



المجلس القومي للمرأة
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

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

FOREWORD

Providing protection for women from all forms of violence remains one of the central goals that countries strive to achieve. The Government of Egypt (GoE) has worked on accelerating progress to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women as set forth in the 2014 Egyptian constitution, and during the past five years, Egypt took various steps to prioritize gender responsive implementation and legislative as well as institutional frameworks through building integrated approaches to end harmful practices against women and girls and creating enabling environments for Egyptian women to be able to contribute effectively in the sustainable development of their country.



The best ingredient in the women's empowerment agenda across nations is having a sincere political will and belief that women's empowerment is a national duty. Luckily, we have this in Egypt. With such sincere political will and commitment, constitutional text that clearly states women's rights, legislative reform, institutional transformation, adequate response services and a functioning justice system, gender equality will be enhanced and women will be able to enjoy their full rights.

The National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women was a crucial milestone that has been taken by the GoE in 2015 to provide a clear vision and steps for all stakeholders to follow in eliminating Violence against Women (VAW).

This report **"Report on the National Strategy to Eliminate VAW 2015-2020"** comes to depict the translation of the National Strategy to Eliminate VAW (2015-2020) into reality: A safe society that guarantees protection for women, provides integrated services, and is committed to fulfilling women's rights and ensuring their effective and equitable participation in social, economic, political and cultural life.

All these efforts had to be done through addressing all forms of discrimination against women by adopting the principles of social justice and equal opportunities for all. Engagement with community members, by implementing comprehensive policies and creating an integrated system for cooperation between the government and the civil society that works to overcome all the obstacles that limit women's participation in the society, was crucial to enhance women's productive contribution in public life.

While the world has gone through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the strategy's implementation has not stopped. On the contrary, given the increased risk of potential VAW during such pandemic specially with the lockdown measures, the work on VAW has been intensified to make sure women are protected and their needs are met, bearing all the containment measure of the pandemic in mind. This included digitization of services and awareness raising programs, tailoring specialized programs that address domestic violence, the increased unpaid work burden, as well as cybercrimes against women.

I am very glad to witness such political will and determined government entities and non-government organizations (NGOs) that worked with us hand in hand and made remarkable and unprecedented achievements to ensure safety, social justice and equal opportunities for women in Egypt. And for that, I extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all governmental and non-governmental entities and development partners for their valuable efforts in support of the implementation of the strategy.

Eliminating the gendered nature of VAW, with all its causes and different forms, remains to be our main focus. Awareness raising and behavioral change are indispensable approaches to touch base the root causes of violence in a "never-ending" manner. And even though we understand that eliminating harmful traditional social norms take years to be achieved, today we are starting to witness the progress that has been reached as a result of the efforts exerted to combat VAW throughout the years.

Our dream is that no single woman lives in fear of violence, all the women are aware of their legal rights, or never to compromise or give up those rights. Our dream is that each and every Egyptian woman is fully capable of making her own decisions. With zero tolerance for VAW, we will continue what we have started so that our girls grow up in a safe environment where they are confident and capable of protecting their own selves.

Maya Morsy

President of The National Council for Women

Acronyms & Abbreviations

Administrative Prosecution Authority	APA
American University in Cairo	AUC
Bus Rapid Transit	BRT
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics	CAPMAS
Central Bank of Egypt	CBE
Civil Society Organizations	CSOs
Committee on the Status of Women	CSW
Corona-Virus Disease	COVID-19
Demographics and Health Survey	DHS
Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research	Baseera
Egyptian National Observatory for Women	ENOW
Egyptian National Railway Authority	ENRA
Egyptian Stock Exchange	ESE
Equal Opportunity units	EOUs
Essential Services Package	ESP
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	EBRD
Facebook	FB
Female Genital Mutilation	FGM
Financial Regulatory Authority	FRA
Government of Egypt	GoE
Information and Communication Technology	ICT
Instagram	IG
International Business Driving License for Business Management	IBDL
International Labour Organization	ILO
International Organization for Migration	IOM
Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises	MSME
Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Development Agency	MSMEDA
Memorandum of Understandings	MOUs
Middle East and North Africa	MENA
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	MCIT

Ministry of Health and Population	MoHP
Ministry of Interior	MoI
Ministry of International Cooperation	MoIC
Ministry of Justice	MoJ
Ministry of Planning and Economic Development	MoPED
Ministry of Youth and Sports	MoYS
Monitoring and Evaluation	M&E
National Center for Criminal and Social Research	NCCSR
National Coordinating Committee for Combating Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons	NCCPIM&TIP
National Council for Childhood and Motherhood	NCCM
National Council for Persons with Disabilities	NCPD
National Council for Women	NCW
National Strategy for Women Empowerment 2030	NSEW 2030
Non-Governmental Organizations	NGOs
Public Prosecution Office	PPO
Public Service Announcements	PSAs
Sustainable Development Goals	SDGs
Training of Trainers	TOT
United Nations	UN
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF
United Nations Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	CEDAW
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	ESCWA
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UNWOMEN
United Nations Fund for Population	UNFPA
United Nations General Assembly	UNGA
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UNODC
Village Savings and Loans Associations	VSLAS
Violence against Women	VAW
Violence against Women and Girls	VAWG
Women Business Development Center	WBDC
Women Complaints Office	WCO
World Economic Forum	WEF
World Health Organization	WHO

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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.

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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.

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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 stiffer 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.

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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)¹; 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.

¹ 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.

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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 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.

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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 (Maazoon), 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.

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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**², **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

² UNWOMEN Global Initiative

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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.

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 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.



2.17 billion Egyptian Pounds

The total cost borne by the females and their families due to violence

7.888 million women

Suffer from all forms of violence yearly & less than 1% of this number report incidents or seek help/services

10% of women (between 18 and 64 years)

Were harassed in the Egyptian streets

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 the family members

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. Studies³ 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 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

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

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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.

REPORT WRITING METHODOLOGY

The National Council for Women (NCW), in its capacity as the national women machinery in Egypt has developed this report to capture the progress that has been achieved under the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women and its action plan, since its launch in April 2015 until April 2021. The information provided in this report is based on both qualitative and descriptive concepts, as well as quantitative approach to allow measurement and in-depth exploration of achievements in the area of eliminating Violence against Women (VAW) during the mentioned reporting period.

INFORMATION GATHERING

A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system has been established since the launch of the strategy in April 2015. Through this system, accumulative collection and analysis of all information and progress of implementing the strategy and its action plan was done. NCW through its General Department for Monitoring and Evaluation and its Unit for Eliminating VAW gathered periodic reports that illustrated activities, progress and challenges from national counterparts that were represented at the steering and executive committee of the strategy. Additionally, progress achieved by NCW was included at NCW's monthly and annual progress reports. These reports are shared with the Presidency's office, Prime Minister's office as well as the Egyptian Parliament. NCW also used its Women policy Tracker on Responsive Policies and Programs during the New COVID-19 Pandemic to integrate all measures and policies taken by the Government of Egypt to protect Egyptian women during the COVID-19 pandemic against violence.

Moreover, the equal opportunity units (EOUs) in line ministries dedicated a section within their periodic reporting system to NCW on VAW under the strategy. Furthermore, reports and information were gathered from NCW's Civil Society Organizations Forum and the Egyptian National Observatory for Women (ENOW).

DRAFTING PROCESS

From January 2020 until January 2021, NCW conducted two workshops to identify the report's structure, methodology and drafting mechanism. The workshops resulted on the development of worksheets to include all the five-year activities and progress reached under the strategy. The five-year worksheets were then segregated under the four pillars of the strategy for easier observation of the status of each pillar.

Additionally, several meetings and consultations with different stakeholders including national and international counterparts were conducted to discuss the report's objective and the process of drafting it.

A separate component was created and designed within this report to include status of women and measures taken to protect them from all forms of violence and discrimination relevant to environment, climate change, crises and pandemics. This was done to take into consideration the measures taken to face COVID-19 pandemic's repercussions on women.

This process assisted in determining recommendations and suggested way to move forward after the termination of this strategy based upon what has been done and taking into consideration the current situation and context.

The Efforts of concerned entities in Implementing the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence Against Women 2015-2020

First: Prevention Pillar

Sub-goals:

1. Raising public awareness and rectification of religious discourse
2. Analyzing the phenomenon from social and economic aspects
3. Reviewing related policies and amending legislations addressing VAW
4. Developing and utilizing information and communication technology, media and advertising to stand against all forms of VAW

1. Raising public awareness and rectification of religious discourse

Awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives on VAW issues, existing services, and the national legal frameworks to eliminate it, has made tangible progress in broadly reaching the general public and policy makers, through various communication channels⁴ (e.g., popular social media platforms, public transport campaigns, radio and television Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and seminars and training programs). The National Strategy to Eliminate VAW (2015-2020) served as **a framework for awareness raising campaigns and initiatives and sustained communication.**

A key factor that helped in implementing a wide range of communication activities is the partnership between all concerned stakeholders which requires taking future measures to ensure the continuation of efforts and maintaining this momentum and what has been achieved, such as: (1) Enhancing coordination between various entities to ensure the maximum benefit of the available resources. (2) Addressing key information gaps, by conducting surveys, (3) Emphasizing the importance of unified awareness messages, and (4) Reaching all society segments.

⁴ Reference to the Annual progress reports of the NCW and knocking doors campaigns reports

A. Developing full-fledged awareness raising campaigns addressing the different forms manifestations of VAW



Knocking Doors Campaign

A face-to-face awareness raising was conducted in all 27 governorates by rural women and religious women leaders who were trained on different VAW issues, reaching millions of visits to raise awareness about those issues



"Taa' Marbouta .. The Secret of your Power" Campaign

135 million, 300 thousand followers

A number of Women's empowerment messages widely publicized on social media platforms and media channels to raise awareness on the importance of eliminating VAWG, women's rights in economic development and education.



"Mateskoteesh" (Break your Silence) Campaign

25% reported increase in complaints received through the national hotline

The dissemination of messages to urge women to report forms of sexual harassment (highways displayed on billboards across Cairo, Alexandria and Minya governorates as well as radio and TV ads.)



"Don't let a station stop you" Campaign

**4 main metro station in Cairo
2 million daily metro passengers reached**

The dissemination of messages that focused on addressing women's rights in family planning, combatting sexual harassment, early marriage and women's rights to economic opportunities.



"Speak up ... protect yourself and others" Campaign

307 thousand views

Launched to increase women's awareness about cyber risks, safe use, and means of reporting cybercrimes and forms of virtual VAW. (**Cybersafety**)

First: Prevention Pillar

1-Raising Awareness

#حاسبوا-
على-
كلامكم

"Choose words wisely" Campaign
In collaboration with Instagram platform

Launched to shed light on the alarming phenomenon of internet bullying and raise awareness of its psychological effects. The campaign also focused on showcasing the importance of maintaining a positive environment on the platform, and promoting of tailored tools to protect from bullying.

" Harassment is a crime ... Speak up"

Campaign aims to spread awareness about the importance of not being silent about crimes of harassment in transportation and public places to provide a safe environment for women and girls to move. The campaign included an educational video by the artist Menna Shalaby and the artist Hani Adel, in addition to a set of posters and awareness messages that were published on social media.



Nour Song

**66 million and 100
thousand views**

It tackled discrimination against women, especially in the field of employment, and had the trend on Twitter for the first 24 hours of its broadcast. The song was performed by singer Zap Tharwat and featured artist Amina Khalil.



"Hatefre'y" (You Matter) Song

This song encourages girls to confront the phenomenon of harassment by shedding light on realistic situations that girls and women are exposed to, by singer Farah Basma.



**"Women's Safety Resources" guide in
collaboration with Facebook platform**

Aims to spreading awareness about ways to protect women from cyber violence through the protection tools provided by the Facebook platform to prevent cybercrime



First: Prevention Pillar

1-Raising Awareness

Launching an initiative under the slogan of “Your law is your protection”, during which the National Council for Women led a series of meetings with representatives of equal opportunity units in ministries and experts from civil society organizations concerned with issues of women with disabilities, in addition to a group of women with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities, to come up with simplified and clear educational messages about the different forms of violence that women with disabilities are subjected to, and as a result, **(18) messages** were drafted and included in brochures that included legislative articles highlighting the rights of people with disabilities, all other relevant laws, and the penalties stipulated for each form of violence.

