were upgraded.

#### Establishing new mechanisms:

The strategy's implementation period witnessed the establishment of the following mechanisms: NCW's Unit for Eliminating VAW, a number of 24 anti-VAW units within universities, three VAW clinics within the department of forensic medicine, the first shelter for survivors of the crime of human trafficking, specialized criminal departments within the courts of appeal at the republic level, and four women safety medical units within the university hospitals.

### **QUALIFIED HUMAN RESOURCES FOR IMPROVED SERVICES**

Without qualified human resources mechanisms will be feeble. Investing in human resources and capacity development is a key factor to ensure services are provided with the highest quality, convenience and gender responsiveness. To ensure this, NCW has cooperated with different governmental and non-governmental institutions to strengthen the role of health services providers, counseling and law enforcement officers, and the personnel managing the units established to eliminate violence against women. This was within the framework of the ESP. Training programs were provided to forensic doctors, physicians and nurses, NGOs services providers, personnel working in women shelters, anti-VAW units, women safety units, NCW's WCO personnel, police officers, legal marriage officials (Maazon), public prosecutions admin officers, family prosecution auditors, women and men judges, and members of the administrative prosecution authority.

## BEHAVIORAL CHANGE AND AWARENESS RAISING AS A PREVENTIVE AND PROTECTIVE MEASURE AGAINST HARMFUL PRACTICES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

While efforts have been exerted to ensure protection of Egyptian women from all forms of violence and discrimination through proposing and enacting laws, policies, institutional mechanisms, services provision and training programs, these efforts alone will never change the root causes of violence. **Changing mentalities, attitude, behavior and misconceptions** is one critical factor to ensure women's empowerment and gender equality. Moreover, unifying the communication messages of multi-stakeholders will act as an efficient proactive tool towards behavioral change and community engagement. In that context, the biggest nationwide campaign "*the Secret of your Power*" was launched based on an innovative motivating approach that focuses on women empowerment and strength. This has been the umbrella of all other awareness raising and behavioral change in all women related campaigns. Other **mega campaigns** were launched addressing **harassment in public spaces, safe transportation means, domestic violence, early marriage, FGM, human trafficking, and cyber-crimes.**

Behavioral change and awareness raising through digital and on ground campaigns was also coupled by the **use of Art and soft power.** NCW in cooperation with different stakeholders utilized drama, musicals and songs, to address harmful practices and to shed light on their implications not only on women's and girls' lives but also among families.

On another hand, to accelerate progress on the women's empowerment agenda **engagement of men and boys** is crucial. Through the **use of sports,** workshops, focus groups, football tournaments, NCW and stakeholders were able to reach out to men and boys and raise their awareness about women issues.

Furthermore, to ensure women and girls **are aware of the existing protective measures and VAW reporting mechanisms,** including: legislations, hotlines and helplines, and services (e.g., NCW's hotline and National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) child helpline), several offline and online campaigns were conducted. Furthermore, utilization of ICT was used to combat VAW through several initiatives.

While awareness raising is such an important behavioral change tool, **education** cannot be overlooked. Educational material entitled "*Values and Mutual Respect*" for third grade students was developed. The material focuses on the clear concepts of having mutual respect

between all human beings equally. Moreover, the educational curricula in secondary schools included a section about women and about the women's national machinery in Egypt.

## SAFER CITIES, SAFER ENVIRONMENTS

Egypt has succeeded to provide decent housing to the residents of informal settlements that was complemented with the provision of 1) accessible services to protect women from violence against them, 2) social empowerment programme to help women and their families adapt to the new environment 3) economic empowerment initiatives to provide a source of income for women to support their financial independence.

Moreover, and through the Safe Cities Initiative<sup>2</sup>, **physical urban environment has been improved** in various spaces. A **women friendly community space** has been built up in different decent areas such as "Zaneen" market which was designed to provide women with a safe working space.

Several actions were also taken to ensure **women's safety in public spaces and transportation**. During official vacations and holidays, local authorities intensify their efforts to ensure women's safety in public streets and spaces. Safe public transportation is an essential component of safe cities for women. Several awareness raising campaigns were launched to ensure women are safe within public transportation and provide reporting mechanisms and information for women users of those transportation means.