The message	Form of violence
I am not forgotten ... I have legal protection	General message
Neither my gender nor my disability limits my potential	Discrimination based on disability and gender discrimination
Give me my chance to fulfill my personality	Not creating favorable conditions, unequal opportunities, and disrespecting the differences, freedoms and human diversity of women with disabilities
By legal protection I will not be a subject for mocking	Contradicting stereotypes of women with disabilities in media
Cultural and sports services ... a right for you and for me	Deprivation of women with disabilities from culture, sports, tourism and entertainment activities
My health care is a responsibility	Denial of quality health care and not meeting their medical needs due to poor access to health services
Integrate me among them ... to be educated like them	Denial of inclusive education
Effective training guarantees a work opportunity	Denial of vocational preparation and professional training, while ensuring safety and security.
My safe and secure work in brings me income and sustainability	Deprivation of the right to a suitable work opportunity and not providing a safe work environment.
Simplify my banking services, I contribute to the development process	Deprivation of financial inclusion
My legal protection guarantees me humane treatment	Denial of legal protection
Litigation is your right ... and your assistance is a duty to enable you to attain your right	Lack of arrangements that facilitate criminal treatment
Don't take advantage of my disability, and violate my will	Exposure to danger and exploitation
No abuse, no marginalization... My law doesn't permit	Abuse, bullying, exposure and exploitation
My political participation is a guarantee of my legal rights	Denial of the right to political participation
My equality within my family realizes my opportunities	Harm and denial of family care
I am present in the census; I am using services	Hiding the Person with disabilities in statistics
With rights, law and accessibility my life is comfortable	Denial of accessibility and not providing a safe environment



View Full version :

<http://ncw.gov.eg/Pdf/475/%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%AA%D9%83->


Other activities addressing women with disabilities and their rights



“Let’s Protect Her” initiative to encourage students to use art to address the issue of violence against women with disabilities (16 days’ activism 2019)

Walking Marathon for Women with Disabilities
(16 days’ activism 2019)
50 participants



Safe Transportation for Women:

Launching a public awareness campaign in vital metro stations in October 2018, in Attaba, Ramses, Abbassiya and Cairo University. Large-scale posters were displayed in selected stations⁵, with awareness messages on **safe transportation, sexual harassment, early marriage, family planning & girls' education** and the empowerment of girls and women.

An impact evaluation survey was conducted by Baseera. The objective of the survey was to assess the reach, impact and effectiveness of the campaign in creating behavioral change towards women's empowerment. The campaign lasted four months, reaching around 11% to 21% of the total population of metro users which is estimated to be 2 million daily Metro users. The survey results were communicated with relevant partners' stakeholders who commended this pioneering effort in evaluation of public awareness campaigns.



⁵ The campaign implemented in partnership with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund

Launching a campaign entitled “Elsekka Aman” (Safe Transportation) at the **Ramses railway station** and other stations (including Etay Al-Baroud, Nekla, Kafr Dawood, Menouf, Ashmoun, and Tanta) which included the display of awareness videos, and a field initiative with a team of young volunteers to spread messages among the passengers on various forms of violence against women , in particular the importance of addressing sexual harassment. The campaign had achieved 73,000 reachout on the Facebook page of the National Council for Women until March 2021



“The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” United Nation’s global campaign:

National activities to increase community awareness on all forms of VAW, implemented annually across all governorates were implemented during the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” United Nation’s International Campaign. The 16 Days of Activism campaign is an annual international campaign, that starts on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs till 10 December, International Human Rights Day. Under the reporting period (2015-2020), NCW coordinated different activities, in partnership with governmental and non-governmental entities and development partners. The campaigns targeted different segments of the society; women / men / children / university schools’ students / employees in ministries and government entities / and media professionals. **The following highlights the main activities conducted in this regard:**

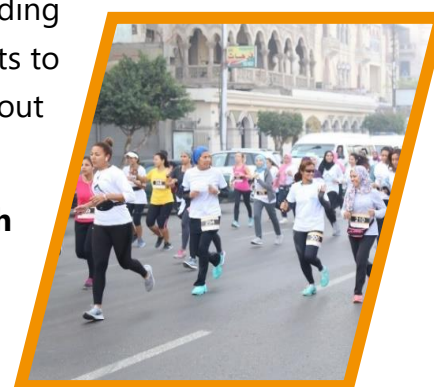


Lighting
landmarks
in orange

First: Prevention Pillar

1-Raising Awareness

- **Lighting in orange several Egyptian venues** (e.g., the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx), NCW's premises, and for the first the family court in al-Zaytoun and the Coptic Church in Abbaseyah to kick-off the activities on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2021.
- **Broadcasting PSAs and short-drama episodes** on radio stations emphasizing on the role of men in eliminating all forms of VAW.
- **Establishing awareness booths on campus across many Egyptian universities** and training a large number of volunteer students to advocate for eliminating VAW, raise awareness on existing services and the efforts of NCW and how to report its incidents at the anti-violence units established in 24 Egyptian universities.
- Holding public **awareness sessions in partnership with** national concerned institutions, policy-makers and CSOs⁶ for a number of women from low-income areas in five governorates⁷, with the aim of raising awareness on **accessing basic services** provided in the legal, health, social and economic services.
- Holding **Art Exhibitions** namely: "**Be (Koony)**" in 2017, and "**Speak Up (Etkalmy)**" in 2018 in cooperation with the Faculty of Fine Arts, holding art competitions between boys and girls school students to allow them to express themselves, through drawing about the different aspects and various forms of VAW issue.
- **Launching "the Nile Boats" campaign, which consisted of (16) boats** carrying various messages to combat all forms of VAW, reaching about **(12,783) viewers**.
- **Placing banners urging the elimination of VAW** in one of the major squares in 6th of October City (Juhayna Square) in Giza governorate.
- **Women Marathon** during 16 days of activism 2018 with 1500 participant



⁶ This intervention was implemented in the 16 days campaign 2017, and was repeated in the 16 days campaign 2019.

⁷ Cairo, Giza, Beni-swef, Menya, and Sohag

Awareness initiatives under the first ever established National Committee for the Eradication of FGM in Egypt.

The committee was formed in 2019, co-chaired by NCW and NCCM. Its membership includes all partners and relevant governmental and non-governmental entities, executive, judicial and religious authorities, in cooperation with national and international organizations and aims to unify visions and coordinate efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation.

The following are the committee's efforts to raise awareness on the risks and adverse impact of this harmful practices on girls and society:

- 1) **"Protect her from FGM" campaign:** The campaign was implemented during the years (2019-2020). The number of activities implemented during the period from May 2019 to March 2021 reached **"1,694 activities"** which included numerous on-the-ground campaigns such as door knocking campaigns, seminars, community gatherings, and training of working teams, in addition to other activities as follows:
 - Producing and publishing **(16)** awareness films on the popular social platforms.
 - Broadcasting **(8)** infomercials at **(18)** regional and local Radio stations.
 - Printing (15,000) awareness posters and distributing them to health units, hospitals and pharmacies.
- 2) **A recognition award was launched in the name of Aziza Hussein and Mary Asaad** to encourage good practices on the eradication of FGM.
- 3) The inclusion of an "anti-FGM component" in the **trainings undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Population to address the issue of FGM medicalization**, that target nurses, outreach workers and doctors to increase awareness on the dangers of early marriage and female genital mutilation.
- 4) Joint statement was issued by national working group **"zero tolerance" to the medicalization of FGM** in 2021.
- 5) The national committee submitted a **proposal to amend the articles on female genital mutilation** in the penal code in June 2020 **which was later approved by the Egyptian Senate and the Parliament**. The proposed law aims to eliminate any legal loopholes that allow FGM perpetrators to escape punishment using medical justifications to end "medicalization of FGM", among others, in addition to expanding the scope of criminalization, redefining the act of genital mutilation, and imposing stricter penalties which also help deter the practice of FGM and the Law No. 10 of 2021 was issued amending some provisions of the Penal Code (articles related to the crime of FGM)

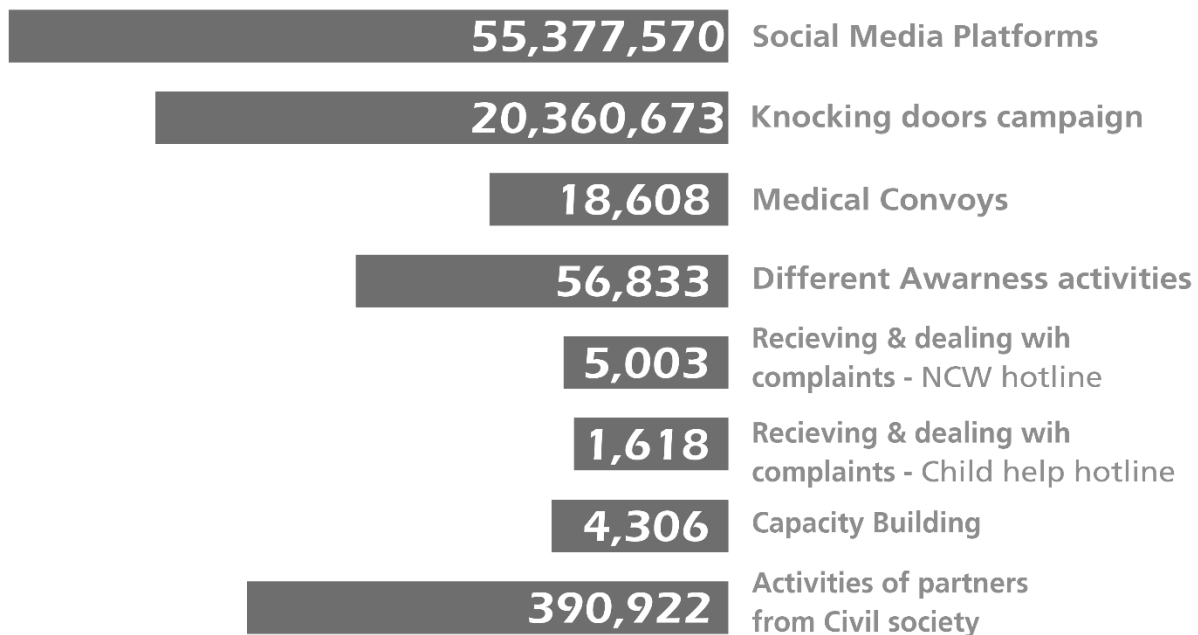
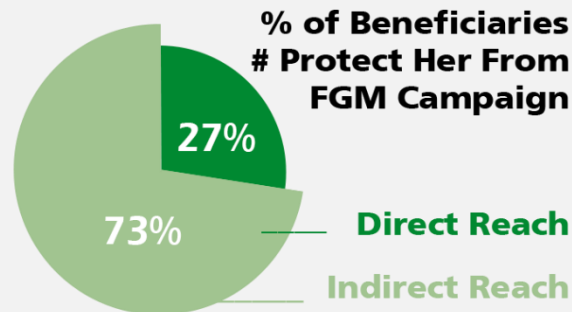


#Protect Her From FGM

Total reach of the campaign during the two years

76,215,533

Outreach



B. Utilizing different means and media to convey the messages:

1) Movies / songs / plays / PSAs / press articles

- **“Between Two Seas”** movie⁸ sheds the light on the different societal struggles facing women. It was awarded (21) national, Arab, and international awards.
- **“Maryam and the Sun”** is a short film that highlights the hardships girls endure to remain in education.
- **“The Password”** play, is an interactive play performed in nine governorates that focused on raising the awareness of the public on harmful traditional practices and means of ending them.
- The **“Circle Revolving”** is an interactive community play that focuses on combatting FGM.
- **“Untangled”** is the first comedy production play with gender sensitive messages to address stereotypes on women’s education, access to safe public spaces, masculinity and forms of VAW. The performance lasted for four years presented in Hosapeer theater, Falaki theater, High institute for Arts, and Cairo University.
- An **awareness video** produced to promote **safe work environment** for women.
- A group of **Egyptian artists** developed an **awareness video** to sensitize women and girls about the importance of confronting sexual harassment, cyber harassment and bullying and offering them information on reporting similar incidents.



⁸ UN Women

- A **Marionette puppet play "A Two-Letter Word"** highlighting child abuse and abuse, especially sexual assault was conducted.
- **Several articles in official newspapers and magazines** were published on protecting women from violence and clarifying their role as a safety valve for the society.
- A **Television (TV) series** was produced and presented during the Holy month of Ramadan, which is the highest Television viewership season. The series aims to promote **morals and values as well as tolerance and mutual respect** with a focus on different forms of VAW, such as violence in public spaces, domestic violence, child marriage, FGM and other topics.



2) Radio and TV programs



- **The launch of an awareness campaign on the Egyptian Radio** that included (6) messages tackling forms of violence against women, broadcasted in (13) local and regional stations [Al-Sharq al-Awsat, Youth and Sports, Radio Egypt, in addition to the local stations and the public program].
- **A radio program entitled “A Story Behind Each Door”**, (30) episodes broadcasted in the public radio program over the course of a month.
- **“Nihad Stories” Program** that included more than (50) episodes that offered awareness messages on various women’s empowerment priorities, including violence against women. The number of viewers of the program reached 12.7 million viewers per month according to the statistics of social networking pages as well as television views [70% women, 30% men], and the number of interactions and comments on it reached nearly four million.
- During the year of women 2017 the **most popular talk shows** dedicated weekly episodes on VAW issues.

3) Awareness publications

Various entities have issued a number of publications to raise public awareness on forms of VAW, especially the penalties and the legislative framework for VAW crimes and underlying the risks of female genital mutilation.

The first national referral pathway for women subjected to violence was developed as a multi-sectoral model for services of the legal, medical and social sectors. The model is distributed among **the concerned authorities and entry points such as hospitals, health clinics, police departments, and units for eliminating VAW in universities.**



- **An information leaflet** developed by the NCW illustrating the legislative framework for crimes of violence against women.
- Launching the policy paper "**Protecting Women from Violent Crimes in National Laws and Legislations**", to highlight the current legislative framework for the legal protection, in light of the constitution, national laws, national strategies launched by Egypt and the ratified conventions and charters.
- 15,000 **posters on FGM**, penalties, damages, and reporting were distributed to hospitals, health units and pharmacies.
- **Case management pamphlets** developed for women subjected to violence, they offer information for health care service providers on case management and handling survivors of violence.
- A brochure developed to raise awareness among women on reporting and addressing domestic violence.

4) Workshops, seminars, and innovative tools

- **Holding awareness seminars at youth centers affiliated under the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS):** to raise awareness among young men and women on sexual harassment and other forms of VAW.
- **Supporting social participation to eliminate VAW:** conducting a **campaign** which targeted "men tuk-tuk drivers" as a model to raise their awareness, and a TOT program on the addressing VAW, particularly sexual harassment.
- **Piloting sensitization sessions in the tourism industry to promote a safe environment for women:** training sessions organized for hotel staff and management employees. The sessions focused on the benefits of work environment safety and safe facilities on the hospitality industry, as well as means of standing against forms of VAW in general, and sexual harassment.
- **Raising children's awareness in schools on the concept of safe spaces and how to prevent themselves from sexual exploitation:** through introducing a program to schools, targeting the students⁹. The programme worked with **students** from one of the underprivileged areas in Cairo (i.e., the Ezbet al-Haggana area).



⁹ Safe Kids Foundations

Developing untraditional tools to raise awareness on forms of discrimination and VAW using educational games and competitions: developing and dissemination of the **“Safeelings”¹⁰ board game**. This board game is designed, suiting different age groups, to help parents and social workers communicate effectively with women and men children and teenagers, and encourage them to express their feelings as a first step to empower and enable them to stop violence, discrimination and physical or psychological abuse.



- **“Your Change Will Cause Change”**, is another card game that encourage teenagers to formulate statements and messages about women’s empowerment and reject all forms of discrimination and violence.
- Launching “Mathal Moush Shaaby” competition. The competition successfully achieved large outreach with the aim of encouraging the younger generations and teach them the values of empowering women while focusing on Egyptian cultural heritage, by challenging stereotypes in local proverbs.



5) Religious Women leaders

Enhancing and Strengthening the capacities of religious women leaders: for the first time in Egypt women religious leaders attended training programs implemented by the NCW to enhance their knowledge and communication skills to disseminate awareness messages in their local communities and through knocking doors campaign on harmful practices such as FGM, domestic violence among others. **203 religious women leaders** benefited from this training.

¹⁰ Safe kids Foundation

C. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Perspectives in Education

Enhancing schoolteachers' capacities in dealing with issues of VAW through workshops and spreading awareness among students on the concept of violence and the importance of challenging it.

Integrating concepts of gender equality in the educational curricula. A book titled "**Values and mutual respect**" was published and introduced in the 2020/2021 school curriculum for third-grade students in primary school.

Raising awareness among university students through the activities of anti-violence units on all forms of violence, particularly sexual harassment, the importance of combating it, and the relevant legislations. These activities also included workshops on **self-defense mechanisms** through martial art.

Promoting friendly and safe environment in universities in for girl students and women in general through a number of activities of implemented by the anti-violence units (24) universities. Among the activities implemented, a number of joint edutainment youth camps in the universities of Minya, Mansoura, and South Valley, the camps provided learning opportunities for participating students through interactive play and activities to enhance their knowledge on sexual harassment, FGM, early marriage, domestic violence, legal rights, and reporting mechanisms.

Launching a series of dialogues and webinars in the American University in Cairo entitled "Speak Up" to discuss different forms of VAW, especially sexual harassment, and how to address and eliminate it, and to encourage women to report.

D. Rectifying religious discourse

Rectifying the religious discourse through: (1) Running preaching caravans and weekly lessons carried out by the Ministry of Endowment; (2) Training the Imams and preachers to increase their knowledge about forms of VAW (3) Dedicating some Friday sermons to talk about women rights in Islam (4) Issuing a guide by Al-Azhar for training of religious leaders on eliminating VAW in Islam; (5) Issuing statement by Al-Azhar stating that all forms of harassment, through words, actions or otherwise, are forbidden and not tolerated in Islam; (6) Issuing a statement by the Egyptian Church on its position on VAW and FGM.



E. Targeting and engaging men and boys and raising awareness

Engagement of men through the “because I am a man” campaign, and its various activities, including the “because I am a man football league” for the quintuple football organized by NCW in cooperation with the MoYS. 108 teams participated from all governorates, with the aim of using sports as a means of changing negative societal behaviors towards women through the training of more than 2,000 promising young male players, coaches, and young volunteers from the civil society and governmental entities to disseminate the messages of the campaign.



Organizing various sports activities for women and men, including the **first marathon for women**, the first walking marathon for women

with disabilities. A sports day in the Bashair Al-Khair area in Alexandria was launched which included a sports marathon, five-a-side football matches for women, and the final round of the women's table tennis tournament. This event also included a quintuple football match for the Alexandria men's football team, who participated in the campaign “Because I am a man” which aimed to involve men and boys in the campaign against violence on women. The regular organization of such public activities contributes to increasing awareness on the rights of women and girls and persons with disabilities to practice activities in public places.



2. Analyzing the Phenomenon from the Economic and Social Aspects

Data and information about VAW are crucial in measuring the magnitude of the problem and monitoring change and impact and evaluating the effectiveness of policies and programs implemented to reduce forms of VAW. In line with this, some key indicators have been incorporated under the *protection pillar* of the NSEW 2030.

CAPMAS and other national bodies, in cooperation with the NCW and partner agencies, carried out a number of field surveys and studies, with the aim of measuring the size and dimensions of VAW. Most important was the **Economic Cost of Gender-Based Violence 2015 Survey**, conducted in cooperation between NCW and CAPMAS, and applying international methodological tools.¹¹ This is the first national study to assess the economic implications of VAW, and serves as a baseline and advocacy tool for national partners. Egypt is the first among Arab countries to issue such survey.

2.17 billion Egyptian Pounds

The total cost borne by the females and their families due to violence

7.888 million women

Suffer from all forms of violence yearly

10% of women
(between 18 and 64 year)

Were harassed in the Egyptian streets

7% of women (between 18 and 64)

Were harassed in public transportation

18% of women
(between 18 and 64 years)

Were subject to domestic violence from one of the family members



¹¹ This study was in collaboration with the UNFPA

Other important efforts in the area of data and information were also exerted as follows:

- 1) **A study focusing on prevalence of domestic violence and sexual harassment in public places entitled “Violence against Women ... Dimensions and Coping Mechanisms”**, conducted in cooperation between the NCW and the National Center for Criminal and Social Research (NCCSR) in 2016¹².
- 2) The first research on **violence against women with disabilities** is being conducted in cooperation between CAPMAS, NCW and UN agencies. The results of the research will be launched during 2021. This research is considered the first of its kind in the Arab region, offering landmark data and evidence to design specialized interventions responding to the needs of women and girls with disabilities.
- 3) **Establishing the Egyptian Women Observatory (ENOW)**¹³ with the aim of measuring the progress achieved in all sectors related to empowering and protecting women by monitoring the values of indicators (at the level of outputs, results and the long term), and preparing periodic reports on the status of Egyptian women and the gender gap.

Publications of the Egyptian Women's Observatory (ENOW)	
Year	Topics
2019	Five telephone surveys: women's economic participation / leadership positions of women / Egyptian women's rights / women's health and reproductive health / rural women's living conditions and the opportunities available to them, and issuing a set of infographics and policy papers to present the results of these surveys. Policy Paper on the Contradiction in the Gender Gap in Education and the Labor Market. Policy Paper on Women in the ICT Sector. Adding more than 40 indicators to monitor progress, and updating all previous indicators.
2020	An opinion poll about the most important challenges due to COVID-19, and the impact of this crisis on the family.

- 4) **The NCW launched a “Survey of Egyptian Women’s Poll on the emerging COVID-19 from 4 to 14 April 2020”** conducted by Baseera to measure increased VAWG given the COVID-19.

¹² The study was conducted within the framework of preparing the protection pillar in the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030, and it was carried out on a sample of 6 governorates representing Lower and Upper Egypt.

¹³ To view the observatory's website <http://www.enow.gov.eg/>

5) Studies and surveys in the pipeline:

- A study on the **prevalence of FGM** in Egypt, and to determine the motives behind the practice. The study was conducted in cooperation with CAPMAS and in partnership with the UN agencies.
- A survey on the **social and economic repercussions of divorce on women and men**, was conducted in cooperation with Baseera.
- **Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2020**: The importance of issuing the DHS periodically lies in the comparability of data to assess public policies and their success. The data of the 2014 DHS assisted the designers of the "Egypt Vision 2030" in identifying the challenges and developing indicators to overcome them. The survey contains important data that feed into the indicators of violence.

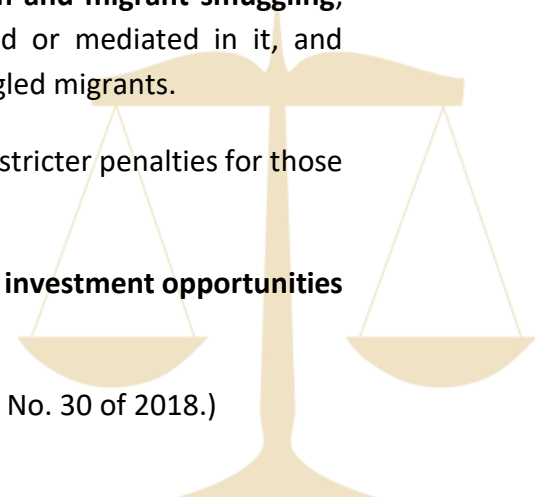
In addition to the above, NCW has implemented a **number of training programs** targeting workers in the field of planning, monitoring and statistics in a number of ministries at the central and local levels. An estimate of **3,200 technical staff were certified in gender statistics**, and are capacitated to analyze relevant numbers and percentages, read statistical equations from a gender perspective, and conduct gender analysis in a way that contributes to adopting activities to support women.