And recently, in order to take more measures that would provide greater safety for women and girls in public transportation and public transport, the Minister of Transport issued Decree No. 237/2021 to issue the National Code of Conduct for users, operators and workers in transportation facilities and means.

---

<sup>2</sup> UNWOMEN Global Initiative



## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS, DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

"The Economic Cost of Gender Based Violence Survey" in 2015, was the first to be developed after launching the strategy. Another study on the

2.17 billion Egyptian Pounds

The total cost borne by the state due to violence

7.888 million women

Suffer from all forms of violence and do not report incidents or seek help

10% of women (between 18 and 64 years)

Were harassed in the Egyptian public transport

7% of women (between 18 and 64 years)

Were harassed in public transportation

18% of women (between 18 and 64 years)

Were subject to domestic violence from one of their family members



prevalence of domestic violence and sexual harassment

in public places entitled "Violence against Women ... Dimensions and Coping Mechanisms" was issued. During COVID-19, NCW and the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera) launched a survey entitled "Survey of Egyptian Women's Poll on the Emerging COVID-19". Other studies are currently at the pipeline, such as a study on the prevalence of FGM; a survey on the social and economic repercussions of divorce on women and men; study on violence against women with disabilities.

## CHALLENGES/GAPS

### CHALLENGES

VAW in all its forms is a worldwide phenomenon. There is no single country that is free of violence or discrimination against women and girls. Under the protection pillar of the NSEW 2030, the indicator for the percentage of women who are subjected to harassment, or physical or psychological violence from their husbands, is aspired to be zero by 2030. Even though those targets might seem impossible to achieve, but the GoE adopts a zero-tolerance policy to any kind of violence against women and girls.

Despite all the exerted efforts, there are still some challenges. Among the most significant challenges is changing mindset and attitudes of both men and women towards gender equality and women's empowerment issues. Studies<sup>3</sup> have shown that there are still misconceptions about gender equality issues in Egypt; those related to the importance of having equal opportunities and rights for men and women, or to harmful practices that stem from traditions that have negative implications on the Egyptian society as a whole. Unfortunately, some of those harmful practices and attitudes have been already "normalized", and therefore perceived by the society as acceptable which makes it more difficult to eliminate.

Furthermore, in the last year of its implementation, the strategy's action plan has been drastically changed after the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Global pandemics and crises tend to subject women and girls to even higher risks of violence, and unfortunately given the context, it is usually very difficult to obtain data due to the methodological challenges at those times. In April 2020, NCW has conducted a phone survey that focused on getting a glimpse of the percentage increase of violence and harmful practices. The survey was used as a guide to enhance the policies and measures taken by Government to protect women and girls during the containment measures of the pandemic.

The pandemic's containment measures, including the lockdown, led to a sudden major and significant reliance on technology and digitization, being the available entry points to the outer world at the time. Accordingly, the digitization of all the programs, services and

---

<sup>3</sup> Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) - Egypt - Key Findings (2016-2017). UN Women. 2018

mechanisms was no longer an option, it was a necessity. The new normal and realities brought by COVID-19 requires intensified efforts, in addition to huge resources to enhance the digitization infrastructure of these platforms to ensure women needs are met and that they are protected during the pandemic.

Accordingly, a Women Policy Tracker was designed to track all policies that are considerate to women's needs during the pandemic, including those that prevent and protect from VAW. The GoE is the first among the world to issue a COVID-19 Women Policy Tracker.

## **GAPS**

Even though Egypt has made concrete steps to issue and amend laws to eliminate VAW, yet the issuance of a comprehensive law that defines, addresses and criminalizes all forms of VAW and tackles domestic violence is still missing. A comprehensive anti-VAW law shall provide a holistic legal framework for dealing with VAW, given the existence of a strong enforcement mechanism and tailoring a focused awareness raising campaign.

Consequently, the absence of a comprehensive anti-VAW law, makes the statistics and numbers of VAW reported cases within the justice system/authorities inaccurate. Egypt provides data, knowledge products and information about VAW through its national concerned machinery CAPMAS that has the capacity to apply international methodological tools using national resources and context to examine the extent, causes and effects of violence.