3. Reviewing and revising laws and policies addressing VAW

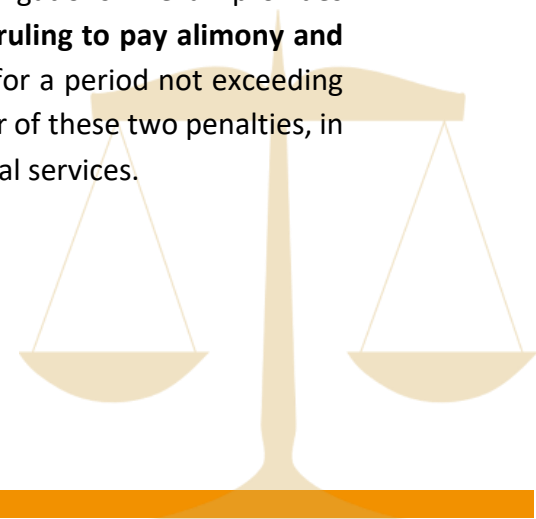
The past recent years have witnessed remarkable progress in the area of penalizing and criminalizing crimes of VAW. Tougher sanctions were enacted pertaining to VAW and also reviewing legislations that have a direct impact on empowering women and working towards to the elimination of the phenomenon of violence.

A package of laws and legislative amendments was issued to protect women and girls from different forms of violence and discrimination against them, as follows:

- 1) **In the field of eliminating FGM:** The penalty stipulated in Article 242 of the Penal Code relating to female genital mutilation has been aggravated by changing the crime from a misdemeanor to a felony which punishment is imprisonment from 5 to 7 years for the perpetrators of the crime, and the punishment reaches 15 years if the female genital mutilation act results in permanent disability or death. The legislator also created a new crime, which is the punishment of the person seeking FGM if it is performed upon his/her request in the text of Article 242 A (bis), the penalty for which is imprisonment from one to three years.
- 2) **Amending some provisions of the Prison Regulation Law No. 106 of 2015** to protect the imprisoned mother and her right to keep her child until he/she reaches the age of four and to obtain visitation right after this age, in addition to delaying the execution penalty until the child reaches two years of age.
- 3) **The issuance of the Civil Service Law** of 2016, which grants benefits to working mothers such as a maternity leave for a period of 4 months instead of 3 months.
- 4) **The issuance of Law No. 82 of 2016** regarding illegal migration and migrant smuggling, which criminalized the crime of migrant smuggling, attempted or mediated in it, and increased its punishment if there were women among the smuggled migrants.
- 5) **Amending the Inheritance Law** (Law No. 219 of 2017) to impose stricter penalties for those who withhold inheritance from anyone who has the right to it.
- 6) **The new Investment Law** (Article 2) is devoted to ensuring equal investment opportunities for both men and women.
- 7) **The issuance of the law institutionalizing** the work of NCW (Law No. 30 of 2018.)



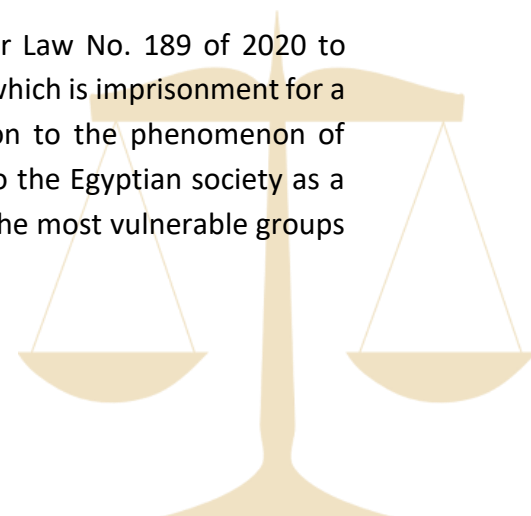
- 8) **The issuance of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (Law No. 10 of 2018), which guarantees more rights for women with disabilities, and the law establishes the first comprehensive definition of persons with disabilities and includes under its umbrella all categories of disability.
- 9) Amendment to **Article 289** of the **Egyptian Penal Code in 2018**, which now stipulates that anyone who abducts without fraud or **coercing a child** shall be punished with aggravated imprisonment for a period of no less than ten years. If the abducted is a child or a girl, the penalty for kidnapping is increased in case of fraud or coercion in Article 290, in the event that the kidnapped person is a girl or a child, and the penalty reaches life imprisonment or the death penalty.
- 10) The issuance of **Law No. 175 of 2018** in the subject of **combating cyber-crimes** and aims to protect people, and specifically women, from the practices that Internet users are exposed to, for example publishing their photos after using the programs designed for modifying images, and otherwise, with the aim of abuse or blackmail, using immoral or dishonorable means.
- 11) The issuance of the **inclusive Health Insurance Law** No. 2 of 2018.
- 12) The issuance of the **Social Security and Pensions Law** of 2019.
- 13) The issuance of the **law regulating the work of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities** (NCPD) (Law No. 11 of 2019).
- 14) Amending **Article 293 of the Penal Code, Law No. 6 of 2020**, to confront those who evaded the payment of alimony or intransigent in paying the debts of alimonies. The aim of this amendment was to protect the family, secure sources of sustenance and ensure a decent life, as well as to facilitate the ability of Nasser Bank to fulfill its obligations. The law provides for the punishment of everyone who was **subjected to a court ruling to pay alimony and refuses to pay**, despite his ability to pay it, with imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding five thousand pounds or either of these two penalties, in addition to suspending the convict's access to some governmental services.



- 15) **Constitutional amendments in 2019, stipulating the allocation of not less than 25% of seats for women in the Parliament while actual women representation reach 27% in 2020 parliament**, and the issuance of Law No. 140 of 2020 amending some provisions of the law regulating the exercise of political rights promulgated by Law No. 45 of 2014 and Parliament Law promulgated by Law No. 46 of 2014 and Law 198 of 2017 concerning the National Elections Commission [**The percentage of women in Parliament in 2020 has reached 27% by direct appointment of by H.E. the President of the Republic**].

Also, the issuance of Law No. 141 of 2020 issuing the Senate Law, **setting a percentage of 10% for women, and raising the percentage to approximately 14%, by direct appointment of by H.E. the President of the Republic.**

- 16) **Law No. 176 of 2020** was issued amending some **provisions of the law regulating certain situations and procedures for litigation in personal status** matters issued by Law No. 1 of 2000, which amended Article 47 related to **matters of financial guardianship**. The aim of the amendment was to protect the interests of the incompetent, the deficient and the absentees, to maintain and supervise their money and manage it in a manner that fulfills the interests of these groups and meets their needs according to the circumstances they are going through, and to facilitate the legal procedures related to their money. This amendment is in the interest of women who deal mostly in matters of guardianship and bears undertaking the procedures in matters of guardianship over money.
- 17) **Adding Article 113 bis to the criminal procedure law** under Law No. 177 of 2020 to **protect the data of the victims and stipulating** that the victims' data not be disclosed in the crimes of harassment, violence, assault and corrupting morals, as well as Article 96 of the Child Law. This represents an appropriate and positive step towards providing protection and guarantees for victims of this type of crimes stipulated in the law.
- 18) **Adding a new article to the Penal Code No. (309 bis b)** under Law No. 189 of 2020 to **criminalize bullying** and setting a description and penalty for it, which is imprisonment for a period of no less than six months. This comes in consideration to the phenomenon of bullying and its development in a manner that poses a threat to the Egyptian society as a whole and to women and girls in particular, as they are among the most vulnerable groups to violence.



19) **Law No. 10 of 2021 was issued amending some provisions of the Penal Code (articles of the crime of FGM).** The amendments included omitting any reference to the use of medical justification and Article 61, increasing the penalties by raising the minimum and maximum penalties, introducing independent penalties for doctors and nursing professionals, and other penalties on the facility where the crime is committed. Introducing penalties to incriminate anyone who promoted, advocated, encouraged or incited to commit the crime

A set of ministerial & administrative decisions:

- The Minister of Education's periodic book No. 29 of 2017 proving the educational guardianship of a divorced mother without the need for a verdict or decision.
- Resolution of the Minister of Justice No. 9200 of 2015 amending some provisions of the decree of the executive regulations of the Documentation Law No. 68 of 1947 as amended by Law No. 103 of 1976 concerning the marriage of a foreigner to an Egyptian.
- Decision of the Sheikh of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif No. 32 of 2018 prohibiting the transfer of working women from their work place to another place without her desire except after presenting the justifications for the transfer.
- The 2018 decision of the Minister of Housing regarding adding a breadwinner woman among the priorities of applicants for housing apartments in the ministry's projects.
- The two resolutions (123, 124) of the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) regarding the representation of women on the boards of directors of companies.
- FRA's decrees no. 204,205/2020 to **prohibit any gender discrimination** in dealing with all of financial companies' clients as well as **developing financial (non-banking) products that are considerate to women needs.**
- FRA's periodic Book No. 7 of 2021 of the Ethical Code to prevent sexual harassment, violence and harassment within the work environment of companies listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange (ESE) and operating in non-banking financial activities.
- Prime Minister's Decree No. 827/2021 to establish a **one-stop shop for the protection of women victims of violence**, "The Collective Unit for the Protection of Women from Violence."

- **Minister of Transport's Decree No. 237/2021 to issue the National Code of Conduct for Employees, Operators, and Workers in Transport Facilities and Means of Transportation** to rule on the safety and security of male and female citizens in public transportation, including those related to combating all forms of harassment and violence in transportation facilities and means

Moreover, NCW has proposed a comprehensive VAW law that includes definitions of different kinds of violence against women and girls (VAWG). NCW has made several consultations and hearing sessions with different stakeholders before finalizing this draft law that has been submitted to the GoE.

NCW has also issued a **Legal Observatory**¹⁴ on its official website and another reporting mechanism **monitoring VAW issued laws**¹⁵.

¹⁴ <http://ncw.gov.eg/Page/813/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AA/>

¹⁵ <http://ncw.gov.eg/Images/PdfRelease/Protecting%20Women%20from%20Violent%20-2202123181050335.pdf>

4. Developing and utilizing ICT, media and advertising to stand against all forms of VAW

A. Utilizing ICT

Social Innovation Hub: The Social Innovation Hub¹⁶ aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of computer science among young women. The three months capacity building program addresses the gender gap, by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among young talented women, and empowering them to pursue a career enabled by technology. Through **code4her** 13307 young women were trained on introductory for computer science and through the hub three rounds have been conducted; 49 girls created 11 Mobile Apps that works on addressing social challenges through technological solutions. After the programme 80 percent got job offers as web and app developers, and other young women have worked their way to start their own business.

Qodwa Tech: Empowering women and integrating them as active participants in the economy is essential to promoting economic growth in Egypt. The MoCIT's Qodwa Tech initiative, based on the implementation of community development projects, and with the support of UNDP has so far empowered 2,000 women artisans and entrepreneurs and currently is working to empower many more.

The initiative trains women on distant and virtual learning techniques and online marketing, opening new endeavors for them to become active participants of a strong and sustainable workforce. It also serves to enhance their technological skills and promote their access to global markets.

Women with Disabilities, Innovation and Assistive Technologies: The workshop on “Women with Disabilities, Innovation and Assistive Technologies” was conducted to discuss whether there are gender differences in the development, design, use and access to Assistive Technologies.

Fekretek’; Egypt’s Women’s Empowerment Platform is offering training opportunities and cash prizes for the top three innovative ideas; to help bring them to life. ‘Fekretek’ platform helps youth kick start their own business, and provide entrepreneurship, marketing and finance training opportunities as well as “mentoring and coaching” services.

¹⁶ Done in partnership with Microsoft

Technology Hackathon to Eliminate VAW: A technology Hackathon was launched to encourage youth to provide technology solutions for different forms of VAW including three main pillars: combating cybercrimes, combating VAW in public life, digitizing services provided for women subjected to violence. Cash prizes are offered for Hackathon's winners.

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بالسفارة البريطانية بالقاهرة



أمل توفيق
مديرة مكتب شكاوى المرأة
بالمجلس القومي للمرأة



جيلان المسيري
نائبه ممثل هيئة الأمم المتحدة
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معلومات إضافية
عن البرنامج

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معلومات إضافية



B. Developing and utilizing media platforms

In order to sensitize film makers and TV presenters and personnel working in the media scene, several specialized training workshops carried out reaching **191 media professionals**. Workshops focused on enhancing their ability to cover forms of VAW, gender-sensitive media reporting and offering updated data on prevalence of VAW nationally.

NCW, through its media specialized committee in partnership with different media experts has developed a **media code of ethics** that was shared with different media authorities and agencies.

Moreover, NCW created a **media observatory** that monitors all media, drama, soap opera, video clips and songs. The media observatory issue yearly report and recognize and encourage creative artwork that successfully and professionally addressed women's issues and focuses on depicting cases of VAW.



The Efforts of concerned entities in Implementing the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence Against Women 2015-2020

Second: Protection pillar

Sub-goals:

1. Creating an appropriate environment for women subjected to violence to report incidents of violence to benefit from protection and assistance services and programs.
2. Activating and amending legislations and laws prohibiting VAW.
3. Improving coordination mechanisms and referral pathways to enhance law enforcement.

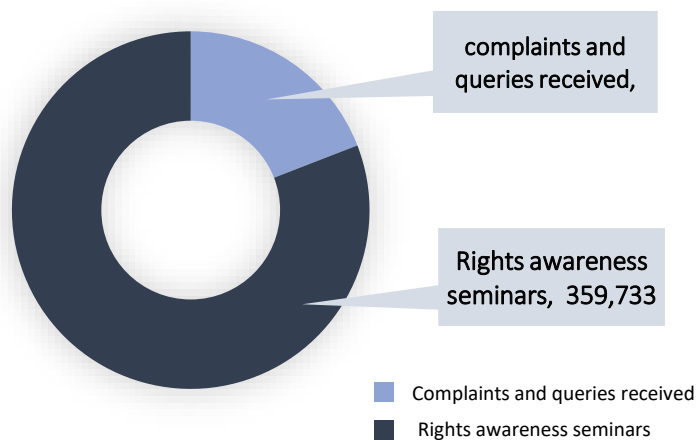
Second: Protection

1. Creation of an appropriate environment for women subjected to violence to report incidents

Egypt provides mechanisms to eliminate VAW through national offices, units and committees that receive complaints and provide psychological support services and legal counseling as follows:

1. **The Women's Complaints Office (WCO)** based at NCW's main premises and its affiliated branches in (26) governorates. It includes lawyers, social and psychological specialists who receive complaints, provide psychological support and counseling, and refer cases to the concerned authorities and follow up. Lawyers and trained staff respond to the national hotline (i.e., 15115), managed and operated by the WCO, offering women legal counseling, psychological support and referral through phone and personal visits.

Beneficiaries of Women's Complaints Office 2015-2020



96 thousand complaints and inquiries were received by the Women's Complaints Office during the period from 2015-2020, represented in social and economic needs, followed by personal status and family issues, then social security pensions, followed by criminal cases and then work cases.

As for complaints of VAW, the period from 2018 to 2020 witnessed nearly 17,790 registered cases that faced more than one type of violence

2. **The Department for Eliminating VAW at the Ministry of Interior** has branches across the security directorates and police stations in all governorates. With a hotline linked to the Department of VAW at the Ministry of Interior to receive any reports of VAW with trained police officers to receive such cases
3. **The Unit for the Protection of Women from Violence at the Ministry of Justice** to review the relevant legislations on violence and submit the necessary legislative proposals, in addition to holding training courses, seminars and workshops for workers in the field of combating violence against women.
4. **The first National Committee for the Eradication of FGM** in Egypt includes all partners concerned with the case.

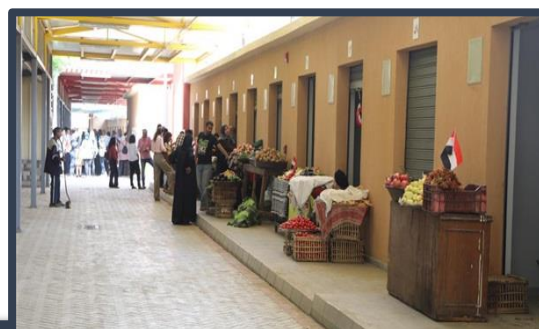
Second: Protection

5. **Equal Opportunity Units (EOUs) at the ministerial and governorate levels** to raise awareness among staff on the importance of ensuring protection of women from all forms of violence, promoting a culture of equal opportunities and mutual understanding. The EOUs also provide women staff with “Complaint Boxes” to ensure that all cases of violence and discrimination are addressed and that women enjoy a safe work environment.
6. Establishing and activating the role of **the National Coordinating Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration**.
7. **24 anti-violence units in different universities** to receive and address on-campus complaints and raise awareness among university students and universities’ community to contribute to creating a safe environment on campus.
8. **Launching four medical response clinics “Women Safety Units” in university hospitals for women subjected to violence**

Protection and assistance services and programs

1. Safer cities for women

Creating safe public spaces and promoting gender equality perspectives in urban planning are critical aspects of addressing many manifestations of VAW. Egypt has been implementing the UN’s Safe Cities Global Initiative since 2011¹⁷. It’s a global program that intends the prevention and responsiveness to all forms of VAW and sexual harassment in public areas. Moreover, under the framework of national programs for decent housing, the infrastructure of facilities located at identified areas has been upgraded to be more women friendly. Additionally, improving the demographic characteristics and the human development of the people residing at the newly established neighborhoods has taken place, and to achieve all this, the following measures have been taken:



Second: Protection

- **Redesigning the Zaneen market:** [118 stores and sections/ shade ceilings / children's play areas / awareness sessions on women's rights, gender equality and financial literacy / a balanced committee representing men and women to communicate between vendors and local authorities and ensure **proper management** of the market]. It was also **agreed with wholesalers to give women sellers discounted goods, which resulted in an increase in their income by 110%** (in 2019).
- The continuation of work on the **Safe Cities project**¹⁸, which was implemented since 2011 in three areas in Cairo and Giza [Ezbet El Haggana, Imbaba, and Manshiyat Nasser], and extended to include other areas in Alexandria and Damietta governorates, especially areas of “decent housing”, to develop local initiatives aiming to eliminate VAW and supported their political and economic participation. The activities of the project included several activities, such as: (1) Developing the infrastructure of some areas, as previously mentioned. (2) Implementing awareness-raising activities such as seminars and "Mom and Me", “Dad & Me”, “Family & Me” camps. (3) handcrafts training workshops for communities (4) Equipping the Information Technology Center in Alexandria Governorate on digital literacy, training and raising the capacities of young women.
- **Deploying surveillance cameras** in squares, hubs, main streets and metro stations to monitor all violations at identified areas.
- The new **Public Shops Law**, issued by Law No. 151 of 2019, requires shops of all kinds to install **internal and external surveillance cameras**, and although this is an indirect intervention, it has greatly contributed to following up the perpetrators, which provided a safe environment for women and girls
- **Developing a space in Ezbet Al-Haggana** to make it safer for women and girls, by enhancing inclusion, participation and trust at the community level.
- **Converting an empty space next to a girls’ school in Imbaba** area in Giza to a women-friendly space [sports and social activities / seminars / handicraft exhibitions].
- **Developing the infrastructure of Salah al-Din School in Ezbet al-Haggana** to transform it into a community center equipped with a sports field that serves community members after school hours.

¹⁷ UN Women

¹⁸ In cooperation with UNWOMEN

Second: Protection

Egypt launched the “**Decent Housing**” program to build around 250,000 housing units and turn them into friendly areas, and as a result, **NCW prepared a plan to improve the population characteristics (social empowerment)** of some new neighborhoods in the governorates of Cairo (**Asmarat neighborhood**), Alexandria and Damietta. [Sports and cultural activities, and camps for school students and their parents, especially Women/educational seminars to spread the concept of gender equality and respect for others/ vocational training workshops / computer courses / educational workshops to support women's integration in financial inclusion / providing banking services and social assistance].

Some interventions to ensure safe mobility for women in public transportation and in the streets

- **Designing express busses (Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)):** The Ministry of Transport studied the transportation patterns and needs of a sample of 3,000 women to achieve at a gender-responsive design for the Cairo Express Bus.
- **Allocating an operations room to receive sexual harassment complaints,** in coordination between the WCO and the MoI, in the streets, parks and cinemas during holidays and official occasions [through hotlines / field presence and follow-up with work teams of women police officers and the WCO].
- **Deploying surveillance cameras** in squares, hubs, main streets and metro stations to monitor all violations.
- The new **Public Shops Law**, issued by Law No. 151 of 2019, requires shops of all kinds to install **internal and external surveillance cameras**, and although this is an indirect intervention, it has greatly contributed to following up the perpetrators, which provided a safe environment for women and girls.



Second: Protection

- **The Egyptian National Railway Authority (ENRA) was awarded** the Bronze Award in the field of gender and inclusiveness presented by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), **for establishing a committee to prevent sexual harassment in railway transport.**
- **Signing an MOU between the NCW and the ENRA** to take long-term measures to promote women's empowerment. Among the MOU's first activities is the launch of a safety rail campaign from Ramses station and other stations to raise awareness of combating harassment against women, in order to enhance safe mobility for them. **The Ministry of Transport also announced its customer service hotline 15047 to receive harassment complaints.**
- **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** in order to take more measures that would provide the greatest safety for women and girls in public transport.

2. Provide a safe work environment

- Developing a **training model for human resources staff at the Ministry of Planning and Economic development (MoPED)**, with the aim of expanding a work culture based on respect, equality, safety, and free from all forms of violence and harassment.
- **Preparing academic cadres to advocate for gender equality and empowering women's rights:** 52 men and women students who obtained during the academic years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 **the first professional master's degree in gender and development**, which was launched in 2016 at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, with the aim of creating cadres capable of developing and implementing gender-sensitive policies.
- **Establishing a gender equality unit in the Ministry of Manpower** with the aim of supporting and protecting women working in the private sector, especially those working in factories, and establishing a mechanism for reporting any violations or obstacles hindering women's right to work.
- **The Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company won the Silver Award** in the field of sustainable energy, presented by the EBRD, for its commitment to innovation and promoting equal opportunities, especially for women in the renewable energy sector in Egypt.
- **The MoYS adopted the first national institutional policy to combat sexual harassment at a governmental level**, and enabled a mechanism to **receive complaints** at the Ministry's general office and its affiliated youth centers nationwide.

Second: Protection

- **Preparing a code of conduct to address the needs of women with disabilities** in various aspects of life.

2. Activating and amending legislations and laws prohibiting violence against women

Achievements has been referred to under the third sub-objective of the prevention pillar, namely, **“Reviewing and revising laws and policies addressing VAW”**.

3. Improving coordination mechanisms and referral pathways to enhance law enforcement

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 as part of the ESP. 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 development process was conducted with close collaboration and active participation of stakeholders representing MoI, PPO, judiciary, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS).

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).

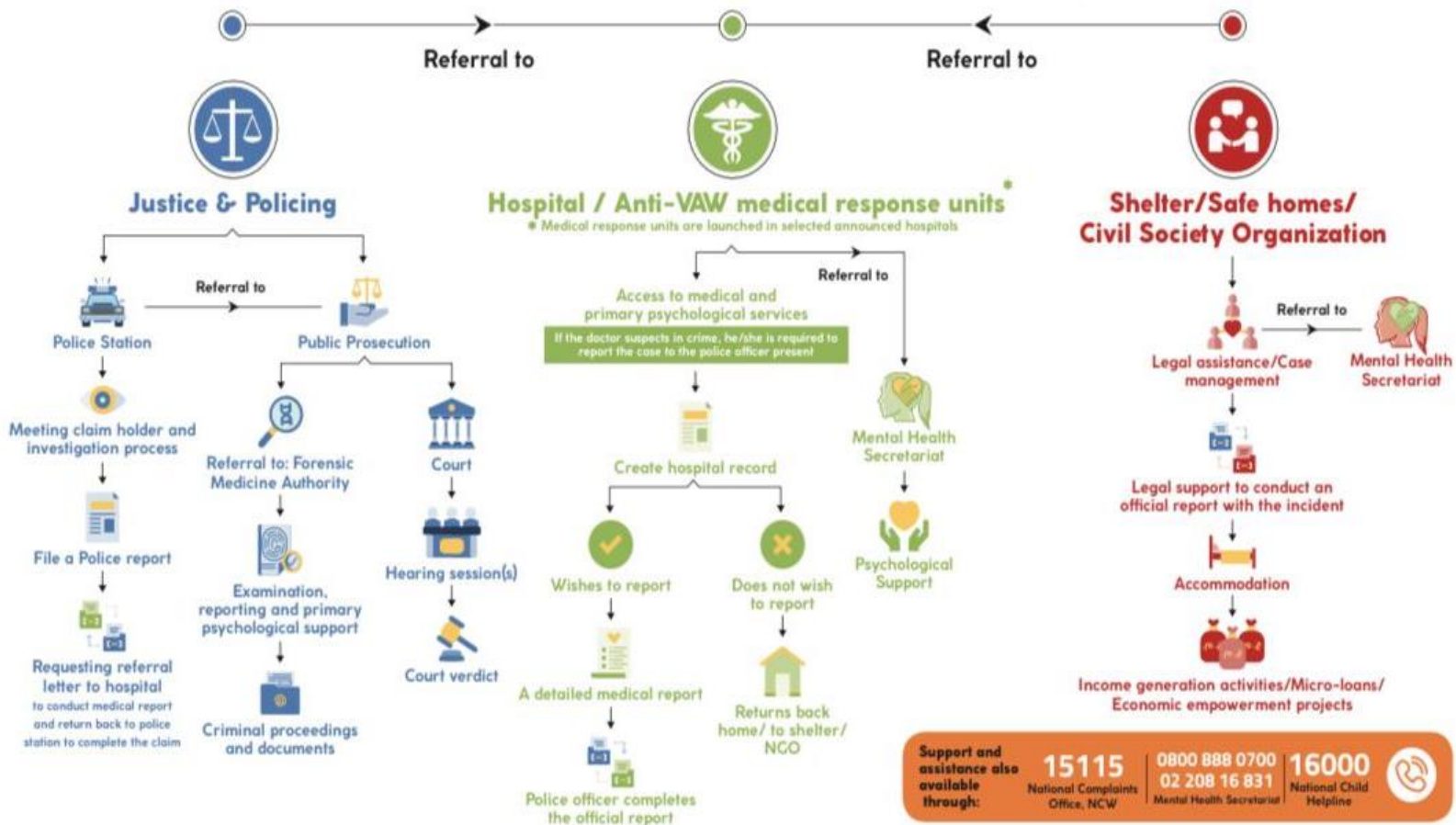
Work is underway to develop and implement the referral system at the local level, in coordination with the NCW’s branches in the governorates. A database is established to provide a mapping of available services in each governorate and the existing gaps in service delivery in the legal, medical and social sectors.