Moreover, there is a need to intensify efforts on raising the awareness of Egyptian women and girls on the already existing robust laws that protect them from any form of violence against them.

A strong institutional baseline was created to enhance health services for women subject to violence by establishing safety medical response units within hospital universities. Moreover, through the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), more than 2249 doctors have been trained to handle cases of VAW. Yet, there is still a need to upscale these models so that these health services are available and accessible to all Egyptian women as well as raise the awareness of women extensively about those services and their whereabouts.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION:**

- (1) Adopt a comprehensive legislation, law or code that defines, addresses and criminalizes all forms of VAW and tackles domestic violence, will provide a holistic legal framework for dealing with VAW.
- (2) Such a legislation should be accompanied with a strong enforcement mechanism;
- (3) Conduct a tailored awareness raising campaign about the legislation and its benefits to Egyptian women and girls and the whole society

### **ENHANCE INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICES:**

Providing an integrated and sustainable services to women and girls subjected to violence is crucial, as VAW crimes are of a particular nature, this can be realized through taking several steps.

- (4) Activate the recently established one stop shop/center to receive and protect women subjected of violence, which will bring together services of concerned authorities and facilitate the provision of and accessibility to such services.
- (5) Upscale the anti-violence units & women safety units in all universities and national entities.
- (6) Upscale and the institutionalization of the training programs for government officials and law enforcement authorities.
- (7) Expand the implementation of family counseling programs to those who are intending to get married, as well as psychological support programs for women who are subjected to violence.

### **STENRGHTHEN REFERAL PATHWAY AND COORDINATION:**

- (8) Ensure the continuation and sustainability of efforts exerted to build a national coordinated referral pathway between the various essential services needed by women subjected to violence, on both the central and local levels, and to establish a multispectral network of service providers from the legal, health, psychosocial and social realms;



- (9) Enhance coordination at the local level to ensure an effective and sustainable services provided for women subjected to violence in all governorates.

#### **PROMOTE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**

- (10) Enhance institutional mechanisms through upscaling the development of innovative policy tools (e.g., code of conduct) which are tailored to different sectors, with the purpose of addressing VAW within the working environment. Such innovative tools will work on assuring the commitment of decision makers as well as personnel working within those sectors to a zero-tolerance policy against VAW.

#### **PRODUCE AND ENHANCE DATA AND KNOWLEDE:**

Data and information can better address prevention and protection efforts to eliminate VAW. The huge availability of data and raw materials related to VAW in Egypt should be utilized and translated into communication products to enhance dissemination of knowledge. More specifically it's important to

- (11) Conduct a second survey on violence against women to measure cost of services and compare results. Publish the results of 2020 Demographic Health Survey (DHS).

#### **CONTINUE TO RAISE AWARENESS:**

Raising awareness and sensitization for rooting out VAW pave the way for change.

- (12) Upscale behavioral change and awareness raising programs targeting both men and women on gender equality and women's empowerment. This will shed light on VAW issues, foster safer societies, and combat the root causes of VAW.

### **MEDIA PLATFORMS ADDRESSING VAW:**

Media platforms are game changers and have great potential in promoting women's empowerment and the elimination of violence against them.

- (13) Conduct capacity building programs for personnel in different media platforms on VAW issues and legal measures of protecting women. This will enhance the promotion of good practices and limit the dissemination of erroneous concepts about issues related to VAW.

### **ENHANCE AND EXPAND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES:**

In the advanced and increasingly digitized world we live in today, information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) play a critical role in accelerating the progress towards eliminating VAW. ICTs helps organizations in furthering their initiatives, reaching out to women and community members, and sharing information about available resources. It's important to

- (14) Enhance and capitalize on the use of ICTs as an indispensable means to protect women and girls and prevent violence.

### **PROMOTE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:**

Limited economic resources opportunities reinforce VAW. Several studies suggest a strong link between women's economic empowerment and their protection from violence.

- (15) Implement innovative and transformative programs that empower women economically, expands their financial independence and strengthen their economic position within their families. This will act as a preventive and protective tool against violence.