In addition, local task-forces were formed in (16) governorates (comprised of representatives of NCW, line ministries, civil society partners and local authorities) to follow up on the implementation and reporting under the framework of the National Strategy to Eliminate VAW 2015-2020 and the NSEW 2030.

Among the most prominent practices that have been implemented to enhance the enforcement of laws and coordination between agencies is the role played by WCO in addressing reported cases of sexual violence and assaults that were raised in the media, as it contributed to providing a safe environment to encourage women subjected to violence to submit reports and to refer the reports to the PPO which in turn takes urgent actions.

Second: Protection

Referral pathway for women and girls subjected to violence in Egypt



The Essential Services means a core set of services provided by the health care, social service, police and justice sectors. The services must, at a minimum, secure the rights, safety and well-being of any woman or girl who experiences violence. These services should be provided by trained service providers in each sector and work should be performed in a coordinated manner to respond to violence against women and girls within a community. These teams share a victim-centered philosophy and apply standards of victim safety and offender accountability. They are focused on ensuring an effective response to individual cases and may contribute to policy making.

The Referral system visualized in the infographic design refers to these main sectors, as an entry point which a victim usually resorts to. The infographic design lists the expected services and the pathway through which the complaints received from victims are passed down. The engagement

Second: Protection

of all parties is one of the most important steps to establish a referral system in which there is institutional coordination between all national bodies concerned with responding to the needs of women subjected to violence. These entry points in the referral system includes the following services:

1- The National Council for Women - Women Complaints Offices: The National Council for Women works on violence against women through multiple services, through the hotline (15115) or by the NCW branches located in all governorates, where women can submit complaints, obtain legal information, psychological support, advice and referral to the authorities. Services are provided by a trained group of lawyers and social workers.

2- The health care sector: healthcare providers, whether doctors or nursing staff, are considered primary care providers for women victims of violence, both through primary psychological support and/or medical treatment for various injuries. Safe women units inside university hospitals were recently established in partnership between the NCW and Cairo University, Ain Shams, Mansoura University and Assiut University. Health services providers were trained on how to provide initial psychological support and how to document the case of violence in accordance with the medical protocol for health care for women subjected to violence, which was developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Population Fund.

3- Justice and Police Sector: All law enforcement agencies, including the judiciary, the public prosecution, the police and the forensic medicine department, fall under the justice sector. These services are available in all governorates of Egypt. All forensic doctors (field and laboratories) were trained on the standards of dealing with crimes of violence against women. Members of the judiciary and the Public Prosecution Office were also trained according to procedural manuals specifically prepared for each of these bodies on how to deal with cases of sexual and physical violence. The Handbook of Effective Police Response to Crime of Violence against Women and training manuals were issued in cooperation between national agencies and the United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs.

4- The social services sector: The services available in the social sector include Women Shelters centers under direct supervision of the Ministry of Social Solidarity in cooperation with partner Non-governmental organizations. These centers provide shelter for victims of violence for a maximum of 6 months, which can be extended by a decision of the Central Committee of the Social Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Solidarity. They also provide counseling and psychological support to help them reintegrate into the family and society. The governorates in which shelters are available are: Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Minya, Beni Suef, Fayoum, Dakahlia, and Qalyubia. Many of these centers have been developed in cooperation with UN Women. Several NGOs also provide psychological support and health services.

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Protecting women from human trafficking crimes

Egypt maintained efforts to prevent human trafficking as a signatory to several international conventions and protocols in this field. Human trafficking includes forced marriage of women, organs' trade and sexual exploitation. In this regard, and in adherence with international covenants that have been ratified, the GoE has taken **several steps towards combating human trafficking crimes, including:**

- Enacting the **National Strategy** to Combat Human Trafficking 2016-2021.
- Establishing a **National Coordinating Committee** for Combating Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP) in 2017, with the Presidency of the Egyptian Cabinet, and the membership of 27 ministries, national entities and centers.
- Establishing a **specialized criminal department** by the MoJ within the courts of appeal, at the national level, to look into human trafficking crimes.
- Issuing of MoJ's **Resolution** No. 9200 of 2015 stipulating that foreigners who marry Egyptian women must present investment certificates to them, and prohibiting marriage if the age difference between the man and the woman exceeds 25 years.
- Issuing the **Law** on Combating Illegal Immigration and Smuggling of Migrants (Law No. 82 of 2016).
- Drafting a **bill** to combat child marriage.
- Enhancing the coordination through regular **meetings** between the concerned authorities to study legalizing the conditions of **women domestic workers** within the proposed draft labor law, which resulted in the formulation of committee by the Ministry of Manpower to discuss a proposal to draft a bill for domestic workers.
- Allocating a **hotline** for reporting cases of human trafficking and providing legal advice and assistance. NCW also announced that it is now receiving reports of human trafficking via the hotline of its WCO (i.e., **15115**).
- Issuing a **guide** for members of the PPO on combating human trafficking.

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- Issuing a **guide** on how to protect Egyptian workers abroad from human trafficking.
- Introducing a **training component** on combating human trafficking in the curricula of the newly appointed prosecutors. **More than a thousand employees from the judiciary and law enforcement entities have been trained.**
- Establishing the first **shelter for those subjected to human trafficking** crimes to protect and provide them the necessary health and psychological care services.



- **Raising public awareness of the dangers of the issue of illegal immigration** and the crime of human trafficking especially potential to exploitation, where **the NCCPIM&TIP, implemented** the following efforts:

- Launching the first wave of a national awareness raising campaign about the dangers of illegal migration entitled **“Your Family... your Dream... your Life... No to Illegal Migration”**, in September 2017. An infomercial was prepared with the participation of the former national football team player Hazem Emam and the singer Faris. The campaign was aired on both national TV channels and social media.



- Launching the second wave of the campaign in August 2019, which included a song by the young artist, Zap Tharwat, and the singer, Ahmed Shiba. The song was published on social media and was commended by the target groups, including youth, children and Egyptian families.
- **“Survival Boats Campaign”** is a national campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of **illegal migration**, which included community awareness programs and door-to-door campaigns in the most exporting governorates of illegal immigration, reaching **1,451,810 individuals.**

Second: Protection

- Launching the national campaign **“Together against Human Trafficking”**, in 2019, which included collection of animation videos explaining the different forms of the human trafficking crimes (i.e., forced labor, sexual exploitation, contractual marriage, exploitation of homeless children and trafficking by organs’ trade), which contributes to raising public awareness about the dangers of trafficking in persons, encouraging citizens to report it and defining the relevant penalties stated in Law no 64/2010.
-
- Preparing a collection of drama radio programs and radio series that tackle the issue of illegal migration broadcasted on different radio channels. The importance of such programs lays in its ability to reach different target groups in various governorates including both youth and families.
 - Community outreach program to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal migration and to shed light on available alternative paths for those who would want to illegally migrate. The program targeted children aged 12-18 years in different governorates. It included several awareness raising courses in which social workers presented the risks of the illegal migration by using toolkits designed for that purpose.
 - Preparing and launching, the first photo exhibition that displays the forms of human trafficking in Egypt. The photos were exhibited at various occasions, such as the commemoration of the World Day against Human Trafficking, UN Week at Future University, Development Conference for Peace and Migration Film Festival.

The Efforts of concerned entities in Implementing the National Strategy for Eliminating Violence Against Women 2015-2020

Third: Interventions Pillar

Sub-goals:

1. Providing health and psychological support and counseling services for women subjected to violence
2. Developing treatment and rehabilitation programs for perpetrators of violence.
3. Providing adequate shelters for women subjected to violence
4. Expanding the scope of health care services, legal aid, advice and counseling centers, medical and psychological counseling, hotlines, and shelters for women subjected to violence

Providing health and psychological support and counseling services for women subjected to violence

Egypt has exerted unprecedented efforts in providing health services for women. In 2019, The Egyptian President has launched an initiative for women's health focusing on breast cancer screening among other basic medical investigation for women. Through the "100 million health/ Egyptian women health" initiative, MoHP succeeded to **raise awareness and conduct breast screening for 12 million women**. The initiative targets 28 million women nationally to detect breast cancer and non-communicable diseases. It aims to reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases, spread awareness and culture of these diseases for early detection, avoid short and long-term complications, and support the reproductive health of the Egyptian woman.



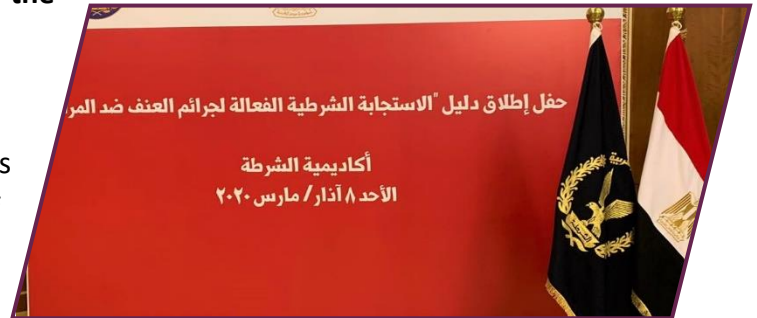
This intervention focused primarily on strengthening the role of health service providers to deal with cases of VAW, and the role of law enforcement institutions to ensure the protection of those subjected to violence. This comes within the implementation of the global ESP program to provide a coordinated multi-sectoral service in health, police, justice, and social sectors. In this regard, the following has been implemented in coordination and cooperation between NCW and the relevant ministries and concerned UN agencies.

Third: Interventions Pillar

Egypt has applied the Global ESP¹⁹ that was created by the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

Preparing six strategic guidelines to enhance the skills of service providers in dealing with VAW:

- Training manual for forensic doctors
- Manual and booklet for police officers “Effective Policing Response to Crimes of Violence against Women”
- Medical guide for health service providers
- Public Prosecutors guide “Effective Judicial Response to Crimes of Violence against Women”
- Training Manual for case management and psychological support
- Manual of standards and controls for judges



1. **Issuing a procedural manual for establishing and activating anti-violence units in Egyptian universities** that includes the basic steps for establishing such units, in addition to the specializations that must be available to provide advice, the required records, and the method of confidential data recording.
2. **Issuing a guide for integrating the gender equality in all sectors**, to serve as a guide on how to adopt women’s issues and needs, to ensure their inclusion in the development process.
3. **Issuing guidelines for the newly established women safety units in university hospitals.**
4. The **first forensic guidelines brochure** developed and distributed across WCO's local branches, forensic clinics and specialized GBV clinics offering information for preserving evidence of sexual violence.



¹⁹ 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.

Based on the development of these guidelines and manuals, the following activities were implemented:

- **Workshops for (5,150) health service providers, counselors and law enforcement institutions** [police officers / forensic doctors / women and men judges / Public Prosecution members / family prosecution and marriage officials (ma'zoons) authorized by the MoJ / Administrative Prosecution members / doctors and nurses from university and public hospitals/ health service providers and psychological support providers from NGOs / lawyers, volunteer attorneys and social and psychological workers at the WCO / representatives of anti-violence units in universities].

- **The workshops targeted all forensic doctors nationwide.**

- Likewise, employees of the WCO (lawyers, social and psychological workers, in addition to the volunteer attorneys whom the WCO deals with) were capacitated across all governorates on addressing cases of VAW.

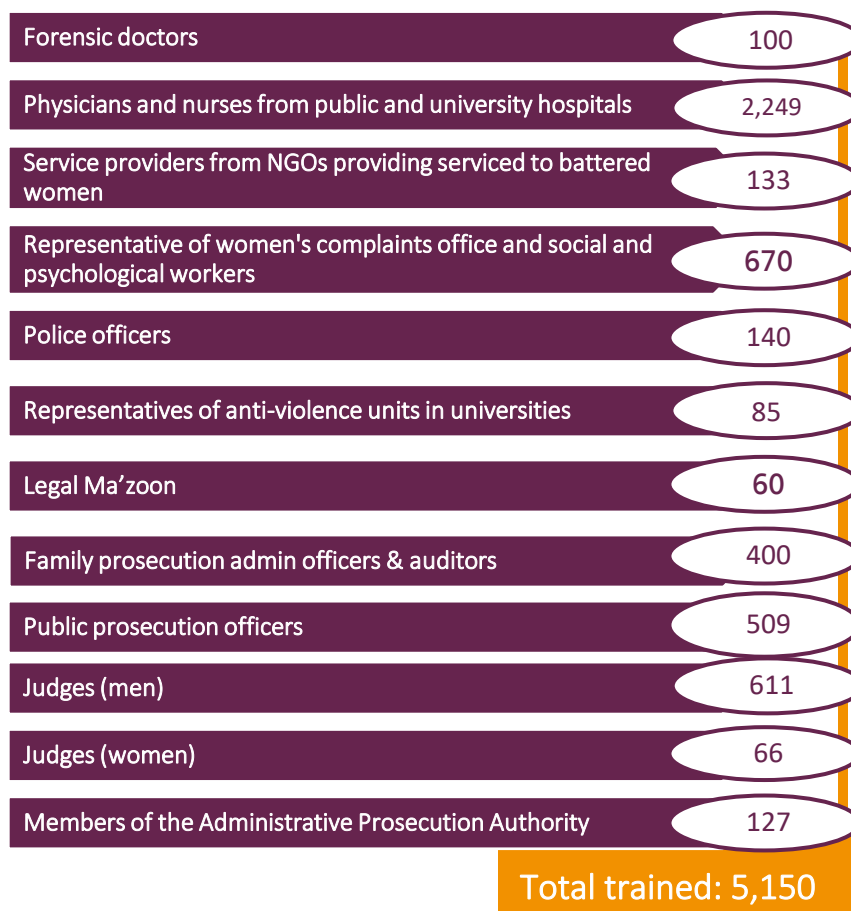


Training of forensic doctors

- The program targeting forensic members, police officers, public prosecutors and judges was followed by a series of **TOT courses** to transfer expertise within the institutions.
- The training program for **representatives of NGOs and the WCO** included addressing information technology crimes, the referral management system and how to provide psychological support to women subjected to violence
- The **program for members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority (APA)** is the first of its kind that was carried out in joint cooperation between the MoJ, NCW and the APA, which included interactive workshops on the skills and arts of communication, leadership, prosecution before disciplinary courts and combating crimes of VAW in the workplace.

Third: Interventions Pillar

The Beneficiaries of the programs aiming to strengthen the role of service providers, counseling and law enforcement institutions, within the framework of the ESP global program (2015-2020):



Medical team and nursing staff training:

2,016 from 440 public hospitals

233 from the 6 university hospitals (Al-Qasr Al-Aini, Assiut, Mansoura, Ain Shams, Minya)

Developing treatment and rehabilitation programs for perpetrators of violence

Egyptian universities, through the anti-violence units, are prioritizing the collaboration with specialized experts in psychiatry within universities and medical doctors to provide needed psychological support and to rehabilitate perpetrators of violence.

Moreover, Through the safe cities programme, men and boys in certain areas in Cairo were enrolled into rehabilitation programs.

Providing adequate shelters for women subjected to violence

- 1) **Upgrading four shelters** in the governorates of Giza, Alexandria, Minya and Dakahlia, and the **opening of a new shelter in 6th of October City**, bringing the total of the shelters affiliated to the MoSS to **eight** at governorate level.



- 2) **Amendment of the regulations of shelters** to allow hosting of **non-Egyptian women and survivors of human trafficking** who did not previously have this right. **The hosting period has also been extended from six months to a year.**
- 3) An MOU was signed between MoSS and MoHP to ensure **provision of health services to shelter residents**

Expanding the range of health care services, legal aid, advice and counseling centers, medical and psychological advice, hotlines, and shelters for women subjected to violence

- 1) **Establishing a case management unit in five CSOs working in the field of eliminating VAW** in Cairo, Giza, Minya, Beni Suef and Alexandria governorates. Caseworkers and social workers in each unit are capacitated to provide support and services for women subjected to forms of violence.
- 2) **Updating the database of the WCO – NCW** and establishing a database to follow up on the implementation of the protection pillar activities in the NSWE 2030.
- 3) Providing free **psychological support** services for women who are subjected to violence, through **electronic platforms on the Internet**.
- 4) Providing a **series of educational videos through the social media platforms of NCW**, with the assistance of family and educational counseling experts, **to qualify women subjected to violence** and offering them coaching and mentoring support to overcome challenges and have access to economic opportunities.
- 5) Providing the **Public Prosecution Information Center** with the necessary equipment to create a database of reports that allow monitoring cases of VAW and how to deal with them in all levels of litigation.
- 6) The Public Prosecution implemented a **central system to automate (marriage and divorce documents / birth certificates / family prosecutions)** in cooperation with the MoPED, the MoI and the MCIT, whereby 77 public prosecution offices have been automated serving 150 partial family prosecutions offices nationwide.
- 7) **The launch of four digital offices for family court prosecution services** within the Courts Complex in Alexandria, Cairo, Gharbeya, and Luxor, which helps achieve prompt justice, and women will benefit from it in obtaining their legal rights without delay.
- 8) 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 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.

Third: Interventions Pillar

- 9) **Providing the necessary support for forensic medicine to establish fully equipped units** specialized in cases of VAW and girls in Cairo, and providing the necessary support to obtain ISO accreditation for these facilities.
- 10) **Activating the health sector response to VAW and integrating women's needs into the medical sector through equipping and launching four medical response clinics “Women Safety Units” in university hospitals for women subjected to violence** in [Al-Qasr Al-Aini, Assiut, Mansoura and Ain Shams university hospitals], and work is underway on establishing similar ones at the Universities of Benha and Minya university hospitals. Their medical staff are trained to deal with women subjected to violence (190 doctors and nurses are trained in all four hospitals).
- 11) **Launching medical convoys in different governorates to raise women’s awareness on their health including fertility and reproduction.**



Medical Response Units In University Hospitals

□ Hotlines:

The government has assigned several **hotlines** as a free service for **women to complain, inquire about their rights and report any violation** as well as their right to know the available services (they operate **24/7** through landline / mobile phone numbers / official websites of the concerned authorities on the Internet / WhatsApp).

-
- The **women's complaints office (WCO)**, affiliated to the National Council for Women (NCW), **hotline 15115**
 - The **child helpline** affiliated to the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood **16000**
 - The WCO was provided with the necessary equipment and devices, and its employees were trained to receive reports through the hotline that operates **24/7**.
 - In 2020, the NCW announced that the office had started receiving **complaints of human trafficking** through its hotline 15115.
 - The hotline of the General Secretariat of Mental Health to provide psychological support and support to citizens at home during the **(COVID-19) crisis 0800880700, 0220816831**.
 - Communication service with the **PPO** to report cases of violence on WhatsApp: **01111755959**.
 - Customer service for the Ministry of **Transportation 15047** to receive reports of harassment in public transportation and Egypt's railways.
-

The country also pays attention to **women prisoners** and treating them with the necessary respect and dignity as stipulated in the international human rights conventions. During the period from 2015 to 2020, the government's concerned authorities carried out development procedures in the areas of social and health care provided to women prisoners in accordance with national legislation and international standards, as follows:

- **Six** visits to a women's prison, carried out by a representative delegation from the NCW to assess the safety of the internal environment surrounding inmates, and to ensure the implementation of international human rights standards and women's rights in particular.
- Conduct **awareness rising sessions** for women prisoners about public health and personal hygiene.
- The prison sector is keen to provide **health care** to women prisoners [a hospital equipped to the highest level that includes all specialties and medical departments as well as surgery / patient wards / pharmacy / physiotherapy unit / obstetrics and gynecology department / nurseries / radiology unit].
- Providing **basic services** such as literacy classes / a comprehensive library / the ability to complete studies for women prisoners / a cafeteria.
- Availability of **production units** (sewing and handicrafts), and women inmates receive financial remuneration for selling products.
- Yards for **sports activities**, projection and TV screens, a garden equipped with toys so that the prisoner can accompany her children and create a suitable environment for them.

According to **Law No. 106 of 2015**, the imprisoned mother has the right to keep her child with her until s/he reaches the age of four and to obtain visitation rights after that age, in addition to delaying the execution penalty until the child reaches two years of age.

Women's Economic Empowerment

Several economic empowerment initiatives were launched to make sure women have source of income and are financially independent. This is the key factor for women to be able to combat domestic violence against them.

- The Central bank of Egypt (CBE) has signed an unprecedented MOU with NCW. By this the CBE is the first ever central bank globally to sign an MOU with a national women machinery.
- Launching “Closing Gender Gap Accelerator”. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Accelerator Model is a platform that facilitates public-private collaboration. It provides a national ecosystem for leaders to drive actions; insights and analysis for evidence-based decision-making and practical guides and tools for impact. NCW and Ministry of International Cooperation (MoIC) along with WEF are collaborating to bring together multi-stakeholder actors across the public and private sectors to generate local insight and develop an action-plan and drive its execution for the women economic empowerment in Egypt and a focus on providing safe working environment for women.
- Egypt is the second country globally to launch Gender Equality award certification program for private and public organizations to recognize the good performance of those organizations and deliver transformational gender equality results. Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) is the first agency in Egypt and the Arab region to receive this seal. Tourism sector is also the first to start applying the gender equality award principles and criteria globally.
- Egypt has launched The Egyptian Gender Equity seal as another certification program for the private sector in Egypt to recognize good performance and gender sensitive policies within private sector companies.
- Minister of Manpower issued Decrees number 43 and 44 in 2021 to lift restrictions on women's ability to work at night and restrictions on working in specific industries/profession while assuring provision of protection and safety measures to women.
- The Village Savings and Loans Associations Model (VSLAs) was applied, allowing women to save and grow their financial capital and starting their own micro-projects; more than 18,000 women beneficiaries were part of this programme. The initiative was made with the purpose of unlocking the unbanked population through greater financial inclusion programs for the graduates of the VSLAs.

Third: Interventions Pillar

- Financial and banking products as well as awareness about the Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises (MSME)'s to Egyptian women in all governorates of Egypt, reaching out to 119,170 women up to 2019.
- NCW's Women Business Development Center (WBDC) has carried out numerous activities such as: "Zaneen Market", a women friendly environment market - ICT, vocational and entrepreneurship training for MSMEs and new graduates - product development program called "Addaha W2doud" - one million youth outreach through "Masr Taamel Egypt Works" initiative - launch of the hour code campaign for computer science and coding education- An environmental camp that has been implemented in 6 Governorates - Speed Mentoring Program in the field of entrepreneurship and SMEs development - International Business Driving License for Business Management (IBDL) - The "Basic Guide to start your Own Business Program - GET Ahead Manual- Community Kitchen Initiative "Mumm" model - The Operator's " Mashaghl" Initiative Model. "

The Efforts of concerned entities in Implementing the National Strategy for Eliminating Violence Against Women 2015-2020

Fourth: Legal Prosecution Pillar ²⁰

Sub-goals:

1. Establishing a mechanism for preventive measures to protect women subjected of violence and the extent to which this is relevant to international conventions in order to identify the actual implementation position.
2. The allocation of special departments to look into cases of VAW to expedite the adjudication of them, provided that family prosecutors undertake the investigation of VAW crimes.
3. Reaching the international standard through exchanging experiences with other countries that have advanced in this field.

²⁰ The sub-goals related to the legal aspects of the national strategy to eliminate VAW are goals that intersect with many other sub-goals. Therefore, the related sections will be referred to in the report without repeating their narration to avoid prolongation.

1. Establishing a mechanism for preventive measures to protect women subjected to violence and the extent of its compatibility with international conventions in order to identify the actual implementation position

Programs to enhance the knowledge of responsible authorities dealing with cases VAW, especially those targeting police officers, public prosecutors, members of the judiciary, and members of the forensic medicine, are among the preventive measures that have been implemented **[and it was mentioned earlier in the interventions' section as one of the intersectional goals with this pillar]**

2. Reaching the international standard by exchanging experiences with other countries that have advanced in this field

Several representatives of the identified relevant authorities participated in Arab, regional and international forums to enhance and exchange good practices and experiences in the field of case management for women and girls subjected to violence, and enhancing multi-sectoral referral and quality services as follows:

- The participation of an Egyptian mission from representatives of MoJ, PPO and the WCO, in a **regional conference in Jordan on managing and documenting cases of VAW** in the judicial sector, in the presence of policy makers from 16 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
- The President of NCW, the governor of Damietta, and CSOs representatives shared their experiences with 25 countries through the **Fourth UN Conference on Safe Cities** in October 2018.
- (12) members of the PPO, judges, police officers and forensic doctors participated in a number of **specialized exchange and learning visits for criminal justice practitioners to the United States of America**, the United Kingdom, and Spain to exchange experiences and learn about ways to deal with cases of VAW.
- Representatives of the NCW participated in the meetings of the **UN Committee on the Status of Women (CSW)**, aiming to enhance their international experience, and support the mission in presenting Egypt's achievements in achieving the obligations of the CEDAW.

- A high-level delegation from the Safe Cities Program in Cairo, including the NCW, Giza Governorate and CARE Egypt, participated in the **semi-annual forum for Safe Cities Free of VAWG in Mexico**, attended by 270 participants, including; Ministers, governors, chairpersons of women's bodies, the international community, and UN from 25 countries. The Egyptian delegation presented Egypt's achievements in the Safe Cities program in Cairo, and affirmed Egypt's commitment to support and protect women's rights.
- Hosting two international events in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the UNODC, UN Women, and the Embassy of Japan, targeted nearly 200 governmental representatives and local and international experts concerned with women's rights.
- 49 women and men volunteer attorneys from the WCO benefited from training programs to raise their efficiency in the field of international conventions, legislations and laws eliminating VAW. In addition to improving the office's communication skills for its officials, and developing M&E methods for the complaints in NCW's database.
- The participation of (30) employees of the NCW in the **fellowship program "Capacity Development in the Field of Gender Responsive Management"** organized by the Korean Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and learning about Korean experiences in the field of protecting women and combating violence against them.
- MSMEDA won the **(Gender Equality Seal)** award as one of the institutions supporting the economic empowerment of women, activating the policy of protecting women to create a safe work environment free from harassment and gender discrimination, and providing an appropriate and confidential mechanism to address the phenomenon.
- Egypt has launched The Egyptian Gender Equity seal as another certification program for the private sector in Egypt to recognize good performance and gender sensitive policies within private sector companies. CIB and Vodafone Egypt were among the first winners of this seal in March 2021.

**Enhancing women's ability to face risks related to the
environment, climate change and facing crises**

ENHANCING WOMEN'S ABILITY TO FACE RISKS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FACING CRISES

With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, and within the framework of the NSWE 2030, related to protecting women and girls from the dangers and risks associated with climate change and crises, Egypt took immediate action to contain the crisis, design mitigation plans and address the repercussions specially facing women and girls.

The Egyptian government issued a pioneering policy paper entitled “Egypt’s rapid response to Women’s Situation during COVID-19 Outbreak”, the first of its kind globally, taking into account the needs of women with disabilities, elderly and pregnant women, women of childbearing age and the associated health and psychological effects.

Additionally, from March 2020 to January 2021 five editions of the **Women Policy Tracker** were published, to monitors policies and programs responding to women's needs, which has monitored (165) measures, decisions and preventive measures that support women at that time.

Among the most important national measures related to protecting women from violence in light of the COVID-19 pandemic²¹:

- Granting pregnant women, or those caring for one or more child under the age of 12, **exceptional leave and job protection** for the duration of the lockdown.
- Intensifying precautionary measures and providing all **health protection and awareness brochures** [including penal institutions, orphanages, elderly nursing shelters, social defense institutions, people with disabilities, and women's shelters].
- The MoSS announced the **inclusion of women without care in nursing shelters under the umbrella of social protection.**
- The Prime Minister issued the Decree No. 776 of 2020 to establish an **emergency aid fund** for informal workers and to form a committee for informal workers affected by the economic repercussions of the COVID-19, and another committee to study the financial compensation and minimum wages for workers in national projects if they stopped work due to the precautionary measures taken.

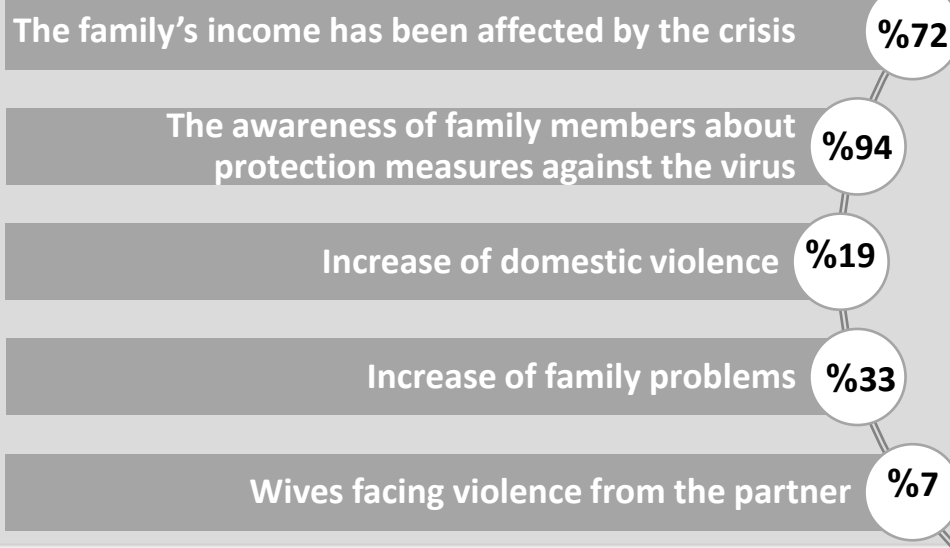
²¹ <http://ncw.gov.eg/Pdf/476/Fifth-Edition-Women-policy-Tracker-on-Responsive-Policies-and-Programs?fbclid=IwAR1ov54eSG37YxkchWkQGWTltCvjxiTb7kR727KqSSnJ6upd4lyLu9-eM>

- The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Human Rights adopted an unprecedented Egyptian resolution jointly proposed by Egypt, Alegria, China, Saudi Arabia and Zambia" protecting the rights of women and girls from the repercussions of the emerging COVID-19 ", and 19 Arab countries and 60 countries around the world joined the list of auspices of the resolution.
- **Organizing convoys** from various state institutions to provide subsidies and food needs to the affected families.
- MoCIT launched a **package of educational programs for women** to prepare them to enter the labor market through its Women's Business Center.
- The Public Prosecution took prompt action and takes the necessary legal measures as soon as some cases of **exploitation of women** emerged, and those seeking illicit cash gain, in order to protect women and girls from human trafficking and cybercrimes.
- MoJ has continuously postponed the consideration of all cases and cases pending before the courts of first instance and **excluded cases related to the family, expenses, and the custody of the young.**
- NCW has worked to **improve and strengthen the basic services package for women subjected to violence** since the beginning of the spread of the COVID-19, as part of the preparedness plan to confront the emerging COVID-19.
- NCW's WBDC communicated with women from various governorates to produce hygiene kits .
- The launch of the **first-of-its-kind guide to support women and girls with disabilities** in facing the risks of the virus spread.
- Launching several **awareness campaigns on protective** measures against COVID-19, more than **3 million and 400 thousand** individuals benefited from the awareness campaigns launched by the NCW at the level of villages and centers in all governorates during the period from March 14 to 31 December 2020.

- Launching several **initiatives and electronic campaigns** on the **social media** platforms of the NCW, with the participation of a group of community members and public figures to raise awareness about the importance of following the precautionary measures taken by the country and staying at home. The campaigns also provided **psychological and health support programs** with the participation of specialized doctors. [“Be a role model, stay at home” initiative / “Reading in the time of COVID-19” campaign, in partnership with the page of Nahdet Misr Publishing House / Awareness programs for Radio by Nashwa Al-Hofi / Doctors’ campaign for health awareness / “Our mental health is a priority” campaign].
- Among the campaigns that were also launched specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic with **the growing community's use of information technology**, the campaign "*Speak ... protect yourself and others*" in joint cooperation between the MoCIT and the NCW **to raise awareness of cyber-violence crimes**, safe use methods and means of reporting, the campaign "Choose words wisely" joint cooperation between the NCW and IG platform to shed light on the problem of Internet bullying and raising awareness of its psychological effects and the importance of maintaining a positive environment within the platform. NCW also cooperated with the FB platform and produced a women safety booklet to aware women users of FB on protection tools against cybercrimes on its platform.
- The initiative “**# Protect Your Family # Protect Egypt # Baheya is backing you**”, in cooperation between the NCW and Baheya Hospital, to facilitate the delivery of hormonal treatment to patients.
- **The NCW launched a “Survey of Egyptian Women’s Poll on the emerging COVID-19** from 4 to 14 April 2020” conducted by Baseera.

Results of a survey of Egyptian women’s poll on the emerging COVID-19 and its effects on the family (May 2020)

A sample of **1518** females aged 18 years and over



THE WAY FORWARD

Recommendations & Aspirations

In light of the supportive political will, which has led to a remarkable progress in implementing the proposed action plans outlined in the National Strategy to Eliminate Violence against Women 2015-2020, we encourage building on the advances made and call for the continued strengthening of efforts and sensitization of all members of society to eliminate all forms of violence against women. We recommend the development of a framework and activities, aligned with the protection pillar of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 and to use the new framework as a road map to achieve Egypt Vision 2030 and related sustainable development indicators

The following presents our aspirations and prioritized recommendations to further reduce acts of violence and discrimination against women in all their forms

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.

STRENGTHEN REFERRAL 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 KNOWLEDGE:

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.



Partner Government Agencies

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

Ministry of Civil Aviation

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Ministry of Culture

Ministry of Education and Technical Education

Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy

Ministry of Endowment

Ministry of Environment

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Health and Population

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development

Ministry of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs

Ministry of Information & Communication Technology

Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

Ministry of International Cooperation

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs

Ministry of Local Development

Ministry of Manpower

Ministry of Military Production

Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth

Ministry of Public Business Sector

Ministry of Social Solidarity

Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ministry of Transportation

Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

Ministry of Youth and Sports

All National efforts mentioned in the report are done in cooperation between governmental and non-governmental entities with the support of the development partners



Other Partner agencies

Al Azhar Al Shareef

Egyptian Church

Public Prosecution

State Informative
Service

Financial
Regulatory
Authority

Administrative
Prosecution
Authority

National Council for
Childhood and
Motherhood

National Council for
Persons with
Disabilities

National Population
Council

Central Agency for
Public Mobilization
and Statistics

Federation of
Egyptian Industries

All National efforts mentioned in the report are done in cooperation between governmental and non-governmental entities with the support of the development partners

International partners



